



# Florida Gardens Newsletter

July 2018 / Volume 49 ; Issue 3

## CONTACT INFO

### 2018 OFFICERS

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**Ed Ridolph**  
**John Sjolholm**

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## Florida Gardens Scholarship 2018

Each year, the Florida Gardens Civic Association awards one or more scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Florida Gardens, who will be entering college for the first time in the fall. This has been an annual tradition in the Gardens for more than 35 years. Over the years the Association has awarded scholarships totaling well over \$30,000 to some 60 students. This has been one way the community recognizes the hard work and achievements of many of our outstanding students, and it also gives these deserving students a financial boost as they begin their college careers. Over the years some of our recipients have gone on to become, teachers, lawyers and architects, as well as enjoying success in a variety of fields. As a community, we're proud of their success and happy we could play a part in it.

The 2018 award goes to Aubrey Dale of W. Rubber Tree. Aubrey is the daughter of Sandra and David Dale, longtime residents of Florida Gardens and active members of the community. Aubrey is also the sister of Jessica Dale, who was a scholarship recipient in 2016 and is currently a student at FAU.

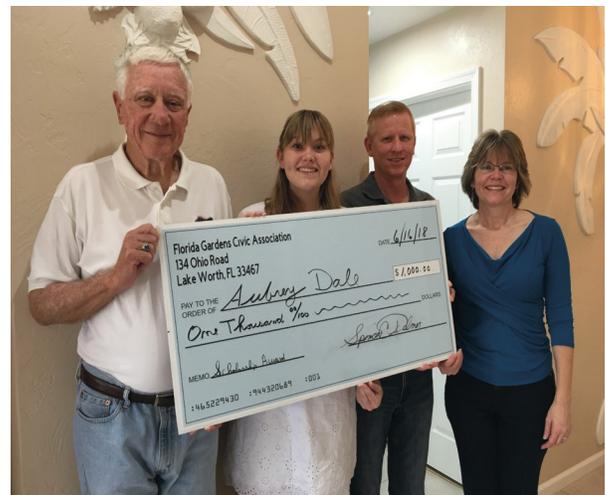
Aubrey is graduating from Santaluces Community High School, where she has posted an outstanding academic record. She is ranked second in a class of 585, is a two-year member of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, and the Science National Honor Society. She served three years as President of the Key Club, was a three-year member of the Debate Team and was an Honor Roll student from the 9th Grade through the 12th Grade. She was also awarded third place in the Palm Beach County Ethics Bowl, was awarded the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award in 2016, and the Top Student AP Biology Award in 2017. She was a member of the JV Volleyball Team in 2014-15. Quite a record! In addition to all that, she has been an active member of the community, helping out at the various children's parties and functions at the Civic Center.

Aubrey plans on entering the University of Miami in the fall, where she will major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with the goal of eventually working with a worldwide medical organization. We want to wish Aubrey much success as she begins her college career, and the FGCA is happy to recognize her achievements.

Ed Ridolph  
FGCA Scholarship Chairman

Aubrey Dale being awarded  
the scholarship check from  
the Florida Gardens Civic  
Association.

From Left To Right  
Ed Ridolph  
Aubrey Dale  
Spencer Palmer  
Sandra Dale



## From the President

Hello and Thank You All for taking the time to read your newsletter. I have so much to discuss with everyone.

I would like to thank Kim Saunders, Alanna Harman, Heather Zapf and their crew (Penny, Gary M., Gary O., Vincent, Terry, Marian, Michelle, Danny, Chris, Rhonda, The Smart Family, Mike T., Rachel and anyone else I may have missed) for doing an outstanding job with our Family BBQ. I also would like to thank all of the other volunteers that helped out to make this event an outstanding success. I would also like to thank everyone that came out to enjoy the food, fun, live band and the company of new and old friends & neighbors.

I would like everyone to thank Cheryl Smart and her company Coral Reef Cast Stone for the gorgeous Florida Gardens main sign and plaque on the clubhouse. What a huge improvement to the entryway to our neighborhood and the front of the clubhouse.

Now onto another hot topic. I know a lot of us have golf carts in our neighborhood including myself. I will say that I was responsible in not letting my kids ride in it around the neighborhood until they were of age. Just like a car the state has an age requirement for driving golf carts, and the age is 14. It's not that I did not trust them, it was just that I did not trust some of our neighborhood drivers. Living on Palm we had some fast/crazy drivers, but now that I live on Akron, WOW. I have clocked some of the cars going down Akron doing 60mph and that is ridiculous. The average has been 40-45 and that is still out of control. (Back on track) Please take responsibility and do not let your kids drive your cart under the age of 14. Please do not ruin the fun of being able to drive our carts in our neighborhood. If anything happens, this can all be taken away. Can you imagine one of these speeding cars slamming into your cart, with your child and their friend or friends and what the repercussions would be? Please be smart, teach and be responsible.

Thank You all so very much for caring about your neighborhood!!! See you at the next meeting 9/13/18 @ 8pm in the clubhouse.

Spencer Palmer  
FGCA President

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**In Memorium:** by Ed Ridolph

**Carole Applegate**, a long time and active member of the Florida Gardens community, passed away on June 14. A native of Macon, Georgia, Carole had lived in Florida since 1967. She and her husband Bill were the owners of Applegate Interiors, a well-known and successful contracting firm in Lake Worth. Carole and Bill served the Florida Gardens community through their long involvement with the Civic Association, as Street Representatives on South Akron, in the remodeling of the Clubhouse, chairing several Florida Gardens Barbecues and numerous other roles. During her years in Florida Gardens, Carole could always be counted on to help out with an event that would better the neighborhood. Her willingness to contribute her time and energy to improving Florida Gardens was well known and will certainly be missed. Carole is survived by Bill Applegate (her husband of 51 years), her son Bill and wife Sarah, her daughter Beth Matejka and grandchildren Justyn and Jessica Matejka and Emma, Will and Charlie Applegate. Services for Carole were held on June 22.

**Louis Riczko**, a former resident of Florida Gardens, passed away in Lakeland, Florida on April 23 at the age of 74. Louis, his wife Sheila, and children Laurie and Tony were longtime residents on W. Palm Avenue before moving to Lakeland a few years ago. Our condolences to the family on his passing.



About NEXTDOOR - Our neighborhood social media site.

by Gary Oliwa

As many of you know, Florida Gardens is a member of a free neighborhood social media site called 'Nextdoor'. This article is directed toward those residents who are NOT signed up and would like to know more about it.

The Nextdoor site is designed to allow easy communication between neighbors for the purposes of information exchange. Information can be urgent alerts (like a lost pet or a crime that occurred), general information about what's going on, asking questions, looking for help or a recommendation, a marketplace to sell your items, etc. Nextdoor can connect you with people just in Florida Gardens or also in a group of 35 surrounding neighborhoods depending on your preference. Since it is a website, you have to sign up (it's free) and you do have to identify yourself so others know who you are (no hiding behind meaningless identification). Once signed up, you can set your preferences to select what information you want to see and if you want to receive posts marked as Urgent via email or cell phone text. You can get a daily email if you choose that lists the titles of all the posts for the previous day, so you can decide if there's anything that you want to check out (so you would then go to the website and sign on).

As of the beginning of June, Florida Gardens has 659 residents representing 454 households who have signed on. If you are not currently connected and would like to check out what Nextdoor has to offer, go to [www.floridagardensfl.nextdoor.com](http://www.floridagardensfl.nextdoor.com) and sign up. It's free. If after trying it for awhile you don't think it's for you, simply deactivate your account.

#### DONATE TO THE FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Florida Gardens is not an HOA and there are no mandatory HOA fees. Our organization is partially supported by your donations, which help fund our community events, the annual scholarship award, this Newsletter and other expenses.

An annual donation of \$30—\$40 is suggested, but any amount is greatly appreciated.

Please support your neighborhood by contributing a donation so that we can continue to provide the community with the events and activities that make Florida Gardens such a great place to live and raise a family.



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## LIGHT THE NIGHT - How much does it cost?

by Gary Oliwa

I've posted this on the Nextdoor website before, but I think the recent nighttime criminal activity warrants a newsletter printing for those who are not on Nextdoor or who didn't see it when it was posted.

As other people have correctly pointed out, one of the big deterrents to night crime is lighting your property. We've driven around our neighborhood at night and are dismayed by the number of residents who do not have any lights on the outside of their houses. Perhaps they think that lights cost a lot of money, but let's do the math. For those of you who want to cut to the chase, the math below will show you that a single LED bulb burning ALL NIGHT during the year will cost you on average a grand total of \$0.33 per month. Yes, 33-CENTS per MONTH for each bulb, with the bulb rated to last just under 4 years. Even if you kept it on 24-hours a day and didn't want to bother with timers or sensors to only light it at night, you would be spending a grand total of \$0.76 per month per bulb and the bulb would still last about 1.7 years. Is this really too much to spend to help protect your home and property and that of your neighbors?

OK, now for those of you who want to see the math...First, understand that today's LED bulbs are incredibly efficient. Those of you who remember the old 60-watt incandescent bulbs may be surprised to learn that a clear 7-watt LED bulb actually puts out more light. So let's use a Home Depot EcoSmart Clear filament-style 7-watt LED for this computation. The Home Depot part number is Model # A7A19A60WESGD03, Internet #301766890, Store SKU #1002459555. It's a pack of 4 bulbs costing \$11.52 or \$2.88 per bulb with a rated life of 15,000 hours. So let's light this bulb for the night. On average over the year, we'll use 10.5 hours per night. We'll use 30 as the average number of days per month. Based on my own record of electric use throughout 2017, the cost of electricity is about \$0.123 per kilowatt-hour (that's 12.3 cents to run a 1000-watt device for an hour). So, 10.5 hours per night for 30 nights is 315 hours per month. The 7-watt bulb (0.007 kilowatts) burning for 315 hours per month equates to 2.205 kilowatt-hours per month. At \$0.123 per kilowatt-hour, that \$0.27 per month. That's the electricity cost.

The bulb costs \$2.88 with a life of 15,000 hours or 1,428 nights (47.6 months). So the cost of the bulb itself over that time is another \$0.06 per month. Add that to the electric cost of \$0.27 per month and you have \$0.33 per month total cost to light the bulb every night. Repeat the math if you want to prove the \$0.76 per month cost to keep the bulb lit 24-hours a day.

Help deter crime in our neighborhood. LIGHT THE NIGHT.

### CLUBHOUSE RENTAL



FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE,  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.floridagardens.net](http://www.floridagardens.net) AND  
CLICK ON THE CLUBHOUSE TAB.

### ***YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS***

This is your community newsletter. If you would like to have something published - a life milestone, upcoming event, an article, etc., please email it to [goliwagmo@aol.com](mailto:goliwagmo@aol.com) and put 'Newsletter Submission' in the subject line. Content will be edited for appropriateness and we reserve the right to deny the publication of any content deemed offensive or not in the best interest of the Association.

The format of this Newsletter was designed by Bill Connors of Cat60 Designs, LLC.



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**"Rubber Tree Drive Resident"**

