



## CONTACT INFO

**PBC SHERIFF**  
Non-Emergency  
(561) 688-3000

**PBC CODE ENFORCEMENT**  
(561) 233-5500

### 2024 FGCA OFFICERS

**Mike Misko**  
President  
561-629-6121

**Christine Curry**  
1st Vice President  
561-853-7755

**Sarah Harmes**  
2nd Vice President  
561-876-5596

**Penny Spring**  
Secretary  
786-486-2222

**Keegan Gwin**  
Treasurer  
floridagardensca@gmail.com

### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

**Kimberly Serio**

561-762-4356

**Danny Wood**

561-722-0353

**Gary Oliwa**

561-876-6415

### **STREET REPS**

See Page 2

Also on our website  
[www.floridagardens.net](http://www.floridagardens.net)

**MAILING ADDRESSES**  
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# Florida Gardens Newsletter

January 2026 / Volume 57 - Issue 1

The Florida Gardens Newsletter is currently published 5 times per year:  
January, March, May, September and November



!  
**Important  
Notice**

**PLEASE FUND OUR  
COMMUNITY EVENTS !**

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO ON OUR  
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE.**

***¡POR FAVOR, AYUDANOS EN  
FINANCIAR NUESTROS EVENTOS  
COMUNITARIOS!***

***VEA EL DOCUMENTO ESPECIAL EN  
ESPAÑOL (EN LA PÁGINA 4)  
SOBRE NUESTRA CAMPAÑA DE  
CONTRIBUCIONES ANUALES.***

!  
**Aviso  
Importante**

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

- OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION DRIVE
- CHRISTMAS EVENTS RECAP AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS
- OUR 2026 FGCA OFFICERS
- TIME TO SUBMIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
- NOVEMBER - DECEMBER CRIME REPORT

### Connect With Us:

Follow the happenings in Florida Gardens through our Social Media postings :

Join Nextdoor : Sign up at [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com)

On Facebook @ Florida Gardens Civic Association

On Instagram @ fla\_gardens\_civic\_association

CHECK OUT THE FLORIDA GARDENS WEBSITE AT [floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net)

**STREET REPS**

STREET  
REPRESENTATIVE  
CONTACT #

AKRON (N)  
JESSICA TEETS  
jessicaeteets@gmail.com

AKRON (S)  
BRIAN KATZ  
646-338-5668

ARCH  
FRAN PHISTER  
561-313-5093

BARBERTON  
ANGELA BUCKLEY  
561-301-2794

CANTON  
TAMMY TWOREK  
561-308-9436

CLEVELAND  
MARIAN FRENCH  
561-762-3222

COCONUT  
L BELCHER  
561-797-3334

CUYAHOGA  
MEGAN BAUER  
561-315-6976

CYPRESS  
AMANDA OLMSTEAD  
561-923-0654

DAYTON  
ALANNA HARMAN  
561-248-3151

MANGO  
MINDY HINDERBERGER  
512-417-9276

OHIO (N)  
CHERYL SMART  
561-586-1900

OHIO (S)  
IRIS CAMPBELL  
561-685-1751

PALM  
- VACANT -  
xxx-xxx-xxxx

PALMETTO  
ANGIE BERMUDEZ  
561-214-0261

PINE TREE  
TERRY CROSBY  
561-968-9970

PLUMOSA  
SARA RIDOLPH  
561-967-2197

RUBBER TREE  
HEATHER ZAPP  
pjheatherz@gmail.com

SPRINGDALE  
CHRISTIE BANKES  
christiebankes@yahoo.com

**SAVE THE DATE !****SAVE THE DATE !****IT'S OUR ANNUAL  
KIDS EASTER PARTY  
AND EGG HUNT****SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>****THE FUN STARTS PROMPTLY AT 10:00 A.M.  
WITH THE EASTER BUNNY MEET-AND-GREET****REFRESHMENTS  
FOR THE KIDS****10:30 A.M. AGES 5 & UNDER****11:00 A.M. AGES 6-9****11:30 P.M. AGES 10+**

**PLEASE NOTE : THESE KIDS EVENTS CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS  
AND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE  
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR RESIDENTS !**

**PLEASE HELP WITH THESE EVENTS! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS THE EVENING  
BEFORE (6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.) AND BEFORE/DURING/AFTER  
ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.**



**STUDENTS CAN GET THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS.  
PLEASE CONTACT KIMBERLY SERIO AT 561-762-4356 TO HELP.**

**Election of 2026 FGCA Officers**

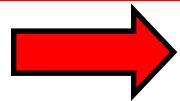
At our December 11th meeting, with the exception of Kimberly Serio all other 2025 FGCA Officers were unopposed and volunteered to serve for another term. Kimberly resigned her Secretary position and nominated Penny Spring who accepted the nomination. Penny was also unopposed. Failing to have a quorum for the meeting, those in attendance agreed to a vote-by-email which was subsequently conducted with unanimous results. We thank our 2026 Officers for giving of their time and energy to support our Community.

**Directors at Large**

At our January meeting, President Mike Misko nominated Gary Oliwa, Danny Wood and Kimberly Serio as our 3 Directors at Large and were accepted by unanimous consent.

**Upcoming Residents Meetings**

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month except July and August, at 8:00 pm in the Clubhouse. All residents are encouraged to attend. The next scheduled meetings are February 13th, March 13th and April 10th.



## **Why don't more residents support the Florida Gardens COMMUNITY?**

Florida Gardens is a family community. Because we have a clubhouse facility, we have been able to have community events throughout the year. Besides our occasional community gatherings, the children really enjoy the Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties. All our residents have the clubhouse available to rent for their own special events. Plus, we open the facility to neighborhood support groups for weekly meetings.



KIDS EASTER PARTY

Through the Florida Gardens Civic Association, we also provide deserving High School students with scholarship awards each year.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

None of this would be possible without the annual financial assistance from our residents. Yet, in 2025, of 782 households, only 115 made a supporting contribution.



KIDS XMAS PARTY

Unlike most communities in South Florida, we are not an HOA. There are no mandatory fees. ALL RESIDENTS of Florida Gardens are members of the Florida Gardens Civic Association, and your voluntary annual contribution to the FGCA makes it possible to provide you and your family with events that bring our community together and make Florida Gardens such a great place to live. Even if you don't attend any of our family events, the community still needs your support. We ask for a contribution of at least \$50 for the year, but ANY contribution amount is greatly appreciated. We Sincerely Thank You.

### **MAKING A CONTRIBUTION IS EASY!**

#### **CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK, ON OUR WEBSITE, OR VIA *VENMO* or *ZELLE* ON YOUR PHONE**

Use the VENMO QR Code below to make a contribution with VENMO. Enter “@floridagardensca” as payee. If asked for the last four payee phone digits, enter 0541. Type your name and street address in the comments field so we can properly record your contribution.

Use the ZELLE QR Code below to make a contribution with ZELLE. Please type you name and address in the MEMO field so we can properly record your contribution.

To make your contribution online with a credit card, go to - [floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net) - and select “CONTRIBUTE” in the top menu bar. Depending on your device, it may be located under “More”. Your transaction is secured through PayPal, but you do NOT need to have a PayPal account. Enter the contribution amount and select either PayPal or your own credit card. After entering your credit card info, please select the "Share your mailing address..." check box so we can properly record your contribution. Also, please note that the Association must pay a processing fee for contributions made online through our website or through VENMO.

To contribute by check, use the coupon at the bottom of page 8. Place both in an envelope. Mailing address is on the coupon. You can mail it or save the cost of a stamp by just dropping the envelope in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse.

NOTE - All member contributions received, regardless of the receipt date, are for the calendar year in which they are received.



**venmo**

Point your camera at the QR code, open the link and then follow the payment instructions. Make sure to add your name and address in the memo portion so we may keep track of contributions.



RECIPIENT:  
keeg28@aol.com



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENT ON PREVIOUS PAGE

### ***¿Por qué no más residentes apoyan a la COMUNIDAD de Florida Gardens?***

Florida Gardens es una comunidad familiar. Debido a que contamos con una casa club, hemos podido tener eventos comunitarios durante todo el año. Además de nuestras reuniones comunitarias ocasionales, los niños realmente disfrutan de las fiestas de Pascua, Halloween y Navidad. Todos nuestros residentes tienen la casa club disponible para alquilar para sus propios eventos especiales. Además, abrimos la instalación a grupos de apoyo del vecindario para Reuniones semanales.



FIESTA DE PASCUA

A través de la Asociación Cívica de Florida Gardens, también brindamos becas a estudiantes de secundaria que lo merecen cada año.



FIESTA DE HALLOWEEN

Nada de esto sería posible sin la ayuda financiera anual de nuestros residentes. Sin embargo, en 2025, de 782 hogares, solo 115 hicieron una contribución de apoyo.



FIESTA DE NAVIDAD

A diferencia de la mayoría de las comunidades en el sur de Florida, no somos una asociación de propietarios. No hay tarifas obligatorias. TODOS LOS RESIDENTES de Florida Gardens son miembros de la Asociación de Cívica de Florida Gardens, y su contribución anual voluntaria a la FGCA hace posible brindarle a usted y a su familia eventos que unen a nuestra comunidad y hacen de Florida Gardens un excelente lugar para vivir. Incluso si no asiste a ninguno de nuestros eventos familiares, la comunidad aún necesita su apoyo. Solicitamos una contribución de al menos \$50 por año, pero CUALQUIER contribución es muy apreciado. Le agradecemos sinceramente.

### **HACER UNA CONTRIBUCIÓN ES FÁCIL!**

CONTRIBUYA MEDIANTE CHEQUE, EN NUESTRO SITIO WEB O A TRAVÉS DE VENMO O ZELLA EN SU TELÉFONO CELULAR.

Use el código QR de VENMO a continuación para realizar una contribución con VENMO. Ingrese “@floridagardensca” como beneficiario. Si se le solicitan los últimos cuatro dígitos del teléfono del beneficiario, ingrese 0541. Escriba su nombre y dirección en el campo de comentarios para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución.

Use el código QR de ZELLA a continuación para realizar una contribución con ZELLA. Escriba su nombre y dirección en la área MEMO para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución.

Para realizar su contribución en línea con una tarjeta de crédito, vaya a [floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net) y seleccione “CONTRIBUIR” en la barra de menú superior. Dependiendo de su dispositivo, puede estar ubicado en “Más”. Su transacción está protegida a través de PayPal, pero NO necesita tener una cuenta de PayPal. Ingrese el monto de la contribución y seleccione PayPal o su propia tarjeta de crédito. Después de ingresar la información de su tarjeta de crédito, seleccione la casilla de verificación “Comparta su dirección postal...” para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución. Además, tenga en cuenta que la Asociación debe pagar una tarifa de procesamiento por las contribuciones realizadas en línea a través de nuestro sitio web o mediante VENMO.

Para contribuir con cheque, use el cupón que se encuentra al final de la página 8. Coloca ambos dentro de un sobre. La dirección postal se encuentra en el cupón. Puede enviarlo por correo o ahorrarse el costo de una estampilla simplemente depositando el sobre en el buzón seguro frente a la Casa Club.

NOTA: todas las contribuciones de los miembros recibidas, independientemente de la fecha de recepción, corresponden al año calendario en el que se recibieron.



**venmo**

Apunte su cámara al código QR, abra el enlace y luego siga las instrucciones de pago. Asegúrese de agregar su nombre y dirección en la parte del memorando para que podamos realizar un seguimiento de las contribuciones.



RECIPIENT:  
keeg28@aol.com

## Introducing our first Digital-Only Florida Gardens Newsletter.

As we explained in articles in our last two Newsletters last year, we have transitioned to a digital-only distribution for our Newsletter. This Newsletter will be posted on our Website as well as our other social media outlets (Nextdoor, Facebook and Instagram). There will no longer be paper copies of this Newsletter delivered to you by your Street Reps. The format and content will remain largely the same, however we have eliminated the advertising. The reason for this transition was multi-fold. First, problems plagued us with the printing and distribution aspect. The cost of printing 800 Newsletters had escalated to over \$1,000 per issue. The printing cost was largely offset by the income from the advertising, but finding advertisers, getting their ads, tracking billing and payments and other administrative activities plus simply getting someone to volunteer their time and effort to do it all became problematic. When the Newsletters were ready to be printed, we needed to request an invoice, submit it to the Treasurer and have a payment processed. When the Newsletters were printed, we had to go get them and then divide them up with the correct quantities per street, package the bundles in rain-proof bags and get them to the 19 Street Reps. On those occasions where items like envelopes or inserts were included, those needed to be in the packets as well. The Street Reps then had to assemble those items with the Newsletters prior to distribution. When the weather was acceptable and the Street Reps were available, they then needed to take the time to deliver their Newsletters to each of residences on their appointed street. If a Street Rep was not available to do their street, another volunteer had to be found to do the task. Note that each Newsletter had to be placed in a location close to the resident's front door where it would hopefully be protected from wind or a rain shower. Newsletter could not, by law, be placed in or on postal mailboxes. All that to deliver a Newsletter to each of the 782 households in our community five times per year.

However, the Board of Directors was faced with a dilemma. In spite of the fact that the vast majority of people today do almost all financial transactions electronically, almost all the 115 contributions made to our Association last year were made via paper check, possibly because we went through the trouble and expense (as detailed above) to provide everyone with a written reminder and a preaddressed envelope with which to mail a check. In the past two years we have made available other means to contribute (Paypal, Credit Card, Venmo and Zelle), but only a fraction have contributed this way. Since the Association is funded entirely by Clubhouse rental revenue and the voluntary contributions from our residents, it was feared that eliminating the delivered paper Newsletter and preaddressed envelopes would almost entirely end contributions by check. Therefore this month we are incurring the time and expense to print a contribution request pamphlet and preaddressed envelope and deliver it to each of the 782 households. The cost will be born out of the general Association funds. We will assess the results and decide our path going forward.

Finally, it is interesting to note that back in 2003, 342 of our residents understood the importance and value of voluntarily contributing what was then a meager \$20 per year to help fund the community activities and scholarships provided by the Association. Only 115 contributed this past year, yet attendance at the kids parties the Association provides (and the cost to do so) has been substantially more than in 2003. Times change, priorities change, community demographics change and the Florida Gardens Civic Association must change as well. But one think won't change - we must receive the funds necessary to finance the operation of the Association, or the Association will cease to exist along with everything it provides.



### CLUBHOUSE RENTAL INFO

FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE, FIRST VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.floridagardens.net](http://www.floridagardens.net) AND CLICK ON THE CLUBHOUSE TAB. REVIEW THE INFORMATION AND THEN CALL TERRY AT **561-968-9970\*** TO SCHEDULE YOUR EVENT. **RESERVE EARLY - WE ALREADY HAVE DATES BOOKED AS FAR OUT AS AUGUST 2025!**

**\*VOICE MAIL ONLY—DO NOT SEND TEXTS TO THIS NUMBER.**



# CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA GARDENS - 2025

Christmas has always been a special, fun time in Florida Gardens, celebrated by our annual events including the Kids Christmas Party, the Golf Cart Parades, the Christmas Decorating Contest and the Christmas Eve luminaries. The Kids Christmas party was great again this year. Thanks to all our volunteers without whose help these events would not be possible. And remember, your annual contribution to the Association funds the various community parties and events we hold throughout the year.

## **KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY / TOY DRIVE**

Special thanks to our extraordinary Kids Party Coordinator, Kimberly Serio, and her volunteers for putting together another fantastic Kids Christmas Party. We had great attendance. Also, THANK YOU to everyone who donated toys to Toys-for-Tots, which Santa delivered to the fire station for distribution. See some party pictures on our website, [floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net), under the Photo Gallery tab.



Thanks also to Karen Bavis who volunteered to be the event photographer and took photos of all the happenings. To see the full gallery of photos, scan the QR code above. The QR code is also printed in our Florida Gardens Website Photo Gallery.

## **CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADES (Day & Night)**



We had a good turn-out for the nighttime Christmas Golf Cart Parade. Sorry but no one was able to furnish any pictures.

The daytime parade was sparsely attended (both in participants and spectators) and may be discontinued.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES**

Thanks to those street volunteers who took time Christmas Eve to light their streets with luminaries. It's a big job and our friends and neighbors who drive through our neighborhood Christmas Eve to see our beautiful house displays love the special touch this effort brings. THANK YOU!

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 2025 Christmas Decorating Contest that was again **sponsored by Able Plumbing**.

See photos of all 6 of the Neighborhood winners on our website. ([floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net)).

Note that those who won cash prizes for their great displays last year were ineligible for neighborhood recognition this year.

### **Neighborhood Best Overall :**



1st Place - 175 Ohio



2nd Place - 67 Cypress



3rd Place - 129 Cleveland

**Honorable Mentions**, in no particular order were :      14 Coconut      43 Cypress      75 Cleveland

The **Best-on-the-Street Winners** below were selected and submitted by the corresponding Association Street Reps, (exclusive of the top winners above) :

56 AKRON (N)

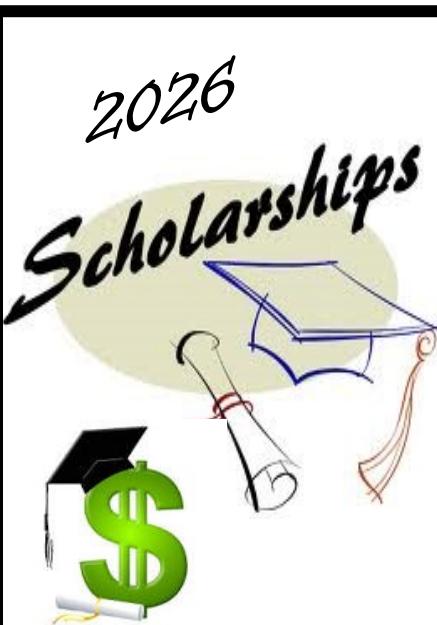
110 PALMETTO

7 RUBBER TREE

70 CYPRESS

14 COCONUT

107 SPRINGDALE



It's time for any graduating High School senior in Florida Gardens who may be interested in applying for the annual Florida Gardens College Scholarship Award to start working on their application. Each year, the Civic Association is proud to award one or two scholarships to college or tech school-bound students from Florida Gardens who meet the qualifications, in recognition of their efforts and accomplishments.

In order to apply, the student must be a bona fide resident of Florida Gardens, graduating from high school in 2026, and entering college or tech school in the fall. There are a few other requirements prior to applying, which include family member contributions to the Association in the current and previous year, completion of 20 hours of community service to Florida Gardens, and submitting an application with supporting documents.

The absolute deadline to submit applications is April 15th. We hope to hear from you, so if you're interested in applying please phone our Scholarship Coordinator, Marian French, at 561-762-3222 or email to [m54french@gmail.com](mailto:m54french@gmail.com).

***The scholarships we award to selected Florida Gardens High School seniors each year would not be possible without the financial support of our residents. Your annual contribution makes a difference.***

## FLORIDA GARDENS CRIME REPORT

11/1/25 - 12/31/25

COMPILED BY PENNY SPRING

	AKRON	BARBERTON	CLEVELAND	CUYAHOGA	DAYTON	OHIO	PALMETTO	PLUMOSA	SPRINGDALE	NO STRE
	ARCH	CANTON	COCONUT	CYPRESS	MANGO	PALM	PINE TREE	RUBBER TREE	LK WORTH RD	
Abandoned Vehicle									1	
Abuse				1						
Alarm										3
Alarm Hold Up										1
Assault Armed									1	
Assault Domestic				1			1			
Assisting Another Dept		1							1	
Business/Resident Check	2		1			5			1	1
Burglary Vehicle						1				
Civil Matter	1							1		
Conduct Investigation						1				
Dead Person			1							
Disturbance Armed								1		
Domestic	1					1				
Domestic In Progress				1						
Embezzlement		1							2	
Information						1				
Mentally Disturbed Person										1
Motor Vehicle Crash						1				
Noise	1			1		1			1	
Police Service Call	1					1	1		1	
Reckless Driver					1					
Serving Civil Process	1		1		2	1				
Serving Warrant							1			
Stalking								1		
Stolen Vehicle			1							
Suicide Attempt						1				
Suspicious Incident					1	1				
Trespassing				1						
Unwanted Guest									1	
Vandalism	1				1	1				
Welfare Check							1			1
911 Hang Up		1		1	1		2	3	1	2
										1

CONTRIBUTION COUPON - SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION PAGES (PG 3 &amp; 4)



## FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2026 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Make check payable to "Florida Gardens Civic Association"

Place your check and this coupon in an envelope and either drop it in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse or  
mail to : Florida Gardens Civic Association ; 134 Ohio Road ; Lake Worth, FL 33467-3828

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

