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STREET REPS
See Page 2
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Florida Gardens Newsletter

September 2024 / Volume 55 - Issue 4

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STREET REPS

UPDATED 5/15/24

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7TH ANNUAL HAUNTED GARDENS HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST Judging on SUNDAY, October 27th from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

NOTE - To encourage more residents to participate, those who won cash prizes for their great displays in last year's contest are ineligible for cash prizes this year. Also, the Halloween House on Pine Tree has again recused themselves from this competition.

SPONSORED AGAIN BY ABLE PLUMBING

As in previous years, judges will select the 6 best Halloween décor presentations. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three, with honorable mention to the rest.





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- MAY TO AUGUST CRIME REPORT

Connect With Vs.

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

Join Nextdoor: Sign up at nextdoor.com

On Facebook @ Florida Gardens Civic Association

On Instagram @ fla_gardens_civic_association

CHECK OUT THE FLORIDA GARDENS WEBSITE AT

floridagardens.net

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 October 10th, November 14th and December 12th.

2024 HALLOWEEN EVENTS DETAILS

Florida Gardens Residents Only, Please

Halloween has always been a special, fun time in Florida Gardens. This year, Florida Gardens will have a Children's Party, conduct a Golf Cart Trunk-or-Treat, and have the Halloween Golf Cart Parade and outdoor movie showing following that. <u>All</u> these events will all be held on Saturday, October 19th. Monitor Nextdoor, our Facebook page and our Florida Gardens Website for any changes to the planned events.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - People like to attend these events but few ever want to **HELP**. If you would be willing to volunteer to help with event support, please contact Kimberly Serio (561) 762-4356 for the Children's Party (**Setup is FRIDAY from 6-8 PM**), Alanna Harman at (561) 248-3151 for the Trunk-or-Treat and Mike Misko at 561-629-6121 for the Movie Event. High School students- this is an opportunity for Community Service hours.





CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY STARTING AT 5:00 pm / ENDS AT 6:00 pm

The evening begins promptly at 5:00 pm at the Clubhouse with our Halloween Party. Dress up in your best Halloween costumes and come and enjoy the fun. Free food and drinks for the children will be provided. There will also be a 50/50 Raffle. PLEASE see the note about volunteers above PARENTS: Please park your automobiles in the designated parking area.

Also see the note at the top of Page 5

HALLOWEEN 'TRUNK-OR-TREAT' - Behind the Clubhouse from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

This has always been a very popular part of every year's Halloween festivities and we will have one again this year.

CART OWNERS: If you plan on participating in the Trunk-or-Treat, please call Alanna Harman at (561) 248-3151 by Wednesday, 10/18 so she can get an idea of about how many carts to plan for. On Saturday, line up your decorated golf carts in the designated area, spaced as directed, and bring candy (but



nothing containing peanuts, please). The kids will go cart-to-cart starting at 6:00 pm until 7:15 pm. Please have your carts in place by 5:45 pm.



HALLOWEEN GOLF CART PARADE beginning at 7:30 pm

Immediately following the Trunk-or-Treat we will again have a Halloween Golf Cart Parade beginning at 7:30 pm. If you have a decorated cart (golf carts ONLY), please join in the fun. Cart line-up begins at 7:15 at the Clubhouse. The parade route will be the same as that followed during the annual Christmas parade. Participants: MAKE SOME NOISE so our residents will know the parade is approaching.

HALLOWEEN MOVIE SHOWING beginning at 9:00 pm

The final event of the evening will be an outdoor Halloween movie on the rear lawn of the Clubhouse (weather permitting), beginning at 9:00 pm. Bring your golf cart, chairs or blankets to sit and enjoy the show. Free popcorn will be provided for the kids. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

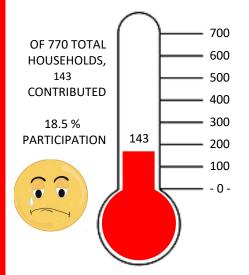


NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT CONTRIBUTED



2024 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION RESULTS





Here is the status of our annual contribution drive. As of September 15th, only 143 of our 770 households in Florida Gardens recognized the need for their involvement and were generous enough to contribute. This is DOWN from the 171 who contributed last year - a 16% drop. To those who DID contribute this year, we say THANK YOU!

We are entering that time of year when our most popular (and thus most expensive) events, Halloween and Christmas, are held. Attendance at our "kids" events last year was higher than ever, but it's getting increasingly difficult to pay for them. If you haven't contributed this year, it's not too late to support these activities. Please consider what this great community has to offer and make a contribution to help keep our activities funded.

As of September 11th, the percentage of households by street who contributed this year, ranked by participation percentage, was as follows.

Cleveland	12/34	35.3%	Plumosa	7/42	16.7%
Cypress	14/44	31.8%	Rubber Tree	7/46	15.2%
Coconut	12/44	27.3%	Ohio	12/79	15.2%
Palmetto	11/46	23.9%	Springdale	4/31	12.9%
Cuyahoga	9/38	23.7%	Akron	9/74	12.2%
Barberton	8/34	23.5%	Mango	5/42	11.9%
Canton	6/33	18.2%	Arch	7/61	11.5%
Palm	8/44	18.2%	Dayton	4/36	11.1%
Pine Tree	8/44	18.2%			











CLUBHOUSE RENTAL INFO

FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE, FIRST VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT 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 IN DECEMBER!**





A NOTE ABOUT THE KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

by Kimberly Serio - Children's Events Coordinator

This year we will be having our Children's Halloween Party as all the previous years. However, the Carnival portion of the fun time has been cancelled. A party and carnival require at least 20 volunteers, and over the past 2 years we have had trouble getting volunteer support needed from the community to make that happen. This is something we'd love to continue with, and if you'd be willing to get involved, please reach out to me at 561-762-4356. If we can secure all the needed volunteers prior to the event, we would be able to continue this fun tradition we started a couple years back.

POTHOLE REPAIRS

by Tonya Smithfield

Did you know that driving over a pothole is one of the leading causes of costly wheel alignments? Driving over potholes is also a major factor in car accidents and increases EVERYONE'S auto insurance rates in the area.

Help is just a phone call away. The Palm Beach County Roads and Bridges Department will fix or repair the road within 24 hours just by calling 561-233-3950. They will also clean up glass or debris in the road if you report it.

Program the number into your cell phone so you can report potholes along your daily path of commuting. It only takes a minute to report them and it could save YOU from a costly auto repair and prevent a car accident. Let your tax dollars work for YOU.

EDITOR'S NOTE: ALTHOUGH OUR HALLOWEEN ACTIVIYTIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR MOST POPULAR COMMUNITY EVENT, WE ARE ELIMINATING THE CARNIVAL AND SCALING BACK THE KID'S PARTY SINCE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF THEM. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER.

SHOULD WE DISBAND THE FGCA?

By Gary Oliwa

The Florida Gardens Civic Association (FGCA) was formed in 1969. It is a volunteer organization and was chartered with control of the neighborhood Clubhouse that had been built by the Florida Gardens developer, Karl Beachler. As stipulated in the Clubhouse property deed, should the FGCA no longer be an active entity, ownership of the Clubhouse and property will revert back to the Beachler estate to do with as they wish.

"Back in the day..." as they say, the Clubhouse was an active part of the Florida Gardens lifestyle. Besides being available for residents to use for personal events, It was used for many community activities as well. However, history records clearly show that the fundamental problem of lack of committed volunteers to run the organization and support the neighborhood activities has existed since the organization's inception. Over time, the problem has just gotten worse. Street reps now are almost impossible to recruit, even though the extent of their involvement might be as little as attending a monthly meeting and getting the Newsletters delivered 5 times per year. Our volunteer officers are saddled with the majority of the day-to-day tasks. Residents to this day, despite all the social media postings, still seem to think the FGCA is an HOA and therefore responsible for getting things done around the neighborhood. It's NOT. There are no property restrictions or regulations except those imposed and enforced directly by Palm Beach County government officials.

It is only through the hard work and dedication of a select few over the years that the FGCA organization has managed to survive and continue to provide the benefits the organization was intended to provide, namely community activities and the management of the use of the Clubhouse. However, it may be time to admit that in today's world, most people just don't have the time, energy or inclination to help at a neighborhood level any more. Sure, they enjoy and appreciate the few family activities we can put together, as long as it's someone else who does the majority of the work. Pleas for people to step-up and pitch in on more than just an occasional and haphazard occurrence have been made numerous times through the years, with minimal results. There are too few active, committed and reliable volunteers. Therefore, perhaps it's time we at least entertained the unpleasant idea of disbanding the FGCA, closing the Clubhouse and turning the property back to the Beachler estate. It would be a great loss for the community, but times change, things change and people change. Maybe the time has come for Florida Gardens to change too.

Thank You, Sandra Dale

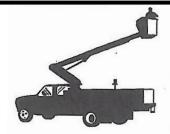
The Board of Directors would like to take the opportunity to thank Sandra Dale for her many years of service to the FGCA Board and the community. Over the years, Sandra served as a Street Rep for Rubber Tree, as a Director at Large, and most recently as our Scholarship Coordinator. Sandra always volunteered to help out with all the Community events. We thank her for the time and effort she gave and wish her and her family all the best.

New Scholarship Coordinator

With the departure of Sandra Dale, Marian French has volunteered to assume the role of Scholarship Coordinator in addition to her Cleveland Street Rep responsibilities. For those interested in finding out more about our annual Scholarship awards, see the information and Scholarship Application on our website, floridagardens.net.

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Man Down / Sick Person																			3
Threats																			1
Vehicle Crash																			1

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