



CONTACT INFO

PBC SHERIFF
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PBC CODE ENFORCEMENT
(561) 233-5500

2023 FGCA OFFICERS

Mike Misko
President
561-629-6121

Christine Curry
1st Vice President
561-853-7755

Sarah Harmes
2nd Vice President
561-876-5596

Kimberly Serio
Secretary
561-762-4356

Justin Gwin
Treasurer
305-505-0541

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Spencer Palmer
561-685-4229
Danny Wood
561-722-0353
Gary Oliwa
561-876-6415

STREET REPS
See Page 2

Also on our website
www.floridagardens.net

MAILING ADDRESSES
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Lake Worth 33467-3828

floridagardensca@gmail.com

Florida Gardens Newsletter

January 2023 / Volume 54 - Issue 1

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



IN THIS ISSUE...

- RECAP OF OUR 2022 CHRISTMAS EVENTS
- WE KICK OFF OUR 2023 CONTRIBUTION DRIVE
- OUR 2023 FGCA OFFICERS
- ENTRANCE SIGN RECONSTRUCTION
- OHIO ROAD / LAKE WORTH ROAD TRAFFIC LIGHT CHANGES
- SAFETY WHEN WALKING AT NIGHT
- TIME TO SUBMIT ANY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
- NOVEMBER / DECEMBER CRIME REPORT
- MARK THE DATE FOR THE 2023 KIDS EASTER PARTY
- SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS WHO PAY FOR THIS NEWSLETTER



MARK THE DATE!

UPCOMING EASTER FESTIVITIES

MARK THE DATE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 8th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Event details will be in the March Newsletter,
on our Facebook page (Florida Gardens Civic
Association) and our website
(floridagardens.net).



STREET REPS

UPDATED 1/12/23

STREET REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT #

AKRON (N)
JESSICA TEETS
jessicaeteets@gmail.com

AKRON (S)
BILL APPLIGATE
561-965-5311

ARCH
BRIAN KATZ
646-338-5668

BARBERTON
PATRICK BUCKLEY
561-202-4704

CANTON
TAMMY TWOREK
561-308-9436

CLEVELAND
MARIAN FRENCH
561-762-3222

COCONUT
L BELCHER
561-797-3334

CUYAHOGA
MEGAN BAUER
561-315-6976

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AMANDA OLMSTEAD
561-900-6181

DAYTON
ALANNA HARMAN
561-248-3151

MANGO
CHUCK SACHER
561-433-5875

OHIO (N)
CHERYL SMART
561-586-1900

OHIO (S)
SUSAN JENKINS
561-570-0421

PALM
PENNY SPRING
786-486-2222

PALMETTO
ANGIE BERMUDEZ
561-649-5651

PINE TREE
TERRY CROSBY
561-968-9970

PLUMOSA
SARA RIDOLPH
561-967-2197

RUBBER TREE
HEATHER ZAPF
piheatherz@gmail.com

SPRINGDALE
CHRISTIE BANKES
christiebankes@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FGCA Officers for 2023

At the December Residents Meeting, the following people were elected as the Florida Gardens Civic Association Inc Officers for 2023:

President - Mike Misko
1st Vice President - Christine Curry
2nd Vice President - Sarah Harmes
Secretary - Kimberly Serio
Treasurer - Justin Gwin

Susan Jenkins will return to her position as Street Rep for Ohio (South), and L Belcher will replace Christine Curry as the Street Rep for Coconut. Thank You to all those who volunteer their time for this Community.

Upcoming Residents Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month except July and August, at 8:00 pm in the Clubhouse. Attendance by the Board of Directors is mandatory, but all residents are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendar for the next three scheduled meeting dates which are February 9th, March 9th and April 13th.

ONGOING NEED FOR STREET REPS

Every resident in Florida Gardens is a member of the Florida Gardens Civic Association, Inc. The Association is governed by a representative Board of Directors, which consists of five elected Officers, three appointed Directors at Large, and 19 Street Representatives. The Street Reps are the voice of the residents. Their input helps shape the function, activities and direction of the Community. Without their representation, the residents have no voice. But as critical as the position of Street Rep is, it takes very little time or effort. You don't even have to be a resident of the street you represent (although that is always the preference). The 'duties' of a Street Rep are simple and outlined in the By-Laws. First, since you represent the residents, attend the monthly Residents Meeting. There are only 10 per year (we don't meet in July or August) and last about an hour or less. There can even be two people acting as a Street Rep for a street - a Primary and a Secondary so if one can't make it the other can take their place. Second, the Street Rep is responsible for insuring that the community Newsletter, published 5 times per year, gets delivered to all the houses on their street. This doesn't mean you have to do it yourself (but it is a good way to connect with the people you represent). If necessary, you can find someone to do it for you. Your responsibility is simply that it gets done. That's about it. So why, with an average of about 44 houses per street, is it so difficult to find a few people willing and able to support this community by filling the pending Street Rep vacancies? If this simple but vital activity is something you would be willing to volunteer for, please contact Mike Misko . Get involved in your Community.

ENTRANCE SIGN RECONSTRUCTION AND AREA CLEAN-UP

During December, Clubhouse Manager Terry Ann Crosby led a small group of volunteers who addressed the deteriorating condition of the entrance sign area on Ohio Road. The sign itself was infested with carpenter ants and wood rot and had significant structural damage. The surrounding landscape was significantly overgrown and littered with trash. The sign has since been repaired with portions being completely rebuilt. The sign and the wall behind it have been painted, and the landscape around it has been trimmed and cleaned. New solar lighting was also added. Thanks to Terry and her volunteers, our entrance sign on Ohio Road is once again beautiful and welcoming.



BEFORE

AFTER



CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA GARDENS—2022

Christmas has always been a special, fun time in Florida Gardens. Our annual events including the Kids Christmas Party, the Golf Cart Parades, the Christmas Decorating Contest and the Christmas Eve luminaries were 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.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 2022 Christmas Decorating Contest that was again **sponsored by Able Plumbing**. See photos of the Neighborhood winners on our website. (www.floridagardens.net)

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

Neighborhood Best Overall : 1st Place - 75 Dayton 2nd Place - 20 Pine Tree 3rd Place - 55 Coconut

Honorable Mentions, no particular order : 96 Canton 112 Cuyahoga 175 Ohio

Best-on-the-Street Winners as selected by your Association Street Reps (exclusive of the top winners above) :

80 AKRON (N)	96 CANTON	67 CYPRESS	289 OHIO (S)	97 PLUMOSA
200 AKRON (S)	104 CLEVELAND	56 DAYTON	19 PALM	103 RUBBER TREE
19 ARCH	103 COCONUT	31 MANGO	85 PALMETTO	107 SPRINGDALE
129 BARBERTON	55 CUYAHOGA	86 OHIO (N)	38 PINE TREE	

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY / TOY DRIVE

Special thanks to Kimberly Serio and her volunteers for putting together another great Kids Christmas Party. Also, THANK YOU to everyone who donated toys to Toys-for-Tots, which Santa delivered to the fire station for distribution. See the party pictures on our website.



CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADES (Day & Night)

On Saturday, December 17th, we again had our annual day and night Christmas Golf Cart Parades. Turn-out for the night parade was incredible - with 54 carts participating. Special thanks to Spencer Palmer for coordinating the parades and to PBC Fire Rescue for leading the daytime parade.

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES

Once again this year, a number of streets were beautifully lined with luminaries on Christmas Eve. This photo is of Rubber Tree. Special thanks to those Street Reps and their volunteers who took the time and made the effort to make this happen.





Once again, 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 2023, 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, Sandra Dale, at 561-432-8951 or email to davidsdale@bellsouth.net.

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

FLORIDA GARDENS CRIME REPORT											11/01/22-12/31/22					Compiled by Sue Guthrie		
	AKRON		BARBERTON		CLEVELAND		CUYAHOGA		DAYTON		OHIO		PALMETTO		PLUMOSA		SPRINGDALE	
	ARCH		CANTON		COCONUT		CYPRESS		MANGO		PALM		PINE TREE		RUBBER TREE		LK WORTH RD	
Burglary of Vehicle	3										1			2				
Vehicle Stop							1											
Forgery																		
Assist to Another Dept										4								
Resident Check	21	5	1	5		8	2	1	1	5	24	7	6	5	2	2	2	4
Serving Civil Process	1	1																
Man Down / Sick	1																	
Neighbor Trouble													1					
Police Serv. Call Info		1									1			1				
Fraud	1														2			
Welfare Check					1													
Mentally Disturbed Person														1				
Suspicious Vehicle					1													
Vandalism/Trespass					1						1							
Larceny/Theft													2					
Alarm											1							
Suspicious Incident											1				1			
Conduct Check														2				
Suspicious Person											2	1						
Investigation																		
Noise	1					1		1			1		3					

Support your 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 annual community gathering, the children really enjoy the Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties. All our residents have the clubhouse available for their own special events.

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

None of this would be possible without your annual financial assistance.

Unlike most communities in South Florida, we are not an HOA. There are no mandatory monthly maintenance fees. (Ask your friends who live in these communities how much they must pay to their HOA every month and what they get and actually use in return.)

All residents of Florida Gardens are members of the Florida Gardens Civic Association, Inc. Your voluntary annual member contribution to the FGCA makes it possible to provide our residents and their families 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.



KIDS EASTER PARTY 2022



HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL



KIDS XMAS PARTY 2022

NOTE : In 2022, of 782 households, 181 contributed (23% participation - our lowest in several years)

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION IS EASY!

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

To make a member 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.

To make your member contribution online with a credit card, go to - www.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 or through VENMO.

To contribute by check, use the coupon below and place both in the envelope provided. 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.



FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2023 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Make check payable to "Florida Gardens Civic Association"

Use the envelope provided 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!

Traffic Light Changes may be coming at Lake Worth Road / Ohio Road

by Gary Oliwa

UPDATE - In the November Newsletter I reported on my efforts to have the traffic signals at the Ohio Road / Lake Worth Road intersection modified to reduce the number of accidents there caused by drivers turning left from both Ohio and Nassau Roads in conflict with drivers going straight across the intersection, all on simultaneous green lights. The report I generated and sent to the County with a recommendation for modification of the traffic signals was approved by the County Traffic Engineering Department and has been forwarded to the Florida Department of Transportation for their review, since Lake Worth Road is a State road under their jurisdiction. As of this writing, the engineers at FDOT are investigating whether the traffic signal arms presently there are sufficient to hold the weight of the new signals that would be required for the change.

SAFETY WALKING AT NIGHT

by Gary Oliwa

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY - PLEASE! Earlier this month, I encountered a person walking their dog at night on the road wearing all dark clothing and walking a black dog. With an oncoming car at the same time, it was impossible to see them until the last minute. Some reasonable suggestions for anyone out walking at night: 1) Wear bright clothing and better yet one of those reflective safety vests. 2) Walk facing oncoming traffic. If there are no sidewalks, Florida law 316.130(4) specifies that pedestrians must walk on the shoulder of the road AGAINST the flow of traffic. 3) Carry a flashlight. 4) When you have a vehicle approaching, get well off the road until the vehicle passes. 5) Be very careful around the numerous package delivery vehicles now making night deliveries. Please make an extra effort to stay safe walking at night. Many drivers don't slow down and pleas to do so, especially at night, fall on deaf ears. Pedestrians may have the legal right-of-way, but there's an old saying about being "dead right".



Brian Katz
Adult Event Coordinator.

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH @ 7:00 p.m.

Hi neighbors. Remember to join us on the third Tuesday of each month for Adult-only Game Night at the Florida Gardens Clubhouse for those 21 and over, starting at 7:00 pm. We set up a few tables and have some games available, but bring any games you think others would enjoy playing. Bring your own refreshments. This is a great time to come hang out/meet Florida Gardens neighbors whether or not you want to play. If you have any questions, thoughts or suggestions you can email FloridaGardensEvents@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

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 LATE 2023!

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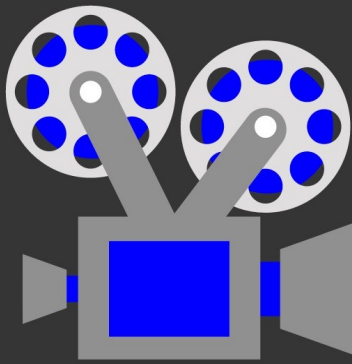
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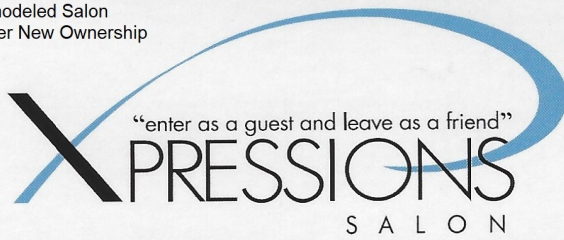


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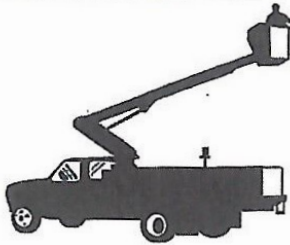
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