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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
134 Ohio Road
Lake Worth 33467-3828

floridagardensca@gmail.com

Florida Gardens Newsletter

May 2023 / Volume 54 - Issue 3

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



Memorial Day - Monday, May 29th

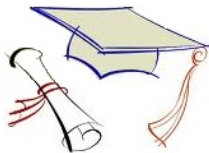
Remember our fallen heroes. They are the reason we are free.

HONOR OUR VETERANS - Once again this year, on the Sunday before Memorial Day, volunteers will place flags on every one of the 30,000 graves currently in the South Florida National Cemetery on State Road 7. It's a massive effort. Drive through the cemetery some time during Memorial Day week to see all 30,000 headstones each adorned with an American flag and pay your respects. The flags are removed Saturday.

Just a reminder, per the U.S. Flag Code, on Memorial Day the flag is flown at half-staff until noon only, at which time it is raised to full-staff. We also honor the memory of our military heroes with a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 p.m, for one minute.

For an article on the history of Memorial Day, see the May 2019 issue of the Newsletter, available on our Florida Gardens website.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 !



The Board of Directors of the Florida Gardens Civic Association wishes all our graduating Seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.



A NOTE TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS :

Our next Newsletter will be in September. Until then, the Board of Directors of the Florida Gardens Civic Association wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

STREET REPS

UPDATED 5/15/23

STREET
REPRESENTATIVE
CONTACT #

AKRON (N)
JESSICA TEETS
jessicaeteets@gmail.com

AKRON (S)
-- VACANT --
xxx-xxx-xxxx

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

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561-315-6976

CYPRESS
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561-900-6181

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561-248-3151

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561-433-5875

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CHERYL SMART
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OHIO (S)
SUSAN JENKINS
561-570-0421

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ANGIE BERMUDEZ
561-649-5651

PINE TREE
TERRY CROSBY
561-968-9970

PLUMOSA
SARA RIDOLPH
561-967-2197

RUBBER TREE
HEATHER ZAPF
pjheatherz@gmail.com

SPRINGDALE
CHRISTIE BANKES
christiebankes@yahoo.com

DRIVERS LICENSE TO BE REQUIRED FOR GOLF CART OPERATION

The Florida Legislature unanimously passed a law, effective October 1st, that requires the driver of a golf cart operated on permitted public roads who is 18 years old or younger to have a drivers license or, if accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old, a drivers license learners permit. Golf cart drivers older than 18 need not be licensed but must have in their possession a state-issued I.D. card when operating one. Again, this law will take effect October 1st. Note that a registered and insured "street-legal" cart, properly called a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) is a motor vehicle which always requires a driver's license (or learner's permit when accompanied) to operate. LSV's can be operated on any public roadway where the posted speed limit is 35 MPH or less.

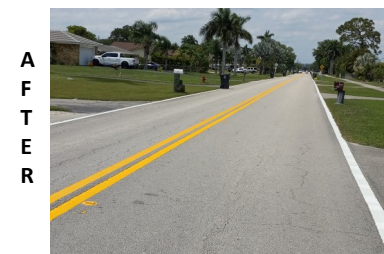
So how will this new law affect Florida Gardens (if at all)? Well, for now, it doesn't.

A regular golf cart may NOT be operated by ANYONE upon a county road that has not been designated by the county for use by golf carts. We all know that many residents in Florida Gardens drive their golf carts around the neighborhood regularly. Once in a while, something bad happens and the Sheriff's Office is obligated to clamp down on their use by everyone (at least for a little while). A common sense solution would be to have the County designate Florida Gardens roads as being safe for golf carts which, when coupled with the new law requiring drivers to be licensed, would allow at least the opportunity for safe and legal operation of regular golf carts within Florida Gardens.

Before making such a designation, the County Road and Bridge Department must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on the public roads, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the roads. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on the designated roads, the County would post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed. We'll see how it goes.

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 scheduled meeting, which is June 8th. **There are no meetings held in July or August.**



KUDOS AND THANKS to AL HARRISON of W. Coconut Drive who took the time and made the effort to contact the PBC Road Division and had them repaint the roadway markings on Akron Road and Ohio Road. The only way these things happen is by residents taking action and putting in the effort to affect a change. Making a difference always does. Don't just complain about a problem - be part of the solution.



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.



KIDS EASTER PARTY 2023

Thanks to Kimberly Serio (Kids Party Coordinator Extraordinaire) and her amazing team of volunteers (Alanna, Penny, Keegan, Samantha, Peggy and the wonderful High School students) who championed the Florida Gardens annual Easter festivities this year. Over 150 kids in three age groups gathered thousands of eggs. Special thanks to Florida Gardens Baptist Church who provided two bounce houses and Community of Hope Church for the Sno-Cone machine. This year, a professional photographer took individual pictures of the kids meeting with the Easter Bunny. To access those pictures, go to the link on our Website (floridagardens.net) under the Photo Gallery tab. There are also 32 pictures of the event posted.



THESE COMMUNITY EVENTS CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR RESIDENTS.



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT and COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHER



ADULT DIVISION WINNERS:
GARY AND JUSTIN GREGORY



On Saturday, May 13th, we held our third Cornhole Tournament and Community Get-together. There were 44 players who competed for cash and awards. Food, music and games for the kids (plus great weather once again) combined for a fun day. Special thanks to Danny Wood who coordinated the Cornhole Tournament, to Kimberly Serio who orchestrated the children's activities, and to all our volunteers without whom events like these could not be possible. Congratulations to the tournament winners. There are additional event pictures posted on our website.



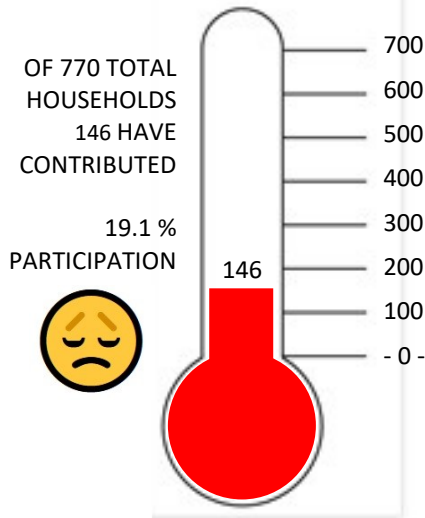
ADULT/YOUTH DIVISION WINNERS:
COREY AND DANNY WOOD



YOUTH DIVISION WINNERS:
RYAN BANIONIS & COREY WOOD

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATUS



In the January Newsletter, we kicked off our annual contribution drive. We detailed how your contributions fund the various community activities and children’s holiday parties. We asked that you check with your friends that live in HOA communities and see what they pay annually in mandatory HOA dues and what they receive in return. We also have a safe, simple method to make a contribution online through our website or even on your phone if you have the Venmo app if a mailed check is too inconvenient.

As of May 11th, only 146 of our 770 households in Florida Gardens have recognized the need for their involvement and have been generous enough to contribute. Most have contributed \$50. Some have contributed more. To everyone who has contributed thus far, we say THANK YOU!

In this Newsletter, we are once again including simple instructions on how to use our website to make your contribution online, and a contribution coupon for those of you who like to contribute by check. All contributions received, regardless of the receipt date, are for the calendar year in which they are received. The Association fiscal year runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st.

Please consider what this great community has to offer and make a contribution to help keep our activities funded.

REMINDER : We have several ways to contribute. You can make your annual contribution to the Florida Gardens Civic Association by check. You can use any credit card online through our website (floridagardens.net). Simply select “CONTRIBUTE” from the main menu and follow the directions. Finally, you can also pay using Venmo. Enter @Floridagardensca as payee. If prompted, use 0541 as the last 4 digits of the payee phone.

As of May 11th, the percentage of households by street who have contributed this year, ranked by contribution percentage, is as follows.

Cleveland	12/34	35.3%	Barberton	6/34	17.6%
Coconut	12/44	27.3%	Ohio	13/79	16.5%
Cuyahoga	10/38	26.3%	Rubber Tree	7/46	15.2%
Cypress	11/44	25.0%	Plumosa	6/42	14.3%
Palmetto	10/46	21.7%	Dayton	5/36	13.9%
Canton	7/33	21.2%	Arch	7/54	13.0%
Pine Tree	9/44	20.5%	Springdale	4/31	12.9%
Akron	14/74	18.9%	Mango	5/42	11.9%
Palm	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 LATE 2023!

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



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. This year, we have 2 recipients.

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 2023



HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL



KIDS XMAS PARTY 2022

NOTE : Thus far in 2023, of 770 households, only 146 have contributed (19% participation - our lowest ever).

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 an envelope addressed as shown below. 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

If contributing by check, make check payable to “Florida Gardens Civic Association”

Place the check and coupon in an envelope addressed as below, 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!



OUR NEW DISTRICT 3 PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONER - MICHAEL BARNETT

The Board of County Commissioners serves as the legislative and policy-setting body for county government. Among other things, they also act as the Solid Waste Authority Governing Board and the Zoning Board. Seven commissioners are elected from single-member districts to staggered four-year terms to represent the entire county. During the first meeting of each month, with the exception of January and August, citizens may offer comments on any issue or topic during Matters by the Public.

The county is divided into seven districts. Florida Gardens is on the western border of District 3. Currently, our District Commissioner is Republican Michael A. Barnett. Commissioner Barnett was not elected but was appointed on January 5, 2023 by Governor DeSantis. He was appointed to fill the commission vacancy created when Gov. DeSantis tapped Commissioner Dave Kerner to lead the state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The Commission, which was 6-1 Democratic before the 2022 election, now consists of 4 Republicans and 3 Democrats.

For detailed information on the County Commission and a biography of Commissioner Barnett, go to discover.pbcgov.org/countycommissioners.

FLORIDA GARDENS CRIME REPORT

03/01/23-04/30/23

Compiled by Sue Guthrie

	AKRON	ARCH	BARBERTON	CANTON	CLEVELAND	COCONUT	CUYAHOGA	CYPRESS	DAYTON	MANGO	OHIO	PALM	PALMETTO	PINE TREE	PLUMOSA	RUBBER TREE	SPRINGDALE	LK WORTH RD
Vehicle Stop	1			1														
Stolen Vehicle											2					1		
Suspicious Person	1					1					1							1
Police Special Detail							1											
Resident Check	28	15	1	6	2	7	2	5	4	3	62	7	5	3	5	4	2	
Trespassing	1																	
Fraud	1	1																
Neighbor Trouble							1											
Police Service Call										1								
Noise				1		1	1											1
Welfare Check															1			
Vehicle Crash											1		1					
Suspicious Person	1					1					1							
Vandalism				1														
Serving Civil Process	1																	
Stolen Tag		1												2				1
Suspicious Vehicle						1												1
Conduct Check												1						
Mental Person		1																
Suspicious Incident																1		



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

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. Hope to see you there!

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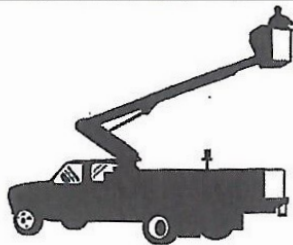
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