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STREET REPS
See Page 2
Also on our website
www.floridagardens.net

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Florida Gardens Newsletter

May 2024 / Volume 55 - Issue 3

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















Memorial Day - Monday, May 27th

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 2024!

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 5/15/24

STREET

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AMANDA OLMSTEAD 561-900-6181

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CHUCK SACHER

561-433-5875

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CHERYL SMART

561-586-1900

OHIO (S)

SUSAN JENKINS

561-570-0421

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PENNY SPRING

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2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

By Sandra Dale - FGCA Scholarship Coordinator

Each year, the Florida Gardens Civic Association awards up to two scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Florida Gardens who will be entering college or trade-school for the first time. These awards are given in recognition of the academic achievements, the community service, and the hard work these students have shown during their high school careers. This has been an annual tradition in the Gardens for approximately 40 years; totaling well over \$60,000 to some 60+ students. The funding for these awards comes from the annual contributions made to the Association by the members of the community. This year, the Civic Association awarded a scholarship to High School Senior Devan Adair. We're happy we can play a part as she begins her career and wish her much success in her continuing education.



Pictured above: Mike Misko (FGCA President),
Devan Adair (Award Recipient),
Sandra Dale (FGCA Scholarship Coordinator).

Devan Adair: Devan graduated from Suncoast High School participating in the International Baccalaureate program with an outstanding weighted GPA of 3.9.

Devan was involved with National Honor Society, flag football and was the business editor of Renaissance yearbook staff on campus.

She completed numerous community service hours not only here in our Florida Gardens neighborhood at the children's Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties but her generosity reached out to organizations at school.

She was a key leader in the Children Miracle's Network Dance Marathon at Suncoast Hight School and involved in Palm Beach County Community of Hope Children's Ministry.

Devan has been accepted and will start the summer session at the University of Florida (Go Gators!) with her studies to become a Pediatric Dentist.

We send her off on this new journey with all our love and support with this years scholarship award of \$1,500 dollars!

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- 2024 FGCA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
- OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS
- 2024 KIDS EASTER PARTY
- BUSINESS NETWORK MEETINGS
- CONTRIBUTION DRIVE CONTINUES
- DOG POOP PROBLEMS AGAIN??
- MARCH / APRIL 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 meeting is June 13th. There are no meeting in July or August. Meetings will resume September 12th.











KIDS EASTER PARTY 2024

Thanks to Kimberly Serio (Kids Party Coordinator Extraordinaire) and her amazing team of volunteers (Penny, Keegan, Emily, Alyssa and the wonderful High School and Middle 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 a huge bubble machine and volunteers to assist with our breakfast and crafts, and Community of Hope Church for the Sno-Cone machine and amazing coffee station for the parents. Again this year, a professional photographer took individual pictures of the kids meeting with the Easter Bunny. To access those pictures, go to our Website (floridagardens.net) under the Photo Gallery tab. There are also 43 general pictures of the event posted.









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

Attention all Florida Gardens Business Owners (or those interested in becoming one!)

Beginning Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 p.m. in our Clubhouse, Kristi Fioravanti will host a free monthly BUSINESS NETWORKING MEETING - an opportunity for all Florida Gardens business owners and entrepreneurs (or those wanting to find out more about what it takes to start and run a successful business) to discuss business issues, problem solve, support each other and share success stories with your peers. Additional meetings are scheduled for July 9th and August 6th.











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!





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 annual community gathering, 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. We also maintain the entrance sign on Ohio Road.

KIDS EASTER PARTY 2023

Through the Florida Gardens Civic Association, we provide deserving High School students with scholarship awards each year. We awarded two FG students \$1500 each in 2023.

None of this would be possible without sufficient annual financial assistance from our residents. Yet, in 2023, of 772 households, only 171 made a supporting contribution.



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.

KIDS XMAS PARTY 2023

SEE ALL THE EVENT
PICTURES ON OUR
U. WEBSITE

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. <u>Please type you name and address in the MEMO field so we can properly record your contribution.</u>

To make your contribution online with a credit card, go to - 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 the next page and place both in an envelope. You can mail it (address on the coupon) or save the cost of a stamp by just <u>dropping the envelope in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse</u>.

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



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



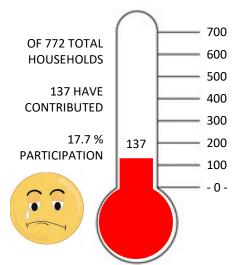


NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED



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 either the Venmo or Zelle app if a mailed check is too inconvenient.

As of May 15th, only 137 of our 772 households in Florida Gardens have recognized the need for their involvement and have been generous enough to contribute. **THIS IS LESS THAN LAST YEAR AT THIS POINT IN TIME.** Most have contributed \$50 or more. Some have contributed less. To everyone who has contributed thus far, we say THANK YOU!

In this Newsletter, we have again included 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 from our website (floridagardens.net). Simply select "CONTRIBUTE" from the main menu and follow the directions. Finally, you can also pay using Venmo or Zelle. If using Venmo, enter @Floridagardensca as payee. If prompted, use 0541 as the last 4 digits of the payee phone.

As of May 15th, the percentage of households by street who have contributed this year is as follows.

Coconut	12/44	27.3%	Canton	5/33	15.2%
Cypress	12/44	27.3%	Plumosa	6/42	14.3%
Barberton	9/34	26.5%	Ohio	11/79	13.9%
Cleveland	9/34	26.5%	Rubber Tree	6/46	13.0%
Palmetto	11/46	23.9%	Akron	9/74	12.2%
Cuyahoga	8/38	21.1%	Mango	5/42	11.9%
Pine Tree	9/44	20.5%	Arch	7/61	11.5%
Springdale	6/31	19.4%	Dayton	4/36	11.1%
Palm	8/44	18.2%			

SEE ARTICLE ON PREVIOUS PAGE

FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2024 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Make check payable to "Florida Gardens Civic Association"

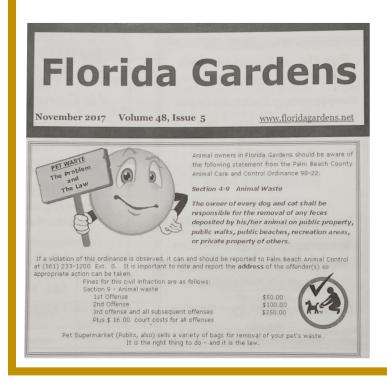
Use the envelope provided and either drop it in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse or mail to: Florida Gardens Civic Association; 134 Ohio Road; Lake Worth, FL 33467-3828

Name	
Street Address	
	IANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



DOG OWNERS: DO THE RIGHT THING

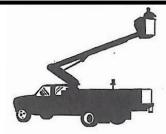
Requested by Angie Bermudez



Seven years ago, an uproar was created when the then editor of this Newsletter published a front page article (shown here) about residents failing to pick up their dog poop. It encouraged residents to identify offenders and report them to the County for fines. While this problem still continues to this day, the Board of Directors would prefer that residents who walk their dogs simply 'do the right thing', pick up their dog's waste and take it home for proper disposal (NOT putting it in someone else's trash can). It is not the responsibility of the Board of Directors to enforce proper behavior of our residents. Anyone seeing an offender must decide for themselves what action they want to pursue to try and correct the behavior of that offender. All the Board can do is continue to ask residents to be responsible dog owners and 'do the right thing'.

FLORIDA G	ARD	ENS C	RIME	REP	ORT					3/1/24	1 - 4/3	0/24			COMPILED BY PENNY SPRING				
	AKRON		BARBERTON		CLEVELAND		CUYAHOGA		DAYTON		OHIO		PALMETTO		PLUMOSA		SPRINGDALE		
		ARCH		CANTON	1	COCON	JT	CYPRES	SS	MANGO		PALM		PINE TRI	E	RUBBER	TREE	LK WOF	TH RD
Assault					1														
Auto Burglary			1																
Domestic													1						
Civil Matter					2												1		
Civil Process Assist			1			1						2				1	1		
Conduct Investigation	1									1									
Juvenile Trouble														1					
Mentally Disturbed Person		1																	
Noise							1	1											
Neighbor Trouble					1			1											
Police Serv Call Info										1							1		
Resident Check	1	1		1			2			2	26	1					2		
Serving Warrant																1			
Surveillance																2			
Suspicious Person											1			1					
Car Stopped				1														1	

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