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STREET REPS

See Page 2

Also on our website
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Florida Gardens Newsletter

September 2023 / Volume 54 - Issue 4

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January, March, May, September and November



STREET REPS

UPDATED 9/19/23

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LUCERNE LAKES GOLF COURSE CONVERSION APPROVED BY JUDGE

Almost two years of litigation concluded on August 8th when Judge G. Joseph Curley of the 15th Circuit approved Mattamy Homes' petition to dismiss the lawsuit filed by homeowners in Lucerne Lakes which attempted to prevent the conversion of the golf course to a mix of 450 houses and townhomes. The judge's 27-page ruling addressed each of the positions put forth by both Mattamy and Lucerne Lakes and in each case sided with Mattamy. The judge also allowed Mattamy to sue the Lucerne Lakes HOA and the 3 residents who filed the suit to pursue recovery of Mattamy's lawyer fees if they so choose.

Assuming Mattamy elects to now proceed with their project, there will be several direct impacts to Florida Gardens. First, the construction of a left turn lane from Ohio Road onto Columbia Drive (as mandated by the County) will impact the properties of several residents at the north end of Ohio. Second, Mattamy verbally agreed to fund the installation of 2 speed bumps along Springdale Road to try and dissuade Lucerne Lakes residents from using it to bypass traffic on Lake Worth Road. Now that the project has been allowed to proceed, we will need to get back in touch with Mattamy and remind them of their commitment.



6TH ANNUAL HAUNTED GARDENS HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

Judging on SUNDAY, October 29th 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.

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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.

1st Place - \$300 / 2nd Place - \$150 / 3rd Place - \$50

To allow all our residents to put up last minute decorations, judging will not take place until the night of SUNDAY, October 29th, from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Signs will be placed in the winning yards on Halloween morning.



2023 HALLOWEEN EVENTS DETAILS

Florida Gardens Residents Only, Please

Halloween has always been a special, fun time in Florida Gardens. This year, Florida Gardens will once again have a Kids Carnival, conduct a Golf Cart Trunk-or-Treat, and have the Halloween Golf Cart Parade and outdoor movie showing following that. **All these events will all be held on Saturday, October 28th.** 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 Carnival Event (**Carnival 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.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL - STARTING AT 5:00 pm

The evening begins promptly at 5:00 pm at the Clubhouse with our Halloween Carnival. 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.



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



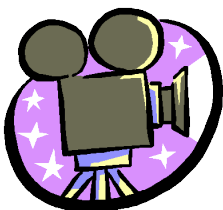
This has always been a very popular part of every year's Halloween festivities and we will have one again this year.

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 can know the parade is approaching.



HALLOWEEN MOVIE SHOWING beginning at 9:00 pm

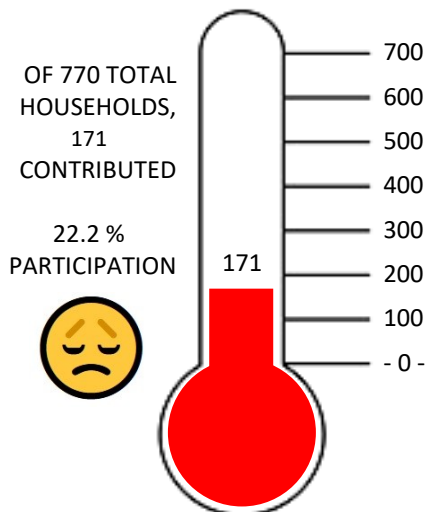
The final event of the evening will be an outdoor Halloween movie on the rear lawn of the Clubhouse (weather permitting), beginning at 8:45 pm. Bring your golf cart, chairs or blankets to sit and enjoy the show. Free popcorn will be provided for the kids. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - From Ed Hinkle, President of the Lucerne Lakes HOA

Unlicensed golf carts are not permitted anywhere in the Lucerne Lakes Community. PBSD is hired by the Lucerne Lakes HOA to patrol the community and will ticket unlicensed golf carts as well as underaged operators. For your own benefit, please keep golf carts within the friendly boundaries of Florida Gardens.

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT CONTRIBUTED

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION RESULTS



Here is the status of our annual contribution drive. As of September 15th, only 171 of our 770 households in Florida Gardens recognized the need for their involvement and were generous enough to contribute. Most contributed \$50. Some contributed more. To everyone who contributed this year, we say THANK YOU!

We are entering that time of year when our most popular (and expensive) Halloween and Christmas events are held. 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.

REMINDER : We have several ways to make your contribution. You can make your annual contribution to the Florida Gardens Civic Association by check either mailed or simply dropped into our secure mailbox in front of the Clubhouse at 134 Ohio Road. 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 contribute using Venmo. Enter @Floridagardensca as payee. If prompted, use 0541 as the last 4 digits of the payee phone.

As of September 15th, the percentage of households by street who contributed this year, ranked by contribution percentage, was as follows.

Cleveland	14/34	41.2%	Palm	9/44	20.5%
Canton	11/33	33.3%	Akron	14/74	18.9%
Coconut	13/44	29.5%	Barberton	6/34	17.6%
Cypress	13/44	29.5%	Rubber Tree	8/46	17.4%
Cuyahoga	10/38	26.3%	Arch	9/54	16.7%
Dayton	9/36	25.0%	Mango	7/42	16.7%
Palmetto	11/46	23.9%	Ohio	13/79	16.5%
Plumosa	10/42	23.8%	Springdale	4/31	12.9%
Pine Tree	10/44	22.7%			

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 meetings, which are October 12th, November 9th and December 14th.

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 JUNE 2024!**

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



2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

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, at the June 8th Residents Meeting, the Civic Association awarded scholarships to the following two High School Seniors. We're happy we can play a part as these students begin their careers and wish both of our recipients much success in their continuing education.



Pictured above: Mike Misko (FGCA President), Pat Buckley (Dad), Alyssa Buckley (Award Recipient), Angie Buckley (Mom), Sandra Dale (FGCA Scholarship Coordinator).

Alyssa Buckley

Alyssa Buckley graduated Palm Beach Central High School with an outstanding weighted 3.7 GPA. She completed numerous community service hours including feeding the homeless, being a teacher's aide, and interning at a doctor's office. She received many medals and trophies competing in dance and 4 years of color guard; all while taking several honors/AICE classes. Alyssa demonstrated excellent leadership skills, was very reliable and punctual at our children's holiday parties despite the challenges and time constraints of juggling her busy schedule.

Alyssa will be attending Palm Beach State College for her AA degree with the plans of transferring to the University of Miami to join their doctorate program. Her career goal is to become a Pediatrician and help heal sick children.

Seanna Mesa

Seanna graduated Santaluces Community High School with an outstanding weighted 4.0 GPA including AICE/AP honors courses. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. She participated in flag football and the weightlifting team. Seanna also was enrolled in the medical academy on campus which earned her certificates in Pharmacy Tech, CPR, Emergency Medical Responder and Medical Assistant and was a medic for the football team. Seanna's character, commitment, leadership and time management skills allowed her to complete over 500 community service hours in outreach programs, church, hospitals and our community children's holiday parties.

Seanna will be attending Palm Beach State College for her AA degree with plans of transferring to a pre-med program at the University of Central Florida. Her ambition is to receive a doctorate degree and become a trauma surgeon.



Pictured above: Roger Mesa (Dad), Sabrina Mesa (Sister), Helen Mesa (Mom), Mike Misko (FGCA President), Seanna Mesa (Award Recipient), Sergio Mesa (Brother), Sandra Dale (FGCA Scholarship Coordinator).

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SANDRA DALE - OUR NEW FGCA SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

This year's scholarships are named for Edward A. Ridolph. Ed moved to Florida Gardens in June of 1974, and was a longtime member of the Florida Gardens Civic Association. Over the years, he held many positions in the Association; however he was known for overseeing the management of the Scholarship Awards from 1984 until his passing in 2021.

Ed was a loyal and decent man, to whom many looked to for advice. He was passionate about many things, including trolley cars, travel, photography, and especially, education. This enduring passion for education led to many generations of residents earning a scholarship under his guidance, which supported them in their pursuit of higher education.

He always ensured the young adults who earned this scholarship did so by contributing their time to the neighborhood. This scholarship has been one way the community recognizes the hard work and achievements of many of our outstanding students, and it also gives these deserving students a financial boost as they begin their college/trade careers. Over the years some of our recipients have gone on to become teachers, lawyers, architects, medical workers, as well as enjoying success in a variety of fields.

As a community, we're proud of their success and happy we can play a small part in it. The Association continues to award this scholarship each year to the next generation of young adults who meet Ed's and our community's standard of loyalty and decency, by giving their time back to the place they, and Ed, call home.

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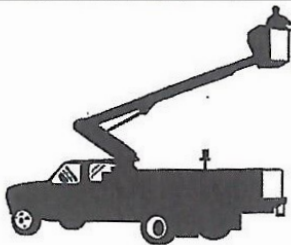
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