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PBC CODE ENFORCEMENT
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2024 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

Keegan Gwin
Treasurer
floridagardensca@gmail.com

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

September 2025 / Volume 56 - Issue 4

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



STREET REPS

UPDATED 9/21/25

STREET REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT

AKRON (N)
JESSICA TEETS
jessicaeteets@gmail.com

AKRON (S)
BRIAN KATZ
646-338-5668

ARCH
FRAN PHISTER
561-313-5093

BARBERTON
ANGELA BUCKLEY
561-301-2794

CANTON
TAMMY TWAREK
561-308-9436

CLEVELAND
MARIAN FRENCH
561-762-3222

COCONUT
L BELCHER
561-797-3334

CUYAHOGA
MEGAN BAUER
561-315-6976

CYPRESS
AMANDA OLMSTEAD
561-923-0654

DAYTON
ALANNA HARMAN
561-248-3151

MANGO
MINDY HINDERBERGER
512-417-9276

OHIO (N)
CHERYL SMART
561-586-1900

OHIO (S)
IRIS CAMPBELL
561-685-1751

PALM
PENNY SPRING
786-486-2222

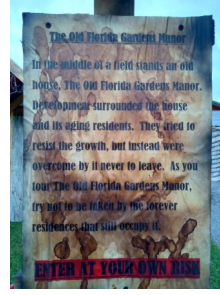
PALMETTO
ANGIE BERMUDEZ
561-649-5651

PINE TREE
TERRY CROSBY
561-968-9970

PLUMOSA
SARA RIDOLPH
561-967-2197

RUBBER TREE
HEATHER ZAPF
pjheatherz@gmail.com

SPRINGDALE
CHRISTIE BANKES
christiebankes@yahoo.com



8TH ANNUAL HAUNTED GARDENS HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

Judging on SUNDAY, October 26th 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 26th, from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

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



NO CRIME REPORT IN THIS ISSUE - WE WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE DATA FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO GENERATE THE CRIME REPORT FOR THE PREVIOUS PERIOD.

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENTS
- NEW CLUBHOUSE RENTAL RATES
- LUCERNE LAKES UPDATES

• - - IMPORTANT - -

**BIG CHANGES COMING TO THE
FLORIDA GARDENS NEWSLETTER .
PLEASE SEE PAGE 5**

Connect With Us:

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](https://www.instagram.com/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 9th, November 13th and December 11th.

2025 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. **All these events will all be held on Saturday, October 18th.** 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.

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.



CLUBHOUSE RENTAL RATES FOR FLORIDA GARDENS RESIDENTS TO RISE IN 2026.

We are receiving phone calls already about Clubhouse availability in 2026. Given that our annual resident contributions have continued to decline and after consulting with the FGCA Officers, our Clubhouse Manager submitted a motion that we raise the rental rates for resident rentals (only). The vote by the full Board of Directors was nearly unanimous. The new rates will be \$400 on Saturday and \$350 on Sunday. Here is the justification:

For many years now, we have had a \$250 rate for Saturday and \$200 for Sunday rentals to Florida Gardens residents. With our declining resident contributions, increasing expenses for maintenance and supplies, the replacement of the air conditioning system last year and deferred improvements like the needed kitchen renovation, we have little choice but to increase our basic Saturday and Sunday residents rental rates. We will keep the non-residents Saturday rate at \$1000.

The Saturday resident rental rate will increase to \$400 (from \$250) and a Sunday resident rate to \$350 (up from \$200). The Sunday rental times are limited to 8:00 pm. The Clubhouse Manager will maintain the flexibility to adjust the rental rates for other days, times and special circumstances as she currently does. These rate increases will obviously begin 1/1/26 since all remaining Saturday dates are already booked through the end of the year.



CLUBHOUSE RENTAL INFO

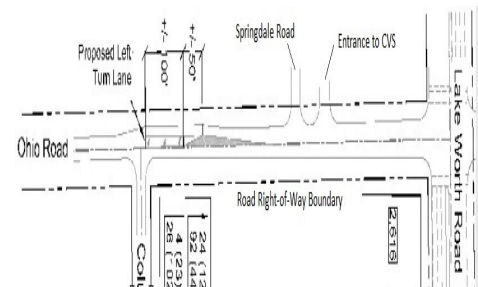
FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE, FIRST VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT floridagardens.net AND CLICK ON THE CLUBHOUSE TAB. REVIEW THE INFORMATION AND THEN CALL TERRY AT **561-968-9970*** TO SCHEDULE YOUR EVENT. **RESERVE EARLY - WE ALREADY HAVE DATES BOOKED IN 2026 !**

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



FLORIDA GARDENS ISSUES RELATED TO THE LUCERNE LAKES REDEVELOPEMENT :

1. The amazing, invisible speed humps on Springdale: Anyone who has traveled on Springdale Road has undoubtedly seen the signs alerting drivers to the presence of 2 speed humps. The signs were installed one day prior to their SCHEDULED installation. However, the permit that Mattamy's contractor submitted to the County for traffic diversion during the construction was rejected. The contractor did not anticipate any issues with the permit and had scheduled the work before the permit was issued. Since it was rejected, the installation had to be postponed until a revised permit was approved, which has not happened as of this writing. Once the permit is approved the installation will be rescheduled and the invisible speed humps will finally become a reality, putting an end to this saga which has dragged on for over 4 years now!
2. The County-mandated left turn lane on Ohio Road southbound into Columbia Drive is a long way off. Mattamy paid the County \$166,384 over a year ago for the County to assume responsibility for the design and construction of the turn lane. As of this writing, County Engineering has still not finalized the design.



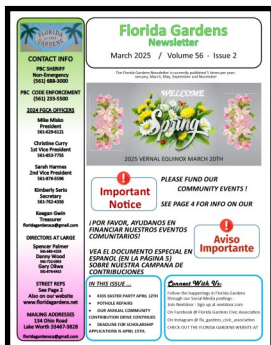
CHANGES TO THE FLORIDA GARDENS NEWSLETTER BEGINNING IN JANUARY

By Gary Oliwa

Back in May, I published an article titled "A PROPOSAL TO END THE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER". In the article, I articulated the reasons why I felt it was time to transition the current 12-page publication to an ad-free digital only format which would be posted on our Website and also made available via the other social media platforms we use to disseminate neighborhood information (Nextdoor, Facebook and Instagram). Perhaps it was reflective of the limited number of residents who actually look at the Newsletter when they receive it, but I received absolutely no feedback, positive or negative, to the article. At the June Residents Meeting, the members of the Board of Directors who were present discussed the issue. The biggest concern raised was the fact that the distributed January and March issues were the main (actually only) vehicle by which information on how our continually declining annual residents financial contributions could be made. Those Newsletters contained a preaddressed envelope which could be used by residents who elected to make a contribution by check (which almost 70% of those 110 residents who did contribute used). There was also concern that without a distributed Newsletter, residents would not be made aware of the dates of the 3 main kids party events (at Easter, Halloween and Christmas). These concerns were offset by the amount of volunteer time and effort needed to generate the ad-driven Newsletter in its current form. At the September Residents Meeting, all these issues were again discussed and the following decisions were reached:

The November Newsletter will be the final one in its current form unless there is someone else (or a group of people) willing to assume the involved task of its financing, generation and distribution. As mentioned in the May article, the cost of printing the current full-color, 12-page Newsletter is almost \$1,000 for every issue, generated 5 times per year. However, rather than completely abandon a delivered printed Newsletter, what will be generated is a simple 4-page Bulletin 4 times per year (the May issue will be eliminated). A 4-page Bulletin will reduce the cost of printing to less than \$500. The January Bulletin will concentrate on our annual contribution drive which funds the neighborhood kids parties, the scholarships we award and the general operating expenses of the Association. We will still include a preaddressed envelope for mailing contributions for those who prefer that method. The remaining space will contain general neighborhood information. There will be no advertisements. The March Bulletin will detail the planned Easter events, the status of the contributions received and other neighborhood news. There will be no May Bulletin. The September Bulletin will detail the planned Halloween events and the November issue will list the planned Christmas events. We will try this for 2026 and assess its impact to determine if changes are necessary to achieve the desired goals.

I have voluntarily generated the content of the current Newsletter since 2018 and have agreed to shepherd this transition. I will still generate the content. Keegan Gwin has graciously volunteered to take over the distribution task of getting packets of the Bulletin to each of the Street Reps for them to distribute to the residents on their respective streets.





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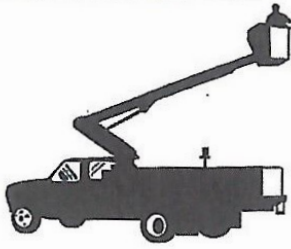
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