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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

January 2025 / Volume 56 - Issue 1

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



**Important  
Notice**

**PLEASE FUND OUR  
COMMUNITY EVENTS !**

**SEE THE INSERT ON OUR  
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE.**

***¡ POR FAVOR, AYUDANOS EN  
FINANCIAR NUESTROS EVENTOS  
COMUNITARIOS!***

***VEA EL DOCUMENTO ESPECIAL  
EN ESPANOL SOBRE NUESTRA  
CAMPANA DE CONTRIBUCIONES  
ANUALES.***



**Aviso  
Importante**



## STREET REPS

UPDATED 1/23/25

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  
CHUCK SACHER  
561-433-5875

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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

SAVE THE DATE !

# OUR ANNUAL

SAVE THE DATE !

## KIDS EASTER PARTY AND EGG HUNT

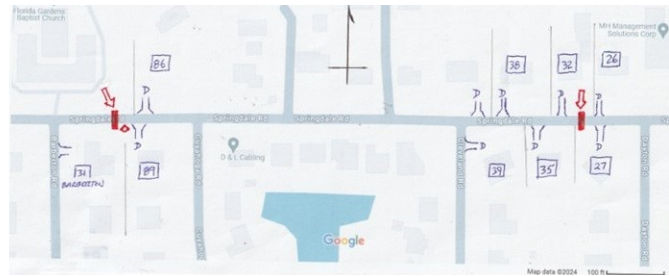


**SATURDAY, APRIL 12th**

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER



### PROPOSED SPEED BUMP LOCATIONS ON SPRINGDALE. ROAD



Remember this? This map and the article that accompanied it appeared in the January 2024 Newsletter. Yes, it's been a year. However, you can now finally see the construction of the new Lucerne Lakes

residential units starting and we are continuing to work with the developer, Mattamy Homes, as well as the Palm Beach County Traffic Department to finally get these speed bumps (humps, actually) installed. It may still be several months before the asphalt is laid, but eventually this long sought safety improvement should come to fruition.

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

- OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION DRIVE
- CHRISTMAS EVENTS RECAP AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS
- OUR DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER
- TIME TO SUBMIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
- NOVEMBER - DECEMBER CRIME RPT

### Connect With Us:

Follow the happenings in Florida Gardens through our Social Media postings :  
Join Nextdoor : Sign up at [nextdoor.com](https://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](https://floridagardens.net)

### Election of 2025 FGCA Officers

At our December 12th meeting, all our 2024 FGCA Officers were unopposed and volunteered to serve for another term. We thank them for giving of their time and energy to support our 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. All residents are encouraged to attend. The next scheduled meetings are February 13th, March 13th and April 10th.

## **OUR DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Democrat Joel Flores, former Greenacres Mayor, is now the District 3 Palm Beach County Commissioner, making him the first Hispanic to win a seat on the council. Raised by a single hard-working mother who is a teacher, Joel learned early on in his life the value of education, hard work, and commitment. While raising his three young children, he worked full-time and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business from Lyndon State College and his Master of Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University. The Puerto Rico native moved to Greenacres with his family in 2010 when the U.S. Army deployed him to Afghanistan. During his deployment there, he earned the Combat Action Badge, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal for his distinguished duty and service in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Joel is also a dedicated public servant. Now a wealth management advisor, he served as the Mayor of the City of Greenacres from 2017 to 2024. As the 8th largest city in Palm Beach County, Greenacres is known for its amazing amenities and safety, making it a great place to live. As Mayor, Joel focused on serving and protecting his community, volunteering in the community, and mentoring youth. He also served on several boards, including the Transportation Planning Agency of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County League of Cities, and Lake Worth West Residential Planning Agency.



**Commissioner**

**Joel G. Flores:**

301 North Olive Ave. Suite 1201

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**561-355-2203**

**877-930-2203**

(Toll-Free outside the West Palm Beach calling area)

Fax: **561-355-6344**

**JGFlores@pbc.gov**

## **REMINDER : SAFETY WALKING AT NIGHT**

by Gary Oliwa

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY - PLEASE! Some reasonable suggestions for anyone out walking at night: 1) Wear light, bright clothing - NOT BLACK - 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. This applies to your dog as well. 5) Be very careful around the numerous package delivery vehicles making night deliveries. Please make an extra effort to stay safe walking at night.



## **CLUBHOUSE RENTAL INFO**

FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE, FIRST VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.floridagardens.net](http://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 AS FAR OUT AS AUGUST 2025!**

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





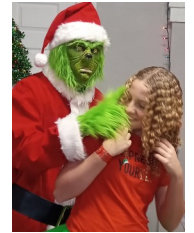
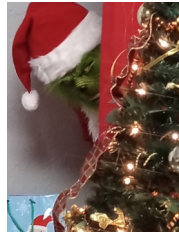
# **CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA GARDENS - 2024**

Christmas has always been a special, fun time in Florida Gardens, celebrated by our annual events including the Kids Christmas Party, the Golf Cart Parades, the Christmas Decorating Contest and the Christmas Eve luminaries. The Kids Christmas party was 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.

## **KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY / TOY DRIVE**



Special thanks to our extraordinary Kids Party Coordinator, Kimberly Serio, and her volunteers for putting together another fantastic Kids Christmas Party. We had great attendance. Also, THANK YOU to everyone who donated toys to Toys-for-Tots, which Santa delivered to the fire station for distribution. See some party pictures on our website, [floridagardens.net](http://floridagardens.net), under the Photo Gallery tab.



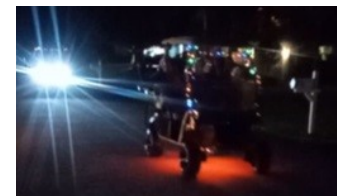
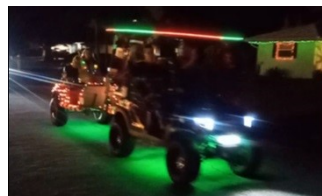
Thanks also to Karen Bavis who volunteered to be

the event photographer and took photos of all the happenings. To see the full gallery of photos, scan the QR code above. The QR code is also printed in our Photo Gallery.



## **CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADES (Day & Night)**

We had a good turn-out for both the day (15 Carts) and night (19 Carts) Christmas Golf Cart Parades.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES**

Thanks to those street volunteers who took time Christmas Eve to light their streets with luminaries. It's a big job and our friends and neighbors who drive through our neighborhood Christmas Eve to see our beautiful house displays love the special touch this effort brings. THANK YOU!



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 2024 Christmas Decorating Contest that was again **sponsored by Able Plumbing**. See photos of all 6 of the Neighborhood winners on our website. (floridagardens.net).

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

### **Neighborhood Best Overall :**



1st Place - 56 Dayton



2nd Place - 20 Pine Tree

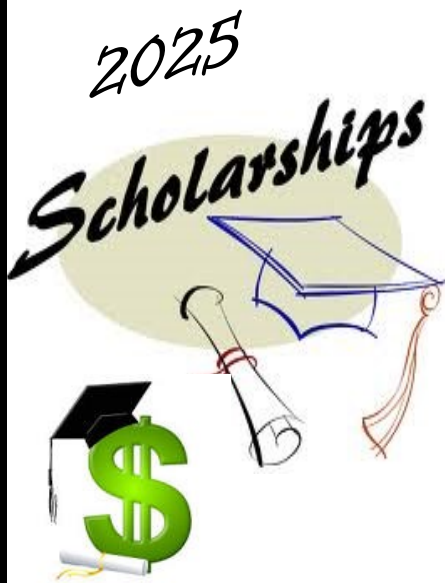


3rd Place - 43 Cypress

**Honorable Mentions**, in no particular order were : 50 Coconut 80 Cuyahoga 289 Ohio

The **Best-on-the-Street Winners** below were selected and submitted by the corresponding Association Street Reps, (exclusive of the top winners above) :

25 AKRON (N)	104 CLEVELAND	19 PALM	85 PLUMOSA
32 BARBERTON	62 COCONUT	116 PALMETTO	14 RUBBER TREE
61 CANTON	117 DAYTON	109 PINE TREE	107 SPRINGDALE



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 2025, 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, Marian French, at 561-762-3222 or email to m54french@gmail.com.

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

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FLORIDA GARDENS CRIME REPORT					11/01/24 – 12/31/24					COMPILED BY PENNY SPRING				
	AKRON	BARBERTON	CLEVELAND	CUYAHOGA	DAYTON	OHIO	PALMETTO	PLUMOSA	SPRINGDALE	NO STREET NAME				
	ARCH	CANTON	COCONUT	CYPRESS	MANGO	PALM	PINE TREE	RUBBER TREE	LK WORTH ROAD					
Abuse														2
Accidental Injury														1
Alarm														5
Assist to Another Dept				1										
Buiness / Residence Chk	4		1	1		4			1	1				
Conduct Investigation		1												
Disturbance					1									
Drunk Driver	1													
Domestic														1
Domestic Assault									2					
Domestic In Progress														1
Domestic Unfound														1
Fire Works														1
911 Hang Up														12
Lost/Found Property	1													
Man Down / Sick / Overdose														3
Motor Vechile Crash						1								2
Neighbor Trouble			1	1										
Noise	1	1		1	1									
Police Service Called		1			1									
Residential / Employ'm't Chk						3		1						
Serving Civil Process			1			1	1							
Special Detail						1								
Suspicious Incident		1												
Suspicious Person										1				
Suspicious Vechicle						1								
Threats			1											
Vandalism														1
Vechicle Stop	3					1			3					3
Welfare Check			1		1	1								3

**CONTRIBUTION COUPON - SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTION INSERT**



**FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2025 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**



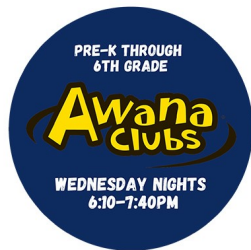


# FLORIDA GARDENS BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Join us Sunday

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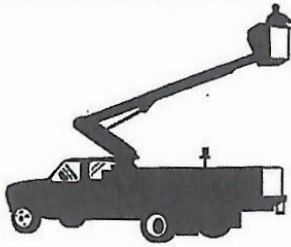
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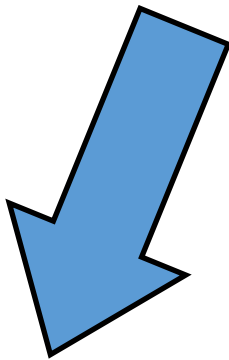
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