FLORIDA Est. 1953 GARDENS

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

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Florida Gardens Newsletter

May 2025 / Volume 56 - Issue 3

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





Memorial Day - Monday, May 26th

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 2025!

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 5/4/25

STREET REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT #

AKRON (N) JESSICA TEETS jessicaeteets@gmail.com AKRON (S) **BRIAN KATZ** 646-338-5668

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SPRINGDALE CHRISTIE BANKES christiebankes@yahoo.com

A PROPOSAL TO END THE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The early community volunteers that later formed the Florida Gardens Civic Association have generated and distributed a Newsletter since a mimeographed sheet titled the "Florida Gardens Newsy News" was first published in 1964. Under the direction of numerous editors over the years, it has served as the vehicle by which the members of the community were kept informed of neighborhood events. The Newsletter has undergone many changes over the years. As the number of residents grew, paid advertising was introduced to help cover the printing costs. We transitioned from a black-and-white to a color format in 2018.

How people get their news has also changed. Radio, then television, provided rapid information dissemination. In the last decade personal communication devices and social media avenues have made information exchange almost immediate. Printed daily newspapers are becoming rare and costly.

These days, our Florida Gardens Newsletter serves only 2 main purposes. First, it informs residents of our 3 major annual events. Second, it serves as the main vehicle for fundraising to finance the Association. The generation of the paper Newsletter is expensive and time consuming. Half the Newsletter is dedicated to advertising, the sale of which by our volunteer Newsletter Advertising Coordinator largely pays for the printing which today is almost \$1,000 per issue. Your volunteer editor creates the content and distributes the printed Newsletters to the volunteer Association Street Representatives who physically distribute a Newsletter to each household in the neighborhood. It is all a very big job, done 5 times per year.

There are now numerous other ways to get the information. Florida Gardens has a website. The website has the information needed for Clubhouse rental, personnel lists, upcoming event information, methods for making annual financial contributions, full event photo galleries and much, much more. Other social media avenues (Nextdoor, Facebook and Instagram) also inform users of neighborhood happenings with the advantage of being able to update information almost immediately if things change. All theses media sources are available to everyone via their phone or home computer.

It's time to begin the transition away from the use of an expensive and volunteer labor intensive method to disseminate our neighborhood information.



PLEASE FUND OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS ! SEE PAGE 4 & 5 FOR INFO ON OUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE.

i POR FAVOR, AYUDANOS EN FINANCIAR NUESTROS EVENTOS COMUNITARIOS!

VEA EL DOCUMENTO ESPECIAL EN ESPANOL (EN LA PÁGINA 4 & 5) SOBRE NUESTRA CAMPANA DE CONTRIBUCIÓNES ANUALES.



IN THIS ISSUE ...

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- **PROPOSAL TO END THE PRINT** • VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER
- **KIDS EASTER PARTY PHOTOS** •
- DAMAGE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR'S TREE STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
- LUCERNE LAKES UPDATES
- ANNUAL COMMUNITY
- **CONTRIBUTION DRIVE STATUS**
 - MARCH-APRIL CRIME REPORT

Jpcoming Residents Meetings

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

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 12th. There are no meetings in July and August. Meetings resume September 11th.











KIDS EASTER PARTY 2025

Thanks to Kimberly Serio (Kids Party Coordinator Extraordinaire) and her amazing team of volunteers (Alanna, Penny, Seanna and others, plus the wonderful High School students) who championed the Florida Gardens annual Easter festivities this year. Over 100 kids in three age groups gathered thousands of eggs. Thanks to the residents who volunteered the use of their golf carts to make the hunt more challenging for the older kids. Again this year, a professional photographer took individual pictures of the kids meeting with the Easter Bunny. To access those pictures plus 22 general pictures of the event, go to our Website (floridagardens.net) under the Photo Gallery tab. The last picture in the strip is the QR Code for access to the professional photos.





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

FLORIDA HOMEOWNERS STILL ON THE HOOK FOR DAMAGE FROM NEIGHBOR'S TREE. BILLS FAILED TO PASS

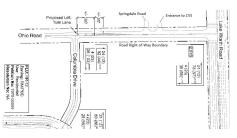
If a neighbor's tree falls onto your property, even if it causes damage, it's still your problem. Two Florida bills that would have shifted liability for fallen trees to the tree owner failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. The proposed "Fallen Tree Act" would have made tree owners responsible for damage caused by their trees.

Current Florida law places the burden of cleanup and repairs on the property owner where the tree falls, unless negligence by the tree owner can be proven. The current law also says you can cut branches of your neighbor's tree if they are over your property line, but you must dispose of them properly. If you toss the branches back onto your neighbors property, you can be cited and fined. If you over-prune or otherwise cause your neighbor's tree to die, you are responsible for its replacement.

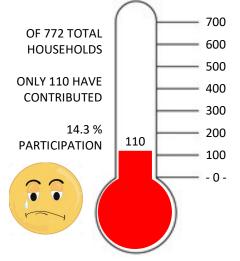
If a storm causes you neighbor's tree to fall onto your property, you (legally) have to clean it up, repair or replace whatever was damaged, and deal with the increased property insurance premiums or even cancellations. The owner of the neighboring tree is only liable if there is a showing of negligence on their part, such as if the tree or its branches were already dead. Something to keep in mind as the new hurricane season looms.

LUCERNE LAKES REDEVELOPEMENT UPDATES:

- Building permits for the two speed humps to be constructed on Springdale have been issued. Mattamy Homes (the Lucerne Lakes developer) will now choose a contractor and they will schedule the installation.
- 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 not even finalized the design.



NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED



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.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATUS

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As of May 1st, only 110 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 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.

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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. 1) You can make your annual contribution to the Florida Gardens Civic Association by check. 2) You can use any credit card online from our website (floridagardens.net). Simply select "CONTRIBUTE" from the main menu and follow the directions. 3) 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. For Zelle, enter keeg28@aol.com as the recipient.

As of May 1st, the percentage of households by street who have contributed this year is as follows.

Cleveland	7/34	20.6%	Mango	6/42	14.3%
Coconut	9/44	20.5%	Rubber Tree	6/46	13.0%
Cypress	9/44	20.5%	Plumosa	5/42	11.9%
Dayton	7/36	19.4%	Akron	8/74	10.8%
Canton	5/33	15.2%	Ohio	8/79	10.1%
Palm	8/44	18.2%	Arch	6/59	8.5%
Barberton	6/34	17.6%	Cuyahoga	3/38	7.9%
Palmetto	8/46	17.4%	Springdale	2/31	6.5%
Pine Tree	7/44	15.9%			

FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2025 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION COUPON Make check payable to "Florida Gardens Civic Association" Use an envelope 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!

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. Recipient is keeg28@aol.com. <u>Please type you name and</u> address in the MEMO field so we can properly record your contribution.

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 <u>select the "Share your mailing address..." check box so we can properly record your contribution</u>. 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 page 4 and place both in an envelope. You can mail it 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.

venmo



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



Żelle

RECIPIENT:

keeg28@aol.com

HACER UNA CONTRIBUCIÓN ES FÁCIL!

CONTRIBUYA MEDIANTE CHEQUE, EN NUESTRO SITIO WEB O A TRAVÉS DE VENMO O ZELLA EN SU TELÉFONO CELULAR.

Use el código QR de VENMO a continuación para realizar una contribución con VENMO. Ingrese "@floridagardensca" como beneficiario. Si se le solicitan los últimos cuatro dígitos del teléfono del beneficiario, ingrese 0541. Escriba su nombre y dirección en el campo de comentarios para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución.

Use el código QR de ZELLE a continuación para realizar una contribución con ZELLE. El destinatario es keeg28@aol.com. Escriba su nombre y dirección en la area MEMO para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución.

Para realizar su contribución en línea con una tarjeta de crédito, vaya a floridagardens.net y seleccione "CONTRIBUIR" en la barra de menú superior. Dependiendo de su dispositivo, puede estar ubicado en "Más". Su transacción está protegida a través de PayPal, pero NO necesita tener una cuenta de PayPal. Ingrese el monto de la contribución y seleccione PayPal o su propia tarjeta de crédito. Después de ingresar la información de su tarjeta de crédito, seleccione la casilla de verificación "Comparta su dirección postal..." para que podamos registrar correctamente su contribución. Además, tenga en cuenta que la Asociación debe pagar una tarifa de procesamiento por las contribuciones realizadas en línea através de nuestro sitio web o mediante VENMO.

Para contribuir con cheque, use el cupón que se encuentra en la parte inferior de la página 4 y coloque ambos en un sobre. Puede enviarlo por correo o ahorrarse el costo de una estampilla simplemente depositando el sobre en el buzón seguro frente a la Casa Club.

NOTA: todas las contribuciones de los miembros recibidas, independientemente de la fecha de recepción, corresponden al año calendario en el que se recibieron.

venmo



Apunte su cámara al código QR, abra el enlace y luego siga las instrucciones de pago. Asegúrese de agregar su nombre y dirección en la parte del memorando para que podamos realizar un seguimiento de las contribuciones.



Żelle®

RECIPIENT:

keeg28@aol.com

FLORIDA GA	RDENS CRIME REPORT								3/1/25 – 4/30/25					COMPILED BY PENNY SPRING				
	AKRON		BARBERTON		CLEVELAND		CUYAHOGA		DAYTON		OHIO		PALMETTO		PLUN	OSA	SPRI	IGDALE
		ARCH		CANTO	N	COCON	UT	CYPRES	SS S	MANGC		PALM		PINE TR	REE	RUBBEF	R TREE	NO
																		STREET NAME
Abuse						1							1				1	
Alarm																		6
Assist to Another Dept																		1
Assault Domestic Related																		1
Business/Res Check	3			1		1				1	8			1			1	
Conduct Investigation	2									2								
Contact														1				
Disturbance																	1	
Domestic		4													1			
Domestic Unfounded													1					1
Domestic In Progress			1															1
Embezzlement / Fraud	2																1	
Juvenile Trouble											1							
Lewd/Lascivious Acts																		1
Man Down/Sick Person																		1
Mentally Disturbed Person																		1
Missing Person																		1
Motor Veh Crash								1										1
Noise							2				1						1	
Obscene/ Harassing Calls															2			
Open Door														1				
Police Service Called																		1
Res/Emp Check											5					8		
Serving Civil Process	1								4		2	1	1	2				
Serving Warant												1						
Stolen Tag																1		
Suspicious Person		1									1							1
Suspicious Vehicle																		1
Vandalsim																		1
Welfare Check		1	2															2
911 Hang Up																		15







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 AS FAR OUT AS DECEMBER !**

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





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