nc Flamingo

Serving the residents of historic Flamingo Park September/October 2024

Greenway Check out Clear Lake Trail

It's now easier and safer to walk or ride a bike from Okeechobee Boulevard to Palm Beach Lakes, thanks to the Clear Lake Trail project.

Mayor Keith James and the city's Office of Sustainability celebrated it with an Aug. 17 ribbon-cutting. Pedestrians and bicyclists got swag, including fanny packs, cooling towels and bike bells, while the WPB Police Department provided snow-cones. BrightBikes were available to check out the trail.

The trail – along the west side of Clear Lake with its adjacent boardwalk - connects Palm Beach Lakes and Okeechobee boulevards. So if you want to walk or ride your bike safely between downtown and points west, you now can: The connector trail provides a safe and accessible pathway for more than 3,700 residential units and commercial areas, the city says.



View from the trail. | WPB-TV screen shot

The trail is a little over a mile long and 8 feet wide, plus the 700-foot boardwalk. The peaceful amble is surrounded by landscaping and city views. The trail's entrance is at 360

See Trail, Page 8

President's column **Parkway plantings posing** problems for residents

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Who ever said summers were slow and relaxing? We have had so much drama here in the 'hood these past few weeks.

Inside

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Security

A vehicle plowed through the



plantings in the traffic circles in the middle of Florida Avenue at both Flamingo and Claremore. The plants need to be replaced. Not nice, but a comparatively easy fix.

Tanya Lewicki

More upsetting to those involved, a city code enforcement officer has cited

a number of properties for improper landscaping on the city's right of way.

Though we incorrectly refer to them as swales, these rights of way are called parkways: They're the

tiny strip of land in front of a house, between the sidewalk and the street curb.

This piece of land is owned by the city, but it is each homeowner's responsibility to maintain it. Apparently there is a very short list of permissible plants for this strip: Asian jasmine, sunshine mimosa, perennial peanut or sod.

The trees on the parkways belong to the city, but we need to take care of them as well. Planting a tree in the parkway requires a permit, and I am sure there is a list of permissible trees as well. That, folks, is the short version.

The citations issued were harsh, expensive and had short timelines for compliance.

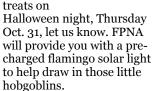
Flamingo Park Neighborhood

See President, Page 8

Halloween Join in fun with solar bird

Halloween is iust around the corner. Little and not so little hobgoblins will be coming to our doors seeking candy. If you plan on passing out

Boo!



FPNA will also map the addresses and post it on social media (which you are

welcome to share). Flamingo Park homes tend to get a pretty good share of trick-ortreaters, thanks in part to a long tradition by our neighbors in

Grandview Heights to put lanterns in front of homes that welcomed kids on Halloween.

Get in on this tradition, now in its fourth year. A MailChimp blast will go out in early October with signup information.

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House of the Month



Since 1990, the Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association has awarded the avian icon (mostly) monthly. It comes with a heaping helping of FPNA's appreciation for ongoing maintenance of "curb appeal," or for the recent rejuvenation of a home's outside appearance.

Winners receive a \$25 gift certificate from Serenity Garden Tea House. Current winners are:

September: 2401 Lake — Charles Saenz

October:717 Claremore — Gail Gussie Schultz & Henry Samuel Smokler

If you have a neighbor you would like to nominate, email cullen@digital.net.

Last two 2024 socials set: Be there!

FPNA social hours provide a casual setting for neighbors, both new and longtime residents, to gather for chat and refreshments.

Though no host stepped up for either July or August, Sept. 27 will find us in the garden of Ted Odom and Jim Houston. Then Greg and Loren Slaydon will host on Oct. 25.

Social hours are free to paid members and \$5 for each guest.

Parents bringing their offspring are reminded to keep a *close* eye on them: There may be stairs or a pool, and *definitely* adult beverages. Keep an eye out for further details on these events in MailChimp.

Social hours are the last Friday of the month, January through October, in a resident's yard. None are planned for November or December due to the typically busy holiday season.

Linda Cullen keeps a running list of possible hosts. To get dibs on your favorite month starting in 2025, email Linda at cullen@digital.net.

Hosts receive a stipend to offset the cost of refreshments.



Code complaint can't be anonymous, is public record

Have you thought about calling Code Enforcement on a neighbor?

Please think again.

It certainly is your right to do that. But first you must understand that you cannot ask for Code Enforcement anonymously to check out a possible violation.

Whether you make a request via snail mail, email or phone, your request will only be addressed if you tell the city your name. It becomes public record, so that in theory your neighbor, or the public, can look it up and find out who made the request.

OK, you leave your name, so a code officer comes out to the address and determines whether a code violation should be cited.

But guess what? The code officer also looks around for other violations, and on it goes. Suddenly a large number of folks get citations and are very upset.

I would suggest that you rethink your actions when the heat of the moment is past. Is it really worth it?

Two other courses of action are, first, to try to discuss the issue in a calm and professional manner with your neighbor. The second is non-action: Try to focus on yourself, your property, and leave the matters of your neighbors alone.

Of course, if it's an extremely urgent matter, and a call to the police is warranted, call 911 to report it.

Linda Cullen

Canopy tree-trimming resumes

It's your membership dollars at work!

In 2022 we paid Zimmerman Tree Service to trim the hardwood trees in the 700 and 800 blocks of Ardmore Road. In 2023, Zimmerman trimmed the 700 block of Avon Road, the 700 block of Sunset Road and 700 block of Flamingo Drive.

We just signed a contract with Zimmerman to start at Belvedere Road and work their way north on Georgia Avenue. When the east side of the

road abuts Sunshine Park, the trimming will only be done on our (west) side. Then trimming will continue north on both sides.

The bid is \$11,520 and Zimmerman will stop when the progression north reaches that cost to us.

Weather permitting, work would happen on Aug. 27 and Aug. 28. So, by the time you read this, all should be trimmed and cleaned up spick and span.

— Linda Cullen

Dogs to parade in Howard Park

A "Doggie Costume Contest and Parade" will take place on Sunday, Sept. 29, noon-3:30 p.m. at Howard Park, 1302 Parker Ave. Many pet owners already enjoy the "City Paws" dog park. The first dog-centered event will be a dog costume contest. Register yourself and your dog to show off your dog's best costume.

Separate contests for dogs under 25 pounds and dogs over 25 pounds. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the two contests.

Following the contest there will be a parade for all dogs. Visitors to the event can also enjoy vendors in the park.

Registration opened Aug. 23. Register in person at Howard Park Community Center. There is a prize contest fee of \$5 for residents, \$6.25 for non-residents. There's no registration or fee for the all-dogs parade.

Pet photos welcome!

The FPNA website (flamingopark.org) revamp features an adorable "Flamingo Park Pets" page and we want your furry friends photos! Just email one photo per pet to julie@thebuzzagency.net. Just need your name and your pet's name and if you'd like to include your address, please do.







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<u>Safety & security</u> Learn how not to be a target

Safety experts agree that the single most important step toward ensuring your personal safety is "refusing to be a victim."

You stand a much better chance of preventing criminal confrontations if you develop a safety plan before you need it. Knowing the techniques and tactics you can use to avoid becoming a potential victim can help you live smarter and be safer.

"Crimes of opportunity" are committed without forethought, when criminals realize they have a chance to commit a crime.

Don't be an easy target. We can all pinpoint times where we've made ourselves an easy target – whether it was keeping our heads buried in our phones, parking in a dimly lit area at night, or leaving our houses or cars unlocked.

But there are many more, less obvious, situations that leave us vulnerable.

This seminar teaches easy-

to-understand methods you can use to increase awareness and prevent criminal confrontation. You will learn tools to develop your own personal safety strategies, including:

• The psychology of criminal predators

Home and cyber securityAutomobile and travel

security

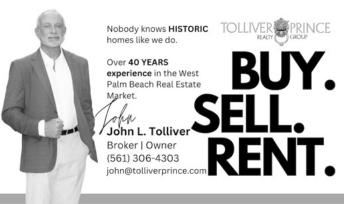
Personal and technological security

• Self-defense devices and training options

Christopher Arlotta is a certified firearms instructor and chief range safety officer. He has been teaching and coaching firearms, personal safety and situational awareness for over 15 years.

Registration is required for the Sept. 19, 7-9 p.m., event. Cost is \$25 for residents, \$40 for nonresidents.

Register online via WebTrac at parks.wpb.org or in person at Howard Park recreation center.









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Nonprofits News

FPNA shares news of nearby nonprofit organizations. Email vmp735@mac.com to list here.

New preservation group formed

As a direct result of very bad occurrences to historic structures, both here in Flamingo Park and in the heart of downtown West Palm Beach, a new Florida nonprofit corporation has been formed. At long last, West Palm has its own – very needed – organization to watch over all things historic.

Specifically, from the recently filed articles of incorporation, the West Palm Beach Preservation Foundation Inc. has a mission: to develop, coordinate, promote and foster educational, cultural and historical activities in West Palm Beach, Florida. In addition, it aims to stimulate awareness, interest and support for historic preservation, heritage tourism, social history, cultural heritage, economic revitalization and restoration principles through its advocacy.

The foundation is filing paperwork for 501(C)(3) status which will make much-needed donations tax deductible to the donor. Updates will be forthcoming. Watch our FB page at: facebook.com/preserveWPB.

The Dade Heritage Trust was founded in 1972 and the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach was founded in 1980. All this time with a void in our city.

We can't stop the past, but we can monitor the present and work to carefully preserve what we still have for the future.

— Linda Cullen, cullen@digital.net

Resource Depot celebrates upcycling

Celebrate Resource Depot's 25th birthday in an evening filled with fun hands-on activities, tasty snacks and custom-made sips all with an upcycling twist! Create your own party-themed crafts to take home as keepsakes.

The Birthday Bash kickoff is Friday, Sept. 13, 6-8 p.m., at Resource Depot, 2508 Florida Ave. Tickets online at \$45 for attendees 21 and older.

On Saturday Sep 14, roll up your sleeves for a day of handson remaking, learning from local independent makers.

Select three one-hour "make and take" workshops to rotate between during the event. Each workshop shows how to transform everyday materials into premium handmade goodies to take home. Attendance is limited to ensure an intimate, hands-on learning experience. Things might get messy, so dress accordingly.

Arrive at 10 a.m. to check out all workshop options and build a schedule of three onehour blocks. Walk away with new ideas, three upcycled crafts you made yourself and a few special treats from Resource Depot.

Event runs 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for makers aged 16 and older. Bring a reusable water bottle for the water station.

Tickets (\$75) online at ResourceDepot.org/upcycle-day.

Stair climb, 5K and mile raise funds

Attend the sixth annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Inaugural 5K Walk & Run for charity on Sunday, Sept. 8. This event takes place at 515 N. Flagler Drive, at 9 a.m.

The West Palm Beach Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb is a solemn occasion to honor and remember the heroes and victims of the tragic events that unfolded on that fateful day in 2001. Participants will symbolically climb the equivalent of 110 stories, mirroring the harrowing ascent faced by first responders at the World Trade Center. This year's 5K and 1-mile race will take participants on an out-and-back course down North Flagler Drive. In addition to the stair climb and 5K, the event promises activities for participants and spectators, including a friendly CrossFit competition.

Register at https:// www.wpb911stairclimb.com/? for the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K run/walk.

Half of the proceeds go to each of two nonprofits: Operation 300 and Pediatric Oncology Support Team



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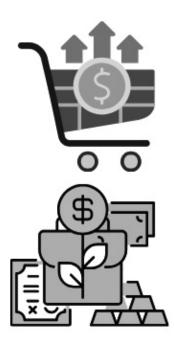
volatility. Historically gold has an

purchasing power while gold

typically rises with inflation

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inverse relationship to stocks





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52.21%, and with central banks buying more gold than ever, the

potential for growth could be huge.

Ways to Hold Gold







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Hurricane season Advance planning is key to survival

As we hit the statistical peak of hurricane season, Florida offers Tax-Free Hurricane Supply Days, Aug. 24 through Sept. 6.

A list of eligible items can be found online at the Florida Department of Revenue. (https:// floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/ Pages/default.aspx)

Storm experts and long-time residents agree that getting ready before a storm is critical for your safety and comfort during and after a storm. Gathering important supplies now means you won't be caught in long lines or worried vou'll run out of time.

Buy a battery-operated, solaroperated, or hand-crank radio with HD technology that can pick up the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, which broadcasts through public media partners. In South County, the partner is WLRN 101.9; in North county, it's WQCS 88.9.

Before any storm is on our horizon, bookmark the National Hurricane Center site for forecasts and advisories.

Then build a 72-hour survival kit with the following items:

Cash (ATMs might not work) Mobile phone and car charger

Drinking water/containers (one gallon per person per day, minimum three days) Prescription medicine (two-

week supply) Batteries (two spare sets for

each device) Flashlights Manual can opener First aid kit including bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses and aspirin Gas and oil for generator/car, fuel for outdoor grill Water purification kit Three-day supply of non-

perishable foods

Baby supplies Disposable plates, cups, bowls, utensils

Pet food/supplies Clean-up supplies (mop, broom, buckets, old towels/rags, disinfectant, etc.)

Duplicate your vital documents and keep copies off-site. Keep these safe: passport; drivers license; Social Security card; wills; deeds; insurance information; marriage license; prescriptions.

Inventory your valuables and keep records through lists, photographs or video.





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Opa!

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Tree giveaway Sept. 20

Plant a tree and help the city reach its goal of planting 10,000 trees by 2025. This initiative of the Office of Sustainability reflects the city's partnership with residents and businesses to beautify our neighborhoods, sustain the health of existing trees, and increase the city's shade canopy.

The next giveaway is set for Sept. 20, at Nights in Northwood Village.

Tree application is required. Visit wpb.org/10ktrees to access

President, from Page 1

Association board has reached out to Code Enforcement and our city commissioner to get to the bottom of this issue. As of this writing, things are still up in the air, but we are trying to arrange a meeting with our commissioner, the city administrator, Code Enforcement and any other office we can include to address this matter.

As you walk or drive through the neighborhood, it's evident that many of us have landscaped these parkways as extensions of our properties. In my opinion, this is charming, and lends even more character to our incredible neighborhood. Sadly, the city code is not on the same page with us.

Hopefully we will make some progress with the powers that be so I can provide you with more and hopefully better news by the time of our next Flyer (November).

Please don't panic: We are doing what we can come to an understanding with the city and

Trail, from Page 1

Presidio Place, north of Okeechobee Boulevard on the west shore of Clear Lake - West Palm Beach's primary drinking water source.

Want to leave your car parked, but haven't felt safe biking or walking along busy streets? Give the Clear Lake Trail a chance for exercise or a less hectic way to get to amenities on the Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard corridor.

The trail is part of the city's bicycle master plan and its

the application and find the variety of tree species available.

The tree application must be approved and recorded before the event in order to have your trees for pickup. You may select up to two trees; limit of four trees per property, per fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30).

You will receive an email to let you know pickup details. Trees will be in 3-gallon pots. **Ouestions? Email**

Sustainability@wpb.org.

to, at a future point, hold a membership meeting with representatives from the city to educate us all in this regard.

Meanwhile, a home tour

Now onto more pleasant things. Our 2024 holiday home tour is coming together for Dec. 8. We are signing up homes (still need some more hosts!) and volunteers.

After a hiatus in 2023, we want this 28th tour to be the kind of blockbuster event the 2024 Garden Tour was.

If you've never had your home on the tour, or have but not recently, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we can finalize our roster of wonderful hosts.

Much work then goes forward – recruiting volunteers, signing up the food, drink, music, etc.

Stay cool, keep calm and be grateful we live in such an incredible neighborhood.

– Tanya Lewicki, tclo622@yahoo.com

downtown mobility plan. It was made possible through grants from the Palm Beach County **Transportation Planning** Agency, the state of Florida Forestry Service, and West Palm Beach's Office of Housing and Community Development.

Plans are to expand the trail to include a boardwalk extending from Okeechobee Boulevard to Australian Boulevard, according to the city's website.

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Know the dates for 2024 election

A general election is held in November of every evennumbered year. During a general election, all registered voters may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot. If there are write-in candidates who have qualified for a particular office, a space will be left on the general election ballot where their name can be written.

Deadline to register to vote: Monday, Oct. 7.

Early voting: 7 a.m. to 7

p.m., Oct. 21 to Nov. 3. Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you: 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24. Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the main Office: 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Election Day: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5 Visit https:// www.votepalmbeach.gov/ for online registration, polling place, more info and updates.

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2024 Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form Name Check areas in which you Address would like to volunteer: Social Hour host Advertising sales Block Party Phone Events/tours (We won't share it and Environmental: E-mail we won't bombard you!) Cleanups Plantings □ \$50 per household for deed-holders / Full [voting] Membership Give to Linda Cullen, 828 Biscayne \$35 for non-deed-holders / Associate [non-voting] Membership \$20 Associate Members additional to list in Flamingo Flyer Business Directory DATE PAID NOTE: There is no extra charge for Voting Members to list in our Business Directory. □\$ extra for tax-deductible donation CK. # FPNA operates primarily on membership funds and events income. The Flamingo Flyer Datebook is published six times a year by the Monday, Sept. 2 — Labor Day Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association, a nonprofit organization. Online at: Tuesday, Sept. 10 — Board meeting FlamingoPark.org. Social media: facebook.com/flamingoparkneighborhood Friday, Sept. 27 — Social; see story, Page 2 Circulation: 525 Tuesday, Oct. 8 — Board meeting Design and editing: Victoria Preuss vmpreuss@mac.com Friday, Oct.. 25 — Social; see story, Page 2 Thursday, Oct. 31 — Halloween; see story, Page 1 **FPNA** PO Box 1112 Tuesday, Nov. 5 — Election Day; see story, Page 9 West Palm Beach Monday, Nov. 11 — Veterans Day FL 33402 Thursday, Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving Day **FPNA Board & Officers** Sunday, Dec 8 — Holiday Historic Home Tour 2024-25 term President Tanya Lewicki, tcl0622@yahoo.com Vice President West Palm Beach All Emergencies, dial 911 (and interim treasurer) www.wpb.org Police Department non-emergency: Linda Cullen, cullen@digital.net Mayor Keith James 561-822-1400 561-822-1900 Secretary House Watch program 561-822-1634 Community Building and Engagement Susan Hill, sm10931@bellsouth.net Fire Department non-emergency Charlotte Wright, crwright@wpb.org **Board members** 561-804-4700 561-822-1412 The Community Oriented Police John Alford, City Service Hotline: 561-822-2222 johnrobertalford@gmail.com Officer Seth Buxton Dist. 5 Commissioner Christina Lambert: SBuxton@wpb.org | 561-822-1620 Steve Large 561-822-1390 **Public Works** estebangrande@gmail.com Code compliance Main number, 561-822-2060 Julie Mullen, New code official pending (The FPNA board encourages residents to speak **Right of way permits:** juliemullen@thebuzzagency.net with the offending neighbor or with a board Spencer Graham 561-494-1014 Rick Reikenis, Rick@reikenis.com member before reporting a code violation, Mandel Public Library 561-868-7700 but this is not required.) Parks & Recreation 561-804-4900 Garbage and yard waste: Public Utilities 561-494-1046 Carlos Maldonado - 561-494-1058 FPNA does not endorse Street maintenance (including pot-Palm Beach County any advertised company holes), street lighting and traffic Animal Care and Control maintenance, including signage or service. Main number, 561-233-1200 Customer service: 561-822-2085 Hire at your own discretion.