The Flamingo Flyer

Serving the residents of historic Flamingo Park

May/June 2025

Hurricane season

Jump on garden for amnesty

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and the city is hosting its annual Vegetation Amnesty Days — now through May 9 — to help homeowners get their gardens in trim.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of larger-than-standard piles of vegetative waste at no extra cost. In Flamingo Park, that means amnesty pickup will be on May 6 and the service charge for excess disposal will be waived.

We can place an unlimited amount of vegetative waste curbside for pickup May 6 — our regularly scheduled yard waste Tuesday pickup. You may include grass clippings, leaves and shrubbery cuttings or trimmings, as well as broken or cut tree limbs and logs.

The city's aim is to conduct a comprehensive cleanup in preparation for

hurricane season. Proper removal of landscape debris not only keeps storm drains clear, but also helps minimize flooding during summer rains and hurricanes.

To participate in the amnesty, residents should adhere to the following guidelines for yard/bulk waste disposal:

- Place waste at curbside no earlier than the day preceding the scheduled collection day.
 - · Consolidate waste into a single pile.
- Collect grass cuttings, small trimmings and leaves in plastic bags.
- Cut tree limbs, stumps and branches into lengths no longer than 4 feet and no larger than 12 inches in diameter.
- Do not mix yard waste with any other type of debris.

See Yard, Page 7

President's column

House of the Month

Preservation news

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Parkway code

Gardeners, look ahead to spring tour and act now!

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3

5

Here we are on the cusp of another long, hot summer. And yet, with 10 months and one hurricane season to go, we are starting to plan for a Flamingo

ing to plan for a Flamingo
Park Garden Tour in
March of 2026



Tanya Lewicki

March of 2026. While most have been held in April, in 2024 we moved the tour to March as most of our gardens are at their peak then.

Also, the mahogany trees that line many of our streets have not yet started

dropping their leaves and seeds — which, as we all know, can be quite messy.

The weather in March is typically more comfortable, and the likelihood of rain is at a mınımum.

The Flamingo Park Garden Tour has had ups and downs since its start in 1994, including a dormant period between 2008 and 2014. Enthusiastic residents, though, got us back on track in 2014 and, with a pandemic break only in 2020, we've opened gardens in even years since.

The tour is a very popular event that generates much needed funds for FPNA.

Anecdotally, some of our exit interviews from the holiday home tour revealed that visitors were blown away by the quality of the tour, and many mentioned they wanted to come back during the day to see the gardens. (Thank you, 2024 home tour hosts, for an excellent experience, both indoors

See President, Page 8

Parker & Okeechobee: Oh my!

Perhaps the liveliest topic discussed at the March 27 membership meeting was the traffic on Parker Avenue where it meets Okeechobee Boulevard. Naturally, it's complicated: The city is responsible for the contours and maintenance of the street, while the county is in charge of the traffic signals.

The busiest stretch of Parker, from Belvedere Road north, gets an estimated 16,700 cars daily — on one northbound and one southbound lane, with the middle turning lane. Alongside Howard Park, the road widens as it nears Okeechobee, with one right-turn lane for drivers heading east, two through lanes for those going north and one left-turn lane going west. The last 200 feet of the easternmost lane has been striped over and is not for use as a travel lane.

Following meetings with

multiple neighborhood associations including Flamingo Park — where he got an earful from people regularly stuck in traffic — County Commissioner Gregg Weiss looked at the intersection and came up with a practical, low-cost solution to improve traffic flow.

He wrote to Mayor Keith James and City Engineer Kevin Volbrecht, asking the city to consider adding a second left-turn lane. This "relatively simple solution," he wrote, would double the capacity for left-turning vehicles and reduce backups and wait times.

The roads would have to be restriped and a new signal head added to the mast arm.

Kevin Volbrecht had spoken at the March meeting about the long-term plan for Parker, but Gregg's idea, if implemented, could ease our woes in the nearer term.

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:

May: 719 Avon — Warren Reuther **June**: 705 Ardmore — David Monn

If you have a neighbor you would like to nominate,

email cullen@digital.net.

Swinging into May with fun social

The board gives big thanks to hosts Margie and Jeff Yansura (and Sarah and Cora) for the April 25 social.

The festive event carried a "local history" theme (see story, facing page) along with Cinco de Mayo refreshments. (Visit the website for photos!)

FPNA social hours provide a casual setting for neighbors, both new and longtime residents, to gather for chat and refreshments. Dianne Sauve will host in May.

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

An email blast to residents who've signed up gives details.

Parents bringing their offspring are reminded to keep a *close* eye on them: There may be stairs or a pool, and *definitely* adult beverages.

Social hours are the last Friday of the month, January through October, in a resident's yard. Hosts receive a stipend to offset the cost of refreshments.

Linda Cullen keeps a running list of possible hosts. To get dibs on your favorite month going forward this year, email Linda at cullen@digital.net.



Open Tuesday to Sunday 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Curbside pickup, free delivery to Flamingo Park.

Call 561-655-3911 or order online

@serenityteapb.com

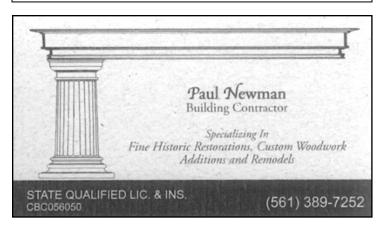
316 Vallette Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33401











Preservation news

A special month celebrates what we love all year-round

The April 25

featured a trivia quiz

Flamingo Park history.

the pack, with "Team"

William Waters and

joining Rick in taking

(donated by Margie

Yansura and Victoria

photo prints from the

Preuss): two nature

Rivers and a copy of

Palm Beach County at

100, published by the

Palm Beach Post and

Historical Society of

Palm Beach County.

late resident Tim

Nancie Virgadamo

home the prizes

Rick Reikenis led

social hour also

testing guests'

knowledge of

The National Trust for Historic Preservation each year names May as Historic Preservation Month.

County Commissioner Gregg Weiss, who lives in Flamingo Park and represents our district, followed through when the West

Palm Beach Preservation Foundation asked for a similar local designation. At the May 6 Palm Beach County Commission meeting, the board will proclaim Historic Preservation Month in Palm Beach County. Martin County has also declared May as Preservation Month. (A similar request was made of the city of West Palm Beach but was declined.)

The libraries are hoping to create displays of history books during May.

And WLRN — our local NPR station — is running spots through the month and beyond, under the title "History We Call Home" (www.wlrn.org/history).

Directors of the West Palm Beach Preservation Foundation are gladdened by these actions because they worried about how to move remembrance of our collective history more to the forefront.

We want to keep the celebration of our wonderful architectural past and our culture alive. We want it to be passed down. We want all the local associations to try to keep the

message current.

The April social hour at the home of Jeff and Margie Yansura (714 Claremore — listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation) stepped up to that plate.

There was a newly unveiled

map of the neighborhood with the little houses in place and colored in to indicate when they were built. All that research prompted an appropriate social hour dessert — a pink cake with little houses all over the top! My guess is that this will have helped folks remember our history. The Preservation Foundation is working toward oral and video histories of people and places within Flamingo Park. We particularly want to interview folks here who moved here before the 1990s. Is

that you? Or your parents? Would you want to share?

We don't want to lose these voices — and the special depiction of an old-time Flamingo Park. Please call Linda Cullen (561-758-5227).

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the foundation is just getting started, so we are looking for funding to help us with equipment and the setting up of programs. If you can donate to this local, deserving cause, please let Linda know.

And if you have other ideas for programs to develop within Flamingo Park, she's all ears!

—Linda Cullen

World-class shows at historic hall

Longtime residents will recall the world-class performances staged at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse in Palm Beach.

Designed by renowned architect John L. Volk, the Royal Poinciana Plaza was an instant success, followed by the Royal Poinciana Playhouse opening Feb. 3, 1958. Season tickets sold out and red carpets were rolled out for opening nights. Sadly, the playhouse closed in 2004, but Volk's design was landmarked by the town of Palm Beach in 2008.

Now this icon of island history and entertainment is set to reopen in 2025 under Jill and Avie Glazer and the nonprofit Palm Beach Cultural Innovation Center. Visit glazerhall.org/ourhistory/ for more.



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Nonprofits News

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

WPB Run with the Cops 5K: A morning of unity and purpose

As the sun rose over the Intracoastal on April 13, nearly 400 runners and walkers gathered at the Meyer Amphitheatre downtown for the ninth annual Run with the Cops 5K. West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James welcomed everyone, followed by the presentation of the colors and a live performance of the national anthem by Dreyfoos School of the Arts student Karley Kopacz.

The brisk morning weather

was ideal for racing, and the energy was high as participants took off down scenic Flagler Drive. From families to seasoned athletes, the event brought the community together for a morning of fitness and connection.

Run with the
Cops 5K is a major
fundraiser for the Fund for
West Palm Beach Police, which
supports officer wellness,
equipment needs, scholarships
and community programs like
Shop with a Cop during the
holidays. The event celebrates
the bond between law
enforcement and the people
they serve—raising both

awareness and vital funds for continued community impact.

In addition to the 5K, kids took part in the 1K Sunrise Sprint and the 100-yard Kids Dash, bringing extra energy and smiles to the day.

After the races, participants enjoyed music, food, and a display by the WPBPD SWAT team before the awards ceremony wrapped things up.

The event is organized by Flamingo Park resident

Madeleine Ely of K2 Road Sports. We were thrilled to see several Flamingo Park residents among the runners and walkers, including County Commissioner Gregg Weiss, left, (fourth in his age group, with a chip time of 30:53.4) and Flamingo

Flyer editor Victoria Preuss (second in her age group and delighted to finish in under an hour).

Next year will mark the 10th edition of Run with the Cops.

Be sure to join us on the second Sunday in April 2026.

Madeleine Ely

'Bike Man' shop carries on after fire

Many neighbors witnessed the devastating Feb. 19 fire that billowed smoke up from the Claremore Road warehouse of Jack the Bike Man.

On April 16, resident and County Commissioner Gregg Weiss joined with local leaders to thank the city firefighters who had worked through the night to contain the fire at the cherished nonprofit — which gives bicycles to those who need them, while offering training and job opportunities to locals.

Jack "the bike man"
Hairston was a friend of Gregg
and Rebecca Weiss, who took in
Jack's cat Sprockets after his
2023 death at age 81.

What started as an electrical fire burned for 33 hours straight. It also burned a \$500,000 hole in the nonprofit's budget, since the for-sale warehouse lost value due to the damage.

Every dollar to Jack's helps support recovery efforts. Write a check if you can, donate that old bike you're no longer using, or just get your bike tuned up and leave a tip. The money is well spent as it keeps you riding and helps others in need of two wheels.

For more information, call 561-832-0071, see https://jackthebikeman.org/or email info@jackthebikeman.org.

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MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 11 10 AM - 2 PM | Galley

Treat Mom to a lavish buffet featuring all her favorites—from a made-to-order omelet station and Parilla grill to a raw bar with crab, oysters, and smoked salmon.

PLAN YOUR WEEK WITH US

Join us for exciting weekly events, plus Sunday Brunch at Mezze with complimentary pool access and parking.



FITNESS & WELLNESS Yoga, Pilates, Meditation NEW Summer Classes!



DINE FOR A CAUSE
Thursdays | Galley

May - Palm Beach Symphony

June - Compass Community Center



BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH

Sundays | Mezze 11:30 AM-2 PM



LAZY SUNDAYS Sundays | La Playa 1-5 PM



VISIT HILTONWESTPALMBEACH.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
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Parkway code enforcement paused

Since the kerfuffle of code violations last year related to city parkway plantings in the neighborhood, the city has paused its enforcement. A new committee will address the parkways (colloquially if incorrectly called swales) for the entire city. An initial virtual meeting was held in April, wherein the city provided a list of trees and plants.

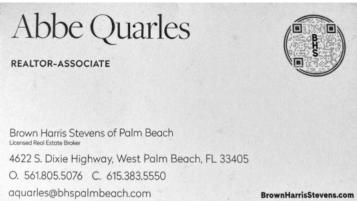
The committee is led by Armando Fana, assistant city

administrator, and includes:
Todd Snyder, assistant director
of Parks and Rec; Ximena
Pernett, stormwater engineer;
Kevin Volbrecht, director of
engineering services; and,
representing Flamingo Park
interests, Tanya Lewicki, Carolyn
Reikenis and Joel Crippen. There
was some talk of a streamlined
permit process and perhaps
grandfathering-in parkway
plantings after review, but
nothing has yet been decided.

Yard, from Page 1

• Do not include yard waste generated by landscape contractors. Only residents who maintain their own gardens are allowed this city amenity. For more information, visit WPB.org/amnesty or call 561-822-2075 (TTY: 800-955-8771).







COTCOTAN corcoran group real estate

Since 1993 Flamingo Park has been our primary focus

to serve the real estate needs of buyers and sellers in this premier Historic District and very special *true* neighborhood. Honest, straightforward and with the clarity of purpose and vision that 31 years in the business brings.



Linda Cullen 561.758.5227 John Alford 561.502.5229



President, from Page 1

and out!)

We want to provide our tour goers with a memorable experience and cannot rest on our laurels. We have to elevate this experience to keep 'em coming!

To that end, we are now soliciting nominations for potential host gardens. You can either nominate your own garden or a neighbor's.

We will then contact the nominees and visit each of you and make a final list of 10 extraordinary gardens to be featured in 2026.

Going back to my opening sentence: As gardeners know. things take time, so now is when you should begin working your gardens into showstopping shape. Before we know it, summer heat will make this uncomfortable — though we appreciate the growth enabled by our the rainy season.

Those of us who are avid gardeners will be out there, rain, shine and heat, creating and maintaining outstanding

outdoor spaces.

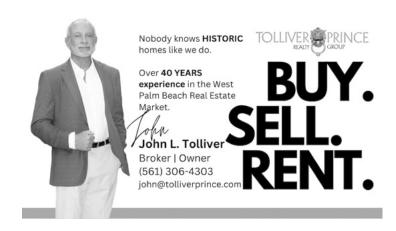
Please contact me with your nominations (Tanya lewicki@comcast.net).

But what of our holiday home tour, you might be wondering. Given that a spring garden tour following directly upon a December home tour leaves almost no down time for the people working on them hosts, board and volunteers the board is discussing scheduling them only in the same (even) years. This would separate the events by eight months, making for a less hectic segue from one to the next.

On an unrelated matter, I want to give a shout-out to Rell Clemente and Vanessa Schwinge. These two young ladies scoured the alleyway between Avon and Belvedere roads, picking up and disposing of all sorts of accumulated debris. They did the same along the east side of Parker.

Thank you, ladies, for your community spirit!

Tanya Lewicki

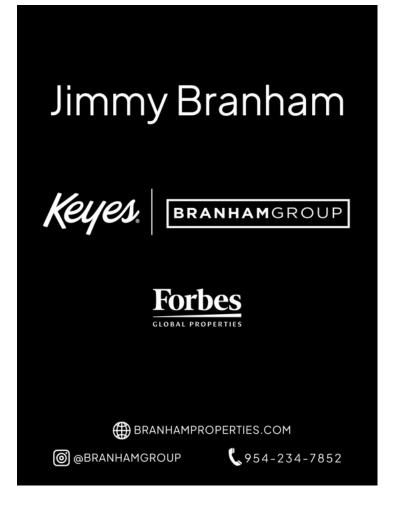




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Volunteers needed for tasks

We really do want a few volunteers! Please consider the following:

No. 1: Six times a year, usually on a Friday (maybe a Saturday morning) the beginning of the month, pick up pre-stuffed bags of newsletters and drive around and deliver them to the block captains (21 homes). This is time sensitive — they must get to the block captains immediately so that the block captains can deliver their allotment door to door.

No. 2: Help keep Parker Avenue clean. No time schedule. Just grab a trash bag, pick up, take home and put out with your trash. Being the busy thoroughfare that it is, Parker sees a lot of trash from cars and people on foot. While homeowners who abut Parker Avenue should be keeping their periphery clean ... well, apparently we need help with this.

No. 3: Every two to three months, order bag refills for our doggie bag stations, charge it and get reimbursed. A box of 30 will be delivered to you. Email the five other volunteers who take care of the 5 stations and ask them to come and get 6 boxes from you. You'll know it's time to reorder when the station volunteers start telling you they need more.

All easy-peasy, but it's hard taking care of so many duties. Please help out? Email me: cullen@digital.net

Linda Cullen

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2025 Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form		
Name Address		_ Check areas in which you would like to volunteer:
		☐ Social Hour host ☐ Advertising sales
Phone		□ Block Party□ Events/tours
	e won't share it and von't bombard you!)	Environmental:
 □ \$50 per household for deed-holders / Full [voting] Membership □ \$35 for non-deed-holders / Associate [non-voting] Membership □ \$20 Associate Members additional to list in Flamingo Flyer Business Directory NOTE: There is no extra charge for Voting Members to list in our Business Directory. □ \$ extra for tax-deductible donation FPNA operates primarily on membership funds and events income. 	Give finished form to Linda Cullen, 828 Biscayne, or mail it to FPNA, PO Box 1112, WPB, FL 33402	

Datebook

May

Tuesday, May 13 — Board meeting Monday, May 26 — Memorial Day holiday Friday, May 30 — Social hour; story, Page 2

Tuesday, June 10 — Board meeting Thursday, June 19 — Juneteenth holiday Friday, June 27 — Social hour; story, Page 2

West Palm Beach www.wpb.org

Mayor Keith James — 561-822-1400 Community Building and Engagement Charlotte Wright, crwright@wpb.org 561-822-1412

City Service Hotline: 561-822-2222
Dist. 5 Commissioner Christina Lambert: 561-822-1390

Code compliance

The FPNA board encourages residents to speak with the offending neighbor or with a board member before reporting a code violation to the city, but this is not required.

Garbage and yard waste:Carlos Maldonado — 561-494-1058

Street maintenance (including potholes), street lighting and traffic maintenance, including signage

Customer service: 561-822-2085

All Emergencies, dial 911

Police Department non-emergency: 561-822-1900
House Watch program — 561-822-1634
Fire Department non-emergency 561-804-4700

The Community Oriented Police

Officer Seth Buxton SBuxton@wpb.org | 561-822-1620

Public Works

Main number, 561-822-2060

Right of way permits:

Spencer Graham —561-494-1014

Mandel Public Library 561-868-7700

Parks & Recreation 561-804-4900

arks a Recreation 501-001-17

Public Utilities 561-494-1046

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control

Main number —561-233-1200

With a credit or debit card you can join or renew your membership (and select your volunteer preferences), on flamingopark.org.

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