

The Flamingo Flyer

Serving the residents
of historic Flamingo Park

July/August
2025



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‘Florida Friendly’ gardening Kanuga home is first in city

When Jon and Sherry Derrevere bought their Kanuga Road home in 2020 they set about turning the building and yard into a showcase of the beauty and uniqueness of the property.

Sherry envisioned an outdoor space that conserves water, provides a habitat for birds, butterflies and bees, and offers family and friends a serene place to relax.

She wanted to honor the history of the home and yard, and reached out to several arborists to try to save a large oak tree in the backyard. Unfortunately, all those experts recommended the removal of the tree.

Sherry consulted experts on native plants and took every opportunity to learn

about how to create an environment that attracts butterflies. She joined the Native Plant Society and most of the plants and shrubs now in her yard are drought-tolerant natives. She avoids using herbicides and pesticides and uses minimal irrigation.

What Sherry was doing on her own initiative coincided with the aims of a three-decades-old partnership between University of Florida and Florida Department of Environmental Protection that recognizes people who manage their yards in a responsible manner and protect Florida’s water resources.

What began as Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, funded by DEP since 1993, is now the Florida Friendly Landscaping



See FFL, Page 3

President’s column

Code requirement changes in the works with our help

You probably recall the code hubbub of last autumn — or read about it in my September and November columns — wherein the West Palm Beach code officer

cited multiple Flamingo Park residents for noncompliant parkway (colloquially, if wrongly, “swale”) plantings. After several residents were cited and fines issued — and the ensuing uproar — the city

**Tanya
Lewicki**

placed a temporary hold on all parkway code enforcement, the idea being to look at the current code and determine if and how it needs to be revised.

The city asked for

representatives from Flamingo Park to participate in the process. Horticulturist Joel Crippen, master gardener Carolyn Reikenis and I are those representatives.

If you would like to share any concerns or make suggestions, please contact one of us. This is our opportunity to make our voices heard.

Our committee met approximately a month ago and we have compiled a list of suggestions for the city to consider when drafting a new code. City staff and community representatives are all in agreement that the focus of the code should be on safety and visibility, rather than mandating any specific landscape material.

The current code addresses

See President, Page 9

Why leash your dog? It’s city and county law!

It was only two *Flyers* ago, (March/April) where we wrote an article that we hoped would not only educate, but hopefully change the behaviors of, some dog owners who do not leash their pets.

I’ve recently learned of a third incident in three months where dog owners did not have their pet on a leash when walking, and another person felt threatened. And the dog owner didn’t seem to care about the city and county leash law.

I would not be writing this today were it not for residents appealing to me as an FPNA board member to ask the board to find a new way to get this message across.

For the record, all dogs must be on a leash if you are walking it off your property. This includes sidewalks,

streets, parkways, public parks (other than dog parks) and any public right of way.

There is no provision for “voice command” in the West Palm Beach or Palm Beach County ordinances (14-31 and 98-22, Section 4-4a respectively).

We didn’t mention sidewalks last time but we must communicate this fully: The sidewalks are city property (hence city rights of way).

I do a lot of walking throughout the whole neighborhood — all the time. Where do I see folks walking their dogs? — on the sidewalks.

Is it not enough to ask residents to obey the law? But also to ask them for courtesy?

See Leash, Page 9

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:

July: 703 Biscayne — Scott Eyman and Lynn Kalber

August: 718 Avon — Cynthia Rivera

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

Looking for summer social hosts

A long tradition in Flamingo Park, our "mostly monthly" social hours provide a casual setting for neighbors, both new and longtime residents, to gather for chat and refreshments.

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.

Social hours are free to paid members and \$5 for each guest. An email to residents who've signed up for news blasts gives details.

We are actively looking for hosts for our socials on July 25 and Aug. 29.

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.

All members of the Flamingo Park family are welcome to the socials, but parents bringing their offspring are reminded to keep a close eye on them: There may be stairs or a pool, and *definitely* adult beverages.



Open Tuesday to Sunday 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
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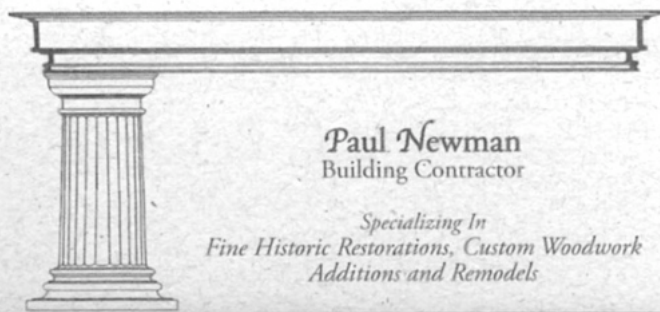
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Membership made easy: Pay your FPNA dues online

Joining or renewing your Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association membership is now easier than ever. Thanks to our updated website, you can now pay your FPNA dues securely online at flamingopark.org using a debit or credit card.

Whether you're a voting member/deed owner (\$50 annually), an associate member (\$35 annually), or you simply wish to make a donation to support Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association — a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit — it's all just a few clicks away.

Visit flamingopark.org,

scroll to the bottom of the home page, click 'Join', and follow the easy instructions.

Your membership helps fund community events like our monthly social hours, the annual block party, Holiday Historic Home Tour, Garden Tour, tree trimming and other beautification efforts, and other initiatives that make Flamingo Park one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Palm Beach County.

Thank you for your membership and we encourage you to join or renew today!

— Julie Mullen



The Derreverses were awarded Silver status in the Florida Friendly Landscaping program that prioritizes water conservation and other environmental factors.

FFL, from Page 1

recognition program.

As I walked the neighborhood with Penny, our rescue black Lab-mix dog, I noticed the work Sherry was doing and saw how her yard evolved over a year. While a participant in a master gardener program last year, I heard about the FFL and encouraged Sherry to apply.

Sherry completed the application and, following office review, a trained team of University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service staff and volunteer master gardeners did a site assessment.

The Derreverses' yard met the criteria for Silver Recognition.

When you see Jon and Sherry out at 724 Kanuga, please take time to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of their yard and congratulate them on being the first in the city to earn this recognition.

Penny and I see a lot of you

out there gardening in ways that protect and preserve our beautiful environment. Wouldn't it be awesome to see the Florida Friendly yard signs displayed all over Flamingo Park?

The website for Florida Friendly landscaping is <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/>. Most FFL public outreach is conducted through local offices and the phone number for the Palm Beach County Extension Service is 561-233-1700.

The program's focus is education toward positive change, so for any disappointed applicant, efforts are made to help them make changes and perhaps get recognition later.

Feel free to contact me (561-373-3608 or creikenis@att.net) if you would like to have me drop off information or speak with you about this program.

— Carolyn Reikenis



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A la carte sushi menu is exclusively available on Wednesdays. The 8 course omakase is exclusively available at 5 PM seatings for Thursday-Saturday.



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PLAN YOUR WEEK WITH US

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Preservation

Help collect and share stories from Flamingo Park's past

You can help with Flamingo's Park's history.

The West Palm Beach Preservation Foundation is busy creating collaboration with other entities (think the Tourist Development Council and others) to keep preservation of our city's history (buildings, people, culture) alive and thriving.

In our own Flamingo Park corner, we have begun posting some of our own history on our website.

When you log on at FlamingoPark.org, at the top of

the homepage it says "Click here to check out our new 'Blasts from the Past' posts."

There are already five items to start.

Once you check them out, you may be reminded of others that we can share to "flesh out" our rich past.

Perhaps you know some old and interesting history and facts — and maybe have photos?

Email preserve@digital.net with your ideas for stories and any accompanying photos you may have.

— Linda Cullen

Historic Roosters reopens

Five years after a devastating fire at this popular gay bar, Roosters reopened after a \$2.5 million makeover. The May 19 grand reopening featured several speakers and a very proud owner, A.J. Wasson.

In 2021, a year after the fire, the city of West Palm Beach listed this icon on the local Register of Historic Places. In making the historic case, it was

stated that the "site is the location of the oldest still operating gay Bar in Palm Beach County."

On June 4, Roosters was celebrated again at a reception and panel discussion as part of the Pride Month exhibition at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum.



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Don't become complacent

The Atlantic hurricane season is underway and runs through Nov. 30 — half of the year! — and it's forecast to be a busy one. But the weeks before and after Labor Day tend to be the statistical "peak season."

Have you prepared an action plan to protect your family, pets, home and property? Visit the city's Hurricane Readiness Guide

for helpful tips to help you prepare and learn if your home or business is within a flood zone. Also, you can locate the nearest hurricane shelter and so much more.

Preparation is the key to survival. Visit www.wpb.org and scroll down to Hurricane-Guide.

FPNA on social media

Like/follow Flamingo Park on our socials for neighborhood news, event photos and more!



On Facebook, we're @flamingoparkneighb orhood and on Instagram we're @flamingoparkwpb. Feel free to tag us with your FP-related photos!



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Doggie station facts and thanks

Flamingo Park arranged some years ago with the city to have five doggie-bag stations installed at critical points throughout the neighborhood — and strategically next to one of our own corner trash cans.

As a reminder, they are on Lake Avenue at Kanuga Drive, Biscayne Drive and Upland Road; and on Georgia Avenue at Biscayne and at Upland.

Each of these stations has a station-tender (as it were) who adds the biodegradable bags when they run out. The bags are purchased by a volunteer who gets reimbursed and gives the bags to the station-tenders.

During the past 12 months, we have spent approximately \$1,000 on these bags!

We would like to give our sincere thanks to the folks who do this volunteer work: Lynn Kalber, Marsha Michaels and Addie Molina, Jane Musgrave, Carolyn Reikenis and William Waters.

And, as it relates to helping to keep our neighborhood clean, this article also serves as a reminder that it is the law to pick up after your dog. In Flamingo Park we make it easy for you to obey the law and keep our neighborhood beautiful!

— Linda Cullen

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President, from Page 1

ground cover and plant material. It does not include trees. Planting or removing trees in the parkway does, however, require a permit.

The committee is also requesting that staff look at reducing the fines in the code. The current fines are severe and can create financial hardship.

Once the city drafts a new citywide code, staff must hold public meetings before it is adopted. We will keep you informed of those dates, which will also be publicized by the city.

After the code is finalized, there will be educational programs and email notifications advising residents of the new code.

The fact that the city recognizes the need to revise the code and has asked for our input is very positive. It shows they are listening and trying to help us meet this challenge. As we move forward, we will keep you updated.

On another note: With the approach of our 2026 Garden Tour and with so many proud

gardeners in our neighborhood, as well as new residents to Flamingo Park and Florida, we are starting a regular *Flyer* feature that focuses on our gardens. The aim is to feature residents' gardens or answer questions from *Flyer* readers about what works, or doesn't, in our particular planting conditions.

I hope there is interest and you will be sending in questions. In the absence of new questions, we will pick a topic. We've kicked it off with a look at a garden recognition program (story, Page 1).

Last, but not least, our monthly social hours ("Flamingles") are in dire need of hosts for the months of July and August. These events are a wonderful way to meet new neighbors and catch up with old ones. This has been a Flamingo Park tradition for many years.

Please let us know if you would host one of these events. Hosts receive a stipend from FPNA to assist with food and beverage.

— Tanya Lewicki

Leash, from Page 1

To be respectful to others?

We will be sending emails to everyone asking for them to exhibit this courtesy and obey the law — to leash their dogs at all times when off their own property, or if a dog might otherwise run onto city property from their own yards.

Last, but also important, our ordinances require dog owners to pick up after their

dogs. Your Flamingo Park board provides both dog waste bags and disposal receptacles throughout the neighborhood. (story, Page 8).

Picking up after your dog helps keep our parkways and rights of way clean and provides for disease control for the good of our neighborhood dogs and humans.

— Linda Cullen

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2025 Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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*Check areas in which you
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- ☐ Social Hour host
- ☐ Advertising sales
- ☐ Block Party
- ☐ Events/tours
- Environmental:
 - ☐ Cleanups
 - ☐ Plantings

- ☐ \$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

July

Friday, July 4 — Independence Day holiday

Tuesday, July 8 — Board meeting

Friday, July 25 — Social hour; story, Page 2

August

Tuesday, Aug. 12 — Board meeting

Friday, Aug. 29 — Social hour; story, Page 2

Monday, Sept. 1 — Labor Day holiday

*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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2024-25 term

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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

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The Community Oriented Police

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

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