

The Flamingo Flyer

Serving the residents
of historic Flamingo Park

September/October
2025



Inside

House of the Month	2
Tree code	3
Free trees	5
Nonprofits news	8
Preservation	9

Gardening

Know code, or get pro to prune

Every few years an incident occurs which sends up red flags, prompting the neighborhood to educate and warn our residents about proper tree pruning.

FPNA values its beautiful tree canopy and, over many years, has invested thousands in professional pruning of our grand hardwood trees, even though the responsibility of caring for the trees in the parkways belongs to the owners of the adjacent homes.

Most of us tend to our trees, either ourselves or through hired landscape services. Most specific "tree services" are skilled and several, especially the larger ones, have a certified arborist on staff.



The rules for proper arboriculture need to be learned and the skills to perform them need to be practiced. Hardwood tree pruning, more so than with other plants, requires science, skill and even art to master properly. Most trees will conform to these rules but many tropical trees do not — this is when the art of pruning comes in.

Nearly every issue with improper pruning has been of a royal poinciana, a tropical tree that doesn't follow the rules and requires knowledge and skill to prune correctly.

The most recent "poor pruning job" in the neighborhood was performed by a landscape crew who chose to cut the tree

See Pruning, Page 3

President's column

We enjoy a special place, largely due to our people

Hi fellow "flamingos."

Whether we specifically sought out this neighborhood, or bumbled into it, or have lived here for decades, we all know Flamingo

Park is a special place.

There is no other neighborhood (that I know of) that can compare with the sense of community Flamingo Park offers. We are a historic neighborhood and proud of it.



**Tanya
Lewicki**

The Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association is here to enhance the quality of your life in Flamingo Park.

We are not a mandatory HOA. We cannot tell you what to

plant in your gardens (except for the city's parkways, which is a work in progress), or what color to paint your house.

We are not like condo commandos!

We are here to bring the community together and to foster a sense of belonging, friendliness and pride in living in Flamingo Park. We are a somewhat large and extended family. We do not always agree with each other, but at the end of the day, we do agree that Flamingo Park is our home and I truly believe we all want what is best for this community.

The board members of FPNA are invested in maintaining the Flamingo Park "vibe." We are a historic neighborhood and proud of it. But, we also recognize that

See President, Page 5

Preparation is perennial in peak of hurricane season

As production of this *Flyer* began, a huge Hurricane Erin was churning northward offshore of the Carolinas in the Atlantic Ocean. From its Aug. 11 inception as a tropical storm, to its Aug. 16 Category 5 status with winds near 160 mph, the cyclone eventually weakened and widened its girth. It moved to post-tropical oblivion Aug. 22.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Fernand entered the chat, apparently also planning an ocean-going track, not affecting U.S. land interests. A third system alive at this writing is giving credence to the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season prediction for an above-normal season, as NOAA first advised in May.

This offshore activity is an important reminder that we are in the historically busiest

weeks of hurricane season, which ends Nov. 30.

Years will go by with no threats to land, but then nature roars back to remind us of our vulnerability.

Longtime residents recall being affected by Hurricanes David (1979), Frances and Jeanne (2004), Wilma (2005), two Irenes! (1999 and 2011) and Irma (2017), losing power for various lengths of time, seeing damage to our environment and putting things back together when we escaped the worst of all these storms.

Over the years we've seen fewer plywood panels and more impact windows protecting Flamingo Park homes. More people have acquired generators, whether

See Season, 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:

September: 713 Sunset — Melanie Davis

October: 717 Avon — William Brady

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

Come celebrate 100-year-old home

Our next FPNA social hour is Sept. 26, hosted by Nancie Vergadamo at 730 Ardmore. A resident since 1984, Nancie is celebrating the 100th birthday of her home. Come celebrate with her and our neighbors.

A host is needed for the final 2025 social hour, which would take place Oct. 24 or Nov. 7, because the last Friday of the month is Oct. 31 and the neighborhood will be busy with trick-or-treaters. Let us know if you're interested in either of those dates!

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 FPNA news blasts gives details.

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

All members of the Flamingo Park family are welcome, but parents bringing their offspring are reminded to keep a close eye on them at all times.

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418 PARK PLACE, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401

There are standards for tree trimming

What does city code require?

Whether you or your lawn crew know it, tree trimming under city code must be done in accordance with the latest pruning standards for shade trees published by the National Arborist Association.

(A copy of that information is on file in the Planning, Zoning and Building Department.)

Here is a taste of what code requires:

- Trees in the swales and parkways are to be trimmed by the adjacent property owner so as not to interfere with vehicle traffic or pedestrians, including obstructing views of intersections.

- All cuts shall be clean, flush with the branch collar and made at junctions, laterals or crotches. For overhead utility lines, the drop crotch trimming method shall be followed.

- Removal of dead wood, overlapping branches, weak or insignificant branches and suckers shall be done simultaneously with any crown reduction.

- Tree topping or hat-racking is prohibited. The severe cutting back of limbs to stub larger than 3 inches in diameter so as to remove the canopy and disfigure the tree shall not be done on any tree.

- Trees severely damaged by natural causes or under utility wires or other obstructions may be exempted from the ordinance as decided by the planning and zoning administrator.

- It is also a code infraction for hired landscapers to fail to remove their landscape trimmings, leaving behind big piles of green waste — often days before our scheduled Tuesday pickups.

Pruning, from Page 1

themselves rather than, as requested by the owner, getting a skilled tree pruner for the job.

This is the neighborhood warning for residents! Just because a crew says they *can* do something doesn't mean they *should*. Hire a proper tree service yourself rather than going through your landscape service.

How does the future look for this latest victim?

The horrified absentee homeowner called me, after she received pictures of the work, to advise her. The royal poinciana is resilient and vigorous and in time (up to 3 years or so, with judicious training), can become

a beautiful tree again — a process far more expensive than “doing it right the first time.”

Unfortunately, this will not be the last time something like this is likely to happen, but by educating our neighbors we can reduce such incidences.

Whenever in doubt and you don't know where to turn, contact our neighborhood association for advice. This is why they are here for you!

— Joel Crippen,
horticulturist
and longtime resident

Heads-up for annual yard sale

Start organizing those closets and attic!

The next yearly Yard Sale Extravaganza will be on the now-customary Saturday of Presidents Day weekend, Feb. 14, 2026.

More information about January signup will be published in the November/December *Flamingo Flyer*.



GREAT GREEK FOOD!

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5 PM | Wednesday - Saturday

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GALLEY

5-10 PM Restaurant | 4-11 PM Bar

\$60 3-Course Dinner Menu

Reservations recommended for Galley, and required for Moody Tongue Sushi on OpenTable.

DINING EXPERIENCES

Reservations available on OpenTable.



PICK YOUR POISON

October 23 | 6 PM
\$60 Per Person

Shake things up with this hands-on cocktail class featuring spooky, seasonal ingredients with Mixologist Hawk Cornell.

MUST BE 21+ TO ATTEND



WINE DINNERS

6 PM | \$195 Per Person

Be our guest for exclusive wine dinners featuring 4-courses, wine pairings, and an interactive chef-driven experience under the stars.

October 9: Caymus Vineyards
November 13: Far Niente Winery
December 4: Ridge Vineyards

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
Offered Weekly



DJ POOLSIDE SESSIONS

Saturdays | La Playa
12-4 PM



DINE FOR A CAUSE

Thursdays | Galley
September - The Little Legs Big Heart Foundation
October - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH

Sundays | Mezze
11:30 AM-2 PM



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Sustainability

Get a free tree this month

Trees produce oxygen, absorb air pollutants, reduce energy costs, and help fight climate change. The greater our tree canopy, the cooler our gardens and yards.

And native trees in particular survive best in our climate and recover from storm damage better.

Thanks to the city's periodic native tree giveaways to residents and businesses, you can register for a Sept. 27 freebie at the Howard Park

softball parking lot from 9 to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is encouraged at <https://www.wpb.org/Departments/Sustainability>.

Limit of four trees per property per fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30). Limit two at a time.

Know before you choose and plant by checking out the University of Florida's IFAS website's wealth of tree and planting info. (<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/ffl-and-you/home-landscapes/>)

President, from Page 1

times change and we need to keep up.

There is a fine line between our quaint, small-town lifestyle and the kind of changes that would threaten it. I want all of you to know that we welcome your suggestions and input. Please do reach out to our board members and let them know what you like and think is working, and/or if you have suggestions for any changes or additions to what we do here. We will be respectful of all of your suggestions.

Although most of you are members of FPNA, for those of you who have not joined the neighborhood association, I strongly urge you to do so. The annual membership fee has been \$50 for many years, and we don't foresee an increase anytime soon.

It's the best deal in town! So what do you get for your money?

We try to hold social hours 10 months a year and an annual block party, where we can all meet and catch up with one another. We organize an annual yard sale to help us all lighten our lives of all that extra "stuff."

The two jewels in our crown are the spring Garden Tour and Holiday Historic Home tours. This is when we give outsiders a peak into our private nests.

These two events, which going forward will be held in even-numbered years, are FPNA's biggest fundraisers.

They are extremely popular and well-attended. The proceeds from these events are used to fund a multitude of expenses: the socials and block party, landscaping, tree trimming, doggie pot stations, electricity for our islands, new-resident welcome gifts, rent for our storage locker, website hosting and the *Flamingo Flyer*, just to name a few.

The board also, for the past two years, has sent out birthday cards to the homes "celebrating" 100 years of age.

As with any nonprofit, all of what happens is reliant on an army of volunteers. What do these volunteers do? Block captains distribute this Flyer. Spry folks help decorate our neighborhood for the holidays. In addition to the hired landscaping cleanup of our circles and bulb-outs, outdoorsy types help maintain them in between those quarterly visits. Neighbors keep our doggie pots filled with those very important poop bags.

Volunteers do a multitude of tasks to produce the big events — tours, block party and yard sale. The list goes on. We all live busy lives, but please consider tossing your name into the volunteer hat. In this instance, more is better.

As you can probably tell, this neighborhood is special and it will always be the people who make it so.

— Tanya Lewicki

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Jennifer Czerwin

Project Manager

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Halloween update!

With the neighborhood's reputation for generosity and fun, we won't be publishing the FPNA Halloween map this year — young families find fellow enthusiasts (with candy!) just fine without it.

As many as 100 kids or more have been logged by spooky-minded residents.

So put up your orange lights, spider webs and

headstones, and send your pictures along to julie@thebuzzagency.net to share them on Flamingo Park's website.

Oct. 31 being the last Friday of the month, FPNA is looking for a host for either Oct. 24 or Nov. 7 as an alternative social hour, the last of the year.

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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Nonprofits News

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

Get your craft on and REmake something!

Join Resource Depot Saturday, Sept. 13, for Upcycle Day 2025, an all-day creative experience where reuse takes center stage. You'll rotate through four 90-minute artist-led workshops, learning new skills, connecting with fellow makers, and diving deep into the power of creative reuse.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with light snacks, coffee and mingling.

Workshops begin promptly at 9:15 a.m., with two sessions in the morning, a relaxed lunch break, and two more in the afternoon.

Your ticket includes:

- All workshops and materials
- Lunch and snacks throughout the day
- Upcycled RD goodies and container for your creations
- A full day of creativity, community, and inspiration

Each maker will lead a 90-minute, hands-on workshop rooted in upcycled art and design.

What does the day look like?

- Crochet with textile remnants using the granny square technique
- Assemblage using reclaimed materials to make

unique wall art

- Bookmaking with mixed media woven covers for an accordion-style journal
- Use jewelry-making techniques to craft a light-catching hanging sculpture.

This year's workshops are longer and participants will rotate through all four workshops in small groups — giving everyone an opportunity to work side-by-side with the artists as they teach their craft, share their stories and spark your creativity.

The day is for ages 16 and older. No experience needed. All skill levels welcome.

Space is limited, register now at www.resourcedepot.org/upcycle-day.

Check out other events at Resource Depot (resourcedepot.org/events) including Craft and Connection, a Sept. 6 grandparents day event; Junk Lab/Plastics In Paradise, Sept. 17, an open-ended creative time for kids out of school; and Junk Lab/Metal Bits & Found Foam, Sept. 23, playing around with metal and Styrofoam to create ... anything!

Resource Depot will be closed for shopping and donations on Sept. 13 to host the annual Upcycle Day.

Armory market calls for artists

The Armory Art Center's ninth annual Creative Market returns Nov. 8-9 — drawing more than 5,000 residents, visitors and tourists each year.

This two-day, free festival brings together 80-100 juried artists, two indoor juried exhibitions, and a pop-up gift shop.

Event proceeds directly support the nonprofit Armory's year-round programming, including free art and art therapy programs for veterans, as well as six to eight free exhibitions, receptions, lectures and artist talks annually.

The Armory has Call to Artist openings for the outdoor

market section plus a juried exhibition, "Full Circle," that will be exhibited indoors from Nov. 3 to Dec. 27.

In addition, space is still available for a few more performing artists and food and beverage vendors.

Various levels of sponsorship opportunities are available as well, including the newly added "Friends of the Armory" sponsor (\$500).

Visit <https://armoryart.org/festival-call-artists/> to learn more.



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Preservation

Foundation monitoring changes made at early FP home site

Yet again, big sigh!

There has been disregard by the new owner of the property at 707 Kanuga Drive. Without permits, the property was cleared so that not a tree, shrub, leaf or blade of grass remains.

Fortunately, our city Code Department found out and cited the owner for various violations. At a Special Magistrate's meeting on Aug. 6, the ruling was for the owner to bring the property back into compliance within 120 days or pay \$100 a day thereafter until remedied. That leaves questions about what the owner is actually supposed to do.

The egregiousness of the actions gives cause for some concern of what could happen to

the house.

The year-old West Palm Beach Preservation Foundation plans to ask the city to pay close attention to this property (house and grounds) — since this is one of the very first properties for which a building permit was issued in 1923.

We will ask this based on the nonprofit foundation's mission statement, in part, to "stimulate awareness, interest, and support for historic preservation ... and restoration principles through its advocacy."

— Linda Cullen
Founder/president
WPB Preservation
Foundation

Season, from Page 1

built-in or portable.

Preparedness should be an ongoing priority, along with attention to the weather forecasts.

In addition to your favorite weather app and local weather reporters, it's a good idea keep an eye on the National Hurricane Center's website.

There you can geek out on all the advisories for tropical cyclones, including all text and graphical products issued by the NHC every advisory cycle (i.e., 3 a.m., 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. UTC), including the popular cone ("of doom") graphic.

Be prepared

While "nothing" is going on, it's a good idea to take stock of your water and pantry supplies, medicines, pet needs and batteries.

Make sure shutters and generators are in working order, and window coverage is accessible, as needed.

If you plan to evacuate from an approaching storm, make sure of your destination and make a packing list appropriate to your needs. The location of insurance papers and valuables should be noted.

Buy a battery- or solar-operated or hand-crank radio that can pick up the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, which broadcasts through public media partners. In southern Palm Beach County, the partner is WLRN 101.9. In northern Palm Beach County, it's WQCS 88.9.

Check out <https://www.floridadisaster.org/> for more preparedness suggestions.

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2025 Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

(We won't share it and
we won't bombard you!)

Check areas in which you
would like to volunteer:

- ☐ 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

September

Monday, Sept. 1 — Labor Day holiday

Tuesday, Sept. 9 — Board meeting

Friday, Sept. 26 — Social hour; see story, Page 2

Saturday, Sept. 27 — Tree giveaway; see story, Page 5

October

Monday, Oct. 13 — Columbus Day

Tuesday, Oct. 14 — Board meeting

Friday, Oct. 31 — Halloween

Save the date

Jan. 31, 2026 — Block party

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

The Flamingo Flyer

is published six times a year by the
Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association,
a nonprofit organization. Online at:
FlamingoPark.org. Social media:
facebook.com/flamingoparkneighborhood

Circulation: 525

Design and editing: Victoria Preuss
vmp735@mac.com

•
 FPNA
 PO Box 1112
 West Palm Beach
 FL 33402
 •

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2024-25 term

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 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 pot- holes), 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

Public Utilities 561-494-1046

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control

Main number — 561-233-1200