



Azalea Park

Safe Neighborhood Association

A newsletter about issues important to you and your neighbors...

Azalea Park Safe Neighborhood Community Meetings are online and on the phone.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Email Allison.Rice@ocfl.net or call 407-836-5621 for meeting assistance.

CALL IN No.: 1-408-792-6300

ONLINE: www.rb.gy/s46ife

ACCESS CODE: next to meeting date below

PASSWORD: AzPark23807

March 8, 2021 177 164 8124

April 12, 2021 177 621 0653

May 10, 2021 177 002 2357



If any person with a disability, as defined by the ADA, needs special accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Orange County Neighborhood Services Division at 407-836-5621 no later than two (2) business days prior to the proceeding.

Important Orange County Numbers

Dist. 3 Commissioner Uribe
407-836-7350

Sheriff's Non-Emergency
407-836-HELP (4357)

Sheriff's Emergency
9-1-1

Crime Line
407-423-TIPS (8477)

Drug Enforcement
407-521-2400

Seniors First
407-292-0177

Find hurricane and COVID-19
resources at
WWW.OCFL.NET

Orange County
Customer Service
3-1-1



CODE COMPLIANCE CORNER: What Is a Violation?

By Inspector Jon C. Martin

Unlike personal opinion, zoning codes are not open to interpretation. They are black and white and apply to everyone equally. Despite this, there are often misconceptions about our code, especially the part that addresses unkempt properties. Many people don't know that the County's lot-cleaning code does not mention shrubbery, edging, trees, etc. The full code states that *"excessive growth of grass, weeds, and brush exceeding 18 inches in height on property... is prohibited"*. As you can see, this was created to address high grass and weeds only, not shrubs growing over windows or grass that needs to be edged. Additionally, properties cannot be cited until the grass and or weeds are 18 inches high. I know, "It'll be three feet before it's cut". We get this a lot, but we can only enforce what the code says not what we wish it says.

Next, let's look at junk and debris. The code says: *"Accumulation of trash, junk, debris, and nonliving plant materials is prohibited."* What is trash, junk, and debris? Very simply, it is anything that does not have a designated intended use outside. The couch is a violation. The bags of trash are violations. The piles of old clothes are violations. The old grill is not a violation unless the bottom has fallen out of it and it is standing on three legs. Dead or fallen tree limbs are violations. Car tires are violations (unless they are still attached to a car).

Over the next few newsletters I will look at other codes and try to provide clarification. Until then I urge each of you to go to the following link and familiarize yourself with the codes of Orange County: library.municode.com/fl/orange_county. Consider these "tools in your toolbox" in your mission to make your community a better, safer place.

APSN Citizen Highlights

Father José Rodríguez has served our community for years and has dedicated his entire life to helping others. He grew up in Azalea Park and is a product of our local community. As the vicar at Iglesia Episcopal Jesús de Nazaret, Padre José provides hunger relief in the community alongside its sister church, Christ the King Episcopal Church. In the wake of Hurricane Maria, his church helped hundreds of families who were displaced. He is a firm believer in partnership and collaboration while advocating for Azalea Park and its residents. Father Rodríguez's work has earned him a spot as a finalist for the *Orlando Sentinel's* Central Floridian of the Year for 2020, and APSN counts itself lucky to have him as a member of our community.

Dear Neighbors,

Spring signifies a new beginning. The light begins to shine brightly once more and plants and flowers begin to bloom. Spring is a time for us to embark on new journeys and begin anew. Just like spring, I know we are heading toward a brighter direction, past these difficult times.

The County has worked hard to offer the vaccinations to the elderly population as well as hospital workers and first responders. On one occasion, I had the honor of working with Chief Fitzgerald and Fire Rescue to help administer over 500 vaccinations to a mature population in Gulf Stream Harbor, ensuring timely vaccinations for this community.

I advocated for additional transportation options to vaccination sites so that those lacking transportation have the same opportunities as others. Now, LYNX will transport registered ACCESS LYNX clients from their residence to a vaccination site and back, providing a crucial service for those in need (www.golynx.com/plan-trip/riding-lynx/access-lynx/).

I encourage everyone to get the vaccine when you are able, in order to protect yourself and your loved ones. We still have a long way to go, but hopefully, just like spring, we can soon begin anew.

Best Regards,



Mayra Uribe, District 3 Commissioner

Email: District3@ocfl.net

Phone: 407.836.7350

Azalea Park Safe Neighborhood Association (ASPN) is a group of volunteer residents that work together to address issues affecting our community. We hold community meetings to come up with common solutions, connect with local law enforcement and discuss the status of projects. Any resident receiving this newsletter lives within our Safe Neighborhood and is encouraged to attend and participate.

What do you get out of living in a Safe Neighborhood?

- Serve your community even while living your busy life.
- Learn the process when something in your neighborhood needs to be fixed.
- Groups get direct control over funds to do community improvements – projects are initiated by you and your neighbors.
- Receive updates from Sheriff’s Deputies and Code Compliance about matters directly affecting your neighborhood.
- Advocate for your neighborhood to Orange County Staff.

You can reach the Orange County Neighborhood Services Division at [407-836-5606](tel:407-836-5606) or OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net to inquire about the grants and services available through the division.

If you have specific questions about the Orange County Safe Neighborhoods Program, please contact Allison M. Rice at [407- 836-5621](tel:407-836-5621) or Allison.Rice@ocfl.net.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO. 1792