

Jacaranda West HOA #1

Spring Presidents Message

Hello to all association members. As I sit here at home composing this message it is a wonderful spring day in the neighborhood. We have “survived” another brutal southwest Florida winter and spring (and the oak pollen) is in the air. A couple of items to touch on.

With the change of season comes some changes in the habits of our local wildlife. Alligator mating season is upon us. Recently, a 8 ½ foot alligator was seen crossing Jacaranda Blvd in the direction of the canal. Local authorities relocated the animal to a more suitable location. Please remember that when the alligators are in season, their main objective is to mate with a bull. Should you encounter one, give it a wide berth and report the location to animal control. Also, be especially careful with pets. I have been told that dogs smell like bacon to an alligator. The larger birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, and ospreys are quite capable of taking smaller pets as a food source too. An abundance of smaller animals such as squirrels, rabbits, and mice will draw both coyotes and bobcats into our neighborhood. For the sake of our pets, please do not leave pet loose or unattended for even short periods. One way to avoid issues with smaller animals is if you have fruit trees be sure to remove the fruit as it is a food source and does attract mice and rats.

Another change that spring brings is the beginning of our rainy season. Those of us who are full time residents know that beginning about late march our afternoon thunderstorms are a constant fact of life in Florida. They bring much needed rain to us and our lawns. The rains help us maintain our lawns, but they also help any weed issues in lawns to flourish. If you have a lawn service, now is the time to “weed out” the weeds to insure a good-looking lawn for the summer. On the topic of lawns, now is also the time to repair any damage or bare spots. We still have several areas in our association where damage from Hurricane Irma is still in need of repair. Spring is the best time to spread some seed and fertilizer on those areas. Also, please take time to trim and cut any trees or hedges that need it. While Hurricane season does not officially start until May 1st, proactive trimming of trees and shrubs can help avoid damage to them during the season and avoid a large cleanup.

Spring also brings the beginnings of the annual migrations of wildlife back up north. Butterflies, birds, and other species are all packing up and preparing for the trip. Our seasonal residents are also beginning to make their plans for the northern migration. As you make your preparations here are a few items to consider:

1. Most important is to please insure that Sunstate Management Group has an up to date address, phone, and if applicable current e-mail address for you. If an emergency or issue should arise with your property accurate information will be

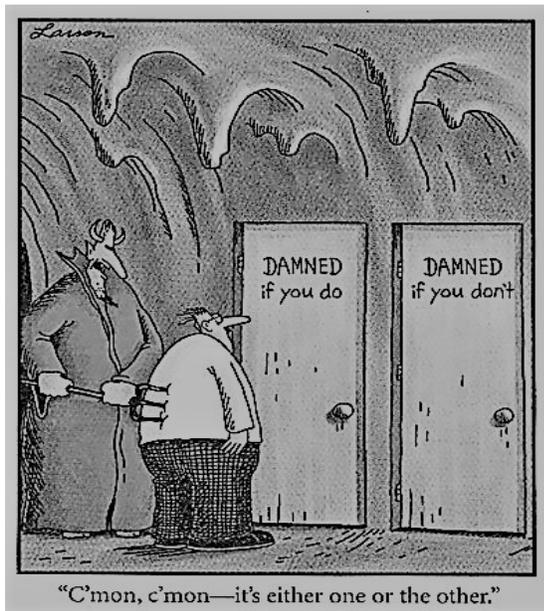
essential to contact you. With our upcoming Amendments vote you will be receiving proxy material. It is important that you receive and return these materials for voting on the amendments. An address update form is attached for your convenience.

2. Make sure that FPL, Sarasota Water and Sewer and your service contractors know your address and how to contact you. It might be a good idea to have one of your full time resident neighbors as a contact also and be a set of eyes for you to ensure that pools are being cleaned and lawns being maintained.

3. Before you leave, take the time to look over your property for any issues that need attention. Look at areas that have not received any sun for mold growth or algae. You may also want to take a few moments to wash down the mail box. Be sure to properly store all porch or pool deck furniture and don't forget to put the barbeque grill away.

4. Finally, be sure to put your hurricane shutters up unless you have planned to have them put up for you if a storm will impact our area.

And now a few words on compliance.



Lately there has been a lot of “energy” being expended when compliance issues are brought forward.

Some homeowners say that the association is being lax on compliance and ignoring issues.

Those who have recently received compliance notifications are saying “they are at it again”.

We cannot please everyone.

The compliance letters mailed to property owners are required by Florida Statute to contain specific items. This is for the property owner's protection. Our compliance letters meet these requirements. The association tries to strike a balance of being friendly and firm in these letters.

No one likes to be told that their property is not in compliance with the covenants and restrictions, its kind of like being told your baby needs a diaper change and is ugly too.

If you receive a compliance letter, it is important to reply to it. Doing nothing will not make the issue go away.

If you feel that the letter is in error or you have already corrected the issue, a call to Sunstate Management Group will help rectify the issue. Research the association documents regarding compliance issues. Most of the time the issue can be corrected by an action plan to correct the problem.

I would like to close with two success stories in our association.

I am pleased to announce that the property at 1081 North Cypress has been sold and is now owned by the Fannie Mae corporation. Fannie Mae has a local representative who will maintain the property until a new owner is found for the property. Many of you know the "checkered" history of this property. I would like to thank all our association members who worked with management and the association to resolve this issue.

Secondly, a long-standing compliance issue was recently resolved. All it took was a short meeting between the two neighbors. The issue was stalled in the compliance system for about two years. When the association management went out to take some pictures of the offending area, the homeowner was asked if they would discuss the issue with their neighbor. Both homeowners talked the issue out and reached an acceptable resolution.

This is the example that we all should strive for, working with each other to resolve issues for the good of our community and association.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at:

president@myjacarandawest.com

Have a great spring and remember that this months board of directors meeting is March 22nd at 6pm at the Jacaranda West Country Club.

Jack Jackowski

President Jacaranda West HOA