

Jacaranda West HOA #1
Summer Presidents Message



SEASON'S GREETINGS

As May begins to pass and June arrives, so does the second season of the year. The 2018 Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st but as those of us who are year-round residents know a tropical storm can arrive anytime. Let's talk about what we need to do to prepare for this year's season.

Preparation is the key for any homeowner in Florida during Hurricane season. Right now, we as a community should be preparing. So, what do we need to do?

1. Prepare your property. This means trimming shrubs, trees, and bushes of dead branches. During a Hurricane the wind can turn palm fronds and tree limbs into deadly and destructive projectiles that can and will break windows and cause damage to homes. Have a place prepared to store lawn furniture, decorations, pool equipment, flower pots and

planters, trash receptacles and anything that could blow away and cause damage. Have your storm shutters and whatever you use to secure them with in an accessible location. You may want to practice installing one or two just to remember how to use them. If you have a portable backup generator, get it out and test run it monthly. Always run the generator outside of your house or garage, never inside.

2. Prepare your supplies. Now is the time to purchase and replace your non-perishable supplies such as water, canned and dry goods, and emergency supplies such as batteries, tarps, ropes, tarps, and other items that may be needed during and after a storm. Remember, as a community it may be up to 48 hours after the storm has passed before any organized assistance may be available.

3. Prepare you and your family. This may be the most important preparation to make. Have a plan to follow in case the family gets separated. Where to meet, what to bring, and how to contact each other. If you decide to evacuate, make that decision early enough to get to where you will go to well before the storm hits. Organize your important documents and medical information you would need to take with you in the event of an evacuation. Also let someone, perhaps a neighbor or in our associations case, a member of the board or Sunstate know that you are evacuating and leave a contact point in case of an emergency with your home. If you have pets, be sure to know the requirements for taking them with you to a shelter.

These are just a few considerations. Sunstate management has prepared a comprehensive checklist for leaving your home. It will be posted on the website or can be obtained from Sunstate.

More detailed information on Hurricane checklists and preparedness can be found at:

https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIp83rrIKG2wIVkojCh1rZAgNAAAYAAEglGgfD_BwE

Detailed information on pet preparedness can be found at:

<https://www.humane.org/services/preparing-your-pet-for-hurricane-season/>

I hope that this information will be helpful to all our association members.

Now for my next act: Bugs, Vermin, Speeders, and Letters.

Bugs: Along with Hurricane season we also have Midge bug swarms and of course our own Florida favorite the Love bugs. Best thing I can say about the Love bugs is they only last about 4 weeks and at the time of this writing were in the second week. Be sure to wash the little critters off the car as they will ruin the paint if you don't. Midge bugs swarm near water but they don't bite. They are small enough to be inhaled so try to stay away from the swarms. Again, it's just a matter of time till they go away. We have a small article on the MyJacardaWest.com home page about the Midge Bugs'

Vermin: Vermin have made the hit parade lately. I have received letters and been informed of mouse and rat problems. These lovely little critters are indeed a nuisance. One of the easiest ways to get rid of them is to remove the food source. If you have fruit trees or plants that produce seeds, remove the food supply as it hits the ground. Also take away any undergrowth that allows them to nest in. Finally make sure that all garbage and trash is put in a trash can with a lid. Rats, mice, raccoons, and other critters need a food supply. Remove the food and a good deal of the problem will leave also. If the problem persists, let me or Sunstate know, and we will have our pest control folks come out to bait traps for a final solution.

This month we have the Traffic Committee's May report posted on the web page. Norma has provided us with some thoughts about traffic, walkers, and speed limits. Take a few minutes to read it. One thing to remember, our communities speed limit is 20mph. Echoing Norma's thoughts, we have older association members and young families that live in our community. Let's show respect for all and give them a safe place to walk.

Letters: Our association management sends compliance letters. We try to make them as friendly as possible but because of state law some items of

information are required to be in them and that can make them seem not so “friendly”. The association also sends out some “formal” (read that “not so friendly”) letters when a compliance issue has not been addressed for some time. These letters go to the property owner, the person(s) whose name is on the deed. If an association member is using the property as a rental please remember that the association member (landlord) will get any compliance letters, not the tenant. Also, it is the association members (landlord) responsibility to correct any compliance issues or face sanctions by the association. If you rent your property, our covenants require you to provide the association with a copy of the lease. This allows association management to understand who is responsible to take care of the property. Current contact information is essential to avoid any unnecessary compliance issues between the association and property owners.

In closing I wish all fellow association members a wonderful summer. Please take the time to update your contact information just in case we have any “visitors” this Hurricane season. Also remember that we will be meeting at the Jacaranda Woodmere Library at 10 am on May 31st for our monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Jack Jackowski

President, Jacaranda West HOA#1

