

Presidents Message

Spring 2019

Fellow Association Members

As I am composing this message, the calendar tells me that spring is just two days away. Our grey overcast sky and cool temperatures this morning makes me think otherwise but time and nature move forward. With the change of season marks the beginning of the end of the "season" and our seasonal residents begin to prepare to migrate back north. For those of you who will be leaving, now is the time to get the house ready. Time to clean out gutters, wash down the house, lanai, mailbox, and anything else that may have attracted mold and dirt. Also, check to make sure your contact information is up to date with association management. In the event of an emergency (like a hurricane) this information is essential. If you need to update or verify information, contact, Sarah, Lindsey, or Michelle at Sunstate Management at 941-870-4920.

Spring also brings lots of new growth in yards and property. If your leaving, make sure that you have planned for taking care of the yard. We are also entering the spring mating season for much of the Florida wildlife specifically coyotes and alligators. Should you encounter any of these animals give them a wide berth and do not feed them. Should you have small pets, do not leave them unattended outside.

Town Hall Meeting

On March 14th the association had a Town Hall meeting at the Jacaranda Country Club. We had 30 association members attend. I had expected a larger turnout for this event. The association may want to rethink this type of meeting and perhaps do an online meeting the next time. Perhaps an online Townhall would allow for greater participation and be more cost effective.

Our guest speaker was Sarasota County Commissioner Charles Hines. He spoke for approximately one hour taking questions from those present on various topics. Items covered were:

The opening of the "Cool Today" Sports complex that will be the Spring Home of the Atlanta Braves.

Increasing Development along Jacaranda Blvd and what the county is doing to insure it is done in a responsible manner.

Speed issues along Jacaranda Blvd and county wide. The use of signage and other speed limit devices and the use of law enforcement to control speed.

The River Road improvement and the Pinebrook Extension to Honore Ave.

Sidewalks and streetlights along Jacaranda Blvd to Center Rd.

Water quality including water runoff to retention ponds, to Alligator Creek and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico. The recent red tide bloom was also discussed.

After the Commissioner left, the meeting was open to discussion by association members.

The status of our retention ponds was discussed. The ponds are aging, and we are facing some issues. Do they need to be dredged or is there some other workable solution? What do we need to do to control vegetation? It was also noted that as a best practice, there should be no spraying or short mowing of vegetation within 10 feet of any shoreline.

There was also a discussion about the problem property on Flametree Dr. That property has been cleaned up to the best condition that the association can legally do. The association is now in the process of recovering the costs incurred for the cleanup from the owner of the property. We continue to work on several other "challenging properties" within the association.

Two safety issues were discussed. The first one was continued adherence to our posted speed limits. This is important now since the time change and our early morning walkers are walking in darkness a little longer. Secondly there has been an uptick in solicitations on the association property. The most recent was from a company selling storm windows. I spoke with the individual who was conducting a window survey which had a lanyard ID tag with the word "PERMIT" on it. I was told that this was issued by the company. I explained that the association did not permit solicitation and requested him to leave the property and escorted him to Jacaranda Blvd.

For the record, our association, Board of Directors, and management do not issue solicitation permits. Should you see an individual going door to door or have one come to your door, please call the Sherriff's department. Obviously if you make an appointment for someone to come to do services at your home then there is no issue however, no door to door solicitation is authorized in our association.

When the association members who were present were asked how their association management and leadership was doing, no one voiced any complaints. We can and will do our best to continue to serve all association members.

Now to drop the bomb



Assessments, Fines, Liens, and Amendments

As of March 14th, the association has 46 members who have not paid the annual assessment. This equals out to a little more than \$19,000.00. As of March 14th, 84 association members have accounts receivable balances (mainly late fees for assessments) totaling almost \$6800.00.

These are funds that we as an association need to operate with. This is money that goes to keeping roads paved and sealed, storm drains in repair, grass cut, palm trees and other trees trimmed, and pays for our management company, and attorney. All things that need to be done in an association our size. We have a responsibility to pay our assessments on time. Not doing so places a burden on those members who fulfill their responsibilities in a timely manner. Not paying assessments on time will result in additional costs and sanctions to the association member.

We also have had issues with unpaid fines. I realize that some items that can be fined for are items like weeds in the grass and dirty mailboxes. These types of issues are normally resolved quickly and usually there is no fine incurred. Other more chronic issues where an association member blatantly refuses to correct an issue with their property have in the past resulted in fines that totaled over \$4000.00. When we made the decision to purchase a home in this association, we took on certain responsibilities for the upkeep of our property and homes. We also agreed to be subject to the rules and regulations of the association.

At the next Board of Directors meeting the association will start discussions on how to word an amendment to article 11.4 to allow for the filing of a lien for foreclosure for unpaid fines once those fines reach an appreciable level of an amount to be determined. If the board approves, this amendment will be voted on at the annual meeting in November.

If you have any questions regarding what was presented here, please contact me at:

President@myjacarandawest.com

You can also contact any Board member and remember that our next Board of Directors meeting is March 28th, 2019 at 9:30am at the Jacaranda West Country Club.

Sincerely

Jack Jackowski

President, Jacaranda West HOA#1