

# SADDLEWOOD

## Owners Association Inc.

Happy Summer, Friends and Neighbors!

**Saddlewood Grant Update:** We are pleased to announce that Saddlewood was selected and awarded a \$5,000 grant by the City of Jacksonville! **THANK YOU** to the residents that assisted with providing ideas for projects, meeting with vendors, gathering quotes and spending countless hours putting together and submitting the grant paperwork. We appreciate how much you care about the community! Every dollar received through a grant helps maintain Saddlewood and add additional features while also keeping our HOA fees down even with the increases in inflation and cost of goods.

### **The grant projects include:**

1. Replacing/adding to the playground equipment.
2. Pressure washing the front wall and common areas at the park.
3. Front island refresh, removing and replacing dead/dying plants/bushes.
4. Replacing and/or moving dead/dying crepe myrtles on the center islands.

### **Essential Summer Reminders**

**Plant for the Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Bees:** It was brought to our attention that we have monarch caterpillars in the neighborhood! When possible, please plant flowers to attract and feed the hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

**Storm / Hurricane Prep:** Take time now to trim trees, fix fences (flying fence slats are no fun in a storm) and prepare your home in the event of a storm or hurricane.

If you find a **storm drain** that needs attention, please call (904) 630-CITY, or go to the City of Jacksonville website and submit a ticket online to report the drain that needs attention.

### **Covenants Reminders**

**Lawn Maintenance:** Please check in frequently with the St. Johns River Water Management to know the frequency permitted to water lawns. If your yard needs attention, look for alternative, low watering solutions. The University of Florida offers great ideas for minimal maintenance ideas that look fantastic, regardless of the time of year. Edging and weed control are essential for maintaining a nice appearance.

**Privacy Fence/ exterior siding maintenance including roofs:** For those of you who have a private fence, it is your responsibility to keep the fence nice looking, structurally sound and free of mold, mildew, algae, etc. The same is true for maintaining the value of your home and the homes in the community by keeping your siding & roofs clean. This can be accomplished by pressure washing or spraying the fence or siding with cleaning agents. This can be difficult for high areas of the house but usually lasts a few years and does less damage to the siding. Though you may need to hire someone, spraying your roof with a cleaning agent helps eliminate the black

streaks on your roof which may even extend the life of the roofing material.

**Parking on the lawn or in vacant lots:** There has been an increase in cars parking on lawns for extended periods of time, including overnight. We understand if you are washing your car and want to water the lawn at the same time or are moving furniture in or out and the shorter distance is helpful to the move, but regular parking on the grass, including in vacant lots, is not permitted.

**Slow Down:** We've received an increased number of complaints about speeding and reckless driving, both **cars** and **golf carts** in the community. The posted speed limit is 30 mph, but if there are walkers, runners, dog walkers, bikers, ducks, please slow down even more. We've had several close calls recently including ducks that have been hit on the parkway. Please go slow and allow residents and our wildlife to enjoy the outdoors without having to dodge traffic.

As a reminder, if you see someone speeding or a golf cart operated by minors or driving erratically, please call JSO at 904-630-0500 and report it immediately so they can respond.

**Homeless or Non-Residents in the Park:** We've received complaints related to seeing non-residents and homeless sleeping in the park. If you see anyone in the park that does not belong, and is doing damage, please call JSO immediately at 904-630-0500. They will respond and if the person is no longer there, they will remove all belongings, and they will also contact Banning for video to try to identify the person. When reporting to JSO, if you want to remain anonymous, please let them know.

## General News

### **Ad hoc Community Meeting:**

An off-cycle community meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss the following topics, date will be posted on the [www.SaddlewoodJax.com](http://www.SaddlewoodJax.com) website and on the front reader board:

- Traffic Calming - Speed table installation proposal
- Lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25
- Covenant change recommendations
- Playground equipment enhancements using the grant funding
- 2027 grant project ideas
- HOA dues outstanding
- Past due violations

**Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Form:** The ARC form is available at [www.SaddlewoodJax.com](http://www.SaddlewoodJax.com). You do not need a username and password to access the form; the form is available on the front page of the website. It is important to remember that any modifications to your property must be submitted to the Architectural Review Committee for approval prior to work being done. Just because your neighbor had work completed that you would like to duplicate does not mean you are exempt from submitting an ARC form.

**Violation Process:** We continue to receive questions related to the compliance process and how long it takes to send violations over to the attorney. Below is an example of how the process works. Once a violation is submitted to Banning and confirmed as such, a letter is sent out. Yes, a physical letter is required by the Code. It's the law. Usually, a letter is all it takes to rectify a situation. We really do understand that things

sometimes happen and life can get in the way and we quickly get behind. No big deal. But when residents ignore repeated requests, it gets difficult and expensive and a long, arduous and expensive process kicks off. These costs are shared by **all** homeowners through the annual dues.

So, we are asking, please open your paper mail. Please open your emails. Please check in on the [www.SaddlewoodJax.com](http://www.SaddlewoodJax.com) website and read our governing documents. Ask questions if you aren't sure of the rules. Please take care of your house and your yard. Let us work together to resolve these minor issues before they become big issues. This includes everyone - renters as well as homeowners.

Please feel free to reach out to the Board and the Banning Management Team. We are always ready and willing to assist you with issues or questions you may have.

**On a side note:** We never single anyone out with violation letters. If you got one and your neighbor didn't, then we may not have seen their violation or the violation didn't occur during the drive through. Banning drives through regularly and we are all volunteers on the board, and we do the best we can. If you would like to let us know of a violation, please email Banning Management so they can review. Thank you to everyone following HOA bylaws. We personally love living in such a nice neighborhood!

### Neighborly Common Courtesy

**Be aware of the noise coming from your home** which could carry throughout the neighborhood. Be mindful of noise levels to ensure everyone can enjoy their home.

**Slow down when driving through the neighborhood.** You never know who is crossing the street, walking a dog, or maybe someone is just learning how to ride a bike.

**Picking up after our furry four-legged friends.** We've had an increase in resident complaints about having to clean up pet waste from front yards and the common areas, like the park. Please clean up after your pets. Also, with the increased number of residents taking walks, please keep dogs leashed while in public spaces.

**Courtesy is grace, kindness and consideration for others.** Before you call Banning or a Board member to report your neighbor for leaving their trash can out until Saturday, consider walking next door and find out if they are okay. You never know when someone may be going through something and the small kindness of bringing up the trash can from the curb may mean everything to them in that moment.

### General Reminders

**HOA Dues:** Q1, Q2 and Q3 HOA fees are due. If you prefer to pay electronically the link to Truist Bank can be found on the [www.SaddlewoodJax.com](http://www.SaddlewoodJax.com) website in the FAQ section. Your account number is found in the coupon book provided.

**Community Yard Sale:** Start preparing now! The Community Yard Sale is always the first full weekend in November, (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>). Signage and Advertising will be handled by Saddlewood.

### Important Numbers

- To report cars parked in the street, contact JSO at 904-630-0500
- To report potholes in the street, contact 904-630-CITY (2489)
- To report sidewalk cracks or other sidewalk issues, contact 904-630-CITY (2489)
- For noise complaints contact JSO at 904-630-0500
- Banning Management 904-730-7071
- For all emergencies, please dial 911

If you would like a copy of the Covenants and Restrictions for Saddlewood please email [Banning@BanMgtInc.com](mailto:Banning@BanMgtInc.com) to request a digital copy or access directly on the Saddlewood website, [www.SaddlewoodJax.com](http://www.SaddlewoodJax.com) .

**Thank you to all residents for working with us, your Board of Directors and Management, to keep Saddlewood a safe and pleasant place to live!**