

NEWS & NOTES



EMAIL COMMUNICATION

We have a new way of communicating between meetings to Homeowners...**CONSTANT CONTACT!** This wonderful email service allows the Board and Weststar MGMT to email out quick reminders, Newsletters, and updates. Besides being "green", this service is a great way to keep homeowners connected to our HOA.

Emails will come from Sorrel Ranch HOA with Scott's email in the sender box. If you are not receiving this information, Please check your spam folder and email Scott Dube (scott@weststarmanagement.com) to make sure we have your correct email address.

Calendar

HOA MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2013:

- February 21st 6:30 pm at Tallyn's Reach Library
- April 25th 6:30 pm at Tallyn's Reach Library
- June 20th
- August 15th
- October 17th - Annual Meeting and Election

Locations and changes will be included in future newsletter and e-blasts.

2013 HOA Committees

WE NEED YOU!

Several openings exist on our various committees. Be a part of the Sorrel Ranch HOA and help by joining any of our committees.

- **Landscaping:** Deals with common area landscaping - trees, shrubs, mulch beds, snow removal, grass, plants, holiday lights, monuments, fencing, retention ponds etc.
- **Community Enhancement (CEC):** Deals with homeowner's lot issues, general violations, helping to ensure that homeowners follow the rules and regulations.
- **Design Review Committee:** Deals with all of the design guidelines for homeowners that want to add a deck, change a fence or other landscaping within their yard. All forms, for DRC can be found on the Weststar website.
- **Social:** Plans community events, social groups and the annual garage sale.



TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Sorrel Ranch Governing Documents Change Task Force has been working hard in 2013. We now have 247 signatures! With only 20 signatures left we should have this change over completed by mid March. Thank you to everyone for your participation!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

by Matt Morroni

❖ The crime rate is increasing in 80016 and the surrounding areas. Our best defense in keeping Sorrel Ranch safe is by keeping aware of our surroundings and report any suspicious activity to Aurora police department (APD) immediately. APD has found investigations to be more effective when the reports are immediate. The following number is the non-emergency dispatch number for the APD. (303)-627-3100. Keep this number readily available such as on your fridge, or on your phone.

❖ APD issues a report by e-mail with crime stats and suggestions in and around 80016 and it is recommended that each household sign up for this report. For more information on receiving this report, please contact our PAR officer (James Salazar jsalazar@auroragov.org) or Scott Dube. Keep in mind that it may take a few weeks for you to start receiving the report.

❖ A recent string of vehicle break-ins has occurred in and around Sorrel Ranch. When possible, park your vehicles in the garage or on the driveway. Ensure that you don't leave any valuables in the vehicle and always lock the doors. Remind your visitors to do the same.

❖ Theft from open garages is also increasing. Always leave your garage door closed when unattended. Double check that the door closes before leaving and again at night.

❖ Potential criminals are actively profiling our neighborhood through door-to-door sales. It is illegal to sell door-to-door in Aurora without a license and 99% of the salespeople do not have it. If you spot these salespeople, report them to the dispatch number above immediately.

Neighborhood Watch: Citizen led group which reports criminal activity within the neighborhood to the homeowners. To get more information on the South East Aurora Neighborhood Watch go to www.southeastaurora-neighborhoodwatch.org/Welcome.html. If you would like to join the South East Aurora Neighborhood Watch Please contact Scott Dube at scott@weststarmanagement.com.

DO'S and DONT'S

Please remember that trash cans should not be put out any sooner than 5 pm on the evening prior to pickup on Wednesdays. Reusable containers should be put away (out of view) the same day of pickup. No garbage or recycling receptacles may be stored in view of the road or other neighbors. All containers, including recycling, must be sealed to prevent spillage from wind or other sources. Trash Removal Contractor is Haul-a-way 303-683-8887, the recycling schedule can be found online at: www.weststarmanagement.com

Please keep your dogs on a leash at all times when walking and please remember to pick up after them. There are conveniently located dog stations throughout the common areas.

SPRING CLEANING

by Pat Colburn

Exterior Repainting

Spring will be approaching soon and I know some of you are preparing to have your home repainted. As a reminder, please keep in mind the following:

Approval by the DRC is NOT required if you are repainting using the original colors.

Changing paint color will require that you:

1. Submit an ARC form with color change request and examples to: scott@weststarmanagement.com
2. Keep in mind that home colors must be selected from your builder pallet i.e. Engel, Standard Pacific, Richmond. These colors can be matched by any paint company but be sure they are a match.
3. If changing your house colors, do not choose colors that match your neighbor's on either side or across. Paint should be a flat, low gloss type. Choose a contrasting trim and body color.

We are currently developing a web based document that will list all of the color codes according to the builder. The codes will feature a sample color chip as well as define "body", "trim" etc. We are hoping this will be available to you soon. If you live in Standard Pacific we do have those colors on the website at: (www.southeast-aurora.com/sr/colors.html) ARC forms as well as the Sorrel Ranch Design Guidelines and

Rules and Regulations are on www.weststarmanagement.com.

Fence Staining

Just a reminder that if you are planning to stain the solid fencing around your home, the fence may be stained with a semitransparent stain such as the following and prior approval is NOT required:

1. Behr's: Cedar Natural tone 501
2. Olympic: Maximum's Cedar Natural tone 716
3. Penofin: Western Red Cedar
4. Clear Coat Stain

Again, you can use any manufacturer you wish as long as the stain matches one of the above mentioned colors. No exceptions. No paint, or solid or opaque stains may be used.

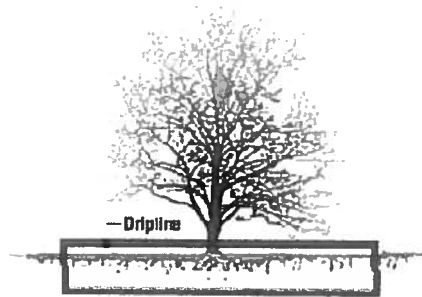
Tip:

A good power wash prior to your new stain application can remove previous stains and give you a clean surface to apply your new stain. It will last longer and look much better with the proper prep work.

WINTER TREE WATERING GUIDELINES FOR DENVER by Mark Seldon

Denver's tree canopy provides many benefits to our urban environment. Many of the trees in the city are already under stress from last year's dry winter and this year's hot, dry summer and will need extra care this year to survive. Previously, trees have been watered when sprinklers were watering the surrounding grass. This year, with lawn irrigation stopping October 1, trees must be watered by hand or with a deep root feeder or soaker hose. You may water trees using these methods on any day after October 1st. Periods of drought are common on Colorado's Front Range. This area is naturally a semi-arid, short grass prairie that would have few trees without irrigation.

Growing trees here is difficult in wet years let alone in drought years. Drought makes growing healthy trees in this region all the more challenging and reinforces the value of a majestic shade tree. Properly placed and maintained trees are an asset to the environment and to our community. Root systems can spread 2-3 times wider than the height of the tree. Most of the tree's absorbing roots are in the top 12 inches of the soil. Water should be applied within the drip line (see below). Water deeply and slowly, moistening the critical root zone to a depth of 12 inches. Methods for watering include a deep root fork or needle, soaker hose or by hand with a soft-spray wand. If using the deep root fork or needle, insert the device into the soil NO DEEPER than 8 inches.



❖ Water deeply and slowly. Apply water so it moistens the critical root zone to a depth of twelve inches. Methods for watering include a deep root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under drip line. If a deep root fork or needle is used, insert the device no deeper than eight inches into the soil.

❖ How much water should I apply? As a general survival rule, apply ten gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree will need twenty gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter.

❖ When should I water? Fall and winter watering, October - March, one to two times per month, depending on weather, temperature and soil conditions. Spring and summer watering, April - September, three times per month, depending on weather and watering restrictions.

❖ Mulch helps conserve soil moisture. Apply organic mulch within the dripline, at a depth of four inches. Leave a six-inch space between the mulch and trunk of trees. Mulch materials may include wood chips, bark, leaves and evergreen needles.

❖ Consistent moisture is needed. Drought stressed trees are more vulnerable to disease and insect infestations and branch dieback. Keep a watchful eye for anything that looks out of the ordinary.