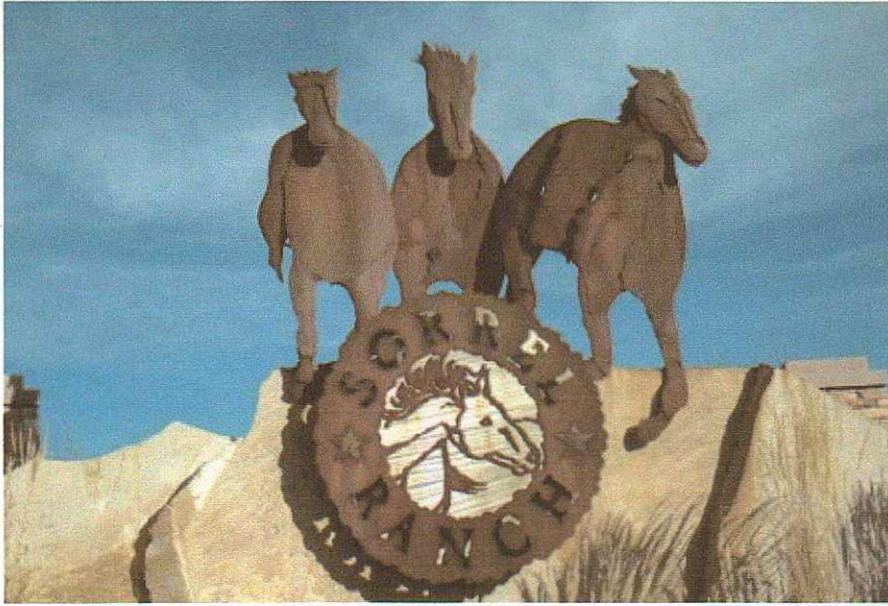




**SORREL RANCH HOA NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER, 2013**

SORREL RANCH HOA ANNUAL MEETING

The Sorrel Ranch HOA Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 17th, at Tallyn's Reach Library. Check in begins at 6:30 PM. This is our annual meeting and several items are on the agenda including:

*Two board positions will be up for election. If interested in applying, please e-mail Scott at Scott@weststarmanagement.com. Be prepared to introduce yourself and give a brief statement as to your background and reasons for applying.

*The 2014 budget will be ratified.

*Our Design Guidelines and Rules and Regulations have been amended to include specific guidance on submitting architectural requests for painting and a revision has been added that allows colored stamped concrete pathways. The Rules and Regulations have been edited to be clearer and more specific with recommendations on how we can maintain the appearance of our community.

*A new committee is being recommended that will combine the current CEC with the Design Review Committee and will be called The Community Review Committee. Highly motivated volunteers will be sought to serve on this new committee.

From the Community Review Committee

Many homeowners are looking into solar panels as a way to conserve energy and keep down costs. Several vendors are going around the neighborhood. Please remember that a request must be submitted through Weststar for review by the Community Review Committee. By law, the HOA cannot deny requests, but we do require that the design and installation be reviewed to make sure that it will not detract from the neighborhood and that the installation of the panels are professionally done as an integral part of the roof. Some vendors will send the request with the appropriate documentation directly to the HOA but it's a good idea to review that submission and insure it is what you have agreed to.

New Landscaping Projects For 2014

The Landscape Committee did a great job this year and after a couple walk throughs with our landscape company, Keesen, we have some new projects to do.

With all the rain we had this year, there are a couple of areas with drainage issues we need to address. Several planting beds along Aurora Parkway and along Alexander need to be modified for better drainage and to keep our mulch from washing away. Keesen will install cobble and French drains in these beds which will help remedy water problems in surrounding areas and help divert the water.

We will also be removing a small strip of sod between the sidewalk and Aurora Parkway and replacing it with cobble. Due to the winter chemicals on the parkway, the grass has been struggles to grown. This will help to save water and maintenance.

We lost many trees this year due to our spring weather and it will take some time to replace all the trees that died. To start the process, Keesen will be planting 15 new trees along Alexander and we have budgeted for more shrubs and mulch for the beds in 2014.

We spent several thousand dollars to repair our sprinkler system this year and it has paid off greatly as we cut our water bill practically in half. A very positive impact on our budget this year and next!

2014 Sorrel Ranch Budget Committee

The Sorrel Ranch Budget Committee did a fantastic job of preparing the 2014 budget for the Board of Directors. Eric Lamond, Jeanine Currier, Joy Jordan and Melissa Zajac spent 2 days debating and discussing proposals from all the committees. They reflected on the budget from 2103 and made some very hard decisions for the upcoming year. The Sorrel Ranch Board of Directors can't thank them enough for their time and efforts!

REMINDERS

The Tollgate Creek Storm Water Detention Basin between StanPac (Fleetwing) and Engle (Steel Dust) is an important part of a flood control plan. Dumping anything but clean water in or along the Basin, even yard waste, is not only extremely unsightly to those who overlook the area - it is also a Federal crime. The authorities, including The City of Aurora and the EPA, have already informed a Board member that they are constantly on the lookout for such activity. If you want to avoid landfill fees and trouble with the law, play it safe - set your yard waste out with your trash (but not too much at one time).

Remember that trash & recycling containers must not appear before 5pm on the day prior to scheduled pickup, and should disappear from view the very same day they are emptied.

Please pick up after your pet. Dog stations are located throughout the community. These dog stations provide disposal bags if you forgot yours. Please use these to help maintain the appearance of our community.

Holiday lights must not be displayed earlier than 45 days prior to the holiday and need to be removed no later than 45 days after.

HOA meetings are in the following months: December, February, April, June, August and October of each year.

Winterizing Tips For Lawn and Garden

Now is the time to put your yard to bed for the winter.

Here are some items that should be done now.

- (1) Shut-off and drain your sprinkler system.
- (2) Aerate your lawn and fertilize
- (3) After the first hard freeze, trim and cut back perennials.
- (4) Plant any spring bulbs (tulips, daffodils, hyacinth and crocus).
- (5) Wrap any young trees with tree wrap up to the bottom branches. This will help moderate the temperature changes and keep the bark from splitting in the winter.
- (6) Water your trees and shrubs once a month, if we do not receive any significant snowfall. The roots are still growing underground in the winter.

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