

Sorrel Ranch

WINTER, FEBRUARY 2014

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



HOA Meeting Schedule- New Location

The next HOA meeting will be at the Tollgate Crossing Pool Club House, 24625 E. Bellewood Drive, Aurora, CO 80016 on **April 17th at 6:30 pm.**

Subsequent Meetings: **July 17th** - Sorrel Ranch Pool **October 16th** - Tollgate Crossing Pool Clubhouse

Thank you to the 2013 Budget Committee!

The Sorrel Ranch Board of Directors would like to thank Joy Jordan, Eric Lamond, Jeanine Currier and Melissa Zajac for their fantastic job preparing a budget for the board last Fall.

These four homeowners spent two nights where they sat and discussed where they would like to see dues spent in 2014. What a fantastic way to give back to the Sorrel Ranch community! Thank you for your volunteer hours and your endless efforts to work together. BRAVO

Weststar Management Company
Southeast Aurora - Neighborhood Watch
Southeast Aurora Businesses and Services

Sorrel Ranch Board of Directors and Contact Information

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE	ADDRESS
Reese Van Allen	President	reesevanallen@yahoo.com	720-612-7614	
Mark Selden	Vice President; liaison to Landscape Committee	masnuffy@aol.com		
Matt Morroni	Treasurer; Neighborhood Watch	morro945@ regis.edu	303-565-7157	
Stu Jordan	Secretary; liaison to Community Enhancement Committee	stuj635@hotmail.com	303-677-1611	
Mick Walker	Liaison to Design Review Committee	mwalker@twiglaw.com	720-308-8691	5600 S. Catawba Way, Aurora, CO 80016

Reminders

Trash & recycling containers should not appear before 5pm on the day prior to scheduled pickup, and should disappear from view the very same day they are emptied. With everyone's help, Sorrel Ranch will remain a great-looking neighborhood to live in.

The Tollgate Creek Storm Water Detention Basin between StanPac (Fleetwing) and Engle (Steel Dust) and the bridge area at the end of Alexander 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.

All holiday lights and decorations should be taken down by February 14th, 2014.

SR Landscape Improvements

New landscape projects are planned for this spring. Last year, the HOA spent about \$20,000 on sprinkler repairs that were urgently needed. As a result, the HOA saved \$50,000 in water bills. With the money that was saved, the board agreed to spend some of the savings on new landscaping along Alexander. The current planting beds are in bad shape and need to be revitalized. The landscape committee met with Keesen and came up with a plan to add new plants, shrubs and grasses to the existing beds. There will be 15 new trees planted along Alexander and new mulch added as well. Look for these improvements this coming spring.

You may have noticed some new landscaping projects that were completed this Fall. Grass was removed from a section along Aurora Parkway and cobble was installed. This particular strip was very difficult to maintain and required a lot of water. There were also some drainage issues that were addressed along Aurora Parkway by Engle. Along Alexander east of Degualle, cobble and French drains were installed to remedy drainage issues in backyards and prevent some of the mulch beds from washing out after rainstorms.

Exterior Painting

As winter weather begins to wane and warmer weather begins, many homeowners will be in the process of repainting their homes. If you are planning to change any color or color combination to the exterior of your home, please be aware that you must submit a design review application to Scott@weststarmanagement.com for review by the Sorrel Ranch Design Review Committee. This form can be printed from the weststarmanagement.com website. Repainting cannot begin until the homeowner has been notified that the project, as proposed, has been approved by the DRC.

OOPS!

Most of us are busy with jobs, families and just day to day living. Often we forget to bring our trash can in on trash day or we leave bikes, hoses, holiday decorations out beyond the time designated by the SR HOA. Most of the time this is a onetime occurrence. The Sorrel Ranch HOA Board of Directors has come up with a better way to let someone know about these minor issues. For the next couple of months, there will be a trial process to remind homeowners about these types of issues. It will be in the form of an e-mail, phone call or an "OOPS letter" from one of the board members. The idea behind this is to provide a more positive method of making homeowners aware of minor HOA violations.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch is a 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.southestauroa-neighborhoodwatch.org/Welcome.html. If you would like to join the South East Aurora Neighborhood Watch please contact Scott Dube at scott@weststarmanagement.com.

Volunteer Today!

The Design Review, the Community Enhancement and the Landscaping committees have openings for volunteers.

Landscaping: Monitors the maintenance of Sorrel Ranch common areas to include watering, fertilization, snow removal, retention ponds, irrigation issues and other items that are related to maintaining all of our common grounds. Each year the committee plans and submits the landscape plan for the next year which includes adding trees, mulch and shrubs.

Design Review: Reviews all homeowner requests for exterior modifications to include repainting, decks, landscape changes, patios, solar panels etc.

Community Enhancement: The mission is to make recommendations to the Board of Directors (the "Board") that will preserve, protect and enhance the aesthetic, architectural and economic value of the homes in Sorrel Ranch HOA, through a consistent and fair application of the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) and the Rules and Regulations. Contact Scott at scott@weststarmanagement.com.

There Is No Poop Fairy

Like the Loch Ness Monster or Big Foot, the fabled poop fairy has been the stuff of legend. Flying undetected in parks, neighborhoods and school yards, she was said to follow close behind dogs and their owners---picking up what the dog left behind, before flying off to the next canine creation. A widespread belief that she existed seemed to reassure some that cleaning up after one's dog was sort of.....optional.

However in response to a growing number of poop piles and home owner complaints, the Sorrel Ranch HOA has partnered with the Aurora Animal Control office to bring you this public service announcement: ***There is no poop fairy. Please cleanup after your dog. (from animalcontrol.jeffco.us)***

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time starts March 9th this year and it's always a sign that spring is just around the corner. Clocks "spring forward" at midnight on the 9th. It's also a good idea to change the batteries in your smoke alarms

Your Ideas Are Needed

In order to continue having a relevant and interesting newsletter, we need your ideas, articles and anything you think would add to our newsletter such as nearby community information for example, the Southlands movie theatre has been recently remodeled and will soon be opening as a dinner theatre. Please submit to Pat Colburn at patcolburn5@hotmail.com.

The Hummers are coming!

That's right, by mid April several varieties of humming birds will be making their long migration north from wintering in Mexico and South America. While some will head to the mountains to nest, others will stay right here on the front range and foot hills.



They will be hungry and looking for food. Hanging a nectar feeder will bring them right up to your windows or porch. Homemade nectar is best!

The recipe: 1 parts sugar to 4 parts water. Dissolve sugar completely in warmed water, add to feeder and you're good to go! No food coloring needed to have a successful feeder. To assure regular visitors, the nectar should be changed and the feeder cleaned weekly. Hummers are fussy about cleanliness and freshness. Plus this reduces the transfer of disease.

Once the hummers have found your feeder -it will be busy all summer long. Especially midsummer when the Rufous hummingbirds are in town. These feisty little birds are very territorial and will furiously defend their favorite feeder. You will be

amazed by their acrobatic antics and pinpoint maneuverability.

I hope you will join me in welcoming these enchanting little birds to our neighborhood by hanging up your own humming bird feeder. Oh, and keep your camera handy!

Original pictures and commentary by: Joy Jordan, Resident of Sorrel Ranch

