

# Upcoming Meeting Dates

## Board Meeting

### When:

Tues., January 22nd

### Where:

Sierra Canyon School  
11052 Independence  
Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
Tel: 818-882 8121

### Executive Session

5:30 PM

### General Meeting

7:00PM

## AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

**Please call  
818.907.6622  
Ext. 811 in the  
event of an after  
hours emergency.  
You may call after  
5:00 pm or the  
weekends.**

Ross Morgan & Company  
15315 Magnolia Blvd. Ste. 212  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
(818) 907-6622

Community Manager  
Marinel Agbunag 273

Accounts Receivable  
Kelly Check ext. 266  
Eric Mendez ext. 265

Billings  
Josh Spies ext. 209

Escrow  
Esmeralda Quiroz ext. 207



## *Association Notes*

### Happy Holidays from Your Board of Directors

The entire Sorrento Board of Directors wishes you and your family the best of the holiday season. We are looking forward to sharing a peaceful and prosperous New Year with all of our residents and neighbors.

### 2007 a Year of progress and Change

This last year brought many positive changes to our community. The end of the year is the perfect time to look at the progress we made in 2007 and share the Board's vision of change for 2008.

### Ross Morgan

One of the best changes early in 2007 was to replace the previous property management team with Marinel Agbunag. Marinel has done an excellent job. She is responsive to our resident's concerns and gets things done. Marinel learns quickly and helps our residents, committees and the Board of Directors every day.

### Security

With the financial backing of S&S we were able to make several big enhancements to our security systems in the community. Clearly, the biggest change is at the Torino gate. The addition of arms and cameras there has dramatically reduced the number of unauthorized guests in the community. Like anything new, some of the residents have had to adjust to this change and a few have smashed into the arms. The security cameras have allowed the association to recover the repair cost from those residents and guests. The new signs have reduced the confusion of guests being directed to the wrong gate as well.

We have added new stop signs at several key locations recommended by our traffic study to reduce the speeding problem in our community.

We have added security at the pools during the summer and at our gates on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

We added a section of security fence near Browns Canyon to completely enclose our community.

We approved a speed hump on Vercelli Way.

There has been a major change in Ace Security management pledged to a higher standard of customer service.

### Internet

In 2007 we initiated our website [www.sorrentohoa.org](http://www.sorrentohoa.org). The website is a great source of information for all of our residents and visitors. It has proven to be very popular. In March the website was visited 520 times. By June we were averaging over 1,000 visitors a month. The number of visitors to our website has steadily increased to over 2000 in November.

The twin sister to the website is our blog site [sorrentohoa.org/serendipity/](http://sorrentohoa.org/serendipity/). Residents have discussed a broad range of issues facing our neighborhood and given valuable suggestions to the Board and our residents.

We also are growing our e-mail blast list. With this list we can quickly address issues or breaking news to the community, without waiting for our monthly newsletter. To be added to the list, just send your e-mail address to [marinel@rossmorganco.com](mailto:marinel@rossmorganco.com).

### Newsletter

The newsletter took on a new look in 2007. The color scheme and use of our brand is new. More importantly, the content has improved. Every month there are articles important to the HOA. We now have more real content every month than we can fit in the newsletter.

### Committees

We established and enhanced several committees in 2007. Each committee has residents and a Board of Directors liaison. All of the committees are looking for more volunteers, especially from the Meadows and other neighborhoods north of Sorrento Lane.

### Hospitality Committee

Melissa Centeno and her dedicated volunteers started a very active committee in 2007. The summer luau was a huge success, as was the Halloween Spooktacular. The holiday home decoration contest brightened our neighborhood.

The Hospitality Committee also started a Mom's Club and a Book Club. They have an ambitious agenda for 2008.

# NOTES

## Sorrento Board

### President

Pat Pope

### Vice President

David Sobel

### Treasurer

Neil Estrin

### Secretary

Debby Montero

### Member at Large

Gigi McGregor

### Safety within the Community

Please be alert- we have received reports of vandalism and break ins into vehicles parked on the street. Police have been notified to keep an eye out on unusual activity.

### Architectural Submittals

Please be advised that all homeowners are required to submit their architectural plans to the management company prior to any commencement of work. We strongly urge that the reliance of your landscape contractor to submit plans is prohibited. This is in violation of your Architectural Guidelines and CC&R's. If any work begins and your hardscape/ landscape plans have not been approved you will be called to a hearing with the Board of Directors. Non compliance may result in fines being assessed for violation of the CC&R's.

## ASSOCIATION NOTES Contd...

### Architecture and Landscape Committee

Our Vice President, David Sobel and the committee have worked very hard to improve the turn around time on landscaping plans. They worked with M&R and Shappel to brighten and fill in the grounds in the common area, while increasing water conservation. Many acres of slopes changed ownership during the year from S&S to our association. The Landscape Committee insured that the grounds were turned to us with sufficient plants in good shape.

### Finance Committee

During much of the year we did not have a treasurer. The Finance Committee has several volunteers with professional backgrounds. They reviewed our books and are working with our new Treasurer, Neil Estrin, to insure that we keep our operating fund and our reserves solvent. They recommended that the Association put a large portion of the reserves into a CD at Washington Mutual, and the rest of the reserves in a Money Market account. That will help us grow our reserves by several thousand dollars in 2008, and reduce the pressure on the budget for any further dues increases.

### Pool Committee

The Pool Committee worked with Shahla Sadighi at the beginning of the summer to purchase new furniture for the Sorrento pool. They improved the rules, signs, and security at the pools. They also worked hard with the pool and janitorial services to insure everything was cleaned and that we had adequate supplies.

### Security Committee

The efforts of the Security Committee contributed greatly to the Torino gate improvements, and the improvements at Ace Security.

### HOA Meetings

In the past, it seemed like the HOA meetings were held at random times every few months. They started before most residents got home from work. In 2007 we started having monthly meetings at 7:00 PM. In the summer the meetings were held at the pool so more residents could join, hear the news and express their opinions. More people found out at the meetings how easy it was to contact Ross Morgan about issues, instead of waiting for a meeting to work on resolving those issues. This fall we moved the meetings indoors to convenient Sierra Canyon School. Our VP, David Sobel is an administrator at Sierra Canyon. With David's help we have saved the money we were using to rent meeting space at the church.

### Board Members (Past, Present, and Future)

Your residential HOA Board Members all volunteer several hours a week to make Sorrento/Meadows the great place it is to live. Every Board member that served in 2007 was motivated to keep you safe and surrounded by great amenities. Our past president, Glenn Blaser worked very hard to keep the community safe. Before Shahla Sadighi moved to Washington, DC she spent countless hours working on landscaping, pool and our finances. Gigi McGregor and Debby Montero from S&S have helped our community with sage advice and major contributions from the developer. The current resident Board members, Pat Pope, David Sobel, and Neil Estrin spend at least 10 hours each every week doing their best to meet the needs of your community. Four seats on the Board will be up for election this summer. If you feel like you can contribute, consider running for the Board. You can make a difference in 2008.

## 2008

Of course you have received a package from Ross Morgan with the 2008 budget, and the change in the dues. The cover letters with the budget explained the dues increase.

The Board of Directors is working to make the improvements requested by several association members.

### Survey

In early 2008 the Board will be sending out a new survey to see how most residents feel about the many issues facing our community. It will help set the course for the rest of 2008 and beyond.

### Speeding

Depending on the acceptance by the residents on Vercelli Way of the first speed hump on a residential street, the Security Committee plans to increase the number of humps this year in conjunction with our traffic study. The Security Committee will also be working with Ace Security to increase speeding patrols inside our community.

### Security Video

The Security Committee will be upgrading the wiring from the Torino gate and the Sorrento Pool to the Sorrento Guard house. They are upgrading the monitors at both guard houses. They will have to replace some older cameras, and better position all of the existing cameras.

### CERT Training

After any major disaster like an earthquake or an attack, we may be on our own for up to a week. The Security Committee is working with the LAFD to assure that as many Sorrento/Meadows residents as possible receive Community Emergency Response Training so they know what to do in an emergency.

## ASSOCIATION NOTES Contd...

### Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee is planning an event every quarter next year, plus an event tied to our election. We hope as many as possible can join.

### Common Area Grounds

As more homes become occupied S&S will be turning over more slopes to the HOA. At that point the HOA pays for the landscaping, water and maintenance of the slopes.

### Drought

We all may be facing higher water bills and reduced water usage in 2008. Please conserve water and let Marinel know of any common area landscape issues.

### Bad Debt

The United States mortgage crisis has hit our community. Some residents cannot or will not pay their dues. The HOA is very diligent about our collection efforts. Most of our collection procedures are automatic. Still our expenses are not dictated by how many people are paying the dues. The Board is trying to save money where we can and raise revenue where we can to keep up our high standards.

### Committees

Just about every committee in the HOA needs more volunteers. The volunteers are what make our community work so well. If you have a background or an interest in any aspect of our community, look on the committee page of our website: <http://www.sorrentohoa.org/committees.htm> and contact the committee via e-mail. Your reward will be seeing your neighborhood grow and improve.



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## Make a New Year's Resolution: Get Involved in Porter Ranch

By Wendy L. Moore for the PRNC

How would you spend \$50,000? That is the question the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will be tackling at the **Tuesday, January 8, 2008**, 6pm meeting. The PRNC is allocated \$50,000 per year of your tax dollars by the City of Los Angeles to spend in outreach and community improvement projects. Come and help prioritize possible spending ideas which include: solar powered speeding signs, tree planting on Sesnon, playground equipment for Holleigh Bernson Park, welcome to Porter Ranch signs, center median improvements, and stolen car identification devices.

Also in January, you can help make Porter Ranch a better place to live, work and grow by joining the **Go Green Committee** and the Beautification Committee. The Go Green Committee, chaired by Christopher Cooper, will be holding its first meeting on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at the Porter Ranch Library, 11372 Tampa Ave. Help identify the overall committee objectives and specific projects to conserve and recycle in Porter Ranch. Committee members will receive a PRNC reusable shopping bag.

The **Beautification Committee**, chaired by Ron Nagai, will be meeting on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm at the Porter Ranch Library. Items under consideration are tree planting, cleaning up the lot behind Whole Foods and contracting out for sidewalk clean up.

The PRNC meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Shepherd of the Hills Church. Our next meetings are scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. You can find out more at [www.PRNC.org](http://www.PRNC.org) and sign up for email alerts about upcoming events and issues.

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## Take The Green Challenge In Porter Ranch

There has been a lot of talk lately about "Going Green", taking action to conserve energy and reduce carbon emissions, thereby reversing global warming. But is it all talk or has anybody taken any action? The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) challenges all Porter Ranch residents to Go Green. We challenge each household to stop using supermarket provided bags. You can buy reusable shopping bags and bring them with you to the store. The best way to remember them is to keep them in your car or collect them when you make your shopping list.

Stores providing plastic bags are now required to offer reusable bags for sale. They are typically \$1-2. Or if you don't want to actually buy reusable bags, you could bring back the paper bags from your last purchase. Ralphs and Whole Foods will credit you 5 cents for each bag that you reuse.

You can find out more at [www.PRNC.org](http://www.PRNC.org) and sign up for email alerts about upcoming events and issues.

