

2012 Directors

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED



As required by the Sorrento South Property Owners' Bylaws, a nominating committee of three association members (non-directors) has been appointed to find candidates for the Board of Directors. They are John White, Nancy Steves, and Hank Steves.

Would you like to live longer? Studies have shown that adults age 55 and older who volunteered for two or more groups were 44 percent less likely to die over the five-year study period than those who didn't volunteer. Other studies have linked volunteering with reduced rates of illness and chronic pain as well as increased functional ability. What are you waiting for? Give Nancy & Hank (966-9653) or John (918-1498) a call!

Directors serve for two years, attending a board meeting one evening a month at our clubhouse on Dante Circle, adjacent to the golf course. Admit it: you spend far more time watching TV than you'll ever spend at board meetings and, as we said, it's much better for your health. Do yourself and your homeowners' association a favor – call a member of the Nominating Committee before they call you, and say YES.

Sorrento South Property Owners, Inc.
PO Box 152
Nokomis, FL 34274-0152

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS UNDERWAY

The annual meeting of the Sorrento South Property Owners has been scheduled for November 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the hall of Our Savior Lutheran Church on Tamiami Trail. Members will be receiving a mailing with an agenda, 2012 financial information, the budget for 2013, and the nominees for the Board of Directors.

Fall 2012

This is your once-a-year opportunity to ask questions, politely express opinions, meet your

neighbors and newcomers to the community, and learn how your dues money is spent. Directors/officers work on our behalf all year long; don't we owe them a hearing one night out of that year? If nothing else, we can use the occasion to tell them we appreciate their service to our community. **Please put the November 14th date on your calendar.**

PERSONALS

We regret to inform you of the passing on September 11th of **Susan Levy**, 435 Picasso. Our sincere condolences to Dr. Marc Levy and the rest of the family.

Please extend a warm welcome to **Laura and Jason Singer**, who recently purchased the home at 2305 Goya from the estate of Maxine Clemson. We also congratulate **Jimmie Howard** for his smart investment in 108 Cavallini, a home owned until recently by that rascal Fannie Mae. Jimmie owns the golf course property and a home at 202 Cavallini as well. (Maybe he should volunteer for the Board so he can protect his considerable investment in our community!)

COVENANT AMENDMENT UPDATE

If you've been following this saga, you know that the Association has been trying for a year to pass a revised process for amending our covenants. The existing procedure is dated and very cumbersome since it measures property frontage in each of five units rather than the one-vote-per-property standard used in most HOA covenants. Also, the proposal calls for a two-thirds majority to amend covenants, which is also in keeping with most covenant amendment provisions.

Homeowners were given an opportunity in November 2011, January 2012, and June 2012 to vote on this proposal, but too few have taken advantage of the offer. There will be another opportunity to vote at the annual meeting on November 14th, but if you are not sure you will be able to attend and you have not yet voted, please call President Debe Van Pelt (966-6725) so she can schedule a notary and witnesses to come to your house. (All deed owners must sign.) We need to get this process finished so we can move on to the next step, which is to develop and vote on "new" covenants to replace the 1966 ones we "revived." You are only voting at this point on the **amendment** process. Compared to voting in a national election, this is a snap. Let's get 'er done!

Note: If you are a new owner who would like some background on our covenant revival process, we can

share some previous newsletters that explain it in more detail.

CRIME WATCH

To the residents on Cavallini who watched with fascination as patrol cars and a police helicopter showed up recently to apprehend a young man on the run: No crime was committed on your street. The arrest was the result of a 911 call made by someone in a nearby neighborhood who saw the suspect in a truck with a handgun. At the time he was handcuffed, the gun was not on his person or in the truck but did turn up later. It seems that whenever a weapon is reported, police consider it a "felony stop" and use a helicopter to help locate a fleeing suspect.

As recently as this past spring in our newsletter we urged Sorrento South owners to report criminal activity to the police. If someone breaks into your car or truck, even if nothing is taken, the Sarasota County Sheriff's office wants to know about it so a report can be made. This allows them to keep an eye on problem areas. Once a month, the Association gets a

report from the Sheriff's office with a brief description of any crime, the date, and its location so we can warn residents. The most recent incident we were made aware of was a truck parked in a driveway on Murillo that was broken into. Vehicle burglaries, unfortunately, have become fairly common in this area. We offer some advice: 1) Don't leave valuables such as purses, wallets, and fancy electronic devices in your car or truck; 2) Lock the vehicle; and 3) Notify the Sheriff's office if you are the victim of a crime. That number again is 316-1201. (If you see a crime in progress, call 911.)

SMART METERS



Florida Power and Light (FPL) has begun installing "smart meters" in our area. You may have read about them in the newspaper or online. It seems they are somewhat controversial due to concerns about privacy, safety, and cost. Space constraints don't allow us to cover all the pros and cons, but you can research the subject on the Sarasota County website. What we can tell you is that the smart meter is *not* mandatory. The Environmental Protection Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005) requires only that they be offered and installed "upon customer request." FPL is automatically installing the meters without "offering" customers a

choice, so if you don't want that to happen, you can post a "Do Not Install Smart Meter" notice on your current meter and/or call FPL at 1-800-871-5711 to opt out or put installation on hold.

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT NACA EVENT

The Nokomis Area Civic Association will host a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on October 15th to showcase candidates for County Commissioner. One is the incumbent, Christine Robinson, and the other is the person hoping to fill her seat, Jennifer Cohen. Dr. Keith Fitzgerald, candidate for Congress, will speak and other candidates and current elected officials have been invited also. NACA meets at the Nokomis Community Center.

SSPO & SDOA AT ODDS OVER CONTRACT



Marina dock owners were copied on a letter written August 23rd from Sorrento South Property Owners (SSPO) President Debe Van Pelt to Sorrento Dock Owners Association (SDOA) President Jack Riordan. The letter was a friendly

reminder that certain obligations under the contractual agreement between the two organizations had not been met by the SDOA.

Specifically, the obligations include (1) providing SSPO with certain financial information on an annual basis; (2) maintaining a board of directors composed of a minimum of five members, a majority of whom must be Sorrento South property owners as well as dock owners; and to (3) "provide adequate liability insurance for the protection of SDOA and SSPO." SDOA Vice President Denny Korinek met with the SSPO board of directors at their monthly meeting on September 11th to discuss the matter and provide financial information for the last two years. With respect to the composition of the SDOA board, Denny stated that Mike Lechky, a Sorrento East resident and dock owner, has resigned as a director and that a majority of the other five directors are, in fact, Sorrento South residents. Finally, he said the SDOA board has decided that liability insurance for directors/officers is unnecessary.

While the financial information and director clarification from Denny were appreciated, the refusal to maintain liability insurance as called for in provision #5 caused the SSPO board to conclude that clarification of provision #5 is needed from the association attorney.

DUES



In a couple of months, 2013 dues notices will arrive in the mail. We remind you that, regardless of your method of payment, it is each

owner's obligation to complete the information form that is part of the statement. You have the right to opt out of having your phone number published in the directory, and you may prefer not to have your newsletter emailed to you, but a phone number and email address is essential if the Association has to contact you. We have had several instances in which a neighbor reported a problem to us involving an unoccupied home. If we don't have contact information for a homeowner, especially if he or she is out of state, the problem could very well develop into expensive and permanent damage to the person's property.

There are some owners who are delinquent in paying their dues for *this* year. Please be advised that these accounts are being turned over to a collection agency.

VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN!



Just kidding. (That's an old Chicago joke.)

Don't forget to vote on November 6th, or vote early at designated locations the week before. You'll be receiving more information soon from the County. As for relying on the *Herald-Tribune* to help you decide, the *Herald-Tribune* has announced that it will no longer endorse political candidates. However, they have pledged to provide complete information about each candidate and the referendum issues we will be voting on, so don't be intimidated by the length of the sample ballot when it arrives in the mail. Just do your homework and fill out the sample for reference at the polls. (Yes, you can take your "cheat sheet" in with you to speed things up. And no, this newsletter will not be making endorsements either.) **YOUR VOTE COUNTS.**