

## Architectural & Landscaping Update

Since last summers HOA Board elections, the A&L Committee has been busy designing and implementing new management and oversight actions designed to enhance the beauty of your community. The A&L Team is comprised of dedicated homeowners who have given many hours of their personal time to assess, define and implement these improvements. The team consists of AJ Silva, Cathy Serksnas, Nora Bernhard and Phillip Minton.

To improve their effectiveness the team has selected four initial areas of concern to focus on, with identified leaders for each area as:

1. Landscape Performance Management & Improvement Map: Phillip Minton
2. Water Conservation & Irrigation Change Initiative: AJ Silva
3. HOA Beautification Project: Nora Bernhard
4. Landscape Audits: Cathy Serksnas

The team was worked hard to improve our community. Details of each area are summarized below.

### Landscape Performance Management & Audits

During last summer the Landscape Team put together a new process for managing our landscape vendor. Up until that point it wasn't understood what improvements were occurring, how and where new plants were being installed and why cost expenditures for irrigation system replacements kept occurring. The improvement plan resulted in an audit process that focused on five (5) dimensions for scoring. The results have become the color-coded Sorrento Performance Audit Map (below). Although all team members have conducted monthly audits, Cathy Serksnas, has taken the lead in ensuring the audits occur per plan.

The first Performance Audit was conducted in August with subsequent audits occurring each month. After each audit the results are compiled, charted and forwarded to the vendor for review and focus. Given the financial constraints visited upon Sorrento, the Team has designated "Red" and "Yellow" performance zones as primary attention zones for the landscaping company. The landscaping company has responded (you may have noticed the additional personnel and changes to the landscaping in recent months) and is actively working to the new management system. We have since changed the audit duration to a bi-monthly process as improvements take longer than a four-week cycle to see in the winter months.

Should you have any concerns about any common-areas that may need attention, please email Phillip Minton at [PhillMinton@GMail.com](mailto:PhillMinton@GMail.com). It is envisioned that as more "eyes" are focused on the community in a positive and constructive manner further improvements will occur.

### Water Conservation

AJ Silva has taken the lead on exploring alternate means to conserve water and has made several trips to DWP to discuss the available options. California has been experiencing a significant shortfall in accumulated rainwater over the past few years. This in turn has caused our water bills to increase with even further increase to occur in the near future.

Sorrento currently spends approximately \$220K in water and sewer charges per year to keep our associate clean & green. AJ and Phillip have identified alternate irrigation systems that will cut our association water bill by 15 to 25%, if implemented. In the upcoming months you will hear more about this plan, its costs, payback period and projected ROI (return on investment).

### Beautification Project

Nora Bernhard has volunteered to lead the Sorrento-Meadows Beautification Project. Having a penchant for plants, plant selections and the look and feel of what will make our community "pop" Nora has spent many hours reviewing the current landscape from this perspective. Working with local vendors, Nora and Phillip have received several beautification proposals from vendors including artistic drawings from one vendor for proposed improvement plans. By reviewing all proposals and by walking the community Nora and Phillip have developed a proposal design sure to wow all homeowners and guests visiting the association.

Given the current economic situation and the desire to not add new costs to the budget without first removing costs, they have obtained competitive bids that also utilize reusing or transferring existing plants to other locations in the complex, while simultaneously reviewing the annual Sorrento landscaping maintenance contract to remove additional spending within it. The savings from restructuring the annual maintenance contract will more than offset and pay for the improvements from the beautification project, if approved by the HOA Board. The A&L Committee is currently \$36K in the black due principally to better management oversight of the vendor and their associated costs.

Stay tuned for more updates including presentations of the proposed changes.