

Upcoming Meeting Dates

SORRENTO

at Porter Ranch

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2007

Next General

Meeting

February 26, 2007

At Shepherd of the Hills Church

**19700 Rinaldi St. at
6:00 p.m**

Sorrento Residents Share with Your Community

Residents, if there is something you would like to announce to other residents in your community, please contact Michelle Atkinson, matkinson@rossmorganco.com We encourage any public announcements that the community could benefit from.

Ross Morgan & Co, Inc.
11145 Tampa Ave. Suite 17B
Porter Ranch, Ca 91326
(818) 363-0399

Community Manager
Michelle Atkinson ext. 101

Remotes, & Decals
Marinel Agbunag ext. 102

Architectural Questions,
Michelle Atkinson ext. 101

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

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

Billings
Aric Lawrence ext. 209

Escrow

Valentine's Day History

In the 21st century we celebrate February 14th with the exchange of candy and cards. Children give out cute little heart-shaped greetings that proclaim their affection for classmates and teachers. Today's valentine cards are graced with the likes of Scooby Doo, Spider Man, Winnie the Pooh and, of course, Cupid! But in 5th century Rome, where the whole business allegedly began, it was a different story. On February 15th the festival of Lupercalia was celebrated to ensure protection from wolves. The celebration paid homage the gods Faunus and Lupercus, as well as the twin brothers Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome. According to myth, Romulus and Remus were suckled by wolves at a cave on the Palatine Hill, in the city of Rome. The Romans appropriately named this cave the Lupercal, and used it as the center of Lupercalia ceremonies. Young men called Luperci(priests) were reported to have struck people with strips of animal hide. Women accepted the blows because they felt that this whipping would increase their fertility.

In the Roman society a young man's rite of passage was celebrated with this pagan celebration to the god Lupercus. As time went on Lupercalia began to be celebrated with a lottery in which the young men would draw the names of the teenage gals from a box. The lucky, or not so lucky, girl would then be the fellow's sexual partner during the remaining year. Often the lady would receive a gift or a greeting in the name of Juno, a Roman goddess.

Okay, and what about St. Valentine? Although many scholars agree that Lupercalia was moved from Feb. 15th to the 14th and was Christianized by associating it with this St. Valentine character, it is still unclear just who the historical St. Valentine was. One school of thought believes that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Legend has it that through the vehicle of his strong faith he healed the blind daughter of his jailer, and then, before his execution, sent her a farewell note signed "From Your Valentine." Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest, who was jailed for defiance, about the year A.D. 269, during the reign of Claudius the Goth. Emperor Claudius was having trouble recruiting strong young men for his army and believed that marriage was the culprit. He believed it made the men weak. This St. Valentine was said to have performed many secret marriages of young lovers, despite an edict that marriage was illegal. When Claudius first heard about Valentine he tried to convert him to his paganism. In turn Valentine attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity. When his effort failed the poor fellow was stoned and beheaded! Whoever he was, we know he was an actual person because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to a Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. In an effort to do away with the harsh pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would now contain the names of saints. Both the guys and the gals were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. This was not too exciting for many of those Roman men! Now, instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church desired to find a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in the noble St. Valentine.

Although the lottery for women had been banned by the church, the holiday celebrated in mid-February in commemoration to St. Valentine was still practiced. It became a time for the fellows to give the gals that they were fond of messages of love.

The first true valentine card is said to have been sent out in 1415 by Charles, the Duke of Orleans, to his wife. This romantic card was sent from the Tower of London, where Charles was imprisoned, having been captured during the Battle of Agincourt. In 1537, King Henry the Eighth, as it is chronicled, declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day, by Royal Charter.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Interested in learning more about the Porter Ranch community and how you can help?

You may contact the Outreach Committee via e-mail at pamjb@socal.rr.com to learn more about PRNC and to find out how you can become involved.



Home Maintenance Calendar 2007

January

-Clean rain gutters. Leaves and other debris will hamper drainage and might promote rusting and roof damage. Make sure that water flowing from downspouts is draining away from the foundation. Compost the leaves.

-Inspect crawl space after rain for accumulation of water, as well as for indications of water damage on the subfloor and joists beneath bathrooms, kitchen, and laundry. Look for signs of pest or dry-rot damage. Do not block perimeter wall vents to a crawl space in winter.

February

-Using binoculars, inspect roof from the ground (walking on a damp or wet roof can be dangerous), looking for loose, missing, or damaged roofing materials. Repair any damage. If you have access to the underside of the roof, check during a heavy rain for leaks.

-Clean condenser coils or fins beneath or behind the refrigerator according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make certain air flow around the appliance is adequate.

-Trim branches around the roof line to keep squirrels and other pesky animals off the roof. Inspect all vents, repair as needed and remove any debris blocking airflow.

March

-Turn off all water in the house. After an hour, check the water meter. If it has moved, there is a leak somewhere in the plumbing system.

-Check for leaks at valve where water enters the house, at outdoor faucets and at any valves to toilet, bathroom or kitchen sink, bar, etc. Turn each off and on several times to check for leaks. Inspect grout and caulk around sinks, tubs and showers. Repair or replace damaged areas. Inspect water heater for leaks and flush tank. Clean underside of range hood and clean or replace filters.

April

-Replace batteries of smoke, heat and gas detectors.

-Inspect home from bottom to top, looking for damage that occurred over the winter. Prepare a "to do" list of needed repairs.

-Do spring cleanup. Wash walls and windows; clean carpeting, upholstery and window coverings.

-Check doors and windows for proper operation. Lubricate hinges and tighten loose hinge screws. Apply clear wood floor wax to door edges that rub.

May

-Check furnace filter. Clean or replace if necessary. Do furnace or central air-conditioning maintenance recommended by the unit's manufacturer.

-Clean and prepare swimming pool, pond or fountain.

-Repair cracks in driveways, walkways and sidewalks.

-Check that vent screens to attic or crawl space are not damaged. Repair or replace as needed.

-Remove accumulated mineral deposits from shower heads and aerators by soaking them in or scrubbing with white vinegar. (Wear eye protection.)

June

Clean lint from clothes dryer vent, from the dryer drum to where the air is vented outdoors.

-Repair or replace damaged window screens and weatherstripping. Caulk open joints, particularly around windows and doors..

-Repair or replace gates, fence posts, landscape borders, etc.

-Replace worn faucet washers.

-Clean decks, gazebos, fences and patio furniture.

July

-Carefully climb on the roof (provided the roofing materials can be walked on) and inspect it or have a qualified roofer do it for you. Look for damage to shakes, shingles or tiles. Inspect anything that protrudes through the roof for rust, open seams or other damage. Be careful.

-Check exterior walls for cracks, peeling paint or other damage.

-Check operation of attic fans and turbine vents. If attic space is accessible, make certain that attic insulation is not blocking air flow through vents. While in the attic check for worn electrical wiring, water damage, loose ducts, etc.

August

-Clean underside of range hood and clean or replace filters.

-To possibly eliminate water hammer (a banging noise in pipes), shut off the incoming water to your house. Open the highest and lowest faucets, valves, or outdoor faucet, and drain all water from pipes to restore air cushions in the plumbing system.

-Clean condenser coils or fins beneath or behind refrigerator according to manufacturer's instructions. Check to be certain there is adequate airflow around the appliance. Is it time to replace your refrigerator's water filter?

September

-Inspect water heater for leaks and flush tank. Test temperature and pressure relief (TPR) valve according to the manufacturer's instructions.

-Paint the inside of your house if needed. Remove and clean "pop-up" drain plugs.

-Inspect grout and sinks, tubs and showers. Repair or replace damaged areas.

-Clean patio furniture and prepare for winter storage. Protect metal.

October

-Replace batteries of smoke, heat, and gas detectors.

-Insulate outdoor pipes to avoid freeze damage.

-Clean gutters. Leaves and other debris will hamper drainage and may promote rusting. Compost the leaves.

-Inspect and clean the fireplace and flue before lighting your first fire. Hire a professional if needed.

-Stack firewood away from the house.

-Check furnace filter. Clean or replace if necessary.

November

-Inspect crawl space after rain for water accumulation or excessive moisture. Do not block vents to the crawl space in winter.

-Shut off water to washing machine and remove water supply hoses. Check washers. Replace hoses that are damaged, including where fittings are badly corroded. Check the owner's manual for any other maintenance recommendations.

December

-Clean lint from clothes dryer vent, from the dryer drum to where the air is vented outdoors.

-Service clothes dryer, cooktop or stove, dishwasher, trash compactor, countertop appliances, exhaust fans, etc., according to the manufacturers' recommendations.

-Clean underside of range hood and clean or replace filters.

-Disconnect the garage door opener to lubricate hardware.

-Springs on overhead doors should be adjusted by a qualified service technician.



Earthquake Preparedness

- It is very important to be prepared since earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning. There are many precautions to be aware of before and after an earthquake.
- Teach responsible members of your family how to turn off gas, electricity and water at main switches and valves,

Gas: the main shut-off valve is located next to your meter on the inlet pipe. Use a wrench and give it a quarter turn in either direction so that it runs crosswise on the pipe. The line is now closed.

Water: water shut-off valve can be found where water enters the house. Also, the main water shut-off valve is found with a meter in a concrete box in the sidewalk.

Heavy Objects: keep your home earthquake safe by anchoring and securing heavy objects such as: appliances, water heater, mirrors, hanging plants, chandeliers. Shelves, etc.

Survival Kit: a survival kit kept in the home, office and workplace may save your life if there is an earthquake.

The recommended items include:

1. Bottled water, canned or packaged juices
 2. Canned or packaged foods (i.e. soups, puddings, peanuts, raisins, granola bars)
 3. First aid kit (band-aids, antiseptic, aspirin, first aid book, etc.)
 4. Flashlight with extra batteries
 5. Fire extinguisher – abc type
 6. Transistor radio with extra batteries
 7. Non-electric can opener, crescent wrench, whistle, large plastic bags, plastic spoons, paper cups, pre-moistened towelettes, aluminum foil blankets.
 8. Special family needs (medication, elderly and infant needs)
 9. Pet needs (leash, food)
 10. Walking shoes (preferably kept near bed)
- Suggested places to store survival kits are: under bed, closet, behind drapes, garage, trashcan or any place that is cool, dry, and dark.
 - A periodic check of survival kit to ensure freshness is recommended.

NOTES

President's names

President- Glen Blaser
Vice Pres.- Gigi McGregor
Treasurer- Shahla Sadighi
Secretary- Debbie Montero
Member@Large- Pat Pope

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.

Resources to Improve Communities

- (800) 222-6366 – to report abandoned cars
- (800) 252-4613 – to report abandoned shopping carts
- (800) 288-7664 – to report smog odors, dust, smoke and smog for cars, trucks, and buses
- (800) 988-6942 – Hazardous Waste Hotline – to dispose of oil, paints, household chemicals, appliances, batteries
- (800) 524-5323 – Lead Hotline – to find out how to get rid of dangerous lead
- 3-1-1 – to report street lighting problems and numerous other city services at www.lacity.org
- 9-1-1 – Ambulance/Fire/Police
- (800) 773-2489 – Sanitation Hotline – to dispose of mattresses, appliances, metal items, dead animals and bulky items
- (800) 902-4470 – Environmental Health Department – to report unhealthy conditions such as rats, rodents, or bugs
- (800) 996-2489 – Bureau of Street Services - to report illegal dumping, trash in alleys, maintenance of city streets and trees
- (800) 974-9794 – Storm Water Division – to report clogged catch basins
- (888) 452-7381 – L.A. Animal Services – to report animal cruelty, barking dogs, dangerous, sick, injured, or stray animals
- (888) 524-2845 – Building and Safety – neighborhood eyesores
- (213) 808-8636 – Housing Department – problems with multi-family housing
- (818) 374-4688 – East Valley Transportation – traffic signals, red curbs, stop signs
- (818) 756-8784 – West Valley Transportation – traffic signals, red curbs, stop signs
- (818) 832-0633 – Devonshire Police Station for non-emergency calls