

SRCAR At A Glance

February 7, 2006



News from SRCAR

Leadership Change at SRCAR

It is with regret that the Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Director Gary Jackman. Gary Jackman has been serving on the Board since January 2003. The Board of Directors approved Paula Clark, Designated REALTOR® of Prudential Canyon Lake Realty to complete Gary's term on the Board of Directors. Paula has previously served on the Board of Directors for SRCAR as well as with the Lake Elsinore Canyon Lake AOR. Congratulations Paula and welcome back.

Residential Purchase Agreement Class Scheduled

for Friday, February 17, 2006 is SOLD OUT. Look for more information on our calendars for when the next class will be scheduled. Thank you. Due to the tremendous interest in this subject, SRCAR is looking to schedule another class in May. More details to follow..

MLS at SRCAR New Fax/E Number Established

A new fax/e number has been established for the MLS area within SRCAR. Please use it when sending new listings and changes to existing listings within the MLS at SRCAR. This fax/e number will go directly to jennifer@srcar.org within the Association. The new fax number is: 951/572-3721.

This new fax/e number was established to assist members when submitting new listings and changes to existing listings directly to the MLS Department rather than through the central fax at the Association office. We hope that you will take advantage of this new service. Should you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lipscomb at SRCAR at 951/894-2571, ext. 134 or email jennifer@srcar.org. Thank you.

REALTOR® Dues Billing

If you have not paid your 2006 Annual REALTOR® Dues, a late fee of \$25.00 has been added to your bill. Dues with the late fee are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 in order to avoid being terminated as a REALTOR® with SRCAR. Payments received after 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 will be subject to all new application fees (\$75.00 for Local and \$30.00 for the State). Remember, if you choose not to pay for this level of your membership, you will not have access to WINForms and other great REALTOR® Membership Benefits. If you have questions regarding this, please call the Association office at 951/894-2571.

MLS Citation/Fine Policy Changes Coming

Effective January 1, 2006, this revision to the Citation/Fine policy becomes effective. The policy was distributed to Designated REALTORS® at their meeting in September. Copies of this document are also available on the website at www.srcar.org. The document is located on the home page on the right of the screen.

In order to learn more about the new revisions to the MLS Citation/Fine Policy, special training has been scheduled for the following date with more dates scheduled quarterly:

- Monday, February 13, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. – Only a few seats are available
- Thursday, April 13, 2006 @ 1:00 p.m.

The training class is approximately 2 hours. Please call the Association office (951/894-2571) to put your name on the list for attendance at this class.

A new fax/e number has been established for this area. Please use it when reporting violations to the Association. This fax/e number will go directly to the mlsviolations@srcar.org address within the Association. The new fax number is: 951/572-3700. In addition, violations can also be reported via the new 800 line for this department only. The number is: 800/919-1008. We urge you to report any violations using either this fax method or the new 800 number. Thank you.

Student Scholarships

If you or someone you know has a Graduating Senior in one of the local area High Schools, they may be eligible for scholarships including the one offered by SRCAR. Students need to go into the High School's counseling office and ask for their General Scholarship Application. Once the student has completed the application, they turn it back into the Counseling office. Somewhere on the application they need to put that they wish to be considered for the "REALTOR®" or SRCAR scholarship. Students must meet all eligibility requirements in order to be considered for the Scholarship. By completing the General Scholarship Application, students may be eligible for all scholarships offered by the High School.

New Membership Signups

New members should plan to join the Association during the following hours: **8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This time period will provide adequate assistance in joining and avoid any unnecessary delays. Please make sure that the application is completed with the MLS Participant/Designation REALTORS® signature. This will enable the staff to complete the process in a more timely and efficient manner. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

A new fax/e number has been established for this department. Please use it when submitting new membership applications and changes to existing members to the Association. This fax/e number will go directly to the membership@srcar.org address within the Association. The new fax number is: 951/253-4795. We hope that you will take advantage of this new service.

Important Numbers:

- Supra Technical Support @ 800/545-9601 or 877/699-6787
- MRMLS Tech Support @ 800/925-1525 (from 909/951 area codes); 626/574-3830 (from all others)
- WINForms Support Center – 586/840-0140 (<http://support.zipform.com/>)
- CAR Legal Hotline: 213/739-8282
- SRCAR General Office Fax Number: 951/894-2572
- MLS Citations & Fine Policy Department Fax Number at SRCAR @ 951/572-3700
- MLS Citations & Fine Policy Department Toll Free Number @ 800/919-1008
- Membership Department Fax Number at SRCAR @ 951/253-4795
- MLS Department Fax Number at SRCAR @ 951/572-3721

Grievance & Professional Standards (aka Complaint) Department Toll Free Number @ 800-446-3646

News from MRMLS

MRMLS Computer Training

Join the training staff from MRMLS for Computer Training on Thursday, February 16, 2006 for the following classes:

- Listing Upload & Digital Photo (10-12)
- Matrix/SmartMap & Realist (1-4)

Reservations are strongly suggested. Please call SRCAR to reserve your seat today at 951/894-2571. These classes will be offered each month on the 3rd Thursday in the large meeting room at the Association. Please see the calendar for exact dates on the Association's website at www.srcar.org.

MRMLS Presents Smart Trac

Smart Trac web-based application automates, streamlines, and simplifies real estate transactions from listing to closing to post-close. Smart Trac automated 24/7 online access lets you manage files on the run. Training to be held at SRCAR on Friday, March 3, 2006 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Call SRCAR to reserve your seat at 951/894-2571.

News from CAR

Important WINFORMS® Update

RENEW YOUR WINFORMS® SOFTWARE BEGINNING MARCH 1

Both WINForms Online® and WINForms® Desktop electronic forms software, used by more than 110,000 REALTORS® statewide, must be renewed by March 31 so that you can continue using this free member benefit. Please read the brief instructions below for more information on renewing the version of the software you are using.

How do I renew WINForms Online®?

As a Web-based software program, WINForms Online® will automatically prompt you with a renewal screen beginning March 1. Just follow the simple prompts and click on the "I Accept" button to accept the License Agreement to renew your software for another term of use. You must renew WINForms Online® by March 31 or the software will expire.

How do I renew WINForms® Desktop?

Beginning March 1, WINForms® Desktop will prompt you to renew the product every time you access the software. Click on "Renew now," accept the License Agreement, and you will have access to the software for another term of use. You must renew WINForms® Desktop by March 31 or the software will expire. Please note: You must be connected to the Internet to successfully renew the software.

News from NAR

NAR Cautions OCC On Bank Development Projects

The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has opened the door to national banks becoming involved in real estate development and brokerage, NAR President Tom Stevens says in a letter to the federal banking regulator this week. If that door stays open, banks will be exposed to more risk, and the safety and soundness of the U.S. banking system will be threatened. Stevens wrote that the OCC is violating the National Bank Act, as well as its past rulings and regulations, by approving recent bank real estate deals, including one that allows Union Bank of California to take a 70 percent equity stake in a windmill farm. Other OCC-approved projects allow Bank of America to develop a Ritz Carlton Hotel in Charlotte, and PNC Bank to develop a Pittsburgh hotel-condominium project. Stevens urged the Comptroller to reconsider allowing these projects and asked to meet with him to discuss the danger they pose.

Bush Highlights Need For Affordable Health Insurance

Expanding affordable health insurance coverage, an NAR priority, is key to continued U.S. competitiveness, President George W. Bush said in his sixth State of the Union speech Tuesday night. "Small business employees [should be able to] buy insurance with the same advantages that people working for big businesses now get," he said, a goal that NAR-backed small business health plan legislation would achieve. NAR has been working closely with members of the Senate, their staff, and representatives of insurance and other industry groups to craft legislation that all sides of the issue can support. With his remarks, President Bush made it clear that finding a health insurance solution for small businesses is a priority for him, NAR analysts say.

Flood Insurance Reform Gets Hearing

FEMA, the Congressional Budget Office, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office weighed in on changes to the National Flood Insurance Program at a U.S. Senate Banking Committee hearing last week. Among the reforms discussed: updating flood maps, dealing with repetitive loss properties, and expanding the pool of program participants. A second hearing is expected next week. The program, facing a financial crunch, is expected to run out of funds in early February, and some lawmakers want authorization for additional funds tied to passage of reforms. NAR supports reforms to help ensure the program's financial and actuarial soundness and urges Congress to fully fund FEMA's flood map modernization program, among other things.

Patriot Act Extension Expected Soon

The House and Senate are expected to pass legislation in the soon extending the homeland security USA Patriot Act. Among likely provisions are requirements that the government link any subpoena request of confidential business records to an actual inquiry of suspicious activity, and that it allow business owners whose records have been seized to talk with an attorney about potential legal consequences. NAR supports both provisions.