

# SORRENTO NEWSLETTER

November 2024

79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677 ☎Tel (207) 422-6889 ☎Fax (207) 422-3737

[townoffice@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:townoffice@sorrentomaine.org)

The Town of Sorrento website is now live: [www.sorrentomaine.org](http://www.sorrentomaine.org)

Monday: 8 am – 3 pm  
Wednesday: 1pm – 6pm  
Friday: 8 am – Noon

Don't forget to VOTE!!! 8am- 8pm  
November 5, 2024 Community Building

#### Select Board:

Diana Gazis 207-422-3697 term expires 2025

[diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org)

Hilly W. Crary 207-422-3462 term expires 2026

[Hilly.crary@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:Hilly.crary@sorrentomaine.org)

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2027

[rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org)

#### Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Mike Gurtler 207-460-5544

[ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org)

#### Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208

[tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)

#### Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706

[harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org)

#### Animal Control:

Pepper Mitchell 207-664-9625

[animal.control@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:animal.control@sorrentomaine.org)

#### E-911 Addressing Officer:

Maggi McCaw

[911officer@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:911officer@sorrentomaine.org)

#### Public Access Officer

Maggi McCaw

[Public.access@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:Public.access@sorrentomaine.org)

#### RSU 24 School Board Member:

Newbold Noyes 207-422-3396 term expires 2026

[nnoyes@rsu24.com](mailto:nnoyes@rsu24.com)

#### Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Warden

Mike Hall 207-400-6183 or 207-963-7104

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR DOG**  
Licenses available at the Town Office or  
[www.apps1.web.maine.gov](http://www.apps1.web.maine.gov)



#### SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

are held the first and third Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m.

In person at the Sorrento Community Building  
and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGM rZkNwUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652

#### PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Regularly scheduled meetings will resume 1/4/2024  
First Thursday of each month

In person at the Town Office 5PM

or

VIA ZOOM

Enter Meeting ID: **889 8753 5935**

Download, install & launch Zoom Client

Enter passcode: **470621**

[planningboard@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:planningboard@sorrentomaine.org)

**Please follow our new FB Page**  
**"Sorrento Maine Town Office"**

#### Sorrento Comprehensive Plan Committee

Please visit the Sorrento Comprehensive Plan  
website to review presentations and discussion  
group results.

<https://aphilson.wixsite.com/sorrentocomplan>

Credit and debit cards are now accepted at the Town Office!

Minimum Fee \$1 up to \$40.00

2.5% Fee on charges \$40 and over



**Town of Sorrento**  
**Board of Selectpersons Minutes**  
**Town Office**  
**9/18/24**

Attending. Hilly Crary (chair), Diana Gazis, Rob Wilpan, nine observers in person, and one observer on ZOOM.

Call to order and good news report. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Good news was that more FEMA paperwork for the December 2023 storm has been signed, and that Annaleis Hafford, Vice President of Olver Associates, Inc (environmental engineers) is coming on Friday to look at and explain the changes to be made to the storm water sewer system on Ocean Avenue through a recently obtained grant to protect the area from property-damaging overflow during storms and to separate the storm water from the wastewater drainage system

Approval of minutes Selectboard meeting on September 4, 2024. A motion was made by Hilly and seconded by Rob to approve the 9/4/24 selectboard meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously, and the minutes were then signed.

Approval of Disbursement Warrant #6 and Payroll Warrant. After a discussion of the fees charged by Harris Disposal for bulky trash and other trash pickup services, a motion was made by Rob and seconded by Diana to approve Disbursement Warrant #6 and the associated payroll warrants. The motion passed unanimously and the warrants were signed.

Road-naming. The driveway leading to Crosby Noyes's new house on East Side Road needs to be given a name that can be used for 911 calls. Karen Abbott, who owns the property under the road, and Crosby Noyes, who has an easement allowing him to access his property, each explained their views on who, the property owner or the easement owner, should have priority in naming the road and initiating the application to 911. At the end of this discussion, Crosby and Karen each said that they didn't care about the name itself, but about the principles involved. Karen, when asked, then suggested Isle View Lane as the road name and Crosby accepted this suggestion. Rob then made a motion which was seconded

by Diana, that the selectboard approve the name Isle View Lane. The motion passed unanimously and 911 now needs to be informed that this name has been approved by the town. The current town policy on road-naming will be re-written in the future to clarify the details that led to the above-mentioned confusion.

Speed limit — Selectboard request to the DOT (Department of Transportation), We are going to ask the DOT for a review of the speed limits in Sorrento, especially on the dangerous curves and hills. We are also asking for an evaluation of other measures to slow traffic since the speed bumps we have been using for this purpose are not allowed by the state.

Community Building back room update. Mike Gurtler, our CEO, has looked at the back room of the Community Building and found no problem with its bathroom. Bud Lee Electric, Inc has looked at the electrical changes needed for the back room and will provide a plan and price for these changes. The dry wall installer is ready but they cannot work until the electrical work is completed.

Town Building Committee statement of purpose. Hilly proposed and Rob seconded the motion that we accept the statement of purpose submitted by the Town Building Committee. The motion passed unanimously. It was also noted that the gazebo at the harbor should be added to the list of town buildings supervised by the Town Building Committee.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) coverage - Northern Light contract update and signing. Hilly moved and Rob seconded that the town approve the EMS contract offered by Northern Light contingent on it's approval by our town lawyer. The motion passed unanimously. Ray Weintraub, Sullivan town manager, explained some of the details of having Northern Light as primary provider for EMS and the Town of Sullivan as our secondary provider and provided a potential payment contract for us for certain EMS services provided by Sullivan. The payment contract with Sullivan will be discussed and approved at the next selectboard meeting.

West Cove Boat Yard lease (6 Bayview Avenue) to sign. This (previously approved) contract was signed by the selectboard members.

Post Office Box for Town Office. It was moved by Hilly, seconded by Rob, and passed unanimously that the town rent a medium-sized post office box to receive mail.

Questions and Requests from auditor. It was moved by Hilly, seconded by Diana and passed unanimously that the town zero-out to surplus accounts previously suggested by the auditor. Also three individuals whose payments of older tax bills cannot be completely authenticated will be asked to see if their bank accounts have records of these transactions,

Public Comments on Agenda Items.

A question about the use of the building erected for completion of an Eagle Scout project was asked. The item will be placed on to the next selectboard meeting agenda and the Eagle Scout (Macy Neleski) will be invited to attend. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

**Minutes of extra SB meeting  
September 25, 2024  
Town Office**

Present: Hilly Crary and Diana Gazis and 1 observer and 1 dog. Meeting called to order at 4 pm

**Discussions:**

Hilly will be away for the next SB meeting on October 2nd.

She will write up an Agenda for that meeting, and this Agenda was discussed.

Diana may be away for the following SB meeting, October 16th.

She is not sure yet.

Hilly and Diana signed the contract with Northern Light for EMS.

This was already moved, 2nded and approved by the full SB on September 18th, contingent upon review from our Town lawyer, Dan Pileggi, who did review it.

**Motions made:**

Diana moved and Hilly 2nded that we negate the decision we made on September 18th to rent a PO Box for the Town Office mail, and instead buy a locking mailbox for the TO. All the Town clerks are in favor of this.

Motion passed: Gazis aye, Crary aye.

Diana moved and Hilly 2nded that we approve and sign the Community Resilience Partnership Municipal Resolution.

(see copy attached to this).

Motion passed: Gazis aye, Crary aye.

Hilly moved and Diana 2nded we adjourn the meeting at 5 pm. Motion passed: Crary aye, Gazis aye.

**Town of Sorrento**  
**Community Resilience Partnership Municipal Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sorrento has completed the Community Resilience Partnership's Community Resilience Self-Assessment and List of Community Actions, and held a community workshop on July 11th, 2024 which prioritized the following action areas:

1. G1: Scoping and engineering work for Ocean Ave.
2. H4, H5: Apply for a fellow to work with our Climate Resilience Committee to engage Sorrento residents in resiliency work
3. B1, B2, B3, B4: Weatherize and upgrade to energy efficient appliances in the Sorrento Community Building

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sorrento experiences coastal flooding, intense rainstorms, and other natural hazards and seeks to better prepare for future conditions;

**WHEREAS**, planning for community and infrastructure resilience will protect people and reduce the impact and costs of natural disasters;

**WHEREAS**, investing in energy efficiency and weatherization improvements is proven to lower municipal electricity expenses, make buildings more comfortable for employees and visitors, and equip buildings to function as a warming/cooling center during extreme weather events;

**WHEREAS**, addressing climate change will present economic opportunities for the Town of Sorrento as well as opportunities to invest in the public good and cost-saving practices;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sorrento faces challenges when recruiting and retaining volunteer capacity for resilience-related work and opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, the Community Resilience Partnership provides grants to municipalities and Tribal Governments for activities that lower energy expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase community resilience in alignment with the state's climate action plan and goals;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Sorrento commits to participating in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to extreme weather and climate change impacts;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town of Sorrento designates the Climate Resilience Committee to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

Resolved on: 9/25/24

At an extra Select Board meeting  
Rob Wilpan was not in attendance

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**Town of Sorrento**  
**Regular Select Board Meeting**  
**October 16, 2024**  
**Community Building**

Meeting called to Order at 7:05pm

Select Board Members in attendance: Hilly Crary & Rob Wilpan

**Good News Report**

- West Shore Road Tree Trimming — done by volunteers Joey Clark, Kasey Bean, Jock Crothers and Todd & Kimberly Fuller
- Community Building Kitchen Cleaned and Organized — done by volunteers Trina Wellman, Averill West and Vicki Strohmeier
- Old Community Building Piano (no longer able to be tuned) has been further taken apart by volunteers Leslie Potashner and Mason & Darla Crocker. Scrap metal will be picked up Thursday and a small pile of wood needs to be disposed.
- Two firewood thieves/poachers (on private property downtown) were recently arrested.

**Approval of Disbursement and Payroll Warrants #9**

Motion to approve both warrants made by Rob Wilpan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**EMS Coverage Sullivan**

Motion to temporarily approve EMS coverage by Sullivan as our second responder (Northern Lights is first) until the actual contract can be signed was made by Rob Wilpan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Community Building Backroom**

Electric Upgrade — to run wires for lighting, add a second exit sign, add wiring for a monitor near blackboard, and wire for future heat pumps.

- Bid from Bud Lee for \$6,000 (but will only charge actual labor and costs if less)
- Coastal Energy bid to be received by next Tuesday (they could start work next week).

**Town Office Roof and Backside of Main Roof on Community Building**

Motion to approve bid from D&S Construction replace roof shingles on entire Town Office Roof and Backside of Main Roof on Community Building at a cost of \$20,000 (includes stripping 1 layer of old shingles. Replacement of any rotten sheathing if needed is an extra charge) was made by Rob Wilpan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Games & Food Pantry**

Macy Neleski reported on her Eagle Scout project. The food pantry will start next spring when freezing isn't an issue. The shed will be kept unlocked and a key will be given to the Town Office. There will be informational signs added to the shed and Macy will forward information to the Town Office that can be published in the newsletter and on the town website.

## **Mural**

We need to follow up again with Connie Dedham. The mural has not yet been repaired by the artist as promised. The bottom edges are rolling up, probably due to low quality plywood being used. Rob Wilpan to provide Hilly with Connie's contact information.

## **Town Buildings Committee**

Motion to appoint Burt Merchant to the Town Buildings Committee was made by Hilly Crary and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Health Officer**

Motion to appoint Mike Gurtler as the Town Health Officer was made by Hilly Crary and seconded. Fee for his services will be charged based on time spent as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Abatement of Earl Welch III 2019 Taxes**

The son passed away and the next year his property taxes were erroneously charged to his father, Earl Welch III. The following year this was corrected and charged to the estate of the deceased son.

Motion to abate the 2019 taxes of \$464.10 on the deceased son's property was made by Rob Wilpan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Extra Select Board Meeting .**

Motion to create a special select board meeting on October 23, 2024 at 7pm in the Community Building to commit the taxes and sign the papers was made by Rob Wilpan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rob Wilpan brought up the Property Taxes Fairness Credit which might be of use to some Sorrento taxpayers. It was agreed that information on this credit would be included in the town newsletter. A link to it is already available on the Town website.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM

## **State of Maine's Rapid Renewal system for Sorrento is now available:**

<http://www.1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

If you would like an email reminder for your registration renewal, please send your name and email to: [townoffice@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:townoffice@sorrentomaine.org)

Online Boat Registration Renewal: <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Online Fishing and Hunting licenses: <https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/mosesv3/index>

## **Due to ongoing traffic concerns on the Town of Sorrento roads**

### ***Rules and Regulations regarding golf carts on Maine public roads***

Golf carts are not allowed on a public road that does not have conspicuous signs placed at regular intervals stating that the road is for golf cart access. These roads are only near golf courses or in areas with a large number of courses.

### ***To drive on allowed low speed roads:***

The cart must weigh less than 3,000 pounds, must be registered with the [local DMV](#) and operated by a licensed driver. This requires you to get the cart inspected to meet federal and state safety standards. At this point, you'll get a VIN and can register and license your cart. Upgrades that you need to add to your cart include windshields, seat belts, stop lights, turn signals, taillights, headlights, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, and more. These upgrades must be done according to state and federal law or they may be null and void.

Contact a local golf cart repair technician to upgrade your cart in this way.

## **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2093**

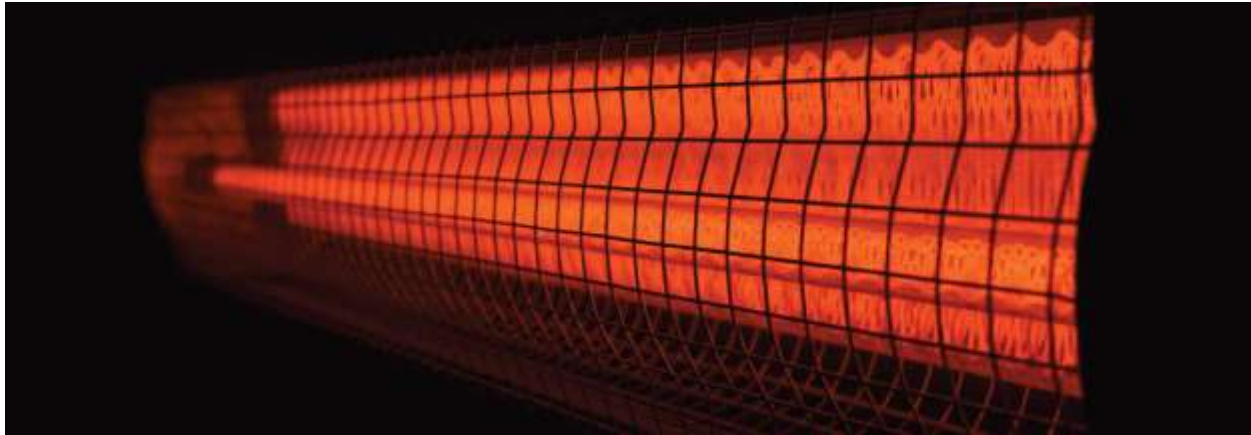
**From the Ellsworth American, July 30, 1891:**

"The boys of the Sullivan B.B.C., with the exception of their battery and third baseman, played the Sorrentos on the afternoon of the 18th inst., and beat them 17 to 13, a victory which was quite evident from the war whoops which announced it, as the buckboard drove back from the latter place at the close of the day Saturday. This class of boys, at their annual vacation season, find and get the most out of life possible. They are devotedly attached to each other, and look forward from year to year to this "red letter" season of their lives."

The Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society will be having a board meeting on November 15th at 7pm via Zoom. The public is welcome to attend. To receive the meeting link, email [tobey@sullivansorrentohistory.org](mailto:tobey@sullivansorrentohistory.org)

We are looking for members of the public to take part in our new Urann House Committee. If you have any interest, feedback, or can contribute time or knowledge to the effort to restore the house, please do! Email [info@sullivansorrentohistory.org](mailto:info@sullivansorrentohistory.org)

**Home Heating Safety**



It is getting to be heating season again and as we prepare for the colder weather it is important to remember that home heating is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Install a fuel gas alarm when using any propane appliance in a room.





### **Shoreland Zoning**

The State of Maine requires all property owners to follow rules for activities within 250-feet (measured horizontally) of a water body or wetland. These rules have been adopted in the Town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance outlines the rules for lot sizes, uses, setbacks, and activities such as building or modifying structures, tree cutting, camping, clearing, filling and others. Generally speaking, there are greater limits set for any activity in the buffer area which exists within the first 75-feet from the water body or wetland.

Before you conduct most activities within the Shoreland area you are required to obtain permission and/or a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer. Please contact Mike Gurtler, CEO with questions in regard to Shoreland Zoning.

## **Dog Licenses Available October 15**

**\*\*Dogs must be licensed by January 1 of each year or when they reach 6 months of age.**

**\$6 for neutered/spayed... \$11 for unaltered**

**\*\*Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a Sorrento license/tag.**



**Please let the Town Office know if your dog is no longer with us**

**\*\*\*When licensing your dog, you must bring with you your dog's rabies certificate showing the tag number and date of expiration and your certificate of proof of spay or neuter, unless these are already on file at the Town Office.**

**Online licensing is available October 15 thru January 31**

**[www.apps1.web.maine.gov](http://www.apps1.web.maine.gov)**

**Starting February 1 a fine of \$25 will be due along with the registration fee on any unregistered dog. If you no longer own a dog that was registered last year, please call the Town Office to update our records.**



**When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you MUST bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.**

Sorrento Town Office hours Monday 8-3, Wednesday 1-6 and Friday 8-12

## **Sorrento now has vehicle plates!**

### **EXPIRATION DATES**

**VEHICLES:** Expire a year from when they are registered (unless you are transferring)

**TRAILERS:** Can be registered for 1 or 2 years, same month, except over 2000 lb.

Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

**BOATS:** Expire Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

**ATVs:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**SNOWMOBILES:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**MOTORCYCLES:** Expire March 31 of every year, except antique

### **SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Residents of Sorrento are eligible for scholarship funds to pursue additional learning after high school. These scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education – college, technical school or many other accredited programs. Students receive up to \$1500 per semester plus a bonus for achieving top grades.*

Please consider a gift to this fund and become a part of the community encouraging the next generation of high school graduates to pursue additional education after high school.

**Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund**

**and mail or drop off checks to: Gina Bennett, PO Box 93, Sorrento, ME 04677**

*Sorrento residents, who are currently or will be starting post high school education in the future, please contact Wendy Worrell at 402-689-8682*

### **CARTER BROTHER'S SCRAP METAL PICK-UP**

Danny Carter 207-422-9120

We pick up appliances, plumbing material, household wiring, or any metals.

Call us to schedule a pick-up



To submit news or advertise in the Sorrento Newsletter, email

[townoffice@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:townoffice@sorrentomaine.org)

or call 207-422-6889. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee**  
would like to have a member from Sorrento! If you  
are interested please email:  
[info@barbaraeshanahan.com](mailto:info@barbaraeshanahan.com)  
or call 207-479-2699. And check out their website:  
[schoodicbyway.org](http://schoodicbyway.org)

## **Sorrento Fire Department**

### **BURN PERMITS**

**You are required by Maine law to have a permit to burn**, even for a small pile of grass clippings or leaves. **A Forestry Warden** will be called if you burn without a permit, possibly resulting in you being summonsed to court and fined.

***The person who signs the fire permit is responsible for the fire. Do not leave any fire unattended.***

#### **To obtain a burn permit contact:**

Joey Clark, Fire Chief	207-812-2208	Craig Clement, Chief Engineer	207-460-7340
Brian Clement, Deputy Chief	207-460-4772		
Mike Parker, Asst. Chief	207-460-7340		

#### ***Required for burning:***

***\*\*at least two adults to attend the burn,***

***\*\*some form of water supply and hand tools must be on hand,***

***\*\*and it is recommended you have a cellular phone or other communication device to call for assistance should the fire escape. YOU are responsible to see that the fire is out before leaving.***

### **TAKE NOTE**

#### **BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!**

State Laws (12 MRSA 9321-25) governing the backyard burning of household trash are enforced by the Maine Forest Service.

If you think someone is burning trash **please call 973-3700 immediately!** 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

### **ONLINE BURNING PERMITS**

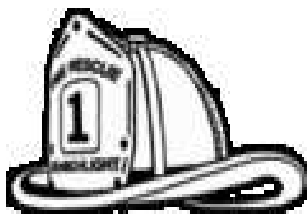
Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

For more information, call 287-4989 or visit [www.maineburnpermit.com](http://www.maineburnpermit.com).

### **SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL**

Fire Chief Joey Clark is looking for volunteers to form a committee for the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial to be built on the old Sorrento fire house property, honoring deceased members of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department.

Contact Joey at 207-812-2208 or email [tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)



Please consider donating to the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial Fund. Checks can be made out to the Town of Sorrento (write FF MEMORIAL in the memo field) and mailed/dropped off at the Town Office, 79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677

**YEAR ROUND RENTAL BY THE OCEAN**

9 Preble St., Sorrento, ME 04677

2 BD, 1Bath Pets with Deposit

Call property Manager for information

Misty Redman- 207-610-2171