

# LáSolana Living



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## *End of an era.....*

How many times in our lifetime have we heard those words: "end of an era" ... I suspect more times than any "era" has ever really ended. But when I say it this time, I think you will agree: *Vern Mitchell has left LáSolana – that is the end of an era!* He is still alive and kicking, like he always was, just not here.

While only at *LáSolana* for about four years, Vern had become an icon, especially at the pool, with his wonderful personality, good humor and a positive attitude. As anyone who ever talked to Vern knows, he was just a wonderful human being. But there may be some who didn't know him, and I will say without reservation, it was your loss.

As soon as "Gunsmoke" reruns ended every afternoon, Vern would head to the pool, take his shower and respond to any who asked how he was doing, with his customary "Well, I got up this morning..." He told me why he liked "Gunsmoke" so much: Since his short term memory was gone, he could see the same show over and over and never remember how it ended!

We came to love talking with Vern and hearing his stories of his youth; for you see, Vern was a boxer - a heavyweight boxer who fought, among others, the great Joe Lewis. He said he became a boxer because his name was LaVerne, he had curly hair, buck teeth and he couldn't outrun the guys who chased him, so he had to learn to box



Joe Lewis (L) and Vern Mitchell ®

October 2, 1950

(continued on page two)

The story, according to Vern is that he knocked out the legendary Joe Lewis – a story I couldn't verify but I did "google" him to find out he knocked out 36 in his career and was knocked out, himself, but 3 times. But that is not the Vern that I want to talk about. The Vern I knew was a slower, funnier guy than the one who boxed Joe Lewis 60 or so years ago. He always made me smile when I saw him, cause I would know exactly what he would say. Most sentences began with "... I probably told you this a million times ..." (which he had, but I didn't care, I just enjoyed him and all of his stories).

He never had an unkind word to say about anyone (except maybe himself) "... ever notice when I get here, everyone gets out of the pool? ..." To which I would always say "yes"! But the favorite line I remember from Vern was said to anyone who would listen, as he entered the pool and any other guy was in there: "Hey you, get out of here ... I want to be the best looking guy in the pool ..."

Not only was he the best looking, but the most fun! He loved the kids when they were in the pool with him ("... wish I could bottle all that energy..." he would say.)

It was time for Vern to go to an assisted living facility. But, that doesn't mean he won't be in our thoughts every time we go for a swim at *LáSolana*.



Mr. and Mrs. Vern Mitchell  
*LáSolana* Thanksgiving Dinner 2009

We could all learn a lesson or two from Vern. No matter what the obstacles in his life, *he was always positive and always smiling*. No matter whether there were other people in the pool, *he was always the best looking*. No matter how bad he might have felt some days, *he got up in the morning* and no matter when anyone talked about, "work" *it was always a dirty word to Vern*.

Vern: we learned a lot from you, sir. Our best wishes to you now and in the future. An era really is over for *LáSolana*! See ya round the pool, my friend!

John Hall 6309

## *Expansion Tanks*

It is very important that you periodically check the expansion tank on your hot water heater. We have had several residents have the tanks fail. The tank is located above the hot water heater. If there is any sign of rust or bubbling in the paint, please call a plumber.



## Notes From the Board

Dick Morrisett, Board Secretary, had elbow surgery March 23, 2011. We missed your presence at our board meeting and wish you a speedy and successful recovery.

Charlie Miller, our roofing consultant, reported that the work on the roofs of buildings 4 & 6 has been completed and the work has passed his inspection. At the April meeting, we will be reviewing the possibility of doing the flat roof renewals on all remaining buildings.

Scott Cosgrove, our site manager from ProQual Landscape, reported to residents on the initial work which has occurred on our property since March 1. Several shrubs have been severely cut back, but now appear to have new growth. Scott and his company are committed to making our front entrance flower beds a showpiece as well as improving the trees, shrubs and irrigation.

At the March meeting, we approved a bid to allow ProQual to bring the irrigation system up to optimal condition.

The Board approved the purchase and placement of 8 (15 minute loading zone) signs. They will be erected throughout the property to allow for adequate loading and unloading of people and parcels closer to the building doorways.

We approved a bid to perform an extensive termite retreatment for all buildings plus the clubhouse. Buildings 3, 4, & 5 will be done immediately. An information session was held for the ground floor residents of these buildings. Work began, April 4, 2011.

We will require the cooperation of all ground floor owners to make arrangements for access to their unit. The office staff will be contacting you personally. Please pay attention to your email and/or phone messages. With

the vacancy rate at LáSolana, we are unsure when remaining buildings will be done. It is a busy time for many seasonal residents as they prepare to head north once again. We wish you a safe journey and for those residents lucky enough to be able to stay here year round, we envy you and hope that you have a happy and healthy summer.

Happy Easter!

Ann Ward, President

**New Email Address:**  
[info@lasolanahoa.com](mailto:info@lasolanahoa.com)

## CHAPS

We are happy to report that Sun City Grand CHAPS organization will begin patrolling the LáSolana community at night.

The CHAPS organization will use either sedans or pickup trucks when patrolling. All vehicles will display a large yellow sign with black letters on both sides of the vehicle. All vehicles will have two (2) members of CHAPS in the front seat of every vehicle while patrolling. Bob Rector #2312 has agreed to be the LáSolana point of contact.

Beginning in April and going into the fall, the patrols will appear in LáSolana between the hours of 8 & 10 p.m. Beginning in the fall and going through the winter months, the patrols will appear between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Should they detect anything that warrants police presence, they will radio into their dispatcher who will contact the Surprise Police. They do not get involved in any confrontation with residences' or suspicious individuals.

All residents are welcome to attend the monthly CHAPS general meetings. The meeting is held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and lasts about 45 minutes. The location varies monthly so please check with Laurie Segler at 546-7553.



*Spring plant!*

## Meet Your Neighbor

Who are the LaSolana snowbirds from Arvada, Colorado, that have spent four months here every winter since 2004? The answer is.....Maggie and Blaine Greene from Building 5. They love living here during the winter months because of all of the activities Sun City Grand and LaSolana have to offer. Maggie's son once said, "It's like dropping your parents off at summer camp." To say the least, he was impressed with the Greene's decision to buy a LaSolana condo.

Maggie and Blaine traveled very different paths before meeting and marrying in Colorado in 1980. Maggie is a native of Newark, New Jersey, and the oldest of five children. Blaine is one of nine children and was born near Boon, North Carolina.



Can you imagine the size of their family reunions? When they finally met in the mid-seventies, Maggie was a single mother of two children, a girl and a boy, and living and working in Denver for Coors Brewery after moving there in 1968, with her then husband who was an air traffic controller. After four years in the navy and becoming a 1st Class Petty Officer, Blaine met his wife in Chicago. Together they moved to Denver and the stage was set for Maggie to eventually meet "Mr. Wonderful" as he was referred to at Coors Brewery because he could fix anything, not just welding and pipe fittings that were his primary employment focuses at Coors.

Today Blaine uses his fixit skills on tasks around their condo, at their golf course community home in Colorado, and on rental properties that they own there. For fun, Blaine finds time to play softball on two winning teams and he especially loves golf, once making a 170 yard hole-in-one with a seven iron! Tennis, bowling, skiing, and riding his bike are also part of his physical fitness routines

Having spent 28 years associated with telecommunications and cost containment at Coors, Maggie has been instrumental in improving LáSolana's phone system. Currently she is studying bids from Cox and Quest in an effort to reduce future costs to our association. Be it a pool social or a '50's party, she's always willing to assist whenever there is a need.

Blaine and Maggie agree that they both got lucky, not only when they met but throughout their marriage. In 2009 Blaine had a heart attack while here for the winter, and the outstanding treatment that was received at both Banner Hospitals just continued that luck streak. May that luck travel with them as they return to Colorado where Maggie's daughter and granddaughter also reside and to Dubai next November where Maggie's son and daughter-in-law are currently making their home. They plan to return to LáSolana in December. Happy Trails, Maggie and Blaine.



*Spring Picnic*

### ***Always Remember***

***What lies behind us and what lies before us  
are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.***

***Ralph Waldo Emerson***

## ***DID YOU KNOW!***

- Our CC&R's state that you should park your vehicle in the designated parking stall assigned to your unit with your parking pass visible. If you own a second vehicle, it should be parked in a visitor parking space with your parking pass displayed. Did you know that one late evening in February, over 25 vehicles were in violation of the bylaw? We have a problem!! Your selfishness can sometimes prevent visitors to LáSolana from parking near the unit they are visiting. Will you be part of the solution or the problem?
- When vendors are working at LáSolana, our staff and property manager are the only people authorized to interact with them. As most businesses charge an hourly rate, please help us to contain costs by allowing the vendors to complete their work uninterrupted.
- When you observe a maintenance issue requiring attention, please leave that information on the clipboard list in the office or on the whiteboard at the maintenance shed and Mike will attend to it.
- There is a designated smoking zone at the pool. Anyone is welcome to sit there, however, when a resident does appear to smoke, you must be tolerant.
- We are experiencing a very busy winter at the LáSolana pool. Often there are no available chairs. Please think of others. If you are physically not at the pool, your towel shouldn't be there either. Many smiling grandchildren are visiting LáSolana. We do not have restricted pool hours for children. When young citizens are not supervised by their parents/grandparents challenges arise. Several complaints have been registered this winter and some owners are asking the Board to contemplate establishing hours for children. What is the proper direction to take? Familiarize yourself with our pool rules such as: shower before entering the water, children under 12 are not allowed in the spa, no running, jumping or rowdy behavior in and around the pool, etc....? Will you and your guests be part of the solution or the problem?
- At the April 2010 meeting, the Board approved a standard color for patio umbrellas to be teal (turquoise). Refer to your updated Rules & Regulations. Please see the office staff for an architectural approval form and to obtain purchasing source information prior to buying your patio umbrella.
- If you are a seasonal resident of LaSolana please remove all the rugs and decorative items from your front entryway so that Mike can easily vacuum and maintain the inner hallways. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **EASTER BRUNCH A HUGH SUCCESS!**

Many thanks to Lois Munford #3112, Nancy Hendrickson #3202 and Barb Thoreson #6205 for the outstanding job they did in organizing the Easter Brunch. If you weren't there, you missed a lovely song performed by Jill Petrillo #7104 and Lois Mumford. Russ Anderson #2112 did a great job leading everyone in prayer in honor of Easter. We have heard nothing but compliments on a job well done. Maybe they will agree to volunteer again next year!!!

## *Notes From April 13, 2011 Board Meeting*

The Board approved a contract bid to RDA (Reserve Data Analysis, Inc.) in the amount of \$1300 to do a comprehensive study and update of our reserve fund. They will do a site inspection as part of that process. The completed revised study will be ready prior to the start of the 2012 budget meetings.

The allocation of common interests chart on page 8 of your CC&R's (written in 2003) requires updating as it only refers to 180 condo units, not the 252 which have existed in LaSolana since 2004. During the meeting, the Board approved a motion to send the draft updated documents to the lawyers for a legal overview and to correct the total unit numbers to reflect 252. We also approved, in that motion, a request for a legal ruling on changing the tiers for the assessment calculation from the existing 4 to 6 tiers to more accurately reflect the actual square footage of each unit's floor plan. Your annual assessment is calculated at budget time using the appropriate ratio (for your unit size).

A resident open discussion was held regarding pool hours for children at our swimming pool. There have been many complaints over the last few weeks. Both sides of the topic were presented by many owners. No decision was made to create pool hours at this time. Instead, there

will be a comprehensive updating of the pool rules as posted outside at poolside and an education effort to inform grandparents, residents, seasonal renters, and children of the basic rules. Your cooperation is requested in informing our staff when there is inappropriate behaviour at the pool and at night and on weekends, we encourage you to politely remind visitors of expected behavior.

We will be proceeding with the flat roof refurbishment on all remaining buildings at LaSolana as soon as possible. We have again, hired Charlie Miller to inspect and approve the finished roofs. We will proceed with the comprehensive termite treatment of the clubhouse next and we will continue treatment of the rest of the buildings late in the fall when more people have returned.

We approved a three year contract with Quest. Thanks to the tremendous effort of resident Maggie Greene, we will see a substantial saving in our monthly phone bills. Maggie, you are appreciated!

A huge thank you is in order to our staff, JoAnne, Judy and Mike, who keep LaSolana running smoothly and answer all your questions. Brad, your community manager, has been an unbelievable professional with which to work. The Board sets policy, manages personnel, legal, health and personal

issues. Brad and the Staff manage the property.

Keep well and I'll see you in October!

Ann Ward  
President



### ***Lost And Found***

If you have lost something of value, please check with the clubhouse office, it just might be there.

We have everything from towels, jackets, keys, earrings, prescription eye glasses, sun glasses, wedding ring, shirts, watches, etc. We even have a picture found at the pool of a sandcastle made on a beach in Spain. You name it—we probably have it!

## *Suggested Departure Checklist*

Prior to vacating your condominium for any length of time the following suggestions might be of interest to you. These suggestions are not a Board directive, but rather suggestions from owners and outside sources.

1. Set the thermostat to 85 degrees and leave A/C on.
2. Shut off water valves inside closet. (1/4 turn- crosswise to pipe is off).
3. Shut off hot water electric in panel at breaker box.
4. Leave ceiling fans on low with air moving from ceiling direction down.
5. Place 2-3 gallon bucket of water in each room.
6. Empty ice from bin and lift arm up on ice maker.
7. Close all windows, blinds and drapes.
8. Make sure that all appliances, etc. are unplugged.
9. Remove disposable food from refrigerator and freezer.
10. Leave a bowl of baking soda in refrigerator and freezer and prop doors open..
11. Place saran wrap over toilet seat to prevent water from evaporating.
12. Leave an emergency contact phone number and address with the office.
13. Make arrangements (if possible) to have your unit checked periodically.
14. Remove all door mats, plants, decorations, etc. from front door entryway.

## THANK YOU!

A big "thank you" to Judy Morrissett #6311, Joyce Schwarz #6310, Sharee Hogan #1210 and Suzanne Radi #7109 for the time and work you put into making the Library as great as it is. The Library has never looked so good.



## Dial-A-Ride Monthly Schedule

Albertson's — 1st Tuesday  
 Fry's — 2nd Tuesday  
 Target — 2nd Thursday  
 Wal-Mart — 3rd Thursday  
 Safeway — 4th Thursday

If interested, please sign up in the "black book" in the clubhouse. Do not contact the Dial-A-Ride office for this ride.

## Meeting Dates!

Fall 2012 and Spring 2012 Meeting Dates:

### 2011 Board Meetings

October 26

December 7

### 2012 Board Meetings

January 25

February 15

February 22 (Annual Meeting)

March 28

April 18

We're on the Web!

Lasolanahoa.com

## Hats off to Maggie Greene



Once again Maggie's experience and hard work has paid off. After weeks of research Maggie was able to secure a 3-year contract with Qwest with a savings of over \$6,405.57 over the three year period of the contract.. Her experience in this field and willingness to volunteer countless hours of her time to this project is greatly appreciated. Way to go Maggie!

## Committees

A big thank you to all of our committee volunteers. Whether you are still on a committee or have made the decision to step down from a committee, we want you to know how much your dedication and work has meant to all of us. We thank you for your commitment to LáSolana. The following is a list of committees approved by the Board:

### Architectural Committee

Annette Bergen #6201

Trish Carter-Diers #7201

Barbara Magnusson #2203

### Block Watch

Russ Anderson #2112

### Communications Committee

Marcia Durell #2308

Earl Lindquist #2301

Ann Ward #4308

### Finance Committee

Ken Marks #1110

Dick Morrissett #6312

Dave Johnson #4207

### Landscape Committee

Barb Bowman #3207

Elaine Hall #6309

Liz Jackson #3210

Jim Madsen #4110

### Neighborhood Representatives

Barbara Magnusson #2203

Alternate: Earl Lindquist #2301

### Nominating Committee

Trish Carter-Diers #7201

Marcia Durell #2308

Ann Ward #4308

### Social Committee

Needs volunteers!!!

### Utilities Committee

Maggie Greene #5111

Dick Morrissett #6312

Ken Schwartz #1110

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the office staff..

Search for a Smile and Share It!

If you're not using your smile, you're like a man with a million dollars in the bank and no checkbook..

Les Giblin