

LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the positive news that's fit to print.

Gratitude

I am grateful to be able to live in a comfortable condo, in the beautiful La Solana complex with its thoughtful Board of Directors, many volunteers, staff and maintenance crew. I am grateful La Solana is situated in amazing Grand which amenities provide opportunities for learning, play, fitness, good eats, entertainment, and social engagement. And if this weren't enough, we live in the growing, robust city of Surprise, Arizona which cares about its residents, young and old, able and less able providing resources at free or little cost. I could go on and on about all I am grateful for, but will stop here.

What are you most grateful for? Send your responses to the editor ,
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Editor:

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View from condo balcony.

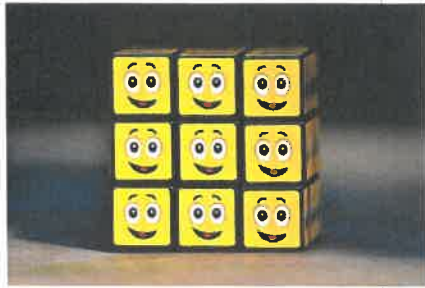
Soups On

The annual soup supper is returning to La Solana. Mark your calendar for Wed Feb 1 at 5:00 PM. We will be looking forward to another fun evening. Sample several soups prepared by our La Solana Chefs.



There will be a sign up to offer what you will share, your choice:

1. Crock pot of soup
2. Veggie or fruit tray
3. Salad
4. Cookies, bars, or cup cakes (con't)



Meet Your Neighbors

Did you know, our neighbor **Mark**, building 2 resident, watches out for all of us by sweeping the carports and surrounding areas. And he's been doing this, as a volunteer, for 9 years. Mark takes pride in a clean environment. Surely we can each pick up any trash we might see. Pet Owners, be good neighbors, pick up after your pets.

Ole, another La Solana winter resident, placed two collection bins in our trash room. Help us all out by recycling your aluminum cans and beverage containers. Ole will make sure they are recycled.

For over a decade it's been our dream, hope, plan, to move to our beloved Arizona for our retirement. We're not to that stage yet, but after spending 2 fall seasons in a rental condo at La Solana, we purchased a unit of our own! It was in need of a refresh, so we spent 5 months there remodeling and "making it our own". We came with just a few pans, plates, linens, and a twin air mattress, and built up from there. We are just delighted to have our new condo with a pool view, a Surprise address, an Arizona license plate, a SCG activity pass, and the beautiful people and surroundings throughout the area and the state! Truly we love being out there and are already counting the months until our next trip!

David & Diane Brown, unit 1204

Soups On (con't)

Sign up in the clubhouse: January 24 , Tuesday, from 9:30 - 11:00 AM or Wednesday, January 25 from 1:00-2:30 PM.

Sign up required so we are assured there's plenty of variety for everyone.

Mexican Fiesta January 11, 2023

92 Residents attended the Social Committee's spectacular Mexican Happy Hour in the Club House. All enjoyed great company, terrific and varied food offerings, and unlimited margaritas. (I had two and was very happy I didn't have far to go to get home—and no driving

The St. Mary's Food Bank Box is ready to be filled. Your donations of non-perishable unopened food items would be greatly appreciated. Your donation will feed families in need!!

My most memorable experience at La Solana in 2022



Candiss iCiavarella

My most memorable experience at La Solana (2022) was winning the "Best Cowgirl Outfit" award at the Western Night Party last March. There were also awards for Best Cowboy Outfit and Biggest Belt Buckle! We did line dancing with Robin Torry and the food was great. All in all, it was a real fun time!



La Solana Town Crier (con't)

Meet another star resident, Beau



The "Therapy" dog, Beau, lives with his parents here in La Solana. Robert & Linda Carr spent much time and money when Beau was a pup to have a pet that could visit hospital patients to bring joy and comfort, and he does. For over 7 years, Beau and Linda have regularly visited the Cancer Treatments Center of America (CTCA) in Goodyear and brought great joy to those who pet his soft furry head. They are part of the MUTTS ON A MISSION program.

Now at age 10 ½, there is more care and attention to health, but he is no less loved by patients in the hospital. And by all of us at La Solana

And now, for the rest of the news

Stay informed

Your key to staying informed about all things related to Grand, including updates on the Falls restaurant, Board minutes, committee meetings, fitness schedules, and so much more, is through the Grand website. Login and peruse. You'll be impressed how much information is available. While you're there, sign up for daily blasts for continued updates.

What's happening at La Solana? Lots

In an effort to stay ahead of our plan to reduce water usage, and to keep La Solana looking fresh and smart, an atrium regrade is under way. Dead or dying plants will be removed. Metal agave plants in three sizes are on their way. La Solana residents have volunteered to "plant" these agave sculptures and could use your help. If you can get down on your knees, and get up again easily; if you can wield a hammer, we need your help. Please contact the office to volunteer. It takes all of us to keep La Solana beautiful and well maintained. Do your part.

Grand is currently soliciting candidates to run for the Grand Board of Directors

There are three open seats this election cycle. One of them might be just right for you. Watch for the daily blasts, read lifestyles magazine, to stay informed. Visit Volunteer Central (from the Grand home page) for more detailed information.

Survey

Our long range planning committee has been working diligently to look ahead. Their goal is to plan now for the future, to keep La Solana a strong, vibrant community, on budget, and represent the needs and wishes of our residents. On Saturday, January 14, you should have received a survey request for our committee. Please fill it out promptly, and thoughtfully. This is an opportunity to have your voices heard, your wishes noted, your ideas considered. One survey per household. Please complete by January 23.

No e-mail? There are paper copies of the complete survey available in the Clubhouse. We want to hear from everyone.

Lighting

The residents have spoken and have selected the new fixture (sample is next to the fountain between buildings 6 & 7). We'll be adding 28 new light posts to replace the "lolly pop lights" we've had for 25 years. If you've been walking the campus you already know the lolly pops are saying goodbye—they are

falling over, bending, burning out, and are ready to be retired. We are currently out to bid and expect to begin the new installations in the next two months.

Benches

More outdoor, comfortable seating — with backs, is being planned. There are currently six benches located throughout the community, and they have been here since the beginning. Benches foster community. That's why you see them in parks, along our Grand walking trails, overlooking the many water features, including at La Solana. The bench committee (Yes, there is even a committee for benches—you can join.) is currently looking at benches everywhere they go, including online searches. We're seeking comfortable, low or no maintenance benches which won't get too hot during our summer months, can be safely installed, and aren't beyond our budget. Keep your eye open as you travel about. See a great bench, send me or Jan a photo.

Trees

Once again it is time to say goodbye to some of our long-time resident pine trees. Another five have got to go. Their roots interfere with irrigation, tear up the sidewalks, get under building foundations, and who knows what other mischief they are doing. The doomed trees currently abide by building 2 facing the pool; buildings 4 & 5 facing the lawn, and behind building 7 facing the parking area. We thank them for all the shade, birds' nests, and beauty they have provided, but not so much for all the pine needles and cones they have dropped.

Beautifying your condo entrance

We love how you have individualized your entrance, beautified the building interiors, and brought color and smiles to everyone who comes by. *But* (you knew there would be a *but*) the Fire Department actually determines what we can or cannot do.

So here's the rules per the Surprise Fire Department:

Entrance mats, 1 only, not to exceed 32X48, no rolled edges that might become a trip hazard.
No longer runners.

Ornamental doorway items are restricted to one wall and one standing piece. Do not cover your unit number. Maximum height for standing item is 4 feet.

If you are near an elevator, stairs, or potential "choke point" (where one would have to turn carrying a gurney, for instance) nothing that could prohibit someone from a quick exit like a large pot or standing decoration that could be knocked over.

Suggestion: if you haven't already done so, request an emergency key box from Surprise City. Only emergency services will have access to the key you store inside. This could save your life.

And here's a few rules from La Solana:

Artificial plants must be in good condition, not faded or broken, and dusted.

Live plants and flowers must be lovely, not dead or dying.

Before hanging exterior wall art, check with Mike so you're not nailing into the elevator or other wiring you may not know about.

Nothing on the courtyard railings.

No signage in the courtyard windows.

Rumor Control

There's a rumor that there may be a Super Bowl party in the club house, complete with big screen TV, betting, food and drink. (But you didn't hear it from me.)

Help

If you have skill using Pages, the word processing program installed on Mac computers, I could use some assistance with the layout of our newsletter. The first two pages took 4 hours of my fumbling around which is why I switched for pages 3 & 4 or you'd be reading this in 2024.

ALL submissions considered. This is a community newsletter. Our plan is to print around the 15th of each month.

Signing off

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