

LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the Good News that's fit to print

The President's Corner

Jan Smith, HOA President

Is it possible that we have actually had some rain and that the intense heat is now down to just hot? Let's just say it is better. Some interesting things around La Solana to let you know. We now have a new CareScape crew and Supervisor. We are off to a good start with the new crew as Mike Donovan and Kathleen Deconti met with them to establish an agreed upon program for our landscape. They began by marking with colored flags all the spots where we lost plants this summer. We can now evaluate what needs to be replaced. At our last Board meeting we did approve grass reseeding for the fall and a weed spray for next spring.

(Con't page 2)

Caught being good neighbors: Becky Panko & Patricia Bach



If you loved all the social activities at La Solana during these hot summer months, say Thank-You to Becky and Patricia. These two La Solana residents teamed together to present bi-weekly social activities in the club house all summer long—and they're not done yet.

Patti Farrell asked Becky if she'd consider organizing some summer activities in the Club House. Becky responded, "Sure, if you find me a partner who is easy going, doesn't stress out, is thick skinned, has lots of ideas, and is willing to be a co-chair." Meet Patricia. The two have worked so well together creating bi-weekly, well-attended pot lucks, taco nights, appetizer socials, and hot dog celebrations, that residents are clamoring for more easy happy hour and evening socials. Residents have enjoyed the simple menus that left time to meet and greet the neighbors without fussing about formal fixings.

Patricia was well equipped to co-host. In her small town of 3000 she'd been everything from a 'soda jerk' to a 'fountain belle' serving up treats for decades (we won't tell you how many).

(Con't page 2: Becky and Patricia)

(Con't from page 1) Jan Smith

The big news is that the La Solana Rules and Regulations have been updated. The Board approved the updates and copies will be available in the office. You may request an electronic copy and we'll email it to you.

Bob Sylvester submitted a proposal to *The Grand* to place a sign on Mountain View to show everyone that *The Grand* begins with La Solana. The sign will be similar to *The Grand* signs at other entrances to the community. This week Bob and I attended a meeting with Jeff Hockman, the new General Manager, during which we were told the signage was under serious consideration. The sign would be put at the end of our wall on MountainView and then it would show that we are included in *The Grand*. This is good news, and a long time coming. We expect the signage will improve La Solana's property values as we will now be known as part of *The Grand*.

Zoom into the Board Workshop on Wednesday, September 13th at 10am. We have some very interesting topics to discuss. You can join the meeting by going on the lasolanaliving.com website.

We are looking forward to the fall season and the return of our snowbirds to La Solana.

President

Jan Smith

Becky & Patricia (con't from page 1)

Patti zeroed in on Becky because "Becky is always going somewhere, doing something. She should be involved." And Becky said, "Yes."

These social hours (more like two hours) have been a breeze. Your hosts have noted that "everyone is generous. Everyone comes, everyone cleans up." The ladies report that this has been the easiest party planning ever. Their goal is to get the residents out and involved. The simpler the menu, the more fun the evening. We're all clamoring for more.

Becky and Patricia haven't run out of ideas. The variety has been delightful. On the horizon is a pulled-pork feast, and a closing fancy wine tasting to top off our summer season. The two party planners report their plans develop as they bounce ideas off one another and they'll do it again next year—with a little encouragement from the rest of us.

Dozens of residents (averaging 50 each get-together) have been attending and enjoying our social hours throughout the summer and want them to continue. They clamor for more 'light and easy' socializing at least twice a month all year long.

Have an idea for an entertaining social hour? Step up and plan an afternoon or evening gathering. Becky and Patricia, or the Social Committee, are certain to encourage your participation. And you know the residents will come out by the dozens.

Thank you Becky and Patricia for a great summer season!

Update on The Falls

The reconstruction of The Falls continues. There have been delays due to inspections but the contractor promises to double up as soon as the permits are approved. In the meantime Grand has cancelled its contract with Compass. We are seeking a new proprietor to run the Falls restaurant. Suggestions include the owners of Angelas, Chef Peters, and various others being interviewed. The newly established Food and Beverage Committee are overseeing this task. We have many residents with restaurant experience. Stay tuned.

Please send your ideas, news, comments, suggestions, questions, to La Solana Town Crier staff: Adrienne; unit 3312, 623-4668; adriennekirschner314@gmail.com (No complaints, please. HaHa)

These feet are made for walking, and that's just what they did.

Recognize them? They belong to our own Cindy Carlson



Grand Fitness seeks to engage residents in healthy activities. This summer Fitness Director Allison sponsored an 8 week walk-a-thon. Residents were invited to record their steps every day for eight weeks. Prizes included gift cards to various restaurants about Surprise, but the real prize was a healthier summer and a reason to get out in spite of the hot temperatures. Our indoor, air conditioned, fitness track at Adobe saw lots of feet pounding the boards.

Cindy braved the outdoors every day for all 8 weeks. You can join her any morning, she usually begins about 4 AM. Total for 8 weeks of daily walking? Over 1,000,000 steps. That's an average of nearly 19,000 steps a day, about 8 miles daily depending upon your step size.

Cindy won the grand prize, a gift certificate to newly opened, and fabulous, Cooper's Hawk restaurant. Way to go Cindy!

Residential Lock Box



If you don't already have a lock box affixed beside your front door, please consider installing one now. Every time I see emergency vehicles at La Solana I hope the first responders are able to quickly enter the unit.

A lock box is a heavy metal box containing a resident's door key and can only be opened by the Surprise Fire Department. The key, stored in the lock box, is accessed in order to gain entry into your home. Especially important for residents who live alone, the lock box may mean the difference between life and death.

Call the Fire Department at 623-222-5000 to order yours now.

Subscribe to eNotifications

We are blessed to live in this vibrant community where we have easy access to so many amenities and activities-every day. To be in the know in a timely manner subscribe and read the daily News of the Day sent through Grand communications department.

Here's how to subscribe to eNotifications: Log on to www.livegrandaz.com; Go to 'Edit Profile'; Scroll down to eNotifications to make your selections. The four categories of emails are: Daily News, Fitness, Golf, and Activities & Events.

Worried you'll get too many notifications in your in-box? That's what the delete button is for. Stay informed, don't miss out on events you might like to attend. In addition to knowing what is happening, you'll also love of volunteer opportunities. Remember:

“Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept.”

Dunning-Kruger Effect

Don't fall victim to the Dunning-Kruger Effect—a type of cognitive bias where people with little expertise or ability assume they have superior expertise or ability. This overestimation occurs as a result of the fact that they don't have enough knowledge to know they don't have enough knowledge. (*This may be how we got into trouble remodeling the Falls.*) Let's each add our true expertise as we continue to improve La Solana. It takes a village.

Books & Puzzles & Peaceful Quiet

Did you know that La Solana has its own lending library? Our resident librarian, Madelyn Truett, takes very good care of our selection. You'll find books on all subjects, shelved alphabetically. Take what books, or puzzles, you want, return when finished. No troublesome paper work to complete.

Have books or puzzles in your home library that are taking up space. Put them in the donation box and our volunteers will sort and shelve them.

Things to do near or far from La Solana

Returning from your summer retreat or just ready to get out and about? There's so much to do outside of La Solana and Grand.

These are all winners: Desert Botanical Gardens (www.dbg.org); Musical Instrument Museum (www.mim.org); Heard Museum (www.Heard.org); Phoenix Art Museum (www.phxart.org); Wesley Colin Memorial Park (www.wesleybolinplaza.com); Phoenix Theatre (www.phoenixtheatre.com); Phoenix Zoo (www.phoenixzoo.org); Pioneer History Village (www.pioneer-arizona.org); Arizona Science Center (www.azscience.org); Out of Africa Wildlife Park (www.outofafricapark.com).

SSShh, I am going to let you in on a little known secret. When planning where to go, stop by the Surprise Library in advance and snatch a free pass to some of your favorite getaways including museums, zoos, and more. Free passes are good for you and a guest and can save you lots of \$\$\$\$\$\$. Not every location is available every day, but if you're flexible you can save big.

Interested in more getaways? Prescott (www.visit-prescott.com) and nearby Wickenburg (www.wickenburgchamber.com) for some local western flavor, or consider cruising on Lake Pleasant in nearby Peoria, or the Desert Belle in Mesa. Willing to travel 100+ miles? Old Tucson Studios (www.oldtucson.com) is sure to bring back memories of those westerns you loved.

