

LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the good news that's fit to print

From the President's desk: Jan Smith

One of the prime responsibilities of your Board is the safety of the community.

Over the past few years much has been accomplished with safety in the fore front. The bike cage was built and thus bike thefts prevented. New lights were installed in the car ports addressing what the local police recommended. We have discussed and will continue to look into video cameras.

We have now identified a new security issue with vandalism to one of our service providers. On two separate days in Feb. Wyerd internet fiber had service disruptions. Wires had purposely been cut. This was done at approximately 10:30 in the morning. The closets that house their equipment also house APS, Century Link, and Cox. These closets have never been locked. Following these incidents, the Board met in emergency session and approved single key locks be installed on the utility closet doors. Greg Martin, Gordon Kath, and Mike Donovan quickly installed door locks. Please IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

Jan Smith,

La Solana Board President



La Solana Residents

Enjoying our beautiful winter weather, the sun shine, the musical waters from our fountains, and one another's company. Great way to spend the day.

To My Fellow La Solana Owners, Guests, and Visitors

For over a year I have been writing the Town Crier each month. I love doing it and sharing it with everyone. But I can't do it alone. Without your photos and articles the pages will simply be a report from the neighborhood reps, without photos. Without input from you, this may be the last edition.

Thank you to Carol Crawford, Robb Carr, and Jan Smith for your contributions in this edition.

Text your stories and photos to: 623-466-9068;

Email: adriennekirschner314@gmail.com

Rebecca Strand, Lois Mumford, Patricia Bach, Diane Brown, Becky Panko.



Girls just want to have fun!

Carol Crawford instructed some of our residents and their guests and grand child, as they created beautiful Valentine's center pieces. A wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon in our Club House.

Watch for future craft events. If you have an idea, be sure to let Carol know as she is a master at putting together supplies and instructions everyone can enjoy.

Thank you Carol for the photos and the crafts.

They say the job is not done until the paper work is finished. Well, the painting isn't done until the doors are Turquoise again.

Let the front office know if you want your screen door and/or front door and trim painted. Our former Mike Pence, handyman extraordinaire, will see that the work is done well



Are you a non-resident owner with a renter at La Solana? Please share the newsletter as renters are invited to all La Solana activities.



Landscape Committee at Work

Your landscape committee has met twice with the purpose of making recommendations to the HOA Board with the goal of improving the appearance of our already beautiful campus. I'm sure you are proud of the surrounding grounds when you see it well maintained. The Board has an already large agenda. So it is helpful to them to have suggestions on how we can add improvements.

Currently, there is another turf reduction plan for several areas to reduce our water bill. The City of Surprise is providing us with a grant of \$12,000 for our water conservation efforts. Keep in mind, that we are retaining as much green grass as possible, a feature for which we all enjoy.

The committee is also working on beautification ideas for each patio wall area which needs attention. Additionally, it is the goal to make sure that plants that require sun are in the proper locations as well as those that require more shade.

It is our desire to bring color and life back into the landscape, so our properties are enhanced by the beauty and in turn enhancing value.

Robb Carr, Landscape Committee

Now for news from The Grand

I know that many of us consider ourselves La Solana owners and residents, and we are, but we are also owners/renters and residents of The Grand. What happens at The Grand impacts us all. It is important to be informed and to lend our voices. Here's some of the latest developments:

- La Solana finished its total paint renewal at a cost of over \$500,000. The Grand is about to embark on a multi-year, multi-million dollar paint spree. Painting will begin on the Cimarron side with the least trafficked areas (side buildings, street monument signs, etc) in order to have the least negative impact on residents during the high season. It will probably take 2 years to complete the painting. Be patient.
- We are also undergoing a much needed audio/visual upgrade throughout The Grand campus. In order to keep up with the rapidly changing technology we are in need of a massive overhaul. Included will be the Sonoran ballroom so concerts, musical and dramatic productions will be higher quality sound, classroom, the visual bulletin boards, internet throughout the complex, and more. Goal, make website more user friendly.
- The Grand golf courses have won major awards: #10 throughout the country for Best of Play. 5th & 12th places for best golf courses in Arizona. We like to say we have Scottsdale golf courses at a price that will Surprise you! Great golf courses increase our property values and attract more off-site golfers who in turn contribute to our coffers.

- Very important votes coming up in March:
 - Rule 331818. This is a one-time opportunity for The Grand to maintain its control of our streets. Vote YES if you like that The Grand is able to restrict street parking, avoid anyone parking cars or other vehicles in front or rear yard, limit RV parking to 3-day max, ban open garage sales, and more. We have this one legal opportunity to maintain our streets. A negative vote means that our Grand streets will be subject to the same rules and regulations as in the rest of Surprise—you could have a mechanic fixing cars next to your parked car (for example). Vote YES.
 - We will be voting on our new Grand HOA Board of Directors. This year has taught us that our choices, our choice to vote, who to vote for, even not to vote, has consequences. Educate yourself about each candidate and then vote for those you believe will best serve our community in these important volunteer positions.
 - Important dates to Meet the Candidates:
 - Meet and Greet Candidate: Monday, Feb 24, 3-5 PM, Palm Center Lobby
 - Board Candidate Town Hall: Thursday, Feb 27, 7-9 PM, Cimarron Ballroom
 - Board Candidate Forum: Wednesday, March 5, 7-9 PM, Kiva Sonoran Plaza
 - Board Candidate “Speed Dating”: Saturday, March 8, 9-11 AM, Kiva Sonoran Plaza
- Voting Monday, March 10 - Monday, March 17, noon

One vote per property. Non-Resident Owners eligible to Vote.

Law Suit against The Grand Directors impacts every one of us.

One member of the HOA Board of Directors, elected March 2024, Tom Gusich, has filed a lawsuit against The Grand—that means against each of us. Gusich wants to dissolve the Board Code of Conduct Rules and Regulations, which he signed as a member of the Board and dismiss all conduct violations against himself. Additionally he wants Grand to pay all of his attorney fees, and an undisclosed amount for his “emotional pain and suffering.”

If you have been following events, as I have, Gusich has been continually verbally abusive and intrusive in management business since his election. The Board has offered mediation and arbitration, in an attempt to curb his behavior—to no avail. At this time you can follow events at the website of the Superior Court in Maricopa County: Tom Gusich vs The Grand.

Selling your property? It is required by law that you indicated there is a pending law suit against your property.

Remember: Who you vote for, or if you are eligible and fail to vote, does have consequences. Stay informed. Vote wisely.

Odds & Ends

- Book recommendation: “Healthy Heart & Healthy Brain” by Bale and Doreen
- Wildlife at Arizona recommends a 10-20% solution of household strength ammonia to ward off wild life. Walking your dog? Carry a spray bottle of solution to keep Coyotes at bay.
- Hummingbird feeds: 1 part sugar to 5 parts water. A few drops of maple syrup are a plus. Red dye has been banned by FDA as it is cancerous and can be a poison to wildlife. Hummingbirds will love your sugar/water/maple syrup formula.
- Spring baseball is on its way bringing about \$30,000,000 each year to the City of Surprise. Next time you complain about the traffic, remember that traffic is paying some of our bills.
- Our in-house Grand Activities will be taking over the Grand LifeStyles magazine beginning April edition. Watch for changes—hopefully, all improvements.
- Our Grand communications department will now include a director of Marketing whose purpose is to expand our internal and external markets, keep abreast of latest developments and interests in age-restricted communities, like ours, so we remain viable, and your properties maintain and increase in value attracting new buyers as we age/sell/change our living conditions. (I will be sure to keep them informed about our fabulous La Solana condos another choice for new buyers.)
- Sadly, a Grand resident passed away and there is no contact information on file. His remains are with the City Morgue pending a next of kin—currently unknown. Please make sure you have information on file with CAM, or your neighbors, or someone about what to do in case of an emergency and you are unable to communicate (unconscious or deceased). The City of Surprise offers a free “We Care” service whereby you will receive a daily automated call. If there is no response, a wellness check will follow. Call 623-622-4277 to enroll in this free service.
- LifeStyle magazine has a full list of Resources on the last two inside pages in each monthly edition.

City of Surprise Out of the Park Music Fest

March 22/ 2-10 PM. Mark Coronado Park

Music. Food, Fun. Chart-topping and rising country stars will rock the stage, talented local bands, dancing on the lawn. Tickets & Info: outoftheparkmusicfest.com