

LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the good news that's fit to print

La Solana Knows How to Party Featuring this month's Party Queen: Patricia Bach

January 28-Baked Potato Party



Patricia Bach

The January Baked Potato party at La Solana was attended by 95+ Residents and guests. The weather was absolutely amazing.

Everyone enjoyed the Baked Potatoes with all the fixings, and the tossed salad. We had Baileys Irish Cream cake, 3 Texas Sheet cakes, and a Lemon pound cake baked by volunteers for dessert. (Con't page 2)

(Potato party continued)

Volunteers started setting up the tables and chairs outside at 3:00. That took about an hour.

Five volunteers cooked a total of 100 potatoes.

Baked potatoes began arriving about 4 o'clock. Volunteers needed to cut and squeeze the potatoes ready for serving. Other volunteers had sliced cucumbers, diced onions, diced tomatoes.

Everyone started arriving a little before 4:30. While they were outside visiting, the prep work was going on inside, making the salads, pinching the potatoes and carrying out of the food.

Lois Mumford made a few announcements. We began serving at 4:45 and that took us about 45 minutes to serve 95 people. As soon as the last potatoes were served it was time to begin serving the dessert.

While the men were outside, putting away the the table and chairs and straightening up the patio, the volunteer women were inside, cleaning the kitchen and putting away the utensils that were used. All of the cleanup took until seven. Then we cleared out, and the HOA and owners were able to have their " Chat with the board" meeting.

I would like to thank all who helped with making the Potato feast a success. None of us can do it without the volunteers that show up to setup, cook and clean up.

Please consider being a part of the Social groups .

By Patricia Bach



Photos (above) Vicki Johnson & Jerilyn Foreman
 (Top right) Amy Mook, Cheryl Emmert, and Lois Mumford
 (Bottom right) Carol Crawford, Diane Brown, Vicki Johnson, Susan Zarada

Photos by Jack Mumford



Olivia Reynolds caught neighbor **Roxanne Kath** taking advantage of the “Free Books” event in the La Solana library.

Free books are still available. **BUT** if you take a free book you may not return it, ever.

Reminder, the Friends of the Library in Surprise wants your gently used books.

Keep on Reading

Wednesday February 11th
4:30pm Valentine Appetizer & Dessert pool side party. **No charge** for this event, but please bring an **APPETIZER** to share.

Thursday February 12th
La Solana Annual Meeting

Salty Dawgs

Remember during Covid when the Salty Dawgs played for us from the parking lot and we set up lawn chairs? Well they are back and ready for charity. It's a fun way to get your neighborhood together. Click on the link for more info.

<https://saltydawgsmusic.com/>



Income Tax Time is fast approaching—are you prepared?

Arizona allows Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

These charitable gifts are credits applied to your taxes. Check with your Tax preparer to determine your status. You could save thousands while helping the charity of your choice.

And now for the news from The Grand:

- Elections for the Board of Directors is happening now with voting opening March 9 -16th. This is an important election with 9 candidates running for 4 open seats. Take the time to be informed about what each candidate stands for, what expertise they bring to the Board and to Grand, why they want to be on the Board of Directors.
- We are all aware that when we make uninformed or poor choices, the results have been a Board that couldn't make much progress due to all the disruption from one Board member, tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees that could be used elsewhere, and gross unhappiness among our staff and our volunteers.
- Check the News of the Day to find the locations and times when you can meet the candidates. If you can't go in person, there are multiple opportunities to view candidates on Zoom and on theGrand website.
- Urge La Solana president Greg Martin to invite the candidates to speak at La Solana. They want our votes.
- ByLaws changes. It is good practice for an HOA controlled community, like The Grand and La Solana, to review their ByLaws on a regular basis. Life changes, needs change, State laws change and must be incorporated into the community documents. This year TheGrand has proposed two changes to the ByLaws.
 - The first involves changing the verbiage from any occupant of a residence at Grand may be on the Board of Directors, to only Owners can be on the Board of Directors.
 - The second is to change the term of service for members of the Board of Directors from 2 year terms, with a maximum of 6 consecutive years of Board Service, to 3 year terms with a maximum of 6 years of consecutive service. All Directors have indicated that because it takes about 6-7 months to learn enough to be a valued contributor, 2 years is not enough time.
- The proposed changes will be included in the same voting packet The Grand uses for Board of Director votes. By combining the Consent with the Vote, The Grand saves an estimated \$25,000 in costs.
- ByLaws changes require a simple majority vote to pass. At TheGrand, that translates to 4902 votes (Yes to the changes) to change the ByLaws. Vote YES on the ballot.
- Credit charges are costly. By encouraging residents to pay their charges via Debit card, bank transfer, or check, the association saved \$133,000 in credit card fees.
- Our CAM management saved another \$112,000 in combined insurance and brokerage fees in 2025. Way to go CAM!
- Our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community may soon benefit from Jeenie, a 24/7, HIPAA-compliant VRI platform providing on-demand access to live, qualified, and certified interpreters in over 300 languages.
- Activities office at The Grand continues to provide first class entertainment. For a complete list of live concerts and other events, read the LifeStyles magazine. No one at Grand needs to be bored—there is so much entertainment available, free or at low cost.
- AED. We now have 20 AED locations at Grand. Watch for announcements of upcoming events and presentations posted on the Grand website under Fitness/Wellness.
- Spring baseball is upon us. College baseball championships play Feb 13-16. Residents can snag \$10. Base line tickets from the City of Surprise.

The Grand News Continued

- Rangers/Royals spring training begins Feb 20. They will also play two of the World Baseball Classic teams: March 3-Team Cuba vs KC Royals. March 4-Team Brazil vs Texas Rangers.
- Watch for Out of the Park Music Fest on March 21.
- VERY SPECIAL: The Wall That Heals. Surprise is the only city in the SouthWest selected to host the 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC, and the only authorized traveling exhibit. The Wall will be here from April 7-12, opened 24 hours a day. Volunteers needs for 4 hour shifts. Call City of Surprise to volunteer. <https://Surpriseaz.gov/1016/Sports-Entertainment-Culture>

Cyber Scams on the Rise—Don't be a Victim

Justin Watt, DEA agent presented at the Feb. Neighborhood Rep meeting.

Do you all remember the "Nigerian Prince" fraud attempting to steal your money? Well, that was junior league compared to what is going on today.

Personal story: A friend at the Grand reported that he had dropped his Humana health coverage because a new company offered to replace his Medicare Advantage plan, take over his Medicare insurance, pay his Medicare premiums, and send him \$130 a month. (Too good to be true?) Our friend turned over all his Medicare information including Medicare and Social Security numbers, home address and phone. We scoffed at him and he gloated when he received his \$130. Check. How does this happen?

Agent Watt explained that the fraudulent company bills Medicare for services our friend never receives. It may be billing for medical equipment, diabetes supplies, home health care, doctors visits, medications. The fraudulent company uses your Medicare info to bilk the federal government—that means us. Medicare loses billions of dollars annually due to these schemes, usually from overseas.

If you suspect you are a victim of a Medicare scheme, contact Medicare immediately.

Remember when you used to get crazy emails with urgent demands? Now the preferred method of Scamming is via text messages. Have you received a text from a number you don't recognize who wants to be your friend? They may be 'friends' with you for 4-5 months before the Hit comes, but it will come. Once you engage scammers share your number and you become more vulnerable. Delete is your best friend.

Protect yourself. Delete any requests you don't recognize. Verify by calling the source directly (ie. Capitol One, your bank, etc.) Never give out any sensitive information. You can lock your Social Security Number: Department of Homeland Security website. It's free. Better to be overly safe, than sorry and broke.

Send your stories and photos to Adriennekirschner314@gmail.com;
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