



LáSolana Living

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Are you still starry eyed from July 4th?

Life has returned to normal after the dazzling fireworks displays available live or via our television networks on Monday, July 4th. It always amazes me how the technicians can plan to have the explosions occur at just the right part in the music. My personal favorite is the Boston Pops Orchestra on the banks of the Charles River in Boston. Fresh from those holiday experiences, I marvel at our continent and all the beauty contained therein. As some of you travel to see family and friends this summer, take time to take in the beautiful scenery hidden around every corner of our country.

I am reflecting on the initial beauty of LáSolana as I remember seeing it in January of 2006. Our first residential experience was that of a renter. We soon fell in love with the property, the people and Sun City Grand. We knew we wanted to be part of this community and six months later, we owned a unit.

We were excited about being full members of LáSolana and Sun City Grand.

We are now relieved to know that LáSolana is fully recognized as an equal member by Sun City Grand and not merely as a recreational member. We are thrilled that our documents have been legally interpreted by SCG to reflect this. We have every right and privilege as does each home owner in SCG. We can serve on any committee in any club or Board and can be elected to any position. We can vote in all elections. We can access all the amenities.

Through June 2011, your annual assessment to Sun City Grand was collected on a monthly basis by the LáSolana HOA and forwarded to Sun City Grand. On July 1, 2011 a big change occurred; your annual assessment to SCG was due and payable to SCG directly. This was a direct result of the recognition by SCG of LáSolana owners being equal and full members of SCG. We have worked hard to accomplish this recognition.

As you enjoy the beauty and amenities of our communi-

ties, LáSolana and Sun City Grand, reflect upon the fact that you own a share of it all. Think back to the warm fuzzy feelings that you experienced when you first saw the property. Treasure the friendships you have developed and appreciate all that our staff does on a daily basis for you. **Hold those memories in your mind as we are so very fortunate to be able to experience life the LáSolana way!**

Take care,
Ann Ward, President
Board of Directors

Elevators

Please be sure to watch Sunflower seeds around the elevator doors. We are finding seeds in the door tracks, which can cause the doors to malfunction. This is especially true in building #5.

Arizona Dust Storm 2011

To all of you snowbirds, you missed an incredible dust storm on Tuesday, July 5, 2011. We have had several people call the clubhouse and ask if the storm hit Surprise. The answer is “NO” it came as close as the Cardinal Stadium on the 101 and hit Buckeye, but we were spared. We got some dust, but nothing like the other side of the valley received.

The massive storm originated between Phoenix and Tucson and swept through Phoenix just before 7:30 p.m. on the 5th reducing visibility to near zero. Like most of the drought-stricken Southwest, Arizona hasn't had rain in months, so the sand was especially loose.

The dust storm is what's called a “haboob” (Arabic for “strong wind”).

For those of you who do not know what a haboob is, the “haboob” forms after a severe thunderstorm and air

from the thunderstorm plummets to the ground at speeds up to 100 mph, and with so much momentum that it kicks up an enormous amount of dry, loose sand which, ripples outward.

According to the National Weather Service, the “haboob” reached peak heights of 8,000 to 10,000 feet. By the time the storm reached Phoenix, it was estimated to be at 5,000 feet according to the weather service.

Some reports said the “haboob” was 80 to 100 miles wide, depending on what TV station or article you read. According to Weather Service officials, the cause of the storm's speed was yet to actually be determined. Officials said the storm's unusual density was caused by little rainfall in affected areas during the past several months.

If you speak to people who have lived here for over 35 years, they will tell you this is the first time they have ever

witnessed something so unbelievable. You had to see it to appreciate how truly amazing it was.



“Haboob”

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you.

Henry Ward Beecher

Block Watch

The Surprise Police Department in the last several months has had residents report that they have been contacted by an individual alleging that their grandchild is in jail and needs \$500 to get out on bail. This individual requests they send a money gram or check to an address.

They have obtained the grandchild's identification from Twitter, Facebook, or another social network entry. Do not respond by opening a message or contacting these individuals. It's a similar scam to the “You've won the Lottery” which you never entered.

Call the Police Department if you have been contacted. So be a good neighbor in reasonable ways.

The Association is very committed to making LáSolana a safe, secure community.

In addition to the Block Watch Program, we have C.H.A.P.S. patrol the complex during the evening hours. It is recommended that units unoccupied for a period of time should be checked on a regular basis by a trusted person. New condo purchasers should have their locks changed out.

The Surprise Police Depart-

ment is aware of the concerns of LáSolana residents.

Your cooperation in promptly reporting any criminal act, suspicious persons, etc., by calling 911 is important. Concerns should be called directly to the Surprise Police Department at 623-222-4000.

Russ Anderson

Block Watch Coordinator



Iris

Did You Know!

- All residential rental property owners must file a A.R.S. 33-1902 report with the assessor in the county where the property is located. Failing to comply could cost the owner a civil penalty of one thousand dollars, plus an additional one hundred dollars for each month after the date of the original violation until compliance occurs. A copy of the Notification of Arizona Residential Rental Property form is available in the clubhouse office.
- If you are new to the area, there is an organization called "PORA" in Sun City West that also serves Sun City Grand. PORA can help you with advice on vendor recommendations, and other general information. You can visit PORA at 13815 Camino Del Sol, Sun City West (623-584-4288). PORA is a Better Business Bureau for seniors.
- Computer classes are available at SCG or in your home. The goal of the Computer Club is to help a beginner get started and an experienced user to advance their abilities. Classes at SCG are held in the fall term from October into December. The winter/spring term is from January into April. You must be a member of the Computer Club to take classes. If you are interested in more information go to www.grandcomputers.org. If you do not have transportation to the SCG computer club, you can have an instructor come to your home for one-on-one training. For in-home classes contact Joe Parla at 623-792-5035.
- The trash container in the mailroom is for discarding junk mail only - not bagged newspapers or dog waste. The container is small and cannot accommodate large bags of trash. It is your responsibility to take magazines, and other such items to the dumpster.
- That we now have an umbrella over the "Smoking" section near the pool. This has come in extremely handy with the hot temperatures this summer. The folks who use it daily are very appreciative to the Board for recognizing the need for one.
- There are a number of vendor business cards and flyers available in the clubhouse office. The information can be a valuable resource to new owners. The items on display are not a Board directive, but rather recommendations from owners and residents who have used the various services.
- The Board welcomes you to submit items of interest

important that we hear from you on subjects of interest to our readers.

- Board Minutes are placed for viewing in the glass display case in the clubhouse and on the website. Be sure to check it out.

Plumbing

Tips.....

- Be sure to check the A/C condensation hoses under the bathroom sink in your unit for leaks. We are finding some units having problems.
- Be proactive, replace the Johnny ring on your toilet.

Dryer Vents Can Cause Fires!!!

According to the Fire Department, every year thousands of fires are started from dryer lint, and in most of these fires, the owners said they had cleaned the screen every time they used the dryer.

The problem is the re-

movable vent screen is not the only place lint accumulates, and that is why it is necessary to have it cleaned professionally once a year.

A number of competent companies can be found on-line or in the tele-

phone directory to handle this type of work.

As a reminder, it only takes one dryer to combust and the adjacent condos will most likely catch on fire as well.



Meet Your Neighbor

Which year-long LáSolana resident attended the very first New Year's Eve Gala held in the Sonoran Fitness Center because the Sonoran Ballroom was not yet built? If you said Arlene Fasciano from Building 6 you would be right. She and her husband Robert were among the first Sun City Grand homeowners. After his passing she decided to sell their house and try condo living with the assistance of her close friends Barbara and Tom who helped the sales agent complete the purchase forms for one of the last two model units available in Building 2 while she went home to get a check. About three years later she decided she wanted more space, and a larger LáSolana unit in Building 6 was the answer.



Arlene was raised in Newburgh, New York, about 50 miles north of New York City. After high school she attended cosmetology school and that training perhaps accounts for the fact that she always looks like a million dollars. However, the business and secretarial training she received in high school coupled with her pleasant and energetic personality led to a variety of successes in the business world, for a long time interrupted as a stay at home Mom.

Her son Dean, his wife Evonne, and grandson Robert reside in California. While Dean was quite young, Arlene was employed as a secretary to project managers at IBM in New York. During that time she met her second husband, Robert, also an IBM employee. Subsequently, they transferred to California and later settling in Tucson, Scottsdale, and eventually Surprise. After years as a stay at home wife and mother, Arlene was encouraged to apply for employment as the concierge at the Ritz Carlton Resort in Phoenix. Arlene says the Ritz Carlton employment was the most rewarding she ever experienced although she also enjoyed her employment in Sun City Grand at the Vacation Villas and as the Activities Director before retirement.

Always on the go, you may encounter Arlene on Fridays volunteering at the Adobe Spa. And, if you attend any of the activities listed in the Grand Times calendars throughout the year such as potlucks, dances, plays, etc. it's possible that she will be there too along with her friends Chuck, Barbara, and Tom. In addition, she is very active in her Sun City church. She says boredom should never be an issue for any resident of Sun City Grand as the community offers so much to do. At the moment she is challenged, however, to be a more effective user of her new computer and the electronic gadgets on her new car. When you see her, ask if she signed up for any computer classes.

Arlene believes that the LáSolana staff, JoAnne, Judy, and Mike, are to be commended for the amazing job that they do. Her positive attitude and enthusiasm for these people, her neighbors, and for Sun City Grand in general make Arlene Fasciano an ideal neighbor for all of us to enjoy. Get to know her if you have not already done so.

Earl Lindquist

Communications Committee

Enthusiasm is the electric current that keeps the engine of life going at top speed.....

B.C. Forbes

Notes From The Board

In late April, the Communications Committee met to discuss many pool usage challenges. They thoroughly examined the issue and have prepared a recommendation for the Board to vote on in the fall. We are thankful for their input and the effort put forth by them all to consider those issues.

The flat roof repairs are to start in July and will involve all of the remaining condo buildings at LáSolana that were not done in the spring. Please be tolerant of the intrusions and the noise. The end results will be appreciated especially during the monsoon season.

A resident's survey has been developed under the direction of Dick Morrissett. It was mailed out to each owner with the notice of the SCG assessment collection changes. Please take the time to fill it in and return the document to the LáSolana office by August 1, 2011.

Dick will compile the data and present his findings to the Board. The next issue of the newsletter will contain a synopsis of this survey. Thank you to Dick and JoAnne for putting the survey in its final form.

We have collected the necessary information for the revision to the Reserve Study. The consultants will take 4-6 weeks to finalize the document. It will become the critical planning document for years to come.

Brad Schaeffer and Ken Marks are closely watching the proposed water rate increase issue. I have had the office post and forward a document which I received from Surprise explaining the details to date. If you have given us your email, then you would have received it. (See how important it is for us to have a way to send these notices out without the cost of postage). We will continue to forward up-

dates as we receive them.

Our most exciting news was received at the last Board meeting. With a very short lead in time, we were notified by Mitzi Mills that SCG recognized our 2004 annexation document which stated that every LáSolana unit owner was a full and equal member of Sun City Grand with all rights and privileges. SCG stated that they would be collecting the annual assessment starting on July 1, 2011. That has now taken place. (Because of a mail strike in Canada, some letters were sent via email to those owners). Again, it is very important for the office to have your current email address.

As the summer months pass by, stay cool and keep well.

Until we meet again in October.

Ann Ward, President
Board of Directors

Pool Rules

As a reminder, only owners and renters can use the pool at LaSolana. If you have someone looking after your unit while you are away, please notify them that they **do not** have access to the amenities here at LaSolana. We are starting to have a problem in this area.



Happy
Summer!



Please Take Note!



We love our pets and we have some adorable pets here at LáSolana, but cute or not they do not belong in the clubhouse or pool area whether or not they are on a lease. Pets are allowed in the Common Areas only.

Also, please be sure to clean up after your pet. We are continually seeing problems in this area. Pet waste must be disposed of in the designated pet waste container located between buildings #5 & #7.

Meeting Dates!

Fall 2011/ Spring 2012 Meeting Dates:

2011 Board Meetings

October 24

December 7

2012 Board Meetings

January 25

February 15

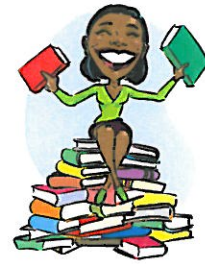
February 22 (Annual Meeting)

March 28

April 18

A Big Thank You!

To Faye Schulthies, Unit #4101 for restocking the shelves in the Library during the summer months when our regular volunteers are away.



We appreciate your willingness and commitment in taking the time out of your busy schedule to help out in the Library.

People like you help make LaSolana the great place it is to live and work.

Thanks Again!

Landscaping Update

As everyone can feel, we are officially in the “dog days of summer”. The temperatures are beginning to rise and the days are longer. The typically Arizona Monsoons are upon us as well; with the normal high winds and cool evening rains.

The past few months have been quite a busy time at LaSolana. The Palms have been trimmed, the turf fertilized, and portions of the irrigation system upgraded. All this was in an effort to enhance the overall beauty of the community.

With the quality of the turf getting better, we are able to turn our focus on the trees that are growing towards the buildings and windows. This work should be completed by the end of next month.

The summer flowers looked good for a little while. However, there have been some struggles with the extensive heat. To overcome this, we removed the flowers that were not doing good and installed ones that could handle the conditions of the planting

beds a little better. We were able to keep the overall color of the beds geared towards a warm theme and color palette. In turn, they are looking much better.

Upcoming, we have the winter turf transition scheduled for September/October. We have the flower change out scheduled for the late September/early October (depending on the weather).

Well, that about covers it. I hope everyone had a safe and memorable 4th of July holiday!

Enjoy and be safe!

Scott Cosgrove

ISA Certified Arborist



Dial-A-Ride Monthly Schedule

99¢ Store - 1st Friday
 Albertson's- 1st Tuesday
 Fry's - 2nd Tuesday
 Target - 2nd Thursday
 Wal-Mart - 3rd Thursday
 Safeway/Big Lots - 4th Thurs.

