

# LaSolanaLiving

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MARCH 2011

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, wonder where all the people is? You don't know? I'll tell you: right here at beautiful LaSolana! Have you ever seen so many people and so many happy people and so many busy people? I am reminded everyday why my wife and I chose LaSolana as our retirement community– it's because of the PEOPLE!

We have funny ones, serious ones, good athletic ones, good card player ones, good eaters, good cooks, and just plain good 'ol people all around LaSolana. In fact, in this issue you will meet two great ones – they are some of our newest owners and I think you'll find it fascinating to learn more about them! This is a new feature which we are beginning this issue and hope to continue in the months to come. I hope you will enjoy it!

Speaking of people: did you ever see so many people at the first "annual" Open House on Valentine's weekend?? By most estimates, it was a rousing success, with over 300 people touring some of the LaSolana units open for viewing and/or for sale. A lot of new friends were made and we anticipate some residual benefit for current owners, investors or realtors will come from the exposure of our little bit of "paradise". Special thank-you goes to all the people who assisted in the undertaking, led by our own Ann Ward and Marcia Durell. Thanks to them for producing a beautifully executed event.

Lets not forget the people who plan our weekly pool parties, or our big "themed" parties, like the recent hugely successful, "50's Party"; or the folks who work behind the scenes as well as in front of us all, as our elected board members! How about those other people who have been volunteering to pick up trash ... or who work tirelessly on the landscape committee trying to keep our paradise, "a paradise". All over LaSolana, there are men and women working tirelessly to help make our community even better tomorrow than it is today. And you can join us: if you have an interest in working as a volunteer on a committee, let a board member know or leave your name in the office and, believe me, you will be contacted (probably before the ink is dry on your name and unit number).

And before I run out of space, I need to mention one other place, coming up soon, here the good people of LaSolana will be hard at work ... the annual "end of winter party", round the pool, the end of March. It's one last blast for many of our seasonal and non-seasonal visitors. You won't want to miss this one! Lots of

music, good drinks and a ton of fun! **Mark your calendars for the Caribbean Pool Party, March 30<sup>th</sup>!!**

In closing, let me just say that “people” are what makes LaSolana special – thanks to all you special people!

---John Hall, 6309, Editor



OUR FOUNTAIN FROZE DURING SOME UNSEASONABLY COLD WEATHER IN JANUARY



## *COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE*

Among the tasks given to the Communications Committee to handle include the web site. As part of that, we are encouraging anyone with pictures of LaSolana (inside or outside) to submit them to [LaSolanaLiving@gmail.com](mailto:LaSolanaLiving@gmail.com) and we will try to use them both on the web and in other communications of LaSolana. By providing these photos (email is

preferred) you are permitting LaSolana HOA the use of these photos as the board of the HOA approves.

We'd greatly appreciate your help in this project.

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## **OPEN HOUSE REPORT**

Thanks to you who participated in our spectacular Open House on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> by passing out flyers, baking cookies, parking cars, greeting attendees or opening your homes for viewing. *It was a success beyond our wildest dreams and we could not have done it without your help!*

Initially, our intention was to market ourselves to realtors, some of whom didn't know us and some who find us confusing because we have LaSolana Closing Fees as well as those for Sun City Grand®. Joanne and Judy have developed an e-mail list for realtors and have provided them with a letter outlining our 2011 changes (set monthly assessment that includes water, discontinuation of trash pick up) and a chart that simplifies our Closing Costs. We hope to continue to improve our communication with realtors. As she was leaving, one realtor told us, "when I've shown clients Sun City Grand®, I only thought homes. Now I will be asking if they want to consider a condo." Our goal is to have all realtors saying that.

We had nearly 300 visitors. Some were renters, some visiting friends and relatives that live nearby, some from Sun City Grand® thinking of down-sizing. If you have any thoughts of how we can make next year's Open House better, please drop off the idea in the office. We hope to make this an annual event.



## March Big Number

# 128

The number of guests who rocked and rolled at the FIFTIES PARTY and enjoyed the food, fun and especially the "entertainment" !!

### **SOCIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH 2011**

Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22 10-12N  
BIKE RIDE (Front of Clubhouse)

Wednesday, March 9 7-9 PM  
GAMES NIGHT (in Clubhouse)

Friday, March 11  
Last Day to sign up for:  
COUPLES GOLF on March 19

Wednesday, March 16 4-7 PM  
POOLSIDE SOCIAL  
(Bring appetizer and drink)

Saturday, March 19 3 - PM  
COUPLES GOLF  
(At Sun Village)

Wednesday, March 23 10 AM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

Wednesday, March 23 7 - 9 PM  
GAME/MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, March 30 4 -??  
CARIBBEAN POOLSIDE PARTY  
(Bring appetizer and drink)



**IMPORTANT NOTICES**

DRYER VENTS SHOULD BE CLEANED ON A REGULAR BASIS TO PREVENT ACCUMULATION OF LINT WHICH COULD LEAD TO A FIRE. YOU MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH THE OFFICE FOR A COMPANY THAT HAS DONE THAT BEFORE FOR UNITS AT LASOLANA. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE DONE AT LEAST ANNUALLY!

If you are an owner of rental units at LaSolana and don't mind sharing your sample leases with other owners, please email them to [LaSolanaLiving@gmail.com](mailto:LaSolanaLiving@gmail.com) and we will place them on the web site. Please leave off any names, dates, amounts, for obvious reasons. We would appreciate your assistance, as will others.

## COMMITTEES CALLING YOU!

LaSolana is lucky to have so many residents who are willing to provide their individual expertise to improve all aspects of our community.

The following committees have been approved by the board. If you have any interest or experience in these areas, please contact Board President, Ann Ward, or leave the information with the office.

### SOCIAL EVENTS

*Planning, setup, promoting*

### LIBRARY

*Marking new books, shelving books, sorting older books*

### UTILITIES

*Looking at costs of utilities to determine if there is a way to reduce costs and improve service (water, solar, phone, etc)*

### LANDSCAPE

*Seasonal plantings, work with landscape company. Improve look of property*

### COMMUNICATIONS

*Potential advertising sources, web site, social networks*

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

*Work with board on staff duties*

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Assist Treasurer with budget preparation, reserve account and other activities related to finances.*

*All Committee meetings are open to any owner to attend and the dates, times and locations of meetings will be posted.*

## CLUBHOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL



### *PLANNING A BIG SOCIAL EVENT?*

**Did you know you can rent the Clubhouse for your next activity? Contact the office for information about availability and costs associated with this exceptional space.**

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## *Dr Seuss Says ...*

*Don't cry because it's over  
SMILE because it happened!!*

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**Don't forget the CREATIVE HANDS ART and WARES SHOW and SALE on MARCH 3 from 10-4 PM! Come and see the beautiful work done by your neighbors. It's held in the Clubhouse! Hope to see you there!**

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**NOTES FROM THE BOARD**

An extra Open Board meeting was held on Feb.17/11 because of an eight week span between the Jan. and Mar. regularly scheduled meetings.

The roofing renovations on Building 6 & 4 are well under way. Please avoid their work areas and stay away from the taped off zones. Debris does fall and we want all of you to stay safe. The contract will also include work on the maintenance garage.

We hope that all owners who received their ballots from Sun City Grand exercised their right to vote. The results should be available soon.

ProQual, our new landscape company starting March 1, walked the property with our manager, Brad, Mike, the landscape committee and me last week. Many areas were visited and the company is anxious to get started and work on our property. Included in this newsletter, will be an explanation of the pruning process that many of our shrubs must undergo in order to survive and revive. Please take note and understand that the restoration journey will take time. We ask for your patience and understanding.

The Staff and Board have worked together on job descriptions. These documents were approved at the Board meeting. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have

completed staff evaluations with each one. The Staff is responsible for the day to day operation of LaSolana and their list of duties and responsibilities is long. We are asking for your cooperation in keeping their interruptions to a minimum.

Congratulations to the new (old) board which was re-elected at the Annual Meeting held on February 23. Elaine Hall and Dick Morrissett were re-elected to three year terms on the board and the board moved to retain the titles that each held during the past year: Ann Ward, President; Elaine Hall, VP; Dick Morrissett is Secretary; Ken Marks, Treasurer and Russ Anderson, Member-at-Large. Congratulations and thanks to each of the members who attended and/or voted in the election and to those who agreed to serve another term.

A total of 235 owners of 252 cast votes during the election of board members...a *whopping* 93%. Thanks for your participation.

- Ann Ward, President

**LANDSCAPE REMINDER**

Proqual, our new landscapers, begin work this month. As part of the process, many bushes will be cut way back to produce new growth in the future. This may cause the property to look a bit unkempt for a few weeks while they begin to re-grow. Please be patient as we work on a new and improved LaSolana landscape design. **Plants, like all**

living things, take their own time to develop correctly. We hope you will be pleased with the new look!



## Meet Barb & Ben

Who wants to spend more time enjoying LaSolana beyond the three months they have rented in Buildings 6, 1, and 2 for the past four years?

Meet Ben and Barbara Willard from Seattle, one of LaSolana's newest owners as of March 21, 2011. To quote Ben, he believes that "LaSolana is the best kept secret in Arizona!" and the reason they decided to buy the unit they are currently renting.

Although Barbara was born in Cincinnati, she was raised in Seattle and met Ben on a chance encounter when her car stalled outside the restaurant owned by Ben's family. His offer of assistance led the way to 52 years of marriage, three daughters, and three grandchildren. Everyone is eager to visit now that Ben and Barbara plan to stay much longer. Their daughter Kim is visiting them now.

In 1985 Ben's family sold the restaurant and he then worked for the Washington State Ferries for 17 years while Barbara completed 25 years in real estate. While in Seattle, they divide their time between a gated 16 unit condo and a beach home on Puget Sound. Both have served on their condo's board of directors and committees created to make their association a better place to live.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary two years ago, Ben and Barbara boarded a train in Seattle that took them to Vancouver where they began their one month rail journey across Canada to Montreal, Niagara Falls, New York City, Washington D.C., New Orleans, and Los Angeles before returning home.

One year later they followed that trip up with a visit to Ross and Barbara Bowman, Building 3, in Calgary for the Calgary Stampede. During the past four years they have made many friends at LaSolana, and Barbara also has a sister that lives in Sun City Grand.

Among activities they enjoy at LaSolana are the pool side visits with neighbors during the day and game nights in the clubhouse. An avid poker player, Ben especially looks forward to poker nights, and Barbara is looking forward to taking some computer classes, water aerobics, and learning to play eucher.



They like it here and it will be good to have them around for more than 3 months starting next fall.

**WELCOME BARB, BEN and KIM!**



### **TRASH TALK**

Beginning on January 1, 2011, your Board of Directors, as a cost-saving measure, stopped door pick up of resident trash. Until February 21<sup>st</sup>, volunteer residents picked up trash for those who were unable to remove their own trash.

Beginning on February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Board notified all residents that a third party company, "Garbage Girls", was available to pick up garbage at your door for a maximum monthly fee of \$25. For more information or to schedule service, please contact *KRISTA KARSTENS* at 623-330-7237.



Two Canadians from the Fifties:  
*Barb Bowman and Suzanne Radi*

### **FIFTIES DOO WOP QUIZ**

We'll know if you cheated!

1. When did "Little Suzie" finally wake up?
  - (a) The movie's over, it's 2 o'clock
  - (b) The movie's over, it's 3 o'clock
  - (c) The movie's over, it's 4 o'clock
  
2. "Rock Around The Clock" was used in what movie?
  - (a) Rebel Without A Cause
  - (b) Blackboard Jungle
  - (c) The Wild Ones
  
3. What's missing from a Rock & Roll standpoint? Earth \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) Angel
  - (b) Mother
  - (c) Worm
  
4. "I found my thrill ..." (where?)
  - (a) Kansas City
  - (b) Heartbreak Hotel
  - (c) Blueberry Hill

5. "Please turn on your magic beam, (2 words), bring me a dream,":

- (a) Mr. Sandman
- (b) Earth Angel
- (c) Dream Lover

