

LáSolana Living

2013 Summer Edition



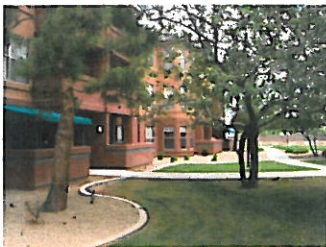
Notes From The Board

Hopefully, this finds you well. I feel rather like a mother hen who has lost sight of her chicks as there's no way of knowing if all of you and your loved ones are safe and sound given the tornadoes, wild fires, & floods that have run rampant across our country. It's been hard watching the devastation on the news.

Our year-round LáSolana neighbors want everyone to know that it's hot, hot, hot in AZ. Although, this summer, it's been hot, hot, hot many other places as well. One day last week, it was hotter here in Massachusetts than in Surprise. Surprise! The difference is that we do get breaks and one is here now. Whew!

Some updates you might be interested in:

- The Colonnade wall is moving along well and there is landscaping on their side. The Board will be considering landscaping bids for our side of the wall at the October 22nd meeting.



new curbing and granite



wall behind Bldg. 7

- To prevent water damage to the stucco, the sod touching our buildings has been removed and replaced with granite.
- Work on the replacing the elevators in Building 1, scheduled to begin July 1st, was delayed waiting for parts to arrive. It should begin by the time you receive this.
- For the past several months, our office staff worked very hard on developing a comprehensive DATA BASE with the help of a talented retired Microsoft software expert found at the Computer Club. The goal was to save the staff time by being able to access answers, not presently available at a stroke of a key, to LáSolana questions. After several meetings, all involved agreed that due to the complexity of the data base, the uncertainty of long term technical support, and the fact that the systems already in place adequately meet the Association needs, the project has been dropped. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff who are open-minded enough to try new ideas. Thank you!

For many years we were blessed to have two owners, Barbara Magnusson and Earl Lindquist, share the position of Neighborhood Representative. One of them attended a monthly meeting to communicate information about LaSolana and to bring information from Sun City Grand back to us. LáSolana benefits from being "plugged in." Both of them stepped down this spring and we thank them for their service!!! Russ Anderson has volunteered to serve as our representative when he is here, about 5 months of the year. How about one of you year-rounders stepping up to the plate to serve when he is away for the summer? There is a job description in our office to look at if you think you might be interested. Please let the office staff know if you are willing to fill the void.

Wherever you are, hope the rest of your summer is GRAND!

Marcia (Durell) Sbrega
President, Board of Directors

Meet Your Neighbor



Margaret (Bernie) and Joe Genovese

By the time this article is in print, this month's featured LáSolana neighbors, **Joe and Margaret (Bernie) Genovese**, will be back in York, Pennsylvania, to spend the summer months after enjoying life in Arizona since last November. Splitting each year as they do between the East and West Coasts since 2006 allows them to spend almost equal amounts of time with their two children and grandchildren. Their daughter, an opera singer, lives in San Francisco with her husband and they have one son. The Washington D.C. area, not too far from York, is where their son practices medicine. He and his wife have four children for Joe and Bernie to enjoy during the summer months.

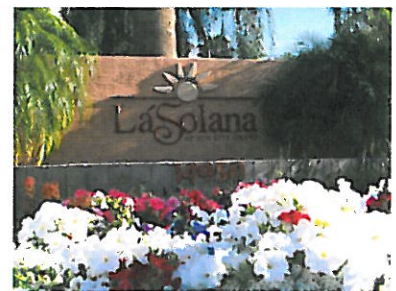
Although they considered Florida for a winter residence, they decided Arizona's climate was a better choice after visiting their son in Tucson while he was a medical school intern there. After several visits beginning in 2000, they purchased their condo in Building 5 as investors in 2004. They have enjoyed living in it since 2006. During the ensuing years, they have discovered previously unknown connections with other residents of LáSolana, and they agree with others among us that, indeed, "It's a small small world."

When asked about how they spend their time while in Arizona, Bernie responded by saying, "You can be as busy as you want." Upon listing her activities it was clear that she doesn't let much grass grow under her feet. Somehow she has made time to take classes at Rio Salado College in Surprise, participate in AAUW, and multiple Sun City Grand Clubs. When she has lunch with a Red Hat group known as Lady Bugs on the Go, that's when she advises Joe that he can run the sweeper or cook some chili while she's gone. What a lady! But her suggestions are not always taken seriously because Joe makes sure he's on the golf links at least three times a week and he has no trouble getting immersed in books. During the weekends, they do spend quality times together or with their West Coast family. A visit from them or a flight to San Francisco makes it all possible.

Joe and Bernie were both raised and attended college in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area. Both prepared for a career in education, Joe graduating from Clarion University and Bernie from Pennsylvania's Indiana University. Since teacher's salaries were higher in Maryland following their marriage, that's where they decided to settle and raise their family. Living not far from Washington D.C., Joe decided to leave classroom teaching and join the U.S. Department of Transportation and also pursue his MA Degree at American University. When he retired, he had served under five presidential administrations and had earned the title of Deputy Inspector General. In addition, he found time to teach CPA classes at D.C.'s Catholic University. What a guy! During much of this time, Bernie was a stay at home mother; but that gig ended when the children were old enough and she sought training to become a medical librarian at the FDA in lieu of returning to the classroom as an elementary teacher.

During their more than 50 year marriage they have also found time to travel. When she could, Bernie traveled with Joe to many U.S. cities during his visits representing the U.S. DOT. As recently as last summer they were back in Europe again exploring Joe's Italian and Bernie's British roots. In addition to cruises in the Caribbean, they have also visited Hawaii and Mexico on several occasions. In any setting, this congenial couple is delightful to engage in conversation. Make a point to seek them out when they return to LáSolana next November.

Earl Lindquist #2301



summer flowers

Board's Eye View

To have YOUR question answered, please send an email to board@lasolanahoa.com or drop it in our separate condo mailbox, located just to the left inside the Mailroom (must be signed), or attend a monthly *Chat with the Board* during the season. The LáSolana Board of Directors look forward to addressing your questions in the future.

Question: What should I do if I get mail that doesn't belong to me?

Answer: Please take it to the Clubhouse office. **Do not** put it back in the outgoing mail slot, unless you write "Not at this Address" on it beforehand. Otherwise the mail person doesn't know if it was placed in there because it was in the wrong box or if the person no longer lives there.

Question: Should I say something when I see someone coming into the Clubhouse with wet swimwear on and sitting down on the furniture?

Answer: Please don't say anything to the individual. Rather, notify the office and let staff handle it.

Question: Do I need Architectural Committee approval prior to installing a satellite dish?

Answer: Yes, according to LáSolana's Rules and Regulations an Architectural Approval Form is required prior to installation of the following: satellite dish, patio awning, umbrella, roll down shades, darkening window screens. Check with the office prior to any installation.

Question: Is there a special type of battery we should be using in our smoke detectors?

Answer: No, any 9-volt battery can be used. However, it has been recommended that you use a 10-year, 9-volt lithium battery which costs about \$8 and can be purchased at True Value or Ace Hardware.

Mike's Corner

- Look for the new LáSolana address number recently installed at the front entrance of the main driveway. This should be a big help to vendors or visitors. Plans are to move the 'map of LaSolana' sign that's by the entrance to another location which will be easier to see and read. This will be done in the near future.
- Please do not put signs on another resident's car. If someone is parking in your space, contact the clubhouse office and they will handle it.
- Please shower before entering the pool or spa. Suntan lotion is extremely hard on the cushion fabric. Is important that you lay a beach towel down before sitting or laying on the chairs or loungers.



LaSolana address number sign



gate behind buildings 4 & 5

HOA Academy

Registration is open for the popular Surprise HOA Academy, which provides expert information for West Valley homeowner association board members, management company staff and home-owners.

The classes will meet 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays from Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 in the auditorium of the Public Safety Building, 14250 W. Sattler Plaza.

Register at surpriseaz.gov or download an application and submit it to: Ruby Sitea, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, AZ 85374 by 6 p.m. September 26. For more information contact Ruby Sitea at 623-222-33242 or ruby.sitea@surpriseaz.gov.

2013 Summer Edition

MEETING DATES

Board Meetings - 2013

October 22nd

November 19th

Chat with the Board

October 31st

November 14th



Architectural Committee Update

Once our snowbird neighbors left this season, you may have noticed a woman circling repeatedly around your building with a clipboard in hand, making notes about something or other. It looked a bit suspicious, didn't it? Well, not to worry, that was a fellow neighbor taking an inventory of the umbrellas out on our patios and balconies, on behalf of your Architectural Committee.

LáSolana's regulations state that "umbrellas, meeting the color standard of tan or turquoise may be added to patios once an Architectural Submittal form has been approved". Based on the inventory we conducted, your office staff has now been in touch with all parties out of compliance with this standard. We had 5 umbrellas that were out of compliance due to color plus no Architectural Submission on file. Another 14 umbrellas were fine color-wise (tan or turquoise), but we had no Architectural Submission on file.

Thanks to this team effort, formal records of approval are now on file, and even those umbrellas which were out of compliance due to color have been officially grandfathered, as they'd been in place prior to the establishment of color regulations. What's the benefit? LáSolana committees and boards may come and go, but approvals are now on record to protect you from further inquiry.

When our snowbird neighbors return this process will be repeated, as we'll likely see more umbrellas popping up at that time. Be nice to the clip board lady, okay!

Your friendly Architectural Committee members Terri Nagler, Suzanne Radi and Patricia Wagner.

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Do whatever you can to keep a smile on your face. If you can't lift the corners, let the middle sag.

- Author Unknown -