

April 2015

LaSolana Living

Notes From The Board

Where has the time gone? Here I am writing my column for the April Newsletter! Many of our fellow residents will return to their other home until the Fall.

We've had a wonderful time enjoying the pool and our socials together. Two socials occurred during this month. The first was our Sports Night party with plenty to eat including about 200 hot dogs! The season will be topped off with Caribbean Night hosted annually by Ken and Annie Marks. Ken will be serving his famous margaritas and Annie will transform the pool area to Margaretville!

We had a Board Meeting on March 10th. The main topic of the meeting was an update by Ann Ward and her committee. Ann chairs the Clubhouse Revitalization Committee. Ann, Daisy and Judy gave a brief presentation reviewing the scope of work for the first stage of the renovation. The Board approved a bid from Sunland to repair one of the A/C units in the clubhouse.

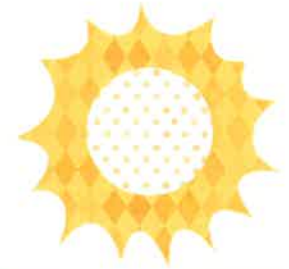
The Clubhouse Revitalization Committee hosted a meeting in the evening of the 12th for all residents to attend and hear an in-depth presentation about flooring materials, counter top material, etc. The committee has spent many hours doing very thorough research on materials, contractors, etc.

So, as the season winds down for many of you, my fellow year-round residents prepare for a relaxing Summer season here in our little piece of paradise in the desert. I hope everyone travels safely and we look forward to your return this Fall. Have a grand Summer.

Dave Kearney



Spring



LaSolana at Sun City Grand

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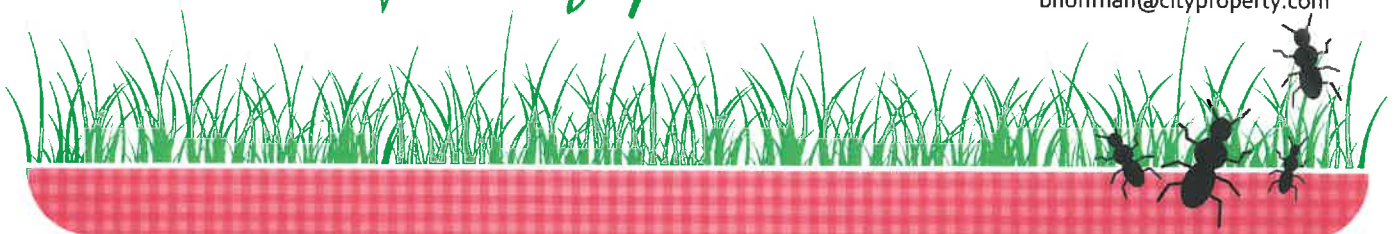
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Meet Your Neighbor

"A horse is a horse, of course, of course....." brings back memories of the classic television comedy, "Mr. Ed;" and a horse is also the reason our LáSolana neighbors, **Lynette and Don Allen**, from Building 2, found long term love and marriage. In 2017 they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary after their first date in 1965 while seniors in high school. Many romances start with couples going on a hay ride, but this first date for Don and Lynette was simply hauling hay for Lynette's horse and others being boarded near Don's home in Watsonville, California. He was a country boy and she was a city girl from Pacific Grove about thirty miles away, but their common interest and involvement with horses and ranch life not only helped bring them together but has been a way of life in the ensuing years.



Lynette and Don Allen

Following high school graduation, Don joined the U.S. Navy in 1966 during the Vietnam era. While in service, Don and Lynette were married during the second year of his military stint, and during that time she worked as a bank secretary until his discharge in 1970. Afterwards, they moved to their "almost a ranch" home site as they describe it, composed of one and one-half acres. It is still the location of their primary home today. There they raised their two boys, the first arriving in 1971 (Scott) and the second in 1975 (Chris). Horses, cattle, lambs, dogs, and cats were also part of the ranching equation, just not at the same time they added. This environment allowed the boys many opportunities to develop leadership skills through 4H activities as had their dad. With Lynette essentially being a stay-at-home mother, she and Don were also able to encourage the boys' participation in little league and scouting. Today their sons and their families benefit from lessons gained through these activities and from parents who modeled and set high expectations for their sons' current successes in business as partners operating four Oil Can Henry franchise locations in California. Today, Don and Lynette are similarly proud of their four grand children, two girls whose parents are Scott and Charla who reside near Watsonville, and two boys whose parents are Chris and Rachel who live near San Diego.

From 1973 to 1990 the lifestyle of the Allen family early on was made possible through Don's hard work and six day week managing the bountiful harvests of a 1,000 acre produce farm that was owned by two brothers in California's Pajaro Valley. He then established his own harvesting business, ALCO Packing Company, in the adjacent Salinas Valley that later expanded to Yuma, Arizona, where the harvesting of produce takes place during the winter months. That expansion helped them develop an appreciation for the desert. It was also a time when Lynette was expanding a unique antique business back on Cannery Row on the Monterey Peninsula. Through their marriage their business acumen is a true success story that they can expand on if you ask.

After selling the business interests previously mentioned coupled with an unanticipated encounter with a childhood friend of Lynette's, the Allens decided to become winter residents of LáSolana, and Don has since been elected to the LáSolana Board of Directors. The chance meeting between Lynette and Ann Marks took place while shopping in Twain Harte, California, home to Ann and Ken Marks from LáSolana's Building 1 as well as Lynette's mother who also lived there. Although contact between the two women during the past forty years has been limited following their participation in each others weddings, they picked up from that chance meeting and again enjoy each other's company during the winter months when both couples' are in residence. Perhaps their relationship is a case of old friends often being the best friends, but both Don and Lynette said that they have a desire to meet new people and contribute to LáSolana's common good. Their presence is our good fortune, *of course, of course!*

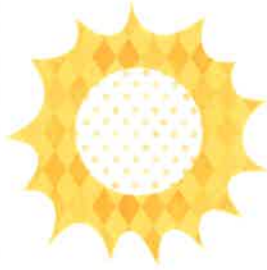
Earl Lindquist #2301

Spring



Neighborhood Rep Report

Our Alternate Neighborhood Representative, Cherie Beavon has requested another person replace her. Accordingly, I asked at our Board Meeting on March 10th for volunteers and Bill Lobitz #2310, Building 2 advised he would be willing to fill this position pending Board approval at our next Board Meeting. Thanks, Bill!



Also, a BIG thank you to Cherie for the time and effort she has given to this position. Your dedication to this community is greatly appreciated.

Russ Anderson, #2112

April Meeting Dates

Chat with the Board
Thursday, April 9th - 7:00 p.m.

Architectural Meeting
Tuesday, April 14th - 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 14th - 10:00 a.m.

Please Note

Please remember to notify City Property Management at 602-437-777 and the LaSolana staff at 623-214-5532 when you change your address seasonally. Everything will be sent to the mailing address on file unless you tell us otherwise. This helps tremendously when City Property sends owners' mailings such as coupons/statements and annual meeting documents.



Blockwatch

Seasonal residents consider making these plans before you leave.

1. Turn off the water and the power breaker for your water heater.
2. Arrange for a neighbor/friend to enter your condo at least once a month to check for any problems.
3. Consider having the Surprise Fire Department install a lockbox with your key to provide emergence access. The cost is \$50.00. To order, call the Surprise Fire Department at 623-222-5000. Applications can be found in the hanging file on the "Activities" wall in the clubhouse. This lockbox has been proven to be safe and tamper-proof.
4. If you have a bike, please be sure to store it inside you unit when leaving. Two bikes were reported stolen on March 16th and 17th behind Buildings 2 and 6. Both owners reported they had their bike secured with a heavy duty cable. Apparently, strong locks are not a deterrent for robbers.

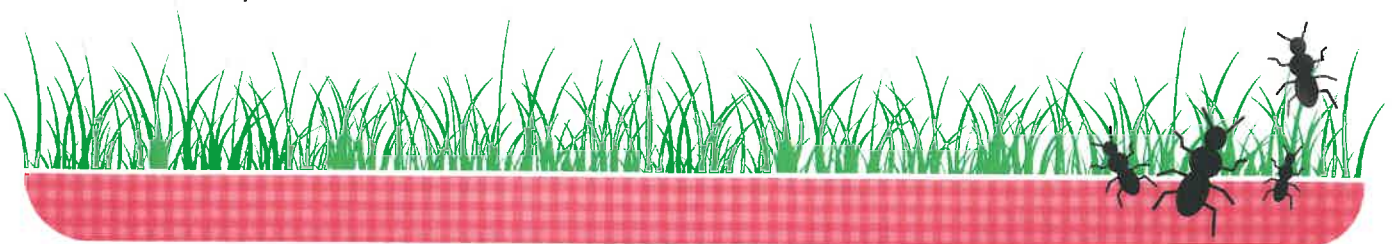
For all - have an enjoyable safe summer.

Russ Anderson, #2112

Architectural Committee

Thank you to our residents for complying to the rules and regulations regarding courtyard décor. The Architectural Committee did a successful walk through our buildings and with few exceptions, everyone did their best to adhere to the policies. Thank you neighbors.....everyone appreciates the efforts.

Committee Members,



LaSolana Clubhouse Renovation Project

Committee Members: Ken Marks, Board Liason; Judy Hightower, new permanent resident and retired ASID interior designer, Daisy Brookes, college degree in visual communication and design; and Ann Ward, design consultant/workroom manager.

In Jan. 2014, a committee was appointed by the Board to work on a plan to revitalize the clubhouse. In February, we held a brainstorming session with residents, sorted through the ideas and prioritized the workable suggestions. The committee did a complete inventory of the furniture, art and accessories in the clubhouse. These items were organized on a spreadsheet and an action plan was attached to each item based on future use, age and condition.

After looking at traffic flow patterns and furniture usage, we rearranged some furniture and accessories. By April 2014, a new information center, designed by Daisy Brookes, was installed in the hallway across from the card room. We finalized the list of dispersal items on the spreadsheets.

Many hours were spent over the summer months researching products. The Board had a design company look at the clubhouse and submit a proposal for its revitalization. This was an extremely useful tool in understanding the scope of the project from the eyes of a professional designer.

After meeting with Ken Marks and reviewing the reserve study figures, we began 2015 with tentative dates for "Phase 1" start up (summer of 2015 or 2016). It was agreed that our mandate would be to: update and improve the "bones" of the clubhouse (flooring, paint, countertops, sinks and faucets). Our theme was to create a soft southwestern feel while incorporating the existing (turquoise) window frame color, the cabinetry and wood-work trim. "Phase 2" of the project: the furniture, art, and accessory replacement will occur at a later time as funds become available.

We set to work researching contractors, creating a short list and investigating their credentials. We insisted that they act as or provide a general contractor, and we asked if they had sufficient staff to complete the renovation in a timely manner. We designed a scope of work document (reviewed by the Board at the February meeting) from which a specs list was created for the contractors' bids. Many days and hours were spent visiting flooring wholesalers, working with supplier professionals and selecting the tiles, carpeting, countertops, sinks and faucets. We brought numerous samples to the clubhouse to view them in the daytime and evening. Our choices were made based on color, safety, durability, cost, acceptability, design and compatibility with our theme.

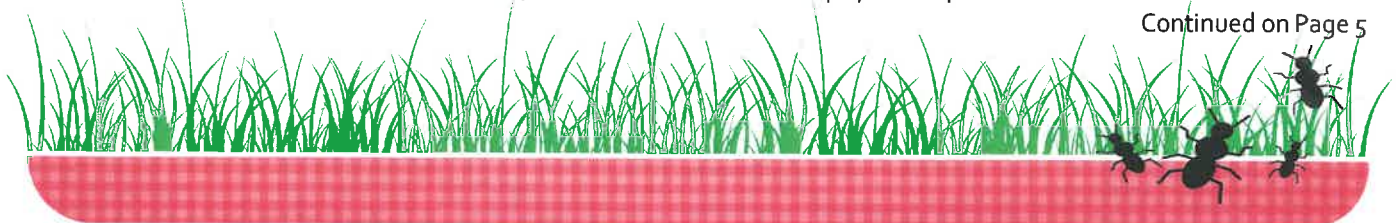


Sample of tile, carpet, countertop, paint, front entry floor



Display Boards pre-

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Judy Hightower created two display boards; one depicting the inspiration colors for the southwestern theme and a second showing the suggested product choices for the project. She designed a tile faux rug for the 8' x 10' foyer to replace the feature rug that exists.

A resident's information meeting was held on Thursday, March 12 to explain the scope of work and to unveil the color boards. These boards are currently on display in the clubhouse.

The request for bid submission has been sent to 4 contractors and these bids will be reviewed and discussed at the April Board meeting.

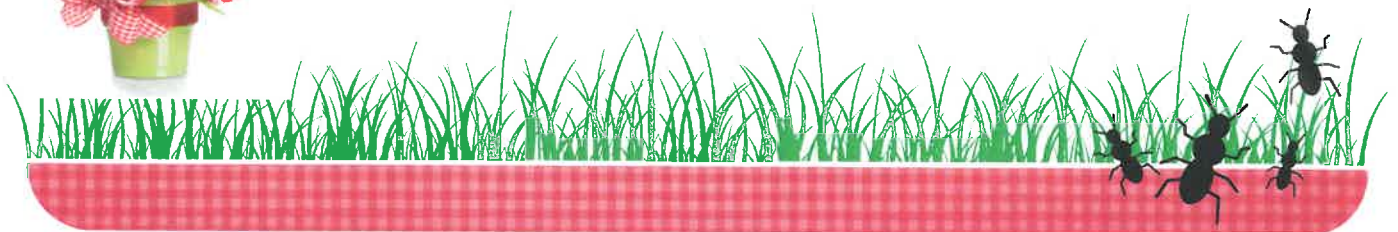
We would like to thank the office staff for their continued support and assistance; they joined into the early discussions of the project by offering their perspective on the clubhouse, its history and its contents. Thank you to the Committee for their expertise, involvement and dedication. We will update the residents as more information becomes available.

The Clubhouse Renovation Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dog owners in our community and to thank them for observing the requests of the Board and their fellow residents. Our resident dogs seem to have set a good example to our "visiting" dogs and it is appreciated. Thank you all.

Renovation Policy for LaSolana

While each of us own our units, they are not free-standing homes. This policy compiles the relevant points of the CC&R's that need to be adhered to in order to protect the appearance of the community and structural integrity of the buildings. Regardless of whether Board approval is required, the office must be notified in writing, email is acceptable, of any planned renovation work.



Arts, Crafts, and Bake Sale on 3/12/15 was a BIG SUCCESS

LáSolana would like to give some credit to the women who participated in the bake sale fund raiser for Eve's House, a local women's shelter. They raised \$150. The participants were Pam Riley, Lois Henkin, Virginia Bentson, Nancy Henricksen, Leann Chrisman, Penny Sergent and Jan Smith who was also the organizer of the fund raiser. Of course many thanks are due to those folks who supported our cause by buying the baked goods. We can all look forward to an even grander offering of treats next year as many people have expressed interest in participating. And not only in the baked goods section, next year will be a more diverse event. Three residents have already expressed interest in participating, for the first time, in the March 2016 Arts and Crafts Show. They include makers of gourds, greeting cards, and carved wood. Perhaps you have a talent and would like to participate. Think about it and make items during the year that you can sell next March. Our event is open to all owners/renters, and there is no participation fee.



Thank You!

LáSolana pool party participants owe a big thank you to Jean McBrien of Bldg. 4, who has been chairperson of the Social Committee for the last four seasons. Jean has been responsible for organizing many of our pool socials and is stepping down from that position. Thank you Jean for doing so much to make life at LáSolana so much more fun and doing it so well.

Carol Moskowitz
Newsletter Editor

New Event for 2016 Western Night February 16th

So, when you are packing for your return trip to LáSolana, please remember to bring your western apparel, hats, boots, and anything that will make you feel like a cow person....no guns, or horses, please!!! Should be a wonderful addition.



Caribbean Social

Many thanks to Annie and Ken Marks for hosting a fabulous end of season party. Caribbean Night was a fun evening, pool side and the Marks duo managed to turn the area into Margaretville once again. We had whales and turtles in the pool, monkeys, flamingos, pirates and parrots....inflatables galore, color and music. The food was good and 160 people enjoyed the event. Ken's margaritas were outstanding as usual. Deflating the inflatables was another reason for plenty of laughs. Thank you again, Annie and Ken.

Caryl Moskowitz
Newsletter Editor



Thank You!

LáSolana is so fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers.

Whether it be serving on a committee, or numerous hours spent organizing the library, or proofing the Community Directory, or moving pool furniture back in place, your willingness to give of your time has not gone unnoticed, and is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all of you for doing such a fantastic job and making LáSolana a great place to live.

