

La Solana Town Crier

Notes from Jan Smith, HOA

Summer and the heat that comes with it are officially here. Good time to stay home during the heat of the day and make sure you are well hydrated.

We have had some amazing Summer Socials with outstanding attendance. The Fourth of July Cookout was attended by 57 people. A huge thanks to Kevin Blair, who cooked hot dogs outside. The next Social, ice cream and floats, will be July 19 in the Clubhouse.

La Solana, as always, has lots of projects ongoing. Patti is busy orienting Michele, our new office associate, as well as updating the office. Please stop by and welcome Michele if you are able. The Paving Seal Coat was successfully applied to the Center and East parking lots and on approximately October 2, the West parking lot will be paved. At our workshop on July 12th, which is on zoom at 10am, we will be discussing some projects that still need our attention including replacement of the lollipop lights and the interior fountains. Another big project facing us is the painting and (con't page 2)



July 4th Hot Dog Bash

You don't ever want to be late to a La Solana social event. The food is always spectacular, diverse, and yummy. Look no further than the photo on the left to understand the zest with which every La Solana repast is greeted. Hot Dogs, grilled by our own Kevin Blair, two kinds of beans, potato salad, Cole slaw, desserts to tempt even the most stringent of

dieters filled the bellies of 57 La Solana residents and their guests. And we enjoyed it all.

Thank you to our summer socialites who gather, plan, and deliver for the enjoyment of all.

Next summer social is July 19th—ice cream and floats.



Valerie Johnson (the dog pictured above) passed away on July 10th. Valerie was a faithful companion to Nancy for many years. Uncomplaining, she wore the conical collar, protected her territory from other community pets, and comfortably sat on Nancy's lap. Valerie will be missed. RIP



Let's Welcome Michele Miller to the La Solana Family

Michele Miller came out of retirement to share office duties at La Solana. After 3 years of retirement from an exciting, and demanding, position in public relations for Phoenix Fire and Police Department (can you imagine the stories she had to spin positively) Michele is bringing her talents to our community. Mother of two grown children, married to Marty, Michele lives only 10 minutes away and chose La Solana for its friendly and welcoming residents, the flexible hours (Michele and Patty share the week, each works two days weekly with alternating Fridays), and short drive from home. Part time duties allow Michele to continue her artistic pursuits working in stained and fused glass genres. She loves to read, travel (recently to Ireland), and floated down the Grand Canyon on a 7-day rafting trip. Michele hopes to visit more of the national parks and states on the East coast.

Be sure to stop by when you have an opportunity, and welcome Michele to La Solana. This editor thinks she's a keeper.

Lots of News

- We are finally getting recognition as a neighborhood in Grand. Thanks to the persistence of La Solana residents Robert Sylvester and Jan Smith, La Solana is now on the Grand maps, listed on the Grand webpage which advertises homes and condos, and may soon get signage on Mountain View welcoming folks to the Grand. Bob is currently working on a small project proposal to get those signs designed and built by Grand. Official recognition brings buyers to La Solana with a corresponding rise in resale prices, as well as an awareness to the rest of the community. Thank you Bob and Jan.
- Grand Communication, under the direction of our Board of Directors, strongly encourages residents to watch important advisory committee meetings as well as Board of Directors meetings. Know what's going on at Grand. Be informed, get involved. Many decisions will be made in the upcoming years regarding amenities, sustainability, and construction. Don't be one of those who complains after the fact. Know what is going on, voice your opinion when called upon through town hall meetings, surveys, polls, and chats with the Board. Meeting times and dates are always listed in the daily blast. If you are not getting the daily email blasts, log in on the Grand home page and update your profile. There is no reason not to know what is happening here at Grand.
- Trends. The April space allocation proposal was followed by a resident survey. Over 2300 residents responded. One of the interesting trends is that those residents who have been at Grand fewer than 5 years (think 50-60 year olds) have different "wants" than those of us who have been here 15 years and more. New residents want decidedly more food and beverage opportunities, later hours, and Basketball! To stay current and competitive, Grand must be responsive to the needs of the new buyers while continuing to please the long term residents. This is no easy task. We have Seniors, Boomers, Gen-xr's, Millennials all living and moving here.
- Concerned about safety? Surprise Police Department does a monthly video highlighting criminal activity in Surprise. For a very accurate, up to date report, go to www.communtycrimemap.com and check the happenings. Criminal activity is still very low in the City of Surprise. Since we added our additional lighting crime at La Solana has been non-existent. Remember, if you See Something? Say Something?
- Surprise City changes in reporting rental property. Effective immediately the City of Surprise is cracking down on unlicensed rental property. Contact the City if you have any questions about whether or not your property qualifies as Rental Property. According to our City Council Person Aly Cline, all property which is used for rental, full or part time, must be reclassified for property tax purposes as a rental property, not personal property. Additional, all rentals must be licensed in the city, and must pay rental fees. Aly will be here in November to speak to the issue. In the meantime, contact City Hall for details about your property.

Love is in the Air

A fairy tale that's come true.

Way back in 1950's New York City, a group of teens hung out together. Boys and girls, sometimes girlfriends and boyfriends, they went to high school together, danced to 45's in finished basement playrooms, fell in and out of love, complained about parents and siblings and one-another. Through it all there was one very special couple, Stan and Adrienne.

Who knows what sets that spark aglow? Why one heart reaches for another?

As often happens, life got in the way. Stanley's family moved from New York to Florida. Think "Adrienne had a broken heart." Adrienne attended University of California in Los Angeles.

Years passed. The former teen sweethearts each married, had children, enjoyed careers. It was 35 years before they saw one another again, and then only casually in a crowd of mutual friends and family.

Fast forward another 25 years. Both lost their beloved spouse, each experienced loneliness. Then Stan's cousin Marcy (Adrienne's best friend of 67 years) helped them to reconnect.

Teenagers once again, they spent hours on the phone across the miles (Adrienne here at la Solana, Stan in Kentucky). And then the meet up.

Magic happened, years disappeared, they are a couple again.

Stan & Adrienne



Please send your articles, information, suggestions, comments to Adrienne.

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