

# LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the good news that's fit to print

## From the President's desk:

Jan Smith

Spring is officially here. We have wind, rain, and temperatures that drive us crazy. It is 89 degrees so we head to the pool and the next day we freeze in the breezy wind. A lot of you will be returning to your summer homes soon and La Solana will slow down for the summer. We full-timers always miss you and look forward to your return. We wish you the best summer ever.

I want to focus in this newsletter issue on a special person who has what I call a Kind Heart. What does that mean? It means a person who always has a smile, a person who goes above and beyond to help out and is always there when you need them. We at La Solana have many of these types of people, but the person I'm talking about today is Scott. Scott is the person you see working hard to keep La Solana clean. He always has his head down working very hard but when interrupted he will gladly help out. I had a resident share with me that one afternoon Scott was on his motorcycle getting ready to leave for the day. Scott noticed this residents' wife was struggling to get groceries out of her car. Scott got off his motorcycle and unloaded the groceries and took them to her condo. This perfectly describes Scott.

I have witnessed many actions like this. (Con't page 2)

## Take the time to see the rainbows

Thank you to Carol Crawford for capturing this beautiful double rainbow over La Solana.



## It's time to volunteer

Volunteering helps everyone: the volunteer and the community. Volunteering offers purpose, fosters friendships, and strengthens the community. The Grand wouldn't be the Grand place it is, without volunteers. Committee positions are once again seeking your help. Do you have interest and/or expertise in finances, all things architectural, golf, long range planning, technology, or human resources.

Share what you know and are able to do by joining one of the many advisory committees at Grand. More information and applications are available in the Grand LifeStyles magazine and online at [www.livegrandaz.com](http://www.livegrandaz.com). Not ready for the "big" time? La Solana seeks volunteers to improve our clubhouse, landscape, fountains, social engagements, general maintenance, and more. Ask any of the directors, or stop by the office, to see how you can be involved.

**Volunteering makes all lives better!**

(President's Message con't from page 1)

Scott has weathered a difficult year with personal losses and yet always has been here for us. We all need this type of person in our live. Better yet we should all be like Scott. I, for one, feel very fortunate to know him and to call him my friend.

*Jan Smith, President*

Sometimes we have to throw out the old to get the new. And sometimes the new is much better.

Many residents were upset to learn that our building fountains, which we have enjoyed since La Solana was first built, were in such dire need of costly repair that we would have to remove or replace them. While we all enjoyed the calming sounds of a trickling water fountain, the flaking pain, dirty water, intermittent flow outweighed the musical water. What to do?

To the rescue. Our wonderful fountain volunteers joined forces to repurpose our fountains. instead of sputtering bubbles we now can enjoy desert-like plantings, subtle lighting, and 24-hours of eye appeal. The newly designed fountains require little to no maintenance and should serve us well for the next decade or more.



This is a picture of the new look of our atrium fountains.

The fountain committee: Terri Ward, Gordon Kath, Martha Scott, and Bob Adams, with help from Karen Gablesen and Jan Smith, are working hard to make our atrium fountains beautiful.

We have many volunteers from each building who will be helping and once again Volunteers make a difference for our community.

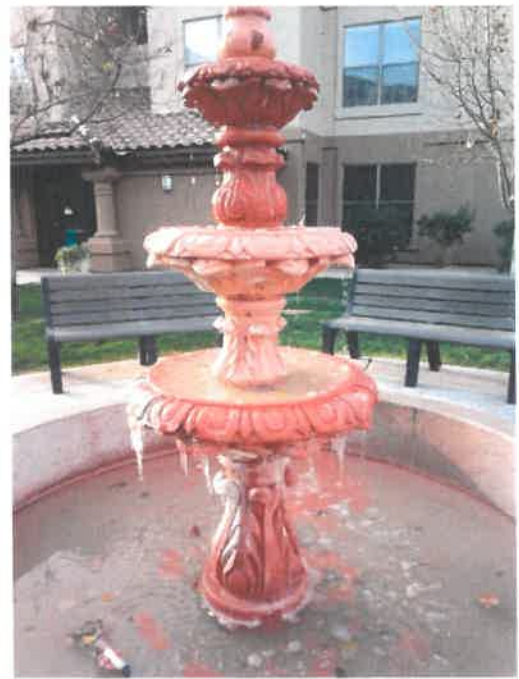
We welcome all La Solana Residents to join us as we continue to beautify La Solana.



## Rumor Control

### Can you tell the difference between real and fake news?

- Carla Oehlerking is the newest member of our La Solana Staff. True or False?
- Is Kathe closing the beauty salon which has been a feature of La Solana since its inception?
  - And what about this one? Is the lady protesting too much, or not at all?
  - And are these really icicles on the fountain, or an optical illusion?



And, is it true that you can purchase books for \$1.00 in Surprise?

Answer: Yes you can. Check out the **Surprise library Bookstore** on Bullard. Open 7 days a week. All proceeds support reading in our community. Your grandkids can buy books 2 for a \$1. What a deal. Big book sale May 10-17.

WE NEED YOU to help complete the atrium fountains in buildings 1, 2, 3, and 4!!! If you haven't had a chance to see the gorgeous fountain in building 7, please take a walk over there. When you volunteer you would be updating the atrium fountains to look like the one in building 7. Be a part of beautifying the atrium fountains and making a difference in your community.

# VOLUNTEER



## Rocky and Sandy

By Jim Fitch



A few months ago The Town Crier contained an article about Sandy Pittaro and her adoption of a stray kitten found on the La Solana property. Sandy loved animals. Sandy unfortunately passed away recently from a short illness.

A few years ago we posted a mail room notice seeking someone to pet-sit our golden retriever, Rocky. Several people answered our request. Sandy was one of them. In addition to helping us out, a friendship developed even though communication was a challenge, Sandy was deaf. That meant little when it came to Rocky and the bond she established with him.

Fortunately while Sandy was on hospice, and close to death, we could arrange for a final visit for Rocky and Sandy. Rocky, without his prosthetic leg on, was able to put his front paws on Sandy's bed to say a final good bye. Rocky is a true vetted therapy dog. He somehow knows what is required of him in certain situations and lovingly greeted Sandy. The smile he brought to Sandy was a special moment for us, Sandy, and a few of her close friends who were there. Sandy was able to stroke Rocky's face and paws and there were tears of true joy at a very sad time. Sandy passed away peacefully the next day.

Rocky is forever grateful for having known such a wonderful lady.

Rest in peace Sandy. Love you,  
*Rocky*



## One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato—and Lots More



Teri Ward hosted a Baked Potato Party at the pool on March 26 for 68 La Solana residents. She was assisted by husband Bill (left)

(also pictured below) Karen Price, Vickie Johnson, Deannie Price, and Diana King.

Partygoers included Jan Smith, Carol Moskowicz, and Jean McBrien. (Lower left).



The next social event is the annual Easter Dinner on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Signup list is in the Clubhouse.

Photos and Text by Jack Mumford

## La Solana Residents Care about our Greater Surprise Community

On March 28, Len Jacobson and Lois Mumford were invited to Brookdale memory Care in Sun City West by miles Goodenough to entertain the residents with an hour of music. They picked songs residents would recognize and sing along with them. One gentleman sang every song with them, in a beautiful tenor voice. It's rewarding to know you can make a small dent in their memory.



Pictures by Jack Mumford.  
Text by Lois Mumford





We are La Solana and we couldn't be prouder!

*The Grand's* new marketing director, Gini Roberts, gets it. *The Grand* offers a variety of housing options for those seeking an age-restricted active-living community in which La Solana is a unique component. *The Grand's* vigorous marketing program targets the national community seeking an active adult life style. Check out page 11, a full page spread about La Solana, in the April edition of *Grand Life Styles* magazine. (By the way, we did not pay for this unsolicited publicity.)

Thank you to Jan Smith and our Board members who never stopped working to have La Solana recognized as a major player in *The Grand*.

# Explore the Benefits OF LA SOLANA

La Solana Condominium Association unveils exciting, new changes as you drive by on Mountain View Boulevard. From a newly painted, fresh-looking exterior color scheme to retaining original style and architectural design features, the campus remains unique and inviting.



These condominiums offer an alternative lifestyle within The Grand while providing residents with full access to the facilities on the community's premises. Individual condominium owners have no

need to worry about the upkeep required for landscaping, outdoor maintenance, or water bills. The condos also have lower taxes, which is a plus. There is less worry when coming and going because there are

always neighbors close by to keep an eye on things, which makes it ideal if you are a Snowbird or live alone.

La Solana features a host of amenities such as a clubhouse, movie theater, resident book lending library, hair salon and a beach entry heated pool with lovely deck seating, including a spa. The clubhouse is a multi-purpose building with a great room that functions well for social gatherings and numerous activities. Monthly themed social events provide residents with great opportunities to meet new people and make strong, lasting friendships. Various activities are available like arts and crafts, chair yoga, Thursday Night Football, bridge and poker games to name a few. La Solana offers something for everyone in a pet-friendly community.

## Learn More

La Solana Condominiums at The Grand  
14950 W. Mountain View Blvd., Surprise, AZ  
Email: [lasolanainfo@gmail.com](mailto:lasolanainfo@gmail.com)  
Phone: 623-214-5532  
Website: [lasolanaliving.com](http://lasolanaliving.com)



And now the rest of the news....

**The Law Suit filed by Tom Gusich against The Grand remains open at this time so there are no updates. Court date is May 22. We will keep you informed.**

## You Voted!

- Over 5000 Grand owners voted YES during this one-time opportunity for The Grand to maintain control of our streets. We have now restricted street parking, avoided having anyone park their cars on front or rear lawns, eliminated the possibility of anyone doing auto repair on their front yards, limited RV parking to 3 days, banned open garage sales and all the traffic that goes with them. We are keeping the Grand, Grand. Thank you.
- You also voted for our new Board Members: Bob Aiken, Steven Loos, and Jeanne Chapman. Clay Stephens was appointed by the Board to fulfill Tom Gusich's Board seat after he was legally removed from the Board. At the Board organizational meeting on 4/1 2025 Officers were named: Steven Loos-President, Jeanne Chapman-VP Rene Mitchell-Treasurer and Stephanie Sloggett-O'Dell-Secretary. The new liaison for NReps will be Clay Stephens.
- Call for Candidates. There are several BOD Committees needing volunteers (GL p.10). Application deadline is 4.9. Check the LifeStyles magazine for more info
- Preparations for painting in progress at the Palm Center.
- Work in the Village Center this spring and summer will include turf replacement, landscaping, and concrete repairs. Staff will soon submit a proposal for improvements to the Dog Park.
- **A video about what is in the strategic plan and implementation information can be found at: <https://livegrandaz.com/group/pages/strategic-plan> "Together Towards Tomorrow". Note: It is 10 minutes, HIGHLY informative, and well worth your time.**
- The Activities Dept. has been busy with new and exciting ways to socialize in Grand. (GL pg. 14 and ads throughout GL). (Shred Day, Judy Carmichael concert, Mixology Class on 4/28).
- The Sun City West Foundation (<https://www.scwfoundation.org/>) operates Helping Hands. A great place to borrow medical equipment, an extra cot for your visitors, baby/child car seats, play pens, cribs, and more. All free for Grand residents. The SCW Resale shop is a terrific resource for gently used clothing, small appliances, medical equipment, furniture, and more.
- Ottawa University (named after the Ottawa Native Americans) is seeking volunteers to teach life style classes for undergraduates. They need help with learning how to dine out, balance a check book, the difference between renting and buying, and so much more. (Didn't we learn these skills from our parents?). Contact Dennis Tyner, President <https://www.ottawa.edu/>



## And still more news about The Grand:

### What's New in IT? – Paul Heying, Asst GM and Gini Roberts, MARCom Director

- IT networks changes are nearing completion. You will be able to go anywhere in Grand, log in once on the LIVEGRAND network and move from place to place.
- We are behind schedule on the Audio Visual (AV) upgrades to Cimarron due to a change in vendors.
- The wifi in our pool areas will be better.
- The Sonoran Plaza AV implementation is also impacted, and implementation has been delayed. We expect to complete upgrades in the fall.
- Gini reported that the Marketing Communications (MARCom) staff are working to improve communications across channel strategy. Instead of an article or information in one place, like NOTD or GL, our goal is to make that information available in multiple places.
- On our public home page, you may have noticed a new tab named Grand Blog which has articles about Grand.
- We have made improvements to NOTD and have added quick links at the bottom for repeat/ frequently used links.
- We are working to make it easier to find information, given that our website does not currently support robust search tools.
  - The Grand Blog: <https://livegrandaz.com/blog>
  - Strategic Plan: <https://livegrandaz.com/group/pages/strategic-plan>
  - Magazine with advertising info: <https://livegrandaz.com/magazine>
  - GM in 10 Video Series (April video releasing next week): <https://livegrandaz.com/gm-in-10>
- We will have a dedicated web page for the Desert Springs 3 large projects.
- We will be adding a better way to get to community maps.
- The website is scheduled for a redesign this summer.
- We will conduct a resident survey. The results will provide a baseline for measuring resident satisfaction going forward.
- If you cannot find something on the website, reach out via email to Communications. [communications@livegrandaz.com](mailto:communications@livegrandaz.com)
- The website link includes a chart that provides when, where and how long an outage should last.

*And that's all for April*

*Please keep those photos and stories coming. This is our community newsletter and it only works if all of you are involved as writers and readers. Contact me anytime: (by text: 623-466-9068; by email: [adriennekirschner314@gmail.com](mailto:adriennekirschner314@gmail.com))*