

LA SOLANA TOWN CRIER

All the good news that's fit to print

From the President's desk:

Jan Smith

La Solana Annual meeting was held on Feb.25. It was well attended and I really appreciate everyone who was there. If you missed the meeting here's an update: Karen and Sue's Board terms have ended and they elected not to run again, but they will stay on as Board Advisors. We now have three Board Members: Norbert Herrera and Claudia Jurowski. We thank them for volunteering to work together with Jack, Greg, and I to keep our community amazing. I will remain as President, Greg will be Vice President, Jack will continue as treasurer, Claudia will be Secretary, and Norbert will be our member at large.

I want to thank Jean McBrien for all the work she did in recruitment of possible new Board Members. Please consider volunteering, volunteers are so important to our community. Speaking of amazing, we are busy improving the interior fountains. If you recall they began leaking and crumbling so the water was turned off and we have been wanting to do something to improve their appearance. Two examples have been done, one in building 7 and a different look in building 5. Please stop by both buildings, take a look, (con'd page 3)

A Fountain is not Just a Fountain

Time to think of fountains as more than water falls. Our wonderful landscape team, along with multiple volunteers, are looking at converting our ailing building fountains, which were a source of joyful musical waterfalls in their prime, into high points of lush beauty. Please check out the newly designed fountains in buildings 5 and 7. Your

opinion counts. Stop by the office to indicate your preference of which fountain style you prefer. (I like them both.)





Our Fountain Volunteer Crew

Big thank you to our wonderfully creative volunteers: Rob Carr, Linda Carr, Karen Gabelson.

Conserving Water is a Must—Not an Option

Did you know that four square feet of turf (grass) requires as much water as a family of four over a one year period? The state of Arizona is actively working on conserving our very limited supply of water. With population increasing exponentially throughout Arizona, water conservation is a must. La Solana is doing its share by removing approximately 6000 square feet of turf and replacing it with native plants that require little maintenance and dramatically less water. The City of Surprise has awarded us a \$12,000 grant to assist in this important endeavor. For more specific information, and a map of the La Solana areas to be “reduced” and then upgraded with decorative native plants, check the blueprints located in the clubhouse. Remember by removing turf, we are not only doing our share, we are also reducing our total water consumption which is money in your pocket. In your condo consider ways to cut water usage—shorter showers? Not letting the water run while you brush your teeth? And

The Part Time Office Associate position has been posted in the Grand site and on In Deed, Jan and Patti are working on reviewing the current candidates. Three applicants will be touring the Clubhouse and Office in the next week.

Thank you to Becky Panko for helping in the office, she has done an extraordinary job answering the phone, answering the questions to the best of her ability, and she leaves excellent notes for Patti to follow up on. Patti appreciates everyone for their flexibility as a new Office Associate is hired.

Recently there was a well sized coyote sunbathing down by building 5. Please remember to keep the building's door closed at all times and be aware if you are out walking your pet.

There is now a Social Committee Board located in the mailroom with all of the updates events and activities taking place in the Clubhouse and Pool area. If there is something you are interested in and/or would like to host an event, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lois Mumford or Vicki Johnson. For Events and Parties to happen, it takes many volunteers so please help when you can!! They NEED YOU!

By Lois Mumford

La Solana Resident Kenneth Greene 1939-1925

We join long time resident Diane Greene (Bldg 5) in expressing our sorrow at the passing of her husband Ken. Ken, a Marine Veteran, was known for his kindness, loyalty, and love of family. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate in Ken's name, to a charity of your choice. Ken is survived by his wife, Diane, a La Solana resident, two daughters, son-in-law, and four grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



(President's Column Con't from page 1)
and give your opinion to Patti in the office. Once we get residents' opinions we will then work on the other buildings.

I am excited to continue as President of the Board. I thank you for your support.

Jan Smith,
La Solana Board President

Recycling benefits everyone—Do it Right!

As many of you know, the recycle area has been struggling with boxes not broken down, food containers not cleaned out, loose plastic containers, etc. Please read the attached from Waste Management about what and how to recycle properly. If we all read this and follow what to recycle and not, the recycle area will be maintained.

RECYCLE RIGHT

To learn more, visit wm.com/recycletright

All items must be **CLEAN**
NO food or product residue
Cardboard Boxes
MUST BE BROKEN DOWN



 **Always Recycle**



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Food & Beverage Cans



Paper



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Glass Bottles & Containers

 **Do Not Include in Your Mixed Recycling Container**



NO Food or Liquids



NO Foam Cups & Containers



NO Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recyclables or Film
Empty recyclables directly into your bin.



NO Green Waste



NO Clothing, Furniture & Carpet



NO Batteries
Check local drop-off programs for proper disposal

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025 twenty-four owners & renters from building #4 gathered for 'Hanging in the Hall'. Our informal theme was St Patrick's Day.

We had delicious food, BYOBs & stimulating conversations. We originally planned to be together for an hour but had so much fun we stayed together for two hours.

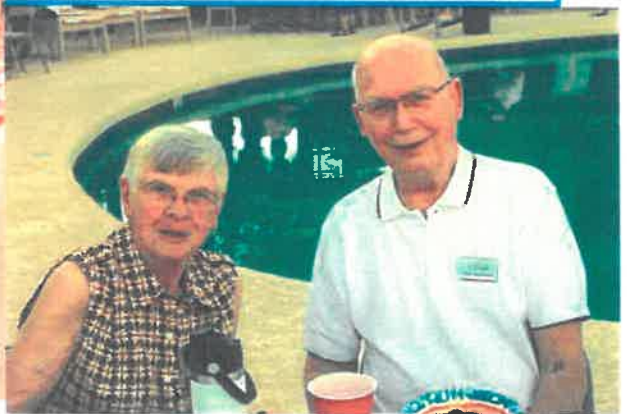
Not all could stay that long unfortunately & we're hoping to gather in March or April for a repeat performance. Considering an outdoor gathering behind the building!

Amy W Mook
 Loves to Travel! 281,800 miles

Vickie Johnson led a team of volunteers who held the first outdoor party of the year on Wednesday February 26. The theme was **Chili and Cornbread Night**.



Picture 1 shows the chili and fixings. Picture 2 shows Roger Johnson, still convalescing from his heart attack, manning the beer keg. Picture 3 is Bob and Dottie Sylvester, who will be leaving La Solana soon. Picture 4 shows Lonnie Bank and new Board member Claudia Jurowski. Picture 5 includes Jack Feiter, who will be moving to assisted living soon, and Bill Buckingham.



Photos and Text by Jack Mumford

David and Sherry Helmer:

We went on a K-Love radio music cruise Feb 2-8. There were 16 Christian artists performing during the cruise, it was awesome. One day we signed up to help a small village in Dominican Republic to obtain clean water. We made buckets with water filters and delivered them to a school and families who had signed with Blue Water, the organizers and supplier of the filters. The school performed for us and they were thankful we came to help. Women have to walk at least one mile daily, one way and carry water from the river.



Super Important—Please be sure to vote in March

- Rule 331818. This is a one-time opportunity for The Grand to maintain its control of our streets. Vote YES if you like that The Grand is able to restrict street parking, avoid anyone parking cars or other vehicles in front or rear yard, limit RV parking to 3-day max, ban open garage sales, and more. We have this one legal opportunity to maintain our streets. A negative vote means that our Grand streets will be subject to the same rules and regulations as in the rest of Surprise—you could have a mechanic fixing cars next to your parked car (for example). Vote YES.

- **Very important votes coming up in March:**

- We will be voting on our new Grand HOA Board of Directors. This year has taught us that our choices, our choice to vote, who to vote for, even not to vote, has consequences. Educate yourself about each candidate and then vote for those you believe will best serve our community in these important volunteer positions.
- Important dates to Meet the Candidates:
 - Board Candidate Forum: Wednesday, March 5, 7-9 PM, Kiva Sonoran Plaza
 - **La Solana Candidate Forum: Thursday, March 6, 2 PM, La Solana Clubhouse**
 - Board Candidate "Speed Dating": Saturday, March 8, 9-11 AM, Kiva Sonoran Plaza
- Voting Monday, March 10 - Monday, March 17, noon

One vote per property. **Non-Resident Owners are eligible to Vote.**

Law Suit against The Grand Directors impacts every one of us.

One member of the HOA Board of Directors, elected March 2024, Tom Gusich, has filed a lawsuit against The Grand—that means against each of us. Gusich wants to dissolve the Board Code of Conduct Rules and Regulations, which he signed as a member of the Board and dismiss all conduct violations against himself. Additionally he wants Grand to pay all of his attorney fees, and an undisclosed amount for his "emotional pain and suffering." At a recent community wide special vote, Gusich was recalled and is no longer on the Board of Directors—but that doesn't mean he is going away, he is just off the Board. The vote was over 4000 to recall and 700 (these are approximate numbers) to retain.

Selling your property? It is required by law that you indicated there is a pending law suit against your property.

Remember: Who you vote for, or if you are eligible and fail to vote, does have consequences.

And now a word from your Editor: I am a long time Grand resident and have recently purchased my third home at Grand. I care about Grand and its residents and intend to live here for many more years. This past year has clearly demonstrated that your Board of Directors, each director, has an impact on our community, our property values, our amenities, our pockets, and even our joy. March 10 voting begins. Current Board members Carol White, Jeff Gibbs, and Doug. They are experienced and are especially important in Finance. It is imperative that our new board members are equally qualified. I have taken the time to meet each of the 8 candidates. Please do the same. There are candidates I will be voting for and several I would absolutely NOT vote for. Learn and decide for yourselves, but do ask questions: Are you a full time resident? If not how long will you be at Grand? If less than 10 months a year, consider voting for someone else. Ask if you supported Gusich? If so, ask why? Ask if they have served on committees at Grand. Committee service should be required. I am happy to share my info/opinions, but most important: Pay attention and vote.
Adrienne Kirschner-Bittman: adriennekirschner314@gmail.com

City of Surprise Out of the Park Music Fest

March 22/ 2-10 PM. Mark Coronado Park

Music. Food, Fun. Chart-topping and rising country stars will rock the stage, talented local bands, dancing on the lawn. Tickets & Info: outoftheparkmusicfest.com
