

# La Solana Town Crier

All the positive news that's fit to print.

## Notes from Jan Smith, HOA President

### Celebrating our LaSolana Volunteers

Our La Solana community is an amazing place to live thanks to an ever growing cadre of volunteers. Did you know we have volunteers maintaining our library; volunteers who help to select and show our movies; volunteers who organize all the events, activities, and parties; volunteers who help Mike with maintenance work and who clean our parking lot; volunteers who help our office staff; volunteers who installed the metal agaves in all seven of our residential buildings. A volunteer is your neighborhood rep and collates the monthly newsletter. More volunteers serve as board members and still others are their advisors. Everyone benefits from our volunteers' collective research, expertise, knowledge, and labor.

Maybe you haven't volunteered, yet. There is a perfect spot for you to get involved going forward.

## New Benches Are Coming

We have six new benches coming soon. The new benches are built from recycled materials, are low maintenance and comfortable. We will all benefit from additional outdoor seating as we visit with neighbors, hang-out enjoying Arizona weather, read a book, count our blessings, and more.



## Goodbye Pine Trees Hello Zeroscaping

Five more pine trees have come tumbling down leaving space for some new landscape. Replacements have been selected and will be planted within the next few weeks. We'll also replace some plants that didn't survive the last turf-reduction planting. Replacements are free as original plants under warrantee by Carescape.

You know those two plant areas out front of La Solana? We're working on zero scape designs requiring little water use. As always, landscaping in the Arizona climate is a challenge. We're working with our great partners at Carescape to find attractive, low-maintenance, low-water use, plants.

## Jan (con't from page 1)

There's the beginning of a cactus garden in the rear of the buildings. We have new benches coming that will need assembling. There's standing committees that could accomplish even more if you step up and join them.

Consider volunteering. The best communities are those where the greatest number of residents are actively involved.

*Jan Smith, President HOA*

## Alas, the lollipop lights are still with us

We continue to make every effort to replace our 25-year-old "lollipop" lights with new, brighter fixtures like the one installed temporarily between Buildings 6 and 7. However, electrical contractors willing to bid this relatively small project at a reasonable cost have been hard to find. We are considering other options to lower the cost and make this project within our means. This effort may postpone this important project until next year.



## And we all got together. . .

Building 3 residents (owners, renters, snowbirds, and year rounders) enjoyed great appetizers (no desserts by design) and the company of others during a March 12th happy hour in the club house. Pam Miller led the way as we introduced ourselves, told where we were from (midwesterners prevailed), and how we came to La Solana. We vowed that we would convene again in the fall so we could better enjoy one another's company throughout the next winter season.

### Wyerd Fiber Wi-Fi

Plans are moving rapidly to install **Wyerd Fiber Wi-Fi** infrastructure throughout La Solana. Three meetings have been scheduled to inform residents of plans and answer questions regarding the installation process, wi-fi options, costs, and any other issues or concerns. These meetings will take place in the Clubhouse on the following dates:

- Friday March 17 at 12 Noon
- Monday March 20 at 12 Noon
- Monday March 20 at 4:30pm

**La Solana Social Calendar**

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Our volunteer social committee is hard at work keeping our Club House jumping.

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March 15 at 4:30: 60's - 70's party poolside (details below)

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March 29 at 4:30: Pool Party

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April 5 at 5:00 pm: Easter Dinner in the Club House

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April 19 at 4:30: Pool Party

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May 3 at 4:30: Pool Party

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Details for each event to follow. Check the bulletin board in the Mail Room for more up-to-date information. What an amazing job our Social Committee volunteers do to add to the enjoyment of living at La Solana. New volunteers are always welcome. Volunteer to be a committee member, chair a specific event, help with any of the necessary tasks. Contact Vicki Johnson, or any member of the social committee, to volunteer.

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**"Wear White at Night!"** Remember that old lesson from elementary school? Well it's still a great tip if you are out walking in Grand from dusk thru night. Wear something light or reflective please!! I've lost count of how many times we have come up upon people walking and crossing the streets at night in dark clothes. Last night we barely saw a couple dressed from head to toe in black. Even their dog was black! There are reflective jackets and collars for our pets too.

Your Neighbor, Beth Moran



WE love our new Agave plants. A big thank you to Building 6 planting crew: L-R: Chuck Hancock, Roger Johnson, Harold Enslin, Ole Borgen. (Reminder: do not water agaves)

Photo by Cheryl Enslin



## Really Important Stuff My Dog Has Taught Me By Cynthia L. Copeland

“It’s the challenges that make life interesting.

“With a combination of patience and perseverance, dogs turn obstacles into opportunities and show us what can be accomplished by simply sticking with it. They pursue every goal—whether catching a ball or protecting a loved one—with spirit and determination. Nothing can discourage them or dampen their enthusiasm!

“Keep your eye on the ball.

“Refuse to be ignored.

“It’s not the size of the dog in the fight, it’s the size of the fight in the dog.”

### Meet our very own La Solana Rocky

Many of the residents and guests at La Solana have seen our 9 ½ year old golden retriever walking the grounds and have asked about his prosthetic leg. We, Jim and Mary Jane Fitch were asked to share some of Rocky’s story.

We adopted Rocky in 2014 from Golden Retriever Rescue of Nebraska and proceeded to get him therapy as he didn’t know how to walk as he was born without a right front foot. Since that time, he has been a very busy boy. He received his prosthetic leg in 2015 from OrthoPets in Denver Co. and became a certified therapy dog through Pet Partners in Bellevue, WA. The training and therapy he underwent was extensive. After being certified, Rocky started volunteering on a regular basis at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Omaha and Lincoln NE and at Nebraska Medical Center where he visited pediatric transplant patients and children receiving cancer treatments. Because of our relationship with the Nebraska Medical Center he was frequently asked to visit medical, pharmacy and nursing students before their exams to help with stress relief. In 2018 Rocky was given special recognition by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association for his “devotion to mankind through unselfish and courageous service”. Additionally, he was recognized by the State of Nebraska with a Proclamation for his service. Unfortunately, Rocky was retired from doing weekly visitations because of hospital lockdowns during COVID. He greatly misses those times. If you are interested in seeing more on Rocky google...Rocky the angel dog and Madonna.

Today what Rocky loves most is just hanging out and meeting people. If you are walking and see us, please feel free to stop and tell him hello, he loves getting to meet new friends.

**Jim & Mary Jane Fitch**

**Please send your community news, ideas, tidbits, and stories to the editor:**

**Adrienne Kirschner, Unit 3312**

**Adriennekirschner314@gmail.com; 623-466-9068**



Alas, the time to say Adieu to our “Snowbirds” is fast approaching. If you are preparing to leave for an extended time here’s some suggestions for preparing your condo for a long vacancy:

**Emergency contact** – make sure you leave emergency contact info in the office. Close all blinds.

**Refrigerator/Ice Maker** – Turn off water to the ice maker so there is not a build-up of ice cubes. If the refrigerator is turned off, leave the refrigerator door partially open.

**Dishwasher** – Close door, but **DO NOT LATCH OR LOCK IN POSITION**. Close all drains to help eliminate any sewer gases from coming back up into your home because of lack of use. Put about 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil in the dishwasher .

**Garbage Disposal** – After the last of the water is run, pour 1/2 to 3/4 cup of salad oil in the disposal to keep the blades lubricated and prevent the small amount of moisture that is always present on the bottom from causing rust.

**Washing Machine** – Shut off washer box valve in laundry room or garage area to relieve pressure to the hose.

**Toilets** – lift lids and stretch Saran Wrap tightly over the bowl to keep the trap from drying out. Close water supply valve under tank.

**Hot Water Heater** – Follow shut-down instructions in the water heater manual for proper progress of shut-down steps. (it’s not necessary to drain the water heater) or you can turn your hot water heater to pilot.**Thermostat** – We recommend leaving your thermostat set at 85 (summer) and 55 (winter).

**Check furnace filters** to make sure they are clean before leaving.

**To keep moisture in the house** during the very hot, dry summer – place towels in the sinks and bathtub/shower pan and set pails of water on top of these. Pails should not be set directly on tile or carpet. **DO NOT FILL UP YOUR SINKS AND TUB WITH WATER. THIS MAY CAUSE DAMAGE.**

Some of us snowbirds leave a car at La Solana when we have returned home and then find the battery discharged when we return. There is a simple solution. Install a Solar Trickle Charger. The unit shown below has worked well for me, and even after being away for six months my car quickly starts. It’s available from Amazon. Search for “solar trickle charger” and it will pop up.

A word of caution: Some of these chargers do not have protection if the car is started while the charger is connected. If not protected, the charger can be destroyed. This charger is not harmed from starting the engine—it contains a protective device.

It can be plugged into a cigarette lighter socket, then the solar panel placed in the windshield to receive ample sunlight for the charging circuit to work. However, many cigarette lighter sockets are disconnected when the car key is removed. If so, the battery will not be charged and a direct connection to the battery will be necessary. Connector clamps are furnished for that purpose.

If help is needed in connecting the device, I’d be happy to help.



Your neighbor, Bob Adams 5212

I would love to start a little weekly gathering for crocheters, knitters and stitchers to get together for an hour our two.

-Lisa Minton

## All La Solana Condos have smoke alarms

Smoke alarms are wired into the building electrical grid. They should be inspected and replaced every ten years. Contact the La Solana office for suggestions on replacement smoke alarms and people who will install them.

Jack Mumford


# Smoke Alarms

## at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.


**SAFETY TIPS**


- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.





**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfpf.org/education ©NFPA 2018

## Condo Sitter

It is highly recommended to hire someone to visit your condo every 2-4 weeks to check for water leaks, termites, or other issues that could be a big problem if left unattended. The office staff can provide references for this valuable service.

Jack Mumford