

LáSolana Living

Notes from the Board Meeting

Dear LáSolana Residents:

It's unbelievable to me that my term on the Board is up at the Annual Meeting later this month. At that time, the election process will fill the 3 Board openings to join Dave Kearney (presently Vice President) and Ken Marks (our Treasurer for the past 4 years). The new Board will decide who will serve in which office. It's an open meeting so you're welcome to stay as an observer.

I became President during this process last year because what I thought was a very convincing reason that I shouldn't serve as President paled in comparison to the other 4 Board member's statements. However, I've truly enjoyed the experience! We've worked together well and have been an effective team. Our job was more straightforward than our past Boards who experienced the growing pains of our condo association, challenges of achieving full membership in Sun City Grand, and negotiating our boundary with the Colonnade. My hat is off to them!

Our Board has opened up our Clubhouse to our evening & weekend use with the card access system. As a result of renovating the elevators in Building 1, parts that are no longer manufactured are now available when elevators in other buildings need repair, thus decreasing their problems. After protecting our buildings first with the cutting down of dead trees & removing grassy areas next to the stucco, we have prioritized our irrigation & landscaping projects so we achieve our long-term goal of dazzling grounds year-round. As we experienced with our last landscaping company, new flowering plants won't flourish for long without healthy watering systems. We are also coordinating the updating of our Clubhouse over the next few years rather than doing it piecemeal.

Kudoo's go to our staff JoAnn, Mike, and Cindy, as well as our Property Manager, Brad Schaeffer. Think back to before you retired--how would it be if **every single year** your "boss's" personality changed? That's their reality & each of them must have fleeting thoughts like "You want me to do what?" & "Oh, please, that didn't work when we tried that 4 Boards ago!" but, bless them, they keep rolling with the changes and making it all work. Their abilities to think imaginatively outside the box, individually and as a group, enrich our lives in so many ways. Further, where else do you have homemade popcorn delivered to you in a comfy seat at the movies—with a blanket, no less, if you want it. Are we not a pampered lot.

I'm going to miss having this opportunity to highlight the facets of our wonderful life in our beautiful community. Also writing the Board's Eye View as I've enjoyed researching the answers to the questions and frustrations heard in and around LáSolana. It's a lot easier for me to abide by "rules" if I understand WHY &, hopefully, it's the same for you. Perhaps another Board member will pick it up (hint, hint).

John & I have lived in condos almost 40 years now. We've each served in various capacities because the quality of our community life is important to us. There are only 20 condos in our Massachusetts association & it's our unit's time to serve on the Board again. Since John is here year-round, I'll be serving on that Board come May. While the issues are different, the principles of honoring the condo documents & team building are always the same.

Thank you for your support & encouragement over this past year,

Marcia Durell Sbrega
President, Board of Directors

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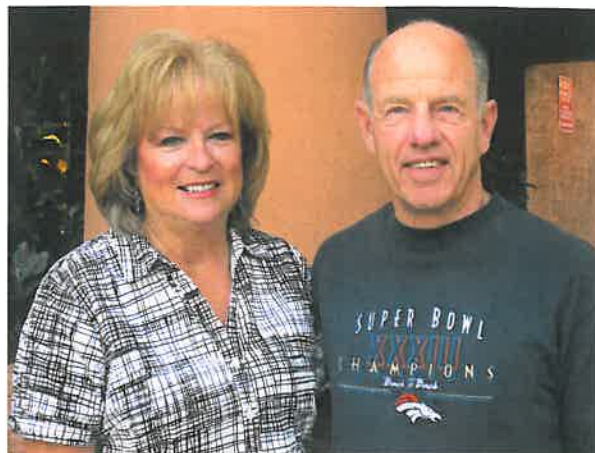
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Meet Your Neighbor

What would you do? It's 1969. Your daughter is an attractive 18 year old high school student and a 24 year old Vietnam vet with a new lime green GTO has asked your permission to take your daughter out for pizza after just meeting her at the bowling alley. Fortunately, both sets of parents were present. Since the Thompson's (Jill) knew the Petrillo's (Larry) as teammates on a church bowling league at which both young people came to watch their parents bowl, Jill's parents responded in the affirmative. Seven months later after Jill graduated, they became **Mr. and Mrs Larry Petrillo**. This year they will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.



When these snowbirds are not in Arizona they are at home in Littleton, Colorado where they raised their two children, Dale and Shelly. Larry and Jill are proud of both who live with their families not far from them in the Denver area. Dale, who owns a mortgage company, and his wife have two daughters, ages 11 and 13. Shelly and her husband have five children ranging in age from 6 to 19. During the summer months when Larry and Jill are in Colorado they make a point of spending a special one-on-one day with each of the grandchildren, in addition to family gatherings at other times. Larry, a lover of baseball, takes the four boys to Colorado Rockies games where they seek big league player autographs, and Jill spends time with each of the three girls in activities that interest them.

The Petrillo's share interests in several activities and that contributes to an obviously very happy marriage. Both are very active in their churches here and in Colorado. Jill likes to teach Bible classes, to youth and adults, and Larry is involved in many of the worship services. That said, and besides love of family, they both have a love for music. Larry plays the steel guitar, so rock and roll and country western are musical genres that are right up his alley. Both Larry and Jill like to sing and she also plays a guitar. They also like Bluegrass, Dixieland, Zydeco, and Cajun music. Those who attended LáSolana's Thanksgiving dinner in the Clubhouse last November were entertained by this musical couple. Lucky us!

Larry has a fondness for a variety of athletic pursuits. In addition to bowling and one 300 game under his belt, he's been a Denver Bronco's season ticket holder since 1969 and would like to attend Super Bowl XLIII at Met Life Stadium in New Jersey. Ask him if he did. Also, he rarely misses a Rockies baseball game, either in the stadium or on TV. Larry also plays league softball, both here in SCG and during the summer in Colorado. Jill follows Larry's softball pursuits and she is always there to cheer him on as well as critique his performance, be it here or in Colorado. Larry affirms that she knows a thing or two about the game and that she is his #1 critic. They also make a point of staying physically fit and make regular use of the Adobe Fitness Center at least three days each week. And, when Jill was asked about her interests, her surprising response was "I love the kitchen." She went on to say that not only does she like to buy groceries and cook but she also enjoys the cleanup. Many women in this day and age would rather go out to eat!

The interview with Jill and Larry also revealed that although they live the life of retired snowbirds, they both are still employed. Jill was a stay at home mom until their daughter was 7 years old and then went to work for First Bank on a part-time basis. Would you believe that she continues to be employed by First Bank after a 28 year career? She looks forward to her summer employment as an emergency teller. And get this, when Larry returns to Colorado for the summer he resumes his lengthy association with Phil Long Ford as one of six fleet managers for the largest Ford agency in Colorado. These facts speak volumes about the value their employers have placed on Jill and Larry's contributions to the success of their businesses. True, even though they are absent for several months during the winter. Similarly, their personalities and talents are assets to the LáSolana and SCG community when they are here residing in Building 3. What a love story!

Earl Lindquist



Good Neighbor Hints & Tips

For many of us, living in a cozy condo environment, surrounded by neighbors is something we haven't experienced since we were very young adults. We're used to having lots of space all to ourselves, and not having neighbors within 'shoutin' distance. Practicing a few good neighbor habits makes it much more enjoyable for our closest neighbors. Here are a few that bear checking out:

Do your laundry after 7:00 am and before 10:00 pm.

Shower before 11:00 pm or after 7:00 am whenever possible.

Conserve water whenever possible, we live in the desert.

If you live above someone else, and have hard surface floors, use felt pads on the bottom of furniture legs, the noise may sound slight to you, but it's magnified through the floor.

Pets must be on a leash, being held, at all times. It is not acceptable to let dogs run free in any area on the grounds. Pick up after your pets. Do you know that there are now doggie DNA kits available, that can identify the errant little rascals by the calling cards they leave behind? Tsk, tsk!

Watch the lines in the parking lot when you park your car. Getting too close to the line squeezes your neighbor, and reduces their smile factor.

Clean the Bar-B-Q grill after use. The next person doesn't really want to know what you had for dinner.

When taking boxes to the recycle bin, flatten them and put them in the bin yourself. Leaving them on the ground causes unnecessary work for one of your kind neighbors who will stop to do the job for you later.

Blockwatch

Recently there was a theft of a tire and rim from a vehicle in West parking lot. There was also a bike theft from rack in East parking lot. A Committee has been formed to address bicycle theft issues.

Neighborhood Representative

Sun City Grand has election for new Board members in April. The SCG Board represents LaSolana residents' interests in numerous areas, and it's important that we cast our votes. Check Grand Times and Channel 22 for election dates and times, as well as information on the candidates. Ballots are being mailed to LaSolana owners.

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you enjoy creative writing, editing, journalism? Would you like to join the LaSolana team of volunteers? We're looking for someone to serve as editor of the monthly newsletter. It's an easy and fun job, even for a seasonal resident as the work is all done on the computer. Our wonderful capable office staff is most helpful as they format, add graphics and publish it for us! For more information, please contact Deannie Price at 402-616-9911.

CREATIVE HANDS ART AND WARES SHOW

Thursday, March 6th

If you are interested in participating in this year's Creative Hands Art & Wares Show, please contact Cindy or JoAnne in the Clubhouse office no later than Friday, February 21st.

We are looking for residents interested in displaying their many talents such as original artwork, custom jewelry, ceramics, or products - lotions, health items, oils, etc.

Meeting Dates!

Newcomer's Welcome Feb. 4th 7-8 pm
Architectural Meeting Feb. 11th 9:00 am
Board Meeting Feb. 11th 10:00 am

Annual Board Meeting
February 19th at 10:00 am-noon
in the Agua Fria Room in the
Cimarron Center

Chat with the Board Feb. 27th 7-8 pm

Upcoming Social Events

February

Pool Party - Appetizers	5th
Valentine's Party-Appetizers	12th
Game Night	19th
50's/60's Night Potluck Supper	26th



Board's Eye View

To have YOUR question answered, please send an email to board@lasolanahoa.com or drop it in our separate condo mailbox, located just to the left inside the Mailroom (must be signed), or attend a monthly *Chat with the Board* during the season. The LáSolana Board of Directors look forward to addressing your questions in the future.

Question: If we're trying to economize and look for ways to keep costs down, why allow people to wash their cars when they can do this on Bell Rd? We can certainly conserve water this way!

Answer: The water bill for the maintenance building, where we can hand wash our cars, is separate. The average monthly cost is \$10 making it an inexpensive amenity of our community. However, for those of you who do wash your car there, DO NOT BLOCK the TRASH ENTRANCE with YOUR CAR as there are those needing access on scooters & using walkers. And please watch the HOSE so it is not a safety hazard.

Question: Our staff is here 8:30 to 4:30 Monday thru Friday so who keeps our pool area looking so neat early every morning & on weekends?

Answer: All of us should return any chair we've moved & put down any umbrella we've raised when we leave. And some do. Those who don't may not know that there isn't paid staff to do that. We're lucky that one of our residents, Ricky Haas, takes the time (almost an hour during season!) every day to put the pool area back the way **we** found it. Thanks, Ricky!!!

Question: We are so fortunate that people here generously donate books to our library. What happens to duplicate books or books culled because the shelves are so full?

Answer: You're right, our library is well used & enjoyed. One resident, with helpers periodically, keeps it neat & orderly & another takes the overflow, duplicate, & outdated books to Birt's Bistro where they have periodic book sales to raise monies for Benevilla's services. When we first started doing that, we received a thank you letter addressed to "Dear Miss LáSolana". They also have artwork on display & for sale as well as tasty light meals & sandwiches. Their musical programs, on Wed & Fri from 5-6:30, are fun & available on their website www.benevilla.org.