

LáSolana Living

Happy New Year

January 2014 Edition

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Dear Lá Solana Residents:

If you weren't here during the holidays, the Clubhouse & grounds were extraordinarily beautiful thanks to our staff & residents playing Christmas elves! Now we have a sparkling new year with yet another "season" upon us -- what gifts! If you're new, WELCOME to our wonderful LáSolana community. Returning? We're glad to have you back!

For "newbies" to condominium living, the following are important idiosyncrasies to be mindful of: 1) patios & the area outside your front door are limited common areas so there are guidelines for decorations, 2) nothing but the usual household trash goes in our compactor, 3) for owners, all renovations **must** be registered with the office staff before they are begun & your contractor is responsible for removal of any construction materials. Condo documents are extremely important, but not that fun to read, so there are 1-page handouts highlighting the most important points available in the clubhouse office. Our staff is a wealth of helpful information, too!

Harry Graham, our CareScape representative, is available for questions from owners at each Board of Directors' meeting. This past year, we've taken down the trees that posed a danger & removed the turf from damaging the stucco of our buildings. At our November meeting, he recommended that our next priority be the updating of our three irrigation systems, parts of which have reached the projected end of their life. Lush flowering plants are definitely everyone's goal, new plantings will not thrive without adequate/appropriate hydration. While keeping within our Budget, CareScape has been an impressive partner in our uphill battle against the unfortunate damage done by the previous landscaping companies.

Harry & Brad, our City Property manager, addressed the air quality issue resulting from the blowing done by CareScape's employees. Reality is that using a vacuum system would double the clean-up time &, therefore, be a major cost to the Association. They could rake instead of blowing but it would not have the same clean look. Not what any of us wanted to hear but.....

The good news is that three new beautiful Palo Verde trees have been strategically planted on our side of the Colonnade wall. As they grow they will provide a buffer to residents in Building 5 from the lights on their new construction. Also, the turf removed will result in a 30% decrease in our watering costs of that area!

The Board voted to add two new pool lounges. When the lounges were being evaluated, it was noticed that one of our existing pool lounge cushions has a cigarette burn on it & "silhouettes" are visible. Be aware that there are consequences to not using the pool's Smoking Area & please put your towel down when laying on a lounge, especially when you're wearing sunscreen oils.

Lastly, the Board voted to postpone the painting of the Clubhouse until 2016 when the carpeting is scheduled for replacement. This gives us a chance to think about future use of the Clubhouse now that we have evening & weekend access. In the Reserve for Replacement Study, our furniture is projected to last until 2024 but some pieces didn't get that memo! Part of the planning needed is to update our color scheme with the help of a computer-generated program offered by the paint company with which we will be contracting. We are putting together a planning committee so if you're interested in serving, please let the office staff know.

Wishing us all a GRAND 2014 season,

Marcia Durell Sbrega
President, Board of Directors

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Meet Your Neighbor

Over many years the fall hunting season in Wisconsin has provided the relatively new LáSolana couple with red meat for their family. By Christmas this year their freezer will once again be filled with venison as **Brian Marx** from Building 1 has returned to Wisconsin for the hunting season and to his post retirement business as a taxidermist. Meanwhile, his wife, **Suzanne**, has delayed her return for the holiday season. She continues to part-time baby-sit their eighteen month old granddaughter, Iliana, while enjoying the lifestyle of their LáSolana condo that they purchased last January.



Iliana's mother is one of their three adult daughters who resides with her husband in Waddell, Arizona and who is a Dean of Students in the Littleton School District. Suzanne and Brian's other two daughters have provided them with four more grandchildren; and their son, Alex, at age 24 just graduated from the University of Wisconsin's Platteville campus with a major in biology. He is employed at Montchevre Goat Cheese Factory, a source of cheeses for Trader Joe's. Brian and Suzanne consider themselves lucky that he continues to live upstairs as a tenant in their 5,000 square foot home in the southwestern corner of Wisconsin. When the family gathers for the holidays in Cuba City, population 2,000, their oldest daughter and family will join them from New Richmond, Wisconsin and their youngest daughter and her family will come from Chicago, in addition to their Arizona family. Venison is likely on the menu as that's the only kind of red meat they ate as they were being raised. Of course, pheasant, wild turkey, walleye, or pan fish are also possibilities when the family gathers for holiday festivities. Their large house accommodates all.

Suzanne and Brian met as school teachers in Cuba City, she as a family and consumer education teacher for grades 7-12 and he as an art teacher for grades K-12. In addition, Brian coached track at both the high school and college level for more than 34 years and continues to help to this day when asked. During these years Brian also immersed himself in painting wild life as well as creating pottery. Some of his paintings adorn the walls of their house, but they said their garage walls from floor to ceiling are filled with his art. As for the pottery he created, he and Suzanne spent over 25 years traveling to and from art and craft shows throughout the area with his pottery. They finally tired of setting up and taking down their displays and that's when Brian decided to focus more effort on his interests in taxidermy. He then turned his pottery and art studio into a shop for taxidermy where his customers come to him rather than he traveling to them, as was the case with his pottery.

Full-time classroom teaching while raising four children, maintaining a large house, assisting Brian with his pottery business and even a part-time sales position the last seven years of her teaching career didn't leave Suzanne a whole lot of extra time. During the summer travels they took their children to places like Disney World, Myrtle Beach, and camping in Wisconsin and Gulf Shores, Alabama. Now that both are retired from teaching other travel opportunities may arise, but at this time she said one of her goals is to meet new people and to kick back and enjoy what LáSolana and Sun City Grand have to offer. In particular, she enjoys the movies in the LáSolana clubhouse and participating three days a week in water aerobics at the SCG Adobe pools. In addition, she now has time for watching TV— especially reality and talk shows, HGTV and Dancing With the Stars. Suzanne also said any interest she may ever have had in cooking is gone; but with enthusiasm she said she really enjoys eating out!

At one time, Brian and Suzanne thought they would retire to The Villages in Florida. That changed when their daughter needed help after the birth of her first child. Also, experiencing LáSolana as renters during the fall of 2012, they knew that buying their condo in Building 1 was the right decision. They look forward to meeting many new friends in the months ahead, and that should not be difficult as Suzanne has a ready smile and Brian's no "groucho" and possesses a good sense of humor. If you recognize them from the photo above, extend your friendly hand and introduce yourself. Their response could be a gift that you give yourself.

Earl Lindquist #2301

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: We don't see well enough by our patio light. Can we replace it with another fixture that gives us more light?

Answer: No. Patios are considered a limited common area and all the lighting is the same, thus enhancing the "look" of LáSolana. The best solution would be to put a table light on your patio.

Question: Is it ok to bring a glass bottle of wine to the pool as long as I keep it wrapped in a paper or clothe bag?

Answer: **NO, NO, NO!** ONLY plastic is allowed in the pool area!!! Think about it. YOU do not want to be the recipient of the ugly stares of your neighbors for the inconvenience, to say nothing of the cost, of emptying the pool if an accident happened. Decant your wine into a plastic bottle, bring boxed wine, or leave the glass bottle in the Clubhouse for you to pour from when your (plastic) glass is empty. THANK YOU!

Question: Is the newspaper at the pool public property?

Answer: The daily newspaper is in the Smoking Area because it's bought by the smokers. They're glad to have you read it there but please don't remove it until after 5 p.m.

I know the voices in my head aren't real but sometimes their ideas are just absolutely awesome.

Author Unknown

VETERANS HONORED AT LA SOLANA

On Veterans Day (Remembrance Day in Canada) this year, members of the LáSolana Condo community honored their resident veterans with an afternoon reception. Held on November 11th in the Club House, it was well-attended by the friends and neighbors of the veterans. La Solana counts 25 veterans, from all branches of the service, among its residents.



Pictured are:

(Front, L – R) Ken Greene, John Sbrega, Larry Petrillo, Jim Vaske, Frank Vasica and (Back, L-R) Russ Anderson, Valerie Ball, Dave Kearney, and Ricky Haas. Also in attendance but not pictured was Ben Willard.

Window Cleaning

There is still time to get your windows cleaned, if you act quickly. .

As a reminder, All Clear Window Cleaning has agreed to clean your windows at a very affordable cost to you. So far we have 25 owners who are taking advantage of this offer.

If you are interested in having your windows cleaned, please stop by the clubhouse office to register or

call the office at 623-214-5532. Time is running out so you need to act now. Payment must be in the clubhouse office no later than Friday, January 10th.

Cost: Avistar \$30; Ventana \$35; Grande/Mirada \$40.

The windows will be cleaned beginning January 13th and may take 2-3 days to complete.

It is important to note that

the Board is not endorsing this company's work, just facilitating the sign up in order to help our residents.

If you have any questions, you can contact Randy Cox from All Clear Window Cleaning at 480-710-7685.



Architectural Committee

To maintain the attractiveness of LaSolana, our committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to approve the following improvements or alterations to your unit **before** work is begun:

Exterior sun screens, awnings, roll down shades, patio umbrellas, security screen doors, satellite TV dishes, retractable

(phantom screen), flush mounted screen doors, and aluminum patio screen doors.

Architectural Submittal forms can be obtained from the clubhouse office, along with helpful information on products and vendors that have been approved in the past. Referring to pages 7-8 of the

Rules and Regulations can be helpful as well.

Please notify the office staff of **ANY** remodeling or renovation work you are plan-

JANUARY MEETING DATES

(in the clubhouse)

Newcomer's Welcome

Tuesday, January 7th - 7 pm

Architectural Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th - 9 am

Board Meeting - 2014

Tuesday, January 21st - 10 am

Chat with the Board

Thursday, January 30th - 7 pm

(Barbara Foster from Colonnade, guest speaker for first 15 min.)

Neighbor Representative



Happy New Year to everyone. Cherie Beavon #5311 has volunteered to be the alternative Neighborhood Representative. If you have concerns that should be brought up to the Sun City Grand Neighborhood Reps let Russ or Cherie know. We will, of course, be working closely with the LáSolana Board.

Blockwatch

One of our residents had a bike which was cabled and locked to a bike rack stolen several weeks ago. Russ Anderson #2112 will follow up with the Surprise Police Department on this. It's really important to lock your bike with a good quality cable or U bar lock.

If you see activity or someone who does not look like they belong at LáSolana, please call the Surprise PD at 222-4000. For emergencies call 911. Then call Russ Anderson at 583-8604.

