

President's Corner

Greetings to all from the Valley of the Sun! It has ben a little toasty lately now that we are in the Monsoon Season. We have had some minimal damage from storms so far. Keep your fingers crossed.

There has been a lot of activity happening around the property since my last notes to you in April. Jan Smith and her Courtyard Enhancement Committee consisting of: Pam Riley, Suzanne Radi, Larry Truett and Dallas Reynolds have spent hours researching and overseeing the choices of river rock, granite, planters and plants to finish the project. Harry from CareScape has been absolutely fantastic with his suggestions and implementation of the courtyard project.

CareScape trimmed all of the palm trees in the pool area and courtyards a couple of weeks ago and just did the remaining palms on the property this week. Everything looks great! Well done CareScape. Arizona Elevator is currently installing the new equipment in building 7. Building 5 will be started before the end of the year. That will be the end of our elevator replacement projects!!!

Mike Donovan has started to paint the water fountains on property. He prepared and painted the fountain by building 4 and 5 first before our unbearable heat arrived. Mike gave us a choice of colors and color schemes to choose from. We decided the color pallet and paint patterns and Mike did a great job painting a couple of coats and then sealing the top coat. Mike then prepared and painted the fountain inside the courtyard of building 3. The same colors were used and the results speak for themselves. The courtyards now have a nice "finished" look to them. Very appealing. Mike will continue to prep and paint the interior fountains. Outside will be done after the heat of the Summer.

Larry has been researching and working on the new signage for the pool area. Our current signs are very faded and perhaps a little confusing. The project has involved some brainstorming sessions with Jan and myself to make sure the signs are completely compliant with the Maricopa County Health Department mandatory guidelines. You will see new signage in the pool area pretty soon. He also has designed and ordered a new header for the refurbished directory map sign in our driveway.

The Board did receive the written directive from Southwest Roofing Consultants that was mentioned in the April article. The directive outlines a plan of action to repair/maintain the flat roofs and the tiled roof surfaces. The Board also recently received the updated Reserve Study and will be actively reviewing all of the information enclosed. More to come on both of these items during our October meeting.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the Summer and look forward to seeing you around our piece of paradise in the desert.

Dave Kearney
President



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Meet Your Neighbor

Russ and Janet Anderson in building two have had an adventurous life together, living in thirteen different homes across the country. They met and began to date in high school, and both graduated from the University of Minnesota, although at different times. Russ was a Navy reservist and was called up to serve in the Korean conflict. Russ always had a very adventurous spirit, a perfect match for his career with the FBI. They lived in Mississippi in the 60's when the Civil Rights Movement was gathering momentum, and his assignments included monitoring James Meredith's March Against Fear, and the Ku Klux Klan.



In other states his assignments included fighting organized crime, the Wounded Knee investigation and gambling squads. After retiring from the FBI, he worked for 18 years as drug program coordinator for the Minnesota Vikings.

Meanwhile, Janet pursued her career as a primary school teacher, taking time out to be a full time mom when their two children were young. She specialized in the education of blind or partially sighted children. Because the children were mainstreamed they required Braille or other assistive materials to help them succeed. At one point her small team coordinated care for the children in 7 or 8 school districts.

Russ and Jan enjoyed travelling to Florida for several winters, pulling their Airstream trailer. On one trip home Jan was driving, and felt uneasy because there was no shoulder on the road. Suddenly two wheels slipped off the pavement and they went off the road, rolling over twice, landing upright with the trailer still hooked to the car. Thankfully they suffered only bumps and bruises although everything was a total loss. With their usual positive attitudes they were able to find humor. It seems that Jan had purchased a big jar of molasses to make Russ' favorite ginger cookies. As they rolled over, the molasses jar broke and began to spin around the trailer. There were pieces of paper stuck everywhere, secured by the molasses. At that point they decided that they didn't really want to go to Florida or have a travel trailer any more.

With the encouragement of friends, they came to Arizona and spent several winters at the Sunflower Resort. Feeling they wanted to buy a home in Grand they began shopping. In 2003 when LaSolana was being converted into condos they happened to drive by. Jan realized that what they really were shopping for was community along with a home and they purchased their unit. For the past 15 years they divide their time between their home in Hugo, Minnesota and LaSolana.

They love this community and the people, and enjoy being involved. Russ served as the neighborhood rep in SCG for many years and belongs to block watch. They play bocce ball with a group from building 2 every week, and love pickleball. Russ enjoys going to the baseball games, while Jan plays bridge and belongs to a book club. They both love to read. They're very proud of their two children, a son and a daughter and their eight glorious grandchildren. This past June they celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

Deannie Price #6209

COURTYARDS

The La Solana courtyard committee (see Presidents report) worked with the CareScape Landscapers to redesign the vestibules with the help of Pioneer Landscaping. Huge rip rocks, Sedona quartz and deep brown petrified wood were all used to create the modernistic design. The petrified wood (remains of a prehistoric Birch Forest) forms a deep brown ribbon that undulates throughout the new LáSolana interiors.

According to Board Member Jan Smith, the committee was anxious to decorate the courtyards in order to bring light and a unified design that carries the eye from one section to the other. Accenting the redesign are elegant white pots in which green and purple sweet potato plants add further brilliance.

"I think we have succeeded in bringing a touch of class to the courtyards," said Smith. The committee spent months conferring with rock specialists, professional gardeners and horticulturists.

The scatter of small plants features such shade-tolerant, drought resistant as "foxtail ferns," ZZ plant, Cardboard Sago, Elephant Food, Hearts and flowers, Ruellia and Coral Fountain

The committee also studied courtyard designs in Sun City Grand.

Accentuating the new look, will be the repainted fountains to add turquoise and terracotta -- the colors of La Solana. Mike has artistically completed one fountain just west of Building Five, and the rest will be done after the hot weather dissipates.

Peter Brown # 5107



Renovation Policy for LáSolana

While each of us own our units, they are not free-standing homes. This policy compiles the relevant points of the CC&R's that need to be adhered to in order to protect the appearance of the community and structural integrity of the buildings. Regardless of whether Board approval is required, the office must be notified in writing, email is acceptable, of any planned renovation work.



LÁSOLANA'S OWL FAMILY

This family of Great Horned Owls - the Alpha male, his mate and their two offspring - , are most likely La Solana residents for good.

A National Zoo Owl expert, Dr. Donald Ogden, said in an interview that owls mate for life and then choose a home in the trees -- "for life!" When sent photos of La Solana, Dr. Ogden said the male had undoubtedly chosen La Solana for its "fine vantage points where the male can continually scan the desert for food or for invasions by other owls.

The La Solana owl family, which swooped down on the condos in February, built nests in the trees east of the La Solana mailboxes, sired three offspring and raised them throughout the Spring and Summer. And, quite often, the male owl uses roof of the community center and can often be found there at dusk.

Unlike most other birds, owls mate and breed in the Winter -- usually starting in late November. Mated, the male soars off to choose a territory -- a domicile. In this case it was La Solana. Keepers at the Wildlife Zoo and Park here said that the Great Horned owls only rarely adopt homes in developed areas such as Sun City Grand. "But if the trees are large enough and plentiful enough, the Owls adapt and move in."

La Solana residents have encountered the owls throughout the Spring and Summer. One resident got shots of all four lined up on the railing of his condo. And, as the heat roared in, the Owls have frequented the fountain west of Building Five." Usually, the male watches carefully as the youngsters splash about. The mother apparently watches from another tree.

Eventually, the young owls will desert La Solana to establish territories of their own; the Alpha and his mate will remain -- Ogden predicts. "If they have stayed this long, it means they feel safe there and confident."

These photos capture the beauty and wonder of these creatures -- who also fill the La Solana darkness with noise and serenading.....including barks, hoots, and pre-dawn screaming sessions.

Peter Brown # 5107



continued....



Mike's Corner

Please do not feed the birds.
Keep your dryer vents clean, it could become a fire hazard.
Please remember to keep the entrance to the building closed upon entering and exiting the building. Too many doors are being left open by resident and vendors. We don't want to one day find coyotes roaming the halls.

A special thanks to Valerie Colvert for hosting the July 4th party.

New Board Meeting Dates

October	16th	
November	20th	
No December Meeting		
January	15th	
February	19th	Annual Meeting @ Agua Fria room, Cimarron Center
March	19th	
April	16th	



Social Committee Events 2018-2019

Nov. 11	Sunday	Veteran's Day
Nov. 20	Tuesday	Thanksgiving Celebration
Dec. 12	Wednesday	Pool Party
Dec. 24	Monday	Christmas Eve
Jan. 9	Wednesday	Courtyard Party
Jan. 23	Wednesday	Soup Supper
Feb. 13	Wednesday	Valentine's Party
Feb. 27	Wednesday	International Night
March 13	Wednesday	Mardi Gras Party
March 27	Wednesday	A Summer Picnic