

AUGUST 2024

SOLERA STAR



ESCAPE THE HEAT!
stay cool indoors!

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOLERA AT ANTHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



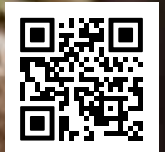


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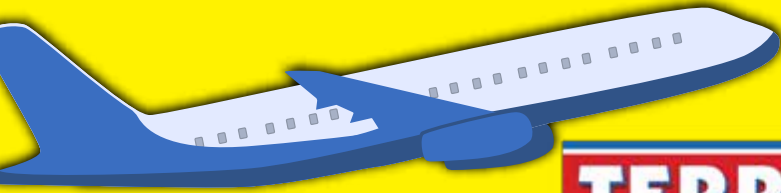
Minimum job \$5,000. Must mention this ad at time of estimate. Expires 8/31/24

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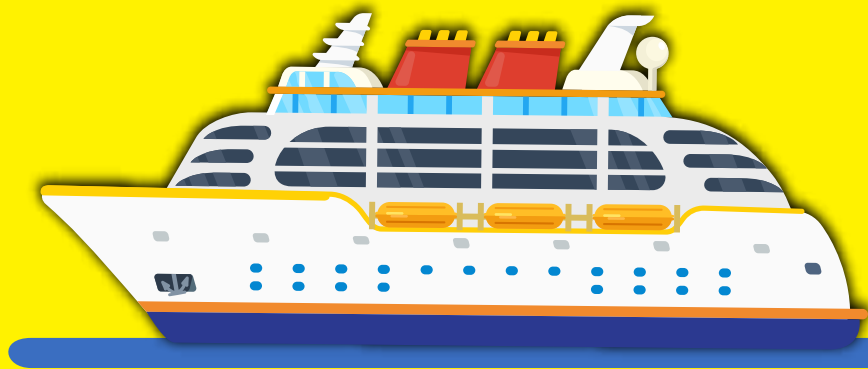




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AUGUST 2024

SOLERA STAR

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOLERA AT ANTHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



18

ON THE COVER

Its too hot outside, so this issue focuses on staying cool indoors.



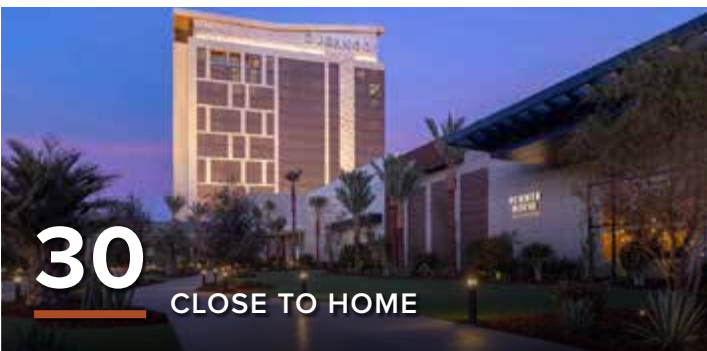
7

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



18

ESCAPE THE HEAT



30

CLOSE TO HOME

ASSOCIATION

- Community Contacts & Information **6**
- From the General Manager **7**
- Committees & Contributors **7**
- Community Standards Committee **8**

COMMUNITY

- Falcon 9 Flights **9**
- End of Traffic Terror **9**
- The Veterans and First Responders **11**
- The Foundation Assisting Seniors **11**
- Upcoming Events | August **12**
- Upcoming Events | September **13**
- Community Calendar **15**
- Weekly Activities **16**
- Cover Stories | Escape the Heat **18**
- More to Our Clubhouse Than Meets the Eye **20**
- Cool Cooking **22**
- Recipe Exchange **23**
- Weather You Like It or Not **24**
- Meet the Neighbors **26**

LIFESTYLE

- Birth-Year Best Sellers **28**
- Close To Home **30**
- Road Trip **32**
- Southern Nevada Water Authority **33**
- The Distribution Dilemma **34**
- Roles Reversal **36**
- On the Web **37**

Email: solera@ternionsage.com
Phone: 702.982.6681
www.ternionsage.com



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ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

FirstService Residential (702) 215-8165
Solera at Anthem Community Association
2401 Somersworth Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89044

Administration Office
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
After hours Emergency Number (702) 215-8165

Community Center (702) 207-1407
Fax (702) 405-6211
Monday – Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pool Hours
Sunday 6:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Monday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.

For questions about your balance or for general information, call (702) 215-8165.

Reporting Leaks in Solera and Anthem Parkway
Solera Community - Contact Paul Reeves at preeves@soleraatanthem.us or main line at (702) 207-1407
Anthem Parkway - Contact Anthem Council at (702) 737-8580 (Press "0" to speak to the operator to report the leak)

SOLERA STAFF



Florine Radulovic-Kay (702) 207-1414
Community Manager
florine@soleraatanthem.us



Dan Penescu (702) 207-1402
Assistant Manager
dpenescu@soleraatanthem.us



Dominique Jordan-Qaraja (702) 207-1424
Lifestyle Manager, Solera Star Editor
djordan@soleraatanthem.us



Paul Reeves (702) 207-1406
Facilities Manager
preeves@soleraatanthem.us



Paul Mayen (702) 207-1411
Facilities Supervisor
pmayen@soleraatanthem.us

BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Sawyer, President | solerakens@gmail.com

David DeOto, Vice-President | soleradavid@outlook.com

Susan Zinna, Secretary | susanzinna@hotmail.com

Mike Goff, Treasurer | mikesolera1@gmail.com

Frank Nobel, Director | fnobel@cox.net

Kathy Tatasciore, Director | kmtsolera@gmail.com

Bob Waskowitz, Director | bdwaskowitz@yahoo.com

When emailing the above Board Members, please put "Solera" in the subject line.

Please send all violation reports and/or complaints to the Management Office in writing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND INFORMATION

Meetings are held in the Stardust Ballroom of the Clubhouse, located at 2401 Somersworth Dr., Henderson, NV 89044

Agendas are available the week before the meeting, and are emailed to all residents with an email address on file. To request a copy of the agenda, you may also reach out to Management directly.

Board of Directors Executive Session

August 7 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Meeting

August 14 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Executive Session

September 4 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Meeting

September 13 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

DISCLAIMER: *Solera Star* is a monthly publication of Solera at Anthem Community Association designed to provide information and news to the members of Solera at Anthem (SAA). Advertising does not influence editorial decisions or content. We reserve the right to refuse to advertise for any reason or cause. Information, services, products, and materials contained in *Solera Star* magazine are provided on an "as is" basis with no warranty. SAA disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, with respect to such information, services, products, and materials including, but not limited to, warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, title, non-infringement, and implied warranties arising from course of dealing or course of performance. In no event shall SAA be liable for any damages whatsoever whether in an action, arising out of or in connection with the use, inability to use, or performance of the information, services, products and materials available from this publication.

Solera Residents:



Assessments are due quarterly on the 1st
January 1 - April 1 - July 1 - October 1
Nevada.fsrconnect.com/soleraatanthem.us

Solera Website: www.soleranews.com

You can access the FirstService website by logging onto soleraatanthem.connectresident.com

DEL WEBB Customer Relations
1-800-664-3089 or 1-800-589-7900

Following is the address for Assessment Payments:
Solera at Anthem c/o FirstService Residential
P.O. Box 30422, Tampa, FL 33630-3422

Anthem Council | www.anthemcommunitycouncil.com
www.anthemcommunitycouncil.godaddysites.com



Dear Solera Residents,

I feel fortunate to be a part of the Solera At Anthem Community as your new General Manager. Having been here the past two years as your Assistant General Manager has given me the opportunity to meet many of you face to face. I must admit I have grown very fond of your pop-in visits to my office with the quick “Hello’s” and “How ya doin’s”.

For those of you who I have not yet met – a brief history on whom is leading your service team. I have over 20+ years of experience in business operations. I have led and trained various teams in the customer service and real estate industry, and I aim to be a great resource, for not only the Solera Residents, but also with my First Service Residential Team. I plan to bring a new level of exemplary service to the Community in all areas of our management purpose. Continual improvement is always within our grasp – if we are willing to open our eyes to your vision and ‘actively’ listen to your voice.

Over the past two years I was led and mentored by Jacob Kay, who was a wonderful asset to the Community as well as to his support staff – something I also hope to achieve. We all miss him and wish him the best in his new community with FirstService Residential.

If we haven’t shared a smile -please stop by, or stop me in my path, and share a brief moment together! I truly enjoy this Community and every single minute of my time here with you! *(Sometimes not every single minute is perfect – but those times are quickly resolved and we will each bring something back with us to improve on).*

I look forward to embarking on this new relationship with you and am dedicated to serving Solera At Anthem and my Team!

FLORINE RADULOVIC-KAY,
General Manager, CAM – Solera At Anthem ✨

COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Robert Brightwell
David Chavez
Henry “Hank” DeVisser
Terry Hazelbaker
Terry Phelps
Ingrid Serina
Gregg Shiffbauer
Florence Hayashi – *Alternate*
David Stefanik – *Alternate*
Liaison: Bob Waskowitz

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Craig Hardy
Carol Hendrickson
Mary Schramski
Tom Sweetko
Frank Tuozzo
Ray Zacharias
Liaison: Susan Zinna

COMMUNICATIONS

Marcia Adams
Betty Boyd
Larry Edsall
Shelley Payne-Pittman
Liaison: Frank Nobel

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Vida Carr
Joseph Doll
Linda Freitas
Lowell Gervais
Linda Loane
Diane Meireis
Liaison: Ken Sawyer

FINANCE

Mike Goff
Steve Gordon
Thomas Mach
Charlene Whitener
Kathie Zeier
Liaison: David DeOto

LIFESTYLE

Lorraine Barcia
Loretta Ariola – *Alternate*
Liaison: Kathy Tatasciore

PLEASE NOTE

The following committee needs volunteers:
Finance, Communications, & Lifestyle

For more information or to apply please contact management at soleraatanthem@fsrnevada.com.

Residents are welcome to attend any committee meetings that are of interest, except Covenants and ARC. Meeting dates are listed on page 15.

WHAT ARE GUEST PASSES?

BY THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

August is finally here, and the hot days are still upon us. You have friends or relatives back East or in the Midwest who want to get out of the weather they are dealing with. What to do!

Spending time on the Las Vegas Strip, taking a drive out to the Red Rock Canyon National Preserve or to Mount Charleston is a possibly on the agenda, but staying closer to home also is very appealing. An early morning game of pickleball, tennis, going for a swim, working out in our gym, playing billiards, or simply spending some time relaxing in the reading room are some ideas for sticking around the clubhouse.

Did you know that if you are a sole owner on your home's title you can get a Guest Pass Privilege Card so that you can enjoy all the amenities and can bypass paying the \$2 charge for your guest?

So, what is a Guest Pass Privilege Card?

A Guest Pass Privilege Card is a guest card that is issued to a property owner when there is only one owner listed on the deed. It allows the owner to bring in one guest and bypass the \$2 charge that is usually required to bring in a guest.

The Association is able to provide this because each Solera home purchase includes access to two membership cards per household. If there is only one homeowner on the deed, then the homeowner can request an additional card to complete the two allowable memberships per household. That said the homeowner would not be required to pay the additional \$2 charge, but the homeowner is still required to check in their guest.

The Guest Pass Privilege card is unique only to a sole property owner on a deed and is applicable to one guest at any given time. Of course, there is still the option to purchase additional guest passes for \$2 if you are bring more than the one guest using your Guest Pass Privilege Card.

Our community's clubhouse offers many activities that you can find listed on our website, as well as events planned by our Lifestyle Department to bring your guest.

Don't forget you must be present with you guest(s) when using the clubhouse. ✨

*Solera At Anthem
Community Association*
GUEST PASS 2024

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Issued by: _____

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FLACON 9 FLIGHTS VISIBLE FROM SOLERA

Did you notice the bright light in the sky back on the evening of June 24? Solera resident Don Holland did, and he captured these images from his backyard. Launched from the Vandenberg Space Force base on the California coast in Santa Barbara County, a Falcon 9 rocket carried 20 Starlink satellites into low-Earth orbit.

The Falcon 9 is SpaceX's reusable, two-stage rocket that not only flies into space but returns and lands like something from those 1950s Flash Gordon TV shows so it can be used again and again.

In late June, SpaceX reported that of 348 launches, 305 units have returned and landed successfully, and that of those nearly 350 flights, some 280 have involved reused equipment.

The spacelaunchschedule.com website has the schedule of upcoming flights. ✨



HENDERSON PROMISES END OF TRAFFIC TERROR

Back in January of 2022, we devoted a full page of the *Solera Star* to “Inspirada’s Traffic Tangle of Terror,” that oh-so-confusing but increasingly heavily traveled intersection of Bicentennial Parkway and Via Inspirada.

And the terror of traversing this intersection only has worsened since new homes, new stores, and new apartments — and even a new police station — have sprouted nearby.

In fact, a recent article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that since 2018, there have been 95 crashes within what we labeled as “the triangles of terror,” or as the newspaper termed it, the “figure-eight roundabout.”

We can only imagine the additional mayhem when Station Casinos begins construction and then opens its Inspirada Station hotel/entertainment complex just west of the triangles.

Fortunately, the City of Henderson promises to alleviate any such fears. That same newspaper article reported that beginning this November, construction will begin to replace the intersection with a more standard and “signalized intersection.” ✨

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If you are a resident of Solera and would like to place a classified ad, please call Ternion Sage at the number listed above or email your classified ad to solera@ternionsage.com. Ads must be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the upcoming publication.

Disclaimer: The Solera Community Association and FirstService Residential staff do not endorse those who have advertised above. It is the homeowner, tenant or agent's responsibility to locate reputable contractors.



CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

BY THE SOLERA VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CLUB

In June of 2014, a small group of Solera veterans got together and decided to start a club within our community supporting veterans and first responders. They named it the Solera Veterans and First Responders Club.

Within the first two months we grew to 26 members. Currently we have more than 80 members.

So far we have donated more than \$30,000 to local veteran and first responder outreaches, including the Southern Nevada Honor Flight, Injured Police Officer Fund, Henderson Veteran's Treatment Court, RWB DOG TAGS, Henderson Police and Fire Departments, Nevada State Police Southern Nevada Area Command, Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, and the list goes on and on.

We ensure that all donations given to these organizations go directly back to the veterans and first responders in need of assistance.

We donate US flags and poles for our Community Center parking lot. Each year we sponsor the local Marine Corps Toys For Tots Campaign with both toys and money donations. We have donated over four thousand toys and over \$2,000 to this great cause.

We have monthly speakers such as RWB DOG TAGS, which donates dogs to veterans that will be trained by the veteran

and RWB DOG TAGS at no cost as certified service dogs. We also have hosted the Injured Police Officer Fund which assists injured police officers or surviving family members in times of need; Henderson Fire and Henderson Police K-9 units; and speakers sharing our history as a nation and what they did in support of our nation. We invited Medal Of Honor Recipient, Major General James Livingston who spoke at the community center.

We hold three ceremonies a year: Memorial Day, Patriot Day (9/11), and Veterans Day.

We also host our annual Ice Cream Social and Chili Cook Off for our community. These events help raise critical funds for our charitable activities.

We could not do it without you, our Solera neighbors, thank you for your support!

Every resident within our Solera community, whether or not you are a veteran/first responder, is welcome to join. Come to one of our meetings and check us out. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Stardust Room.

One of our Club projects is to furnish American flags and poles to Solera residents. If you need a flag, or flag and pole combo, please contact Ken Pavese at (702) 407-8111 or email us at SoleraVeterans@outlook.com. ✨



YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM IN TIMES OF NEED

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS

While we look forward to our retirement years enjoying good health and fun activities, sometimes we hit a bump in the road.

The Foundation Assisting Seniors (FAS) is here to ease those bumps. In case of illness or injury, we are happy to loan out durable medical equipment such as canes, walkers, rollators, wheelchairs up to hospital beds. Our HowRU program provides seniors and veterans living alone with a sense of security and safety. Our Temporary Pet Foster Program provides temporary care for your fur babies during hospitalization, rehabilitation, or when you are incapacitated.


However, in times of loss of a loved one, be it a spouse, companion, family member, or dear friend, you must always allow yourself time to grieve and experience the pain, sadness and anger. Most importantly, seek support and talk to someone:

FAS has formed a support group for those who are grieving. There is no time limit on grief, whether it is new or from some time ago; if you are feeling need of support, please come and join us. We meet once a month on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm at the FAS offices at 2518 Anthem Village Drive, Suite 102, Henderson, NV 89052.

The group will cover your issues and questions with compassion and discretion. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet others who may be experiencing grief a different way than you are. It will be a time for you to meet others and perhaps learn new ways of coping.

Please feel free to call the Foundation on (725) 244-4200 with any questions or concerns. ✨

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7 | 7PM **LIFESTYLE EVENT**
SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH
 Performed at The Boman Outdoor Pavilion



SUPER SUMMER THEATRE
 SHOWING OF






After being kicked out of a rock band, Dewey Finn becomes a substitute teacher of a elementary private school to try and turn the class into a rock band.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on Tuesday, July 9.

Tickets are \$50
 (includes admission, park entrance, chair rental, & transportation)

Bus will leave from the Clubhouse at 5:30pm, Meadow opens at 6pm, Show starts at 8:05pm

LIFESTYLE EVENT

TRUSTMASTERS
LUNCH & LEARN

TUESDAY, AUG. 27 | 11:30AM-1PM
 STARDUST BALLROOM

Trustmasters is a local Nevada living trust preparer with 40 years of combined experience in estate planning legal document preparation.

Please sign-up at the clubhouse front desk if you are interested in attending.

LIFESTYLE EVENT



W/ MARK O'TOOLE



FRIDAY, AUG. 16 | 6-8PM
 STARDUST BALLROOM
 \$15 Residents/\$17 Guests

Tickets go on sale in the Lady Luck Room Thursday, July 25 at 9a.m.

Light refreshments, water, and soda will be provided.
 This is a BYOB event.

LIFESTYLE EVENT BE THE FIRST IN WNBA HISTORY TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK TITLES

BACK-2-BACK
CHAMPIONS

LAS VEGAS ACES GAME
 FRIDAY, AUG. 30 | 7PM
 MANDALAY BAY - MICHELOB ULTRA ARENA



Post-game group picture on the court following the game!
 \$45 per person includes admission & transportation
 Bus will leave Solera at 5:30pm & return around 10pm

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Encore Lounge on Tuesday, Aug 6 at 9am

LIFESTYLE EVENT

Rose Kingsley



A Diva's Tribute to Johnny Mercer

Come Celebrate Johnny Mercers' 115th Birthday with Capitol Records recording artist Rose Kingsley as she brings her award winning show A DIVAS TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY MERCER from Birdland Jazz Club, NYC to Solera. "Rose Kingsley brings magic to my fathers music – Mandy Mercer"

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6 | 6-8PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

\$15 Residents/\$17 Guests

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, August 13 at 9a.m. in the Lady Luck Room. Light refreshments, water, and soda will be provided. This is a BYOB event.

FIFTIES SOCK HOP

LIFESTYLE EVENT



FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 | 6-8PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

\$10 Residents | \$12 Guests

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, August 27 at 9a.m. in the Lady Luck Room.

Light refreshments, water, and soda will be provided.

This is a BYOB event.

Fifties attire is encouraged, but not required.



ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY **JTM** (JERRY, TONY, & MIKE)



LIFESTYLE EVENT

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

LUNCH & LEARN

TUESDAY, SEPT 24 | 12-1PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

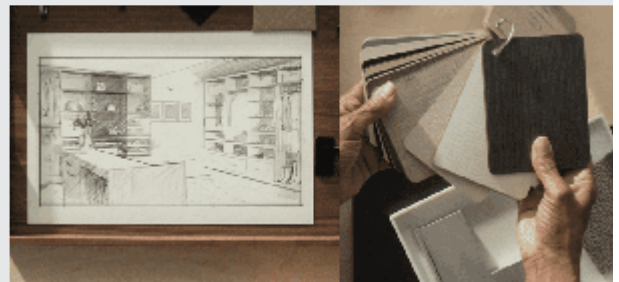
We are thrilled to invite you to an exclusive Lunch & Learn at Solera at Anthem!

- Find out how California Closets products and services can help transform spaces in your home to create maximum functionality to help you stay organized!
- Learn about all the spaces in your home we can help you with!
- Watch spaces come to life through an interactive 3D design session using our proprietary CAD program. Bring your ideas for a space you'd like to reimagine and one of our expert design consultants will show you what it can look like!

Let California Closets help give you the space you have always dreamed of! From beautiful walk-in closets and entertainment centers to versatile pantries and home offices, we design custom storage solutions that add value to your life and home by making space for what belongs.

Think of it as **'practical magic.'**

If interested, please sign-up at the Clubhouse front desk.



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AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30 Bulk Trash Day	31	1 Communications 9:30am	2	3
4	5 Covenants 10am	6 ARC 9am Tickets on sale for Las Vegas Aces Game 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm	7 Executive Board 9:30am Super Summer Theatre Outing 7p.m. (Bus leaves at 5:30pm)	8	9	10 Fitness Center Orientation 10am
11	12	13 Tickets go on sale for Diva's Tribute to Johnny Mercer 9am Bulk Trash Day	14 Board of Directors 9:30am	15 Community Standards 9:30am Bingo 6:30pm (Doors open: 5:30pm)	16 Happy Hour w/Mark O'Toole 6pm (Doors open: 5pm)	17
18	19	20 Lifestyle 11:15am	21 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am	22	23	24
25	26	27 Tickets on sale for Sock Hop 9am TrustMasters Lunch & Learn 11:30am Bulk Trash Day	28 Finance 9:30am	29	30 Las Vegas Aces Game 7pm (Bus leaves at 5:30pm)	31
SEP 1	2 Labor Day	3 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm	4 Executive Board 9:30am	5 Communications 9:30am	6 Diva's tribute to Johnny Mercer 6pm (Doors open at 5pm)	7

CHARTERED CLUBS

American Mah Jongg Club | Tuesday | 1 p.m.
Rosalie Feit | (702) 897-4965

Asian Mah Jongg Club | Wednesday & Friday | Noon
Vickie | (702) 489-7922

Aquasize | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday | 10 a.m.
Diane Fimiano | Aquadiane1@aol.com

Bridge Club | Tuesday & Friday | 12:30 p.m.
Sharon Deter | (253) 303-1738 | sharon.dtd@gmail.com

Bunco Club | Second Tuesday | 5 p.m.
Karen Schanhals | (775) 721-4701
Sue Levine | (631) 871-8459

Euchre Club | Monday | 1 p.m.
Gregg Schiffbauer | (702) 379-1399 | magregg@aol.com

Fine Arts Club

Watercolor | Thursday | 10 a.m.
Judy Blankenship | (702) 457-0550

Colored Pencil | Tuesday | 1 p.m.
Elva Radick | (708) 466-1433

Handcrafted Creations Club

Bead Weaving | Thursday | 1 p.m.
Carol Runyan | (702) 558-7623

Quilts & More | Tuesday & Friday | 10 a.m.
Maryann Bianco
(702) 453-2884 | maryann.bianco@yahoo.com

Stained Glass | Wednesdays | 12:30-5 p.m.
Bob Stahurski | (702) 994-3919

Paper Works / Greeting Cards Club | Monday | 1 p.m.
Linda Freitas | lindafreitas89044@gmail.com

Party Bridge Club | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:30 p.m.
David Hon | (801) 791-6229 | hondid@msn.com

Pickleball Club | Monday - Friday | 7-10 a.m.
Susie Gordon | (619) 602-3772

Poker Club

Monday | Noon; Wednesday | 5 p.m.; Thursday | 5 p.m.
Donna Tipps | (775) 846-3616 | dtipps4@cox.net

Romeo's Solera Mens Club

Third Friday | 8:30 a.m. | Southpoint
Allen Blonder | (702) 395-6878

Solera Starz Cardio Class | Tuesday | 8:30 a.m.
Arda Reiter | (702) 462-6167; Ardena Golder | (702) 802-1963;
Lorie Frigillana | (702) 487-5725

Solera Starz Dance Aerobics

Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:30 a.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Solera Starz Line Dancing | Monday | 4:30-6 p.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Solera Ladies Club | Monthly Activities
Sue Boylan | (702) 373-6055 | srb702@gmail.com

Solera Singles Club | Monthly Activities
Georgie D'Alessandro | (702) 914-0630 | georgied248@gmail.com

Table Tennis Club

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday | 8 a.m.-Noon
Sunday | 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Steve Reed | (309) 696-5311

Veterans & First Responders Club | First Tuesday | 6:30 p.m.
Robert Propp | (509) 220-6304 | robert.propp1@gmail.com

Water Volleyball Club

Wednesday | 5:30-7 p.m.; Saturday | 1-2:30 p.m.
Susan Newman | (951) 850-2595 | sjntchr@aol.com

GROUPS

Billiards | Tuesday | 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ken Moser | (702) 401-7823 | chefmoser1@icloud.com

Bocce Ball Group | Monday & Wednesday | 9 a.m.
Danny Mosher | (702) 524-8058 | dsmosher66@gmail.com

Book Group | Second Saturday | Noon
Monica McAdams | (702) 371-6575 | monica0921@hotmail.com

Crafts and Stitches | Tuesday | 9 a.m. | Please drop by

Double Deck Pinocle Group

Wednesday | 5-8 p.m.; Sunday | 4-7 p.m.
Mike Sinclair | (360) 567-7664 | grizle@comcast.net

Rummikub | Sunday | 1-4 p.m.
Richard Kroeger | rkroeger22@yahoo.com

Tennis Group | Saturday | 7 a.m.
Sam Misraji | (818) 207-1947

Trivia Group | Last Tuesday | 6-8 p.m.
Rosemary Massey
(907) 230-7945 | rosemarymassey2@gmail.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Party Time Dance | Tuesday | Noon-1 p.m.
Carol Page | (702) 205-0164 | carolpage11@yahoo.com

Power Walkers | Daily | 7:30 a.m.
Cheryl Beaudry | (702) 823-5441

Tai Chi Clinic | Monday & Thursday | 11:15 a.m.
Ken Pavese | (702) 407-8111

Yoga Friends | Tuesday & Thursday | 9 a.m.
Merrilee Gaines | mgaines823@hotmail.com

ZUMBA | Thursday | 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Mary Richard | (702) 521-2583

PERSONAL TRAINING SERVICES

Jan Griscom | (775) 291-9379

Jett Cruz | (702) 592-9743

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INDOOR GAMES

HOT OUTSIDE, COMPANY INVITED FOR DINNER, BUT WHAT TO DO BEFORE SERVING DESSERT?

BY TOM GORMAN



So, you prepared a nice dinner that left one of your favorite couples praising your cooking. Thanks, you respond, and privately you are quite proud of your culinary effort.

But the evening is still young and now you've got to suggest a pleasant way to spend the time before yawning sends a message.

You want to shift to a new topic — perhaps your next vacation — but you don't want to trigger the other couple to brag about where they'll be going on vacation, seeing how they live the high life abroad cruise ships complete with slot machines, magicians, and live music.

Ah ha, the answer! A table game that's easy to learn, competitive, and has an intriguing name: "Mexican Train."

Get out the dominoes and position one in the center of the table, and each player plays off that tile. Whoever is first to play all

their tiles wins the game. It's pretty much that simple.

But indeed, there are some strategies, such as to try to block another player, or the sequence of how you line up your tiles, to a point where you can play a bunch at one time.

The game is easy to learn, dominoes don't break, friendships survive the game because there is more of an effort to build your own train than to block the other players' trains. The best games end just as the host couple brings out desert.

You can go here for more info: mexicantrain.com.

And there are games that date back to your parents' days: checkers, chess, "Clue," "Concentration," "Password," "Pictionary," backgammon and playing cards.

Our experience is that music playing in the background is pleasant, and everyone might start singing to the music. ✨

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THERE'S MORE TO OUR CLUBHOUSE THAN MEETS THE EYE

COME FOR ACTIVITIES, BUT ENJOY MAKING NEW FRIENDS

BY TOM GORMAN

Editor's note: *It's August, and it's bloody hot outdoors, so this issue of the Solera Star features articles about things you can do inside, where it is air conditioned. We asked Solera resident and former daily newspaperman Tom Gorman to share his experiences in the community clubhouse.*

I've been hanging out at our clubhouse, rich with activities ranging from playing card games to swimming laps to testing and building your strength in a "weight room" filled with exercise devices that one of guys pumping away on a machine said was "super-good quality."

I could have rested in the jacuzzi, refreshed my knowledge of chess, swam (or is it swum or swimmied?) a lap or two, read or borrowed to take home a book from our remarkably well-stocked library, filled with literature donated by Solera residents.

And I'm a sucker for playing billiards in the clubhouse living room, recalling my days playing pool 50 years ago. The tables and the pool sticks are in excellent shape; I just wish my stroke hitting the cue ball was a bit smoother. Oh well, never too late to polish one's game.

But I happened upon an attraction that is not publicized at the clubhouse or in this magazine yet may be Solera's best (and easiest) activity: Chatting. There are no winners, no losers, just the making of new friendships. It's the most consistent observation I've heard at the clubhouse: residents who swing by and spend some time at the clubhouse make new friends as quickly as a shuffle of a card deck, the smooth stroke of a cue stick, or the confidence of a swimming stroke.

Those achievements are fine, of course, but there's nothing like meeting someone new — someone who seems smart, friendly, and curious, right from the get-go.

That's what happened to me. During the morning hours at the clubhouse, I joined a lot of other people showing up, whether for jazzercise, swimming, pickle ball, reading, relaxing in the jacuzzi, playing billiards solo (and chances are, another person might ask to join your game, because competition can be fun).

I felt most satisfied, though, chatting with people who live in Solera, but I had not previously met. And holy cow, conversations with other Solerans is more than fun; it is exciting, chatting about where people have vacationed, where they used to live, what persuaded everyone to move here, and to learn what they did for a living and their advice on what to seek and what to avoid. (I was pleasantly surprised there was no talk of politics; a subject that too easily can erupt into discord.)

I'll share an example of how things go: When I walked into the clubhouse and showed my ID card at the reception desk, I noticed a man sitting alone, looking quite comfortable, near one of the billiard tables. This fellow seemed to be on his laptop.





I walked over toward him to strike up a conversation because I'm a curious guy, especially when someone seems to be alone. (Disclosure: I am a retired journalist and over 50 years, my primary way in writing stories was to talk to people.) I was worried he would wave me away because he might have been concentrating on something important.

We shook hands, I sat down and pulled out a small notepad to jot down notes. I told him I was interested in meeting him, a fellow Solera resident. He seemed open to chat, so meet Richard Deakin.

He and his wife, Vanessa, are almost giddy about living in Solera. They love the entertainment (especially the dancing) that is offered at the clubhouse; the exercise room (Richard favors the treadmill, where he runs 1.5 mile without leaving the room, and he also does some weightlifting.)

But mostly, Richard reflects on the kindness of his neighbors and those of us who go to the clubhouse. "There are so many activities to do," he reflected. "We are more active here than we were in Orange County."

I asked him where he and his wife lived previously. "Irvine (in California's Orange County)." Why target Las Vegas? "There's so much more to do here," he smiled. "We're more active. We love the people — there's something a bit different about them — and we love the people in Solera. And dancing." I can picture him and his wife on Dancing with the Stars.

Judging Richard's willingness to chat, I started asking nosy questions. Whadya do for a living? His answer got my attention. Like, wow.

Retired now, Richard was deeply involved in the aerospace industry and, more specifically, the historic Apollo landing on the moon. A manufacturing engineer by trade, Richard was involved with space shuttles and payloads. If I was going to interview him more deeply, I'd first need to do some of my own research, or I'd sound as stupid as I am. (Journalists generally get smart one topic at a time, based on their assignments.)

My only extreme adventure wasn't to go to the moon, but rather to the bottom of the ocean in a deep-sea submersible. That's another story, ask if you run into me at the clubhouse.

To end our chance encounter, Richard asked me a few questions about journalism, which I was happy to answer.

And it dawned on me later: Richard would never have met me, nor me him, if it hadn't been that both of us, individually, visited our Solera clubhouse.

And you know what? It's a great place to play cards, get on muscle machines, or hop and bend during a jazzercise class — in ways I could never copy.

So do yourself and someone else a favor. Spot someone who's alone, who you don't know. Walk over, extend your right hand, and introduce yourself. I guarantee you will find someone interesting. I have yet to find a Soleran Sour Puss.

When we meet one another, we seem to like, or love, or adore our new friends. My wife, Jeanne, and I already love Solera as a whole. Now, to meet you individually.

Cheers,
Tom ✨



COOL COOKING

RECIPES FOR MEAL PREP WITHOUT HEATING YOUR HOME

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

When summer temperatures hit triple digits, we do our best to avoid heating up the house by turning on the stove or microwave to prepare meals. The only thing worse is melting while we cook on an outdoor grill.

Fortunately, there are a number of kitchen appliances to prepare meals the stay-cool cooking way.

- Air fryers use a fan to circulate heat (convection) through the basket and use 75 percent less oil than deep frying (remember, apply oil to the food, not the basket). Air fryers also are great for dehydrating fruits such as apricots, plums, and peaches. On the downside, air fryers have limited capacity (which means cooking in smaller batches) and can have inconsistent crispiness. However, air fryers are great for cooking salmon, chicken wings, tofu, meatloaf, and roasted vegetables.
- Food steamers are healthier than frying and retain more nutrients than boiling. Tiered steamers can have 2-3 stackable baskets to cook different types of foods simultaneously. Some models are programmable, have auto shutoff and are dishwasher safe. Unfortunately, food steamers use a lot of water and can suffer mineral buildup. However, they are excellent for cooking cod, pork spareribs, turkey, pasta, dumplings, brown rice, and vegetables.
- Slow cookers are extremely versatile; almost anything cooked on the stove or in the oven can be cooked in a slow cooker. Slow cookers do take a long time to cook meals (even all day or overnight). But that slow cooking technique produces some of the tastiest soup, corned beef and cabbage, stew, chili, pulled pork, no-rise bread, and peach cobbler.
- Toaster ovens use less than half the energy of conventional ovens, making them environmentally greener. Foods can be baked, broiled, toasted or re-heated. Toaster ovens are great for hot sandwiches, breakfast casseroles and frozen meals.
- Don't forget blenders to whip up cool fruit smoothies, milkshakes, and cocktails.



5 FAVORITE SALADS

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

Rather than share one personal favorite recipe, I'd like to share my five favorite salads as ways to have a tasty meal without making your kitchen too hot.

Give them a try, you won't be disappointed. Bon appetit!



1. Chinese chicken salad (romaine lettuce, shredded chicken, mandarin oranges, sliced water chestnuts, cashews, chow mein noodles, Asian sesame dressing).



2. Nicoise salad (mixed greens, drained canned tuna, boiled sliced potato, cooked green beans, sliced boiled egg, capers, dressing).



3. Waldorf salad (butter lettuce, sliced turkey, sliced celery, golden raisins, walnuts, sliced apples, dressing).



4. Cobb salad (green leafy lettuce, sliced chicken or turkey, cooked crumbled bacon, sliced tomato, sliced avocado, sliced boiled egg, crumbled blue cheese, dressing).



5. Greek salad (red leaf lettuce, shredded carrots, sliced radishes, sliced red onions, kalamata olives, sliced cucumbers, sliced tomatoes, garbanzo beans, Parmesan cheese, shredded feta cheese, dressing); top with hummas and serve with pita or naan bread. ✨



If you prefer stove top cooking, there are lots of delicious skillet-version meals like lasagna, enchiladas, seafood pasta, stroganoff, deep dish pizza, apple crisp and brownies. Stir-frying is another way to prepare a variety of healthy dishes with proteins and vegetables served over rice or pasta.

Cold soups are a tasty first course or an addition to a salad or sandwich. Why not give these cold soups a try: carrot, ceviche (seafood), vichyssoise (potato leek), cucumber and corn chowder.

Cold pasta salads are an easy way to make complete meals that are always a winner. Choose a pasta (penne, bowtie, elbow, shells), and then a protein (beef, seafood, tofu, cold cuts), and then some vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cherry tomatoes, celery, bell peppers, asparagus, green beans) and a dressing.

Salads that include proteins make us feel full and are great for lunch or dinner (see Recipe Exchange).

And when you just don't feel like cooking, you can always order food for delivery (don't forget to tip the sweaty delivery person). ✨



RECIPE Solera Star Recipe Exchange

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2. Send your recipe and contact information to:
3. Maria Adams email: adamscats1009@gmail.com
4. Schedule month to appear in the *Solera Star*
5. Prepare your recipe
6. Be interviewed and have photos taken at your home or clubhouse



WEATHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE STUCK WITH IT

OUR VISIT WITH CHANNEL 8 WEATHERMAN NATE TANNENBAUM
BY BETTY BOYD AND MARCIA ADAMS



As the temperatures hover in the hundreds, it seemed like a good idea to check out how we get our weather forecasts and to learn a little bit about forecasters — what they do, how they learn about the weather, etc. Channel 8 News graciously allowed us to visit weatherman Nate Tannenbaum and to get a look behind the scenes of weather forecasting.

The tour of the studio itself was well worth the trip to downtown Las Vegas and Nate's hospitality was icing on the cake. Channel 8 is a 24/7 operation with more than 150 employees.

An interesting fact is that the station does not use what is called "green screen" for newscasts. Instead, it employs a bank of 36 television sets synced together for the images you see behind Nate when he is doing the weather.

The background TVs can be set to change as the broadcast continues or the on-air personalities can use a clicker to move to the next screen almost like a "glorified power point presentation."

Channel 8 also does all its graphics in house, allowing them to be more personalized to their audience.

In former days, weather maps were metal with magnets to represent the various types of weather throughout the country. We have come a long way.

A little about our host: Nate has been in the Las Vegas area for 35 years, moving here from working in radio news and being a disc jockey in Grand Junction, Colorado. What brought him to Las Vegas was an opportunity to host *Dialing for Dollars* as part of a movie show. His duties expanded to doing the weather. For him to feel comfortable about presenting the weather, Nate would visit the National Weather Service every day and learned his craft through them.

"I have an unofficial degree from the National Weather Service," he explained.

It is not unusual in many cities for TV weather people not to have formal meteorological degrees. Meteorologists have four-year degrees with heavy emphasis on math, science, and physics, so they can understand atmospheric movement.



In discussing equipment and reports used to forecast the weather, Nate advised that technology has changed the world, but “the backbone on weather data is balloons – even still today.”

Twice a day – at midnight and at noon Greenwich time – the National Weather Service launches balloons to measure wind speed and temperatures and records as these balloons ascend into the atmosphere. Attached to the balloons are radio transmitters which send back data to the weather computers. All the data is stored and is used to track prior weather and to determine projected paths of future weather.

The balloons are made to burst, and the transmitters attached to them in boxes the size of a cereal box float back to earth via a parachute. Usually, they land in remote locations but if you happen to find one, the box is labeled to be returned to the National Weather Service, postage free.

In addition to balloons, radar is used to “see” inside rain clouds.

All data collected is crunched by computers. Computers have greatly improved the accuracy of forecasting. The level of accuracy, of course, diminishes the further the forecast is projected out.

One of the most difficult weather events to predict is flash flooding. Most of the damage and when and if it is going to occur tends to be unpredictable. In Nate’s memory, the worst weather condition was a flood in July 1999, when four inches of rain fell within two hours. Clark County Regional Flood Control District has a map that indicates where each rain gauge is located and the amount of rain that has fallen at that location.

In a discussion regarding climate control, Nate indicated that, to him, the biggest notable change is in the humidity level. When he first came to the Vegas area, there were less than 100,000 people in residence. Humidity was usually a single digit number and anything over 10 percent was high. With the influx of humans, lawns, swimming pools, and golf courses, the humidity has gotten higher due to more expulsion of moisture in the air.

Temperatures have also gone up over the years as well.

What fascinates Nate about the weather is how it affects everyone’s life every day – “the single most important information every day is the weather.” It determines how you dress, where and if you might go somewhere, just with the everyday planning of daily life.



As we finished the interview, we asked what were the most common questions that people ask him. He replied it was the normal questions about how he looks taller (or shorter) than on TV and general questions like that.

We could not leave without asking about the now-famous bow tie that Nate wears.

It seems when he came to town back in 1989 and began looking for a job, he also acquired an agent who suggested he wear a bow tie. At that time, he thought it was more of a gimmick and was not comfortable with the idea. After he was hired to host the *Dialing for Dollars* movie show, he decided to sport the bow tie. It has been his trademark ever since. ✨

BOB & LINDA GRAY

Editor's note: At the recent New Resident Orientation event, the Communications Committee launched a new format for the Meet Your Neighbors feature in the Solera Star. The new format uses a question-and-answer format, which begins today with Solera residents Bob and Linda Gray. If you'd like to be featured in a future issue, simply fill out the Meet Your Neighbors form, which is available at the clubhouse monitor desk or online at <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:9914beda-8e26-4f18-b799-519d51813973>



Q. When and where were you married, and how did you meet (include anything interesting or unusual about the courtship — long distance, married 3 days after we met, went to high school together but reunited at 25-year reunion, etc.)?

A. If you saw *Top Gun: Maverick*, you should know one of the pilots was based on Bob, while at Lemoore Naval Air Station in California. (Actually, Linda notes that the previous sentence is a joke, Bob actually was an E6 ground controlled approach radar technician. However, it was at Lemoore that Bob and Linda met.)

Q. If you have children and/or grandchildren, how many and anything else you might want to share about them (such as, our daughter is first chair violins with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, or my son is a Doctor Without Borders)?

A. We share one son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. Our grandson is a senior in high school and president of student government. Our granddaughter is 9 years old and has won many blue ribbons for horse riding.

Q. When did you move to Solera, and why did you move here?

A. We moved to Solera Thanksgiving weekend 2023. We were looking for investment property and liked this current (Solera) house better than the house we lived in.

Q. Where you were born and lived before Solera and what you were doing — schools, occupations, military service (include any career highlights you'd like to share, such as military medals, Academy Awards, Grammys, Super Bowl championships, bowling league championships, county fair blue ribbons, whatever)?

A. We are from military families. Bob was born in San Francisco, CA. Bob went to A school on Treasure Island in San Francisco, and then to Glynco NAS in Georgia (C school), to Lemoore NAS in California and to the USS Fox CLG33 in Long Beach. Linda's childhood home was in Bay Village, Ohio; other locations she lived at were San Francisco and Lemoore, California; Norfolk, Virginia; Honolulu, Hawaii, Portland, Oregon and Milpitas, CA (Silicon Valley).

Q. Any favorite memories you'd like to share, such as travel to Machu Picchu or seeing Northern Lights in Iceland or being lost in the desert for 4 days before being rescued?

A. We travelled with Globus tours — three weeks in Asian countries in 1987 and three weeks in European countries in 1997. We visited all the tourist spots. In Asia we visited Tokyo, Taipei, Bangkok, Bali, Hong, Kong, and Macao. In Europe we visited Rome, Pisa, Venice, Florence, Vienna, Salzburg, Lucerne, Heidelberg, Cologne, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, and London.

Q. When company comes to town, where do you take them (Red Rock, Valley of Fire, The Strip, Boulder Dam, etc.)?

A. We enjoy Red Rock, Valley of Fire and Boulder Dam, as do our visitors.

Q. What are your favorite activities in Solera (and is there an activity you'd like to see added for residents)?

A. The indoor pool is a lifesaver, literally, to prevent/minimize skin cancer risks. Also exercising in water is gentler. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise as well as a meditation practice. The fine arts group is a fantastic way for Linda to practice oil painting, acrylic and watercolor hobbies.

We're looking forward to participating in library and other volunteer activities. In 2017 we won the "Volunteer of the Year" award. We were among 10 other finalists for all of Santa Clara, California, County. We won two engraved glass crystal gifts from Tiffany & Co. We also won \$1,000 for our grandchildren's school where we have volunteered for the past four years. Now that it is summer, we have been able to join more groups in Solera. ❄️



BIRTH-YEAR BEST SELLERS

WHAT WAS THE BEST-SELLING BOOK WHEN YOU WERE BORN?

BY LARRY EDSALL

Did your mother keep a “baby book” when you were born? They were popular with new parents when they gave birth to what would be known as Baby Boomers.

My mother selected one called the *Log-o-Life*. Published by McMillin-Foley Publishing of Cleveland, Ohio, it offered 136 fill-in-the-blanks pages, and for several years she kept track of such things as my baptism, when I first stood alone, my first teeth, pet, streetcar ride, haircut, piano lesson, and even when I got measles and chicken pox.

Page 17 includes my actual footprints when I was 6 days old!

It appears she recorded such things until my younger brother was born, at which time she was probably too busy with his baby book to continue updating mine. Besides, by then, at age 6, I no longer was a baby.

It's nice to still have my baby book, and especially the black-and-white photographs that have been preserved within its pages.

The trigger for this fit of nostalgia was something I stumbled across recently on the internet. Apparently, someone at Best Products, a company that is part of the Hearst publishing group, assigned a couple of staffers, Zarah Kavarana and Angel Madison, to compile a list of the best-selling books for each year since 1945.

“The Most Popular Book the Year You Were Born” can be an entertaining internet rabbit hole to explore, should you have some time to reminisce.

“We found that the past seven decades have introduced truly riveting tales across several genres—and while some were cultural moments that have since faded into obscurity, others have certainly stood the test of time,” the co-authors report.

“Whether you're looking to rediscover a classic or get lost in a modern phenomenon, be sure to add a few of these all-time favorites to the top of your reading list.”

I was born in 1947, and the best-seller that

year was *The Miracle of the Bells*, a novel written by Russell Janney. I'd never heard of this book until seeing it on the list, but it was Janney's first (and most popular, the authors note) and became a movie starring Fred MacMurray and Frank Sinatra.

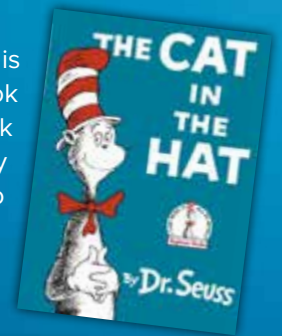
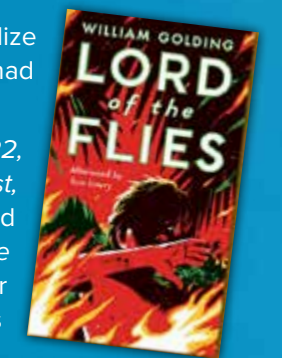
While the book of my birth year was new (and news) to me, I am more familiar with several best-sellers of my youth. For example, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950), *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951), *Charlotte's Web* (1952), *The Crucible* (1953), *The Lord of the Flies* (1954), *Lolita* (1955), *The Fall* (1956), *The Cat in the Hat* (1957), and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1958), though while I've seen the movie, I didn't realize the book on which it was based had been written by Truman Capote.

To Kill a Mockingbird, *Catch-22*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and even *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* were best-sellers in their publication years (and perhaps your birth year, were you born between 1960 and 1964).

Each year from 1945-2022 is included, with a photo of the book cover, a paragraph about the book and/or its author, and even a “buy now” button that takes you to Amazon, should you wish to buy the book (in a variety of formats) or for a book such as *The Miracle of The Bells*, the DVD of the movie it inspired.

To see the full list, visit:

www.bestproducts.com/lifestyle/g22024547/most-popular-book-by-year *



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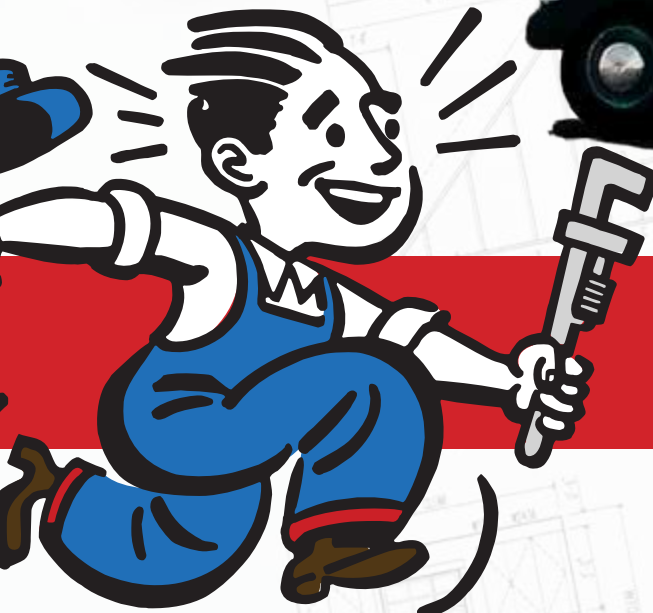
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DURANGO EXPANDS STATION CASINO FOOTPRINT

FOOD COURT FILLS A VARIETY OF TASTES

BY FRANK NOBEL

This new Durango is not an old Western starring your favorite silver-screen cowboy, it's the newest Station Casino. Durango is located on the southwest corner of Durango and the 215, kitty-corner to IKEA, and it's big and bright and you can't miss it.

When you first walk into the Durango Casino, wow just spills out of your mouth. Everywhere you look, everything is so new, fresh, and just plain shiny. All the slot machines just gleam challenging you to pick and choose a machine to play.

This is not to suggest that the table games and their dealers are anything but first rate. Any individual would be hard pressed to not find a table game or slot machine that they wanted to play.

Many slot machine players will claim that a slot machine is not a video poker machine. These players may see a complete difference in the two types of machines, but the casino has for the player slot machines, video poker, and table games.





But it turns out that there are other reasons to visit. At Durango, gone is the Las Vegas icon — the buffet. Instead of the legendary “loss leader” there is an elaborate and luxurious “Eat Your Heart Out” food court. The variety ranges from the likes of Oyster Bar, Prince St. Pizza, Ai Pono Cafe (Hawaiian street food), Slang Artisan Noodles, Nielsens Frozen Custard, and Vesta coffee Roasters.

One observation, the prices also appear to be luxury.

The Sports Book area, like the table and slot games, is fantastic. Big and really big viewing screens appear to surround you anywhere you sit. The odds posted are clear and easy to read should you want to place a bet.

If there was a drawback to our visit to the Durango Casino, it was on the floor, some of the machines are a bit tight in spacing. The main aisles are clear and easy to navigate, but many of the off aisles are cramped. So, it might be a little tricky to reach your favorite machine.

Yes, the Durango Casino and Resort is a little further away from being truly “close to home,” but it may well be worth the few extra miles. Besides, you’ll have to wait until at least 2029 for the opening of Station’s planned Inspirada casino/hotel. ✨

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

RAINBOW OF COLORS AWAY FROM THE NEON OF THE STRIP

BY BETTY BOYD

The Valley of Fire State Park was designated a park by the state in 1935. It is over 40,000 acres and is Nevada's largest state park. It is comprised of Aztec sandstone offering an array of colors ranging from reds, yellows, oranges, and pinks, and all set against a background of tan limestone.

Petroglyphs were carved into some of the rocks almost 2,500 years ago.

Conveniently located just 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, the Valley of Fire State Park is a must-visit destination. The park is open daily, from sunrise to sunset, with the Visitor's Center welcoming guests between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The drive to the park is one of the most scenic in the state, promising a memorable journey, regardless of which route you take to the park.

The typical trip is north on I-15, past the Nellis Air Force Base, and on to the exit at the Moapa Travel Plaza for the Valley of Fire Highway (Nevada 169) to the park. Or, if you're not in a hurry and especially if you have a senior citizen national park pass, you can drive past Lake Las Vegas to the Northshore Drive of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and wind your way north through amazing scenery and enter the park from the east.

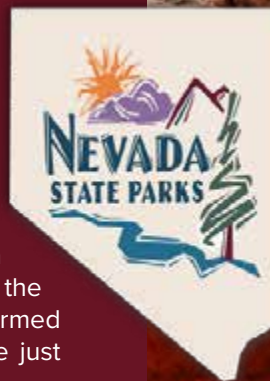
The park's name is derived from the fiery appearance of its red sandstone during the hour before sunset, a sight that truly is breathtaking.

I visited the park in early spring, just after recent rains and the contrast between the rocks and the lush vegetation was spectacular. I was mesmerized by the beauty and all the unique rock formations that were formed by the wind and water. The colors of the sandstone just explode, and you can't stop looking at them.

The park is home to a variety of wildlife, from desert tortoises, Gila monsters, Bighorn sheep, rattlesnakes, Gambel's quail, kit fox, and jackrabbits. Several different trails reveal unique rock formations. There are parking areas along the roadways. However, hiking is not recommended from mid-May through September due to the high temperatures. There are two campsites readily available for your enjoyment.

Visiting the Valley of Fire State Park should be on everyone's bucket list. You will never be disappointed, from the variety of rock formations, wildlife, and hiking trails to the tremendous array of colors displayed on the sandstone.

So come out and play and enjoy what lies just beyond the Vegas Valley. ✨



Valley of Fire State Park

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Nevada Division of State Parks

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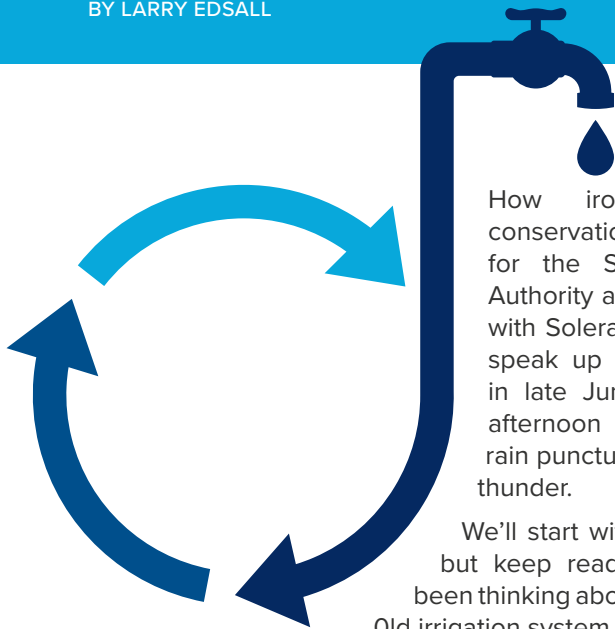
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H2 OH MY!

SOLERA GETS AN UPDATE — AND
SOME NEWS — FROM SNWA VISIT

BY LARRY EDSALL



How ironic! Tony Bickmore, conservation services administrator for the Southern Nevada Water Authority arrived to share an update with Solera residents and he had to speak up because his appearance in late June coincided with a big afternoon thunderstorm, pouring rain punctuated by booming claps of thunder.

We'll start with some facts he shared, but keep reading, especially if you've been thinking about replacing your 20-year-old irrigation system.

- Las Vegas is the driest of US metropolitan areas. We average around 4 inches of rain a year while the national average is 40.
- 90 percent of our water comes from Lake Mead, 10 percent from groundwater. Sadly, Lake Mead is at only 35-38 percent capacity.
- However, because we are so close to the lake, the SNWA can recycle 99 percent of the water we use indoors. Through the recycling program, since 2020 the Las Vegas Valley has been able to cut its water use by 12 percent while adding 47,000 new homes. By the way, Bickmore noted, new homes are more efficient in water conservation because of new appliances and plumbing, by not having grass and by limits on the size of swimming pools.
- Among other conservation efforts are conversion to “dry” rather than “wet” (evaporative cooling) systems at large commercial properties and replacing decorative grass areas with desert landscaping. To grow for a year, grass needs 73 gallons of water per square foot. That figure for desert landscape is 17 gallons per square foot.
- Another way to save water is to convert from spray to drip irrigation. Spraying of water uses around 5 gallons of water each *minute*. Dripping typically uses from half-a-gallon to 4 gallons each *hour*!

OK, here's the news you need to know:

- Just as the SNWA has a program that helps pay for grass-to-desert landscape conversion, traditional-to-smart irrigation controllers, and for smart water leak detectors (believe it or not, 1 in 10 homes in America have water leaks). In about two years, it hopes to offer financial help for those replacing their aging home irrigation equipment.
- Also, artificial turf may not be your only option when eliminating grass from your yard. SNWA is looking at “living mulch,” a group of ground cover plants, such as Australian Racer, that offer greenery without heavy water use.
- The SNWA website already includes a list of vetted landscapers and recently has added nearly 30 vetted and “water smart” plumbers for homeowners to consider.
- The SNWA offers water smart classes, some online and some live at the Springs Preserve (333 South Valley View Boulevard). Online classes will be offered August 8 (2-3:30 p.m.) and September 26 (9-10:30 a.m.) on the “Basics of a Water Smart Landscape.” From 9 a.m. until noon on September 7, a live class, “Basics of Performing a Home Water Audit,” will be offered at the Springs Preserve. The Preserve also will be the site August 24, September 14 and October 5 from 9 a.m. until noon for a class on “Drip Irrigation.”

Visit the [snwa.com](https://www.snwa.com) website for more details. ✨

THE **DISTRIBUTION** DILEMMA

RANCHER-TURNED-ADVOCATE OFFERS HIS SOLUTION TO OUR WATER CRISIS

BY BETTY BOYD

Water is the source of life. We can't live without it. But too often we take it for granted, though not if we pay attention to Barry Linderman, a former rancher and advocate for water usage and conservation, and not only in the Vegas Valley but throughout Nevada.

Ranchers must make tough decisions on their water usage based on what they are raising, from alfalfa to livestock. Some plants are more water-retentive than others. For example, alfalfa is grown during the summer, dried for a couple of months, and is a great source of energy for cows in the winter.

Ranchers also must be concerned about water rights, ascertaining whether they even have ownership of such rights.

In the Imperial Valley in California, alfalfa is grown (and needs much water to do so) but then is shipped to Saudi Arabia for that nation's horses. Almond trees are another plant that uses a tremendous amount of water. There is an agreement that these arid places should not be farmed, but the other side is the farmer who needs to make a living, so there must be compromise.

Seven states in the Southwest use water from the Colorado River, the fifth-longest river in the United States. The river flows 1,450 miles from the Rocky

Mountains of Colorado to the tip of the Gulf of California in Mexico. Some 80 percent of the river's water comes from snowmelt, the rest from tributary rivers in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and Nevada.

Along the way the water is used in what are called the Upper and Lower Basins by Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and California, as well as in the Mexican states of Baja California and Sonora.

An initial agreement on the use of Colorado River water by the various states was drawn in the 1930s. However, by 2022, the actual usage had deteriorated to the point that the Department of Interior, which is in charge of this agreement, renegotiated, stipulating that California would cut back on use so other states would get their fair share. California gets nearly 30 percent of the river's water and Nevada gets less than 2 percent.

Here are some thoughts from Barry Linderman:

Lake Mead suffers from mismanagement more than anything else.

For years, the river system has been awash of water storage agreements and the purchase of water shares, and now we are paying California \$380 million to not use water, so Arizona is not short.



“The payment was initially for five years, and it was to the State of California from the federal government, but now as I revisit the deal the federal government will pay 1.2 billion to those affected by cutting water usage from the Colorado River by 13 percent in California, Arizona, and Nevada,” he adds. “The money will come from the Inflation Reduction Act and essentially pay farmers not to farm. This adds to inflation.

“The new deal only lasts through 2026, so we will be back looking for cuts in 2027. So, we have solved nothing.”

He notes as well that 4 million people used to live next to the river; now, it is 40 million people. The agreement has to change, he says, and the Department of the Interior has full authority to modify the contract.

Here’s Barry’s proposal to solve the problem going forward:

- First, water shares must be changed from acre-feet to percentages.
- Second, California is cut off.
- Third, California has a new water source by desalinating water from the Sea of Cortez, which also provides additional water to Mexico.
- Fourth, Lake Mead is filled to 80 percent capacity, and then Glen Canyon Dam, by using percentages, is now denied to California.

- Fifth, there will never be a water storage or sharing agreement between any of the participants.
- Sixth, the river system is reevaluated, and percentages are allocated to participants as needed.
- Seven, no share can be commoditized.

“A paradigm shift about this subject must happen within the government. Nothing is ever amicable about water. This is where the federal government, through the Department of Interior, must impose the solution. Otherwise, you are in court forever. The fight must be picked now.

“This is a source and use issue. Cut off California but not before you source new water out of the Sea of Cortez by desalination. We replace California’s water and then everyone wins. We could probably solve this problem for all time with the \$1.2 billion they are giving farmers not to farm.” ✨



ROLES REVERSAL

DO YOU CHERISH MEMORIES OF VISITING YOUR GRANDPARENTS?
WHAT MEMORIES WILL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN HAVE OF THEIR VISITS TO SOLERA?

BY LARRY EDSALL

It's funny how something seemingly uneventful can trigger memories. For example: Recently I was driving back to Solera from Seattle, where my daughters, their families and I had disembarked after a week-long cruise to Alaska. While most of the group flew home, Owen, Miss Vanessa, Logan (grandchildren who live just down the hill in Coventry) and I piled into my pickup truck for the drive back.

I used to be a frequent flier, but a decade or so ago I had a couple of bouts with airborne claustrophobia, I'm old enough to remember Dinah Shore urging us to "See the USA in your Chevrolet;" I enjoy driving and seeing our amazing geography from ground level.

We planned three days to go from home to Seattle so we could take in the Oregon coastline. Owen (age 19) and I split driving duties while 13-yr-old Miss Vanessa and just-

turned-10 Logan shared the back seat and the sack of snacks.

After the cruise, we drove home in two days, the route home across what it called the "Oregon Outback" to Winnemucca, and on southward through Austin, the Big Smokey Valley to Tonopah, and past Beatty and its burros, the drone base at Indian Springs, and back to the Vegas Valley.

Somewhere along the route, we stopped for fuel, use the restrooms and to get beverages. I passed a candy counter and noticed a bag of Spice Drops —I was immediately transported back to my own childhood and visits to my grandmother's house.

There was a shelf built into a nook in the hallway of her house where she kept a candy dish alternately filled with Circus Peanuts or Spice Drops.



ON THE WEB

Please see the photos below and more on our website at www.soleranews.com under Event Galleries.

Circus Peanuts were (and still are) peanut-shaped but orange-colored and banana-flavored marshmallow-based candies.

Spice Drops are gelatin-based gumdrops formed in the shape of small domes sprinkled with sugar and come in various fruity flavors.

I'd pretty much forgotten about Spice Drops until I saw that package of them, and it immediately triggered sweet memories of Grandma's house. My father's father died before I was born, and I have no memory of my father's mother, though I do have a photo of an infant me sitting next to her on a couch. But my mother's parents were very much a part of my young life. Mom's dad was the warden at the Old Joliet Prison (of *Blues Brothers* fame), so grandpa and grandma had a huge apartment on the second floor of the prison administration building. To visit, which we did frequently, we had to pass through three locked steel-bar gates.

After my grandfather retired, they moved to Montana, where he'd been hired as a consultant after an inmate revolt at that state's prison, and we visited them three times during their time there.

After he helped settle things down in Montana, they moved back to the home they'd purchased in Lockport, Illinois. Grandpa died while I was in 7th or 8th grade, and since we lived out in the country, and grandma's house was just a block from the high school, I basically moved in with her for two years during my freshman and sophomore years.

And now I'm a grandfather, with grandchildren in Spokane, Washington, in Michigan, and here in Henderson (which is why I moved up here from Phoenix). I see the Henderson herd almost every day; during the school year, grandpa's taxi service either does school drop off or pickup, as well as frequent deliveries to baseball and volleyball practices and games.

Oh, and in my cupboard, there's an old-fashioned cookie jar, stocked not with cookies but with candy (currently Tootsie Roll Pops). Guess where the grandkids first head when they come to visit? *



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