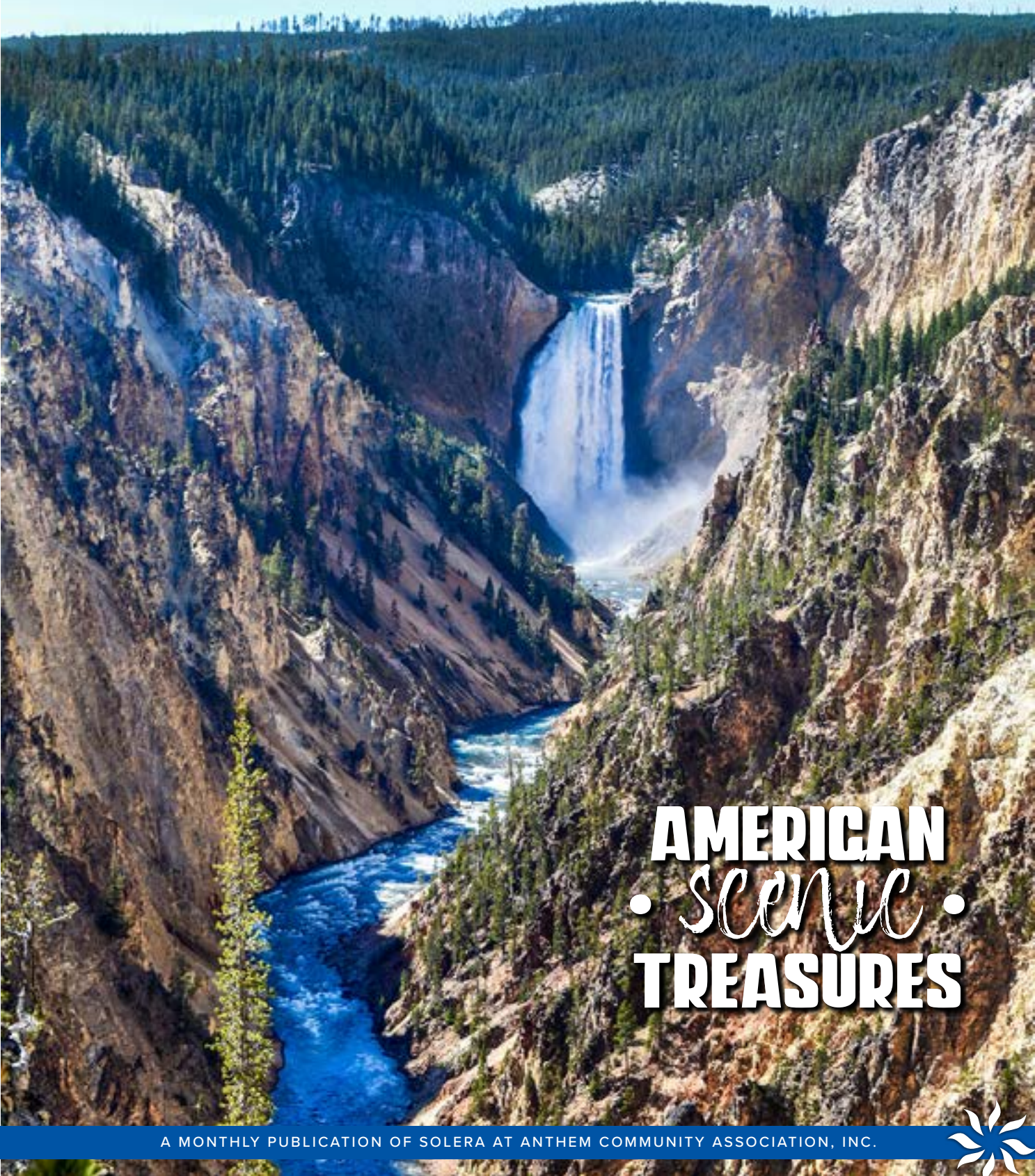


JANUARY 2024

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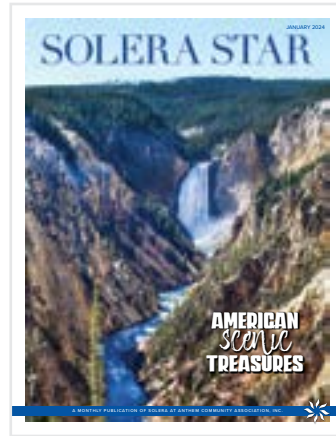
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JANUARY 2024

SOLERA STAR

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



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ON THE COVER

The cover photo shows the Artist Point waterfall at the head of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone National Park
(Photo by Betty Boyd)



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MANAGER'S MESSAGE



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CLOSE TO HOME



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INSIDE INFORMATION

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 Assistant, Katerynne Huerta at (702) 737-8580
(Press “0” to speak to the operator to report the leak)

SOLERA STAFF

 **Jacob Kay** (702) 207-1414
Community Manager
jkay@soleraatanthem.us

 **Florine Radulovic-Kay** (702) 207-1402
Assistant Manager
florine@soleraatanthem.us

 **Dominique Jordan** (702) 207-1424
Lifestyle Manager
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

Joe Lightowler, President | jlighowler921@gmail.com

Ken Sawyer, Vice-President | solerakens@gmail.com

David DeOto, Secretary | soleradavid@outlook.com

Mike Goff, Treasurer | mikesolera1@gmail.com

Ray Carvajal, Director | carvajal5@centurylink.net

Susan Zinna, Director | susanzinna@hotmail.com

Frank Nobel, Director | fnobel@cox.net

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 out 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

January 3 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Meeting

January 10 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Executive Session

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

Board of Directors Meeting

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

Annual Owners Meeting

February 21 | 4:00 p.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

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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

GUIDELINES UPDATING ON BLOCK WALLS

BY THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



Happy New Year to all of our Solera neighbors from the ARC! We hope that you're enjoying your holidays!

Our committee is constantly reviewing and improving our ARC Design Guidelines. A lot of time is spent on new wording, changes and additions to the Guidelines which, of course, need approval from Solera's Board of Directors before taking effect.

One of the sections that we've been clarifying, and making minor changes to, is the section on Walls and Fences.

If you're building a wall on top of an existing wall, you are required to build it with the same type of blocks. For example, most of the walls built in the initial construction were mostly built with Single Split Face Blocks.

However, new walls that come out of the ground with their own footings are required to be built with Double Split Face Blocks.

It is also very important to finish the top of all walls with either a cap stone or with a concrete finish painted to match the color of the wall. Also, not only ARC but the City of Henderson needs to approve such plans.

The only change in the Guidelines for Wrought Iron Fences, Gates, or Fence additions to a top of a wall is the paint to be used. Fence Paint Color Dark Chocolate and Victorian Garnet will be replaced by Sherwin Williams Black Bean - Code SW 6006.

Our committee cannot emphasize enough on how important it is to read your Guidelines for *any and all* of your projects. If you're not exactly sure of what is required, ask the Management for clarification. ✨

COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Robert Brightwell
David Chavez
Henry "Hank" DeVisser
Terry Hazelbaker
Terry Phelps
Ingrid Serina
Gregg Shiffbauer
Vida Carr – *Alternate*
Florence Hayashi – *Alternate*
Shelley Payne-Pittman – *Alternate*
Liaison: Joe Lightowler

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Craig Hardy
Carol Hendrickson
Stephanie Mahlig
Mary Schramski
Tom Sweetko
Frank Tuozzo
Liaison: Susan Zinna

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Laura Addi
Betty Boyd
Larry Edsall
Tom Gorman
Nadyne Sweetko
Liaison: Frank Nobel

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Linda Freitas
Lowell Gervais
Linda Loane
Diane Meireis
Kathy Tatasciore
Liaison: Ray Carvajal

FINANCE

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Steve Gordon
Thomas Mach
Bob Waskowitz
Charlene Whitener
Kathie Zeier
Liaison: David DeOto

LIFESTYLE

Pam D'Assis
John Miller
Lea Mills
Susan Newman
Debbie Waskowitz
Gloria Zimny
Lorraine Barcia - *Alternate*
Rosann Costantino - *Alternate*
Gloria Street - *Alternate*
Liaison: Joe Lightowler

PLEASE NOTE

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

Residents are welcome to attend any committee meetings that are of interest, except Covenants and ARC. Meeting dates are listed on page 17.

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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.

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BY JACOB KAY
General Manager for Solera at Anthem

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Each day at Solera at Anthem a dedicated staff is tasked with helping to ensure Association assets are maintained, property values within the community remain strong, and that the residents of the community receive the assistance they seek. The staff are assigned to Solera by FirstService Residential, a professional HOA Management company contracted to provide excellent service. Through hard work and positivity, the staff has accomplished many goals for the benefit of the Association and its residents. Let's recap some of the 2023 service highlights.

Throughout the year our team performs compliance inspections for the purpose of keeping the properties within Solera looking their best. A steadfast compliance department helps maintain property value throughout the community. We're on pace for about 800 courtesy notices sent for the year.

One primary focus of our staff is to be available and of service to the residents. Over countless interactions, the team strives to ensure each person gets the information they need and can be heard. With that, the residents often lead the way for changes made within the Association. Some homeowner-initiated requests that came to fruition were:

- Bulk Guest Passes (Ability to purchase 10 guest passes in one transaction, starts in 2024)
- Upgraded chair options in the Lady Luck Room
- New and updated gym equipment
- Upgraded gym wipes
- Review of additional exterior paint scheme options
- Piano relocated for maximum enjoyment
- Courtyard Wall Lighting (ARC Guidelines Update)

In the past 12 months Management, the Board of Directors and Solera's resident committees have negotiated vendor contracts to save the Association money. Some examples are listed below:

- The publishing cost of the Solera Star magazine was reduced from approximately \$21,000 annually to an annual expense of \$0.
- Phone, cable, and internet reduced by \$300-\$400 per month with no reduction in services.
- Saved 4% on the annual pest control services contract in Solera and the Villas.
- Backflow services were reduced by \$485 annually.
- Contracts bid for IT, Insurance, HVAC, and Gate Maintenance



Unfortunately, a significant accident occurred in the Villas toward the beginning of the year that required months of diligence and patience to handle. In the end, all the expenses associated with the accident were recouped, including the \$5,000 deductible. The damaged property was fully restored at no additional expense to the Association.

The monument signs at the Villas entrance and on Solera Sky were vandalized and we helped arrange for appropriate replacement options that were both appealing and not easily removed. The result is the attractive granite signage you now see. Despite this destructive incident, the Association gained \$7,389 in reimbursement funds beyond the cost of the replacement signage.

Management, with the assistance of FirstService Financial, helped improve investment yields to the Association. Interest income nearly tripled in 2023. Across all accounts in 2022, interest income was \$49,817. In 2023 that income is approaching nearly \$150,000 as forecasted through the remainder of the year.

The Lifestyle Department helped arrange over 50 events for the enjoyment of the residents. The events and entertainment have been diversified, offering a wide-range of options. We've expanded our communication platforms to better inform residents about Solera's happenings. The website, **soleranews.com**, has been enhanced. The Solera Star magazine is full of content and information procured with the abundant assistance of the Communications Committee. To bring new residents up to speed more easily, our staff created a New Resident Welcome Packet heavy with need-to-know information and helpful hints. Our Lifestyle Team also helped arrange for Solera to be a voting site in 2024 and for our entire staff to become CPR certified.

During the year a new Facilities Manager, Paul Reeves, was hired. Upon his arrival Paul took a hands-

on approach. He and the Facilities Team make basic repairs all around the clubhouse and grounds when appropriate. For example, they made sure the pickleball courts remained playable after the coring sample that was taken left rough edges behind. In other situations, they work to locate vendors that are reliable and cost effective. A new maintenance tracking software program was also instituted that helps organize requests in an efficient manner.

The following projects were started or completed in 2023:

- Re-seal and re-stripe of the parking lot with HA5 sealant (project came in under the allocated reserve budget for that item by \$9,820)
- Utility path crack sealing
- Villas irrigation replacement and landscape renovation
- Sport court shade structure
- New microphones, receivers, and lighting elements for events and meetings
- Re-design and update of interior furniture and fixtures
- Patio furniture re-sling
- Updated climate control system
- Energy audit
- Additional surveillance cameras for security

This article is meant to illuminate the efforts made by the staff, Board and committees who work hard for Solera, but we also recognize that we're fortunate to receive a tremendous amount of support from the community. There are so many aspects to managing an Association like Solera that it truly takes a village to accomplish it all. Thankfully there is no shortage of individuals willing to lend their hand for Solera's best interest.

Happy New Year to All!

Sincerely,

Jacob Kay CMCA

General Manager, Solera at Anthem ✨

HAPPY NEW YEAR SOLERA NEIGHBORS!

BY THE SOLERA VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CLUB

The Solera Veterans and First Responders Club was founded in June 2014. The first election of officers was held the following month. The club started with a handful of Veterans and First Responders and has grown to over 75 members today.

The mission of our club is to promote patriotism in our community, to promote love and respect for our nation, to recognize and honor those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, those who served as our nation's First Responders, and to develop and strengthen friendship among our club members.

Our leadership includes a Commander, Vice-Commander, Secretary, and Quartermaster. We have three standing committees — Membership, Benevolence, and Activities.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month. Attend your first meeting as a guest and join the following month. The presentations are always informative and of value to Veterans, First Responders, and other residents of our Solera community.

We have partnered with the Marine Corps League and the Solera Community Center for our annual Toys for Tots Drive, and our Solera Quilting Club that makes quilts for Quilt of Valor presentations to our local Veterans. These are our two largest contributions to our local community.

In financial contributions, we have donated \$4,800 to Honor Flight of Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada State Veterans Home, Henderson Police Dept Officers Fund, Henderson Fire Dept Firefighters Fund, Firefighters Memorial Transport, US Vets, Toys for Tots, and the Solera Quilting Club. We also donated flags and flagpoles for the US flags flying in our community center parking lot. We are a very giving club and every dollar donated stays in Southern Nevada.

The Veterans and First Responders Club does three ceremonies each year — Memorial Day, 9/11, and Veterans Day. We also have two major events: our annual ice cream social and chili feed. All are invited to any of our ceremonies or events.

If you have not yet joined, you are encouraged to do so. We have a guest speaker at most of our monthly meetings. All residents of our Solera Community are welcome to join. Dues are \$20 per calendar year for an individual or \$30 for a family.

Our club has flags available for all residents of our Solera Community. If you are interested, please send us an email: SoleraVeterans@outlook.com, we will respond as soon as possible.

If you have a US flag that is tattered or unserviceable, please contact us and we will ensure that the flag will be retired according to the US Flag Code (4 U.S.C. § 1) 4 USC Ch. 1: THE FLAG (**house.gov**). If you would like to display Old Glory at night, there are solar lights available online or at any local home improvement stores. ✨



NEW YEAR'S REMINDERS

WE CAN HELP WITH SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES AND MORE

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS

May the New Year 2024 bring you only good things, good health, and lots of opportunities to enjoy and savor. We look forward to assisting you to stay safe and independent in your home.

When was the last time you looked at the smoke alarms in your home? Are they still bright and white or are they discolored? If the latter, please call us at (725) 244-4200 and plan for someone to come to your home and evaluate if you need to have them replaced. If they are still in good working order, why not use the beginning of each year to remind you to have the batteries replaced.

This also is a good time to change your HVAC filters, replace lightbulbs, have your garage door lubricated, and have salt added to your water softener. Our volunteers will be happy to help you with these items now or later in the year when you need the service. They are available on Tuesday and Thursdays to help you.

If you have any questions about these services or what else the Foundation can do, do not hesitate to contact us.

Also, keep in mind we are always looking for volunteers. If you have some spare time and are looking for something worthwhile to do, call us. ✨



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FRIDAY, JAN. 19
 Bus will leave Solera at 10am
 & return around 12:30pm

OUTING



The cost is \$10 for transportation.
 Admission is free to the Pinball Museum.

The Pinball Hall of Fame is an attempt by the members of the Las Vegas Pinball Collectors Club to house and display the world's largest pinball collection, open to the public. The games belong to one club member (Tim Arnold) and range from 1950s to 1990s. Older games from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are prevalent, as this was the 'heyday' of pinball. And since it's a non-profit, excess revenues go to non-denominational charities.

All pinball machines take 25 cents.
 Coin machines are on site to make change.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on
 Wednesday, January 3 | 9am

HAPPY HOUR
 WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY NEAL ACITO

FRIDAY, JAN. 26
 6-8PM | STARDUST BALLROOM



\$10 residents, \$12 guests

This is a BYOB event.
 Light snacks will be provided.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on
 Thursday, January 11 | 9am



Intermountain Health

Join our free event hosted by myGeneration caregivers.

LUNCH & LEARN DOC TALK

FALL PREVENTION



TUESDAY, JAN. 30

11:30AM-12:30PM | STARDUST BALLROOM

Please sign-up at the Clubhouse Front Desk if you're interested in attending.

At the Doc Talk, our expert provider will share tips on fall prevention, plus simple lifestyle habits you can adopt to take charge of your health.

This event will be educational and highly interactive, so bring your questions and curiosity for group discussion.

To RSVP, please sign-up at the Clubhouse Front Desk, visit IntermountainEvent.com or call (702) 710-4202.

**These events are educational; there will be no sales activity. To learn more about Medicare, visit medicare.gov.*

HENDERSON SILVER KNIGHTS

FRIDAY, FEB. 2 | 7PM
 DOLLAR LOAN CENTER



Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on
 Wednesday, January 17 at 9am.

Tickets are **\$45**
 (includes admission & transportation)

Bus will leave Solera at 5pm
 & return around 9:30pm.




Valentine's Dance

FRIDAY, FEB. 9
6-8PM | STARDUST ROOM

\$15 residents / \$17 guests

Light refreshments will be served.
This is a BYOB event.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the
Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on
Wednesday, January 24 | 9 a.m.

Entertainment provided by
Billy Fischer Vocal Impressionist



You'll hear all the great songs
from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and
more sung just like the artists as
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the Americans from the 50's... The
Righteous Brothers, Johnny Mathis,
Lenny Welch from the 60's... The Eagles,
Hall & Oates, Styx, from the 70's... Motown,
Disco, Country... and so on and so on...

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SUNDAY, FEB. 11
2:30-7PM | STARDUST ROOM

Tickets: \$25

CASH ONLY PLEASE

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, January 16 at 9am in
the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room. Box pool, BYOB,
sandwiches, pizza, & more.



CUPID COFFEE SOCIAL

With the Henderson Police

FRIDAY, FEB. 16
9-10:30AM | STARDUST ROOM

This is a FREE event for Solera residents only

Coffee, donuts & muffins will be served

Police officers from the Henderson Police
Department will discuss the importance of safety
and security within the community and share
different tools/techniques to keep yourself safe.

Please sign-up at the Clubhouse Front Desk if
you're interested in attending.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

with Crime Fantasy Author D. M. Murphy

THURSDAY, FEB. 29
6:30PM | STARDUST ROOM



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 New Year's Eve (Clubhouse closes at 3pm)	1 New Year's Day (Clubhouse closes at 4pm)	2 Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm Bulk Trash Day	3 Executive Board 9:30am Ticket Sales Begin for Pinball Outing 9am	4 Communications 9:30am	5 AARP Safe Driving Class 9am-1pm	6
7	8 Covenants 10am	9 ARC 9am	10 Board of Directors 9:30am	11 Ticket Sales Begin for Happy Hour Event 9am	12	13 Fitness Center Orientation 10am
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day	16 Ticket Sales Begin for Big Game 9am Lifestyle 11:15am Bulk Trash Day	17 Ticket Sales Begin for Henderson Silver Knights Game 9am Buildings & Grounds 9:30am	18 Meet the Candidates Event 6pm	19 Pinball Hall of Fame Outing (Bus leaves at 10am)	20
21 Informal Meet the Candidates Event 6pm	22	23	24 Ticket Sales Begin for Valentine's Dance 9am Finance 9:30am Community Standard 4pm	25 Bingo 6:30pm	26 Happy Hour w/ Neal Acito 6pm	27
28	29	30 Fall Prevention Lunch & Learn by Intermountain Healthcare 11:30 am Bulk Trash Day	31 Early Voting for Presidential Preference Primary	FEB 1 Communications 9:30am	2 Henderson Silver Knight Outing (Bus leaves at 5pm)	3
4	5	6 Election Day for Presidential Preference Primary	7 Executive Board 9:30am	8	9 Valentine's Dance 6pm	10 Fitness Center Orientation 10am

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

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

Bunco Club | Second Tuesday | 4:30 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.
Judy Blankenship | (702) 457-0550

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 | dfreitas89044@cox.net

Party Bridge Club | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:30 p.m.
David Hon | (801) 791-6229 | hondi@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 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 | 1:30-5 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

Genealogy Group | Second & Fourth Wednesday | 9-10:30 a.m.
Celeste Guillory | soleragsig@gmail.com

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

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

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

Solera Starz Cardio Class | Tuesday | 8:30 a.m.
Candee Wolfe | (419) 230-9407; 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

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

OUR BETTY BOARDS A BUS TO EXPLORE AMERICA'S BEAUTY

SOLERANS AMONG THOSE TAKING A GUIDED TOUR OF THE WILD WEST

BY BETTY BOYD

Among America's national treasures are the national parks and monuments sprinkled throughout this great land. In September 2023, 42 residents of Solera at Anthem, Sun City Anthem, and Sun City Aliante boarded a motor coach to tour three national parks, a national monument, and other amazing sites.

We saw great vistas of towering mountains, with hues of blues, reds, and oranges on rock faces. Hot springs and geysers abounded. Moose, elk, and buffalo called to us. There were skylines of rock, rivers, and we even saw eight colorful rainbows along the way as we visited Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, and Mount Rushmore national parks, as well as the Colorado National Monument. We also went to Custer State Park, the Crazy Horse Memorial, did a walking tour of Deadwood in South Dakota, the Buffalo Bill Center, and went for a wagon ride with a cowboy dinner and show.

Our tour was organized by Majestic Adventures, which is owned by Bobbi Lona, who proved to be an excellent and knowledgeable tour guide. Also making the trip fun and worth every minute was our driver, Mike Reynolds.

Here are Bobbi's reflections after the trip:

"The September 14 Mount Rushmore/Yellowstone/Grand Tetons tour was one of the best I have ever guided in 13 years of doing this, and I do not say that lightly." It was a "Perfect Storm" in a positive sense, if you will, of having a group of passengers who came together like one big family from day one, an outstanding bus driver, and some of the best tourist highlights in the USA.

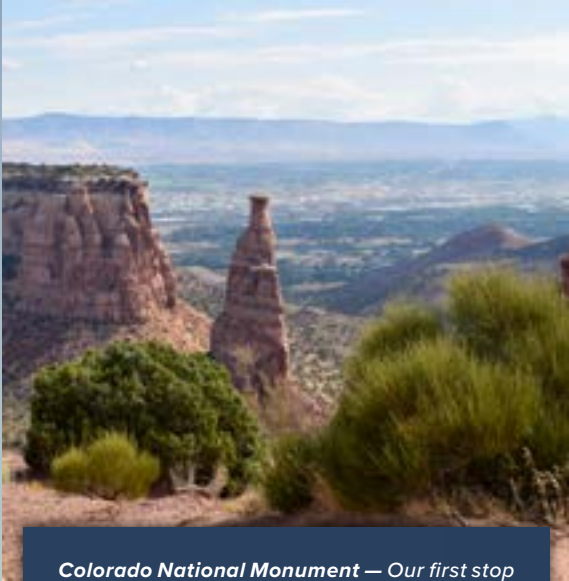
"There was a kindness inherent in the group, looking out for each other, making sure everyone felt included. That does not always happen on a bus tour. Our driver, Mike Reynolds, hands down is one of the best. He went out of his way to accommodate folks, give them extra highlights, and make sure they got the best trip possible.

"The places we saw were inspiring, breathtaking and there was a reverence felt for the magnificence of what we saw. Those three elements — the people, the driver, and the sights — all came together for the perfect trip."

She continues, "My favorite experience of all was in Custer State Park when we came upon a whole herd of bison close to the road. The excitement really climaxed when the herd started moving down the road and it felt like we were being escorted by them on either side of the road as our driver slowly, respectfully, and very carefully inched along. Absolutely incredible!"



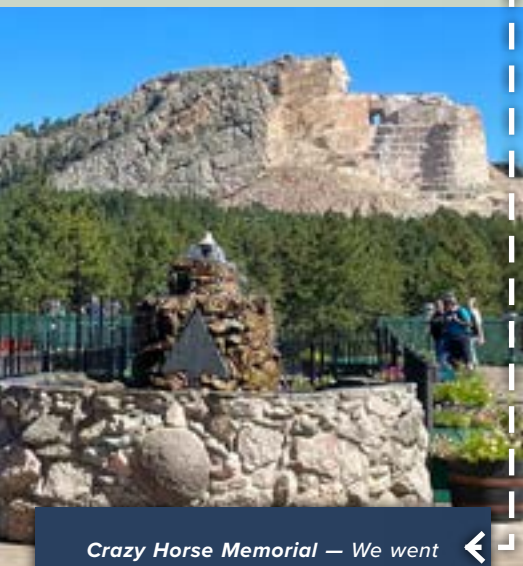
HERE ARE THE NATIONAL TREASURES WE VISITED:



Colorado National Monument — Our first stop was the Colorado National Monument. One of its features is the Independence Monument, which towers 450 feet above the canyon bottom and is a monolith or single stone standing between two prominent cliffs facing from the north and south. It was fascinating to see all the different types of rock formations that are visible all around you.



Custer State Park — Next, we visited Custer State Park, South Dakota home to some 1,500 head of American bison, also known as buffalo. Other wildlife there includes coyotes, mountain goats, big horn sheep, wild turkeys, various species of birds, and prairie dogs. The highlight of our visit was the American bison, which stopped all traffic. This herd was playful, lumbering, and beautiful to admire.



Crazy Horse Memorial — We went to Crazy Horse Memorial, located in Custer County, South Dakota. The memorial is the world's largest carving in progress, depicting famed Native American Chief Crazy Horse. He was a Lakota leader and in 1876 fought in the battle of Little Big Horn, also known as Custer's Last Stand. The carving of Pegmatite granite was started in 1948 with plans for it to stretch 641 feet in length and 563 feet in height. This site includes a visitor's center, a museum depicting Native American history, and a university.



Mount Rushmore — These awe-inspiring sculptures show presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Each year nearly three million people visit a work that celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2016. I enjoyed walking the Avenue of Flags, which features flags from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, three American territories, and two U.S. commonwealths. It was fun trying to identify each of the flags. We returned in the evening to experience the sights under excellent nighttime illumination. Patriotic music was playing, and veterans from each service were invited to the stage to be honored for their service.



Deadwood, South Dakota — The discovery of gold in 1874 triggered one of the greatest gold rushes in American history. In 1876, the town of Deadwood sprang up. Among its more colorful characters was Wild Bill Hickok, who was only there a few weeks before he was gunned down while playing a poker hand of aces and eights, now known as the Dead Man's Hand. We took a brief tour of the main street, visiting the various shops and the famous Saloon 10, where Wild Bill Hickok was shot. It was fun to reflect on what the town, still alive and thriving with tours, eateries and more, was like during the gold rush days.

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Buffalo Bill Center of the West — Cody, Wyoming, has five outstanding museums. Among the attractions are the possessions of Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley and Plains Indian artifacts dating from the 1800s. Cody Firearms features more than 10,000 weapons. The Whitney Western Art Museum displays work by Remington, Russell, Moran, and others. The Draper Natural History Museum offers a perspective on the diversity of plant life and animal species in the Great Yellowstone area. Each museum is unique; I could have spent days exploring them more fully.

Covered Wagons and The Bar T-5 Cowboy Dinner and Show —

Visiting out West is only completed with a cowboy dinner and show. The Bar T-5 Ranch, located in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, started its shows in 1974. At first you had to ride horseback, but since 1983 horse-drawn covered wagons are used for the 2-mile trip to Cache Creek Canyon. During our dining experience, we were treated to the coveted baked beans for which the Bar T-5 ranch is famous, and they were delicious. After dinner, we were treated to the Bar T-5 band and comedy show. The band interacted with the audience, with some of the patrons (including those from our group) going on stage to take part in the entertainment. This encounter will be in our memories for a long time.



Yellowstone National Park — Yellowstone National Park is the world's first national park, established March 1, 1872. The Park contains both hydrothermal and geological features. It is 2.2 million acres and comprises over half of all the world's active geysers. Because of the thermal formations, visitors walk on boardwalks.

One of the most fascinating sites in West Yellowstone is the Grand Prismatic Pool, located in the Midway Geyser Basin. This spring is the largest and most photographed in Yellowstone and is the third largest in the world. At 370 feet in diameter, it's larger than a football field. There are orange, green, and yellow hues, and the spring reflects in a bright blue.

In the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone is the Artist Point, a waterfall that consists of upper and lower falls (see magazine cover). The upper fall is 109 feet, and the lower is 308 feet. The canyon is some 20 miles in length, with walls of yellow, orange, and pink.



➔ *A trip to Yellowstone is not complete without visiting Old Faithful Geyser. The cone-shaped geyser was discovered in 1870. The name comes from the frequency and predictability of eruptions, more than a million since the Park's inception.*

The day we visited, there was an enormous crowd waiting for the geyser to erupt. I got lucky and was able to get a great view. The eruptions can last from 1.5 minutes to 5 minutes. During our visit, the eruption lasted about 3 minutes. During visiting hours, the naturalist staff will post when the next eruption takes place. On the day of our visit, they were only 10 minutes off, but it was worth the wait.



GRAND TETONS NATIONAL PARK — *Our final national treasure was the Grand Tetons National Park, a 40-mile mountain range of jagged peaks that towers as much as 7,000 feet above Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where we stayed overnight. We had rain and in the morning were treated to snow on the Tetons. The day was overcast but didn't detract from the beauty of these mountains.*

Our driver, Mike, took several of us on a unique sightseeing tour of the park while others took a float ride down the Snake River. Our group had the special treat of seeing a moose grazing. We even got a wonderful view of Jenny Lake, considered the park's centerpiece, and located at the base of the Teton Range.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

This trip was magical in regard to the exquisiteness and splendor of each visited area. I took away a renewed appreciation of what this great country offers each individual. Go out and explore our extraordinary national treasures; you will not be disappointed.

I visited Yellowstone National Park and Grand Tetons National Park in 2009, and this trip added two more states for me to add to my collection for a total of 30 (so far). This trip was a special look at what our country has to offer. ✨



Photo Credit Mike Reynolds

For more information on Majestic Adventures, email Bobbi Lona at bobbilona@yahoo.com or call 760-889-2687.

WHY IS THERE A CAR INSIDE THE AIRPORT TERMINAL?

CANNON AVIATION MUSEUM SHARES VEGAS' AERIAL HISTORY

BY LARRY EDSALL



People flying in and out of Harry Reid (nee McCarran) International Airport may have noticed the single-engine aircraft hanging above the baggage-claim area in Terminal 1. But while that plane's presence might seem fitting, have you noticed that there's also an automobile — a red 1956 Ford Thunderbird — parked on the terminal's second floor mezzanine?

And just across the aisle from that car is a series of display cases. Together, those displays comprise the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum, a joint venture between the Clark County Parks and Recreation and the Department of Aviation. The museum celebrates Las Vegas' aviation history since the first local flight back in 1920.

The museum also maintains exhibits at the Henderson Executive and North Las Vegas airports.

It was back in 1941 that George and Peg Crockett founded the Alamo Airport in Las Vegas, named after their Alamo Airways. After World War II, their airstrip was purchased by Clark County for flights involving various airlines, including Alamo, which from 1957 until 1968 used its red Thunderbird, equipped with spotlights, an emergency radio and fire-fighting equipment, as an airport safety vehicle.

"Lighter and more agile than the fire truck, the Thunderbird could thus get to crashes quicker and gain control of the emergency before the truck could arrive," hemmings.com reported in 2015.

In November 1979, Alamo's Thunderbird helped save the lives of 44 passengers and the crew of a charter aircraft that suffered engine failure and crashed a mile past the end of Runway 3. The car drove out into what was then desert and its emergency equipment was used to extinguish a fire being fed by aircraft fuel, thus allowing the plane's occupants to get out even before fire trucks arrived on the scene.





Back in December 1958, the T-bird took part in a publicity stunt. The owner of the Hacienda casino and resort started flights from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. For \$27.50 you flew in, spent the night, got a bottle of champagne and \$5 in casino chips.

To help publicize those flights, a Hacienda Cessna 172 established a non-stop flying record — 64 days, 22 hours, 19 minutes, 5 seconds. The plane was equipped with extra fuel tanks so it only needed to be refueled twice a day, accomplished by flying 20 feet above a desert road and lowering a fuel line to a moving fuel truck.

At the same time, Alamo's Thunderbird was driven beneath the airplane, the car's occupants sending extra 5-gallon fuel tanks up a rope and also inspecting the Cessna's tires to make sure they were still clean, thus verifying that the plane had, indeed, remained airborne. That aircraft is the one hanging above the baggage claim at McCarran.

In 1968, Howard Hughes bought Alamo Airlines and its Thunderbird, which was restored and sold at a classic car auction; the car on

display is a clone of the original and was donated to the airport by George Crockett's widow, Peg.

The museum celebrates Las Vegas' aviation history, starting with Anderson Field, which opened with a fly-in on Thanksgiving Day 1920; the field was named for the family that owned its site (where the Sahara Hotel and Casino eventually would be built). The airport was founded as an airmail stop, and in 1926 began passenger service through Western Air Express airline, though passengers were given coveralls to wear and sat on mailbags inside the aircraft.

Among other displays, one features the establishment of the Las Vegas US Army Air Corps Gunnery School in 1941 where military personnel learned to handle the machine guns mounted on the B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator, and where pilots learned to fly such aircraft. After World War II, the facility was renamed after a Las Vegas High School graduate who was an Army Air Corps lieutenant and fighter pilot, and was killed in action in combat in Europe. His name was William H. Nellis. ✧



OTTO KURCSIC'S ESCAPE FROM COMMUNISM



It took tanks and troops from the Soviet Union to quell the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Otto Kurcsic's family was among the Hungarians facing the hardships of occupation, tied to the land, and trying to eke out a meager existence in the small village of Barbacs. As the children grew old enough, they left for Budapest, Hungary's capital, to work and to study.

At age 13, Otto, the youngest, was invited by older siblings to go to Budapest and to enroll in a culinary arts apprenticeship. They didn't want the baby of the family to live the hard life their parents had lived. Otto became an apprentice at the famous Lucullus restaurant on Budapest's Grand Boulevard and worked under a famed chef for three years.

The first few months were spent in the basement, peeling vegetables, learning in the butcher shop and then in the bake shop. After learning all he could, Otto was placed up in the main kitchen to learn "real" cooking. As a requirement to graduate, he was allowed to be in charge of the kitchen to show he was a qualified cook. After graduating from the apprenticeship program with honors, Otto worked his way up, becoming a chef at various restaurants.

"I made only about 1,200 forint (\$4) after graduating from apprenticeship. How can you live on that?" Otto said.

Otto was drafted into the army from 1968-1970. He worked in the military as a chef. He already had enrolled in a four-year hotel and trade technology school and graduated after his military service.

Otto knew he needed to escape the suppression of communism, which meant passing through the Iron Curtain. By foot and by bus, with a backpack and a few dollars, and mostly moving under the cover of night, he made his way to Romania, Yugoslavia, and eventually to Italy. Often, he had no idea where he was, and would spend days wandering in mountainous terrain, and his conditioning as a wrestler served him well during this dangerous journey.

In Rome, Otto sought out the American consulate, and while waiting for approval to emigrate to the United States, he worked as a chef at Santa Casa Di Stefano, a hotel run by nuns and housing Vatican high priests. It was a year before he obtained his green card. Catholic Charities helped him with travel arrangements. He arrived in Buffalo, New York, early in 1973, living with an older brother who fled Hungary during the revolution. Otto became a US citizen in 1978.



Otto started as a broiler cook at the Sattler Hilton, became sous chef at the Park Lane Manor House, and then executive chef at the Plaza Suite, where he created a \$1,200 per plate menu for a TV auction. He also owned and operated his own restaurant for 12 years and has been active in raising thousands of dollars for charities.

While honing his skills in the kitchen, he pursued additional education, obtaining multiple degrees from Buffalo State University. In 1994 he began sharing his knowledge as a culinary arts instructor and is permanently certified by the New York State Education Department in Culinary Arts and Home Economics.

He retired in 2015 and moved with his wife, Sharon, to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where he taught for several years at Mohave Community College. The Kurcsics moved to Solera in 2023. They have been married 45 years and have four children. ✨



LANGUAGE LESSONS FOR A SPANIEL

OLIVER UNDERSTOOD ONLY SPANISH WHEN HE ARRIVED IN SOLERA

BY BETTY BOYD

Solera resident Debbie Avecilla has a wonderful dog named Oliver, a blond American cocker spaniel with freckles on his muzzle. Yet it took Debbie a while to convince her husband, Armando, to get a dog. Armando finally agreed, but only if it was a “manly dog, not a purse puppy.”

They got Oliver as a puppy from a Cuban couple, and thus the dog only understand commands spoken in Spanish. Fortunately, Debbie’s husband is bilingual, and it didn’t take long for Oliver to learn to respond to various commands. The couple reports that now he only reacts to commands given in English.

Debbie and Armando have had Oliver since 2019. He was easy to train, they said, and Oliver practically housebroke himself.

Debbie went online looking for boy dog names and wanted something unique. Armando picked his name from a list. The dog’s full name is Oliver August. The middle name designates the month they got the dog.

An American cocker spaniel breed is the smallest of the sporting spaniels and typically stands about 14 to 15 inches in height. They are sturdy, solid, and easily trained as companions. The breed is energetic and loves to play and take brisk walks.

Oliver loves to play when a toy is thrown his way and, for more fun, he often teases Debbie before returning the toy.

Now that Debbie and Armando are retired, they have more time to spend with Oliver, an exceptional companion who gives them love. ✨



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SOLERA IN THE SNOW

It doesn't happen very often, but on January 30, 2023, Solera was a winter wonderland — at least for one day.

With overnight temperatures dropping to 32 degrees, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported a late January storm left “measurable snow” on some Anthem neighborhoods. Solera was among them.

The snow not only was measurable, but Larry Edsall found it photographable. ✨



DON'T LET A FALL TRIP UP YOUR HEALTH



Who hasn't chuckled watching an entertainer take a comedic onscreen fall? Experiencing a stumble, trip, or awkward landing in real life, though, is no laughing matter, especially for older adults.

According to the National Council on Aging, non-fatal injuries from falling account for more hospitalizations than any other cause of injury for people aged 65 and older.

In fact, by the time you have reached the end of this sentence, another American senior will be in an emergency room and being treated for a fractured hip, broken wrist, head trauma or other fall-related injury.

The news isn't all bad, however. While falling may be a common cause of injury for older adults, it is also one of the most avoidable.

Pardon the pun, but take these steps to prevent falling:

- Talk with your doctor. Make an appointment to have your vision and balance checked and to talk about other health issues that could lead to a fall. Bring a list of your prescription and over-the-counter drugs so your doctor can review it for side effects and interactions. If your feet hurt or it's painful when you walk, be sure to let your doctor know.
- Make physical activity part of your day, every day. Focus on exercises that improve balance, such as walking, water workouts and tai chi. Check to see if there might be classes at the clubhouse or close to home that teach how to prevent falls and what to do if you do take a tumble.
- Try for balance in your diet. Eating a well-balanced, nutritious diet helps keep your body strong and your mind alert, making a fall less likely.
- Get enough sleep. If you're not well-rested, you're probably less aware of hazards and less energetic, making you more prone to fall.
- Trip-proof your home. Clear walkways in and around your house of trip hazards, such as electrical and computer cords. Remove rugs where you can; where you can't, make sure they are secured to the floor. Use a non-slip mat in the bathtub. Don't forget to have a plan for how you would call for help if you fell, such as wearing a personal emergency response pendant.
- Make "fall-free" your fashion choice. Trade flip-flops, high heels and slippery soles for flat sturdy footwear with non-



BEFORE NEVADA WAS A STATE

What we know as the land that comprises Nevada was part of Mexico until 1848, when what was known as the Provisional State of Desert was ceded to the United States after the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American War. What is considered to be the area's first permanent settlement was established that same year at Summer Station (later to be known as Mormon Station and then as Genoa, a town a few miles south of Carson City).

On January 17, 1854, the U.S. established the Territory of Utah. On March 2, 1861, the Territory of Nevada was separated from the Utah territory and on October 31, 1864, the State of Nevada joined the United States.

However, it wasn't until 1874 that Nevada was expanded to its present boundaries, which stretch 485 miles in maximum length and 315 miles at the widest points.

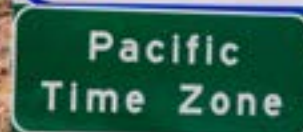


SILVER STATE WAS BATTLE BORN

Nevada is nicknamed as both the Silver State and Battle Born, and those nicknames are related.

As George Rivers reported in the March 2023 issue of the *Solera Star*, in the mid-1800s, silver could be found literally covering the ground in patches as long as half a mile in some parts of what would become Nevada. For both political and economic reasons as the Civil War loomed, President Lincoln encouraged statehood for Nevada, and thus the state being Battle Born.

With the discovery of the Comstock Lode, the new state's silver provided a \$400 million boost to the Union's treasury.



skid soles. Make sure they're the right fit — even "sensible" shoes can be dangerous if too loose or too tight.

- If you have an assistive device, such as a cane, use it. Consider it your personal fashion statement that says, "I am committed to staying independent!"

If you do fall, don't let it keep you down.

Sometimes accidents happen no matter how hard we try to avoid them. So, it's important to know what to do if you have had a fall or even a "near fall," or if you simply have questions or concerns about your balance. Fear of falling is a real thing, and it can lead to depression and isolation.

Doctors recommend taking these steps to find your footing again:

- * Let your doctor know. Even if you were not injured, your doctor can help pinpoint why you fell and recommend ways to prevent future falls.
- * Talk to someone about your fears. It could be with your doctor, a case manager or someone in the community.
- * Stay active. Giving up on physical activity because you are afraid of taking another fall could actually end up backfiring. Ongoing activity of any kind helps prevent falls. It doesn't matter whether you walk one block or 10, what matters is that you keep doing it. Talk with your doctor about what exercise is best for you. ✨

INSIDE INFORMATION

WE GO BENEATH THE SPHERE'S SHIFTING SURFACE

BY TOM GORMAN

Nothing much about Las Vegas surprises us, having lived here for years (going back to the days of the belching volcano in front of the Mirage and the talking camels at Luxor's entrance). When I retired, Jeanne and I moved to the Seattle area in search of reality. We returned here a year ago because we prefer the desert climate.

We're not gamblers (I lost five bucks once on Wheel of Fortune) but we can be sucked into entertainment venues for good comedy or knock-off celebrity musicians. We don't gamble (except the gamble of trying a new restaurant). We've seen new hotel-based casinos get built and famous hotel-based casinos get blown up because their best years are behind them.

When this colorful, circular, \$2 billion dome appeared in the heart of Sin City — though visible from Anthem — we were smitten. It glows! It changes colors! It's animated! It is the world's largest beach ball, its exterior draped in 580,000 square feet of "programmable LED material" that is somewhat intoxicating, what with the scenes it creates, including huge eyeballs that dart about.

But its interior offers even more

artificially created scenes thanks to the world's largest LED screen. It's the newest "thing" in Vegas, baby. It's in the news and doesn't take long to learn much about it: It's called "Sphere." Its full story can be read via Wikipedia.

We wanted to see the inside of this giant globe, and rather than hassle with paid-parking issues at the next-door Venetian, we beckoned Uber for a \$20 ride and got dropped off at the base of the globe.

Getting to our handicapped-reserved \$50 seats inside Sphere was an adventure in itself, what with so many people in line going through security checks. There were no slot machines inside. But there were robots that took and answered questions from people who wanted to dare these machines to come alive and trigger conversation. They did. We got past security, stopped for a too-expensive soft drink, and worked our way to the longest escalator I'd ever experienced. There also are elevators, if you know where to look. The sprawling lobby was on the dark side, and there were no benches where we could sit down and munch on our \$8 hotdogs.





The Sphere houses some 17,600 theater-type seats. However, we were directed to front-row seats at the front edge of the balcony, which afforded us a great view with no heads to get in the way, but which proved uncomfortable because they ended up being folding chairs. Sigh. Once inside the theater, be careful getting to your seats because the lighting is dim and the rows are set at a steep angle.

There is no defined flat, rectangular screen as in a conventional movie theater. Rather, the digitized screen is effectively invisible, stretching from side to side and overhead, the “Postcard from Earth” show delivering more scenes than I can recount. All were enjoyable if not jaw-dropping, from gargantuan elephants traipsing



across the screen to delicate flowers. The sound system did its job perfectly.

Here are some pictures I took to give you an idea of what you’ll see. In some pix, you can barely make out people in their seats below us; my iPhone was always at my eyes, looking straight ahead with a wide-angle view and allowing me to take picture-after-picture so I can re-live the experience somewhat.

Was it worth it? Yes. But try to get theater seats, not folding chairs.



For show and ticket information and details on the science and art of Sphere, visit thespherevegas.com website. ✨

SPORTS & FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES AT SOLERA

TABLE TENNIS AND TAI CHI

BY BETTY BOYD

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles that focuses on the sports and fitness opportunities available at the Solera Clubhouse. Previous installments were published in the October and December 2023 issues of the Solera Star



STEVE REED — TABLE TENNIS

Steve Reed is the president of Solera Table Tennis Club. He started playing in college. As other students left the club, Steve took leadership of the group. He secured grants for equipment and, with table tennis becoming an Olympic sport in the 1970s, he was able to take around three dozen students to view the Olympic tryouts for the United States team.

While living in Peoria, Illinois, his hometown, he had gotten involved in the local table tennis club and ran it for almost three years. Steve moved to Solera in 2016 and established the table tennis club here.

The club has three tables, one a professional-level table, and paddles and table tennis balls. The club includes around 20 people and around half of them turn out for each clubhouse session. The club plays from 8 a.m. until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Sundays in the Paris Room. The club also has done field trips to a couple of US Open tournaments.

Club members can play singles or doubles. The sport helps with hand-eye coordination and the club provides a setting for improving your game while enjoying socialization.

Steve reports his favorite memory of the sport was finally obtaining a table tennis-playing robot for his college group, only to discover that it took so long to program the mechanical player that it wasn't worth using it.

Nonetheless, he adds that the Solera club has a robot "that can be used if you want to practice by yourself.



KEN PAVESE — TAI CHI CLINIC

Ken Pavese is the instructor for Solera's Tai Chi Clinic. He became involved with Tai Chi in 2005 at a senior center in Garden Grove, California, and has led the group at Solera for some 16 years. He teaches a type of Tai Chi which is called Form 108 because it has 108 postures. It also is the most extended type in Tai Chi.

Tai Chi is relaxing and calming while beneficial for the circulatory system. It takes a lot of concentration to be aware of all the postures. Another benefit is deep breathing which oxygenates the blood. Slowing yourself down helps you breathe more. This type of Tai Chi is non-contact for internal wellness, so no certification is required.

"Chi" means energy from the earth," Ken noted.

A couple of Ken's students have become so advanced they do all 108 postures from memory, and in total silence and with no coaching. With Ken and others, they help welcome newcomers to learn and benefit from the exercises. ✨

2023 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Event photo galleries can be found on the SoleraNews.com website.



ARDA REITTER'S CEVICHE

BY NADYNE SWEETKO

[Jump To Recipe On Page 37 >](#)



This month our recipe is from Arda Reitter, a very active resident in Solera. Arda and her husband, Klaus, have lived in Solera for 13 years.

They moved here from the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale. Arda's daughter had moved to Las Vegas, so in making trips to visit family the couple knew this was where they would live in their retirement. Planning ahead, they selected a lot here in Solera and had their home built. They traveled once a month to check on the progress.

Arda and Klaus met at a country dancing class. They have been married for 24 years. Arda is the contact person for the Solera Staz line-dancing lessons, the Solera Starz dance aerobics, and the Solera Starz cardio class. She is a member of the Solera Starz dance group and takes Zumba lessons.

The couple attends many of the social events at the clubhouse. You likely have seen her on the dance floor leading the line dancing. Arda also is a member of the Solera Ladies Club and participated in the club's bake sale held at the Solera Day's event.

Arda has been using this ceviche recipe for five years. She made it for the first time for a Cinco de Mayo party. It is served with Tostitos chips or Tostito Scoop chips. If serving this at a party be sure to place your serving dish on ice. The ingredients must remain cold.

Except for the avocado, which is added last, she gets all her ingredients cut and ready to combine.



RECIPE Solera Star Recipe Exchange

FROM Your Name Here

COOKING TIME as long as it takes

SERVES All of Solera

PREHEAT/VENTO Delicious

1. Find your favorite recipe
2. Send your recipe and contact information to:
3. Nadyne Sweetko email: Renons@aol.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

Note from Nadyne: I must admit being concerned when Arda said she would be making ceviche. I do not eat raw fish or shrimp. I grew up in the Midwest and beef, pork or chicken was what was made for our meals. I took just a small amount of ceviche and was very pleasantly surprised at the taste and texture. You could taste the cucumber, shrimp and the mixture of the juices used. Having it served with chips with salt brought out more contrasting flavors. If you want to serve ceviche as an appetizer or bring it to a party, it will be a hit. I must say that Arda's cutting and chopping skills are perfect! All ingredients were uniformly cut to the same size.

RECIPE EXCHANGE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. cooked shrimp, peeled, deveined, tails removed
- 1 package imitation crab meat, cut in small chunks
- 1/2 cup red onion, diced
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and minced
- 1 seedless cucumber, hot house, diced
- 2 tomatoes seeded and diced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped finely
- 3/4 cup lime juice
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large avocado, peeled, seeded and chopped

PREP:

1. Chop the shrimp into 1/2-inch pieces.
2. Place the shrimp, crab meat, red onion, jalapeño, cucumber, tomatoes, and cilantro in a large bowl.
3. In a smaller bowl, mix the lime, lemon, and orange juices. Pour over the shrimp and vegetable mixture. Season with salt and pepper to taste and mix gently to combine.
4. Cover and refrigerate for 15-30 minutes. Add the chopped avocado and gently mix to combine.
5. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.

When making ceviche with cooked shrimp, the shrimp can sit in the lime juice and seasonings for up to two days. ❄️



ON THE WEB

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



Solera Day Event



Solera Holiday Party



Glittering Lights Santa Tram Outing



Scan the QR Code to
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Happy New Year Solera Homeowners!

I hope that you have had a wonderful holiday season! We now have 2023 in the rearview mirror, and 2024 is already off to a great start!

In reviewing the year over year data (comparing 2023 to 2022), it's interesting to see the consistency. We had 104 closed sales for homes in Solera at Anthem in 2022 (including 6 sales in December). In comparison, we had closed 96 properties by December 1st, with 4 properties under contract by December 7th (to make it 5 sales in December, but with time for one or two more...).

With the interest rates coming down a little, we are expecting a busy Spring market as smart homebuyers and sellers rush to enjoy the favorable conditions. If you are thinking of making a move, call me today and I will provide you with the current facts and data that you need to make an informed decision.



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REALTY EXECUTIVES

SOUTHERN NEVADA PROPERTIES

Upgraded Clark Floorplan! Approx. 1,248 SqFt with 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Car Garage. Spacious Great Room with Ceiling Fan & Tile Flooring, Dining Area, and Kitchen with Corian Counters, Upgraded Cabinets with Pull-Out Shelves, Recessed Lighting, Pantry, Tile Flooring, & Stainless-Steel Refrigerator, Gas Stove, Dishwasher, and Microwave. Owner's Suite with Ceiling Fan, Walk-In Closet, Tile Flooring, & Bath with Raised Vanity, W/I Shower, Linen Closet, & Tile Flooring. 2 Secondary Bedrooms with Ceiling Fans, Hall Bath with Raised Vanity & Tub/Shower Combination with Enclosure. Laundry Closet with Washer & Dryer, Blinds, Two-Tone Interior Paint, upgraded Baseboards, Water Softener, Security Door, & Exterior Stone Accents. Fenced Rear Yard with Covered Patio with Extension & Gas BBQ Stub.

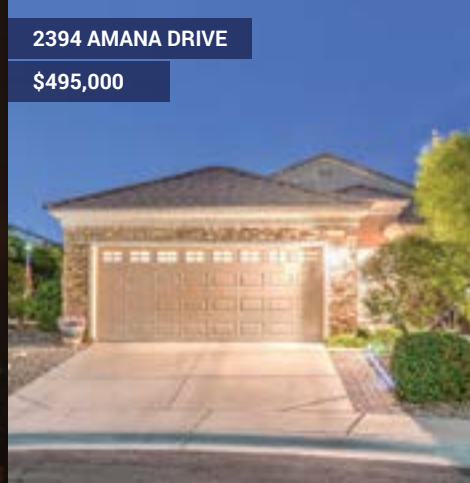
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\$495,000



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HOMES LISTED FOR SALE*

Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model	Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model
2572 Red Planet St	\$375,000	1,142	Lewis	2394 Amana Dr	\$495,000	1,596	Whitney
2457 Erastus Dr	\$395,000	1,142	Lewis	2423 Erastus Dr	\$455,000	1,596	Whitney
2354 Peaceful Sky Dr	\$398,800	1,248	Clark	2330 Amana Dr	\$499,900	1,596	Whitney
2581 Eclipsing Stars Dr	\$415,000	1,425	Fremont	2374 Amana Dr	\$430,000	1,768	Fremont
2411 Santeria Star Dr	\$444,999	1,596	Whitney	2520 Solera Sky Dr	\$495,000	1,768	Fremont
2335 Meteor Shower St	\$445,000	1,596	Whitney	2570 Solera Moon Dr	\$475,000	1,768	Fremont

LVR MLS. Information Deemed Reliable but Not Guaranteed. Properties may have pending offers or applications.

HOMES LISTED FOR RENT*

Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model	Address	List Price	Approx Liv Area	Model
2563 Evening Twilight Ave	\$1,800	1,142	Lewis	2652 Solar Corona Ln	\$2,095	1,584	Monroe
2548 Anani Rd	\$1,495	1,142	Fremont	2536 Corvus St	\$2,145	1,596	Whitney
2496 Chasma Dr	\$1,850	1,248	Clark				

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