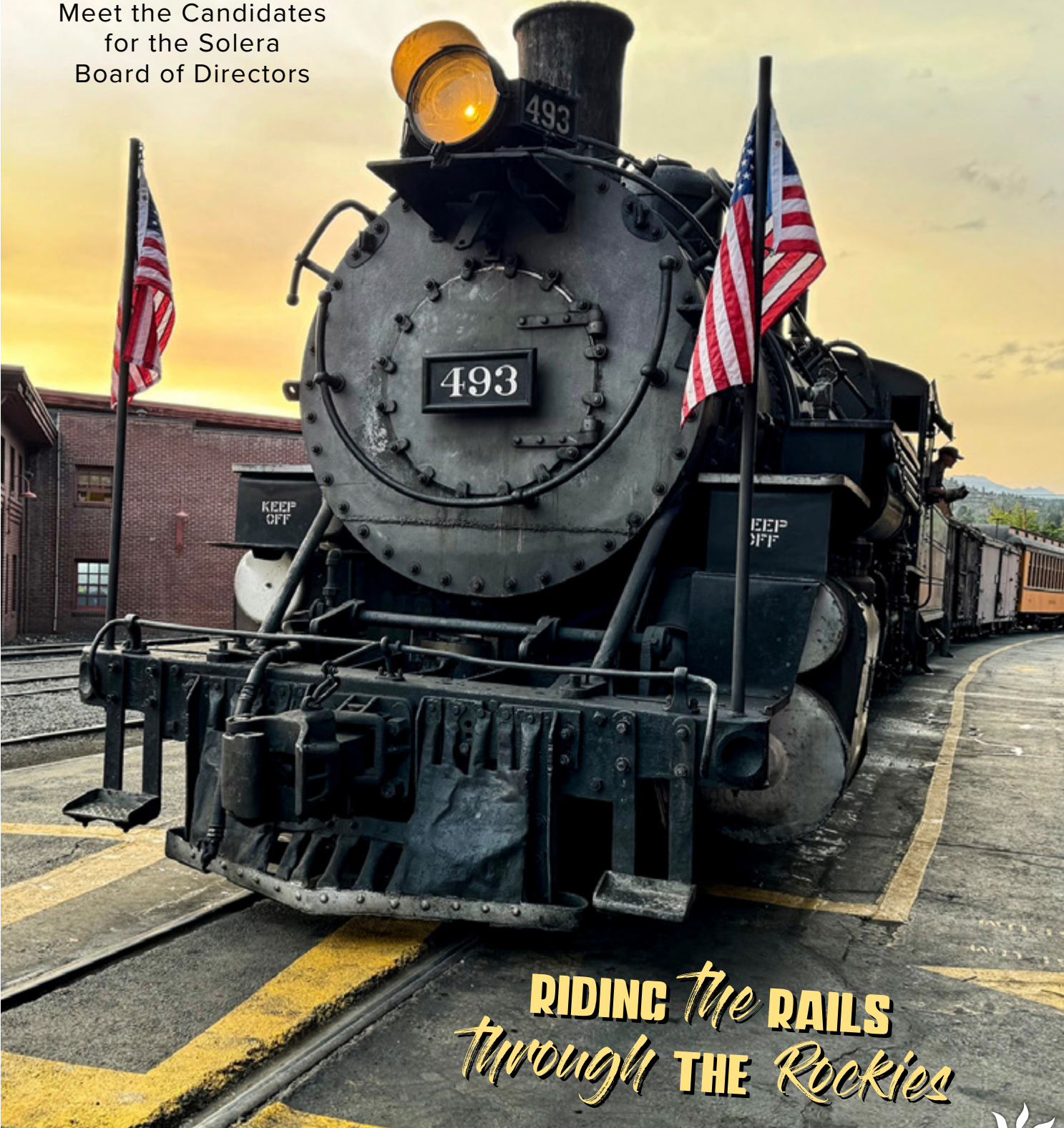


SOLERA STAR

INSIDE:

Meet the Candidates
for the Solera
Board of Directors



RIDING *the* **RAILS**
through **THE** *Rockies*



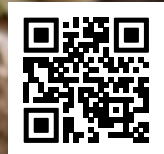


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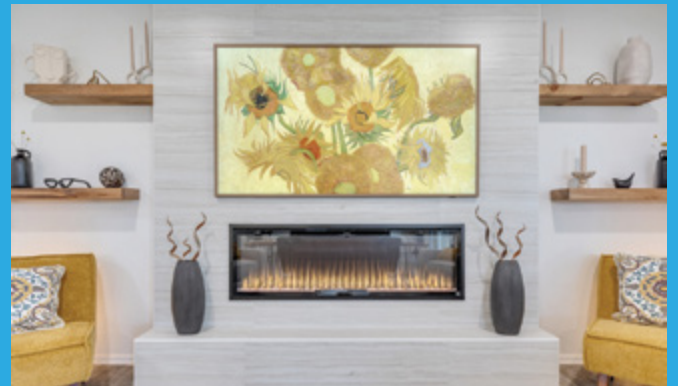
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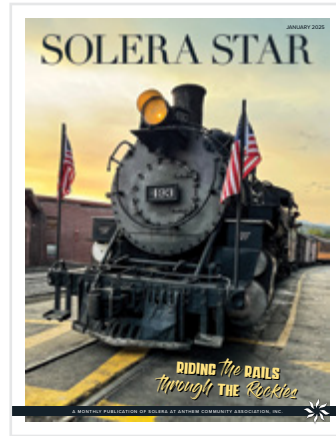
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JANUARY 2025

SOLERA STAR

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



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ON THE COVER

Soleran Betty Boyd shares her experience touring the Rockies by train.



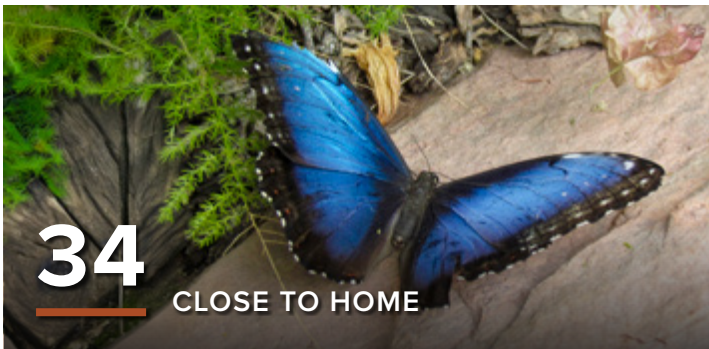
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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



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COVER STORY



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CLOSE TO HOME

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

Administration Office
 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 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 Robert Randall at rrandall@soleraatanthem.us or main line at (702) 207-1406
 Anthem Parkway – Contact Tonya Gale at Tonya@epicamlv.com or call (702) 767-9993

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 **Genevieve Reyes** (702) 207-1424
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 **Rob Randall** (702) 207-1406
Facilities Manager
rrandall@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
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 five calendar days before the meeting, and are emailed to all residents with an email address on file. Agendas are also available at the front desk. To request a copy of the agenda, you may also reach out to Management directly. If you missed the live stream, the video is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja9gLO1-Fh4 ----->



Board of Directors Open Session:
 January 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust
Non-Charter Club Rule change
Committee Resolution Rule change

Board Elections Meet the Candidates Night
 January 16 | 6 p.m. | Stardust

Board Elections – Informal Meet the Candidates
 January 19 | 2 p.m. | Stardust

Board of Directors Executive Session
 February 5 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust

Board of Directors Open Session:
 February 12 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust

Solera Board Election Ballots will be mailed out approximately the first week of January

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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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Following is the address for Assessment Payments:
 Solera at Anthem c/o FirstService Residential
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Anthem Council | www.anthemcommunitycouncil.com
www.anthemcommunitycouncil.godaddysites.com

SALUTING HANK AND TERRY FOR THEIR SERVICE

BY THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



The ARC Committee would like to acknowledge and thank two men that have given the Solera at Anthem community many years of dedicated leadership, guidance and unwavering service and will be greatly missed, Henry "Hank" DeVisser, the former Solera ARC Chairman, and Terry Hazelbaker, the former Solera ARC Vice Chairman.

Hank DeVisser and his wife Debbie moved to Solera in 2010 after his retiring as an iron worker in California. Hank joined the Solera ARC in February 2020 and served as Chairman from April 2021 until recently.

Terry Hazelbaker and his wife Kathy moved to Solera in 2014 after his retiring from a career in the telecommunications industry in Minnesota. Terry joined the Solera ARC in November 2018 and served as Vice Chairman in 2020 until recently.

These two men developed a long-lasting friendship and eventually became best friends. Each was an avid golfer and sports fan, though while Hank was a devoted Raiders fan, Terry was dedicated to the Minnesota Vikings.

These men and their wives enjoyed the idyllic and peaceful community of Solera at Anthem for many years and went on numerous vacations together to such far-off and exotic locations as the Panama Canal and Alaska.

They also did various volunteer work around town together and separately. Recently, Terry, a Vietnam veteran, received the Quilt of Valor from the Solera Veterans and First Responders Club.

Thank you, Hank, and Terry. We in the ARC Committee hope to continue the level of such dedicated service and the integrity that both of you instilled in us committee members over all these years. ✨



COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

- Robert Brightwell
- David Chavez
- Terry Phelps
- Ingrid Serina
- Gregg Shiffbauer
- Florence Hayashi
- Patricia Bond – *Trainee*
- Reginald Beatty – *Trainee*
- James Bardo – *Trainee*
- David Stefanik – *Trainee*
- Liaison: Bob Waskowitz

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- Marcia Adams
- Larry Edsall
- Charlie Jones
- 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
- Annette Vozzo
- Debbie Waskowitz
- Gloria Street
- Kathryn Cook
- Linda Ryniawek
- Liaison: Susan Zinna

PLEASE NOTE

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

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 limited attendance to ARC. Meeting dates are listed on page 19.

2025 BOARD/OWNER MEETINGS SCHEDULE

January 8	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
February 5	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
February 12	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
February 19	4:00PM	Annual Owners Meeting
March 5	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
March 12	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
April 2	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
April 9	6:30PM	Board of Directors Meeting
May 7	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
May 14	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
June 4	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
June 11	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
July 2	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
July 9	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
August 6	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
August 13	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
September 3	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
September 10	6:30PM	Board of Directors Meeting
October 1	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
October 8	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
November 5	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
November 12	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting
November 12	3:00PM	Budget Town Hall
November 20	9:30AM	Budget Ratification Meeting
December 3	9:30AM	BOD Executive Session
December 10	9:30AM	Board of Directors Meeting

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BY FLORINE RADULOVIC-KAY
General Manager for Solera at Anthem

2025

Happy 2025!

Every year it takes a month or two to realize I'm signing documents with "2024" intended to read as "2025" (yikes)- I know it must be a shared experience.

Sometimes it can be difficult letting go of the past, which is why we make a big deal celebrating the future to come. A new year, a new start, a new goal, a new opportunity to change for the better. I often reflect on the past and think "WOW. What a great year!" and reminisce of how thankful I am for all the experiences- good and bad.

The beginning of this new year ahead finds me ready to let go of the past- not because it was bad, but because there is simply so much to look forward to!

I have been a part of the Community for a full two years now, with the last 6 months as General Manager. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Community and further my knowledge and experience to implement improvements that make the neighborhood better for all Residents. It has been a busy last half of 2024 rounding out the many Community projects.

In terms of improvements made, Solera at Anthem has certainly seen a lot of activity. Many of these improvements not only benefit Residents directly through the usage of upgraded amenities, but may also benefit Homeowners through their realized investment value. Community home sales have been steady, despite inflation and increased mortgage interest rates, which is something that only a select few communities can brag about.

2024 Improvements

Some of the improvements made were more evident than others; upgrades to our pool equipment providing efficiencies towards pool operations, upgrading new gym equipment, additional security surveillance around our Clubhouse, Villas painting and lighting improvements, digital HVAC systems, Villas landscape renovations resulting in significant savings in water usage, tech improvements for LIVE streaming options, court renovations, additional paint palettes colors for the Single Family Homes, website options for online ticket purchasing, an outdoor shade structure area, and a newly resurfaced indoor spa.

Improvements that might be less immediately evident were obtaining and securing improved vendor contracts that competed in contractual cost with an increased level of

service, administrative membership and operational process changes for improved workflows, and the collaboration between the Board and the Management Investment team resulting in a nearly 5-fold increase in investment interest income.

These improvements are not surprising when the Community, the Board and the Staff are all engaged in a singular focus- the enrichment of Solera in all facets.

The Future

As we begin to prepare for the New Year, I want to highlight that our recent additions to the Management Staff have contributed greatly since their arrival. Operating as a family, sharing the methodology that every Resident is a part of "The Team", we are often found with our doors open and welcome to all.

As a unit, we look at 2025 as a year of 'Collective Effort of Engagement'. It is a partnership between the Membership, the Board, and Management as we apply all of our effort and knowledge to improve our service levels, and your resident experience.

Some Residents have told me I'm an idealist. Well, that may be true; a common definition of an idealist is one that believes the world can be (and should be) improved, and are motivated by a desire for perfection. I have never been afraid of a challenge and each new year presents new opportunities to improve.

What should remain unchanged is our outlook of the future throughout 2025. We will remain engaged so that the Community maintains its highest standards of success. We should never lose the desire to want more for the future. This is the driving force that keeps us diligently engaged in the present.

Wishing a happy farewell to 2024, and an enthusiastic welcome to the 2025 New Year!

Best Regards,

Florine Radulovic-Kay,
General Manager, Solera at Anthem

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

STARTING ON PAGE 10



David De Oto



Prior to moving to Solera in July of 2020, I served on the Board of Directors at my previous Association on Warm Springs Road in Henderson. Once Solera's facilities reopened after COVID, I began attending Finance Committee meetings and was subsequently appointed to the committee in March of 2022. In 2023, I was elected to my current seat on the Board of Directors, and since then I have served as Board Liaison to the Finance Committee. I also routinely attend Building and Grounds and Lifestyle Committee meetings. I believe it is important for Board members to participate in a wide variety of the activities a community sponsors. As such, I have assisted preparing for a number of Lifestyle events including Night at the Races and the Halloween Party, and I work Solera's monthly Bingos.

Over the past 2 years as inflation has soared and utility rates have increased significantly, the Board has taken aggressive action to cut costs, seek higher interest rates, and strengthen the reserves. We commissioned an energy audit to identify ways to reduce energy costs. In addition, we have scrutinized payroll expenses and held management accountable for living within the budget. The following are but some of the results we have achieved during my term on the Board.

Expense Reductions

- The Board inherited an operating loss of \$188,000 at the end of 2022 and expects to end 2024 with a small surplus.
- Reduced payroll from \$775,000 in the 2023 budget to \$709,500 in the 2025 budget and will continue seeking cost reduction opportunities wherever possible.
- Replaced aging mechanical equipment at the clubhouse with more fuel efficient versions that netted \$11,300 in utility savings year-to-date through September.
- Renegotiated the Cox contract (Cable, Internet, and Phone) resulting in annual savings of \$3,600 and locked in that annual savings for 5 years.
- Over the first 9 months of 2024, the Villas landscaping renovation resulted in a savings of 2 million gallons of water, a reduction of \$6,141 in water costs, and a \$5,400 reduction in annual maintenance costs. We also secured an additional \$7,000 in landscaping services at no cost.
- I was appointed as Solera's representative to Anthem Community Council in March, 2024, where I worked to ensure there was no assessment increase on participating HOAs for 2025. I currently serve as Council's Treasurer.
- Revived the practice of management soliciting multiple bids for any project expected to cost more than a few thousand dollars.

Increased Income

- Through active oversight and vigorous management of investments, worked to increase interest earnings from \$48,143 in 2022 to an estimated \$210,000 in 2024.
- Successfully persuaded the Board to invest \$1 million of the Solera reserves and \$500,000 of the Villas reserves in 10 year treasuries earning in excess of 4%, thus ensuring future reserve income of \$600,000.

Reserves

- In 2024 the Board, for the first time in association history, fully funded Solera's annual reserve contribution and is doing so again in 2025.
- Reallocated \$285,785 in the Villas Construction Defect Fund to the Villas Reserve Fund.
- In the near term, painting, lighting, and asphalt sealing projects in the Villas will be completed at a cost of nearly \$73,000 less than the reserve budget anticipated.
- Replaced 2 asphalt sports courts with concrete (pickle ball) courts, designed to last more than 50 years.
- Approved a clubhouse irrigation/landscape renovation project similar to the Villas, which is expected to provide significant reductions in water usage and landscaping maintenance costs.
- Resealed the clubhouse parking lot with a product designed to last 6 - 8 years at a cost of \$10,000 less than the reserve study projected.
- Purchased 3 new treadmills for the fitness center.

Managing an enterprise like Solera is a formidable undertaking, but I trust that working together the Board can continue to improve the financial strength and social fabric of our community. And so, I am asking for your vote to build upon the accomplishments of this Board and to ensure Solera remains a financially strong and socially vibrant association that is the envy of every other HOA community in Nevada.

Biography for Susan Zinna



My name is Susan Zinna, I moved to Solera September 2020 and was elected to the board February 2023. I am running for a second term to continue to serve Solera for the 2025-2027 years.

I believe what makes a good board member is putting the interests of the community first. My previous goals were stressing communication, transparency and financial responsibility for our community. I am proud to have facilitated and was diligent on many accomplishments. I am committed to continue working with the board to provide a well planned and executed budget. I will continue to look for cost saving opportunities to maintain and improve all of the facilities in our community.

- When elected to the Board we inherited a year end 2022 budget deficit of \$188,000. As of current projections, we will end 2024 with small positive balance
- For the 2024 budget the board was able to decrease the budget by \$50,000.00 to lessen the inflationary HOA fee – we reduced the 2023 payroll budget of \$775,000 to \$709,500 in 2025. In the 2025 budget we trimmed an additional \$20,000 to automate some functions, organizational and compliance updates. As well as fund the HOA reserves at 100% recommenced by the reserve specialist which has been less than the 100% in previous years.
- Strong investment management has allowed the Board to invest \$1 million of Solera's Reserves and \$500,000 of the Villas Reserves in 10 year instruments guaranteeing \$600,000 of interest income.
- Villas irrigation and landscape project. This was definitely a challenge taking many hours of research into development of desert landscape from a mid-westerner. Working with a team of building and grounds members and board members we were able to develop a plan, get 3 bids and negotiate with a landscaper a beautiful change in landscape. As of the end of September there had been a 2 million gallon savings of water, resulting in a savings of \$6,141 in water bills. We also were able to reduce landscape maintenance costs by \$5,400 annually and received an additional \$7,000 in landscaping services for free. The irrigation was replaced with a smart water irrigation system easily controlled electronically and holds watering if received rain. What an accomplishment to save precious water and decrease monthly water bills to the villa's association.
- Currently working on clubhouse irrigation and landscape project, this is so exciting, wait until you see it! We also had numerous satisfaction comments with High Desert Landscape as well as concerns with Par 3 performance. Three bids were obtained for maintenance and passed a contract for maintenance with High Desert at a cost reduction and improvement in aesthetics.
- Residents had requested to add updated color schemes to our paint palate. Color selections researched and appointed by ARC were approved by the board.
- Pickle ball sports court repair of defects and resurfacing after researching and meeting with three vendors to arrive at the best product, warranty and competitive price.
- All pool and patio furniture new cushions and re-sling with UV protection of fabric.
- Voted and approved an energy audit to save energy and increase efficiency and to improve financial stability. Equipment as needed repair or replacement we were able to vote on energy efficient and cost savings products. All lighting to LED and sink aerators installed. As a result, energy savings through September have been \$11,300
- Indoor spa repair & resurfacing, pool repairs & replacement of variable speed pumps & HVAC system. Pool to be drained to clean/service resulting efficient control of chemical levels.
- Approved online lifestyle ticket sales as well as YouTube broadcasting of open board meetings.

In the beginning I realized I had been elected to serve 1822 doors. Our community deserves honesty, transparency and financial stability. I am proud to serve and do due diligence to keep costs down while keeping everything beautiful, well taken care of during the highest inflation years.

We as the board of 2024 worked very hard to keep costs down and work as a team for the best outcome for our wonderful community of Solera.



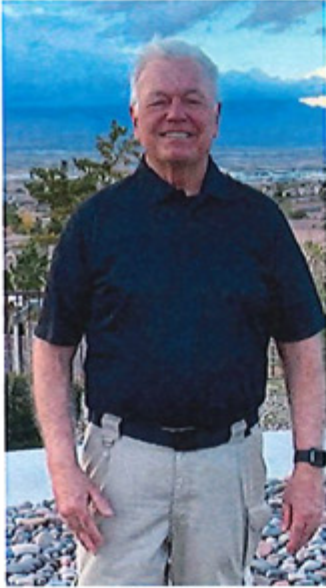
VALERIE DIBENEDETTO

Valerie started her career in real estate in 1990 working on deals with landlords such as The Irvine and Koll Companies. One of her first transactions was working alongside the listing agent on The Irvine Spectrum, a 1.2 million square foot project.

In 2019, Valerie relocated to the Henderson and immediately obtained her real estate license. Her list of clients include founder of ArmorAll, International investors, Fortune 500 companies and independent entrepreneurs.

Valerie also took Rookie of the Year for her residential sales transactions her first year in Nevada and has served on the Board of two large residential developers in California.

In her personal life, Valerie is a classically trained Italian chef, obtaining her culinary degree in Florence, Italy. She also owned and operated her own fine dining Italian restaurant in California. Valerie is married with one daughter who resides in North Carolina.



I am Reginald Beatty, and I am running for a Solera HOA Executive Board seat. I am from a long line of Beatty's that settled in the Las Vegas Valley in 1902 when my grandfather was born. We have three generations of Beatty's that attended Las Vegas High School. I am a retired police officer with 35 years in law enforcement. I have an undergraduate degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in emergency management. I currently work part-time as a communications specialist with Nevada Task Force 1, A FEMA Urban Search and Rescue organization. I was deployed during hurricanes Helene and Milton last September/October.

I have extensive experience serving as an HOA board member, having served for 10 years in my previous residence in Henderson. I served in every position on the board, finishing my tenure as the President. To serve my community better, I attended the 60-hour Community Manager Course required by every community manager. I would use that same knowledge to serve my new Solera community.

As a board member, I aim to actively participate in our community and work with the homeowners so they feel their voices are being heard. It is essential that we work with each other and not against each other. I am committed to working with homeowners, other board members, committee members, and the management company. In the year I have lived in Solera, I have joined the Veteran's/First Responders Club, attended the ARC committee meetings, the Buildings & Grounds committee meetings, Board meetings, and my wife and I are enjoying the many social events our community has put together. It would be an honor if I had your vote to continue working for our community.

To all of my Solera friends and neighbors, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is John Miller and have been a home owner here in Solera for over 12 years. I am running for one of the four open positions on our Board of Directors and would greatly appreciate your vote this next February. Many of you may recognize me from my four and one-half years as a volunteer for our Lifestyle committee. I would like to continue my volunteer activities as your new board member with the same commitment, vigor, and dedication as I followed for those years in Lifestyle.



I am a 45-year retired accountant, primarily in the construction trades, and feel my background would be of great benefit for all the Board and Solereans as a whole. I believe I can bring a new perspective to the Board with my insight and experience.

My entire professional life has included a wide range of various volunteer activities which I approached with passion and the desire to do good within the array of the organization. In this instance, I would appeal directly with my friends and neighbors of Solera with the knowledge of me doing my absolute best for the interests of my fellow Solereans. Sometimes folks can overlook that perspective, I promise you that I will never overlook the needs, wants, and best interests of my neighbors within Solera.

My volunteerism is as follows:

- Vice chair, secretary – Solera at Anthem Lifestyle committee
- Volunteer – Solera at Anthem Veterans' Club
- President - Minneapolis North Star chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants
- Treasurer – Brooklyn Park MN/Maitland NSW Australia Sister City Assn
- Treasurer – North Hennepin MN Mediation Program
- Treasurer – Minnesota Street Machine Association

I also hold a BA degree from Metropolitan State University, St. Paul MN.

I truly believe I can be of great service to Solera and once again would be grateful for your vote. THANK YOU! johnm6019@aol.com

Current President of Solera HOA



I am seeking re-election to our board where I may continue to work for you. It is my strong desire to continue improving the fiscal strength of our community through responsible budget management and responsible funding of the reserves

As President and with the help of fellow board members and management, we have worked to reduce costs. I plan to keep seeking cost saving opportunities.

Veteran Solera Board member with extensive knowledge of Community.

- USMC Veteran (4 years Active/1 year Reserve).
- Former Solera Board Vice President and Secretary.
- Former Solera Patrol Leader and Scheduler. Former Solera Neighborhood Watch Facilitator.
- Former Post 40 Commander (American legion).
- Current Board Liaison to Covenants & Community Standards. Former Communications Committee Member
- 32-year career at Baxter International (retired)

Highlights (Decreased Costs, increased Investment Earnings & Reserves):

- ❖ Decreased First Service payroll from \$775,000 to approximately \$709,000 for 2025.
- ❖ The Villa's landscaping renovation has saved approximately 2 million gallons of water through Sept 2024, resulting in nearly \$6,141 in a reduced water costs, \$5,400 reduction in annual maintenance costs. The contract with High Desert also provides an additional \$7,000 in landscaping costs at no additional cost for the Villa's.
- ❖ The Cox Contract was renegotiated resulting in annual savings of \$3,600. This contract has been locked in at that rate for 5 years.
- ❖ Significantly increased interest earnings from \$48,143 in 2022 to an estimated \$210,000 for 2024.
- ❖ Recognizing the Federal Reserve is likely to continue cutting interest rates. The Association invested \$1 million of Solera Reserves and \$500,000 of Villa's Reserves in 10-year treasuries earning just over 4%, the income from these investments will bring in interest income to the reserves of approximately \$600,000 over that 10-year period.
- ❖ In 2024 the Board, (first time in association history), fully funded the Solera's annual reserve contribution and is doing so again in 2025.
- ❖ Reallocated approximately \$285,700 in the Villa's Construction defect fund to the Villas Reserve fund (boosting the Villa's Reserves).
- ❖ Abraxis Energy Audit -The Audit recommendations resulted in equipment replacement with more energy efficient equipment, resulting in nearly \$11,300 in utility savings through September 2024.
- ❖ The two (2) lower courts were due for a full rebuild and are now all Pickle ball courts, designed to last approximately 50 years.
- ❖ Lifestyle Board Member volunteer working Bingo (sell Bingo cards and call gift-card raffles) and other events as needed.

I am a member in good standing and have no conflicts of interest with the association.



My name is Joe Lightowler, and I served on the Board of Directors for Solera at Anthem for six years, 2018-2023.

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors.

I have lived here with my wife, Joyce, since April of 2015. I grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and attended North Dakota State University. After spending four years in the U. S. Air Force during the Vietnam War as an electronic warfare technician, I worked in the life insurance business for over 44 years.

I am currently a long time member of the Solera Veterans and First Responder and ROMEO Clubs.

I am the only candidate, and if elected, Board member that has attended two years of First Service Residential sponsored monthly meetings to educate myself on the CCR's (Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions) as they apply to HOA's. "Covenants" are agreements homeowners make when purchasing; "Conditions" refer to use, appearance, and maintenance of properties; and "Restrictions" are our limits or prohibitions on certain activities, property use, or home restrictions.

During my 6 year tenure, 5 years as President, my management style was never to micromanage First Service Residential staff, Solera Committees and Clubs, but offer them support, advice, and guidance.

I am always more than willing to sit down with anyone in our community to consider their concerns, complaints, and/or suggestions to make our community a better place to live. My email address and phone number are: jlightowler921@gmail.com and 701-361-2588.

It was a pleasure working with and for you, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you for another two.

I am a member in good standing and have no conflicts of interest with the Association.

Kenneth (Ken) G Moser

702-401-7823 chefmoser1@icloud.com



Please Elect Chef Ken back to the Solera Board, to make a positive change. I will do everything I can to make positive changes to Solera.

- Hello, I am Ken (Chef) Moser a 19-year resident of Solera,
- As a previous Director and Secretary, Vice President of the Solera HOA Board.
- I was instrumental in forming the Table Tennis Club after many years of trying.
- As a Board member I have helped Solera and our facilities to continue to be in great shape.
- Replacement of courts 1 and 2 Tennis courts
- Was responsible for bringing Pickleball to Solera
- Installation of all new safety pads and fencing for pickle ball courts, & backboards for tennis and pickle ball courts
- Was part of continuing Solera Holliday Lights
- Was responsible for upgrades to Solera Moon corners.
- Voted the person of the Year for the FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS for 2017
- F.A.S. with my help has now helped over 500,000 people in Southern Nevada
- As a previous Trustee and Vice President of Foundation Assisting Seniors
- Worked as an Executive Chef for over 42 years. I have won many awards
- Worked as Vice President of Food and Beverage and Responsible for as many as 36,000 Landry employees
- As a Chef, Business Executive, and Owner I have met and worked with many people working on a multitude of business and financial plans.
- You can't be a good leader without good people. Here in Solera I will do the same as throughout my life
- I will continue to work with all to keep Solera a great Place to live.
- I am asking all to please give me your vote as a Member in good standing and No conflicts of interest. To continue to Help all Solera residents

Thanks Ken (Chef) Moser



My name is Dennis D'Assis, and I am running for a seat on the Board of Directors for our Solera community. I moved to Solera in 2018, after retiring from 50+ years of working. My career spanned several different aspects, but mostly centered around heavy equipment leasing. My main accomplishments were to open numerous locations for several companies, which required me to have a diverse background in many different areas. I have negotiated with landowners, bureaucrats, and everyone in between, to accomplish necessary goals set before me. I was responsible for the entire budgets of my locations, including minimizing expenses while maximizing revenue and profit. I also served as president of a HOA in California for over six years, with many of those years having little or no participation from other homeowners. This caused me to assume the roles of ARC committee, Covenants committee, and whatever else it took to run and maintain our neighborhood at that time. I believe this gives me a unique perspective to handle the requirements of being on our Board of Directors.

I have a unique perspective on what the community expects and enjoys because my wife, Pam was involved with the Lifestyle committee for over six years, which allowed me to get involved by ...

- I became the Bingo caller for over three years
- I was the MC for several years for Derby Day activities as well as for the Veterans chili-cook-offs
- I am the secretary for the ROMEOs men's club
- I was an integral part of many of the excursions, events, and activities put on by the Lifestyle committee, not only organizing and assisting with bus tours and the like, but also cooking hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs for the community to enjoy
- I played Santa Claus at several Holiday dinner celebrations.
- I was instrumental in help to organize the Big Game party with the ROMEO club

I believe that we have lost track of what the residents expect to receive from their quarterly HOA dues, and where the monies would be best spent to maximize the enjoyment of our facilities and activities for more of the community. I strongly believe in having a budget and monitoring our expenses, but I do not believe in sacrificing benefits to the community to save a few pennies, or micro-managing the groups and clubs. I have decided to run for the board so that maybe my voice and opinions can be brought before the Board and decisions made that benefit the best interest of all of Solera

I would appreciate your confidence in me and your vote in February. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely, Dennis D'Assis



Hi, I'm Debbie AVECILLA, and I am excited to announce that I'm running for the Board of Directors! I believe that being actively involved is the best way to ensure our community is vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

Originally from Michigan, I was always busy with one thing or another. I worked in the Adult care industry, then Real Estate, then I worked for the Girl Scouts of America (my favorite job), I finally found my career with a well known payroll company and spent the next 5 years moving through the ranks until I embarked on a new adventure which took me to a job assignment in Folsom, California. I spent the next 5 years at the Senior management level, before I found my final destination in Henderson. I finally retired after 22 years with Paychex, Inc.

When I first retired, I imagined lazy mornings and spontaneous outings, but I quickly discovered that I thrive on having a purpose. To connect with my community and make a positive impact, I've participated in the Neighborhood patrol. I also have become an active member of the Solera Veterans and First Responders Club. I scooped Chili at the Chili Cook off, and made Root beer floats at the Ice Cream Social. I also participated in the clothing drive for the homeless, and Toys for Tots, sorting toys at the warehouse in preparation for orders to be filled for needy families here in Las Vegas. This decision has not only allowed me to meet wonderful neighbors—both new and old—but it has also deepened my commitment to the community I love.

Outside of my community activities, I have a passion for travel, cooking (eating) and good wine. I enjoy sharing these interests with my husband of 32 years, Armando, and our furry family, our Cocker Spaniel, Oliver and our mischievous kittens, Honda and Harley - as well as our friends, I believe that connections are what truly enrich our lives.

I look forward to continuing this journey and making a lasting difference in our wonderful community! My approach will come from curiosity, see what is working and what doesn't seem to fit well. Being transparent, listening and being totally engaged.

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

BY BOB PROPP, *Past Commander*

This will be my last time authoring articles for our club in the *Solera Star*. I hope that you enjoyed them these past two years.

It has been an honor and an awesome experience serving our Veterans, First Responders, Members, and Community, and I hope that I served you well. I could not have done this without the help of my wife, Vickie, and the other officers and volunteer members of our great club.

We have grown to over 80 members and have donated thousands of dollars to Veteran and First Responders organizations throughout our Henderson, Las Vegas communities, and the Boulder Veterans Home. Our club has donated more than any other Veteran or First Responder organization in Henderson.

Something new in 2025 is our Monday Movie night on the Third Monday of every month. There will be popcorn, snacks, and refreshments available for purchase, and a 50/50 and basket raffle. The movies will be shown on the big screen in the Stardust Room with a movie theater vibe.

All proceeds will go to the Solera Veterans And First Responders Club for donations to Veteran and First Responder organizations throughout our communities. More to follow, be sure and check the weekly eBlast for more information.

We will continue our flag sales and replacement of flags in the community center parking lot. The cost of those flags comes from donations provided by our wonderful neighbors within our community. We replace the flags in the parking lot twice a year, in January and July, sooner if flags are distressed.

Ken Pavese is the man with

the flags. If you need a flag or a flag and pole, please contact him at 702-407-8111 or email soleraveterans@outlook.com, we will get back to you quickly and we even deliver and install.

If you have a distressed flag that needs to be retired, please drop it off at the community center and we will ensure that it is retired properly at the Boulder Veterans Cemetery.

The Solera Veterans And First Responders Club meets on the First Tuesday of every month in the Stardust Room, gathering at 6:00 p.m. and with the meeting starting at 6:30. We have great speakers. All are invited to attend; you do not have to be a Veteran or First Responder to join.

We hold three ceremonies a year — Memorial Day, Patriot Day (9/11), and Veterans Day. These are large events with great speakers from throughout the community and country.

We have two awesome events each year — the Ice Cream Social in the spring and the Chili Cook-Off in the fall. These are fun events, with entertainment, a great social atmosphere, and food. These events are open to all within our Solera community.

In closing I want to say thank you again for giving me the privilege of serving our club and community and thank you to the entire Community Center Staff, past and present. A very special thank you to Paul Mayen; you are the man! Paul always ensured that the set up for our meetings and events were done properly, and he is the guy that replaces the flags in the parking lot. He goes above and beyond to help us, tell him thank you next time you see him.

Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful). ✨



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 Jan 9, 2025 12PM - 1PM
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DATE & TIME: FRI, JAN 10, 2025 | 9AM - 1PM

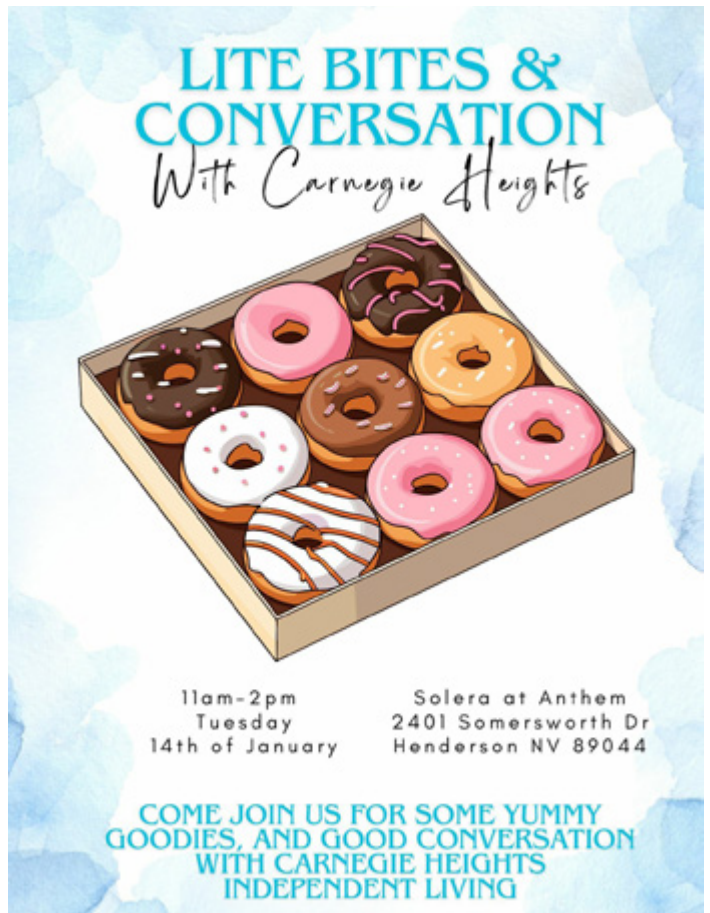
LOCATION: STARDUST ROOM

REGISTER ONLINE OR AT FRONT DESK

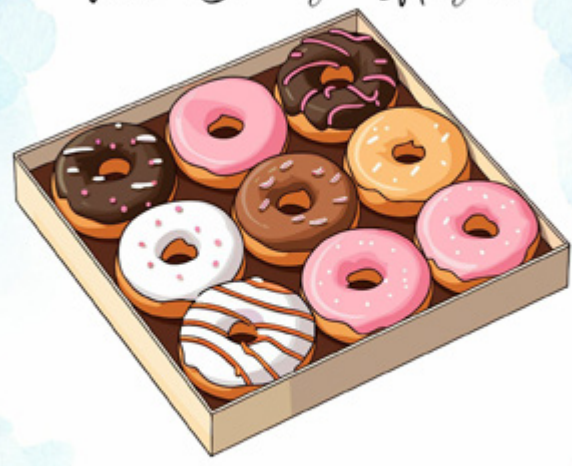
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2025

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January 29, 2025



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TICKETS GO ON SALE AT
JAN 7, 2025 | 9:00 AM | FREMONT LOUNGE
RESIDENT \$50 | GUEST \$55

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 | 7:00 PM
LEE'S FAMILY FORUM

JANUARY
2025

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Management Offices Closed Clubhouse Closes at 4pm New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends	2 Hanukkah Ends	3 Ringing in the New Year - Donuts & Coffee Social 9am	4
5	6 Clubhouse Landscape Project Town Hall 9:30-10:45am	7 Henderson Silver Knights Ticket Sale 9am ARC 9am Vets & First Responders 6:30pm	8 Board of Directors 9:30am	9 Communications 9:30am Yamaha Presents: Modern Aging Lunch & Learn 12pm	10 AARP Safe Driver Course 9am	11 Fitness Center Orientation 10am
12	13 Covenants 9am	14 Carnegie Heights Lunch & Learn 12pm Bulk Trash Day	15 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am	16 Community Standards 9:30am Meet the Candidates Night 6-7:30pm	17 Karaoke Dance Party 6-8pm	18
19 Informal Meet the Candidates 2pm	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day	21 Lifestyle 9:45am	22	23 Bingo 6:30pm (Doors open: 5:30pm)	24	25
26	27 Executive Board 9:30am	28 Bulk Trash Day	29 Finance Meeting 9:30am Lunar New Year	30	31 Sock Hop Ticket Sales 9am	FEB 1
2	3	4 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm	5 Board of Directors 9:30am	6	7	8

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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.
Pam D'Assis | pitstop612@aol.com

Canasta Club | Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Karen James | (248) 719-9912

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

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 | hondi@msn.com

Pickleball Club | Monday - Friday | 7-10 a.m.
Kathryn Romano | (818) 497-2124

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
Jane Khaldy | (702) 303-1511 | solerajane25@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.
George Rivers | (702) 612-7329 | egeorge.rivers@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

Big Six Dominoes | Thursdays 1-4 p.m.
James Edwards | (303) 907-3908

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

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.
Mary Schramski | drmary10@proton.me

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

2025 THEME NIGHTS SCHEDULE



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WAYNE'S PRE-GAME TAILGATE | 4:30 PM | 52 BEER

GRETZKY JERSEY
GIVEAWAY

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Pediatric Research

PRESENTED BY: **Reddy Children's**

SAT | FEB 1

RALLY TOWELS
GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY: **LAZARUS**
Music Dealers

FRI | FEB 14

GRETZKY BOOBLEHEAD
GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY **SMI**

SAT | MAR 1
PRE-GAME HEROES TAILGATE | 5 PM | 52 BEER

DOG TAGS
GIVEAWAY

BOOTS & BREWS

FRI | MAR 7

NASH BASKETBALL JERSEY
GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY: **Wahoo's**

SUN | APR 6
PRE-GAME TAILGATE | 12 PM | 52 BEER

SUNGLASSES
GIVEAWAY

FAN APPRECIATION

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FRI | APR 25

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TRAIN TRIPPING

RIDING THE RAILS THROUGH THE ROCKIES

BY BETTY BOYD

Editor's note: A year ago, Soleran Betty Boyd joined other Anthem-community residents on a road trip adventure, traveling by motor coach for a tour of America's scenic treasures. Recently, she ventured out on another great adventure, this one joined by some 40 residents of Solera, Black Mountain, or Sun City Anthem.

My next great adventure took me to the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona. We saw the Rocky Mountains and took four different train trips, one of which included going up a Cog railway to see Pikes Peak. Majestic Adventures and Cruises' Bobbi Lona was our tour guide, and I asked her to give us her perspective on the trip.

"When one goes traveling, it's always good to go with the flow, know that there will be ups and downs, and appreciate the experience for what it is," she said.

"Our Colorado Rockies and Roarin' Trains trip was truly an adventure with excitement and good times. It was pretty much guaranteed that as long as the trains were running and we got from Point A to Point B with the marvelous scenery and historical aspects, it would be a successful escapade.

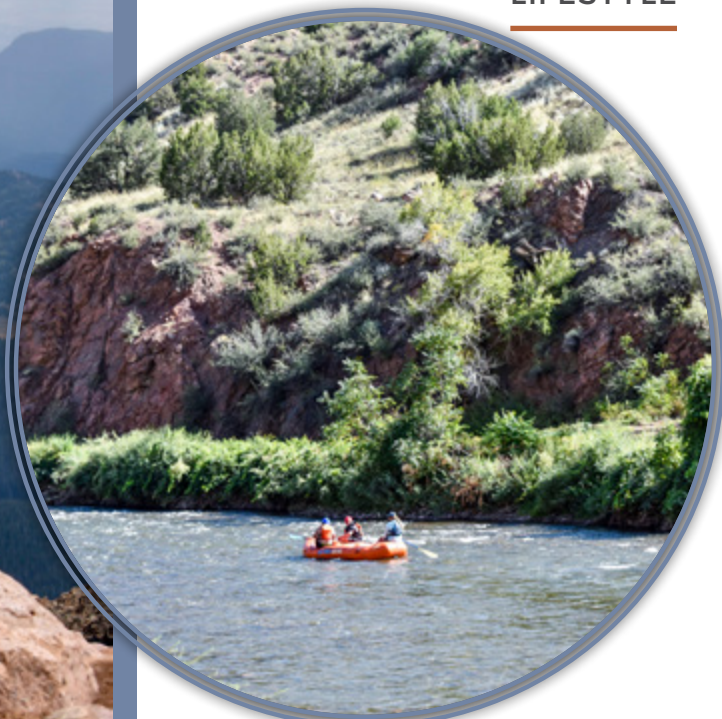
"As a Tour Guide, one hopes and prays that hotels, restaurants, and venues will deliver what they promised. When they don't, it is one of the worst feelings — being at their mercy and sometimes helpless to correct the situation.

"Early in the trip, we spent the day in the Santa Fe/Taos, New Mexico area. We were quite lucky as the day we were there, at the Santa Fe Plaza they were celebrating their annual Fiesta Days with bands, food trucks, vendors, Hispanic dancers, and colors galore. Afterward, we ventured off to El Santuario at El Chimayo, the church with legends of 'Holy Dirt.' Then, we had a very knowledgeable guide who shared the history of Taos Pueblo.

"The first stop in Colorado was the Royal Gorge Train, which proved to be a photographer's paradise.

"We got a nice dose of patriotism at the United States Air Force Academy before going onto the very picturesque Garden of the Gods and scaling new heights up to Pikes Peak. It was such a joy watching the faces of our travelers as they experienced this height of our adventure, literally and figuratively.





"The Union Station building in Denver was quaint and charming as we got ready to board the California Zephyr going to Grand Junction. That train ride gave everyone beautiful scenery, a leisurely day, and a relaxing ride. Many people spent a good amount of time in the observation car for the best views.

"The historic Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railway was our fourth and final train trip. It felt like we were truly back in time.

"As we started to head home, we made one last stop at Mesa Verde National Park. Highly educated docents there shared their incredible knowledge with an entertaining style.

"As a bus trip there were long stretches to drive to cover the distances across the Southwest, but the camaraderie of the group, the friendships made, the sharing of photos, and games played on board, made even the drives an enjoyable part of the journey."

Our first stop was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to see the Loretto Chapel, with its miraculous staircase.

When the chapel was built, there was a choir loft, but no way to reach it. As the story goes, the sisters prayed and one day a man with a donkey

and toolbox arrived and months later had constructed a miraculous spiral staircase.

There are at least three mysteries surrounding the construction: Who built it? (Some say it was St. Joseph himself.) What was the source of the wood used (which was not native to the area)? What are the physics that made the staircase possible (built without nails, only wood pegs, and with seemingly no supporting structure)?

Whatever, it is a beautiful representation of architecture, and its mystery keeps people coming to admire it.

We made our way to the El Chimayo Santuario Chapel, a Roman Catholic church in Chimayo, New Mexico. It is a shrine that is a National Historical Site and a pilgrimage destination with 300,000 visitors each year. Many of the visitors will take a small handful of "holy dirt" that has been attributed to miraculous healing powers. The chapel is very simple in its construction, and it was very inspiring to visit the site.

The Royal Gorge Railroad was the first of the four train rides we would take. The Royal Gorge is Colorado's most historic and storied rail line. Its transverse the narrows of the Royal Gorge and

is within granite cliffs more than 1,000 feet above the railroad tracks. Dating to 1879, Colorado's oldest streamliner runs alongside the Arkansas River. I could venture outside to an open car and take photos of the spectacular scenery.

We made a brief stop at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. We stopped by the visitor center and saw a patriotic video about what it is like to become a Cadet.

Our next area to explore was the Garden of the Gods, also in Colorado Springs. The Garden of the Gods is a public park of 1,343.3 acres designated in 1971 as a National Natural Landmark. The rock formations are millions of years old. There are various geological formations throughout the park. These formations include Steamboat Rock, Three Graces, and Balanced Rock. The park is free to the public and has many hiking trails, technical rock climbing, road and mountain biking, and horseback riding. We drove through the park, viewing all the fantastic rock formations.

Next, we were off to the Pike's Peak Cog Railway. It is the highest cog railway in the world, and the views from the summit inspired the song America the Beautiful. Pikes Peak is called America's

mountain and is 14,115 feet in evaluation, nearly three miles high. The trip is three and a half hours, the train taking one hour and ten minutes each way.

A cog railway is a rail system that uses a toothed-rack rail located in the middle of the track, providing traction for the locomotive. It was a strange feeling to ride up such a steep incline and back down the same way. We had to stay hydrated so as not to get altitude sickness. We only had only 40 minutes once we reached the top. I saw mountains, streams, and beautiful foliage. It was truly mesmerizing, and we even had snowflakes!

By the way, you can get cake donuts, but they will collapse and go flat if you take them back down from the summit. Nonetheless, one of our groups can attest to their tastiness.

At Amtrak's Denver Depot we boarded the California Zephyr for an eight-hour ride, observing mountains, streams, and various trees displaying fall foliage and other plant life on our way to Grand Junction in western Colorado.

Our final train ride also was in Colorado, from Silverton to Durango. We explored the quaint town of Silverton before taking the train. This was a fun

ride, and we got to see many more forests and mountains up close, along with other vistas of plant life.

Mesa Verde National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site that was established in 1926 by Congress and occupies 52,485 acres. It has more than 5,000 Native American sites and 600 cliff dwellings and is the largest archaeological preserve in the United States. The cliff dwellings are fascinating, ranging from one-room granaries to 150 rooms. By the end of the 1200s, most of the residents had migrated away.

Our driver gave us a special treat by driving through Monument Valley. It is located in the Colorado Plateau and comprises picturesque sandstone buttes, some reaching 1,000 feet above the valley floor. This part of the Navajo Nation has been featured in many Western films,

On our way home, we stopped for lunch in Flagstaff, Arizona along historic Route 66. The trip provided a special look at the beauty of the Rockies and also shared what fun trains can be.

I encourage everyone to explore our great country and its many wonders. ✨



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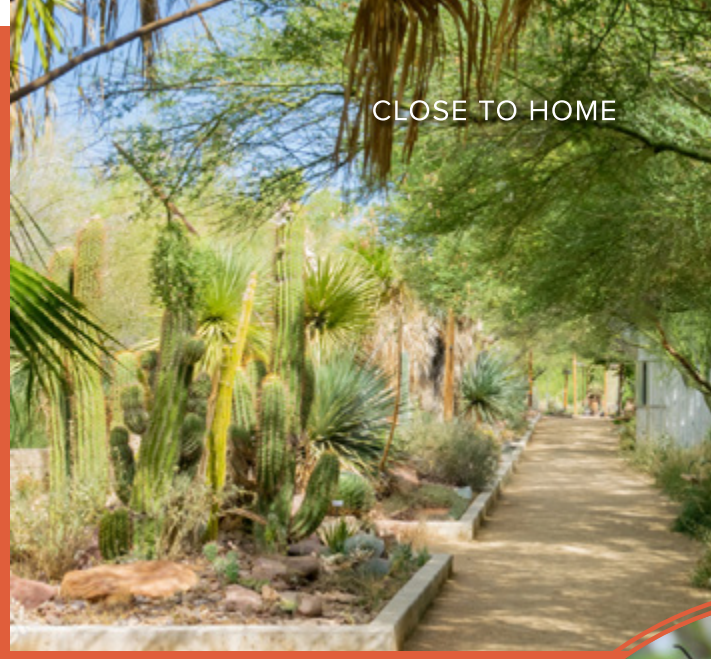
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SPRINGS PRESERVE

UNEXPECTED VENUE CLOSE TO THE STRIP

BY MARCIA ADAMS



If you are seeking a combination of history, nature, and relaxed enjoyment, you may want to consider a trip to the Springs Preserve.

On the National Registry as the birthplace of Las Vegas, the Preserve is located at 333 S. Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, and offers a 180-acre site as diverse as Las Vegas itself.

Put on your walking shoes and begin the exploration at the gardens. Wheelchairs and strollers are available for rent for those in need.

One of the more relaxing things to do is to stroll among the gardens and wetlands that introduce you to the vegetation of the region as well as the sustainability of it.

Here you can explore the self-sustaining home built by UNLV students or go birdwatching throughout the meandering trails. As you walk, you may see a giant watering can that is used as a storage shed, as well as many garden areas. You will also pass the water derricks and water storage being restored to capture the past of Las Vegas. The site is designed with relaxation in mind. Benches and quiet areas are interspersed for relaxing and resting.

Not to be missed, when it is open in the spring and fall, is the Butterfly Habitat. The greenhouse enclosure contains many types of butterflies, as well as the plant life that sustains them. The display of color combined with fragility is amazing. You are allowed to walk through and enjoy seeing them in their natural habitat, but also warned not to touch them. A true delight is if one lands on you while you are there. Staff will assist with its safe removal should it happen.

The Preserve is not just a nature area. It is also a historical site dedicated to keeping alive the history of Las Vegas.

One of the fun areas to explore is Boomtown 1905, a short and free train ride from the Preserve's Garden area. With re-created railroad cottages, train depot saloon and other historical buildings, this area allows you to learn about the Las Vegas area from 1905 to 1920. Adjacent to it is the WaterWorks. This exhibit takes you behind the scenes to show you how water from Lake Mead and other sources reaches the Las Vegas Valley.

There are two museums that are part of the Preserve: the Origin and the Nevada State.



CLOSE TO HOME



LIFESTYLE



The Origen Museum has interactive displays that show the evolution of Las Vegas over the past 500 years. Enjoyable and informative, it is amazing to see how this area developed. Be sure not to miss the Flash Flood exhibit – it is borderline terrifying to experience the rush of water that can happen when there is a flash flood.

The Nevada State Museum has done an excellent job of displaying the old while keeping the interest current with new displays. On the left side of the hallway that divides the museum are the exhibits pertaining to the past, including but not limited to displays of skeletal remains dinosaurs and turtles, artifacts from saloons and gambling halls.

Interesting fact: Nevada did not get its statehood due to what it could bring in the form of riches, but rather because Abraham Lincoln needed its electoral vote to get re-elected.

On the right side of the hallway are the current or revolving exhibits. Featured currently is a display on the history of the Spanish Trail. Exhibits include clothing, hardware, pottery, and other items as well as written descriptions of the hardships early travelers endured.

Should you desire, the Springs Café onsite offers a bounty of good food and drink at the end of your sojourn. ✨



THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL

BY CHARLIE JONES

Editor's note: The Old Spanish Trail and its role in the founding and early history of Las Vegas are featured in a special exhibit open through May 12 at the Nevada State Museum in the Springs Preserve.



In its August 2023 issue, the *Solera Star* looked back at the founding of our community. One of the questions often asked about that time was why our streets were given celestial names.

One of the articles in that issue provided the answer. But what about the names given to our home models?

Solerans, smarter than a fifth grader, know about explorers Lewis and Clark. What about Fremont? While not as widely known as Lewis and Clark, John C. Fremont and his trail guide, Kit Carson, also had a connection to the building of the West and to the Old Spanish Trail. In fact, Fremont's return to Missouri started from Las Vegas.

The Old Spanish Trail was a network of trails first traveled by indigenous Ute and Paiute tribes and later was used by Spanish explorers, trappers, and traders. Juan Maria de Rivera explored the eastern parts of the trail through present-day Colorado and Utah as early as 1765.

Designed by Congress as part of the National Trails System in 2002, the Old Spanish Trail traversed what would become six states, connecting Santa Fe, New Mexico, with Los Angeles, California. The route included what we now know

as the Las Vegas Valley.

Traders would usually leave Santa Fe for Los Angeles in November, trusting winter snows to help provide water. The goods traded included woolen textiles, tallow, hides, silk, mules, and horses (used and then traded), silver and more.

Success inspires competition. Antonio Armijo, a Santa Fe merchant, established an alternate route that became known as the Armijo Route. With 60 men and a hundred mules loaded with trade goods, he left Santa Fe using knowledge he had gathered from earlier explorers and followed a more direct route going through what would become known as the four corners area, across northeast Arizona to the Virgin River in Utah and on southwest through the Mojave Desert to Santa Barbara, California.

This was a much shorter route, but still took three months. By 1829, the Armijo route became the preferred route, and later became a wagon route, parts of which would become paved roads that are still used today.

While Fremont's name was applied to one of the home architectures in Solera, Kit Carson wasn't forgotten. Nevada's state capitol bears his name. ✨

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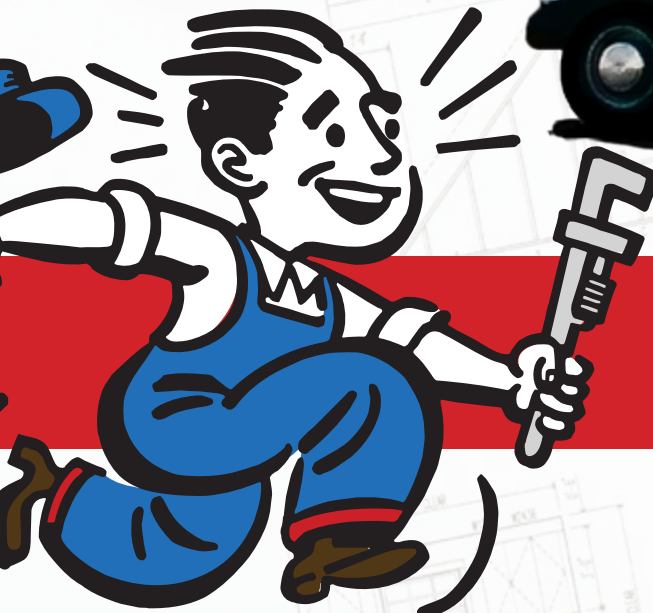
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PAIUTES LIVED IN VEGAS VALLEY AS EARLY AS 1100 AD

WHAT IS NOW SPRINGS PRESERVE WAS THEIR WINTER HOME

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN



Long before Las Vegas was a stop on the railroad between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, or the Hoover Dam was built, or the Mafia built casinos on The Strip, the Paiute (pronounced PIE-yoot) Native American tribe occupied this region.

Archaeologists discovered their petroglyphs and pictographs in the Gypsum Cave (east of Nellis Air Force Base) and at Tule Springs (in the upper Las Vegas Valley). The Tudu, or Desert People, were ancestors of the Las Vegas Paiute tribe who occupied territory near the Colorado River that included parts of southeastern Nevada, California, and Utah.

Paiutes lived in this area as early as 1100 AD, migrating between nearby mountains in the summer and Big Springs (part of Springs Preserve) in the winter.

During spring, Paiutes practiced “floodplain” gardening by creating reservoirs and irrigation ditches for corn, squash, melons, pumpkins, sunflowers,

beans, and wheat. After spring planting, Paiutes journeyed to higher elevations to gather berries and plants as well as hunt mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, antelope, woodchucks, and rabbits.

Paiutes collected again; a type of rock used for making stone tools. Their skill at making these tools was widely known and respected; they traded their arrowheads and spear points with many other tribes.

Paiutes also were skilled basket weavers, using hand-woven baskets to carry seeds, roots, tubers, berries and nuts. They sealed baskets with pine pitch to hold water in the finely woven baskets. They made nets, sandals, ropes, lightweight bark skirts, buckskin and other hide dresses, shirts, breechcloths (loin cloths), rabbit skin leggings, blankets, and capes.

In 1826, white trappers and traders began crossing Paiute land. In 1829, these crossings became known as the Old Spanish Trail (a trade route from New Mexico to California). Many

Paiutes worked on ranches and lived on the outskirts of the new towns so they could remain on what was once their land.

In the late 1800s, the Duck Valley Reservation and Fallon Reservation and Colony were established in Nevada and Idaho for the Paiute and Shoshone tribes.

In 1911, a local rancher named Helen J. Stewart donated 10 acres of her land in downtown Las Vegas to the Paiutes, which became the Las Vegas Paiute Colony.

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe became recognized as a Sovereign Nation thanks to the Indian Reorganization Act (of 1934) and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Constitution (of 1970).

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe owns and operates the 54-championship-hole Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, located just north of Las Vegas and which was also the first master-planned, multi-course facility of its kind built on Native American land. ✨

OATMEAL CRAN-RAISIN BARS

BY MARCIA ADAMS

As many of you have sampled these cookies at either the Veterans' meetings or the art show, I thought I would share the recipe with you.

The recipe originally appeared on the back of oatmeal boxes way back when this was a common practice to encourage people to buy and use their product. I have modified it slightly by adding cran-raisins rather than regular raisins and, at times, pecans.

One other "secret" is to not over beat the dough once you add the flour, too much air will dry the cookie out.

OATMEAL CRAN-RAISIN BARS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups of cran-raisins
- 1 ¼ cups of unsalted butter
- ¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour (I use King Arthur)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (I use Vietnamese)
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 3 cups Quaker Oats (Quick or Old Fashioned, uncooked)
- Optional: ¾ cup chopped pecans



PREPARATION

Soak the cran-raisins in hot water for at least 10 minutes. I let them soak while I do the rest of the cookie dough. You cannot oversoak. This rehydrates the fruit pieces so they don't dry out when they are baking, really adds moisture and flavor to the cookies.

In a small bowl, sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Slowly add the flour mixture, stirring after each addition.

Drain the cran-raisins and pat dry. Add to the mixture. Also add the nuts here. (I add here since you can be sure the raisins and nuts are distributed through the dough.)

Stir in the oatmeal and mix well.

You can either do bars or you can do these as cookies.

If bars, line a 9x12 jelly-roll pan with parchment paper. Press dough so it is evenly spread across the pan. Bake in the oven for approximately 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. If you want softer bars, cook until light brown. Cool in the pan for about 5 minutes; then on wire rack. Cut into squares.

If cookies, drop by rounded tablespoons onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake 8 to 9 minutes for a chewy cookie; 10 to 11 minutes for a crisp cookie. Cool for one minute on the sheet; remove to wire racks to finish cooling. ✨



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- With the next administration set to take office in January, fiscal and monetary policies could also affect how financial markets respond and where rates go from here.

Interest rate forecasts are based on the best information available right now. As new economic data comes out, experts will revise their projections accordingly. If you are interested in more information, please feel free to contact me anytime. I keep a close eye on these trends as they do affect housing sales trends directly. At the moment, all indicators are positive for 2025 - I will keep you informed!



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