

JULY 2024

SOLERA STAR



Solera in
BLOOM!

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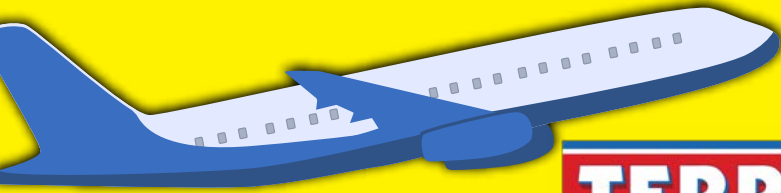
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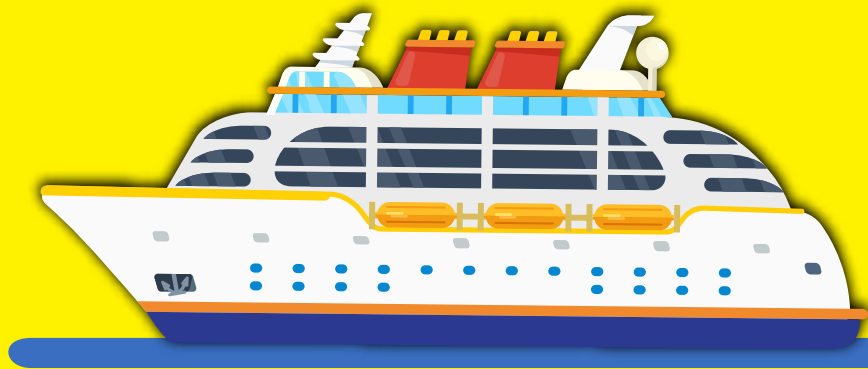




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JULY 2024

SOLERA STAR

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



27

ON THE COVER

A spectacular showcase of Solera in bloom!



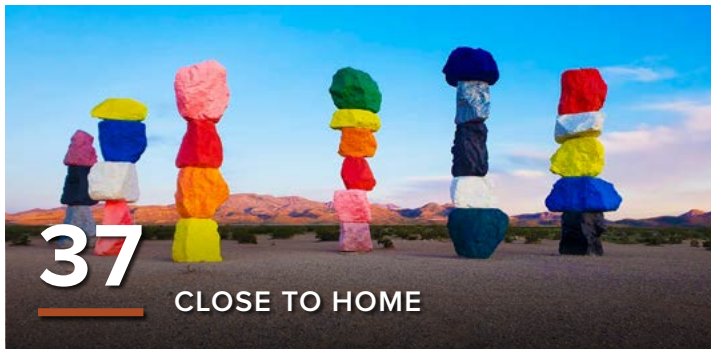
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Email: solera@ternionsage.com
Phone: 702.982.6681
www.ternionsage.com



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ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOLERA STAFF



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



TBD (702) 207-1402
Assistant Manager



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



Paul Reeves (702) 207-1406
Facilities Manager
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Paul Mayen (702) 207-1411
Facilities Supervisor
pmayen@soleraatanthem.us

BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Sawyer, President | solerakens@gmail.com
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Susan Zinna, Secretary | susanzinna@hotmail.com
Mike Goff, Treasurer | mikesolera1@gmail.com
Frank Nobel, Director | fnobel@cox.net
Kathy Tatasciore, Director | kmtsolera@gmail.com
Bob Waskowitz, Director | bdwaskowitz@yahoo.com

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND INFORMATION

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

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

Board of Directors Executive Session

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

Board of Directors Meeting

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

Board of Directors Executive Session

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

Board of Directors Meeting

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

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

Solera Residents:



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

Solera Website: www.soleranews.com

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

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

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

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

BE SURE TO READ 2024 ARC GUIDELINES

BY THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

By now the New Architectural Design Guidelines for 2024 are available on the Solera News website (soleranews.com). We have already started revising the new design guidelines for next year 2025. Every year the ARC reviews and makes revisions of the Guidelines.

We thought that we could post some pictures of some of the projects that have and are being done every month.

We say “thank you” to David Chavez and to a former committee member Shelley Payne-Pittman for their work on this project, and to all ARC members.

Please read the Design Guidelines before you submit an Application for a Project for your property.

THINKING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS TO YOUR SOLERA HOME?

Some example of home improvements
per ARC Guideline - Effective May 1 2024



Swimming Pool/Spas
Section III.K.1.2.3.



Walls & Fences
Section
IV.B.1.2.3.4.5.6.8.C



Pavers
Section
IV.B7.E.2.D.E



Security Doors
Section III.Q.1.2.



Front Courtyard Walls
Section IV.B.9.C.



Solar Screens
Section III.S.1.2.



Solar Panels
Section III.D.1.2.4.

ALL HOMEOWNERS MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) APPROVAL

ARC Applications are available at the Front Desk of the Solera Clubhouse or online at soleranews.com and click on Resident Portal. For full rules and regulations go to soleranews.com website and click on ARC Guidelines. ✨

COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

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

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

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

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Linda Freitas
Lowell Gervais
Linda Loane
Diane Meireis
Liaison: Ken Sawyer

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Thomas Mach
Charlene Whitener
Kathie Zeier
Liaison: David DeOto

LIFESTYLE

Lorraine Barcia
Shari Barr
Debra DeVisser
John Miller
Susan Newman
Gloria Street
Loretta Ariola – *Alternate*
Kathy Haynes – *Alternate*
Liaison: Kathy Tatasciore

PLEASE NOTE

The following committee needs volunteers:
Finance & Communications

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 15.



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MHD Lic #0462 Bid Limit \$245,000

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PERSONAL LISTINGS ONLY

-NO BUSINESS LISTINGS-

GET YOUR LISTING TODAY!
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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.

PARKING ON SOLERAN STREETS

HERE ARE THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY MARCIA ADAMS

Such a simple concept – parking. But if you don't pay attention, it can become a nightmare. All local rules apply to guests, members, contractors, and employees equally.

Let's start with the basics:

If the street has "No Parking on this side of the Street" or other similarly worded signs, it means you cannot park a vehicle there.

Also, if an area of pavement is striped, it means no parking. And if there is a red painted area on the curb – usually denoting a fire hydrant – there is no parking in that area either.

Finally, handicapped parking is only for those vehicles that have displayed handicap parking identification.

Now for things you may not be aware of but are within the Covenants of Solera at Anthem.

The parking lot at the Clubhouse cannot be utilized for overnight parking of any personal vehicles. Personal vehicles are defined as trailers, cars, RVs, boats, campers, etc. The only exception is when vehicles are part of a special association event.

Parking on the street or in designated spaces is permitted for no longer than 48 consecutive hours. RVs of any type can park on a street for loading and unloading purposes only and for only 24 hours.

Construction vehicles may park on the street but cannot be left overnight.

No disabled, unregistered, or unlicensed vehicle can be parked on the street or anywhere on the property.

If you have a question regarding any parking issues, you should contact management for clarification.

So, what happens if you are parked illegally?

According to Guidelines, if a vehicle is improperly parked, a written notice will be sent to the owner of the residence where the car is parked (it is assumed that the car belongs to the owner or a guest in that residence). If necessary, a second or third notice will be sent. Since the streets within Solera are monitored by the City of Henderson police, the police may be notified at any point within this notification process. Once notified, it would be within HPD control as to how to handle the violation – issuing a ticket or towing the vehicle.

So, when parking, take a moment to look around to verify you are parked legally. A few extra steps are a lot easier to deal with than a towed vehicle!

Finally, remember the speed limit within Solera is 25 mph. We have many residents walking or biking. Obey stop signs! Even at intersections without stop signs, watch when turning, particularly if visibility is compromised. We like our neighbors and would like to keep them healthy and safe. *





FOSTER CARE FOR YOUR PETS

AND YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO FOSTER FOR SURGICAL PATIENTS

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS AND VETERANS

The Foundation Assisting Seniors and Veterans' Pet Foster Program is off and running. We have been able to help several patients who had surgeries by walking and playing with their dogs.

Please remember if you are interested in volunteering for this program, please go to our website, FoundationAssistingSeniors.org and complete an application form.

The temporary foster program involved no more than 30 days.

If you have a pet (dog or cat) and are planning for surgery and rehabilitation, don't forget about the temporary pet foster program. By going on our website, you can download the applications for your pet and for you. This way, one of our volunteers will contact you and come meet you and your pet before you need the service.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at (725) 244-4200. Our office hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday.

Summer is here. Stay well and be safe and most of all keep your animals safe. Do not walk them on hot black surfaces and ensure they have lots of fresh water and shade. Your pets may feel the effects from the heat as much or more than you do.

Also, they may not feel up to playing as much as they do in cooler weather. ✱

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FLY YOUR FLAG ON THE FOURTH

BY THE SOLERA VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CLUB



The Fourth of July — also known as Independence Day — is the day that our country was born. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain. Two days later, delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, as drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

Excerpt from the Declaration:

“We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.”

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to family gatherings and barbecues.

This 4th of July, lets fill the streets of our Solera community with our precious Red White And Blue; that would be a beautiful site!

We remember Old Glory flying high at every house in our neighborhoods when we were children. We don't see that anymore. As members of this great Solera community, let's show our patriotism to our fellow Anthem, Henderson, and Las Vegas communities.

If you are in need of a flag or a flag and pole, please contact Ken Pavese at (702) 407-8111, or email SoleraVeterans@outlook.com. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Have a Happy and Safe Independence Day, from all of us in the Solera Veterans And First Responders Club. ✨

LIFESTYLE EVENT

HAPPY
4th of July

**SOLERA ANNUAL
FOURTH OF JULY BBQ**
THURSDAY, JULY 4 | 11AM - 1PM
STARDUST BALLROOM




\$15 for residents, \$17 for guests
Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room on Thursday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, dessert, soda & water will be served. This is a BYOB event.

Entertainment will be provided by
Reboot

LIFESTYLE EVENT

THE MOB MUSEUM



WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Bus will leave Solera at 9:30am & return around 2pm

\$45 per person
(includes admission, guided tour & transportation)

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Clubhouse Lady Luck Room, Tuesday, July 2 at 9:00am



Following the tour, we will go to the underground speakeasy for drinks & appetizers. This is optional and is a separate cost.

LIFESTYLE EVENT





We Want Your Timeshare
Timeshare Solutions Experts

TIMESHARE LUNCH & LEARN
TUESDAY, JULY 30 | 12-1PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

Learn more on how to avoid scams, understanding options for selling, & more.
PLEASE SIGN-UP AT THE CLUBHOUSE FRONT DESK IF YOU ARE INTEREST IN ATTENDING.

LIFESTYLE EVENT

**HAPPY
Flour**

W/ MARK O'TOOLE



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

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

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

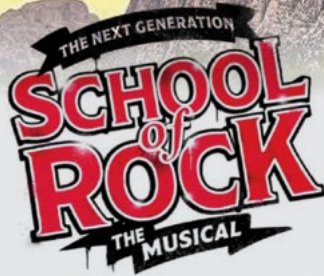
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7 | 7PM
SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH

Performed at The Boman Outdoor Pavilion

LIFESTYLE EVENT



**SUPER SUMMER
 THEATRE SHOWING OF**



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



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

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

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

LIFESTYLE EVENT



TrustMasters
 Living Trust, don't leave earth without one!



**TRUSTMASTERS
 LUNCH & LEARN**

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

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

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

LIFESTYLE EVENT

AM IN WNBA HISTORY TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK TITLES

**BACK-2-BACK
 CHAMPIONS**

LAS VEGAS ACES GAME

FRIDAY, AUG. 30 | 7PM

MANDALAY BAY - MICHELOB ULTRA ARENA



Post-game group picture on the court following the game!

\$45 per person includes admission & transportation

Bus will leave Solera at 5:30pm & return around 10pm

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

DISCLAIMER FOR ALL EVENT TICKET SALES: On the morning of ticket sales, you must wait in line beginning at 8 a.m. within the stanchions near the Clubhouse Front Desk until you receive a number at 8:30 a.m. for a purchase at 9 a.m.

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JULY 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 30 | 1 | 2 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm Tickets on sale for Mob Museum 9am Bulk Trash Day | 3 Executive Board 9:30am | 4 4th of July BBQ 11am Independence Day | 5 AARP Safe Driving Class 9am | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Covenants 10am | 9 Tickets on sale for Super Summer Theatre 9am | 10 Board of Directors 9:30am | 11 Communications 9:30am | 12 Dance & Karaoke 6pm | 13 Fitness Center Orientation 10am |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Lifestyle 11:15am Bulk Trash Day | 17 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am | 18 Community Standards 9:30am Bingo 6:30pm (Doors open: 5:30-6:30pm) | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 SNWA Presentation 2pm | 24 Finance 9:30am The Mob Museum Outing (Bus leaves at 9:30am) | 25 Tickets on sale for Happy Hour w/Mark O'Toole 9am | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Timeshare Lunch & Learn 12pm Bulk Trash Day | 31 | AUG 1 Communications 9:30am | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 ARC 9am Tickets on sale for Las Vegas Aces 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm | 7 Executive Board 9:30am Spring Mountain Ranch Outing 7pm (Bus leaves at 5:30pm) | 8 | 9 | 10 |

CHARTERED CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fine Arts Club

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

Colored Pencil | Tuesday | 1 p.m.
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 | hondid@msn.com

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

Poker Club

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

Romeo's Solera Mens Club

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

Solera Starz Cardio Class | Tuesday | 8:30 a.m.
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

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

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

Table Tennis Club

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

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

Water Volleyball Club

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

GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Double Deck Pinocle Group

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

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

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

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

HEALTH & FITNESS

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

Power Walkers | Daily | 7:30 a.m.
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GARDENING IN SOLERA

YOU, TOO, CAN GROW VEGETABLES IN OUR DESERT ENVIRONMENT

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN



In April, we used the eBlast to seek Solera's vegetable gardeners. Only one resident, Janet, stepped up to offer her experience and wisdom about growing a variety of vegetables in our desert environment.

Janet shared her vegetable preferences, planting routine and fertilizing practices.

"This year, I am growing cranberry bush beans in pots because I heard they had a high yield and beans (legumes) replenish the nitrogen in the soil," she said. "This is the first time that I am growing this type of bean."

"I am in the process of growing carrots in a big pot; there are several types including Scarlet Nantes and Little Finger.

"I have a strawberry patch in a raised bed; they are perennials and will produce year after year.

"I have also grown tomatoes and potatoes in grow bags. And I have a lime tree that did really well last year."

She continued: "I use seeds because if they sprout, you'll get more plants from a packet of seeds (\$2 to \$3 per packet) versus \$2 or \$3 or more per potted plant.

"I've also grown celery and green onions from the grocery store; I use most of the green portion of the onion but leave one or two inches of stem and roots, which I put in a glass of water on a bright countertop. After several days, new green growth will appear and, after several weeks, you will have more green onion tops, just change the water regularly. I have also grown alfalfa sprouts in jars on my countertop.

"I buy soil that is on sale and specifically made for containers. I will occasionally fertilize with a little Miracle Grow. I also fertilize my palm trees with palm fertilizer and my lime tree with citrus fertilizer. After I harvest plants and before the next planting, I might top the soil off with compost and fresh soil."

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There are two growing seasons here: Spring (after the last spring frost) and Fall (plant in summer for fall harvest). Spring's heat-loving vegetables include bell peppers, carrots, eggplants, greens, leeks, melons, potatoes, sweet corn, and squash. Fall's frost-tolerant vegetables include broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, spinach and Swiss chard.

Janet plants her vegetables according to the Planting Calendar for Las Vegas, NV on the www.almanac.com website: www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/zipcode/89044.

Desert gardens must endure extreme heat and winds, as well as pests and rodents. Here's how Janet faced those challenges to protect her vegetable garden:

"Wind is especially hard on homes with open space in the back. Carrots do well because the wind blows through their leaves. Jerusalem artichokes (aka sunchokes) also do really well; they like the wind and heat; the tuber (bulb) grows in the ground and the leaves bend with the wind. I do not use shade cloth; I just plant everything under my Chitalpa tree. All of my plants are on drip systems.

"Grasshoppers will eat every plant in the ground, and rats ate my vine-growing melons. I am an organic gardener, so I do not believe



Scan for the almanac



in poisoning rodents or insects. I tried to protect my melons from the rats by putting organza bags over the fruit and tied the drawstring in a bow; the next morning, all the organza bags were untied, at the bottom of the planter and all of the fruit had been eaten. To keep rodents at bay, I tried peppermint oil, garlic oil, oregano oil – none of them worked!

“As a last resort, I bought a fake rubber rattlesnake named Bob to guard the strawberry patch; I move him around every day and so far, it’s working!”

“Since I don’t use pesticides, I grow my baby greens, lettuce, miniature tomatoes, basil and oregano indoors hydroponically.”

Hydroponics is the technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil.

Many Solera residents are transplants from other countries or U.S. regions. Janet moved here from Chicago, where she never grew vegetables, but had a large flower garden that included day lilies, purple coneflowers, sedums, black-eyed Susans, hydrangeas, peonies, iris, and mums.

Janet said she doesn’t really have any favorite gardening location: “Chicago has the rain, but bugs. Henderson has the extreme heat and wind. They both offer challenges and rewards.”

Janet’s advice to beginner vegetable gardeners is to use Google and join a Facebook group.

“Just have fun and experiment,” she said.



There are several books on gardening in the Solera library (see photo). We’ve also found the following books on **Amazon**:

- *Desert Gardening: Fruits and Vegetables: The Complete Guide*, by George Brookbank,
- *Growing Vegetables in Drought, Desert and Dry Times*, by Maureen Gilmer,
- *Gardening in the Desert*, by Mary Irish



RAISED GARDEN BEDS ARE PERFECT FOR DESERT LIFESTYLE

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

Many gardeners love raised garden beds because they make it easier to care for plants and to maximize garden space. Raised beds are easier on the gardener's back, look nicer later in the season, improve drainage, reduce soil compaction and contamination, can be permanent or temporary, keep rodents and other pests from burrowing in, and help prevent weeds.

When built correctly and with proper materials, raised beds can last many years.

PROS:

- Raised beds start with healthy soil, whereas in-ground gardens require existing soil to be doctored up (which might not be ideal for vegetables).
- Gardening experts recommend a soil mix with equal parts of topsoil, organic materials (leaves, composted manure, ground bark) and coarse sand.
- More plants can fit horizontally in a raised bed's tighter space and plant roots have more vertical space to dig down.
- A major benefit of raised beds is that they warm up more quickly in the spring and drain better (when soil is properly prepared) to extend the growing season into the fall.
- A raised bed can be used in areas that would not normally support gardening. On steep slopes, raised beds can act as a form of terracing.
- Raised beds can also be built on parking lots and other compacted, difficult-to-garden urban soils.
- At the proper height, raised beds can improve access for wheelchairs, or for gardeners who have a hard time bending over.
- In addition, raised beds are protection from foot traffic (which causes soil to become compacted) and playing children (that can damage plants).



NO SOIL REQUIRED

HYDROPONICS IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL GARDENING

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

CONS:

- A lot of work and expense can go into creating a raised garden bed.
- The soil mix also can be a significant one-time cost.
- Raised beds need water more often because the soil is more exposed to air and dries quicker. More fertilizer might be needed for this same reason.
- Extra watering can suck nutrients out of the soil quicker than in-ground gardens.

When designing or building a raised garden bed, here are a few basic guidelines:

- 18-24 inches deep (plants only need 18 inches; the extra height is for the gardener's comfort)
- 10-12 feet long (wooden beds that are too long will start to bow)
- At least 18 inches wide (if one side is against a wall) or 4 feet wide (if accessible from all sides)
- Lining the raised garden bed creates a barrier between the garden's soil and the ground (which helps prevent weeds and keep out toxins and pests). Liner materials include wide-mesh hardware cloth, stainless steel mesh, landscape fabric, burlap sack or newspaper/ cardboard.
- Raised beds can be made of wood, metal, corten or corrugated steel and have stationary legs or wheels (when using wood, choose rot-resistant wood)
- Aesthetically, a raised garden is an extension of the home and should look like it's always been there. ✨

Hydroponics is the technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil. It also can include the use of an aggregate substrate (a blended mix of free-draining organic material with clean, screened soil) or growing media such as vermiculite, clay pellets, perlite, sand, and coco coir (coconut fibers made from its outer husk).

Since the 1940s, hydroponic production systems have been used by small farmers, commercial greenhouses, and hobbyists.

On the upside, hydroponic systems can be set up indoors in small spaces, use dramatically less water, and grow plants faster than conventionally grown plants in soil.

Plant roots have constant access to oxygen and as much water as they need (no over- or under-watering). Plants also have less root and nutrient competition than those grown in soil, and significantly fewer pests.

But the best part: vegetables, herbs and fruit can be grown from seeds year-round.

On the downside, hydroponic systems have high installation costs, and the water-based solution has to be tested frequently. More importantly, small errors can affect the whole crop while equipment or power failures can kill the plants within a few hours.

Yields are about the same for hydroponic-grown and soil-grown crops.

There are two main types of hydroponic systems:

- Deep water systems — inexpensive (starting around \$60); ideal for growing small amounts of plants.
- Ebb and flow systems — expensive (starting around \$400); produce a higher yield; plants grow in net pots that are intermittently flooded with oxygenated, nutrient-rich water which drains away, exposing plant roots to air.

Small hydroponic units can be placed on the kitchen counter and are equipped with LED grow lights. Vertical hydroponic units can be placed on the floor near a window and come with accessories like irrigation tubing, water pumps, hoses, and timers.

Hydroponic garden kits can be a great springboard for beginning gardeners.



HYDROPONICS HISTORY

Since ancient times, agricultural scientists have been discovering techniques of growing vegetation in water.

The Babylonians had hanging water culture gardens (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world). Egyptian hieroglyphs tell of the people growing plants in water culture.

In the 1200s, explorer Marco Polo reported seeing floating gardens in China.

In the 1400s, the Aztecs of Mexico built rafts using the hollow branches of rushes and reeds and called them *chinampas*. These ingenious small, stationary, artificial islands were built on the freshwater Lake Tenochtitlan, and are still used today. *Chinampas* were made of layers of vegetation, dirt and mud, and measured 20-35 feet wide by 325-650 feet long. The lake provided the *chinampas* with moisture, laden with decomposing organic wastes that irrigate and fertilize the island's soil.

In 1699, English naturalist John Woodward published his water-culture experiments with spearmint. He found that plants in less pure water sources grew better than plants in distilled water; plants derived minerals from soil mixed into water solutions.

In 1929, William F. Gericke, while working at the University of California, Berkeley, popularized the idea of growing plants in a nutrient-rich water solution rather than soil. He successfully grew tomato vines in his backyard that were 25 feet high using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil. In 1937, Gericke introduced the term *hydroponics*, derived from Greek words for water and cultivate (or working). ✨



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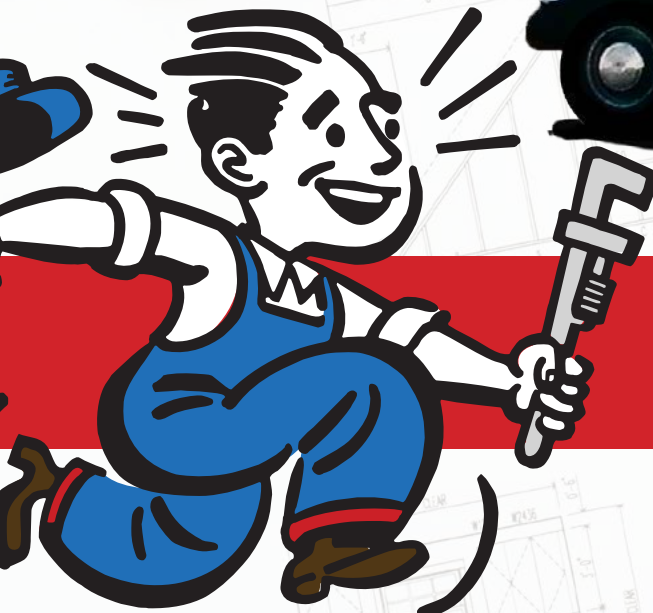
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MY RHUBARB WITH RHUBARB

BY LARRY EDSALL

I have a rhubarb with rhubarb.

The first rhubarb in the previous sentence is a reference to the baseball definition of that word. The second reference is to the actual plant, the fruit of which I've never knowingly eaten, though I suspect that, at some point, I may have ingested what I thought was a piece of strawberry pie that actually had some rhubarb hidden within its ingredients.

Such pie is a popular dish in some locales. Click over to bettycrocker.com and you can find a "kitchen-tested" recipe, and thekitchen.com praises a strawberry-rhubarb pie's "tart and jammy filling, making for a not-too-sweet dessert that tingles every taste bud."

Every taste bud, perhaps, except mine.

As I may have mentioned, I have a rhubarb with rhubarb, which I'll explain soon. But to understand my perspective, you need to understand that the word *rhubarb* applies not only to the plant that produces what appear to be large, red-colored stalks that resemble celery, but to an argument taking place during a baseball game.

Back in the early days of radio, rather than go to the expense of broadcasting a game from its location, stations had someone at the game relay play-by-play details back to the studio, from where they would be broadcast to the radio audience. Broadcast, that is, with embellishments, sound effects such as bat hitting a ball and people in the studio softly chanting "rhubarb, rhubarb" which, we're told, when heard over the radio speaker, simulated the background crowd noise of those actually attending the game.

In 1938, a sportswriter named Garry Schumacher was covering a game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds and said that an argument on the field looked like an "untidy mess, a disheveled tangle of loose ends like the fibers of stewed rhubarb."

By this time, baseball broadcasters were actually at the games and one of them, the influential Red Barber, was sitting nearby, reportedly heard Schumacher's comment, and started referring to arguments between players or their managers and the umpires (or between players and managers from the opposing team) as rhubarbs.



By 1943, *Baseball Magazine* was reporting that rhubarb had become a common term for an argument between players and umpires. Use of the term spread from baseball to other fields of conflict. That same year, *Time* magazine reported that US fighter pilots referred to strafing runs as being "on a rhubarb."

Which brings us to my rhubarb with rhubarb. When I was in grade and high school, we lived in a rural area where my mother maintained a huge garden. Each year she grew onions and tomatoes and peas and beans and melons and corn and more, including several large rhubarb plants.

Those rhubarb plants bordered the third-base line of our backyard baseball diamond. You now need to know that rhubarb plants can tend to be around two feet tall and about three feet across and have gigantic green leaves at the end of their reddish stalks.

Not only are those leaves poisonous (more on that in a moment), but they comprise a dense canopy eager to hide any baseball that might

be hit in their direction. Mother did not take kindly to her sons using their baseball bats to beat on her rhubarb plants in search of our now-hidden baseballs. She scolded us, but fortunately did not take her cue from a group of mothers in New York City.

Because of their high content of something called oxalic acid and anthrone glycosides, the leaves of the rhubarb plant are considered toxic and inedible, unless, of course, the thought of "acute kidney failure" appeals to you. By the way, there was a rumor in England during World War II that with food scarce, rhubarb leaves could be consumed, and several Brits were thus poisoned.

Nonetheless, there was a time when mothers in New York City fed their children rhubarb sandwiches and used rhubarb — actually force-feeding doses to their children — as a purgative.

Oh, if only Mom's rhubarb plants would have thrown up (or thrown back) our disappeared baseballs. ✨

SOLERA IN BLOOM

Back in April, the Communications committee used the eBlast to ask Solera residents to share photos of the plants blooming in their yards. Nearly two dozen responded, including one who has found a way to have a colorful display year around.

We thank the following for submitting photos: Betty Ann Acito, John and Rebecca Brooks, Larry Edsall, Robbie Hughes, Chesley Johnson, Madison Lee, Jo Leonardo, Marilyn Ming, Diane and John Murphy, Carole Neifert, Deborah Panetto, Trizzy Roy, Ken Sawyer, Leslie Simone, Carol Stratford, Nadyne Sweetko, the Weckessers, and Jack Yaco. ✨







THE AMERICAN DREAM COMES TRUE

BY ALVARO MURCIA

I was born in a small emerald-mining town named Muzo in the country of Colombia. Access to the emerald mine was by horseback, and cargo transported to and from the mine was usually by mule. Nowadays, the town is a prosperous place as the emerald production thrives and cattle breeding abounds.

I remember certain passages of my infancy, the story that still is vivid in my mind is a trip to a nearby farm owned by my godmother, Analugarda Gomez. On the way to the farm, we walked through a small, sloped forest area that horses walked through and made humps on the wet ground with their hoofs. I was perhaps 3 years old, and I remember my mother and my aunt holding me by my arms and jumping from one hump to the next in a funny way.

At the bottom of the hill, there was an orange-colored creek called La Colorada (the colorful one) running across the trail. The water and sediment color of the creek was produced by a combination of several minerals. The farm was just ahead, about a quarter of a mile. My Godmother awaited us with a nice meal, and we even had very fresh milk from her cow, Lorenza, which my mother milked.

However, my childhood had a very sad beginning as I lost my mother when I was 5 years old. She was a beautiful woman and was only 34 years old. She did not deserve to leave us that young. She died in a hospital in Bogota after an appendectomy surgery.

One day after her death, I got the news from my older brother, Hildebrando, one of my four siblings. That triggered an early uncertain future for me without parental guidance, love and care as my father had left my mother during my early childhood. All my brothers and sisters were gone to different cities to live with relatives. Fortunately, they all did very well.

I grew up with my maternal grandmother, who took me under her wing, she was very resourceful and smart and took good care of me. She was very religious, and my family grew up in a Catholic environment, including schooling, I served in the church as an altar boy at the age of around 10.



Over time, the town entered a very violent political climate caused by the assassination of a very popular politician in the capital Bogota. The two political parties (Liberal and Conservative) became arch

enemies. As a result people started moving out of town for their own safety. I had an uncle who had been involved in politics and he had to flee. The violence has continued to this day, as several guerrilla groups have organized over the years. Although some peace treaties have been signed between them, the problem persists.

We moved to Bogota, where I spent my early teenage years. At the age of 17 I joined the Colombian Navy to serve my mandatory one and a half years. I joined the non-commission officer's school, which included two years of Navy training in addition to standard education subjects. In addition, I had two years of technical training in communications. That education, and the military principles and discipline I learned there, shaped my outlook of life and my goals for the future.

In the year 1950, my oldest sister, Margarita, met Kenneth Bennett, an American gentleman born in Columbus, Ohio, who was visiting the Monserrate Sanctuary in Bogota. They develop a romantic relationship; and upon Kenneth's graduation from the Bogota National University, they married and settled in Alexandria, Virginia. He became an American representative at the Organization of American States.

I stayed in touch with my sister and after I left the Navy, she invited me to come to the United States. I proceeded to gather all the documentation required by the USA



Embassy. With my sister's and her American husband's sponsorship, I arrived in the USA on July 13, 1963, with a Green Card Visa. That decision, along with marrying my beautiful wife, Maria, are, without a doubt, the most important decisions I have ever made in my life.

Upon my arrival to the USA, I went through the usual culture shock, mainly the language barrier, so studying English became my first priority. I also had to leave the love of my life behind and that was painful; she traveled to the USA one year later. But looking back, everything that we have accomplished together after our marriage was worth the wait.

My sister and brother-in-law were my biggest supporters, I enrolled in an Americanization program at a local high school in Alexandria where I had a wonderful lady professor with great teaching skills. There, I took the first steps of improving my English. Meanwhile, Kenneth Bennett became an influential father figure during my stay at their home.

In my early months as a US resident, I did a few meager jobs until I went to work in a Chevrolet dealership as a cashier-time keeper and typist. The pay was mediocre at best, but I learned a lot about the automotive business. What I liked most was the opportunity to work with clients as a cashier and that gave me more confidence communicating with the public in the English language.

I left that dealership in 1966 and went to work as a parts department trainee at a Volkswagen dealership owned by a German gentleman. My goal there was to learn as much as I could in the administrative part of

the business. After about three years I was promoted to assistant manager. I took all the administration training from the factory I could and was able to establish a good rapport with the factory people, that helped me for future promotion opportunities.

In 1972, after about six years of experience, I was named Parts Director for one of the multi-franchise company's operations. There, I dealt with high-end franchises — Mercedes Benz, Porsche, and Audi. I managed those franchises for about 32 years, and during that time I had the opportunity to attend dozens of seminars and management training courses that prepared me to keep up with the ever-changing automotive industry. The factories also rewarded me with several vacation trips as well as recognition awards.

I left that company, and I was hired as a Parts Director for an Acura and Volkswagen dealership owned by a great and brilliant woman in Virginia. I worked for that company for 12 years until I retired at age 73, at which time, after some research and planning, we moved to Henderson, choosing Solera as our residential community. We have lived here for over 10 years, and we have made some wonderful friends over time.

Maria and I have been physically active since we arrived. I was introduced to pickleball by a friend who no longer plays due to health issues. From the moment I started playing, I became addicted to the game, adapting to it quickly since as I played tennis in my younger days. I have played pickleball for about eight years, and now I just can't play enough.



In retrospect, God blessed me by providing me with the most wonderful, softhearted, humble, loving, dedicated mother and wife any man could ever dream of having. Maria and I were married in Los Angeles on July 16, 1966. We struggled in our early years as we had three beautiful boys — Mauricio, Patrick, and Adrian — within our first three years of marriage. Imagine how difficult that could be for a mother, raising and caring for three boys born that close together! But my Maria did it with a lot of love and dedication. The fact that our economic resources were not the best, she managed to keep the children happy and healthy. Later on, when my employment status improved, our family life improved as well.

Two years into my first promotion, we bought our first home in Burke, Virginia. After 11 years (surprise!), Pablo was born to the whole family's delight; he became everybody's favorite baby. These days, he delights us with his wonderful singing voice. He is working on his master's degree in music at Humboldt University in Eureka, California.

We had the good fortune to live in a Fairfax County, Virginia, a residential area with excellent schools so all our children attended good primary, secondary schools, and colleges, we take pride on that all our children received a college degree.

In conclusion, what is considered the true and real American Dream? I can attest to that definition by sharing with all of you who read this mini-biography how anyone with a strong desire to succeed, ambition, hard work ethics, respect of others, being patriotic, and using your own experiences in life as an example that there is indeed a true, and real American Dream.

My wife and I became very proud American Citizens in 1984. May God bless the United States of America. ✨



SIGHTS TO BEHOLD: HOOVER DAM

HISTORIC STRUCTURE PROVIDES
WATER AND ELECTRICITY

BY BETTY BOYD



The Hoover Dam was originally named Boulder Dam, but in 1947 renamed after President Herbert Hoover. While the name changed, the historic facility remains a monumental structure that holds back the Colorado River to form Lake Mead, thus providing water to the Las Vegas Valley and electricity to parts of Nevada and Arizona, though nearly 60 percent of its electrical output goes to California.

Situated on the Arizona-Nevada border approximately 30 miles from Las Vegas, the dam's construction spanned from 1931 to 1935. A significant event in American history, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the dam on September 30, 1935, marking a milestone in engineering and infrastructure development.

In 1939, the Bureau of Reclamation, a part of the Department of Interior, reported that Lake Mead extended

110 miles and the water storage reached a staggering 25 million acre-feet, equivalent to over 8 trillion gallons.

The Hoover Power plant, a testament to the dam's hydroelectric capabilities, boasts an installed capacity of 704,800 kilowatts, making it the largest hydroelectric facility in the world.

During the dam's construction, the federal government established Boulder City as a residential community. From 1931 to 1935, Boulder City housed over 4,000 workers in 1,500 buildings. After the dam's completion, most of the workers left. Boulder City remained a federally administered headquarters with several agencies involved with the dam's operation. It wasn't until 1958 that the federal government ceded Boulder City to its residents.

In 2010, Hoover Dam celebrated its 75th anniversary. It is open to visitors

daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Before purchasing the tickets, you must go through a security screening similar to those done at airports. The guided dam tour (tickets are \$30) can only be purchased onsite and the entire group must be present. There is a guided power plant tour (tickets are \$15), which is offered during the least busy times of the day (9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.).

The visitor's center was closed when I visited, but there is a gift shop with many interesting items. I found the dam quite interesting, even though I didn't take any tours. There are plenty of places to take photos, and you can drive across the dam, but watch out for pedestrians!

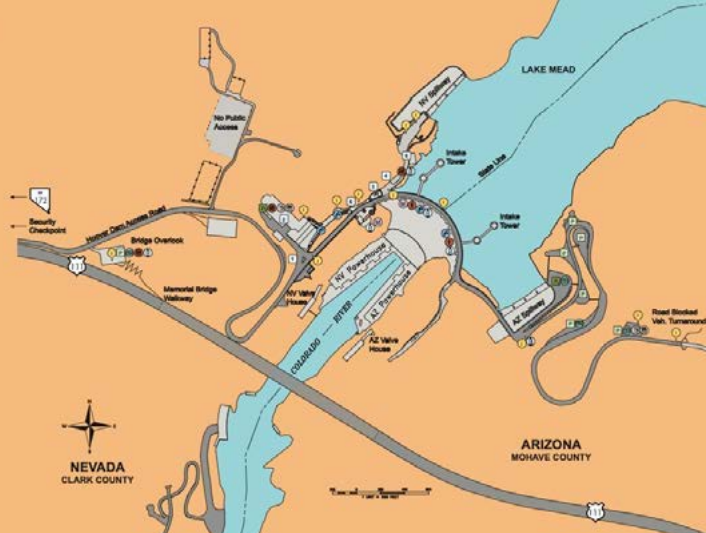
The Hoover Dam is a great way to spend your day exploring some of the history of the Las Vegas Valley. So, go and learn what a fantastic marvel it is. ✨



Hoover Dam

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| LEGEND | KEY |
| 1 Cableway Tower | P Parking |
| 2 Parking Garage | Pd Paid Parking |
| 3 Monument Plaza/ Winged Figures | RV RY Parking |
| 4 Original Exhibit Building | R Restroom |
| 5 Spillway House (open for special events only) | DF Drinking Fountain |
| 6 Visitor Center/ Tour Entrance | W Water Vending Machine |
| | F Food/Coffee |
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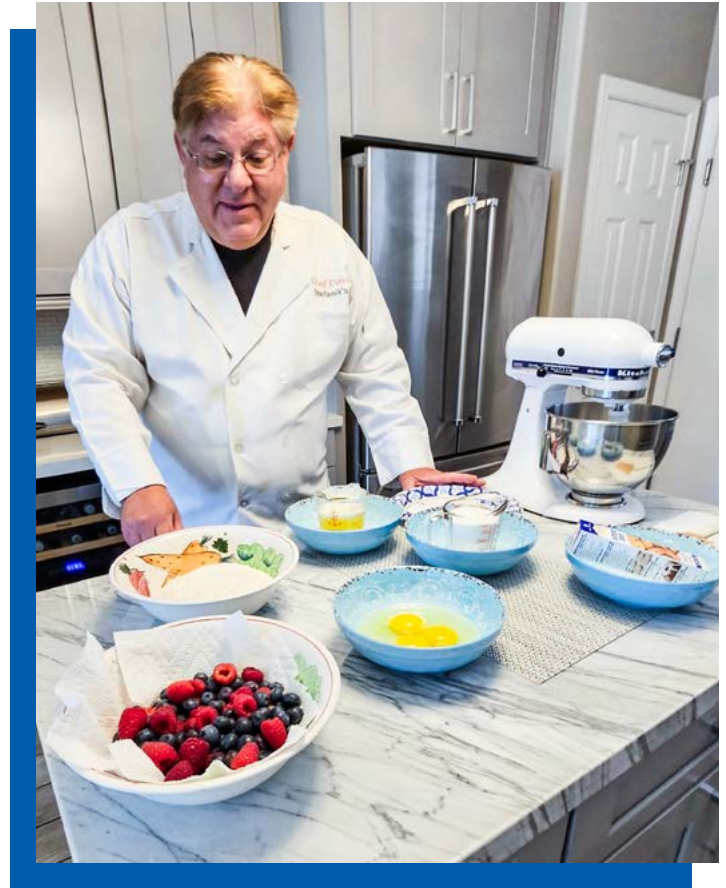
- **Dam Tour Ticket \$30.00** (Must be 8 years of age or older. This tour is not handicap accessible.) - Includes 10-minute movie on the history of Hoover Dam, a 30-minute guided tour to a platform overlooking a 30' diameter penstock pipe, the Nevada Wing of the Powerplant, and a stop in an original inspection tunnel inside the dam. Also includes the Visitor Center exhibits and observation deck along with the 1940s era Original Exhibit Building topographical map presentation.
- **Powerplant Tour Ticket \$15.00** - Includes 10-minute movie on history of Hoover Dam, 30-minute guided tour to a viewing platform overlooking a 30' diameter penstock pipe and the Nevada wing of the Powerplant, admission to Visitor Center exhibits and observation deck, and the 1940s era Original Exhibit Building topographical map presentation.
- **Visitor Center Ticket \$10.00** - Includes admission to Visitor Center exhibits and observation deck, and the 1940s era Original Exhibit Building topographical map presentation.
- Firearms are prohibited on Hoover Dam property.
- Weapons or knives of any size are not allowed on Guided Tours, Visitor Center, Original Exhibit Building or any buildings.
- No food or drinks except bottled water are permitted in any buildings.
- Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. Comfort animals and pets are not allowed on top of the dam or in any buildings.
- Wheelchairs available for rent at Parking Garage - \$5.00.



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DAVID STEFANIK SHARES
FAMILY'S BERRIES VIENA

BY MARCIA ADAMS



Sharing an old family recipe that was originally published in the newspaper, our chef for this month is David Stefanik. David retrieved this recipe from his 87-year-old mom, who resides in New Jersey. His memory of this wonderful cake is that it was served at family gatherings every Memorial Day and every 4th of July.

What makes it extra special for these celebrations is that the berries that are used are in season and, therefore, the cake is more reasonable to make.

Chef David resides with his wife, Sharon, in Solera and is looking forward to his retirement this year. David enjoys cooking; he started his working life as a short-order cook, but soon will retire from a career as a real estate appraiser who assisted executives in relocation in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The Stefaniks moved from New Jersey to Solera in 2019. David believes Nevada, and Henderson in particular, is the “biggest bang for the buck” when it comes to real estate.

When I arrived, David had all the ingredients measured and waiting to be combined. He prefers doing this when he bakes as it makes it so much easier when putting the cake together. And if you preplan, you know you have all the ingredients before you start.

He also had one cake already prepared so I had the opportunity to taste it – delicious!



RECIPE Solera Star Recipe Exchange

FROM Your Name Here

COOKING TIME as long as it takes

SERVES All of Solera

PREHEAT/OVEN TO Delicious

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

Now for the recipe:

INGREDIENTS

7-ounce package of almond paste

1 cup sugar

3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted

3 large eggs at room temperature

1 3/4 cup flour

1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 cups mixed blueberries and raspberries

3 tablespoons sliced almonds (David recommends toasting them lightly to bring out their flavor)

1 tablespoon confectioner's sugar

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour springform pan.

Add almond paste, sugar, and butter to a mixing bowl. Beat on medium speed until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating well between each addition. Beat on high for 3 minutes (may need longer if using a hand mixer).

Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Slowly add to mixing bowl and beat until just combined. Do not over beat.

Pour half of the batter into the prepared springform pan and spread evenly to the edges of the pan.

Evenly sprinkle berries on the batter in the pan and top with the remaining batter. It is okay if berries are not completely covered. Sprinkle with sliced almonds.

Bake for 55 minutes to 1 hour. Test with a toothpick – the cake is done when the toothpick comes out clean.

Cool cake in springform pan for 15 minutes. Gently run a knife around the edge of the pan and remove the springform.

Lightly dust with the confectioner's sugar and let cool on a rack for 30 minutes. Serve immediately and/or refrigerate for later consumption.

This cake will impress family and friends and is a great dessert for any occasion. Enjoy! ✨



YOUR WATER QUALITY: OUR TOP PRIORITY

BY THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY



No matter where you live in Southern Nevada, you can count on the safety, reliability, and quality of the drinking water you draw from your tap for you and your family. In fact, our drinking water meets or surpasses all state and federal standards — and is tested more thoroughly and frequently than most bottled water.

Local water providers including the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the Big Bend Water District, and the cities of Boulder City, Henderson and North Las Vegas have recently published their annual water quality reports. These reports provide you with detailed information about what's in your drinking water and reflect the results of rigorous laboratory testing and advanced treatment conducted by the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

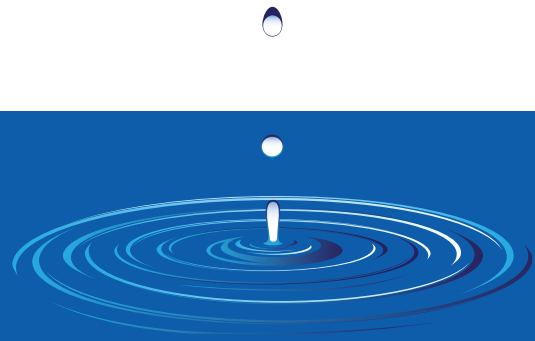
In fact, the SNWA tests your water 300,000 times a year, monitoring for more regulated and unregulated contaminants than is required by law. The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act sets water-quality standards for all water purveyors; in Nevada, these standards are enforced by the State of Nevada's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. Southern Nevada's drinking water is carefully treated and regularly tested to ensure it meets these stringent requirements.

Still, some folks might shy away from tap water due to its hard, mineral-rich taste, while others mistakenly confuse taste with safety. Rest assured, your glass of tap water is both refreshing and safe to enjoy, and its naturally occurring minerals and electrolytes help keep you hydrated and healthy.

However, if the taste of tap water doesn't appeal to you, there are some easy tips you can use to make your water lip-smackin' good:

- **CHILL:** Refrigerate a pitcher of tap water to boost flavor and zap chlorine perceptions.
- **FLAVOR:** Add a citrus slice for zest.
- **FILTER:** Try an activated carbon filter, like those in carafe systems, to reduce chlorine taste.
- **MAINTAIN:** If you have an in-home filtration system, follow its recommended maintenance schedule, including filter replacement.

For objective information on water quality, and to obtain a copy of your water provider's 2023 water quality report, visit snwa.com.



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS KEEP DRINKING WATER FLOWING

Whether you live in the northwest Las Vegas Valley or Henderson, the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority are planning and building infrastructure facilities to continue providing safe, reliable service to meet the community's water needs for decades to come.

Construction on several new reservoir and pumping station projects is underway in the northwest section of the valley, while plans are in development for the Horizon Lateral Program which will boost system reliability for Henderson residents by adding a dual feed for the area and protecting water delivery for nearly a million customers.

The Horizon Lateral will help maintain reliable water deliveries if major repairs are needed on the existing South Valley Lateral — which delivers roughly 40 percent of Southern Nevada's drinking water — or if a system outage occurs. Dual pipelines will ensure our water system remains one of the most dependable in the nation.

The program's primary component is approximately 30 miles of large pipe up to 10 feet in diameter. Additional components include improvements to existing infrastructure and a phased approach to construction of new transmission facilities.

The SNWA is exploring two potential pipeline routes — a preferred "south alignment" through mostly undeveloped areas, including tunneling under a portion of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and a "north alignment" through developed portions of Henderson.

No matter where you live in Southern Nevada, these and many other investments in capital improvements will help ensure safe and dependable drinking water is constantly flowing whenever you turn on the tap. ✨

CUBES OF COLOR

SEVEN MAGIC MOUNTAINS BRIGHTEN
DESERT LANDSCAPE

BY LARRY EDSALL

They look like a child's building blocks, each a bright cube of color that appears to glow in neon hues. Red. Orange. Yellow. Pink. Blue. Green. Turquoise. White. Black. Gray.

But these are not children's toys. Each block measures not in inches, but in feet. Each block weighs not in ounces, but in tons. Each block is made not of wood or plastic but was carved from massive boulders found on or near the site, and then each block was bored through so a rod could be inserted and the blocks could be stacked one on another with no fear that an errant cat or a rolling ball might topple them over.

There are 33 such blocks. Each is some 6 or 7 feet across and frequently just as tall. Each weigh as much as 55,000 pounds. Together, they are assembled into seven stacks, each stack climbing 30 to 35 feet from the Nevada desert playa toward the sky above.

These big building blocks are too large for any child's playground. Instead, they comprise a roadside art installation, the Seven Magic Mountains, created by Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone, produced by the Nevada Museum of Art, and managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

They are located along the same Las Vegas Boulevard roadway as the famous Strip, albeit 21 miles to the south, where instead of being set among neon-lit casinos and copies of the skyline of Paris, Venice or New York, these magic, man-made pillars punctuate a silent, barren, desert dry lake landscape framed during daylight by real mountains, and cloaked in darkness at night, miles away from the nearest electrical outlet.

The Strip exists to extract money from visitors, but the magic of these seven colorful stacks is that they can be viewed without admission fee.

Those rushing from California to Las Vegas at 75 miles per hour on Interstate 15 only must turn their heads to the right for a quick glance. However, the best vantage involves walking free and freely among the stacks, which have become an especially appealing setting for family photos and for those absorbed in the selfie phenomenon. ✨



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Hello Solera Homeowners!

Solera continues to be very popular with both local and relocating buyers. As of the first week of June, there were 16 homes for sale (7 of which already had accepted offers). There is no doubt that owning a home in Solera at Anthem is a smart decision (and if you are interested in selling your current property, the conditions are definitely right today.) Call me for more information - I'm here to help!

The Fourth of July is known for it's red, white, and blue adornment and drinks, fireworks, and barbecues. Did you know... on the Fourth of July, an estimated 150 Million hot dogs get grilled.... but that is small potatoes compared to the 375 Million burgers! Other popular dishes include fried chicken, ribs, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, corn on the cob, and deviled eggs! YUM!

I love celebrating the Independence Day of our great nation, and I also take time to reflect in awe of the courageous efforts and strong determination of our forefathers. And to all of our currently active and retired American military personnel, THANK YOU for being instrumental in ensuring our country continues to enjoy the freedoms our forefathers fought so hard to secure for us.



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HOMES LISTED FOR SALE*

| Address | List Price | Approx Liv Area | Model | Address | List Price | Approx Liv Area | Model |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| 2568 Centaurus St | \$389,000 | 1,142 | Lewis | 2474 Hamonah Dr | \$475,000 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2563 Binary Stars St | \$419,000 | 1,142 | Lewis | 2536 Penumbra Dr | \$498,888 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2550 Divine Sky Dr | \$434,900 | 1,248 | Clark | 2477 Serene Moon Dr | \$529,000 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2542 Darda St | \$400,000 | 1,248 | Clark | 2618 Solera Moon Dr | \$480,000 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2336 Hydrus Ave | \$429,000 | 1,425 | Fremont | 2621 Flare Star Dr | \$550,000 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2607 Solera Moon Dr | \$550,000 | 1,425 | Fremont | 2413 Hamonah Dr | \$485,000 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2515 Starlight Valley St | \$418,800 | 1,425 | Fremont | 2542 Nashira St | \$485,000 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2574 Corvus St | \$419,000 | 1,425 | Fremont | 2310 Jada Dr | \$525,000 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2400 Sky Watcher St | \$439,000 | 1,584 | Monroe | | | | |

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HOMES LISTED FOR RENT*

| Address | List Price | Approx Liv Area | Model | Address | List Price | Approx Liv Area | Model |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| 2350 Peaceful Sky Dr | \$1,600 | 1,142 | Lewis | 2266 Jada Dr | \$2,050 | 1,596 | Whitney |
| 2439 Andromeda Ave | \$1,950 | 1,248 | Clark | 2298 Jada Dr | \$2,000 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2407 Jada Dr | \$1,995 | 1,248 | Clark | 2540 Penumbra Dr | \$2,200 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2504 Eclipsing Stars Dr | \$1,900 | 1,596 | Whitney | 2473 Serene Moon Dr | \$2,300 | 1,768 | Franklin |
| 2575 Anani Rd | \$2,475 | 1,596 | Whitney | | | | |

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CALL LAURA TODAY!

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