

The Ventana Views

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome & Happy Holidays!

Meeting dates for January and February:
Study Sessions: Jan 10 & 31 at 3: 30 pm.
Board Meetings: January 17 at 1:30 pm,
YC; February 10 at 9:30 am, YC.

If you have not looked at the Rec. Ctr. recently, please do so to see how nice the buildings look with their new coats of paint. There is still some work to be done, but overall, the appearance of the area is improved. Flowers in the two pots outside the Rec. Ctr. also add to the nice appearance.

Holiday decorations are up inside the Rec. Ctr., and at the YC, and things look very festive. A big thank you, for those who did the work.

Verizon has finally started work on their building and monopalm tower. To date, we have received \$1533 for one-half of November and all of December. The money is being deposited into our Reserve account. Completion of work is expected in January 2007. Brad, from Scapes, has done a good job putting everything back together that was broken, once Verizon began work.

The storage facility that is being built on the corner of Beardsley and 107th is underway. The target completion date is July 2007.

For both of these areas, VL has architectural control. Members of this committee are looking at the areas as work progresses.

Fence painting around Lakes 3,4,5,6 and 8 will not be done until there is a need to paint. In looking over the fences, there are small 6-inch or less sections at the bottom of several fences that need painting. This need is not enough to ask all lakefront homeowners to pay for half the cost of painting, when 98 percent of the fences are all right.

Homeowner fences along Lake 7 are rusting out in many areas. However, before investing in costly welding repairs, a change needs to be made in the irrigation system. I have looked over the irrigation system again with Brad, from Scapes, and a plan on how it can be redone will be discussed with the Landscape Committee. If the Committee favors the plan, it will then be presented to the Board.

For those who walk around Lake 8, I hope you like the improvements made along a section of the lake. River rock was added where the dirt was washing into the lake. Granite is being added in areas around Lakes 8 & 9.

Approval has been obtained from the County Agriculture Department to remove the diseased Saguaro cacti in the median strip along Beardsley. Work should begin in a week or so to remove up to five Saguaros.

The December newsletter was again delivered by hand to all 1701 homes, by a group of volunteers. You will note

that there is an Activity Calendar that is good for several months. If you have concern that there is an error, please contact Barb Jennings with your comments. In addition, we cut the size of the newsletter. It is very costly to run 4-6 double-sided pages, so we have asked Barb to keep the newsletter to 2 double-sided pages (3 this month due to resumes).

Boat owners: The newsletter mentioned boat registration beginning in January. Boat inspection is required before you can purchase a 2007 boat sticker.

A new heater for the YC pool was installed, and according to some, all is great because the temperature now stays where it is set.

A rowing machine, and possibly a new treadmill for the Exercise Room at the Rec. Ctr., will be on next year's agenda. If you would like to volunteer on any committee, or help each month folding and stapling the newsletter, call the

Office or the committee chairs listed below. If all you can give is an hour a month, every little bit helps. If the reason you don't volunteer is because you don't like the Board or its members, this is a poor excuse, because lack of volunteers will eventually lead to more paid staff to do the work.

One final request: Please be sure to wear or have your VL ID badge with you. If you would like a second one to keep in your car, or a wallet-sized one to carry, please stop in the Office and get one. We now make picture ID badges.

The badge is good in case of an emergency. It also shows others you belong here, and that you are not a terrorist trying to cause harm, or someone stealing fish, or just casing the area to see where things can be stolen. The badge also allows you to learn new names/people.

Have a stable and healthy new year.

Lois Owen, President

LANDSCAPE REPORT

The placing of river rock around several areas of the lakes has been completed. Granite work will begin the week of Dec. 11th. Work on Lake 9, where the steep slope exists on the east side of the lake behind the former model homes, will begin soon. A retention wall will be constructed to prevent erosion of the lake. The wall will be 2 blocks high.

The fertilization of the winter grass has been completed. The Landscaper is working with El Paso Gas Company to finalize landscape replacements along 107th Ave. where there was damage during construction. This should be completed in the near future.

Don Holtzee, Landscape Chairman

LAKES

The Lakes Committee will start renewing 2007 boat stickers on January 2, 2007. Boats out of the water, as well as those on private property (Lake 8), must have an appointment for renewal. This will be completed by February 15, 2007.

***Please note:

Keep your boats free of debris and water, as we are having a problem with mosquitoes.

Bill, Barton, Lakes Chairman

ARCHITECTURAL

All changes to your property, including painting your house (even though it may be the same color as previously painted), require prior written approval. Verbal approvals, from anyone, are just that, verbal, and cannot be put in your "lot file" or be acted on.

Requests received at the office by 4 pm, Wednesdays, will be on the agenda for the following Monday meeting at 10:30 am. Our meetings are always open, whether or not you have a pending request.

Ken Hunstad, Architectural Chairman

MAINTENANCE

The following are tasks that have been completed during this past month. Two new breakers were bought and installed in the new breaker box in the Exercise Room. The breakers will be turned on when the new treadmill comes in. Outlets were labeled to indicate which circuit breaker controls which particular outlet.

All thermostats in all buildings have been adjusted.

The next Maintenance meeting will be held January 25th at 2 pm in the Management Office.

Howard Penn,
Maintenance Chairman

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

Meet the Candidate meetings have been scheduled to be held at the Yacht Club on Jan. 13 (Sat) at 9:30 am, Jan. 19 (Fri) at 6:30 pm, and Jan. 24 (Wed) at 6:30 pm. On January 13, a drawing will be held to determine the order that the names of candidates will appear on the ballot. Anyone wanting to seek a

position on the Board after that time will be a write-in candidate. Please call Pat Bracken at 972-2722 or Rose Ann Fiebig at 376-9037 if you are planning to be a candidate for a Board member position.

The election will be held on March 6, 2007. Ballots and further information will be mailed in late January.

RESUMES FROM CANDIDATES

Chuck Schumm

My name is Chuck Schumm, and I'm nominating myself for election to the Board, because I want to contribute positively to our community.

As a retired senior engineer, I have extensive knowledge of electrical, mechanical, and computer systems. During my career, I held leadership positions as team leader, project manager, and program manager for many major projects.

Having also been part of POA management for 13 years, I have held the office of President in three other POAs, as well as every other Board and committee position. I was appointed to the VLPOA Board in 2004 and elected Treasurer. Currently, I chair Block

Watch, and I'm the webmaster for our community's website. My POA experience provides me with an understanding of POA finances, and gives me a good background in the management and oversight of associations such as ours.

My approach will be to listen, to promote leadership and stability, and to reduce the number of changes regarding policies. I do not support the negative publicity we read in the newspaper and see on television. Ventana Lakes should be a community we can all be proud of, and I will work hard to achieve that goal. Thank you.

Chuck Schumm

Sue Alandar

Sue Alandar, resident of Ventana Lakes since 1998, Arizona native. I'm running because I have unique career experience with boards. I know how to (1) communicate with residents and ensure community representation on issues affecting property values and quality of life; (2) obtain professional management and set parameters for operation while

ensuring non-interference by any individual board member; (3) establish process for appeal of management and board decisions, including clear rules for the board's response to residents. My experience: publicly commended neutral liaison between the public, professional State agency staff, and governing boards for several State

agencies. This was to coordinate change to administrative rules, ensuring supervised assisting of paralegal staff, and directed internal processes for agency operations and security, including risk management and internal audit functions. I've also been a State

investigator.

I've not served on an "HOA", but with boards meeting a much higher legal standard. I can help our Board and our community.

Sue Alandar

Chet Homan

Hi. My name is Chet Homan, and I've been a resident of Ventana Lakes for about three years. I'm running for the Board because I would like to help improve the image of Ventana Lakes and the actuality of living here. I have completed the City of Peoria/West Valley Home Owners Association four-week course on HOAs. I have also completed the City's ten-week Leadership Institute, and am currently in the last quarter of their twelve-week Citizen's Police Academy. As you can

tell, I'm interested in my community at both the HOA and city levels. Also, I worked for the State of Arizona for 26 years, and retired, after having worked my way up from programmer, to systems analyst, to project leader, to the Information Technology Manager for mainframe computer systems. Now, I want to serve you. Please vote for Chet Homan for your HOA Board. Thank you.

Chet Homan

James H. Williams, Ph.D.

I have always had a passion for serving my community. My philosophy is that the more one reaches out to others, the more your life will be touched in many positive ways. Serving on the HOA affords one an excellent opportunity to reach out to the community in a very positive and direct manner. My wife and I are most impressed and inspired by the atmosphere and overall environment at Ventana Lakes.

My education consists of a B.A. Degree (California State University at Los Angeles), M.S. Degree (Pepperdine University, Los Angeles), Ph.D. (Washington State University, Pullman, Washington). Dean, College of Letter,

Arts, and Social Sciences (Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona California) 1980-1995; President, Spokane Community College (Spokane, WA) 1995-2001; President, Arapahoe Community College (Littleton, CO) 1999-2001; President, Modesto Junior College (Modesto, CA) 2001-2004; Chancellor, Yosemite Community College District (Modesto, CA) 2004-2006.

I have not had any prior experience working with HOAs. However, I have served on numerous civic boards, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Work-force and Economic Development Boards, and Symphony Boards.

James H. Williams

Tom Bush

My name is Tom Bush. My wife Pat and I have lived in Ventana Lakes for three years. We have been married for 48

years. We were natives of Colorado. We owned a successful contracting business in Colorado Springs for 28 years. During

that time I managed employees, worked with customers, builders, and wholesale people, etc.

Over the years, I have acquired people and business skills, which I feel will

Tony Fiore

My name is Tony Fiore and I'm running for a seat on the Board. The people I meet know I'm a great listener who understands your frustrations and wants to make a difference in our community. I wanted to get involved in our community and became a member of the Architectural Committee 6 months ago. I have four morals; PRIDE, TRUST, TEAMWORK, and INTEGRITY. As a member of the Board, I'll bring teamwork. "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." My

enable me to be a valuable member of the Board, and will, if I am elected, bring fresh ideas and a new direction to the Board.

Tom Bush

background with Radio Shack as a Team Leader, along with my knowledge of running a business, won me President Council, the most prestigious award given not once, but 3 years in a row, along with Leaders Club, being in a group of only 100 out of 5,000 managers in the nation to win these awards. I completed the Leadership Training Program "Dale Carnegie", but this isn't about me; it's about you. The future of Ventana Lakes lies in the hands of our people. You have the power to vote for change.

Tony Fiore

CELEBRATING LIFE

Mary and I have lived in this community since October 2004. As many of you know, Mary departed this life on November 21st. She had a brain aneurysm and died within 24 hours of being admitted to the hospital. Mary and I shared 32 wonderful years together. During this crisis, the community of Ventana Lakes has been extremely supportive, kind, and loving to me and my family. This outpouring of support, kindness, and love has filled my heart with a tremendous relief and joy. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support. My family and friends who

attended Mary's memorial service at the Yacht Club were overwhelmed with the response of this community in our hour of need.

Thank you for being compassionate, caring, and loving neighbors. I will never be able to repay all of your kindnesses, but I must share that we could not have chosen a better community in which to live.

I will continue to need your love and support as I go through this life transition. I have no doubt that you will be here for me. Thank you.

John Rabal

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Now that the holidays have flown by, it's time to focus on the upcoming new year's activities. The first Activity meeting of the new year will be Sunday, January 7th at 4 pm at the Yacht Club. The goals for holding the meeting on Sunday afternoon are: to enable all residents to attend; to allow for all residents to have input; to have everyone's suggestions heard; to ask residents to chair specific events. All residents should have a say in the events that are planned for your community, thereby ensuring that the events planned are those that residents will want to attend, thus having less events cancelled. I look forward to meeting residents and putting the many new ideas in motion for the upcoming year, so hold the date of January 7th on your calendars for this important meeting.

There has been some talk about the scheduled massages that were to take place this past November. The reason why this event was cancelled was because Arizona School of Massage Therapy had some problems in obtaining their certificate of insurance. This small

snag is being worked out, and the earliest date available to reschedule this event would be Saturday, January 27th. This date will be confirmed in early January, and the original sign-up sheet will be used for appointments. Residents will be called to check their scheduled times. I will inform you when I have more information.

Two small reminders: (1) There is a Room Request form that needs to be filled out when residents need to utilize an area for group activities. The Yacht Club is not available for personal functions, and is not available for rent. (2) If you have any information that you would like to have put in the newsletter, the deadline is the 12th of the prior month, and should be sent to me at the Management Office. It is best if it can be e-mailed (activities@vlpoa.com) directly to me. For those of you who don't have a computer, feel free to drop it off at the Management Office.

I look forward to meeting with everyone on the 7th of January.

Barb Jennings, Activity Director

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB

The Italian American Club of Ventana Lakes welcomed 160 members and guests on December 7, 2006, at 7:00 pm at the Yacht Club. Everyone enjoyed our annual Christmas celebration. There was an Italian catered dinner with Veal parmesan, pasta and sauce, salad with Italian dressing, Italian bread and rainbow sherbet for dessert. Ken Foley returned to wow the crowd with songs from our era for great listening and

dancing. That large dance floor was filled most of the time. Attendees also brought two non-perishable food items per person to be donated to the Saint Vincent De Paul Society, and that front table was over-flowing with their generosity. Three amazing Christmas baskets of different sizes, designed by RoseAnn Fiebig, were raffled off; two were won by members, and one by a guest.

Our next meeting is on January 4, 2007, at 6:00 pm at the Yacht Club. Members only are invited to a great chicken dinner with all the fixings, and dessert, followed by Bingo for gift cards. This event was very popular last time, so be sure to pick up your tickets soon. The tickets are \$4.00 each, and remember to BYOB.

On February 1, 2007, we are planning a Valentine's Dance with a great local

band. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter.

We welcome new members of Italian descent to join us for a continuing year full of food, fun and camaraderie, Italian-style. For information about the Italian American Club, please call Tony DeMont at (623) 566-3894.

SHALOM CLUB

Our program of hosted meetings continues to be successful and well-attended.

January will be movie time – title to be announced. Note that the movie will be shown at the YACHT CLUB on Thursday, January 11th, and is scheduled to start promptly at 7:00 pm.

As usual, members will receive a telephone reminder confirming the exact date, time and place of the meeting.

For the February meeting, we will be returning to our “regular” meeting place in the Crafts Room.

If you have any questions, please call Trudy Fleishman at 623-566-1970 or Eileen Grossman at 623-566-0006.

New members are always welcome. If you are thinking of joining our group or would like to find out more about us, Eileen or Trudy would love to hear from you.

The members of the Ventana Lakes Shalom Club extend best wishes of the season to our friends and neighbors in the Ventana Lakes Community. We join you in prayer for peace and goodwill in the coming year.

FLYING SOLOS

The Flying Solos Club wishes you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2007!

We invite everyone who lives in Ventana Lakes to join our meetings and social outings. There is a general meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Yacht Club. We have an assortment of speakers and entertainers. You bring your own beverage, and we usually have snacks or dessert. Join us and have fun with your

new friends! On the last Thursday of the month, we meet in various restaurants for a social get-together at 4:30 pm to eat and be merry.

If you are new to Ventana Lakes or just want more fun in your life, please visit. We are a caring club and try to assist each other and remember special occasions. For more information, call Brenda H. at (623)215-8687 or Yvonne K. at 566-3353.

LADIES LUNCHEON

Please join us on Wednesday, January 10th, 2007, 12:30 pm at **GRILLED EXPEDITION** at Desert Ridge. Their address is 21001 N. Tatum, Phoenix - Desert Ridge. Take the 101 Loop to Tatum; off at Tatum and back north off the 101. Desert Ridge Shopping center is on your right, just north of 101. **Grilled Expedition** is in the northeast corner of the parking lot. They have wonderful soups and salads - try their Margherita Pizza. Then top it off with Banana Foster Bake or Rolled Cheesecake. This

will be a taste treat!! COME JOIN US! We will order from the menu and receive separate checks. Everyone is welcome. PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS! Be sure to call the Management Office (566-6001- talk to a real person; do not leave a message on the answering machine) to add your name to the reservation list. If you need a ride or further information, please call Sharon Crafton, 566-3191 or Camille Willcoxon, 566-4792.

HEARTS AND HANDS

Just a note to tell residents that a small group of volunteers is available to help with minor home repairs, provide transportation to a doctor's office on a short-term basis, and pick up a prescription. The group also supplies gift

bags to welcome new residents. Another aspect of this group is a non-denominational Chapel Service which is offered the first and third Saturday each month in the Game Room from 3 to 4 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10th: Work Study Session, 3:30 pm at the Management Office. Work Study Sessions are subject to change.

January 13th: Meet the Candidates and Coffee Forum, 9:00 am at the Yacht Club. This Coffee Forum will be a normal forum, with meeting the candidates for the open Board positions following the Forum. The cost will be the usual price of \$1.50 per person for advanced tickets, and \$2.00 per person at the door.

January 17th: Board Meeting at 1:30 pm at the Yacht Club.

January 31st: Work Study Session, 3:30 pm at the Management Office. Work Study Sessions are subject to change.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From the City of Peoria:

Ventana Lakes Citizens:

We would like to thank you for your interest and participation at the Grand Opening of our Beardsley Operations Building.

We were very pleased with the amount of interest you had, and we enjoyed touring the facility with you!

Sincerely,

City of Peoria

Utilities Staff

***The thank-you card is posted at the Management Office for all residents to see.

From Ventana Lakes Library Staff:

Please, do NOT remove books from the library unless you plan to return them. Books are LOANED on the honor system. They are here for all residents to read, enjoy and return!

Thank you.

The Library Staff

From Tony & Evelyn DeMont:

Donations of food to Westside Food Bank for the year 2006 totaled 1,804 lbs. What a great job the residents of Ventana Lakes have done.

Thank you.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

January 3rd: Trip to Mazatzal Casino. Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 8 am and departs Casino at 3 pm. This is a FREE trip, as the Casino gives \$10 upon arrival. Sign up at the Management Office.

January 7th: Activity Meeting, 4 pm at the Yacht Club. This is the first Activity meeting for 2007, and is your opportunity to voice which events should be planned for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend this meeting. I look forward to meeting residents and putting the many new ideas in motion.

January 12th: Free Seminar for Joint Pain Sufferers. A local orthopaedic surgeon, Shane Martin, MD, will be talking about new technologies in joint replacement. The discussion will include the latest advancements in hip and knee replacement, as well as computer-assisted surgery. We will meet at 6:30 pm at the Yacht Club. Sign up at the Management Office, as light refreshments will be served.

January 13th: Meet the Candidates and Coffee Forum, 9 am at the Yacht Club. The cost is \$1.50 per person (advanced tickets) or \$2.00 at the door. Sign up at the Management Office by Friday, January 12th.

January 18th: Laughlin Turnaround. The bus leaves the Yacht Club at 6:15 am. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Sign up at the Management Office.

January 20th: Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus will perform at 7 pm at the Yacht Club. The cost is \$7.00 per person and includes refreshments. Sign up at the Management Office.

January 26th: Big Band Dance Night at Ventana Lakes. Bill Fedor's 17-piece Desert Sounds Big Band will perform at the Yacht Club from 7-10 pm. The cost is \$7.00 per person, and will include light refreshments. Table reservations are available, but they will require a full table and payment at the time reservations are being made. Pick up your tickets at the Management Office early, as this event will be open to the public and will sell out.

January 30th: Trip to Mazatzal Casino. Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 8 am and departs Casino at 3 pm. This is a FREE trip, as the Casino gives \$10 upon arrival. Sign up at the Management Office.

February 3rd: Poker Night—Texas Hold'em, 7 pm at the Yacht Club. Prizes will be given to the top players. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, and will be available at the Management Office in mid-January. BYOB.

February 8th: Trip to Mazatzal Casino. Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 8 am and departs Casino at 3 pm. This is a FREE trip, as the Casino gives \$10 upon arrival. Sign up at the Management Office.

February 24th: Driving Miss Daizy...Crazy! Act Two Productions presents an uproarious original theatrical production. Come and meet feisty Magnolia Taylor, a.k.a. Miss Daizy. She insists she's going to Radio City Musical Hall with her musical friends. Is she really headed for a rockin' good time in the Big Apple? Or is she just really off her rocker? The tickets will cost \$10 per person, and will include refreshments during the intermission. Pick up your tickets at the Management Office.

Also in the works, but not confirmed as of this printing, is a Valentine's Dance.

COMMUNITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Happy New Year!

I love the beginning of a new year. For me it represents a beginning, a chance to start over, and make things right, or make it different, or change direction altogether. Change is invigorating. It can also be painful and stressful, sometimes, but it is always an opportunity. As they say, one door closes, another one opens. It's probably a good time to tell you a little about myself. I've had questions from community members about my qualifications. I'm from California, raised on a small farm not far from the Mexican border. I rode horses in the mountains and on the seashore throughout my childhood, and was in the 4-H Club. (Those are some of my proudest moments.) I have a degree from ASU West in Communication, with a focus on gender, class, race, and geriatrics. I also have a certificate in Computer Programming, from Coleman College of La Mesa, CA. I served for 10 years in the U.S. Navy as an Air Traffic Controller and trained as a basic instructor. In the reserves, I was attached to the Marines with a mobile air traffic unit. I worked for Terry Cole-Whittaker, a nationwide televangelist, as the volunteer coordinator, and I have worked for Parents Anonymous, teaching parenting classes for toddlers up through teen years.

I see a lot of possibility for change at Ventana Lakes. Some of my goals for the New Year are: (1) Work with the Board members to look for ways to save money. We are responsible for the financial stewardship of this property, and owe the community our best efforts preserving assets. (2) Implement and

enhance a "resort-style community" atmosphere. (3) Improve relations with homeowners, and the community at large. Our reputation and image is an asset and should be cultivated with care. It is directly related to our homeowners' quality of life and property values. (4) Look for ways to get more volunteers involved through programs, workshops, and get-togethers.

A lot of maintenance work is done around here by volunteers. One of those volunteers is Howard Penn, head of the Maintenance Committee. Howard has devoted much time and many hours with his Maintenance Committee, doing handyman work for the Association at no charge. Howard would like to give up his position. We are asking for someone to step up to the plate. If you have people skills and could manage a volunteer committee or delegate light handiwork, please call the office. We want you. You would be helping the community.

As a reminder:

*Call the office and report changes in address, phone number, or e-mail address.

*Elections are coming up for the Board. One sign is permitted on property, 24 by 48 maximum, as per the Architectural Committee.

Again, Happy New Year to you and your family!

Paulette Eaton, Community Manager