

October 2007

# *The Ventana Views*



## **President's Message**

### **Study Sessions Cancelled:**

It has been determined that all meetings of a quorum of the Board MUST be treated as Board Meetings. In the past, the Board would meet in a Study (Work ) Session to develop an agenda for that months Board Meeting. Since those sessions are now considered Board meetings and must be run that way, the Board has decided to stop using Study Sessions to set the agenda. Several Board Meetings each month are not necessary.

### **The Recall Petition and the Cancelled September Board Meeting:**

On Monday September 10 a petition was turned into the VLPOA Board of Directors calling for a Special Recall Meeting of our Association to determine whether or not, Chuck Hellquist, Vada Bowers, Rudy Simon, Tony Fiore and Norman Steinberg should be removed from the Board of Directors via a recall. Chuck Hellquist, Vada Bowers and Rudy Simon have already resigned from the Board. The only two Board Members to be affected by this petition will be Norman Steinberg and me.

Approximately 312 signatures were turned in, on pages using numbers from 1 to 40. However, only 28 pages of names were actually turned in. After eliminating approximately 113 duplicate signatures or duplicate addresses, approximately 199 signatures remain. State Law requires only 171 signatures for an Association of our size, 1,701 properties. Instead of challenging the validity of these remaining signatures, the Board has agreed to accept the petition and move forward with the recall meeting and vote.

1) Even to this day, some residents challenge the process and outcome of the failed 2005 recall attempt of Board Member Bob DellaPia. They continue to argue that the Board made many mistakes in handling that recall.

2) Currently, our 7 Member Board has only 4 Directors and two, of these four, are named in the petition

3) Two, of these four, Board Members have their homes up for sale.

4) There were no major issues on the agenda for the September 19 Board Meeting.

Taking all four of these into consideration, a majority of the remaining Board Members felt that all of these factors listed here might give some vocal residents a reason to challenge any decisions made at the September Board meeting, therefore they cancelled the meeting.

On June 29, a quorum of the Board met in an Emergency Executive Session and hired the Law Firm Carpenter, Hazelwood to replace the Law Firm Ekmark. Ekmark had resigned as our legal counsel because they felt they would not be able to adequately continue to defend the VLPOA in the lawsuit filed against it. That same day, the quorum present agreed to completely turn over the rumored recall to our new Law Firm in an effort to not be accused this time of making major mistakes (see #1 above). This recall vote will be very expensive, but the Board has no choice but to let it be handled by our Legal Firm. If the recall is successful, the only remaining Board Members will be Bob DellaPia and Sue Alandar. You will receive all the information regarding the recall voting shortly, by mail. Business here in VL is going on as usual. Emergencies will be handled immediately.

**Tony Fiore, President**

## **Manager's Corner**

I don't believe it, but the temperature has finally started to drop (I hope that Mother Nature isn't fooling us). Dropping temps means that we begin Fall/Winter 2007 planning. That includes much needed work at 3 of our pools. Speaking of pools, we will, this year, heat the Coves and Recreation Center Pools. As we have in the past, the Coves Pool will be designated for children. I am sure that, by now you have noticed our new landscapers, CareScape of Surprise. Please feel free to greet them, but if there is something specific that you want done, call the office so that we can issues work orders.

We are finally going to get bids on the repair of the steam room and the men's room at the R/C. I have come to the conclusion that, as there is so much building still going on in the Valley, that smaller operations such as ours gets short shrift. It is easier to get a camel through the eye of a needle than it is to get workers out here at Ventana Lakes.

In addition to the pool work referenced above, we are looking at some painting that needs to be done and some general preventive maintenance. I am a great believer in the Fram Filter company motto, "You can either pay me now, or pay me later." The Fram people were talking about protecting your automobile, I am talking about preventive maintenance to protect your investment in the Ventana Lakes' common buildings and areas.

Our new Email addresses are: [manager@vlpoa.org](mailto:manager@vlpoa.org) [asstmgr@vlpoa.org](mailto:asstmgr@vlpoa.org)  
[reception@vlpoa.org](mailto:reception@vlpoa.org)

This is a great community, and if you have suggestions to make it even better let us hear from you.

Jack Donovan, Community Manager

## **March Board Member Election Information**

Any residents who is interested in being a Candidate for the March 4, 2008 Board Member Election should pick up an Applicant Information Form from the Management Office. The completed forms will need to be returned no later than November 30 at 4pm, and should be returned to Jack Donovan, Community Manager.

Anyone who decides to run for a position after that date will need to be a Write-In candidate on the ballot. Also, that person(s) would not be able to have their information included in the Ventana Views articles about Candidates. Information submitted on the Applicant Information Form will be used in the January and February Ventana Views Newsletters. There will be 3 Meet the Candidate Meetings held in January. The dates of these meetings will be included in the November Newsletter.

At the time this article is being written, it appears there will be 5 board positions available. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Bracken at 972-2722 or Rose Ann Fiebig at 376-9037.

## **Board Meetings & Etc.**

The Coffee Forum will be held on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Yacht Club. Tickets are available at the Management Office for \$1.50 up until 12 Noon October 12<sup>th</sup>, and \$2.00 at the door.

The October Board Meeting will be held in the Yacht Club on October 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM.

## **Maintenance**

Welcome back to Ventana Lakes. Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, whether you stayed here or traveled to other parts of the country.

We have not had many problems, other than dumb people putting paper towels down the toilets. At least four plumber call outs have been because of a large wad of towels having been flushed, or tried to have been flushed. They do not dissolve and only plug up these toilets. All areas have waste baskets provided, so please use them.

Recent projects completed by the Maintenance committee are:

- 1) New faucets at the Ladies rest room in the Rec Center.
- 2) Replaced the motion detector at the Yacht Club pool shower area.
- 3) Replaced many light bulbs around the Rec Center parking area.
- 4) Replaced several GFCI outlet units where needed. Old units had been tripped many times and were weak.

Dave Bracken, 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 upon.

Architectural requests received at the Management Office by 4 pm, Wednesdays, will be on the agenda for the following Monday meeting at 10:00 am. Our meetings are open to any resident, whether or not they have a pending request.

Bill Keitel, Acting Architectural Chairman

## **Hearts and Hands**

### **HEARTS & HANDS**

A small group of volunteers is available on a short term basis to help residents who are unable by:

- providing a ride to doctor's office
- picking up a prescription
- grocery shopping; and
- with small home repairs -- change light bulbs & AC filters, etc

Call the Management Office, 566-6001, and someone from the group will call you back.

Consider attending the nondenominational Chapel service the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 3 pm in the Game Room. It is a pleasant way to see how biblical passages relate to today's world.

The volunteers for October are:

October 1 – 11 Howard Penn, 362-2508 & Walter Binder 825-0260

October 12 – 31 Ken Hunstad 825-9360 & Walter Binder 825-0260

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **BOWLING LEAGUE**

Ventana Lakes residents and their friends are invited to join the Ventana Lakes Bowling League. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th at 11AM in the Yacht Club. Bowling begins October 17th at Brunswick Lanes on 59th Avenue, between Union Hills and Bell Road. The league bowls Wednesday mornings at 9AM. Join us for fun throughout the winter months. For questions or additional information, please call Lois Sims at (623) 376-2591 or Bill Kozlowski at (623) 362-2219. Looking forward to seeing you!

## **PRIDES**

The Prides are looking for volunteers. If you can spend an hour or so once a month to help keep our neighborhoods looking good, please call **Joan Yankowski** at 566-4748. It is a little bit of work, but the Prides also have a very good time. This is a great way for those of you who work to give back to your community because you can do this on your own schedule.

## **Italian-American Club of Ventana Lakes**

The first meeting of the Italian-American Club of Ventana Lakes for 2007-2008 was held on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the Yacht club at 6:30 p.m. There were 86 members in attendance. President, Darrell Smith, greeted all of our members at this first meeting and welcomed three new members. He also expressed thanks from Tony DeMont, our President for the past 2 years, to everyone who has sent cards, etc. and made phone calls to him. He is in Freedom Plaza Rehab Center, recovering from surgery. After acknowledging June, July, August and September birthdays and anniversaries, our program activity for the evening began with delicious Italian pastries being served to everyone. Following dessert, six games of bingo were played for prizes and the meeting was adjourned.

Our October meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have entertainment and guests are invited. Pizza, salad and sherbet for dessert will be served. Guests are invited. Tickets for both guests and members are \$5.00 and, as always, BYOB.

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 Darrell Smith at (623) 376-0372.

## **NEWS OF THE SHALOM CLUB**

First, we wish all a somewhat belated healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

We have tentatively scheduled the first meeting of the season on Thursday, October 11. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM in the Craft Center. This will be an important meeting. We will be discussing plans for the coming year and your input is important. We urge all members to attend if at all possible. We will be in touch with members by phone or e-mail to confirm the exact date and time of the October meeting.

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.

**Shalom and good health to all.**

## Flying Solos

This month we'll be meeting at the Cheesecake Factory located on 83rd Ave, south of Bell Road. For more information, call **Brenda H.** at (623) 215-8687 or **Yvonne K.** at 566-3353.

## Ladies' Luncheon

Please join us on Wednesday, October 10th, at 12:30 PM at **BABBO Italian Eatery**, at 15609 W. Bell Rd, Surprise. As you travel west on Bell Road it will be on your left, on the far west side of the Macayo's Shopping Center (Bell Road & Reems). There are lots of Pasta dishes, of course, and Calzones, Italian sandwiches, and salads. Try an Italian Soda or Tiramisu for dessert. **COME JOIN US!** We will order from the menu and receive separate checks. Everyone is welcome. This is a great way to meet people if you are new to Ventana Lakes! **PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!** **NOTICE:** From now on you MUST call Sharon or Camille to sign up to attend the Ladies Luncheon. The Management Office will only take reservation sign-ups for those activities which require payment for tickets. Please call Sharon Crafton at 566-3191 or Camille Willcoxon at 566-4792. (OR, please leave your name and phone number on our answering machines.)

## "Incoming"

**The Library Committee** has a new chairperson. Lois Sims will be chairing the committee and she can be reached at 623-376-2591 (home) and 602-793-9597 (mobile).

The expanded LARGE PRINT book section of our library now includes authors from John Grisham to Danielle Steel and everything in between. Come browse and enjoy!

The Library Staff would like to thank Eva Sprouse for her many years of service as a volunteer to the Ventana Lakes library. She has recently retired from this activity and will be missed. Thank you, Eva, for all the time and effort you put forth to do such a wonderful job.

**From Pickle Ball:** There is an instructional video for residents to check out for 24 hours at the Management Office. Also, for check-out are paddles and balls to play Pickle Ball. The Management Office will have handouts of the rules of the game and a list of players. For more information, residents can call the Management Office or one of the following residents: **Jackie Wray** at 362-1305, **Gail Hellquist** at 516-2752, **Tim or Sheila Willems** at 376-9804, **Burrie Steward** at 566-1730 or **Sally Woods** at 376-9188.

**From the Bridge Group:** The chairpersons for the Thursday Bridge Group will be Mickey and Jim Miller. They may be reached at 623-566-9646.

## Upcoming Activities

### OCTOBER

**Wednesday October 10, 6:30 P.M.** in the Recreation Center. **Ladies Bunco!!** Cost \$5 returned in prize money. A **DELICIOUS** snack and dessert table provided by the ladies on a volunteer basis. **No sign up required. Ladies come and have a wild time!!!**

**Thursday October 11, Mazatzal Casino, FREE!!!** You owe it to yourself, to check out this **UPGRADED** casino, restaurant and buffet. Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 8:00 A.M. **Must sign up at the Management Office.** In the past, the buses filled up quickly, so do not wait. **You receive \$10 upon arrival.** If your birthday is in **October** you receive an additional \$10. Blackjack, Slots, Keno, Bingo at 12:45 P.M. and Poker on Thursdays. Ask for senior discount in the restaurant. **Return bus leaves at 3:00 P.M.** On the return bus you receive a free bottle of water and a scratch off ticket valued between \$4 and \$10 to be used on a future trip.

**Saturday October 13, 9 A.M.** at the Yacht Club. **Coffee and Forum.** Tickets in the Management Office \$1.50 until 12 NOON Friday October 12. Tickets at the door \$2. No ticket is necessary to attend **JUST** the Forum.

**Sunday October 14, 2 P.M. till 4 P.M.** at the Yacht Club. **Tea Dance,** sponsored by Ken Harper and the Ballroom Dancers, "with Magic Joe, the Dancing DJ" Admission \$2. Call 977-9179 for more information.

**Monday October 15, 11A.M. till 3 P.M.** at the Yacht Club. The Mollen Clinic - Flu **and Influenza Shot Clinic.** You must sign up at the Management Office; call-ins BY PHONE are OK but **NO** sign ups by e-mail.

**Thursday October 18, Laughlin Turn-Around,** bus leaves the Yacht Club at 6:15 A.M. for the Edgewater Casino. Movies on the bus. **Free Buffet!** You may visit any or all of the 9 casinos on the strip. **Must sign up at the Management Office. Cost \$5.**

**Friday October 26, 6:30 P.M.** at the Yacht Club. Halloween Karaoke with Darrell and Jack. Come one; come all with or without costumes. BYOB and snacks. Cost \$2.

**Tuesday October 30, Mazatzal Casino, FREE!!** Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 8:00 A.M. Must sign up at the Management Office. **See previous article for details.**

## **CRAFT SALE**

It's time to start thinking about the Craft Sale which will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Space reservation forms will soon be going in the mail. We are looking for some volunteers to help with publicity and sign placement. Volunteers need not be crafters—just someone with a little time and energy. Please call **Joyce Lorentzen** 544-9781 or **Vada Bowers** 825-9194 if you can help.

**Board of Directors:** Tony Fiore, President; Bob DellaPia, Secretary/Treasurer; Sue Alandar, Communications Director; Norman Steinberg, Director.

**Office Staff:** Jack Donovan, Manager; Irene Hart, Assistant Manager; Karen Carr, Front Desk (morning); Jennifer Simpson, Front Desk (afternoon).  
Office Phone: (623) 566-6001

Website: [www.vlpoa.org](http://www.vlpoa.org)