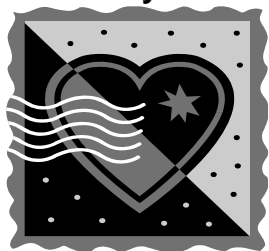


February 2008

Ventana Lakes Property Owners Association



Ventana Views

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO VOTE FOR VENTANA'S FUTURE

Community News from Sue Alandar, Board President

ELECTION UPDATE

The Election Committee will be mailing Absentee Ballots to property owners on January 31, 2008. If you plan to vote by Absentee Ballot, **please read the instructions carefully.** In-person voting will be held on Tuesday, March 4th from 1:00p.m. to 4:00pm at the Yacht Club.

INTERVIEW THE CANDIDATES BEFORE YOU VOTE FEBRUARY 9 AT 9:30 A.M.

Two Candidate Interviews were held in January and there is still another, after the Coffee Forum at the Yacht Club on Saturday February 9 at 9:30 a.m. If you haven't attended one, or if you still haven't made your mind, please be sure to come and ask questions. **THIS IS YOUR BOARD – VENTANA'S FUTURE!**

You will find information inside this newsletter on each candidate, just as they provided it. Be sure and read it carefully, too. It begins on page 5.

SHORES MATTER IS SETTLED AT LAST

Judge Buttrick has finally issued the Final Judgment in the Shores matter. The Plaintiffs were awarded \$25,408 (including taxes) of the estimated \$35,000 that they expended in the litigation (the total amount of their expenses has not been determined as the final accounting has not been received from their attorney.) The award was

paid immediately to avoid additional interest being charged to Association funds (per the Judgment.)

The Judgment decrees the "lakefront easements" at The Shores are common areas and **restates the language from the original Lennar documents** that "causes the Owners of the burdened lots to relinquish their right to the sole use and enjoyment of those portions of their Lots expressly included in this easement and shall for all purposes be considered Common Area under the Master Declaration, for the use and enjoyment of all Members of the Master Association, and shall be maintained by the Master Association at its expense."

The Board has no plans to appeal the decision.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Jack Donovan and I met on Friday January 11 with the owner of the vacant lot behind Walgreen's, and the company who is purchasing it, "Big Boys' Toys Storage."

This is not a "corrugated metal" ugly monster, but a private, individually-owned condominium high-end storage area for recreational vehicles and expensive cars that does not allow garage repair or living on-site. It will be finished in stucco and landscaped, and they plan to mirror the new storage facility at 107th and Beardsley near the Recreation Center. (Their website will show a metal building, but that is not the way this site would be.)

There will be a small strip mall directly behind Walgreen's in addition to the new private storage facility. Good news: a planned cut-through in the median which will allow common entrance to Walgreen's and the strip mall (no more u-turns necessary to get to Walgreen's.)

They will be giving a presentation to the community before the February Board meeting. This is so that the community can give its own input and, in order to be good neighbors, so that the Board will be prepared to vote on the architectural design in March.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

For those of you with internet, you can always read **Board Secretary Lori Norris's** excellent minutes at the website www.vlpoa.org; anyone else can read them at the office.

NOTES OF INTEREST

How are CareScape workers identified? All CareScape workers wear a CareScape shirt with a name tag; they also wear an orange vest.

Treasurer Moe Frenette is preparing Ventana's State and Federal tax returns (and saving us money in the process), while **Board Secretary Lori Norris** is handling the end of year Corporation Commission reports.

Come to the meeting in February!

Moe Frenette is still sorting out the end of year financial reports and there will be further discussion at the **February Board meeting when the Board and the community will also be talking about future dues increases and how this will relate to the Reserves and future budgets.**

Thanks for Coming Forward!

Rod McDonald told the Board he thought we needed a 16 x 16 **Ventana Lakes Community Map**, easy to fold, carry and read. We asked for help, and homeowner **Leslie Smock** walked in and handed his beautiful product to Jack Donovan! Manager Donovan was given approval to produce the maps and they will be available very soon to residents at a reasonable cost. **Thank you Leslie Smock!**

Rod McDonald and Phyllis Zubick both suggested metal signs, similar to those used for Bingo, to announce Board meetings. These are now a reality. Manager Donovan advised signs were produced for the Meet the Candidate and Board Meetings. The signs are posted where the Bingo signs currently are posted. **Thanks Rod and Phyllis for a great idea!**

Jay Dunn and Carolyn Piska suggested a forum in the Ventana Views for residents to express their views. This was discussed at the Board meeting, but too many people were afraid it would turn out negative instead of positive, or that it would become a problem trying to decide whose article would get to run when we ran out of room. But we still appreciate the suggestion, and hope to that more people come forward with ideas for making Ventana Lakes "the best it can be."

TRUCKS. Peoria officials announced in December that they are "getting the trucks off Union Hills." Trucks are being rerouted. They will now have to go down Beardsley

and turn left (north) onto Lake Pleasant Road. The Board voted unanimously to take an active role in demanding action by the City of Peoria against this truck traffic by writing a letter to the Mayor and other officials mentioned in these articles. Copies are going to State and County agencies responsible for air quality as well.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

DR. RICHARD MATSUISHI expressed concern regarding the legal fees that were expended by the previous Board of Directors, and asks if there is no limit on the dollar amount the Board can authorize without a vote of the homeowners. Further, he asks, if there is no such limitation, shouldn't one be established?

ANSWER: The Board is elected to conduct the business of the Association (which is a non-profit corporation.) Without the ability to expend funds, that business would not be possible.

While State law does require that financials be open for review by all members of the Association, and the Board's Treasurer does provide a report at each regular Board meeting, there is no limit on the amount of the Board's expenditures, nor is there a requirement that the Association membership vote to allow expenditures over a certain amount.

Should there be such a limit? While it would appear there should be, it would be difficult if to run the business of the Association that way, particularly as it relates to legal fees. It's impossible to know, going into litigation, just how much it might cost before it is over. Lawsuits can take a very long time and become very complicated. Voting by the Association membership is in itself a lengthy and expensive endeavor (consider printing, mailing, costs and weeks of time) and would not be a practical method for *operating* any business or government.

All of this being said, however, we as Association members must protect ourselves by being active in our own interest. We can do this by ensuring that the Board of Directors we elect *represent* and are *responsive* to the community at large. We must demand that our Board follow the open meeting law requiring all business be conducted in front of the membership. **A representational Board is imperative to keeping our community whole and ensuring our expenses are reported up front.**

Attend as many Board meetings as possible, and volunteer in ways that help the community (and you) aware of what is going on.

And get to know the CC&R's. This is the contract that we all bought into when we bought our homes, like it or not. They can be changed, by vote of the community, and in fact there is a committee that has been working on

this for five years. Let's all be sure to take a good look when they come to us...this is our opportunity for real change in Ventana Lakes.

KAY ORZECOWSKI wants to know why the North Park pool is no longer heated, and why it cannot be used by children.

ANSWER: It is very expensive to heat the swimming pools, so the decision was made to heat only two of the four, and these choices are rotated from year to year. This year, the North Park pool is one that is not heated.

The reason this particular pool is not in the rotation for use by children is because it is the only pool equipped for use by our disabled residents. When children were allowed to use this pool, they would pull out and jump on the special chairs, breaking them. One of the chairs had to be totally rebuilt, so it was decided to take this pool out of the rotation for use by children.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

It's a little late for these "thank-you" notes, but too important to leave them out!

Miriam Snider wants to send a special thanks to all who participated in the "Old Fashion Christmas" show, which was a huge success. Many took the time to bake or buy cookies. They were so generous there were enough left over to take to hospitals and share with the hospital volunteers; unopened containers were given to the food bank. Approximately 250 pounds of food and \$16.00 in cash were given to feed the hungry.

"God has blessed us with a wonderful community of people," Miriam says. I couldn't agree more!

I also want to send a special thank you to **Vada Bowers** for donating the second turkey for our lovely Christmas day "No Home Alone" potluck at the Recreation Center.

NEW FEATURE

Our landscape contractor, CareScape, Inc., gave a presentation at our Board meeting and will be writing a regular feature article for our newsletter starting this month. Let us know what you think, and, as always...

Thanks for listening!

Sue Alandar, Board President

salandar@vlpoa.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Activities Coordinator really needs some volunteers to help her with all the upcoming events! If you would like to volunteer and help Tina, please call her at the Management Office at 623-566-6001.

CareScape – A Landscape Management Company

By Ron McCann, Area Manager

We would like to introduce you to CareScape, Inc. CareScape is a Landscape Management Company that has been operating in Arizona for fourteen years. As we grow, we learn to excel in knowledge and efficiency. Currently we maintain several large HOA communities, evolving urban developments, sports entertainment districts, municipal contracts, and high-rise condominiums.

CareScape is located in Surprise, Arizona. We operate exclusively in the West Valley. We work as far as the I-17 to the east, north to Anthem and Lake Pleasant, and south to Buckeye, Goodyear and Avondale.

Today CareScape employs over 200 associates with very little seasonal fluctuation. The fluctuation that we do have is managed through our participation in the government's documented worker H2B program. These workers come and work for ten months out of the year then return to their families for two. It's a good fit for CareScape and for the families. All CareScape employees are identifiable by the uniforms that they wear. They have both the CareScape logo and name tags on their shirts.

CareScape designs and implements a complete and comprehensive in-house training and safety program in which all employees participate. We have several Degreed Horticulturists, Certified Arborists and tree workers, and all of our Managers and Crew Leaders participate in the Arizona Certified Landscape Professionals programs through the local ALCA chapter.

We are members of the International Society of Arborists (ISA), Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), Arizona Landscape Contractors Association (ALCA), Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), and proudly are Founding Platinum Members of the Arizona Association of Community Managers (AACM).

We welcome the opportunity to meet the daily challenges of your Landscape Management requirements and look forward to a long partnership with you and your community.

COFFEE FORUM

Saturday, February 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Sergeant Paul Panaccione of the Peoria Police Department will acquaint you with information on the "red light enforcement" effort being made by Peoria.

Block Watch Says: Call the Police!

Crime in Ventana Lakes has been very quiet for the last 6 months. We have had four incidents recently, so this reminds us that we are never crime free.

In November, we experienced **vandalism at the Recreation Center**, and received a report that a car drove over and damaged the front yard of two homes on 108th Avenue. In January, we were told that a **home was broken into on Mohawk Lane where it appears no one was home and newspapers were in the driveway**, and solicitors were going door-to-door after dark asking for contributions but these solicitors had no Peoria issued Solicitor ID Card, which was suspicious. A few residents have asked what do we do, do we call Block Watch or call the police?

When something does happen, most of us question what should we do. The answer is to **always call the police first and ask questions second**. Let the police investigate because timing can mean the difference between catching a crook or letting them go. **If you suspect something is not right or you are suspicious about something call the Peoria Police non-emergency number at 623-773-8311, and if you see a crime in progress call 9-1-1 immediately.** Yes, Block Watch wants to know about any crimes in Ventana Lakes, but please always call the police first.

What else can we do? We should watch out for each other and help each other. Pick up newspapers from your neighbor's home if they are collecting in the driveway, quickly report suspicious activity or vehicles to the police, keep an eye-out for anything that does not look right when you drive into and out of our community, and keep your garage doors closed when not in your garage. If we all do this there is no better crime prevention measure we can take. Neighbors watching out for neighbors and calling the police when needed is what Block Watch is all about.

On January 9, 2008 at 7:05 pm (well after dark) Block Watch received two calls that there were solicitors going door-to-door in Ventana Lakes at two different locations, one was Cimarron and 108th Avenue, and the other was at Escuda Drive and 109th Avenue. In one case a resident was startled because she found two men standing in her front yard. The callers stated that the solicitors were trying to collect money for a charity helping teenage people who are addicted to drugs. Block Watch investigated and found two young men sitting on a wall at

Cimarron and 108th Ave. The two men were asked for their Peoria issued Solicitors ID Card to identify them, and they said that their supervisor had it. The police were then called to investigate. The men called someone on their cell phone. After just a few minutes a white van showed-up to pick up the men, and the driver asked what was going on. He was informed about the requirement to have the solicitor ID Card on each solicitor. The men got in the van and left the community.

Correct Action To Take: This is the correct action to take. In the City of Peoria each solicitor must have their own Peoria Issued Solicitor ID Card on their person and show it when requested or they cannot solicit in the City of Peoria. If they cannot show you a Peoria Issued Solicitor ID Card this may be a scam so please call the police. And, please be very careful when confronting anyone because you never know what might happen.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

We do need Block Watch captains North of Beardsley so help by volunteering as a Captain. Call Chuck Schumm at 623-825-4517 to volunteer. For up-to-date Crime Incident Reports visit the Block Watch page on the VLPOA website at www.vlpoa.org and click-on "Crime Incident Reports."

**PICK UP NEWSPAPERS IF YOUR
NEIGHBOR IS GONE**

**SOLICITORS MUST HAVE AN I.D.
ISSUED BY THE CITY!**

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTS
TO POLICE: 773-8311**

**LET'S WATCH OUT FOR EACH
OTHER!**

Want to know what's going on
in Ventana?
DON'T HAVE E-MAIL?
CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS 623- 376-2353

election info

BOARD CANDIDATES

Bruce Parmenter
Joe McCord
Richard (Dick) Matsuishi
Tony Fiore
Lori Norris
Maurice (Moe) Frenette
Darrell Smith

This is the order in which their names will appear on the ballot and in which they sit at the "Candidate Interviews" (the last one will be held on Saturday, February 9, right after the 9:30 a.m. Coffee Forum.)

The information that follows is exactly as provided by each candidate, presented in the order listed above.

Board Candidate Bruce Parmenter Sr.

My name is Bruce R. Parmenter Sr. and i would like to be your new board candidate.

I moved to Sun City - Peoria are in 1990 where i opened a General Contractors Construction Business. I have since retired and am able to devote the necessary time it takes to be a board member. I have lived in Ventana Lakes now for two years. I see a need for new people with a clear and un clouded past with board experience.

I have no prior homeowners' Association experience and I will not be prejudiced by personalities (and/or politics) involved in the Board when it comes to reaching or making sound business decisions for the benefit of the Ventana lakes Property Owners Association and its homeowners.

I feel that the three Q's of Quality seem to be missing from various projects in Ventana lakes that we are paying for.

I would appreciate your vote and support.
Thank you.

Board Candidate Joe McCord

My name is Joe McCord and I am asking you to return me to the Board of Directors.

Previously, I served one year as a Board member and I did what I could to move our community forward. Recently, I completed the City of Peoria "HOA Academy" course, where I learned how HOA Boards ought to act. I will bring those lessons to our Board.

My education includes a BA in History from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MA in Business Economics from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado (this course is the equivalent of a Harvard MBA).

The US Army saw fit to promote me to lieutenant colonel and I retired with that rank after 28 years of worldwide service, including 5 ½ years in The Pentagon where I administered large programs involving millions of dollars.

During nearly eight years at Ventana Lakes I have been involved in a number of programs, including leading the fight to prevent Maricopa County from widening Beardsley Road and linking it to the 303 - a move which, if successful, would have tripled traffic on Beardsley and allowed huge semis and other freeway vehicles through the middle of our community. I represent you on the County Mining Board and recently was appointed to a second three-year term to that body where I will continue the battle to reduce the effect of mining operations on the health of everyone who lives here and, ultimately, to ban all gravel and cement hauling trucks from Beardsley.

I have no agenda other than working with other Board members to make this the best community possible. Specifically, I want to put the past behind us, forget recriminations, heal our wounds and move forward. My goal is to make Ventana Lakes the place where people want to move to -- and where residents don't want to move from.

I support the refreshing policies of openness and integrity generated by our new Board and I would like to join them in extending those policies. I ask for your support and your vote.

Thank you.

**Board Candidate
Richard K. Matsuishi, D.D.S.**

Reason for running: Instead of standing by and complaining, I decided to become actively involved and try to assist in making Ventana Lakes a better place to live.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

President, Central Arizona Dental Society
Member, House of Delegates, Arizona State Dental Association
Chairman, Dental Policy Committee, National Delta Dental Plans Association
Vice-president, Board of Directors, Delta Dental Plan of Arizona
Examiner, Western Regional Examining Board, Dental Hygiene Licensure Examination
Examiner, Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners, Foreign Dentist Examination
Member, Central Arizona Dental Society Peer Review Committee
Member, Board of Directors, Associated Dental Care Providers

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Member, Small Business Administration, Phoenix Area Regional Advisory Council
Member, Board of Directors, Glendale Salvation Army
President, Japanese American Citizens League, Arizona Chapter
President, Pacific Rim Advisory Council, City of Phoenix
Advisor, Arizona Asian Chamber of Commerce
Speaker, Teaching Tolerance Program
Member, Homeowners Association Board of Directors, Continental Country Club

**Board Candidate
Tony Fiore**

Last year I asked you for your vote to help me win a seat on the Board of Directors. Many voted for me I won a seat, and for that I thank you. In my short time on the Board of Directors if there is anyone I offended I apologize to you. I now have a clear view on what I would like to see happen. I did resign my seat on the Board but it wasn't because of the group of people trying to recall me, it was because I was seeing a Doctor for a medical condition that took a few months to correct. Today I'm still fired up and ready to go. My time on the Board was short but I did work with a group of people that put together a new landscaping contract, and with Board approval I signed the contract and the new company started September 1, 2007. I believe the new landscape company will give us a quality landscaping job at a savings for all of us. Over the past 8 months I helped put together a new Landscape Committee in the Gardens with guidelines that should prove to save Garden homeowners money in the future. The new Board just approved the Committee and guidelines on December 12, 2007. "One day I hope to see a Master plan for all of Ventana Lakes". Experience: Member of the Board of Directors, Architectural Committee, and help start a new Landscape Committee in the Gardens, and played a big part in the new Landscape contract. Hobbies: Play Bocce twice a week, and like to go to the movies. Clubs: Member of the Ventana Lakes Italian American club. I AM ASKING YOU FOR ALL 6 OF YOUR VOTES - 6X's for me X X X X X X.
Tony Fiore Thank you

**Board Candidate
Laurel "Lori" Norris**

Inorris@vlpoa.org

In October 2008, I was one of three individuals appointed to the VLPOA Board to fill vacancies which left the Board without a quorum; I currently serve as the Board Secretary.

I am a native Arizona resident, my mother and I moved into Ventana Lakes, Heritage II subdivision in April 2003. I am currently and have been employed with the Arizona Department of Public Safety for 28 years, I am a Lieutenant assigned to the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center. I have a Bachelor of Science in Police Science and Administration from Northern Arizona University. As a supervisor I have handled multiple employee disputes and personnel issues. I have been responsible for large budgetary expenditures, balancing funds and drafting written policies and procedures.

Prior to Ventana Lakes, I resided in the Chaparral Ranch subdivision in Glendale, Arizona. During the fifteen years I resided at Chaparral Ranch, I volunteered and was elected to serve multiple terms on the Home Owner Association (HOA) Management Board. I served as a Board Member, Secretary and President for the community of ninety-four homes. I was instrumental in implementing self-management of all HOA matters, resulting in large cost savings. Upon my departure, the HOA finances were balanced, there was a reduction in the number of homeowners delinquent in their dues and there was proper documentation on all actions taken, with a history to assist future incumbents.

I believe the purpose of an HOA Board is to serve the entire community. I understand HOA rules serve to protect the entire community, but I also believe in doing what is right and finding a balance between the two. There are continuous changes in today's society, and in order to stay on top of these changes, I completed the City of Peoria HOA Academy in October 2007.

Ventana Lakes is my retirement community, I will work to ensure the VLPOA maintains a stable financial structure; we continue to develop and provide active adult functions and encourage residents to take part in our community. Thank you for considering me as a candidate for the 2008 VLPOA Board.

**Board Candidate
Maurice "Moe" Frenette**

I, Maurice "Moe" Frenette, E.A., have served as your Treasurer since October and been part of a Board that is extremely open and replaced turmoil with calm. I would like as many of your 6 votes as possible. Not voting in the prior election was a vote for the past Board turmoil. Please vote and avoid the previous turmoil. **If elected I will not quit.**

I hope to continue in the role of Treasurer. I believe that all of the homeowners in Ventana Lakes have a right to know exactly how their money is being spent and that they should have a say in how it is spent. I will continue to show income and expense information and results in my monthly reports, and report any unusual changes as they occur. There should never be any surprises such as that huge legal bill run up by a prior Board.

Education: BS Accounting-Johnson & Wales Univ.; ABS Business Management-same Univ.; Numerous IRS courses related to taxes and accounting.

Employment: Part time tax expert & IRS Enrolled Agent for a local CPA firm (2006 to present); IRS-Senior Revenue Agent (1983-2005); Quality Assurance Engineer 1968-1981; Electronic Mechanic (1966-1968); USN Radar Operator (1961-1965).

Experience: IRS Agent-Completed many complex audits of all types of business tax returns' including publicly traded corporations. I have developed and completed fraud examinations. I was a classroom and on the job training instructor. I coordinated many IRS projects. **Board member:** VLPOA Treasurer since 10/2008; 10 years as a Board member of a small condo Association (5 yrs president; 4 yrs Treasurer; 1 yr VP). I was on the initial Board for 7 years. I returned to the Board as president from 2002 to 2005. During this last period the Board oversaw repaving of the street and established a reserve that was large enough for a repaint all homes. **Knights of Columbus:** High leadership position for a local council and local assembly and 3 yrs as a State District Deputy. **Church:** I was involved with a local parish in many capacities including parish council president.

A vote for Moe is a vote for continued calm. A failure to vote is a vote for turmoil.

Board Candidate Darrell Smith

Please accept this as my official notice to seek election to the Board of Director position of the VENTANA LAKES P.O.A. in March 2008. The following is my commitment to the voting members of the Association.

The business conducted by the Board of Directors at the request of the members of the community must be fair and impartial. The elections that set Directors in the positions they hold, are without question the most important event we as individuals can take part in to support in our community. Once the elections are over, it is the responsibility of every elected officer to support each and every "V.L.P.O.A." rule and regulation. These articles and by-laws set forth the manner in which the official business will be conducted to support the direction given by the majority of homeowners voting on any community-related subject.

As a Board member, the direction given by the voting majority of Association members in matters of financial expenditures, community improvements, common area maintenance and community activities must be supported. All property owners have the right to be heard on issues that affect them as an Association member. The business conducted by the Board on behalf of the residents of Ventana Lakes should be open to inspection and comment by any Association member in good standing. Certain exemptions are set forth by Judicial Order to provide for protection of employees personal factors.

I believe the Board members are elected by the residents to facilitate the wishes and desires of the voting majority of our community. To take action other than that directed by the Association members without legal and or lawful authority would put a Board member in a position of great personal liability. It would be my goal to serve each member to the best of my ability and to treat all members with the respect and dignity I seek for myself.

If elected to the Board, I will strive to reunite the members of our community by being open to comments and suggestions from all members. I believe I have a good rapport with the homeowners of Ventana Lakes. I will not support any issue or action by the Board that I know to be against the best interest of our community regardless of outside influence and or pressures. I have a financial investment in this community as does each and every property owner, and it is the responsibility of each property owner to protect these investments by taking an active role in the operations of our Association.

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

(For January 16, 2008.) Since the last Board meeting, there have been three meetings of the Architectural Committee.

We processed 21 new requests from homeowners. All were approved. Also, 18 final inspections were conducted. All were approved. About 6 satellite dish location approvals were conducted, and about 3 satellite dish noncompliant locations are in process.

Members of the Architectural Committee still find many homeowners who have work in progress or work completed without prior written approval from the Committee. Please remind your friends and neighbors that architectural review is needed before changes are made to the exterior of a home or to the yard. Forms are available in the Management Office and on the website. Requests need to be submitted by 4 pm on Wednesdays in order for the request to be placed on the agenda for the following Monday.

All exterior Christmas / Holiday lights still on your house or fence must be removed by now.

Remember to place your trash/recycle containers behind the sidewalks or in the garage the same day as collection. Per Peoria City Code and CC&Rs.

Submitted by Ken Hunstad.

LAKES COMMITTEE

Boat stickers and inspections for 2008 are now being done by lake committee members. You need an inspection each year to be in compliance with Board policy.

We have been checking and working on the lakes pumps and fountains. The water temperatures are down so any algae problems are diminished. Please, any boat owners, because of recent rains a lot of boats have standing water in them and need to be emptied.

Thanks: Tim Willems

ITALIAN- AMERICAN CLUB OF VENTANA LAKES

Darrell Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members in attendance. There were 66 Members in attendance. Sadly, Darrell informed the group that Josephine Spizzirri had passed away several weeks earlier. He also informed us that RoseAnn Fiebig, Lois Parrinello and Jo Guidi were ill.

Since Florence Cardinale had laryngitis, Darrell advised everyone about the trips to Harrah's Ak-Chin and Primm, NV. The trip to Primm, NV scheduled for February

18, 19 & 20, is still open for sign up, as a total of 40 people are needed to go on this trip. Please call Florence if you're interested in going.

Darrell mentioned that tickets were being sold for the February 7th meeting. The February meeting is open to Members and their Guests and will include dinner and Hawaiian Dancers. The fees for this meeting are Members \$5.00, Guests \$7.00. He suggested that folks get their tickets as soon as possible. Please call RoseAnn Fiebig for tickets.

Darrell also announced that there will be a Sweetheart Dance on Thursday, February 14th, held at the Yacht Club which is open to all Ventana Lakes residents. The fee is \$1.00 and you'll need to bring a dessert. Darrell and Ivy Dempsey will entertain you with their fantastic singing. This event is limited to only 150 people so please get your tickets at the Ventana Lakes office as soon as possible.

Darrell honored five birthdays; there were no anniversaries. Darrell then called table numbers and everyone had plenty to eat. There were BBQ wings, salad, cheeses, veggies and dessert. After dinner, we all had a chance to sing along to karaoke. Some folks even danced.

At 8:30 p.m. it was time for the 50/50 drawing after which the karaoke continued. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. For information about the Italian-American Club, please call Darrell Smith at (623) 376-0372.

EXPERIENCE MAH JONGG

Players meet at the Rec. Center every Thursday at noon. If you are interested in joining us please contact: Arleen Baker 623-376-7786 or Susie Levine 322-4879.

FLYING SOLOS

The Flying Solos is a social club and everyone is invited. We meet in the Yacht Club every third Thursday of the month. On the 4th Thursday of every month we meet at 4:30 pm at a restaurant, our February social will be at Dave's Barbeque. Call Miriam Snider 376-9301 or Yvonne Krueger 566-3353 for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

NEW GROUP FOR QUILTERS MEETING IN THE VENTANA CRAFT ROOM MONDAY EVENINGS

Do you work or have other commitments during the day but would still like to meet people that quilt? There will be a new group for quilters meeting in the Ventana Craft Room Monday evenings. Bring your machine or hand

work along or any projects you are working on. We will chat and sew, share ideas or come up with some new ones. If you are new to quilting this would be a great group for you also. If you are interested in meeting with this group please contact Carol at 623-695-7707. This group will start meeting the first week in February (if we have enough people interested). There will be no charge for this group and all are welcome.

BOCCE BALL NEEDS MORE PEOPLE!

Our 7:00 PM Thursday night Couples Bocce Ball group is short people. Full strength is 8 couples and several substitute couples. We need 4 couples that can commit to full time play and 2 or 3 couples that would like to be on our substitute list. Looking for year round residents as we play except when it gets real hot. We play a friendly game. The men against the women and try not to have the couples on the same court. We are currently playing with 4 full time and 2 sub couples. A couple that is on our sub list is given first choice to advance to a full timer. Any questions to Don or Joyce Lorentzen @ 544-9781

NEWS OF THE VENTANA LAKES SHALOM CLUB

Our Hanukkah party last month was well attended and a huge success. Many thanks to all who chipped-in to make it possible. Our next meeting will be a dinner meeting on February 21 for which we anticipate a large turn-out. As usual, members will be notified by phone or e-mail as to the restaurant and the exact time. If you have any questions please call Eileen Grossman at 623-566-0006 or Trudy Fleishman at 623-566-1970. 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.

KITCHEN INVESTIGATORS SEEK SHOW OF INTEREST!

How do we maintain one of Ventana Lakes **MOST** important amenities? We bring the Yacht Club kitchen up to Maricopa County code for an Active Adult Community! Currently, we can only dispense prepackaged food or hire outside caterers who are willing to work without a stove. **No cooking, no scooping, no popping is allowed in our kitchen at this time** because it doesn't meet health standard codes. Of course, it is important to serve food from a kitchen that protects our residents from food borne illness as much as possible.

The basics of the remodel will involve upgrading the hot water heater, putting in a commercial three tub sink, a hand-washing sink, a new dishwasher and

covering the center island with stainless steel. Most of the work will take place along the wall that runs from the freezer to the stoves.

Your Kitchen Committee's investigation has revealed the following:

- Only one professional contractor would even give us a bid and it ended up being \$50,000!
- The Sun City Elks Club advised they had a similar situation. They used members for labor and the club paid for the materials to accomplish their remodel. Unfortunately, they declined to bid on our job.

We currently have **neither concrete plans nor timeline**. Nothing has been presented to the Board. We are INVESTIGATING!

We are looking for a show of interest from Ventana's skilled artisans who may consider participating in this project once formally proposed. **We need a remodel designer, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and sheet metal workers who would donate their time.** Unfortunately, Ventana Lakes has a policy, which doesn't allow payments to ANY resident workers. We take a great deal of pride in all of the volunteers who give countless hours to keep this a wonderful place to live!

Please contact **Janez Tazioli 623-825-9808** if you have an interest in this project or know someone we could contact.

LINE DANCING!

Winter is here and so is Ventana Lakes Line Dance Class!! Audrey teaches on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Yacht club from 8:00 AM-10:00AM. The first hour is beginning instruction- nice and specific for those who are just starting or need a refresher. The second hour is more advanced- but those of you who are just starting, don't worry, you will catch onto the more advanced moved quickly too! Price is \$4.00 whether you stay for one hour or two. Come join us. Questions? **Call Audrey at 623-566-2667.**

TAI CHI

Tai Chi for Beginners will continue into February on the 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th. at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays at the Yacht Club. Call Mr. Kenneth Harper at 977-9179 for details. The regular Tai Chi classes will continue to meet on Monday at 8:00 am, Wednesday at 7:00 am and Friday at 5:00 pm in the Card Room.

BALLROOM DANCING

Classes held each Wednesday at 7:00 pm at the Yacht Club. If you would like information please call **Mr. Kenneth Harper at 977-9179.**

LADIES BUNCO

Ladies, Join us for an evening of Bunco! This is a no skill dice game which provides a fun night and a chance to win some prize money. Cost is \$5 per person, and we share delicious snacks brought by the players.

Games are played on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Next game is Feb. 13.

For more information, please call
**Eileen DeMeloitz at
566-2095.**

VENTANA LAKES BRIDGE CLUB

February Coordinator will be Len Gordon any questions please **call 566-9080**. Bridge Club meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm in the Card Room.

NEW ZUMBA CLASSES

Starting here at Ventana Lakes on Monday, January 21st at 10:30 am in the Yacht Club.

If you missed the first class don't worry because classes are held every Monday at 10:30 am at the Yacht Club. Come and join us and dance your way to a fitter you with new and exciting Latin Moves and Rhythms!! Zumba, the class that is taking the world by STORM!!

This class is for women and men. Punch cards will be available at the Yacht Club on Mondays. 5 classes \$25.00 and 10 classes \$40.00 and your punch card can be used at any time. \$6.00 drop in fee will be charged if you choose not to buy a punch card.

ST. MARY'S WESTSIDE FOOD BANK

A big **thank you** to all the residents here at Ventana Lakes that have donated food during the year. We were able to donate 2,110 lbs of can goods and 3 turkeys and \$16.00 in cash. **Evelyn and Tony Demont** are wonderful for handling all this for us and will continue to do so!! If you would like to donate to the Westside Food Bank there is a drop off can at the Management Office so please feel free to come in at anytime we greatly appreciate it!!

We're Also in the Book

Sue Alandar, Board President.....salandar@vlpoa.org
Darrell Smith, Vice President.....dsmith@vlpoa.org
Moe Frenette, Treasurer.....mfrenette@vlpoa.org
Lori Norris, Secretary.....lnorris@vlpoa.org
Jack Donovan, Community Manager.....
.....manager@vlpoa.org

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

CANCELLATIONS

Sea To Sea in a Model T February 9th at 6:00 pm had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales!

South of the Border The trip to Algodones Mexico scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th was cancelled due to lack of participation. The few residents that called to sign up ended up going with another group on January 25th.

Renaissance Fair Trip Saturday, February 16th did not have enough participation so the bus company cancelled the trip.

Coffee Forum

Saturday, February 9th
9:30 am at the Yacht Club



Meet The Candidates

Will be held after the Coffee Forum.

Board Meeting

Saturday, February 9th at 1:30 p.m. Yacht Club.
Big Boys' Toy Storage (Our New Neighbors)
Will give a presentation!

HOSPICE INFORMATIONAL CLASS

On Monday, February 11th at 11:00 am at the Card Room next to the Rec. Center. All are invited **NO COVER CHARGE- NO OBLIGATION – NOTHING TO BUY!!**

Hospice Benefits explained and questions answered by Chaplin Tom, resident of Ventana Lakes. Please R.S.V.P to Hospice Family Care at 623-876-9100, ask for Linda.



SWEETHEART DANCE WITH DARRELL & IVY

Thursday, February 14th at the Yacht Club at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$1.00 per person. Potluck with finger foods and Sinful Desserts. Coffee and Tea will be provided. Don't wait to purchase your tickets as this event will sell out!!
Over 100 tickets have been sold !!

LAUGHLIN TURNAROUND

Thursday, February 21st \$10.00 per person pick-up time is 6:15 am at the Yacht Club!!! Edgewater Casino has free buffet for breakfast or lunch or \$5.00 off of dinner with player's club card. Movies on the bus, 9 other Casino's on the strip so what more could you ask for!! Sign up for a fun day trip!!

MAZATZAL CASINO

Tuesday, February 26th 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 that month 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.

KARAOKE WITH DARRELL!

Come join a lot of talented Ventana Lakes neighbors at the Yacht Club at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 29th. It's only \$2.00 per person (you can pay at the door). You'll need to bring your own beverage and snacks.
See you there!



**PUT THIS PAGE ON
YOUR FRIDGE!**

COMING UP IN MARCH MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

COUNTRY GOSPEL SHOW WITH GREG GASTON

On Sunday, March 9th at 2:00pm Greg will present a wonderful afternoon show you are sure to enjoy at the Yacht Club. Tickets for \$4.00 per person will be on sale at the Management Office as of Monday, February 4th.

ST. PATTY'S SOUP NIGHT AND IRISH ENTERTAINMENT

On Saturday, March 15th AT 6:00 pm at the Yacht Club.

Tickets will be \$3.00 per person and on sale at the Management office starting Monday, February 4th. I am looking for residents who would like to bring soup and I need kitchen helpers and a clean up crew. Please call Tina at the Office at 623-566-6001.

PISTOLS AND PETTICOATS DINNER THEATER

On Saturday, March 29th at 6:00 pm at the Yacht Club. Tickets will be \$9.00 per person which includes dinner and a show. You may buy your tickets on Monday, February 4th. I am looking for residents to help in the kitchen and help serve and I will need a clean up crew. Please call Tina at the Office.

Recognizing A Stroke

STROKE: Remember The 1st Three Letters....S.T.R.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S * Ask the individual to SMILE.

T * Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, **call 911** immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. **ONE MORE SIGN:--** Stick out Your Tongue Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked' or if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.



VOLUNTEERS FOR VENTANA LAKES RESIDENTS IN NEED

Four services offered

Welcome Unit: Share with new residents a small gift bag with information about the area

Handyman services unit available: Change AC filters; change light bulbs; change smoke detector batteries; move a small piece of furniture; and do minor repairs

On short term service basis: pick up prescriptions; do grocery shopping

Spiritual: A non-denominational Chapel Service is held the first and third Saturday from 3 to 4 pm in the Game Room. Bible based insight is given on the transitions and challenges of life. Topics have dealt with prayer, grief, emotional issues and God's grace and love. Tapes from previous services and classes held on grief are in the Rec Center library to borrow. Questions and prayer needs may be left for Karen at 602-234-6508. All are welcome.

Residents that need help with transportation need to call:

ViCaP Faith in Action Program—602-285-0543

Peoria Dial-A-Ride—743-7435

Interfaith Community Care—623-584-4999.

Check with the Management Office for additional transportation references.