

May 2008

Ventana Lakes Property Owners Association



Ventana Views

Summertime is almost here!!

Activity News from Tina Dunn, Activity Coordinator
Community News from Sue Alandar, Board President

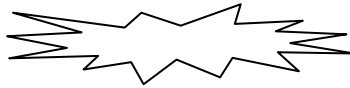
GOING AWAY FOR THE SUMMER? See Page 11 to see how to protect your home.. And remember you can keep in touch and read your Ventana Views on the website at www.vlpoa.org!



DON'T MISS CINCO DE MAYO!!
Hey, who doesn't love
Mexican Food?
GET THE SCOOP INSIDE THIS ISSUE!



The **Architectural Guidelines** tell us all how our homes and yards will look. They are meant to protect our property values. We are asking the community to review the guidelines and let us know if they are reasonable, practical and necessary. **SEE PAGE 7**



The Board needs your input as members of this Association
**PLEASE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO HELP GOVERN
YOUR VENTANA LAKES**

During the election we kept hearing that you wanted **Advisory Groups**...well, proposed guidelines start on page 9. Tell us what you think – and if you are willing to serve!

**PLEASE HELP GET
THE TRUCKS OFF OF
BEARDSLEY ROAD!**

See Page 9

Our community needs continuity and a planned, visible future to ensure continued stability and success. Come be a part of it!
BOARD PLANNING MEETING MAY 12

Don't have a computer? There is one at the Management Office you can use to access the Ventana Lakes website. Check out pictures from our activities, past issues of the *Views*, financial reports, Board minutes and agendas, more!

Don't forget Memorial Day Monday, May 26th at 8:00am at the Yacht Club.

MAY ACTIVITIES



CELEBRATION!!

Here at VENTANA LAKES
On Sunday, May 4th at 4:00pm
Held in the Yacht Club

CATERED MEXICAN DINNER & MEXICAN DANCERS!!! TICKETS \$10.00

Dancers will start at 4:00pm and after they finish we have a little surprise for you from one of our residents here in Ventana Lakes. Barbara Dabul will be performing south of the Border. Dinner will be served at 5:45pm and is being catered by Caramba Fresh Mexican Food. The menu will be Beef or Chicken Taco's, Cheese Enchilada's, Rice and Beans, Chips and Salsa. Tickets are \$10.00 per person so get to the Management Office fast because this will sell out.

WESTBROOK VILLAGE GOLF CLUB



Dennis Galvin from Westbrook Village Golf Course will be here at Ventana Lakes on **Tuesday, May 6th at 8:00am** at the Yacht Club. Come enjoy coffee and donuts and have all your questions answered regarding the Golf Course at Westbrook Village.

MAZATZAL CASINO

Thursday, May 8th and Tuesday, May 27th FREE!!! You owe it to yourself, to check out this UPGRADED casino, restaurant and buffet. Bus leaves the Yacht Club at 7:45 A.M. **You 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 and Bingo. 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.

Here are the dates for the Mazatzal Casino Trips for the rest of the YEAR!!

Thursday, June 12th & Tuesday, June 24th

Thursday, July 10th & Tuesday, July 29th

Thursday, August 14th & Tuesday, August 26th

Thursday, September 11th & Tuesday, September 23rd

Thursday, October 9th & Tuesday, October 28th

Tuesday, November 18th

Tuesday, December 16th

HEALTH SCREENS

Health Screens is returning to Ventana Lakes Friday, May 9th, at the Yacht Club. Whether it's your first time or your annual screening, you'll be glad you did!

Call 480-854-4735 to ask questions or to schedule your appointment.

COFFEE SOCIAL 9:00 A.M.

BOARD MEETING WILL

FOLLOW

AT 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, May 10th at the
Yacht Club. Tickets on sale at

the Management Office for \$1.50 up until Friday, May 9th at noon or you may buy one at the door for \$ 2.00.



MAY 12 – 11:00 A.M. – YACHT CLUB OPEN BOARD PLANNING MEETING

LAUGHLIN TURNAROUND TRIP

Thursday, May 15th \$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!! Any questions please call Pat Blattner at 566-4914.

Connie Meisner & Friends

Command Performance by Connie Meisner and Friends.



Everyone remembers her from the Christmas Program with Miriam Snider and if you missed that you want to make sure you don't miss this one!! So we got her back for you to enjoy on **Sunday, May 18th at 3:00pm at the Yacht Club.** Tickets are on SALE NOW FOR \$2.00 PER

PERSON at the Management Office!!

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION



On Monday, May 26th at 8:00am at the Yacht Club.

Luke Air Force Base will be here and a wonderful program has been planned for you by **TONY DEMONT!!** We would love for Ventana Lakes residents to support this Memorial Day Celebration. We will be providing donuts and coffee so we need you to come into the office or call the office to **SIGN UP** for this Patriotic Event. There is **NO CHARGE** for this event but we need to order donuts so we need to know how many people will be attending.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS VS. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Tuesday, May 27th Bus Departs at 4:30pm and will return at 11:00pm. If we can get 10 seats sold the bus from Promenade Travel Services will pick up here at the Yacht Club. Tickets for this event are \$59.00 per person which includes Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Admission to the Game- Seating in Section 110, Driver & Escort Gratuities. For reservations & information, please contact Promenade Travel Services- Main Office 623-977-8800.

Please tell them you live in Ventana Lakes that way they can keep track of how many tickets they sell, they have blocked 10 tickets for our community. So sign up for a fun night!!

KARAOKE WITH DARRELL AND JACK!

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



TOURS AND MARGARITAS (ALMOST)

Come and enjoy a slide show presentation of Cooper Canyon by Argonaut Tours and drink refreshing non-alcoholic Margaritas on Saturday, May 31st at the Yacht Club at 7:00 pm (BYOB if you want to make them real ones!) Please call or come into the Management Office to sign up for a fun evening. (FREE)

**Happy Mother's Day to All Our MOMS
Here in Ventana Lakes!!
We Love You!!**

COMING UP IN JUNE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BREAST CANCER 3 DAY WALK FUND RAISER- HOSTED BY DARRELL & IVY AND GUESTS

Saturday, June 7th at 7:00pm at the YACHT CLUB. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Darrel & Ivy and Guests will be singing a VARIETY OF



MUSIC THAT EVERYONE WILL ENJOY!! We will have RAFFLES and REFRESHMENTS. Don't miss out on the wonderful EVENT. Come help us SUPPORT THIS GREAT CAUSE!! Tickets on Sale NOW at the Management Office!! Let's go Ventana Lakes. This is a don't miss EVENT!!!

BREAKFAST WITH SUN GROVE

Come and join us at the Yacht Club on Thursday, June 12th at 9:00am for breakfast compliments of Sun Grove Village Care Center at the Yacht Club. They will be providing a buffet style breakfast and some information about the services that they offer to the community. If you would like to stop by for some food, fun, and conversation on Thursday, June 12th at the Yacht Club please call the office or come in and sign up.

MEMORIES FROM MEMPHIS WITH DELICIOUS DESSERTS

Looking for a fun night in June you just don't want to miss!! This is it- On Saturday, June 21st at 7:00 pm at the Yacht Club PRESENTING Johnny Cash & Elvis Presley Singers. They will be playing all the music we enjoy and love to dance TO!! Tickets are \$5.00 per person.

POTLUCK WITH DELICIOUS DESSERTS!!

If you would like to volunteer to bring a delicious dessert please let the front desk at the Management Office know what it will be when you're here buying your TICKETS!!!! Buy more than one ticket so you can bring your family and friends THESE GUYS ARE GOOD!!

JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER WITH MARY HOLLAND

Ice cream social in June with Mary Holland on Sunday, June 29th at 2:00pm in the Yacht Club!!

This is going to be a nice afternoon social with your friends here in Ventana Lakes we also welcome you to bring your family and friends from church to join us!!

Tickets are \$4.00 per person so hurry in to the Management Office and buy your tickets NOW!!! If you have never heard Mary play the piano she is wonderful and you will enjoy her!!! SEE YOU THERE

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB

Darrell Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance. Darrell mentioned that tickets were available for the May 1st meeting. The May meeting is open to Members only. The May meeting, for which there is no charge, will include Pizza during which time elections for next year's Board of Directors will be held. Darrell encouraged all Members to consider running for any of the five open positions, since in the past it's generally been the same volunteers who fill these positions. If you haven't already gotten your ticket(s), please call RoseAnn Fiebig at 376-9037.

Darrell called table numbers and everyone enjoyed a dinner of roast chicken, salad, cole slaw, bread and ice cream. There was plenty of food and some folks even went up for second helpings.

No Treasurer's Report was given since this meeting included Guests.

Announcements were made about two surgeries – Nancy Campise and Nando Palminiello. Our prayers are with them both. We were also informed that Jay Verlotta is doing much better.

We honored six birthdays this month and everyone sang Happy Birthday. Then our entertainer, MaryJo Johnson, sang a special Happy Birthday song to the birthday folks. We also honored 2 anniversaries – one for 35 years and one for 52 years!

At 7:00 p.m. we had the great pleasure of being entertained by our favorite singer, MaryJo Johnson who gave her usual fabulous, crowd-pleasing performance. MaryJo made us laugh and she made us cry, she got some folks dancing and had us join in lots of her songs.

Then it was time for the 50/50 drawing during which ten prizes were given out. The two beautiful baskets made by RoseAnn Fiebig and Suzie Smith were won by Alex Spizzirri and Shari Ford.

There were 126 Members and their Guests in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

FLYING SOLOS

It's a new year for the Flying Solo Social Club of Ventana Lakes and with it new beginnings.

We are now officially a **SINGLES ONLY** social club for the single residents of Ventana Lakes. A place to meet and mingle with other Ventana Lakes singles, get out and be with new friends, share new adventures and participate in Ventana Lakes and beyond, together !!!

And with it we have a new Chairperson Shari Ford. Shari moved to Ventana Lakes two years ago from the San Francisco Bay area and joined the Flying Solo's a year ago. She is intently interested in seeing the **Flying Solo Social Club** grow and thrive.

We applaud and thank Brenda Harris for her stellar term of office as Chairperson. She did an outstanding job as our leader. We all benefited from her leadership. We thank her too for her generosity, hard work and friendship that have been enjoyed by all!!!

We also applaud and thank Lolly Lawler who has resigned as Entertainment Director, for stepping up in the interim and working in that capacity. Thank you!!!

We are pleased to announce Miriam Snider has accepted the position as Entertainment Director for the coming year as well as co chairperson. She brings connections from the entertainment world and will be providing a variety of entertainment for all to enjoy. !!!

We also applaud and thank our Treasurer Kay McLaughlin and Secretary Yvonne Krueger for past-dedicated service in their positions with the Flying Solo's. They have both generously stepped up and accepted their respective positions for another term.

We had a sumptuous March Easter potluck/ meeting. Thank you to Brenda Harris for generously providing a spiral ham we all shared. Thank you to Lolly Lawler for generously providing one of her paintings as the door prize that was won by Daphne Eblin. And to all of our members, who brought delicious potluck dishes to share, prizes Easter basket and games prepared for us to play, thank you all!!!

We will be offering **more activities, entertainment and speakers to appeal to all.**

Join us for weekly walks, VL croquet, picnics, Recreation room drop ins, hikes, outings of interest and new adventures, travel, potlucks, dining out and joining in Ventana Lakes activities together.

COME OUT and JOIN US

Mark your calendar!!!!

Meetings the 3rd Thursday Each Month at 6:30 PM

May Meeting MAY 15th 6:30PM

Spring potluck; bring a dish, 8-10 servings to share Entertainment provided

Dining out Social 4th Thursday at 4:30 PM

May Social May 22nd 4:30 PM

Mikes Rigatoni Bistro, Italian and Greek cuisine.

83rd and Bell, south side shopping center

Next to JC Penney Home Store

Come Join Us!!! For More Details call Shari 594-5511 Miriam 376-9301 or Yvonne 566-3353.

NEW GROUP FOR QUILTERS 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 at 6:00 pm. 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. There will be no charge for this group and all are welcome.

NEWS OF THE VENTANA LAKES SHALOM CLUB

Plans for our May meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 8 are incomplete as of this writing. (May 8 is VE Day - does anyone remember?)

We will likely be going into our summer schedule of dinner meetings and will be in touch with members by phone or e-mail as to what plans have been made, and the exact date, time, place, etc., of the meeting.

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

LINE DANCING!

SUMMER is here and so Ventana Lakes Line Dance Class ends after April 28th and will start up the first Monday in October!! Questions? Call Audrey Fulcher at 623-566-2667.

TAI CHI

Tai Chi for Beginners will continue into May on the 6, 13, 20 & 29 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 are 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 April 9th.

For more information, please call

Eileen DeMeloitz at 566-2095.

VENTANA LAKES BRIDGE CLUB

May Coordinator will be Ruth Porter/Stan Allen, any questions please call 215-7720. Bridge Club meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm in the Card Room.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Ventana Lakes Bible Study Discussion Group is an interdenominational group that uses the expository approach to Bible study. The group has been organized over ten years. Meetings are held every Monday morning in the Game Room at 10:00 A.M.

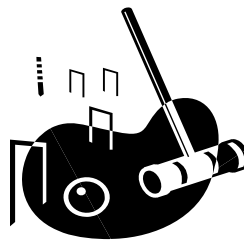
Thank you Drexel L. Pope – 623-566-3860

VENTANA LAKES CROQUET CLUB

Most of you played this fun filled non-strenuous sporty game when you were kids. Come

on all you men and women and RELIVE those fun days with your neighbors. We are setting up new days and times

during the week. If you're not sure if you want to play, then just come out and watch us have fun and you'll want to be a regular player too. We have a really great Croquet court that has real beautiful maintained grass to play on. Call 602 - 920-2310 if you are interested or have any questions.



CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale cards, pictures, notes and memos from residents have been moved to the small bulletin board on your left as you come in the front door of the Rec. Center. The cards can be no larger than 3x5 and have to be date stamped at the management office before they can be placed on the bulletin board and we will do that for you. Just bring them into the office and we will see to it that it gets put on the bulletin board. Could you please keep an eye on the bulletin boards and if you see anyone except the Bulletin Board Maven putting up or taking down items, give Tina a call at the office at 623-566-6001. Thanks so much!!

QUILTERS

We have more room for Friday afternoon quilters. We meet 11:30am to 3:30pm and we do have a teacher Ruth Gordon is her name. Even if you are a new quilter or old please come and share your day with us. We have lots of fun call Dixie Powers at 623-566-3664 or Dee Stillson at 623 - 561-9338. Thank you.

ZUMBA FITNESS

Come dance your way to a fitter you with exciting and unique Latin moves and rhythms!! Class is held every Monday at 10:30am at the Yacht Club. Brenda Thomason is the instructor and she is wonderful. Classes are \$6.00 for drop- INS and if you decide to come back you can purchase a punch card for \$25.00 for 5 classes and \$40.00 for 10 classes. Hope to see you there!! If you have any Questions you may call Brenda Thomason at 623-214-9495.

A BIG THANK YOU TO MARCIA DEPESA AND PHYLLIS REED AND CAST AND ALL THE VOLUNTEERS FOR PUTTING TOGETHER SUCH A GREAT SPRING VARIETY SHOW THIS YEAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY!! EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES EVERYONE HAD A GOOD TIME!! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!

POKER TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1ST PLACE - GARY BECK
2ND PLACE - VICTOR KUNISODIT
3RD PLACE - MOLLY MANDEL
4TH PLACE - VERN BACON
5TH PLACE - PAT BRACKEN



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

Please do not allow your pets to roam loose without a leash in the water retention area that's located on the corner of 104th Dr. and Pontiac Dr. This is Ventana Lakes common grounds and it is a violation of the CC&R's if all pets, when on common ground are not always on a leash.

Also, if you must walk your dog on a leash in this water retention area please make sure you carry a litter bag with you to pick up after your pet.

Barbara Campbell shared a story at the April Coffee Forum about our Board Vice President, Darrell Smith. It seems he saw her take a bad fall and he picked her up and took her to the hospital and spent four hours making sure she was taken care of. (He even took the time to put her dog back in the yard. The one that knocked her down.) She just wanted to say thanks.

GREAT JOB AND A BIG THANK YOU TO PHYLLIS ZUBICK FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION ON PREPARING AND COLLECTING ALL THE DONATIONS AND GIFTS FOR THE ANNUAL DOG PARADE THIS YEAR!! A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES, MADDIE FRENETTE, LOIS KAY BACON, AND CHET HOMAN GREAT TURN OUT!! THANKS TO ALL THE RESIDENTS WHO BROUGHT THEIR DOGS OUT THEY WERE ALL WINNERS!!! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE PICTURES OF THIS FUN DAY GO TO www.vlpoa.org And then scroll down to Photo Gallery and click on DOG PARADE

DOG PARADE AWARDS

Best Dressed was won by Ada Hobson--Mitzi and Rosco
Cutest Family (more than one dog) was won by Bob and Bobbie Knutson --Gismo and Gigi
Best Trick was won by Bob Huff--Buddy
Best Matching (owner and dog) was won by Wes McIntosh--Mr. Cory
Best Behaved was won by Fran Quinn--Bridget
Cutest Puppy (less than one year) was won by Joan Hay--Millie
Cutest Senior (over 10) was won by Joyce Gadek--Tundra
Biggest Baby was won by Joyce Gadek--Tundra
Smallest Warrior was won by Lois Parrinello--Licorice



Community News

by Sue Alandar, Board President

Hello, everyone! By now you've noticed our new format – we've put Tina up front where she belongs. After all, most of us are retired, and even if we're not...life is to enjoy!

In the meantime, your Board is working very hard. Our April agenda was full of both operational and policy matters. We had several meetings scheduled in April and more for May, and have been holding executive sessions for the purpose of taking care of some legal and resident-related issues. The number of meetings will slow down over the summer while many of Ventana's Association members are away, but we will each be carrying some research homework with us and you'll see some more important issues coming back in the fall.

But here is what is important. You have already seen a big change in how your Board operates in Ventana Lakes. You will, as we move forward with Ventana's business, see more changes in how our community operates. I believe it's important that you understand why.

Our community is changing, but it is not alone. The fact is that homeowners associations are seeing change ALL across the country. Since they were begun by developers in the 1980's, there have been a lot of court cases, some far more contentious than the one we just went through. Perhaps because of this, perhaps because of common sense, there has been a change in attitude about how HOA'S should be run. Cities, and the attorneys who advise HOA's, are both trying very hard to re-educate and re-train the traditional autocratic Board. The old image of "We are the boss – do as we say or else!" just doesn't fly anymore.

I went to a meeting of the West Valley Homeowners Associations last month where the topic – presented by Ekmark and Ekmark to various Board members from around the West Valley – was on enforcement of violations of the CC&R's, particularly the Architectural rules. It boiled down to this quote:

*Remember always that you are building a community. Your decisions should be based upon cost-effectiveness and a benefit analysis. There should be no subjective or aesthetic issue involved. Remember when you are addressing a violation: **Is there harm to the community if it is not enforced? How great is the harm?***

This is also the training that is given at the Homeowners Association Training Academy, which some of us have attended. **This doesn't mean that nothing will be enforced!** It means only that the Board must take a close

look at its priorities, and those of its community. Where is the harm to the community? What is damaging to our property values? What other criteria should we consider? What should we be expending our energies and our resources on in our rules, our attention, our enforcement?

The role of a Board is not to keep the homeowners in line, but to build the community.

This means there will be yet more change in the way things are done.

This means we need your input as members of this Association.

You are being asked in this newsletter to provide input on several very important issues. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO DO SO. Thank you.

Reviewing the Architectural Guidelines

The Architectural Committee has asked the Board to review the guidelines of the Architectural Committee, as it does annually. However, this Board is working on a new process for the Architectural Committee to use when promulgating rules for the community's architectural guidelines.

At the April Board meeting, the Board decided to begin a **community-wide review of the existing Architectural Guidelines**, asking for everyone's input. The objective is to determine if these guidelines are clear, reasonable and/or necessary.

The Architectural Committee (AC) has developed the rules governing how our homes and yards will appear over the past 20 years. They have worked diligently to create procedures for the preparation, submission and determination of the application for any approvals required by the CC&R's. However, our attorney has pointed out that there have never been rules written by the Board to direct how the guidelines themselves are promulgated by the AC. This is occurring at the same time that we are completing the review of our CC&R's and our Bylaws, so it makes sense to review our AC guidelines at the same time.

You should already have a copy of the current AC guidelines, if you have picked up a copy of the "Community Rules" or "Supplement to the Directory" from the Management Office. If not, you can NOW pick up a

copy of the VENTANA LAKES COMMUNITY AND ARCHITECTURAL RULES (dated April 24, 2008) which contains both the current and the proposed changes. Alternatively, you can go to the website at www.vlpoa.org and view them or print them out from there.

To provide your written comments on the current rules or the proposed ones, either drop them off at the Management Office or e-mail them to me at ventanacommunications@cox.net.

We'll be gathering your input throughout the summer and into fall but don't put it off too long or you might forget!



On April 21, the Board held a special open meeting on planning, presenting and scheduling the new CC&R's and Bylaws for Ventana Lakes.

As many of you know, a special committee has been working on this project for several years, and was in fact ready to present the changes to the community but were halted awaiting the outcome of litigation that affected their work. They have outlined their planning and scheduling to the Board and received our support and pledge of assistance in this.

The majority of changes remove obsolete references to the developer and clarifies the intent through language and reorganization. There are also proposed amendments based on input from the community. These will be pointed out in documents and in meetings with homeowners beginning in October.

A last opportunity to submit your proposal for amendments to the Bylaws or CC&R's is from now until May 7. Drop them into the ballot box at the Management office or e-mail them to ventanacommunications@cox.net and they will go directly to the CC&R Committee.

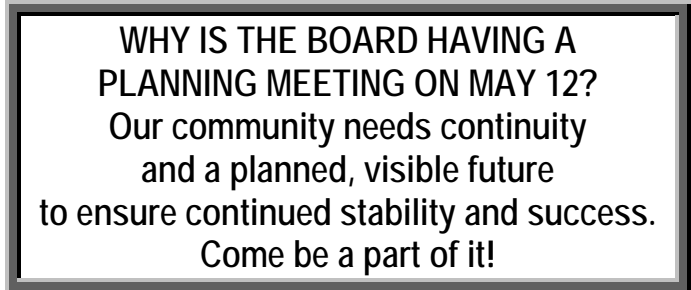
The final draft is coming to the Board by the end of May and will be submitted to the Attorney for review at that time to ensure legality before the community approval process begins. **YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE.**

WATCH FOR MAY AGENDA

The Board's next regular business meeting is at 9:30 on Saturday, May 10, after the Coffee Social. We'll have a full agenda once more, so I hope many of you can attend. The **NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM** will be one of the discussion items, as well as **GARDENS FUNDING.**

MAY PLANNING MEETING

On May 12, Monday, beginning at 11:00 p.m. and at least until 4:00 p.m., the Board is having a "Planning" meeting. Everyone is invited. Our objectives are to list the many projects we recognize as necessary to maintain and/or improve the business of the Association and the well-being of the community, and from that create a prioritized schedule of work for this and future Boards.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Chet Homan, Chair
- Moe Frenette
- Darrell Smith
- John Lugo
- Chuck Schumm
- Jack Donovan (as needed)

Chuck Schumm volunteered at the April Board Meeting, thus filling out the membership of our new Finance Committee. Treasurer Moe Frenette is grinning ear to ear, as he has felt the burden of responsibility and work weigh heavily over the last few months, and welcomes sharing both.

Moe plans to have the committee's mission statement and guidelines formally established at the May Board meeting. In the meantime, the committee is working on revising the Ventana Lakes budget spreadsheet to reflect actual comparison to the budget instead of a lineal comparison. In other words: It will show an actual historical comparison of instead of a monthly estimate.

UNUSUAL EXPENSES

This Board promised you that we would keep you advised of any unusual expenditures from YOUR community funds. Our Treasurer, Moe Frenette, gives a report at each Board meeting; the financial report is posted on the website www.vlpoa.org each month (and for those of you who don't have computer access, don't forget you can now go to the Management Office and use the computer

there to log on to the Ventana website;) and each quarter we will give you a report that lays it out clearly in layman's terms. This is the first report.

Unbudgeted expenditures that came out of Association reserves in the First Quarter of 2008 were the following: mold remediation for the Recreation Center, \$32,793; irrigation repair and upgrade: \$10,208; painting the Management Office: \$3,825; Computer upgrade: \$1981; and Association signs: \$1431. Total: \$50,240.

INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS IN 2009

The cost of everything is going up, and our assessments will too.

At the April board meeting we also discussed the possibility of increasing dues slightly for the last half of 2008, in hope of keeping the dues adjustment for 2009 lower. After discussion, though, that motion failed by a vote of 5-1. One reason is to give more advance notice than that. A dues increase is serious business for all of us.

If there's one thing I don't like, it's ending on a "downer"...but we promised to be up front.

Whether you are going or staying for the warm Arizona summer, I wish you the best summer ever. See you next month!

Sue Alandar

ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR TRUCKS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL

Joe McCord, Board Director

Ventana Lakes residents who would like to influence City policy, and improve life in our community, will have a chance to do that sometime soon by attending a City Council meeting when the Council will consider an upcoming bond issue. At stake is including money to build an alternate route for cement and gravel trucks to use instead of Beardsley Road.

If enough people sign up at the Management Office for the trip, the Board will hire a bus to take us there and bring us back. If there aren't enough for a bus, we can at least car pool, so please sign up! Unfortunately, at press time, the date when the matter will come before the City Council had not yet been decided. As soon as the Council picks a date, we will inform everyone.

ADVISORY GROUPS

At it's April meeting, the Board approved the following draft guidelines for Advisory groups. **This subject was brought up frequently during the election, and we are really hoping to get some volunteers!**

Again, please drop off your comments or your name as a volunteer at the Management Office, or send the information to me at ventanacommunications@cox.net

DRAFT ADVISORY GROUP GUIDELINES

Ventana Lakes Property Owners Association has sixteen identified subdivisions within three sectors of the Association.

Subdivisions:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| The Shores | Country Greens (North & South) |
| North Shore | Moonlight Bay |
| North Park | Landings |
| Highlands | Bay Point |
| The Gardens | Bay Point II |
| Heritage | South Bay |
| Lakeside | South Bay II |
| The Coves | Heritage II |

Sectors

1. Northeast Sector (North of Beardsley, East of 107th Avenue)
2. Northwest Sector (North of Beardsley, West of 107th Avenue)
3. Southwest Sector (South of Beardsley, West of 107th Avenue)

An Advisory Group Member is not a Board Member or a Standing Committee; they are an advocate for a specific subdivision to have their concerns and issues brought before and recognized by the Board, Management and Committees.

Each Advisory Group should be limited to 1-3 individuals and must register with the Board to ensure the appropriate individuals are communicating with the subdivision homeowners, the Board, Management and Committees.

Purpose of Advisory Groups:

1. Find ways to distribute information from Management, Committees and the Board that is important to their specific subdivision..
2. Collect concerns from homeowners in their specific subdivision regarding neighborhoods issues that might affect only their subdivision or all of Ventana Lakes. Responsible for prioritizing these matters, bringing them to Management's or

the Board's attention for placement on the appropriate agenda to be addressed.

3. Serve as a point of contact to identify potential volunteers for a project in their specific subdivision.
4. Serve as a point of contact to verify information or issues within their specific subdivision.
5. Assist in finding solutions to issues which will save time, money and relationships. Advisory Groups are designed to help, not hinder the Board, Management and Committees.

Procedures:

Advisory Group Members shall be responsible for ensuring homeowners within their subdivision are provided their contact information and how they want to receive concerns or issues (i.e., email, phone, letter, etc.)

Advisory Group Members are encouraged to work with established Block Watch Members.

Advisory Group Members are not to enforce CC&R, Bylaws or Procedure violations.

Advisory Group Members must have a working knowledge of the CC&R, Bylaws and Community Rules.

When an Advisory Group identifies a potential concern within their specific subdivision they shall draft a written summary of the issue listing who, what when, where, why and how, as well as listing possible solutions to the concern.

Two Board Members (excluding the President) shall be assigned to each sector to assist in processing the concerns and issues of the specific subdivisions within that sector. All decisions require a Board quorum.

1. Sector #1 – Smith and Fiore
2. Sector #2 – McCord and Norris (since no Board Member lives within this sector)
3. Sector #3 – Frenette and Matsuishi

A quarterly meeting shall be scheduled for each sector between the assigned Board Member(s) and the Advisory Group Members within the sector to ensure communication lines are open and to discuss potential updates to the Advisory Group procedures.

PLEASE WATCH THE GRANDKIDS!

A neighbor was almost hurt by another neighbor's grandchild doing "skateboard stunts" after dark on Easter Sunday. Please let's remind them NOT to do this, remembering this is a retirement community and we have people who can be hurt seriously from a fall. Skateboarding and roller skating are NOT allowed on common area sidewalks, even by the residents, so stop it!

ELKS IN THE NEWS

There are quite a few residents of Ventana Lakes who are associated with the Elks. On March 29, 2008 three

Ventana Lakes residents were appointed Officers of the Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 for the 2008 - 2009 year. This is the first time for Ed McDonnell, and repeat appointments for both Tom and Sally Woods.

POLICE MAY USE UNMARKED CARS ON BEARDSLEY

Joe McCord, Board Director

In an effort to reduce speeding by trucks, and other vehicles, along Beardsley Road, the Peoria Police Department may be using unmarked cars to catch and ticket violators. Purposely no date was set, nor would the Police Chief give any clue as to the type of unmarked vehicles he would use. "We might use what appears to be an old car, a pickup truck, or even a van," the Chief said.

The Chief also said that anyone speeding is liable to be ticketed, not just gravel and cement trucks. "I would tell your residents that we'll go after them, too, if we see them violating the law," the Chief said, adding: "We're equal opportunity ticketers."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURAL

The Architectural Committee has processed 65 request this month; 13 involved house painting, 24 landscaping/driveways, 1 pool/spa, 13 patio/gazebo, 8 building modifications and 1 satellite dish. There were 5 denials, 2 violations referred to the Board, 49 final house inspections, 19 closed due to resale and 10 needing follow up inspections.

By Ken Hunstad

LAKES

Last Wednesday Game & Fish released 122 sterile Grass Carp into the lakes. Water Resource Company is testing our lakes to ensure algae are at a healthy level. We have had complaints that the lakes have been too green; this was due to aqua shade being placed in the circulator pumps. The lakes are pretty clear now.

Mature trees around the lakes and heavy winds are causing the tree roots to move the soil resulting in cracks in the concrete around the lakes.

Grass repair around Lake #2 is still being researched. Carescapes Landscaping has been instructed to keep bushes no higher than three feet high around Lakes numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

By Tim Willems

MAINTENANCE

The following projects were recently completed by the Maintenance committee.

- 1) Table tops replaced at the Coves pool and North Park pool.
- 2) New electrical outlet in Rec Center.
- 3) Hung bulletin boards for notices in Yacht Club and Rec Center.
- 4) Remounted pictures in the Rec Center.
- 5) Moved cabinet to the card room for equipment storage.
- 6) Assembled furniture at the Management Office.
- 7) Repaired chair lifts at the North Park pool and spa.
- 8) Replaced various bulbs that had burned out in various buildings.
- 9) Hung fire extinguisher in Management Office.
- 10) Hung bulletin board in Management Office.
- 11) Realigned front doors at Management Office.
- 12) Installed cover box over R/O system at Card Room.
- 13) Installed timer switch at Pickleball gate.

I would like to publicly thank all of the volunteers who assisted with these projects. We enjoy what we do, and care about saving money for the Association.

The next meeting will be held at 09:30AM at the Management Office on May 13, 2008.

By Dave Bracken

TRUCK TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL

On April 20 we presented a video to the City Council regarding the truck traffic along Beardsley. The video made an impact, but we still need to show this is an important issue to us by representation at a meeting. We're asking everyone to attend. Date and time of next City Counsel meeting to be announced.

The next Mining Board meeting will held June 3 at 1:00 pm here at the Yacht Club.

By Joe McCord

STAY VIGILANT TO KEEP CRIME LOW

Chuck Schumm, Block Watch Chairman

We do have crime in Ventana Lakes but it is relatively low when compared to other areas of Peoria. In the month of March, we only had one incident reported to Block Watch that was from the VLPOA where some vandalism was found in the men's bathroom on Monday night March 10 (we assume this occurred during Bingo). We all need to stay vigilant, however, and watch out for each other.

So what can you do as residents to help keep crime low in our community? We all need to stay

proactive, get involved in Block Watch, and watch out for our neighbors and our community.

Neighbors on a street can be the best deterrent to crime. If you see a vehicle driving suspiciously down your street, or you see something suspicious when driving into or out of the community or at a neighbor's home, call the Peoria Police department at the non-emergency number (623) 773-8311.

Pickup newspapers and flyers from a neighbor's driveway and front door if they are piling-up so it doesn't look like no one is home. People sometimes need to go out of town quickly so they forget to stop their newspapers, and sometimes they do stop them just to find them pile-up anyway.

Keep lights turned-on inside your home when you are away at night. Using timers to turn lights on and off is a great idea. Also, turning on a radio if you are away during the day helps to create the illusion that someone is home.

Keep your garage doors closed when not in your garage. If you open the door for ventilation, open it no more than 3 inches so that someone cannot slip under the door. Most thefts in Ventana Lakes are crimes of opportunity meaning a garage door is left open or a car door is left unlocked leaving your property just sitting there for someone to easily take.

Keep house doors and windows locked, and also keep the gate to your backyard locked. One idea for sliding windows and doors is to place a cut piece of PVC pipe in the track so that the window or door cannot be opened more than 3 inches.

Do not investigate or get involved in a suspicious situation because you could get hurt. We have read some news reports about people who got seriously hurt or killed because they investigated something they thought suspicious. If you hear a loud noise like breaking glass at a neighbor's home, or someone screaming, call 9-1-1 immediately and report a possible crime in progress.

After a crime situation has been resolved we in Ventana Lakes Block Watch would like to know about the crime so we can make others aware of it. Call Chuck Schumm at 825-4517. We don't need your name or exact address. Crime incidents are posted on the VLPOA website at www.vlpoa.org, click on the Block Watch link, then on the Crime Incident Reports link button. This information is posted to give residents information about crime in our community so you can take steps at your home to prevent a similar crime from happening to you.

We do need Block Watch Captains north of Beardsley. If you would like to volunteer as a Block Watch Captain please call Chuck at 825-4517.

But, the number one thing you can do to help keep crime low in Ventana Lakes is simply call the police if

you see or hear anything suspicious. Call the police, we can't say this enough, and it works.



POOL NEWS FROM SPLASH

John Bateman, Pool Monitor Coordinator

The warm weather has finally arrived. Thank goodness. Many of us (including myself) will be getting back into the swim of things.

Just a reminder. In accordance with the VLPOA Rule, residents are required to display their home owners badge when using any of the facilities. Residents can not give their home owners badge to guest or visitors for their use. These badges are non-transferable. Guest or visitors must obtain a visitors badge from the Management Office to use any of the facilities if they are not escorted by a home owner. The visitors badge cost one dollar (\$1.00) and is good for one month.

This rule will be strictly enforced and visitors will be asked to leave the facility.

The Coves Pool is now heated and is designated as the children's pool for this year.

The Coves pool is the only pool children may use. The rule states that children from 4 to 18 years of age can use the pool. They must be accompanied by an adult. No child less than 4 years of age is allowed in the pool area (inside the gated pool area) nor are they allowed in the pool. Consult the VLPOA pool rules for additional information regarding the pools

The Coves pool and Rec Center pools are heated for your swimming enjoyment.

At this time I would like to address several issues pertaining to the pools.

First: There is a notice on the front gate reminding pool users to take a shower before using the pool or spa. This is in accordance with VLPOA pool rules.

Second. This pertains to water quality. Our bodies emit certain body oils. We, pardon the expression, sweat. We use soaps, deodorants, body lotions, foot powders and a host of other beauty and health products that may be on our body. We go into the pool or spa and the above substances wash off in the pool or spa water.

In order to make the pool water safe for our use, chlorine, a pool disinfectant, is added to the water at a certain level, as per Maricopa County swimming pool requirements for our safety. Now, when the above mentioned substances wash off in the pool or spa, the effectiveness of the chlorine or pool disinfection is reduced not to mention that the efficiency of the pool filter will be reduced. Hence more chlorine is needed to maintain the

required safe level for our swimming enjoyment. The more chlorine that is used, the more it cost the POA to maintain the pool/spa at a safe level for our use.

To summerize the above for taking a shower: It is to maintain the water quality of the pool and to keep the cost of disinfection (chlorine) at a minimal cost. It is also in the rules.

Maricopa County pool inspection unit performs periodic un-announced inspections of the pool and spa. If they notice any infractions to the rule, they will immediately shut down the pool or spa. The pool or spa can not be use until the problem is corrected and re-inspected. So, it is important that we all do what is necessary to keep our pools in good working order.

Another issue that needs to be address is pool furniture. The notice on the front gate also reminds pool users to return pool furniture where you found it. It has been observed that some pool users like to move pool furniture for their convenience, that's fine but if you need to move the pool furniture for your convenience, please return it to where you found it before leaving the pool area. Not returning the furniture to where you found it makes the pool area look untidy and rather messy.

Also, if you use the umbrellas at the Rec Center pool and the North Park pool, please roll them back down before leaving. The wind plays havoc with the umbrellas when left up. Thank you

It is every resident's responsibility to assure that all the pool rules are followed. These are our pools, we need to assure that the integrity, and quality and appearance of the pools are maintained. We have a limited number of pool monitors who can not be at the pool all the time, so we need your help in order to maintain these goals.

POOL GOERS: If you see something that is in violation of the pool rules, you are encouraged to call the management office during regular working hours at 566-6001. The office will call one of the pool monitors on duty. When the office is closed the following pool monitors can be called.

John Bateman 566-3150
Laura Miller 825-2593

Please give us your thoughts...drop a note at the Management Office 'FOR THE BOARD' or e-mail ventanacomunications@cox.net