

MAY 2025

SOLERA STAR



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





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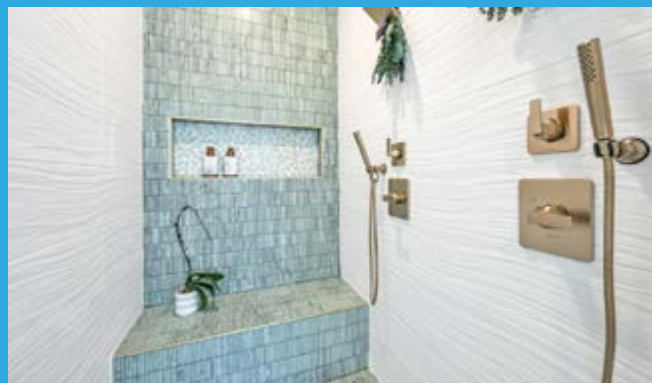
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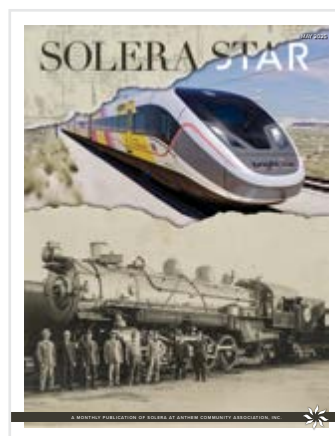
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MAY 2025

SOLERA STAR

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



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GOOD EATS

Email: solera@ternionsage.com

Phone: 702.982.6681

www.ternionsage.com

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COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

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

Administration Office
 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 After hours Emergency Number (702) 215-8165

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

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

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

Reporting Leaks in Solera and Anthem Parkway
 Solera Community - Contact Robert Randall at
rrandall@soleraatanthem.us or main line at (702) 207-1406
 Anthem Parkway – Contact Tonya Gale at
Tonya@epicamlv.com or call (702) 767-9993

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Frank Nobel, Director | fnobel@cox.net

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Susan Zinna, Director | susanzinna@hotmail.com

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND INFORMATION

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

Agendas are available five calendar days before the meeting, and are emailed to all residents with an email address on file. Agendas are also available at the front desk. To request a copy of the agenda, you may also reach out to Management directly. If you missed the live stream, the video is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja9gLO1-Fh4 ———>

**Board of Directors Executive Session:**

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

Board of Directors Open Session:

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

Board of Directors Executive Session:

June 4 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

Board of Directors Open Session:

June 11 | 9:30 a.m. | *Stardust*

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

Solera Residents:



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

Solera Website: www.soleranews.com

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

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

Following is the address for Assessment Payments:

Solera at Anthem c/o FirstService Residential
 P.O. Box 30422, Tampa, FL 33630-3422

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



WHAT ARE SOLAR SCREENS?

BY ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

With summer just around the corner, one might be considering ways to keep the house cooler. Installing solar screens might be a good option and investment.

What are solar screens? It's a mesh type cover for any window or opening which is usually made of fiberglass or polyester material tightly woven and coated with PVC or vinyl. Both materials are thick and strong enough to withstand UV light and weather damage compared to regular screening material.

The best placement of these screens is for east or west facing windows or other openings where sun exposure is the greatest.

Here are some advantages for consideration:

- UV protection: these screens can deflect about 65 percent to 90 percent of the glare and heat from the sun depending on the screening material used.
- The screens also reduce solar heat by keeping the hot temperatures outside. And in the winter these screens can block the winter's cold.
- Also, these screens can be economical in the long run depending on the quality of the solar screen material used. It's possible that this type of screen could last 10 years or longer. Be sure to check with the screening company as to the type of materials they use and what the warranties are.

A couple of disadvantages are as follows:

- These screens will darken your room. If blocking heat is your main objective, go with 90 percent solar screens. If you don't want to darken the room too much, then installing 80 percent solar screen is your better option.
- No privacy - these screens don't offer complete privacy since the material is still a screen. If adding privacy to your window is a major concern, then 90 percent solar screens is the better option over 80 percent solar screens.

As for Solera ARC guidelines the following screen colors are permitted: tan, sand, beige, platinum, black, gray and brown.

If you have any outside project questions, the ARC committee will be represented at the new homeowner's orientation. ✨

COMMITTEES & CONTRIBUTORS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Robert Brightwell
David Chavez
Terry Phelps
Ingrid Serina
Gregg Shiffbauer
Florence Hayashi
Patricia Bond – *Trainee*
Reginald Beatty – *Trainee*
James Bardo – *Trainee*
David Stefanik – *Trainee*
Liaison: Ken Sawyer

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Mary Schramski
Tom Sweetko
Frank Tuzzo
Liaison: Susan Zinna

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Shelley Payne-Pittman
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Diane Meireis
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Liaison: David DeOto

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Lorraine Barcia
Annette Vozzo
Debbie Waskowitz
Gloria Street
Kathryn Cook
Linda Ryniawek
Debbie DeVisser
Liaison: Susan Zinna

PLEASE NOTE

The following committees need volunteers:
Finance, Communications, & Lifestyle

For more information or to apply, please contact management at soleraatthanthem@fsrnevada.com.

Residents are welcome to attend any Committee Meetings that are of interest, except Covenants, and limited attendance to ARC. Meeting dates are listed on page 19.

FAS GOLF TOURNAMENT

INCLUDES BUTCH HARMON MEET-AND-GREET

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS AND VETERANS



The 21st Annual Foundation Assisting Seniors and Veterans Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 26 at the Rio Secco Golf Course. We are excited to let you know that you will get an opportunity to meet Butch Harmon prior to the tournament start.

By participating in the tournament, you will have a fun and challenging day and, in turn, support the Foundation. The fee is \$300 per player.

If you are a golfer or know of any golfers, this is a fabulous opportunity to meet the famous Butch Harmon, have a fun time on this beautiful and challenging course and give us your support. Harmon is the son of the 1948 Masters tournament winner; Butch is a famous golf instructor who has coached the likes of Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Greg Norman, Ricky Fowler and many other tour winners.

To enter the tournament, go to our website, **FoundationAssistingSeniors.org** and register for this event. Any questions, just call our office on (725) 244-4200.

Since 2002, the Foundation Assisting Seniors and Veterans has provided critical assistance to seniors and veterans in the Las Vegas Valley. Core services include loaning durable medical equipment at no cost to seniors and veterans, offering daily wellness check-ins through our HowRU program to ensure the safety of those living alone, and providing rapid response assistance that offers immediate and seamless support without requiring financial or demographic information.

In Solera, we offer light home maintenance which can include changing HVAC filters, batteries in smoke detectors, light bulbs and address bulbs. Just call our office to request this assistance. These services will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. ✨



21ST ANNUAL CHARITY

GOLF EVENT

MON, MAY 26

RIO SECCO GOLF CLUB

2551 Grand Hills Dr, Henderson NV

*Photo Credit:
Butch Harmon About
Golf DVD Cover*

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TO EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN

GOODSPRINGS OWNER HEADLINES MAY MEETING

BY GEORGE RIVERS, *Commander*
Solera Veterans and First Responders Club



Our guest speaker and musical entertainer at our meeting May 1 is Steven Staats, better known as "Old Man Liver." He owns eight businesses, including the Pioneer Saloon in Goodsprings, Nevada. The Pioneer is the second-oldest saloon in Nevada.

Goodsprings is about an hour south and west of Solera and is one of the largest mining districts in Southern Nevada. It produced gold, silver, lead, and zinc. During WWII much of the lead was used for munitions (bullets). Today, Goodsprings is an active ghost town, but also home to the oldest active elementary school in Nevada!

Our monthly meetings are designed to educate with a selection of the best speakers. We know that they are the principal reason for drawing a large crowd. It is also important to entertain. We want to have fun. Thanks to our management staff the sound system has been improved, so now when we play our National Anthem at full volume, we can blow the audience away.

Vice Commander Gregg Schiffbauer will be in charge of the meeting. I'll be away. When former Commander Bob "Doc" Propp needed to step

away from his duties, I volunteered, and Gregg, who was Commander in 2022, volunteered to help. The club had grown at a steady pace under Gregg's leadership.

Gregg's military service was outstanding. He served in what is known as the Hidden Warriors. Most of his service in the U.S. Army is highly classified. He served mostly with the CIA. He was awarded the Silver Star medal for bravery and is proudest of his Presidential Unit Citation. He was responsible for the release of 58 POWs and nine rescued downed airmen.

Gregg is one of many of our Solera veterans who distinguished themselves in combat.

During our April meeting, I had the honor of presenting a long stem rose to Helen Santucci, wife of Frank Santucci. Frank is our only Korean War Veteran. Doc Propp talked about Frank's interesting actions during the war, including being shot down over North Korea.



Solera Lifestyle Presents:

NITE AT THE RACES THE SOLERA DERBY

Saturday, May 3, 2025
Doors Open at 3PM | Race Starts at 4PM
Stardust Ballroom



Resident \$25 | Guest \$30
MAXIMUM 4 TICKETS PER RESIDENCE
CASH only - PLEASE BRING EXACT CHANGE
Last day to purchase tickets Fri, May 2

Each event ticket purchased gets you 10 betting tickets at the event. You'll have the opportunity to purchase more Betting Tickets as the event starts. Be sure to keep your event ticket & receipt some place safe! You will need to bring both to the event for admittance.

Ticket price includes a sub sandwich dinner with chips, snacks, cookie & bottled water. The event is BYOB.

★★★★★ www.soleranews.com/events ★★★★★



Robbery Not Reported!

Online fraud is the invisible robbery happening every day - your money, data, and identity stolen without a trace.


What can we do?

- Know the risks
- See the warning signs
- Protect ourselves and our community

Community Defense
Fraud Prevention Project

Join with our friends and neighbors on **Tuesday May 6, 2025** at 11:00 AM in the **Solera Community Center** to discuss what we can do to protect ourselves, our friends, families and community.


Dementia What The Heck Is It?




Solera at Anthem Community Center May 8th 12:00pm-1:00pm

Join us for an informative and supportive dementia awareness talk. Learn about what dementia is, warning signs, stages of Alzheimer's, available resources and more. Empower yourself with knowledge in a welcoming and compassionate setting!

Presented By:



Karri Brower, DPT
www.Livetoignite.com
702-670-1810



April Grimaldi, MSOTR/L
www.Multigenmods.com
702-660-1140



**SOLERA
LIFESTYLE
PRESENTS**

Free Friday SOCIAL

STARTS AT 9:00 AM | MAY 9 | ENDS BY 10:30AM

BREAKFAST PASTRIES | YOGURT PARFAIT | FRESH FRUIT |
COFFEE TEA JUICE

Kick off Spring with a
Sweet Continental
Breakfast with your Solera
Neighbors

RSVP BY MAY 8 ONLINE OR AT THE FRONT DESK
FREE EVENT FOR SOLERA RESIDENTS
WWW.SOLERANEWS.COM/EVENTS

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STARDUST ROOM

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shavonne@communityaccesslending.com

NMLS #2042229





CELEBRATE CULTURE & CREATIVITY AT **SOLERA DAYS - SPRING EDITION**

BY GENEVIEVE REYES, *Lifestyle Director*

SATURDAY, MAY 24 | 10AM-2PM

Mark your calendars for *Solera Days* on **Saturday, May 24**, from **10 AM – 2 PM**—a vibrant celebration of world culture, creativity, and community! Join us in the Stardust Ballroom for our *Spring Craft Show* featuring 25 talented vendors offering handmade treasures from jewelry to greeting cards.

Step outside to our new *Courtyard Patio* and enjoy live cultural entertainment from **11 AM – 1 PM**, while sampling delicious flavors from around the globe at our Cultural Food Booths—just \$10 for 5 tasting tickets!

Need a pick-me-up? Grab a coffee for \$1 or a tasty hot dog lunch

box for just \$5, courtesy of your Lifestyle Committee. Don't forget to stop by the *Ladies Club Basket Sale & Silent Auction*, showcasing themed baskets like Fiesta, Self Care, Wine, and more!

Come celebrate community, culture, and crafts—right here at Solera! ✨

SOLERA LIFESTYLE PRESENTS:

SPRING **SOLERA DAY**



**CULTURAL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY MAY 24
10AM - 2 PM**

10AM - 2 PM | RIO BUILDING

**MAKER'S MARKET
STARDUST BALLROOM**

**LADIES CLUB BASKET SALE & SILENT AUCTION
FREMONT LOUNGE**

**11AM - 1PM CLUBHOUSE CIRCLE PATIO
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**CULTURAL FOOD BOOTHS
FOOD TICKETS \$10 FOR 5 TICKETS**

PATIO SEATING

WWW.SOLERANEWS.COM/EVENTS



SOLERA LIFESTYLE PRESENTS:

SOLERA COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

An effort to raise and promote public health awareness

SAT, MAY 10, 2025
9 AM TO 12 PM
RIO BUILDING

2401 Somersworth Drive, Henderson

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 DOOR STORE - NUVO HEALTH - OPTUM CARE - RENEWAL NV - SELECT
 HEALTH - TRUST MASTERS - VOLANTE SENIOR LIVING - WEST
 HENDERSON HOSPITAL



Bingo Night

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND GAMES AT OUR MONTHLY BINGO NIGHT!

THURSDAY NIGHT
MAY 15, 2025
STARTS AT 6:30PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM

SOLERA AT ANTHEM
2401 SOMERSWORTH DR

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ENTER TO WIN 50/50 RAFFLE



Solera Lifestyle Presents:

FREE FRIDAY Social

Fri, June 6
9 AM - 10:30 AM
Plaza Room

Join us for Continental Breakfast in the Plaza Room and say Hello to Summer with your Solera Neighbors!

BREAKFAST PASTRIES
YOGURT PARFAIT
FRESH SUMMER FRUIT
COFFEE TEA JUICE

FREE EVENT FOR SOLERA RESIDENTS
RSVP BY JUN 5 ONLINE OR AT THE FRONT DESK
WWW.SOLERANEWS.COM/EVENTS



SOLERA AT ANTHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

NEW RESIDENT ORIENTATION

SATURDAY, JUN 14 11AM - 2PM
STARDUST BALLROOM

This event is open to New Residents of Solera at Anthem

- This event is for New Residents of Solera at Anthem since June 2024
- Doors Open at 11:00 AM for New Resident Check-in
- Management Presentation starts at 11:30 AM
- Meet & Greet 12:30 PM
- Start your Clubhouse Membership Access
- Visit our Chartered Club Booths
- Get to know the various Committees of our Community
- Light snack and beverage will be provided at Check-in

RSVP by Fri 6/6

RSVP by Friday June 6
Soleraatanthem@fsrnevada.com

MAY

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Solera Derby Day Doors Open 3pm Race Begins 4pm
4	5 Luau Ticket Sale Fremont Lounge 10am Cinco de Mayo	6 ARC 9am Senior Fraud Prevention Seminar 11am Vets & First Responders 6:30pm Bulk Trash Day	7 Executive Board 9:30am	8 Communications 9:30am Lunch & Learn: Dementia Talk 12pm	9 Free First Friday Social 9am Ladies Club: Mexican Fiesta Doors Open 3pm	10 Solera Community Health Fair 9am–12pm Fitness Center Orientation 10am
11 Mother's Day	12 Covenants 9am	13	14 Open Session Board of Directors 9:30am Fitness Center Orientation 4pm	15 Bingo 6:30pm (Doors open: 5:30pm)	16	17
18	19 Vets & First Responders Movie Night 5:30pm	20 Lifestyle 9:45am Bulk Trash Day	21 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am	22 Community Standards 9:30am Lunch & Learn: Community Access Lending 12pm	23	24 Solera Day Festival 10am–2pm
25	26 Clubhouse Closes at 4pm Memorial Day	27	28 Finance Meeting 9:30am	29 Free Social: Funny Money Auction with Archwell Health 12pm	30	31
JUN 1	2	3 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm	4 Executive Board 9:30am	5	6	7

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Henderson

**2400 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway
Henderson, Nevada 89052**



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CHARTERED CLUBS

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

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

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

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

Bunco Club | Second Tuesday | 5 p.m.
Pam D'Assis | (951) 403-3566 | pitstop612@aol.com

Canasta Club | Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Karen James | (248) 719-9912

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

Fine Arts Club

Watercolor | Thursday | 10 a.m.

Colored Pencil | Tuesday | 1 p.m.

Joan Roeschke | (818) 590-7193

Valerie Elam | (573) 480-6414

Marcia Adams | (518) 356-2551

Handcrafted Creations Club

Bead Weaving | Thursday | 1 p.m.

Carol Runyan | (702) 558-7623

Quilts & More | Friday | 10 a.m.

Maryann Bianco

(702) 453-2884 | maryann.bianco@yahoo.com

Paper Works / Greeting Cards Club | Monday | 1 p.m.
Linda Freitas | lindafreitas89044@gmail.com

Party Bridge Club | Tuesday & Thursday | 12:30 p.m.
David Hon | (801) 791-6229 | hondi@msn.com

Pickleball Club | Monday–Friday | 7–10 a.m.
Kathryn Romano | (818) 497-2124

Poker Club

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

Romeo's Solera Mens Club

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

Solera Starz Cardio Class

Tuesday | 8:30 a.m.
Arda Reiter | (702) 462-6167; Ardena Golder | (702) 802-1963;
Lorie Frigillana | (702) 487-5725

Solera Starz Dance Aerobics

Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:30 a.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Solera Starz Line Dancing | Monday | 4:30–6 p.m.
Arda Reitter | (702) 462-6167; Carol Page | (702) 205-0164

Solera Ladies Club

Monthly Activities
Jane Khaldy | (702) 303-1511 | solerajane25@gmail.com

Solera Singles Club

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

Table Tennis Club

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

Veterans & First Responders Club | First Tuesday | 6:30 p.m.
Gregg Schiffbauer | (702) 379-1399 | magregg@aol.com

Water Volleyball Club

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

GROUPS

Billiards | Tuesday | 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Ken Moser | (702) 401-7823 | chefmoser1@icloud.com

Book Group | Second Saturday | Noon

Monica McAdams | (702) 371-6575 | monica0921@hotmail.com

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

Double Deck Pinocle Group

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

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'EVERYTHING THAT CAME TO LAS VEGAS CAME BY TRAIN...'

BRIGHTLINE WEST IS WORKING
ON THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE
VALLEY'S RAILROAD HISTORY

BY LARRY EDSALL

There's a sign in one of the museums at the Springs Preserve that reports, "Everything that came to Las Vegas came by train from Los Angeles & Salt Lake City. Freight cars arrived daily, bringing all kinds of goods that couldn't be found or made in the desert."

Seems that Las Vegas has quite a history with railroads, and a future as well, what with construction beginning on the Brightline West's high-speed service that promises to whisk folks back and forth between Las Vegas and Los Angeles by the time the Southern California community hosts the 2028 Olympic Games.

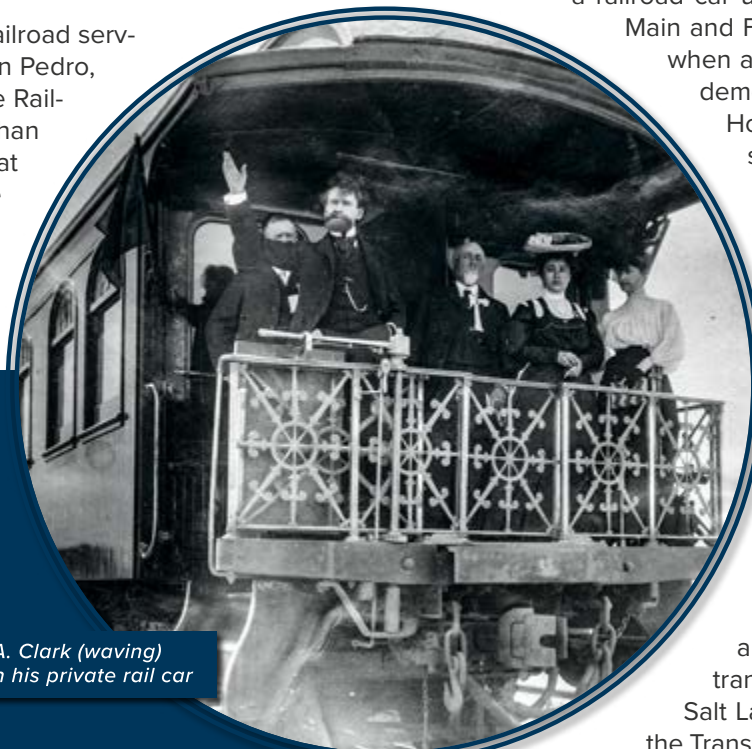
Turns out that earliest railroad serving Las Vegas — the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railway — brought more than goods to a place that took its name from the Spanish phrase for The Springs.



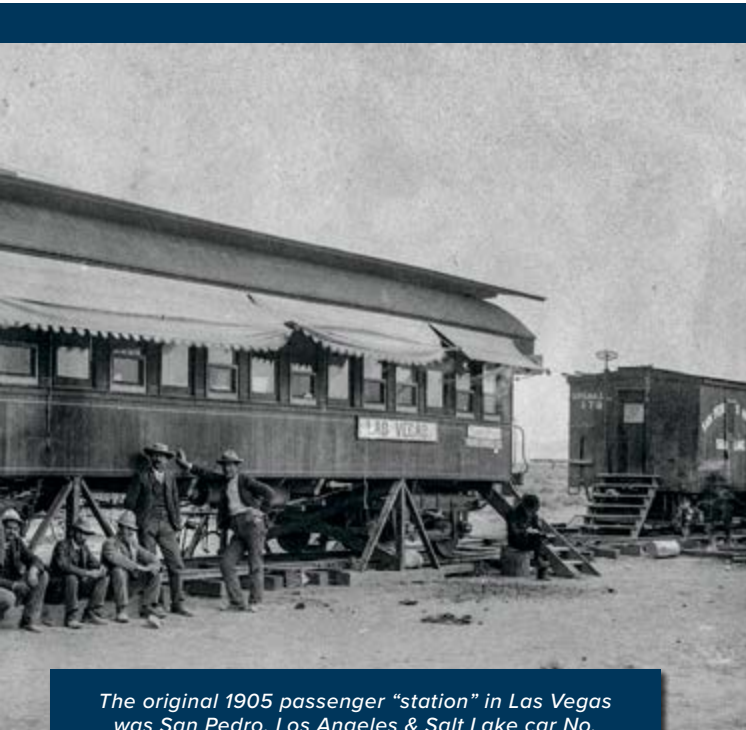
"The promise of plentiful spring water brought a railroad, and as many as 1500 people by 1905, when the SP, LA & SL's Las Vegas Land & Water Company subsidiary auctioned land to the highest bidder," according to another sign at the Springs Preserve's Boomtown display.

The original Las Vegas passenger terminal was housed in a railroad car until a regular terminal was built at Main and Fremont streets. It lasted until 1940 when a new terminal was built; only to be demolished in 1970 so the Union Plaza Hotel could be constructed on the site, which included a rail depot within the hotel building (Amtrak continued to use that depot for its rail service).

The display at the Spring Preserve includes a rail car with compartments for passengers and cargo. The rail line was founded by William A. Clark, a native Pennsylvanian who grew up in Iowa. He moved to Colorado to work in the mines but stayed only a year before joining a gold rush in Montana. While his mining claim was small and brief, Clark prospered by transporting supplies to Montana from Salt Lake City (which provided access to the Transcontinental Railroad and thus to the East and West Coast).



*William A. Clark (waving)
arrives in his private rail car*



The original 1905 passenger "station" in Las Vegas was San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake car No. 12, parked on a siding. A true station (shown as it appeared in 1918) was built between 1907 and 1909

Clark did well enough to expand into banking, owning a newspaper, and a reportedly made a fortune repossessing mining properties, which made him one of Montana's "copper kings" and produced wealth that founded a railroad

Clark, apparently never a resident of Nevada, did serve from 1901-1907 as one of Montana's US Senators, though his earlier bid for that office resulted in scandal when it was reported that he had bribed members of the Montana state legislature. The scandal was one of the factors leading to the passage of the 17th Amendment to the US Constitution, that amendment taking the right to select senators away from state legislatures and giving it to a state's resident voters.

Of Clark, Mark Twain wrote in 1907: "He is as rotten a human being as can be found anywhere under the flag; he is a shame to the American nation, and no one has helped to send him to the Senate who did not know that his proper place was the penitentiary, with a ball and chain on his legs. To my mind he is the most disgusting creature that the republic has produced since Tweed's time."

Nonetheless, in 1908, when Nevada's Lincoln County was split, the southern portion, which included the newly established city of Las Vegas, was named in Clark's honor.

The route from the southern coast of California to northern Utah wasn't Clark's only rail line to Las Vegas. In 1905 he also agreed to create a railroad line to William Tell Coleman's borax mining operations near the California-Nevada state line. But living up to Twain's description of him, Clark reneged on his deal with Smith and instead built the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad from Las Vegas to the mining boomtown of Goldfield. While the depot at Rhyolite remains, the LV & T tracks were removed by 1920 after the mines played out.

In 1916 Clark shortened the SPLA&SL route to simply Los Angeles and Salt Lake and five years later he sold the operation to E.H. Harriman's Union Pacific system.

"Throughout the 1920s Las Vegas remained a quiet railroad town in the middle of the desert, just another water stops on the road somewhere else," according to an information board at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City.

"As a rail center on a major rail line, with machine shops, an icehouse for refrigerating fruit and produce being shipped from California, and a large number of railroad employees and their families, Las Vegas survived," according to the UNLV University Libraries website.

"However, things should start in the 1920s after the U.S. Congress authorized funding for the construction of the Boulder Dam project."

To construct the dam, the US Government Railroad was built from Boulder City to the dam site. Additionally, Six Companies Railroad was constructed to haul sand and gravel from various excavations in the Colorado River valley north of the dam.

The Union Pacific continues to operate freight trains through the Las Vegas Valley along the original LA to Salt Lake routes.



One of the "Salt Lake Route" locomotives



Artist's renderings of Brightline West's Las Vegas terminal and its relation to The Strip

From 1940 through 1971, the Union Pacific provided passenger service to Las Vegas, with daily travel via trains such as the City of Los Angeles, the City of St. Louis, the Challenger, the Gold Coast-Pony Express. Amtrak took over Las Vegas service from 1971-1997 via the Desert Wind route from Chicago to Los Angeles.

While service ended, there were subsequent proposals for service between LA and Vegas as well as between Vegas and the Pacific Northwest. Neither was established, leaving Las Vegas as the largest metropolitan area in the nation without passenger rail service (also losing such service in 1979 were Columbus, Ohio and Nashville, Tennessee).

At least until 2028...

Brightline West plans to bring passenger rail service back to the Las Vegas Valley in conjunction with the 2028 Summer Olympic Games that were awarded to Los Angeles. Brightline already operates high-speed rail travel in Central and South Florida.

Travel between Las Vegas and Los Angeles will be at high speeds after the construction of 218 miles of new rail lines and stations in Nevada and California. The Las Vegas terminal is planned along Las Vegas Boulevard near Blue Diamond Road.

Preliminary plans are to offer a one-way trip for \$119. That will take passengers from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga, where they can transfer to the Metrolink rail service to LA and other Southern California communities. Plans also call for trains to depart on an hourly basis throughout the day. ✨



Brightline West's plans include three types of passenger cars: the Party Car, the SMART Quad and the Premium Quad





Railroad Pass Casino as it appeared in the late 1970s

HOW RAILROAD PASS GOT ITS NAME

BY LARRY EDSALL

Before it was known as Railroad Pass, the slot in the mountains between what would become known as Boulder City and Henderson was called Alunite. It was a “mining district” that took its name in 1908 from the deposits of alunite, a volcanic mineral of hydrated aluminum potassium sulfate that is mined and used for producing aluminum, potash, fertilizer, cosmetics and medicine.

The name Railroad Pass traces to a spur of the Union Pacific Railroad’s Henderson branch line and the Railroad Pass Bridge, which in the early 1930s provided the delivery of construction materials for the Hoover Dam. (The Henderson branch line linked Boulder city to the main Union Pacific rail line in Las Vegas.)

However, according as Las Vegas Review-Journal article in 2023 that quoted former Clark County Museum administrator Mark Hall-Patton, the Railroad Pass name traces to the 1880s when plans were drawn for a rail line designed to run from Pioche and its silver mines in Lincoln County down into the Las Vegas Valley. That track was not constructed, and the area became known as Alunite after mining began in 1908.

Hill-Patton noted that Alunite had a school district and a schoolhouse that would later expand to become the Henderson School District.



Interior of Railroad Pass Casino in the 1940s

The third or fourth casino licensed in Nevada (on August 1, 1931) was the Railroad Pass Club, which provided gambling and booze to dam construction workers, neither of which was available legally in Boulder City. The Railroad Pass hotel/casino is the oldest such licensed establishment still in operation in Nevada.

While the rail spur would be used to supply the dam, its first cargo would be the supplies needed to build the casino, which Hill-Patton had to operate as a speakeasy until the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. He told the Review-Journal that knocking on a back door and saying the word “gaiety” would gain one admission and a drink from a 55-gallon drum of brandy. ❄️

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

CALL TO MAKE SURE THE
GATES ARE UNLOCKED
BEFORE YOU DRIVE OUT TO
BOULDER CITY

BY LARRY EDSALL



I've been doing research on Las Vegas' history with railroads (see cover story), so I figured a trip to the Nevada State Railroad Museum at Boulder City was in order.

Online map software says it's a 40-minute drive from the Solera clubhouse. The boulderrailroadmuseum.org website (which appears to not have been updated since this past autumn) says the museum, located at 601 Yuca Street, is open daily from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., except for "some state holidays."

If you go, however, I'd suggest that before leaving home, you call the (702) 486-5952 telephone number to make sure the gates are unlocked. I arrived at 9 a.m. the morning of February 21. The open-air pavilion is easily accessed by a short walk across railroad tracks from the parking lot. I spent nearly an hour walking where I could and photographing what I could. But by the time I left just before 10 a.m., the padlocks on the gates were still locked and no museum employee or volunteer had arrived with the keys.

Once back in Solera, I called the telephone number. A man answered. When I told him things were locked up tight, his response was he'd just gotten back and everything was open. He was totally unapologetic, even when I tried to point out that the sign at the museum and the information on the website says the place opens at 9 a.m. He did say they were shorthanded and that if I had a complaint, I should call my state legislator and ask that the museum receive more funding.

So much for customer service.

The museum's collection includes locomotives and railcars of various vintages. Some have informative signs. Others do not, at least not that I could see.

I was particularly disappointed not to be able to get into the vintage San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake passenger car that now houses a collection of HO and O-scale model railroad layouts. As it turns out, even if the gates were open, I wouldn't have been able to see that display, which is open only between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. "on most weekends," according to the website. Also open only on weekends is the museum store.

There is some signage that shares an overview of Nevada's rail history, and details on the railroads built to supply the construction materials for the Boulder Dam.

Another weekend-only event is the opportunity to take a ride on a train, at least between January and November and on "select holiday Mondays," plus a special Santa Train in the month of December.

The museum asks a \$2 donation from all visitors. Forty-five-minute vintage train rides are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 4-11. Pay \$40 and you can ride in the cab with the engineer, or it's \$25 for a ride in the caboose (though it appears if you want to ride up front or at the rear, you'll need to secure your tickets in advance).

When weather and staffing permit, there's also a free, 10-minute ride available some weekends on a 1.5-gauge mini train. ❄️

RIDIN' THE *RAILS*

A LOOK BACK, AND A LOOK AHEAD

BY LARRY EDSALL



I don't remember my first train trip, but my Mom wrote in my baby book about the time she and I took the train from Joliet, Illinois, to Elkhart, Indiana, to visit relatives. My Dad had grown up in northern Indiana and had fond memories of traveling on the Pumpkinvine, a regional railroad that connected communities there and in southern Michigan.

The first train trip I do remember was a few years later, when I got to skip school to travel on a day trip with my Dad down to Springfield, Illinois, where he had work to do and where I visited various buildings in the state capital complex and ate lunch in the state employees' cafeteria.

While still I was in grade school, my grandfather retired from his job as a prison warden in Illinois and was immediately hired as a prison consultant in Montana, where a riot had resulted in the deaths of two inmates and an assistant warden. Grandpa and Grandma went to their new home by train. A few months later my family drove to Montana in my grandparents' car, and then we returned home by riding the rails, which I found to be a great adventure.

Since then, I've used a Eurail pass to travel through several European countries, enjoyed an elegant dinner while riding the Orient Express from London to Dover, experienced a meal and wine tasting on a train ride through Napa Valley, and helped solve a mystery on a dinner excursion one evening in southern Michigan.

I've slept on trains in Europe, and on an Amtrak trip from northern Arizona to Chicago and back and someday would like to do a VIA Rail across-Canada journey.

For the most part, trains travel at what might be considered a relatively leisurely speed, but I have experienced bullet trains in Europe and Japan and am eager to see how the Brightline route compares once it is completed between here and Southern California...





Turns out that the LA to Vegas route is just part of a proposal to expand rail service, including high-speed routes, in the western portion of the country.

According to the High-Speed Rail Alliance, the Federal Railroad Administration has plans to expand rail service, albeit at various speeds: trains on so-called regional routes can approach 125 miles per hour while high-speed routes can exceed 185 mph.

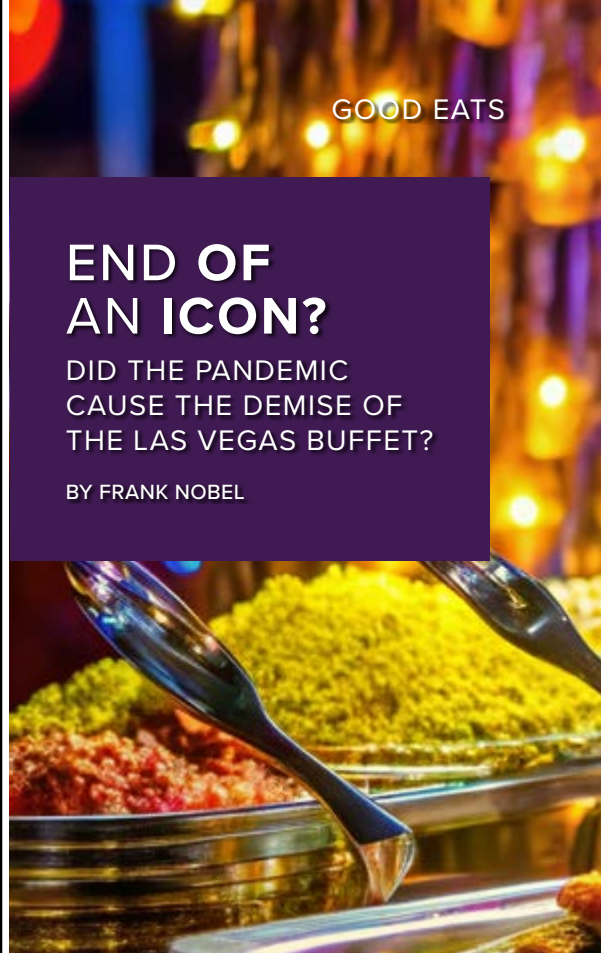
New routes have been planned from southern to northern California, across northern and southern Nevada to Salt Lake City, to Denver, and from Denver to Albuquerque and across Arizona. Like the Brightline service coming to Las Vegas, travel from SoCal to Sacramento and from Phoenix to SoCal would be high-speed routes.

Meanwhile, on the eastern side of the country, a route from Chicago to Miami recently launched, and there are plans to expand rail service from Chicago not only to various Midwestern locations, but to Nashville and Atlanta and New Orleans, Charlotte and other southeastern communities. ✱

END OF AN ICON?

DID THE PANDEMIC CAUSE THE DEMISE OF THE LAS VEGAS BUFFET?

BY FRANK NOBEL



A short time ago Las Vegas and buffet were synonymous. Seemingly every casino had a buffet available for their guests. A buffet and casino went together like peanut butter and jelly. But, that is no longer true.

There are still some buffets on The Strip, though not many, and the cost for dining there seems to be between \$50 to \$100. That cost rivals many of The Strip's top-end restaurants.

Solerans witnessed the closing of the buffets at Green Valley Ranch Casino and at the M Casino, with claims that the pandemic was the cause. Really? The Studio B area at the M Casino, home to their buffet still lies empty. And, the buffet area at Green Valley Ranch Casino was boarded up all but overnight. The buffet was replaced by two new restaurants.

The new Durango Casino opened with a high-priced food court, not even a hint of a buffet.



The buffet at the South Point Casino closed for a period of time because of the pandemic. But it did re-open, with the buffet staff directly serving the guests. That process was followed for a couple of months before the buffet again was fully accessible, as it is today.

Ryan Growney, South Point's General Manager, agrees that the facility is an outlier when it comes to the buffet and Las Vegas, though he said there are other independent casinos that also are outliers.

Casinos generally consider a buffet to be a "loss leader." But Ryan stated that "All food is a 'loss leader'." Still, he added, a buffet is necessary to meet guest's demands.

On a typical day, the South Point Casino serves 11,000 meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and the buffet covers around 3,500 them. At high-volume events (rodeos and such), even the Italian restaurant, Don Vitos, may be used for

breakfast overflow in order to provide that meal to guests. Nonetheless, all the restaurants at the South Point Casino are in the red at the end of the year, even favorites like the Oyster Bar, Baja Miguel's and Primarily Prime Rib.

I was surprised to learn that Steak 'n Shake is South Point Casino's most profitable restaurant, and is the No. 1 such franchise in the country.

The third Friday of each month finds Solera's Romeos (Retired Old Men Eating Out) at the South Point Casino buffet, where many of the Romeos chat with Dave, who is an omelet master.

The rumor mill has the M Casino reopening its buffet as part of the new expansion. Ryan was aware of the rumor, but did not have any confirming information.

Meanwhile, there is one local buffet available — at the South Point Casino. Good eating. ✧

DINING IN THE DISTRICT

BY FRANK NOBEL

Last December, the *Solera Star* covered some of the wonderful restaurants on Water Street in downtown Henderson. Admittedly, a drive to Water Street takes about 25 minutes from Solera.

This month we're dining much closer to home, checking out the restaurants in the District adjacent to the Green Valley Ranch Casino. The variety is worth a quick review.

If you have a taste for barbecue, you can't go wrong with a visit to Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ. Lucille's is open for lunch and dinner. The prices are moderate. At lunch, you may want to try the New Orleans Gumbo or Southern Fried Chicken. At dinner, you may want to feast on Baby Back Ribs or Texas-Style Beef Brisket.

Oh, and Lucille's biscuits and honey butter are mouthwatering. There is a Happy Hour 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. limited to the bar area.

Just across the way from Lucille's is King's Fish House, also open for lunch and dinner. As the name implies, fish is highlighted on the menu. For example, two top-rated dishes are the Macadamia Crusted Halibut and Miso Yaki Chilean Sea Bass. There is a Happy Hour from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the bar room.

P.F. Chang's is a bit of a walk if you start from the Green Valley Ranch Casino, but if you are in the mood for Asian fare this may be the place. P.F. Chang's is open for lunch and dinner. Familiar dishes are Mongolian Beef and Chicken Lettuce Wraps. Of course, fried rice is a mainstay, and if you are not a vegetarian, their Pork Egg Rolls are excellent.





If your meal celebrates a special occasion, you may want to try Echo & Rig, also open for lunch and dinner. (This seems to be a constant in the District.) Echo & Rig is referenced as upscale. This means that this is probably not a restaurant for daily or even weekly visits but could be for a special occasion or just want to treat yourself for a premium night out. The total experience at Echo & Rig may be what the “doctor” ordered. You may want to enjoy a wonderful Caesar’s Salad along with the steak of your choice. The rib eye is excellent.

The newest district restaurant is North Italia, and, yes, it is open for lunch and dinner. The prices are moderate and there is a Happy Hour 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the bar. Italian fare ranges from the appetizers to lunch and dinner items. Again, this the newest restaurant in the District, but there have been many positive reviews on Nextdoor.

These restaurants are not the only ones in the District; much like the Water Street restaurants, this is not intended to be all inclusive. The goal is to provide a number of different eateries that you may want to try for something a little different. ❄️

SOLERANS AND INFLATION

YA GOTTA EAT

BY FRANK NOBEL

It wasn't that long ago when inflation peaked at 9 percent. At that time, the dollar store (Dollar Tree) became the \$1.25 store. The unilateral response seemed outrageous, a 25 percent increase when the inflation rate was at 9. Did the Dollar Tree CEO have a crystal ball? Now, that 25 percent increase appears to be on track. Did the CEO have a vision about the cumulative effect of the inflation rate?

Solerans on a fixed income are firmly aware that every dollar in their purse or wallet now has an actual value of 80 cents. This 20 percent loss of buying power is due to inflation.

Twenty percent of income lost, and all around us, like the dollar store, prices are going up. Combine the 20 percent loss of real income and add the additional 20 percent in increased prices. The math is simple: Solerans face a potential loss of 40 percent purchasing power. How do we cope with such a drastic change?

Looking back at the former dollar store, not only is there the price increase; but the selections are fewer, and you have to be careful because some items are now priced beyond the \$1.25.

Someone said that the cost of groceries has gone up so much that it is less expensive to eat out at a restaurant, and that Solerans are eating out more often. That being said, have you failed to see the increase in prices at the restaurant?

Restaurants, like Solerans, are hit by inflation, but they are a business and try various means to continue their business. There's that cup of soup, the price remains the same,

but the cup is smaller. We see the change, and it's happening everywhere. At the dollar store, you could purchase 100 paper plates for \$1.25. Now, the paper plates are still \$1.25, but you're buying only 40 of them. Are these real examples? The short answer is yes.

Have you noticed that your restaurant of choice has a new menu? Did you notice that the only change in the new menu is the increase in the prices?

What do we do? It may be a senior citizen cliché, but there may be help in the Happy Hours around town. Yes, Happy Hours, most often from 3 to 6 or 7 p.m. and usually are some pretty good deals. Close to home, there is WSKY Bar & Grill, Distill and Parkway Tavern, all three offering Happy Hour menus. (All these restaurants also have been featured in a previous issue of the Solera Star magazine). Often there are drink specials offered. There may even be a Golden Knights hockey night special that Solerans may want to look into. Timbers has drink specials available during a Golden Knights game.

Solerans, there are some "work arounds" that you may want to investigate. After all, you got to eat, and you may want to get the most for your 80 cents.



WHERE WE DINE OUT (AND HOW OFTEN)

SOLERANS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS

Solerans like to dine out, but many are doing that less often because of inflation.

In March, the Communications Committee asked residents of our enclave three questions in a “dining out” survey. One of the questions inquired as to how frequently folks dined out and whether they had reduced that figure because of higher costs.

Answers to that question ranged from as rarely as every other month to as many as five times a week. The most popular responses were once or twice a week.

In regard to inflationary pressures, not reducing restaurant visits edged out cutting back, but only by a single vote.

We found two responses particularly telling:

- One respondent (who dines away from home three to four times a week) added this note: “Have not cut back, groceries are high too!”
- And several who like to dine out frequently noted that restaurant portions are large enough, “we usually (bring home) enough for another meal.”

Perhaps most surprising to us was the vast variety of responses to the question “What’s your favorite local or area restaurant for what you consider to be either ‘fine’ or ‘sit-down’ dining where your meal is served and where you leave a tip for the server?”

Nearly 150 Solerans responded to that question, and they offered up 85 different restaurants!

In basically a tie for the most popular were Tuscany Grill, Texas Roadhouse, Primarily Prime Rib, Hank’s Fine Steaks, Giuseppe’s, Silverado Steak House, Black Mountain Grill, and Carrabba’s Italian Grill.

With Primarily Prime Rib and Silverado Steak House both located within the same building, it would seem that Solerans like to visit the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa, where additional restaurants mentioned in survey responses included Michael’s Gourmet Room, Don Vito’s, and the South Point Cafe.

The other question on the survey involved “fast food” locations and whether we prefer to eat in or to drive through and take away.

The overwhelming destination for Solerans when it comes to fast food is In-N-Out, with three times more votes than the runner-up — Chick-fil-A.

Other popular places included McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Burger King, Jersey Mike’s, and Wendy’s.

Regarding where we eat the food we purchase from those establishments, take out is favored over sit-down eating by more than a 2:1 margin. ✨



A COLLECTION OF CORVETTES

THEY'RE SCALE MODELS, AND DONE IN AMAZING DETAIL

BY FRANK NOBEL

Editor's note: The Hobby Corner feature is back after a lengthy hiatus. If you have a hobby you'd like to share with your Solera neighbors, contact Frank Nobel at fnobel@cox.net

Barry Banks is an active member of Solera's Veterans & First Responders Club. He and his lovely wife, Barbara, reside on their mountain-top home (see June 2024 issue of the *Solera Star*). Given their wonderful vantage, Barry provided many of the sunset photographs for that issue.

I first met Barry doing a Hobby Corner article for the *Solera Star* in April 2022. Barry's hobby was collecting unique cigarette lighters, most of which were never used. Barry showed me his latest U.S. Navy ship lighter, a Zippo, still in the box and never to be used. Virtually all his U.S. Navy ship lighters have been provided by his son, Brant A., a Master Chief Petty Officer. Barry added that he has one Navy ship lighter from a decommissioned submarine, USS Parche, valued at hundreds of dollars because it has never been used.

Lately, Barry has a new hobby/collection — model cars.

"A friend of mine was a police officer in Saginaw, Michigan, Carl Taylor," Barry explained. "He told his wife that if he passed, he wanted me to have his model Corvette collection."

Sadly, Barry's friend passed peacefully in his sleep.

Barry will receive 125 model cars, most of which are Corvettes. He has already received 11 Ford models, including a 1958 Thunderbird convertible and late '60s Mustang fastback.

These models are all metal, as just holding them confirms. The detail is amazing, not that the doors open and close, but you are even able to adjust the sun visors. These are real collector items.

At this point, Barry has every intention to place these models on display but is waiting for the Corvettes. For the time being, what he's received are still in their original boxes. I told Barry when his display is set up, I'll be back to see them. ✨



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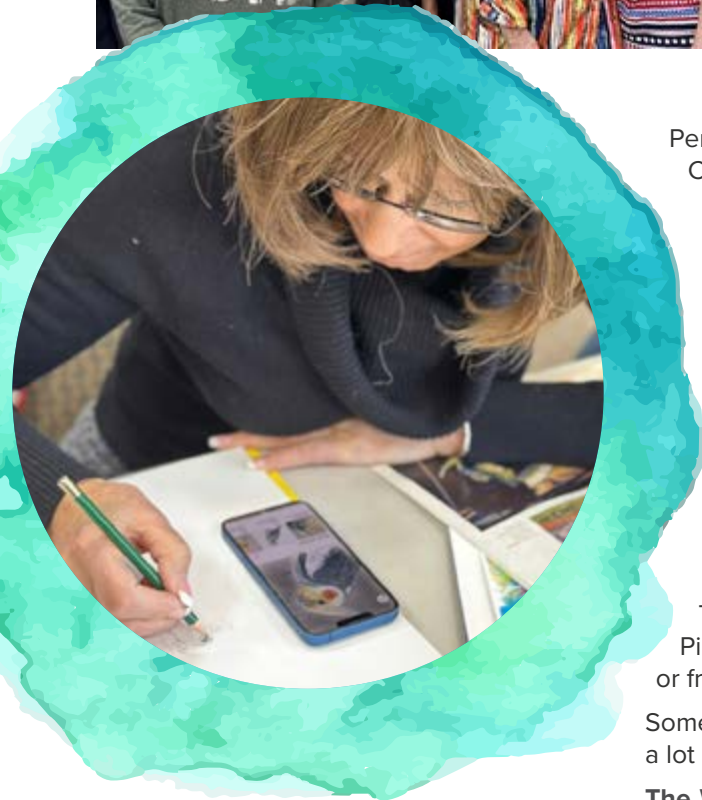
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ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

SOLERANS SHOWCASE CAPABILITIES WITH WATERCOLOR, COLORED PENCILS

BY MARCIA ADAMS



Perhaps the only time most Solera residents are aware of the Fine Arts Club is when it holds its annual art show each October. However, the club is much more than a single display of art.

There are two disciplines that are concentrated on within the club – watercolor painting and colored pencil drawing.

The club also is rather unique in that there is no specific instructor. Instead, members assist other members, dependent on their level of expertise, to master the disciplines:

The Colored Pencil Class meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This time is specified so that any non-members who might like to join can visit and/or participate.

Even though it is the Colored Pencil Class, watercolor members attend as well, so there is a mixture of media.

Think beyond the colored pencil or crayon coloring of your youth. Pictures done by the group are either from snapshots, tracings, and/or freehand, dependent on the abilities of the artist.

Some supplies are available so those wanting to try can do so without a lot of financial investment, until they determine their level of interest.

The Watercolor Class meets on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. As with the colored pencil group, non-members who are interested in watercolor painting are encouraged to attend a class during this time so proper attention can be given to them. Again, a limited amount of supplies are available so new persons can try the art before investing money into supplies.



The sessions are informal, with artists sharing information, encouragement, and helpful critique on the works in progress.

Because of its casual nature, there is a camaraderie among members, providing a welcoming social experience.

The major event for the club is the art show in October. This year the event will be held October 12; details to be provided as the event nears. Entrance to the show is always free.

At the show, members of the Club present their personal art; some display both watercolor and colored pencil. The members are present so attendees can chat with them about their works. Attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite piece of each artist as well as for the Best in Show.

Light refreshments are provided for the attendees at no cost.

If you are interested in exploring your creative side, please feel free to attend any session to see if these two art forms are for you.



YOU 'MAY' NOT RECOGNIZE THESE HOLIDAYS

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

In May, we celebrate two of our most important holidays: Mother's Day (with flowers, gifts, and phone calls) and Memorial Day (with flags and memories of fallen soldiers).

But there are more goofy, weird and fun "other holidays" during the month. In fact, there are so many (see nationaltoday.com/may-holidays for the complete list. I've picked just a few for you to consider celebrating.

May 1: Phone in Sick Day

May 2: Brothers & Sisters Day

May 3: Lumpy Rug Day

May 4: 45 Vinyl Record Day

May 5: National Hoagie Day

May 6: Sauvignon Blanc Day

May 7: National Roast Leg of Lamb Day

May 8: No Socks Day

May 9: Tear the Tags Off the Mattress Day

May 10: Stay Up All Night Day

May 11: Twilight Zone Day

May 12: National YA DIG Day

May 13: National Crouton Day

May 14: Dance Like a Chicken Day

May 15: National Nylon Stocking Day

May 16: Ride A Unicycle Day

May 17: World Fiddle Day

May 18: I Love Reese's Day

May 19: National Chi Day

May 20: World Bee Day

May 21: End of the World (2011)

May 22: Sherlock Holmes Day

May 23: National Cooler Day

May 24: Tiara Day

May 25: Towel Day

May 26: World Dracula Day

May 27: National Grape Popsicle Day

May 28: Whooping Crane Day

May 29: National Paperclip Day

May 30: National Mint Julep Day

May 31: National Speak in Complete Sentences Day



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10 LESSONS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME AS A YOUNG BOY

BY CHARLIE JONES

1. My mother taught me to **Appreciate a Job Well Done**.
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside, I just finished cleaning"
2. My mother taught me **Religion**.
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about **Time Travel**.
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going knock you into the middle of next week."
4. My mother taught me about **Weather**.
"This room of yours looks like as if a tornado went through it."
5. My mother taught me **Logic**.
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck; you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me **Foresight**.
"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me **Irony**.
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of **Osmosis**.
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about **Stamina**.
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
10. My mother taught me more **Logic**.
"Because I said so, that's why."

My Mother taught me a few other things, but these 10 lessons I have not forgotten. ✨



FLYING OVER FREMONT STREET

SOLERA RESIDENT MAKES LIKE SUPERMAN

BY TOM GORMAN

Editor's note: 70something Solera resident Tom Gorman recently took flight over Fremont Street and lived through the experience to share this story.

You're never too old to have fun in a way that might frighten other people -- hanging in a harness at the end of a strong cable, floating at a comfortable speed over one of Las Vegas' most popular streets, Fremont.

The street is bordered by casinos and stores, and the foot traffic is abundant. But there are other ways to go from one end of Fremont Street to the other.

Sure, you can walk, but pay a few bucks to ride -- err, fly -- to the other end. The ride itself might end up being one of your best Vegas memories. You won't be getting in a bus or a cab or even just walking.

At the starting point (there's one at each end of Fremont Street) the crew will assist you in putting on a strong, secure vest, then you will be asked to lay down on what might seem to be a mattress. In that position a steel cable will be attached to your vest, pulling you up and forward.

Before you know it, you will be in the air some 30 or 40 feet above the crowded street, slowly "flying" forward, hanging from the secure steel cable.

No bumps, no jarring movements, just quiet flight allowing you to look ahead and all around below you, over meandering shoppers and gamblers and lookie-loo tourists. During my ride, I looked down and waved frenetically while yelling "hellooow!"

You're not being pulled forward -- your flight is slightly downhill, and after a minute, or two or three of coasting, you'll be at the other end, where a crew will help you off and free you of the harness.

It's not a fast ride. You will have plenty of time, while likely clutching the harness, to look down on Fremont Street, maybe trying to spot friends or family, or just interesting scenes.

If your family or friends are alert, they'll see you coming, so they should get their cameras out to snap away.

You might not have spotted them but if they tell you ahead of time which casino or store, they'll be standing by, and maybe they'll be waving like crazy at you as you approach, to get your attention so they can snap away.

It's not every day you can imitate Superman flying above the crowd.



Billed as the "World's Ultimate Zipline," Slotzilla offers two ways to fly above Fremont Street, including the Fly Super-Hero Zoom that Tom Gorman experienced. For details, visit the vegasexperience.com website.✧

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Hello Solera Homeowners!

It's that time of year, when many people's thoughts turn to moving. The inventory of available homes has increased a bit, giving homebuyers more choices (and therefore attracting more homebuyers to market). The overall market is still slightly undersupplied, and home prices still remain strong. Good news for you, whether you are looking to move or are staying put!

If you are thinking of selling, there are a few things you can do to get your home ready. Fix what stands out, such as a leaky faucet or squeaky door hinge. Boost your curb appeal by trimming shrubs and eliminating any weeds. Upgrade your light bulbs to bright "daylight" and do a quick "declutter" to make your home feel more spacious. I can help you with specific suggestions for your home too, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

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Address	List Price	SQFT	Model	Address	List Price	SQFT	Model
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2343 Peaceful Sky Dr	\$395,000	1,142	Lewis	2538 Capella Star St	\$469,000	1,596	Whitney
2561 Cosmic Dust St	\$399,900	1,142	Lewis	2467 Moonlight Valley Ave	\$481,900	1,596	Whitney
2341 Celestial Moon St	\$399,999	1,142	Lewis	2583 Moonlight Valley Ave	\$499,999	1,596	Whitney
2444 Gamma Ray Pl	\$419,950	1,142	Lewis	2413 Hamonah Dr	\$480,000	1,768	Franklin
2345 Celestial Moon St	\$428,000	1,142	Lewis	2506 Starlight Valley St	\$489,000	1,768	Franklin
2601 Darda St	\$429,000	1,142	Lewis	2535 Jada Dr	\$489,900	1,768	Franklin
2537 Nashira St	\$405,000	1,248	Clark	2386 Amana Dr	\$489,995	1,768	Franklin
2575 Evening Twilight Ave	\$414,900	1,248	Clark	2405 Gamma Ray Pl	\$499,900	1,768	Franklin
2475 Hamonah Dr	\$465,000	1,596	Whitney	2534 Starlight Valley St	\$509,900	1,768	Franklin
2539 Stardust Valley Dr	\$450,000	1,596	Whitney	2392 Mystic Star St	\$525,000	1,768	Franklin

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HOMES LISTED FOR RENT*

Address	List Price	SQFT	Model	Address	List Price	SQFT	Model
2563 Evening Twilight Ave	\$1,700	1,142	Lewis	2546 Stardust Valley Dr	\$1,899	1,425	Fremont
2346 Amana Dr	\$2,195	1,248	Clark	2514 Capella Star St	\$1,900	1,596	Whitney
2349 Neutron Star St	\$1,750	1,425	Fremont				

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