

JUNE 2025

# SOLERA STAR



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





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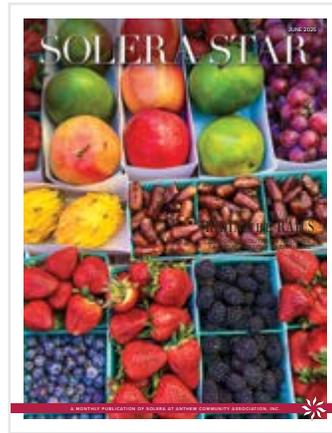
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JUNE 2025

# SOLERA STAR

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



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# 7

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## JUNETEENTH



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**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](mailto:rrandall@soleraatanthem.us) or main line at (702) 207-1406  
 Anthem Parkway – Contact Tonya Gale at [Tonya@epicamlv.com](mailto:Tonya@epicamlv.com) or call (702) 767-9993

SOLERA STAFF

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BOARD MEMBERS

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**Ken Sawyer, Director** | [solerakens@gmail.com](mailto:solerakens@gmail.com)  
**Susan Zinna, Director** | [susanzinna@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja9gLO1-Fh4) ----->



**Board of Directors Executive Session:**  
 June 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust

**Board of Directors Open Session:**  
 June 11 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust

**Board of Directors Executive Session:**  
 July 2 | 9:30 a.m. | Stardust

**Board of Directors Open Session:**  
 July 9 | 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](http://Nevada.fsrconnect.com/soleraatanthem.us)

Solera Website: [www.soleranews.com](http://www.soleranews.com)

You can access the FirstService website by logging onto [soleraatanthem.connectresident.com](http://soleraatanthem.connectresident.com)

**DEL WEBB Customer Relations**  
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**Following is the address for Assessment Payments:**  
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 P.O. Box 30422, Tampa, FL 33630-3422

**Anthem Council** | [www.anthemcommunitycouncil.com](http://www.anthemcommunitycouncil.com)  
[www.anthemcommunitycouncil.godaddysites.com](http://www.anthemcommunitycouncil.godaddysites.com)

## COMMITTEES &amp; CONTRIBUTORS

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

Robert Brightwell  
 David Chavez  
 Terry Phelps  
 Ingrid Serina  
 Gregg Shiffbauer  
 Florence Hayashi  
 Patricia Bond – *Alternate*  
 James Bardo – *Trainee*  
 David Stefanik – *Alternate*  
 Liaison: David DeOto

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Craig Hardy  
 Carol Hendrickson  
 Mary Schramski  
 Tom Sweetko  
 Frank Tuozzo  
 Liaison: Ken Sawyer

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Marcia Adams  
 Larry Edsall  
 Charlie Jones  
 Shelley Payne-Pittman  
 Aundrea Kelley  
 Liaison: Frank Nobel

**COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

Vida Carr  
 Joseph Doll  
 Linda Freitas  
 Lowell Gervais  
 Linda Loane  
 Diane Meireis  
 Liaison: Mike Goff

**FINANCE**

Steve Gordon  
 Thomas Mach  
 John Miller  
 Kathie Zeier  
 Liaison: David DeOto

**LIFESTYLE**

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

**PLEASE NOTE**

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

For more information or to apply, please contact management at [soleraatanthem@fsrnevada.com](mailto:soleraatanthem@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.



## IT IS SUMMER TIME

BY THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Summer is here and while the weather is still providing gentle cool morning and evening breezes how about getting out and taking a walk around your neighborhood? Or maybe you prefer riding your bike or going for a run.

While you are out enjoying the neighborhood you will notice that each of our 1,800 homes, including the villas, has its own personality. Over the years owners have added individual touches and styles which add to the enjoyment of a good neighborhood walkabout.

Do you prefer a good hike? Sloan Canyon offers plenty of trails for all levels of endurance. An evening hike will quite possibly offer an amazing sunset. Mt. Charleston may still have a little snow so don't wait to long to take a drive up there.

Perhaps walking the Strip before the hot days are truly upon us might be your choice. Check out the latest Bellagio Consortium or immerse yourself in the sensory exhibition at the Arte Museum.

If you haven't done so already take a drive out to Red Rock Canyon National Preserve. There are plenty of trails to enjoy for a leisurely walk or step it up a bit and go for a challenging hike. Maybe checking out the visitor center and/or simply driving the loop is more your style. Either way there is a lot to see and do in the Vegas Valley area.

If being outside is not your inclination there is always plenty to do at our Community Center. Join a club (you have so many great options), take a swim (we have a great indoor lap pool and jacuzzi and an outdoor area to relax and sunbath or utilize our outdoor jacuzzi). Select a book from our library or bring your own reading material and take some time to read while relaxing in our lobby area.

Whatever your preference, take advantage of these mornings and evenings and always take some time to explore the numerous opportunities offered at our Community Center. ✨



## HOWRU?

SIGN UP FOR A DAILY CHECK-IN CALL

BY THE FOUNDATION ASSISTING SENIORS AND VETERANS

We are happy to report that the 21st annual Golf Tournament was a great success.

Butch Harmon's clinic for the golfers prior to the start of the tournament was extremely entertaining and helpful. His participation is greatly appreciated.

Each month in the Solera Star we cover some of the services provided by the Foundation Assisting Seniors and Veterans. Some of you may have heard about the HowRU program but may not be familiar with how it works.

We recommend this service to all people who live alone. It is very easy to enroll in the program by going on to our website, [FoundationAssistingSeniors.org](http://FoundationAssistingSeniors.org) or calling the office at (725) 244-4200.

The HowRU program is a Robo call, which can be done at 7:00 a.m., or 9:00 a.m., or noon. When the participant answers the call, he will press any number on his phone. This tells the system he is okay. If he does not answer the phone, HowRU will call back two more times. However, if the participant does not answer, the emergency contact person will be called. If no one answers, a real person will then make the same calls. Should no one answer these calls, we will call for a wellness check. This program has saved 13 lives to date

We recommend the emergency contract be local and is familiar with you and your routine, possibly a neighbor or a local relative.

Please call our office if you have any questions. ✨



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# HOW TO SHOW THE STARS AND STRIPES

FLAG DAY IS JUNE 4, BUT MANY DISPLAY IT EVERY DAY.  
ARE YOU FOLLOWING PROPER ETIQUETTE?

BY LAURA ADDI



In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

The history of our flag is as fascinating as that of the American Republic itself. It has survived battles, inspired songs and evolved in response to the growth of the country it represents.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress, although not as an official federal holiday.

The origin of the first American flag is unknown. Some historians believe it was designed by New Jersey Congressman Francis Hopkinson and sewn by Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross.

The name Old Glory was given to a large, 10-foot by 17-foot flag by its owner, William Driver, a sea captain from Massachusetts, inspiring the common nickname for all American flags. His flag is said to have survived many attempts to deface it during the Civil War.

Between 1777 and 1960 Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

Today the flag comprises 13 horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies, and the stars represent the 50 states. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well; red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

## FLAG ETIQUETTE

Ideally, an American flag on your house should hang from a staff that angles out from the front wall, a windowsill, or balcony. It is a good idea to screw a bracket made for holding a flagstaff to the trim. Fasten it securely so it will not become

soiled or damaged. Do not allow the flag to touch the ground, floor, water, or anything else beneath it. It is also appropriate to hang the flag from a horizontal staff.

Whether the flag hangs from an angled or horizontal staff, be sure the union or canton (the rectangle with the stars) is at the peak. (Hanging the flag with the union down signals extreme distress.) When our President declares the flag to be flown at half-staff, it is acceptable to hang the flag from a horizontal staff with the union down, though your neighbors may not understand why you are doing this.

When the flag is displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be at the top and to your left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be hung so that the union is on the left when you see it from the street.

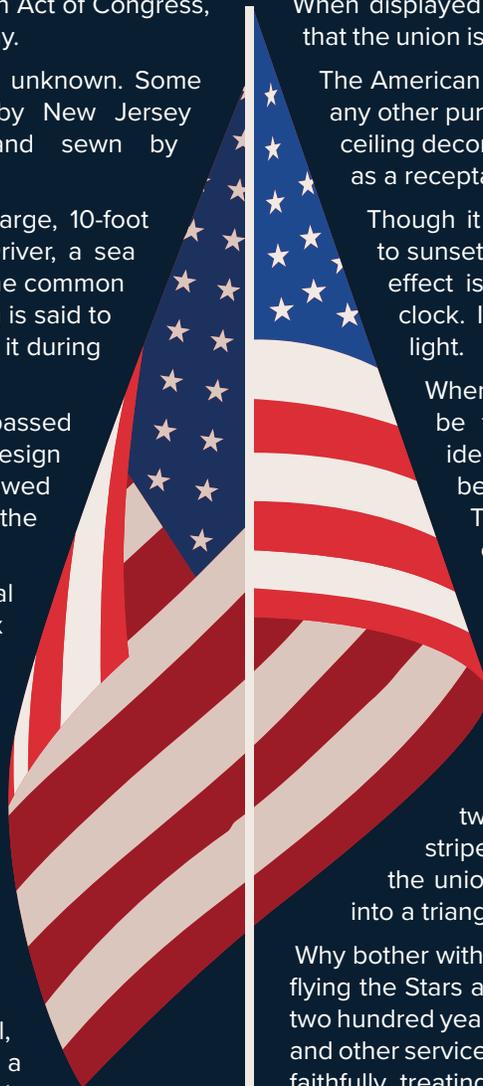
The American flag is meant to be a flag; do not use it for any other purpose. For example, don't use it as drapery, ceiling decoration, or as a bed spread. And never use it as a receptacle for carrying or holding anything.

Though it is customary to fly the flag from sunrise to sunset, the U.S. Code says that "when a patriotic effect is desired," you can display it around the clock. If you do, you should illuminate it with a light.

When displayed from a car, the flagstaff should be fixed or clamped firmly to the vehicle, ideally on the right side. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back. The same holds true for a flag displayed on a float in a parade. Do not carry the flag flat or horizontally. And, because it is not meant to be apparel, do not wear a United States flag. If you wear a lapel flag, pin it on the left side, near your heart.

Appropriate USA flag folding procedure: Basically, fold the flag in half widthwise twice. Fold up a triangle, starting at the striped end... and repeat... until only the end of the union is exposed. Then fold down the square into a triangle and tuck inside the folds.

Why bother with flag etiquette when you are excited about flying the Stars and Stripes? Consider this — for more than two hundred years, our country's military, firefighters, police, and other service personnel have practiced these measures faithfully, treating our flag with the highest esteem. This is one way we can show respect and meet the high standard they have set. ✨





## NEVADA'S STATE FLAG

By law enacted March 26, 1929, "The official flag of the State of Nevada is hereby created, to be designed of the following colors, with the following lettering and devices thereon, to wit:

"The body of the flag shall be of solid cobalt blue. On the field in the upper left quarter thereof shall be two sprays of sagebrush with the stems crossed at the bottom to form a half-wreath. Within the sprays a five-pointed star with one point up.

"The word 'Nevada' shall also be inscribed within the sprays, and shall be inscribed in the same style letters as the words, 'Battle

Born' and shall be inscribed in the following manner:

"Beginning at the upper point shall appear the letter 'N.' The other letters shall appear equally spaced between the points of the star. Above the wreath, and touching the tips thereof, a scroll bearing the words 'Battle Born;' the scroll to be golden yellow, and the lettering thereon black-colored Roman capital letters.

"The design upon which this bill is drafted shall be known as 'Design C' sketched by 'Don Louis Schellback 3rd, as redesigned to include the word 'Nevada' as provide for in this act." ✨

## THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

As detailed by the Nevada state legislature in NRS 235.010, the Nevada state seal shows:

"In the foreground, two large mountains, at the base of which, on the right, there shall be located a quartz mill, and on the left a tunnel penetrating the silver leads of the mountain, with a miner running out a carload of ore, and a team loaded with ore for the mill. Immediately in the foreground there shall be emblems indicative of the agricultural resources of the state, as follows:



"A plow, a sheaf, and a sickle,

"In the middle ground, a train of railroad cars, passing a mountain gorge; also, a telegraph line extending along the line of the railroad. In the extreme background, a range of snow-clad mountains, with the rising sun in the east.

"Thirty-six stars to encircle the whole group. In an outer circle, the words, 'The Great Seal of the State of Nevada,' to be engraved with these words, for the motto of our state, 'All For Our Country.'" ✨

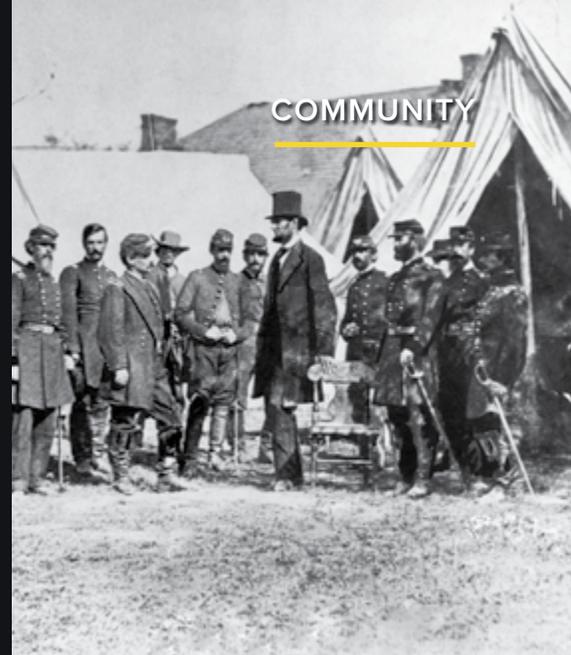
## WHY WE CELEBRATE

# JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY 

BUT IT WOULD STILL BE TWO YEARS UNTIL REAL FREEDOM

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN



The month of June is known for Flag Day, Father's Day, weddings, and Juneteenth. While many of us have heard of Juneteenth, the following is a brief history lesson (or refresher) on what it means and how it came to be.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that celebrates the effective ending of slavery in America. The name Juneteenth comes from combining the words (portmanteau) "June" and "Nineteenth."

In 1861, the Civil War started because Southern states wanted to secede from the federal union to protect their rights to slavery (free labor).

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves in Union states. Slaves in Confederate states were not affected by the proclamation. As a result, slavery ended in different states at different times until the Civil War ended two years later.

Confederate states that refused to end slavery included Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, and Delaware. Many slaves escaped, demanded wages, stopped work, or took up arms against Confederate soldiers.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas to ensure that all enslaved people were set free. Why Texas? Because many out-of-state slave owners had moved there since there was no large-scale fighting or significant Union soldier presence. This military action was initiated 2.5 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

Almost all of the 250,000 Texan slaves were freed by the victorious Union Army. In the remaining states, slaves were freed by 13th Amendment abolition laws in 1865.

Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979. On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday known as Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Juneteenth is celebrated annually with festivals, parades, fireworks, and block parties, as well as family and community gatherings to feast and share the holiday's meaning and origin. Red foods like barbecue, strawberries, watermelon, and red velvet cake dominate the table as the color signifies resilience amid bondage.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Black History Month and Juneteenth are American holidays. In Mexico, the Black Seminoles of Nacimiento (also known as Mascogos) hold a festival and reunion on June 19th known as El Día de Los Negros. Across the pond, many former British colonies celebrate Emancipation Day on August 1 commemorating the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. In 2021, the United Nations designated August 31st as the International Day for People of African Descent.

It is 2025 so while we are not personally responsible for the errors of our ancestors, it is crucial that we recognize the struggles, successes, and contributions that African Americans have made to make America the great nation it is today. ✨



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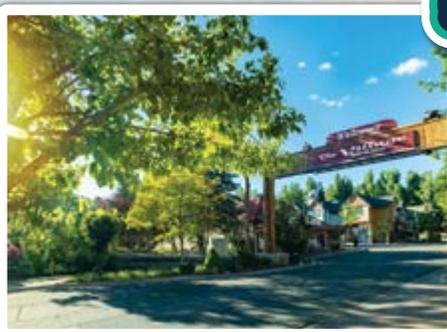
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# JUNE 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 ARC 9am Vets & First Responders 6:30pm Bulk Trash Day	4 Executive Board 9:30am	5	6 Free First Friday Social 9am	7
8	9 Covenants 9am	10	11 Open Session Board of Directors 9:30am	12 Communications 9:30am	13	14 Fitness Center Orientation 10am
15 Father's Day	16	17 Lifestyle 9:45am Bulk Trash Day	18 Buildings & Grounds 9:30am Fitness Center Orientation 4pm	19 Community Standards 9:30am Juneteenth	20	21
22	23	24 Lunch & Learn: Prevention by Live to Ignite 12pm	25 Finance Meeting 9:30am	26 Lunch & Learn: Modern Aging by Yamaha 12pm	27	28
29	30	JUL 1 ARC 9am Veterans & First Responders 6:30pm	2 Executive Board 9:30am	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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**Henderson**

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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 & Thursdays 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 Pinoche Group**

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

**Tennis Group** | Saturday | 7 a.m.  
Sam Misraji | (818) 207-1947

**Trivia Group** | Last Tuesday | 6–8 p.m.  
Rosemary Massey  
(907) 230-7945 | rosemarymassey2@gmail.com

**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**Party Time Dance** | Tuesday | Noon–1 p.m.  
Carol Page | (702) 205-0164 | carolpage11@yahoo.com

**Power Walkers** | Daily | 7:30 a.m.  
Cheryl Beaudry | (319) 389-1236

**Tai Chi Clinic** | Monday | 11:15 a.m.

**Yoga Friends** | Tuesday & Thursday | 9 a.m.  
Mary Schramski | drmary10@proton.me

**ZUMBA** | Thursday | 8:30–9:30 a.m.  
Mary Richard | (702) 521-2583

**LIBRARY**

**Hours** | Monday–Saturday | 6 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Sunday | 6 a.m.–7 p.m. | SoleraatAnthemLibrary@gmail.com

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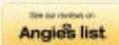
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## DOREEN'S REMODEL

### CLARK MODEL'S TRANSFORMATION

BY MARCIA ADAMS

Doreen purchased her home on Darda Street in Solera in January 2021 during the pandemic. At that time the Clark Model was pretty much all original — carpeting in some places and tile in others, original vanities and fiberglass showers, oak kitchen cabinets with granite countertops, as well as old lighting fixtures.

When she was ready to remodel, Doreen acted as her own project manager and designer, hiring contractors as needed throughout the project.

To begin her remodel, Doreen wisely chose to do all those upgrades that cost money but are basically unseen. She had a whole new air conditioning/handler system installed, a new hot water heater, painted the exterior, and installed a security door.

In addition, as she remodeled the bathrooms and kitchen, she updated all the plumbing fixtures, replacing all the valves to ensure she would not have any future issues.

Tiling and carpeting were removed and replaced with new luxury vinyl flooring and modernized baseboards. Kitchen cabinets were refaced; tile backsplash was installed by her husband to go with the new countertops. All appliances were replaced with stainless steel.

Some of the most dramatic changes came to the home's two bathrooms. Both underwent a complete modernized upgrade, including new vanities and sinks, tubs replaced, shower enclosures custom tiled to ceiling with niches and a seat in primary bath. Brushed nickel bath fixtures, mirrors, and new lighting finish those rooms.

Soft grey walls throughout the home provide a cohesive look.

Doreen had a vision for her home, and she succeeded in bringing it to life. ✨

## THESE SOLERANS INSTALLED A HIGH-TECH STEAM SHOWER

IT FEELS LIKE YOU ARE IN THE SPACE SHUTTLE

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

My neighbors, Barry and Barbara Banks, have been Solera residents for 17 years. I have visited their home many times, enjoying its spectacular view of Las Vegas and sweet upgrades like a pergola, meditation walkway, walk-in tub, pavers, marble kitchen countertops, and rollup security shutters.

But my personal favorite upgrade is their “space age” shower. Barry and Barb selected the Mesa Steam Shower because it has so many awesome features:

- A curved sliding glass door starts your bathing adventure
- Tall grab bars on the left and right sides ensure safe entry and exit
- The center control tower has:
  - » 24 decorative blue lights
  - » A control display and keypad for the radio and TV
  - » A water temperature controller
  - » The water on/off handle
  - » A lower grab bar
- Each of the 2 seats has 6 body-massaging jets
- A pull-out foot massager stores neatly under the left seat
- There are 2 large oval mirrors: the left mirror is a real one, but the right mirror has the TV screen embedded in it
- A long water hose is installed up high to clean the body while standing or sitting on the right side
- A short water hose is installed down low to clean the body while sitting on the left side
- Mounted in the ceiling are:
  - » A rainfall shower head
  - » Overhead circular lighting
  - » An exhaust fan
  - » 3 speakers for the radio and TV
- A steamer is installed on the floor (it is the little white ball with holes in it)
- Two metal shelves are mounted up high for shampoo, body wash and other bath items.

In 2021, Barry and Barb purchased the space-age shower for less than \$5,000 and it only took 2 days to install.

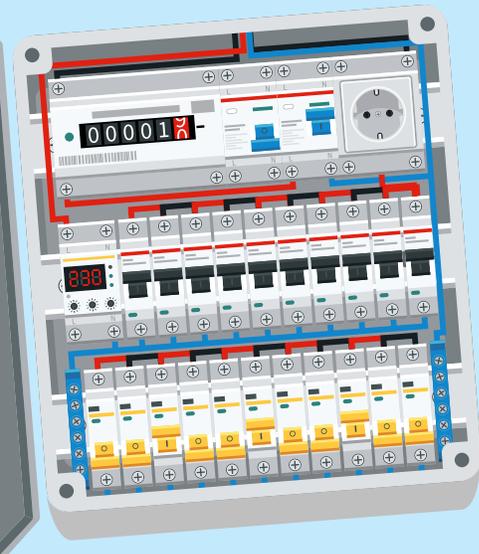
Barry even nicknamed his shower as the “Beam me up, Scotty.” ✨



## BOTCHED *UPGRADE* PROJECTS

### MURPHY'S LAW OF CONSTRUCTION

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN



You finished remodeling your home. The construction crew and trucks are gone, your yard is clean, your new spaces are beautiful, and you can finally let out a sigh of relief.

Well, maybe not. Let me share a few botched construction horror stories.

- My family home was built around 1950. Forty-three years later, while washing dishes in the kitchen, my mom smelled smoke and immediately called John, her electrician. John checked the kitchen, then went downstairs to the basement and knocked a hole in the wall above the basement stairs. Suddenly they heard sparks, and the smell of smoke intensified; my mom immediately turned off the electricity. When John looked inside the wall with his flashlight, he saw several extension cords covered with thick dust where electrical wiring should have been installed. If my mom had not been home, the house would have caught fire.

- A middle-aged couple decided to take a long vacation while their kitchen was being remodeled. Several weeks later, they returned home to a beautiful, modern kitchen. However, the following month, they received a high cable TV bill because



the construction workers had been watching pay-per-view adult videos the whole time they were gone.

- After construction started on my ex-husband Rudy's house (to convert his garage into a master bedroom, bath, and laundry room), he called Tom, the window salesman who had previously ordered replacement windows in the rest of the house. Tom looked at the framed new rooms and the drawings for the new garage and then ordered the windows. Four months later, Tom's company delivered the wrong

windows -- replacement windows instead of new construction windows. It took another 1.5 months to get the new construction windows delivered and installed.

- When I ordered wrought iron side gates for my current home, the workers installed the gates in the dark (it was January). When I went outside to check on them, they did not have bright work lights or even heavy-duty flashlights; they were using flashlights on their cellphones!
- My friend Yvonne remodeled her bathroom, replacing the old bathtub with a walk-in shower. However, the contractor made a series of frustrating design choices. He left the oversized sink cabinet next to the new shower instead of replacing it with a smaller one, and rather than installing two sliding doors, he put a fixed glass panel on the right side—right next to the large cabinet—and the sliding door on the left. As a result, Yvonne has to step fully into the shower to turn on the water...which, of course, is always cold.



## SHOPPING FOR A CONTRACTOR

### THE MAESTRO OF YOUR REMODEL PROJECT

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

When I was growing up in Cleveland, my parents were always fixing up our two-story bungalow house: remodeling the kitchen, converting the attic into a dormer (a third bedroom and second bathroom), finishing the basement (for the rec room).

At an early age, I learned how to paint, take measurements, use hand tools, and steam off wallpaper. I guess that is why I am addicted to DIY and fixer-upper TV shows.

Maybe you have spent years flip-flopping about remodeling your home. Technology has given us countless conveniences to find a contractor, along with a tsunami of scammers. So how can you find a contractor you can trust?

- Ask your family, friends, neighbors, club, and church members about contractors (their work quality, reliability, and professionalism).
- Drive around your neighborhood and look for construction work being done; knock on the door and talk to the homeowner or neighbors.
- Go to DIY stores since they work with lots of contractors; for a kitchen remodel, go to a good cabinet supplier; for a plumber, go to a plumbing supply house.
- Talk to the local building inspector; though they might not help (they do not want to get in the middle of future disputes), they might offer a roofer, plumber or HVAC person who can steer you to a reputable contractor.
- Check websites like Houzz and Angi (formerly Angie's List) and check photos of previous projects and complaints; Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, and trade associations.
- Contact professional organizations like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

- At my previous home in California, I called Mike, my electrician, to replace some circuit breakers in the panel box. Apparently, Mike did not have the right circuit breaker for one of the slots, so he trimmed the metal connector and forced it

into the panel. A few weeks later, during the property inspection to sell my house, the power went out; when the inspector opened the panel box, Mike's trimmed circuit breaker fell out of the box.

- My neighbor Harry decided to install exterior lighting from the front of his California house to the backyard. Between the house and driveway was a narrow garden with plants and underground sprinklers. One day, Harry noticed long electrical wires lying on top of the dirt in the narrow garden. When Harry asked the workers why the wires were exposed, they told him they would fix it. The workers proceeded to wrap black electrical tape around the wires "to protect the wires from the sprinkler water." Apparently neither Harry nor the workers knew

about digging trenches, running electrical wiring through PVC pipes, and then burying the PVC pipes in the trenches.

Construction miscalculations, inexperience, shortcuts, or other human errors will not surface until weeks, months or even years later. Make sure your wishes are documented and keep an eye on the crew. ✨



Ok, so you collected contact info for several contractors (at least three). The next step is to conduct phone interviews; be prepared to ask lots of questions, including the tough ones:

- Do they take on projects of your size (kitchen/bath remodel vs. new home construction)?
- Are they willing to provide financial references from suppliers or banks?
- Can they give you a list of previous clients?
- How many other projects would they have going on at the same time?
- How long have they worked with their subcontractors?
- Ask for references and examples of their work.

Some red flags that the contractor might not be reputable include:

- Reluctance to provide references or financial information
- Pressure to make an immediate decision
- Unusually low bids compared to other contractors
- Lack of proper licensing or insurance
- Unwillingness to obtain the necessary permits.

You checked the contractors' references and verified their license and insurance. Now it is time to get bids for the project:

- Have a detailed plan including the scope of work: If it is new construction, an addition, to remodel an existing structure or a combination
- Be aware of the current cost of labor and materials
- Have a contingency budget (10-20 percent of the total cost) for unexpected changes

- Do not judge a general contractor based on an estimate; go by the firm contract price.

The cost to build a new, average-size single-family home is 42 percent higher now than in 2019. Building material prices are up 19.2 percent over the last 12 months and have risen 35.6 percent since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

When you walk through the detailed plan with the contractor:

- Discuss who will obtain the permits and schedule inspections during the planning phase; not having proper permits could violate local ordinances, subject you to fines and cause problems when you sell the house.
- Set realistic timelines and schedule.
- Establish a payment schedule and project milestones:
  - » 10-25 percent down payment at contract signing.
  - » Three payments of 25 percent spread over the project, usually at completion of significant work (milestones).
  - » The balance is due when the project is completed (when you are completely satisfied!).

- Include changes and disputes (unexpected issues) and how they will be resolved (through mediation or arbitration) in the contract.
- Establish a communication schedule (daily checkpoints, weekly meetings, phone calls, emails, texts).
- Include lien releases from all subcontractors and suppliers (to prevent a mechanic's liens against your property if the contractor does not pay them).

- Confirm that your contractor carries adequate insurance coverage (liability insurance for property damage and workers' compensation for personal injury or accident).

Be sure the contract includes:

- Contractor's business and contact information.
- Contractor's insurance and licensing information.
- Highly detailed description of the work to be done, the schedule and the timeline.
- Terms of payment.
- Permits the contractor is required to pull
- Process for how disagreements and changes to the project should be handled.
- Termination clause that protects both parties.
- Time of the essence clause.

Homeowners also have obligations under contract so do your homework! Be sure you have level-set the time, cost, and resource expectations (for labor and materials). And do not overbuy or give away leftover materials that the construction crew use on their next job.

It is always best to hire an experienced, competent contractor with at least 15 years of successful projects:

- Do they have the character and stamina for the daily grind?
- Are they goal-oriented?
- Can they solve problems?
- Do they care about you and your project more than a few bucks?

Do not settle for shortcuts to keep costs low or rush the project's completion. Remember: You will have to live with the results for a long time. ✨

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?

BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE

BY SHELLEY PAYNE-PITTMAN

Growing up in Cleveland, I endured several winter blizzards that dumped four feet of snow as temperatures plummeted to 20 degrees below zero. That is a wind chill factor of 60 below zero, which can cause water pipes to freeze and basement furnace ignitions to stall.

After moving to Los Angeles, I saw many years of droughts that sparked wildfires, and torrential rains that created massive flooding and mudslides. Then in 1997, the Northridge earthquake hit; it was a powerful 6.7 quake on the Richter scale that toppled buildings, caused a gas line explosion, collapsed part of the I-210 freeway, and left millions of residents without power for three days. Fortunately, my ex-husband's camping generator ran three refrigerators (ours and for two of our neighbors) during chaotic aftermath.

Here in the Las Vegas valley, desert summer heat has risen steadily every year, topping 122 degrees in 2024, and resulting in power outages.

Hospitals and healthcare services have generators built into their infrastructure to protect patients who are on life-support systems in the event power goes down.

Here is what you the homeowner can do now to prepare for a power outage:

- Assemble an emergency kit with non-perishable food, bottled water (a gallon per person per day), first aid kit, battery-powered flashlights, extra batteries, a battery-powered radio, and a whistle for signaling help.
- Keep your electronics and medical equipment charged (invest in wireless chargers or backup batteries).

- Use flashlights and batteries; never use candles to reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep fridge and freezer doors closed to protect food (fridge food will be safe for up to 4 hours and freezer food for 24-48 hours).
- Use a long match or barbecue grill lighter to light gas stove burners (electric ignition will not work).
- Turn off small appliances; unplug televisions and computers to avoid damage in case of a surge when power returns.
- Leave a couple lights switched on in the house so you will know when electricity comes back on.
- In winter, bundle up in blankets and heavy clothing, and close doors to unused rooms.
- Keep half a tank of gasoline in the car (gas station pumps will not work during power outage).
- Know how to manually open your garage door to get your car out (garage door openers will not work without electrical power).
- Stash some cold, hard cash since ATMs might not work when there is no power.
- Make a communication plan to stay connected with your family.
- Invest in a generator, but never run it indoors (its fumes are toxic).
- Stay away from downed power lines.

Being proactive and preparing for emergencies is always the best plan of action because, as they say, it is never a matter of "if" something will happen, but "when." ❄️



## BASIC HISTORY

HENDERSON TRULY WAS  
'BATTLE BORN'

BY CHARLIE JONES

The City of Henderson began as an industrial town in 1939 when Howard Eells obtained the mineral rights to the magnesium deposits found in Gabbs, Nevada, in Nye County some 350 miles from Las Vegas.

Eells worked with Senator Pat McCarren and others to begin an open-pit mining operation to extract magnesium ore, which then had to be sent to onsite concentrating plants, where it was concentrated to increase the magnesium content before being roasted to convert it into magnesium oxide. The magnesium oxide was then transported south by rail to the Basic processing plant in a small town near the Colorado River.

That town was called Midway City, but later became the Basic Townsite and, in 1942, Henderson.

The town was renamed Henderson to solidify its identity and to honor U.S. Senator Charles Belknap Henderson for his contributions to Nevada, especially his service as a U.S. Senator from 1918 to 1921. Earlier he held other positions, including district attorney in Elko County.

Henderson, the man, was born on June 8, 1873, in San Jose, California. When he was aged 3, his family moved to Nevada, where he grew up in Elko. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1896. Early in his career, he served as a first lieutenant in Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish American War. His political career peaked when he was appointed to the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy created by the death of Francis G. Newlands.



Magnesium mining operation at Gabbs, Nevada



**Photo Credit:**  
Basic Magnesium photos  
courtesy Henderson Historical  
Society and Henderson Libraries'  
Henderson Digital Archives



*Basic Magnesium plant under construction*

Henderson, the city, was established in 1941 with the construction of the Basic Magnesium Plant in 1941. However, it was not officially incorporated until April 16, 1953.

Basic Magnesium, Inc. was founded in June 1941 as a joint venture between Cleveland, Ohio-based Basic Refractories and Magnesium Elektron, a British company. Basic Refractories owned mining claims in Gabbs Valley that produced the magnesite and brucite needed to produce magnesium metal, and Magnesium Elektron owned the patent for the electrolytic process to extract metallic magnesium from these minerals.

In August 1941, the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation's Defense Plant Corporation granted Basic

Magnesium a turnkey contract to build a magnesium manufacturing complex, codenamed "Plancor 201," to process the magnesium oxide coming from Gabbs. Operations began that November.

The selected site was located southeast of downtown Henderson. The site was chosen because of its proximity to Lake Mead for water and to Hoover Dam for power. In 1942 the company opened the 50-bed Basic Magnesium Hospital, later renamed St. Rose Dominican, Rose de Lima Campus, which still serves the community to this day.

The plant produced magnesium, a lightweight and strong metal crucial for munitions casings, the production of incendiary bombs, and airplane parts for use in World War II. The plant was the largest of its kind, producing magnesium from 1942 to 1944. At its peak it employed over 13,000 men and women, many of whom moved to Henderson from other parts of the country.





*Basic Magnesium plant facilities began operations in 1942*



*Plant's 50-bed hospital became St. Rose Dominican, Rose de Lima Campus*

Women employed at the plant were hard working wartime women known as Magnesium Maggie who drove forklifts, handled ingots, were machinists and worked over molten metal (eat your heart out, Rosie the Riveter).

BMI contracted companies to build chlorine, refining and magnesium metal plants on site, along with a railroad to transport raw materials from Gabbs to Boulder City and from there to the new plant. BMI also hired pioneering African American architect Paul Revere Williams to design the 1,000-unit Basic Townsite, the 509-unit Victory Village apartments, and the racially segregated 324-unit Carver Park housing complex. (In addition to many buildings and homes in Southern California, Williams also designed the Guardian Angel Cathedral and the La Conchia Motel, which later was moved to house the Neon Museum in Las Vegas.)

*Victory Village included 509 apartments for Caucasian employees*





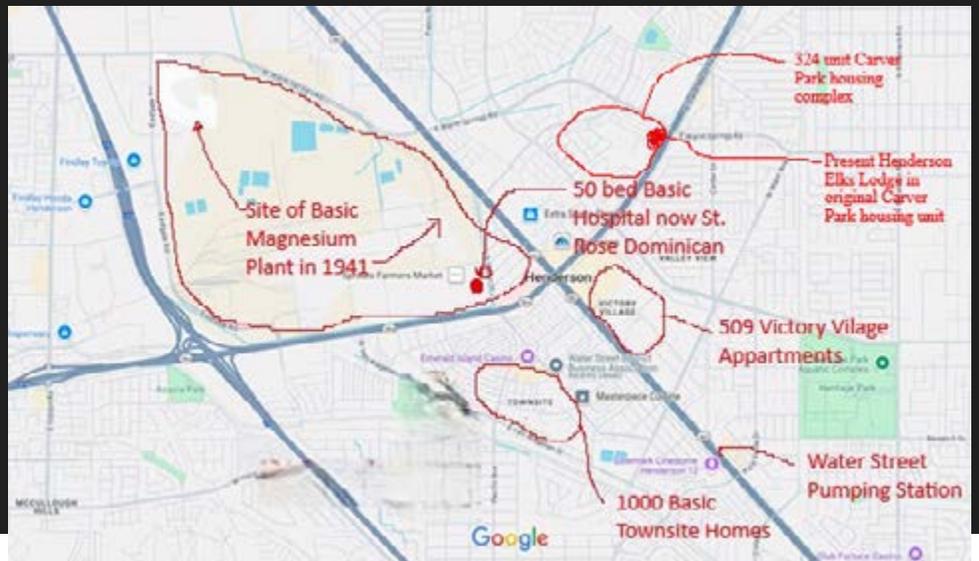
The Williams family was the first to move into the racially segregated 324-unit Carver Park housing complex

Basic Townsite was built to house plant workers and their families, and included schools, hospitals, stores, etc. The plant was one of the earliest working hubs for African American workers who migrated from the South, settling in a segregated section of Henderson called Carver Park, which later would become known as the Historic Westside of Henderson.

Henderson's Green Valley Elks Lodge No. 2802, located on Saguaro Street along Lake Mead Boulevard, is an original Carver Park home and is about a mile north of the Basic Hospital/St. Rose Dominican.

In honor of the plant, local streets were named Water (site of the pump that provided water to the magnesium plant) and Basic, which also became the name for the high school.

Since those days, Henderson has expanded to become the second most-populous and third-largest city in the state and is known for its extensive recreational facilities and its vibrant community. ✨



## FAMILY TIES

SHE FOUND HERS, NOW THIS SOLERAN HELPS OTHERS SEARCH FOR FAMILY HISTORY



**Q. Name**

*A. Celeste Guillory*

**Q. When and where were you married, and how did you meet?**

*A. I met my late husband, Tony, in 1955 and we were married in 1963 at City Hall*

*in San Francisco. A friend brought him to my house, and it was love at first sight for us both. I was 13 and he was 14. He started coming to visit me and we dated until he went into the Marine Corps in 1958. We got married when he was discharged. We were married 56 1/2 years.*

**Q. If you have children and/or grandchildren, how many? Other relatives of note?**

*A. We have 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. One of my granddaughters works in a jail, which is what I did for 25 years. She is very good at what she does. She also is really good at genealogy and DNA research. We sit down and plot DNA families together.*

*One of my uncles worked for the California Highway Patrol and the other uncle was a San Francisco policeman who was killed on duty, when you see the movie, Dirty Harry, you will see his name — Edward Flagler, in the opening scene.*

**Q. When did you move to Solera, and why did you move here?**

*A. I moved here in 2021 One of my daughters lives nearby and after my husband died it was time to sell our rural property in Oregon and move somewhere else.*



**Q. Where were you born and lived before Solera?**

*A. I was born in San Francisco, raised in a suburb called Daly City, and went to school in San Francisco. The day after I graduated from high school I went to work for Procter & Gamble Co. and then I went to work at Galland Linen Service. Working there made me the third generation in my family to work in a laundry.*

*Then I had 5 children. My husband went to work for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department. One holiday weekend I was asked to accompany him to Southern California to take some women to a jail there and then to bring some other women back. I thought it would be a good job for me, so I went to the sheriff's reserve school for nine months and was hired as a deputy sheriff/female (as they called it then). I worked for 25 years after that in jail.*

**Q. Any favorite memories you'd like to share?**

*A. When I was growing up in Daly City the city was still very small, and the recreation department sponsored Easter egg hunts in the hills. The eggs were hidden in patches of lupin, California poppies and daffodils and it was beautiful. Those hills are all covered with houses now.*

*Another favorite memory is going to my grandmother's house in Berkeley. As I got out of the car I could smell the snapdragons in her garden. That smell always takes me back to those days.*

**Q. When company comes to town, where do you take them?**

*First off, I bring them here to show off how nice it is living in Solera. Then we went out to Hoover Dam, the Pioneer Saloon and to the Bellagio conservatory and botanical gardens. We sample some of the local restaurants. The restaurants here are really good.*

**Q. What are your favorite activities in Solera?**

*A. I belong to the Black Mountain Marine Corps League and I'm secretary for the Solera Veterans and First Responders Club, which I joined right away. I also volunteer to assist veterans from the Southern Nevada Veterans Home when they shop at Walmart and Target. The veteran's home in Boulder City sets up a schedule and the vets take a bus to the*

shopping location, where I'm among the volunteers who assist the veterans pick out what they want to buy. Many of the vets are in wheelchairs or use motorized chairs. They have about 90 minutes to shop and I love to help them.

I also like inviting people over to my house for spaghetti dinners, although in March we had corn beef and cabbage.

**Q. How and when did you get involved in ancestry research?**

**A.** I had a cousin who was living in Las Vegas (who has since passed away) and he got in touch with my mother, sister and me. He hired a private detective to find us; he said we were the lost branch of the family. He was going to write a book about my grandmother's grandfather. My grandmother's family left Buffalo, New York in 1999, and went by train to San Francisco but had no further contact with the rest of the family. My mother had a fit, "you're not going to talk to them," she said. I promised I wouldn't, but when she passed away, I did, and I found it fascinating. Everyone should know about their family history.

*That was 1993 so I took a genealogy course at night at one of the high schools. This was before computers; you did it hard way. You'd go to the county clerk's office, the local National Archives and local cemeteries. It was really hard then but so much easier now with online databases and DNA relatives. I tried to put flesh on the bones... My DNA... I'm 49 percent Spanish and 46 percent Basque French. My mother was Irish, but she had a lot of French and German ancestors, this is all as the result of DNA testing.*

*My first challenge was that I had no idea what happened to my mother's father. He left the family shortly after the San Francisco earthquake and fire, and they didn't know what happened to him but I found him. He went on to marry another woman and deserted her, too, so I found a sister she didn't know about. Her father died in 1941.*

*My mother was 4 years old when the earthquake in San Francisco happened and all the records were burned. It was a thrill for me when I found my mother in the 1910 census. She was living with her mother, grandmother, brother and sister*

**Q. When did you start helping Solerans find their roots?**

**A.** Almost immediately after moving here. I was available on Thursdays but took 2024 off to travel and work on my garden. I look forward to helping people start their family history search or help with brick walls again soon.

**(If you want help discovering your family heritage, Celeste is at the Solera clubhouse Thursdays from 9-10:30 a.m.) ✨**



## ROOTING OUT YOUR ANCESTORS

### SOLERAN CELESTE GUILLORY GUIDES MY QUEST FOR LEAVES TO ADD TO MY FAMILY TREE

BY LARRY EDSALL

I am guessing that every family has its quirks, its eccentricities. One of ours is an old, deteriorated, brick-sized Holy Bible published in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1740. I know, nothing unusual about that; lots of families have old Bibles, many of them, like ours, that include once-empty pages now filled with the handwritten names of family members and the dates of their births.

In our case, the eccentricity is one that might make this Bible somewhat less than Holy: The book isn't handed down from generation to generation, but is stolen from its possessor by another family member, well, at least until my possession, which came when my father, following his recovering from heart surgery, showed me where he kept the book hidden. It remained in that hiding place until the day a few years later when he entrusted it to me, in the process sharing the story of its purloined history.

One of my father's cousins had compiled a good share of their family's ancestry, a portion of which she had shared with him, and I presume with other family members. I inherited those documents, as well as some a relative of my mother's had compiled about their family. However, I did not do much with them until I moved to Solera and met Celeste Guillory at one of her genealogy sessions in the clubhouse.



Since then, I have expanded my family tree by many generations. Celeste introduced me to the **ancestry.com** and **FamilySearch.org** and other such websites, as well as other sources for such research. **Ancestry.com** offers DNA testing, which I did, and which produced the biggest surprise of my search to date: 22 percent of my DNA traced to “Germanic Europe.”

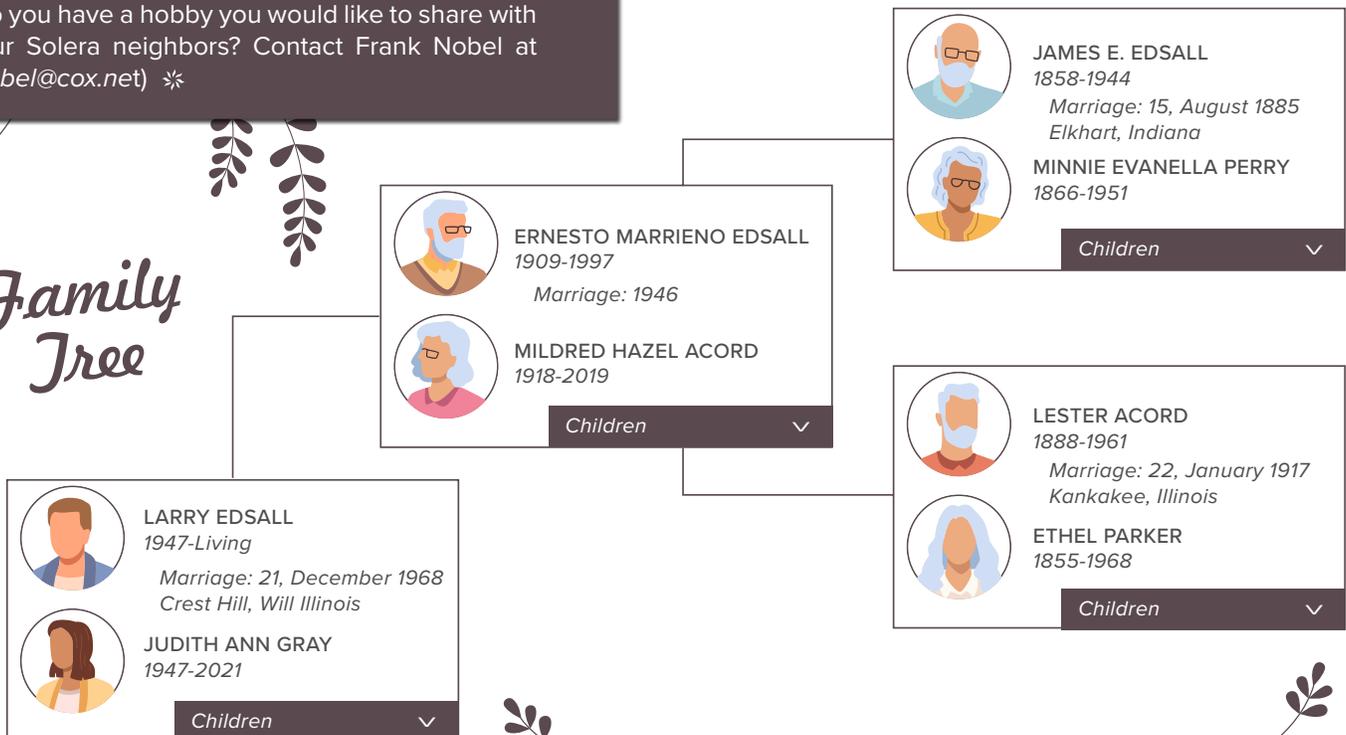
Turns out that in my case, “Germanic Europe” meant Prussia. Regardless, this news was surprising and involved my mother’s father’s family. Mom’s maiden name was Acord, and family lore said that they had come to the New World from England, where their name was Achord. That may be true, but DNA indicates that before arriving in England, they originated in Prussia, and that the family name was Eckhard.

Celeste tells me my next project is to look into what I can learn about John Acord Sr., born in 1788 in the Pennsylvania Colony and apparently the first to bear his last name, an interesting and intriguing fact considering that his parents and older brothers and sisters were named Eckard.

And should that mystery be solved, I will tackle this one: The other surprise revealed by my DNA is that 1 percent of my heritage traces to Sardinia, a Mediterranean island located between Italy and Tunisia.

(Do you have a hobby you would like to share with your Solera neighbors? Contact Frank Nobel at [fnobel@cox.net](mailto:fnobel@cox.net)) ✨

## Family Tree





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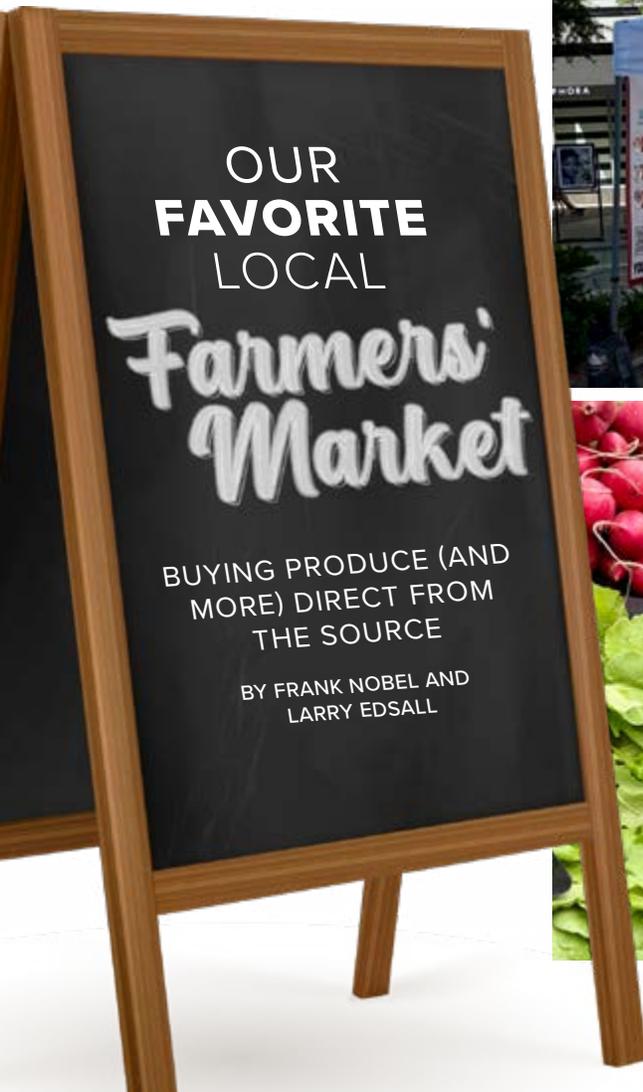
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You well may remember weekend drives with your parents out into rural areas where farmers, or often their children, sat by the side of the road selling fresh-picked produce. Sweet corn. Watermelons. Beans. Beets. Carrots. Peas. Apples. Cherries. Eggs. If you were down south, oranges and grapefruit. Pumpkins as Halloween approached.

From mom 'n pop (and children) businesses, farmers' markets have evolved into regularly scheduled sales and social events that often offer not only fresh produce but all sorts of bakery goods, as well as flowers, jams, jellies, salsas, artisanal soaps, and much more, including dog treats.

And just like shopping at Costco, many of the vendors offer free samples to entice you to buy. And those vendors tend to be very friendly, sometimes remembering you from your visit the previous week or even month. Many offer organically grown produce or gluten-free products.

Today, farmers' markets tend to be organized by professional companies that recruit the vendors, negotiate places to stage the sales, and promote the events.

Nowadays, you can do a web search, “farmers markets near me” or click over to [ams.usda.gov](http://ams.usda.gov) and navigate to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Local Food Directories and its National Farmers Market Directory.

“The Farmers Market Directory lists markets that feature two or more farm vendors selling agricultural products directly to customers at a common, recurrent physical location,” the site explains. “Maintained by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Directory is designed to provide customers with convenient access to information about farmers market listings to include: market locations, directions, operating times, product offerings, accepted forms of payment, and more.”

A local source for Solerans is [gethealthyclarkcounty.org](http://gethealthyclarkcounty.org). Click on EAT BETTER and then FARMERS MARKETS.

“Farmers Markets selling fresh grown produce may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think desert living. But actually, there are several markets around the Valley giving residents access to lots of locally and regionally grown produce,” the website reports.

“Shopping at your local farmers market not only supports small businesses and farmers, it’s also a great opportunity to learn more about where your food comes from and how

it’s grown, empowering you to make informed food choices for your family.”

The site then shares its list of local farmers’ markets, their locations, and dates and hours of operation.

Members of Solera’s Communications Committee spent time in April scouting various local farmers’ markets. Our favorites were the Thursday (10 a.m. until 2 p.m.) market at The District at Green Valley Ranch and the Saturday (9 a.m. until 2 p.m.) market in Downtown Summerlin.

We met a variety of vendors, primarily from Las Vegas, Pahrump or California. Most were very friendly and took time to explain their production processes. One recognized us from the previous week’s visit and shared an invitation to the annual Festival of Bulgarian in Las Vegas. Another shared the story of the many varieties of the banana bread they offer. Frank got his picture taken in Green Valley with the Easter bunny.

But there are many more markets, some even closer to Solera. We’ve checked various websites and compiled the following schedule, though we suggest you check the websites listed at the end of this article for scheduling updates (for example, we went to Sun City Anthem for the second Monday sale only to find no market being held).✱



## LAS VEGAS & HENDERSON FARMERS MARKETS

### MONDAY

#### 1st & 3rd Mondays:

Summerlin | 9am-1pm  
9107 Dell Webb Blvd.

Mountain’s Edge | 2-7pm  
9275 S. Buffalo Dr.

#### 2nd Monday:

Sun City Anthem | 9am-1pm  
2450 Hampton Rd.

### TUESDAY

#### 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Cadence Central Park | 2-7pm  
1125 E. Sunset Rd.

### WEDNESDAY

Bruce Trent Park | 2-6:30pm  
1600 Rampart Blvd.

### THURSDAY

District at GVR | 10am-2pm  
2240 Village Walk Dr.

Skye Canyon | 2-6:30pm  
10111 Skye Canyon Park Dr.

Montagna Park,  
Inspirada | 3-7 pm  
3495 Via Altamira

#### 1st & 3rd Thursdays:

Mountain’s Edge, | 2-7pm  
9275 S. Buffalo Dr.

### FRIDAY

816 Commerce St. | 9am-2pm

#### Last Friday of Month:

Downtown Henderson | 4-8pm  
129 S. Water St.

### SATURDAY

Downtown Summerlin  
9am-2pm

Henderson Cornerstone Park  
9am-2pm

1600 Wigwam Pkwy  
Historic West Side | 8am-Noon  
197 Harrison Ave.

#### 1st & 3rd Saturdays:

Inspirada | 9am-2pm  
2000 Via Firenze

#### 2nd & 4th Saturdays:

Southern Highlands | 9am-2pm  
11411 S. Highlands Pkwy

Floyd Lamb Park | 10am-3 pm  
9200 Tule Springs Dr.

### SUNDAY

Sansone Corp. | 8:30am-2pm  
2580 St. Rose Pkwy

UnCommons | 10am-2pm  
6880 Helen Toland St.

### WEBSITES

[www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets](http://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets)  
[gethealthyclarkcounty.org/eat-better/farmers-markets/](http://gethealthyclarkcounty.org/eat-better/farmers-markets/)  
[www.lasvegasfarmersmarket.com/](http://www.lasvegasfarmersmarket.com/)  
[www.fresh52.com/](http://www.fresh52.com/)  
[www.prevailmarketplacellc.com/schedule](http://www.prevailmarketplacellc.com/schedule)

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN SOLERA HAD A VEGETABLE LADY?

**Editor's note:** In the 20teen years, Solera resident Ingrid Serina became known as Solera's 'Vegetable Lady.' She volunteered at local food banks and also used her golf cart to distribute produce and canned goods to Solera residents. In November 2015, she received an "Act of Kindness" award from 8 News Now for her charitable work. The following is a reprint of an article published as a Resident Spotlight in the August 2015 issue of the Solera Star.

If you happen to be out front of your house or in your garage on the second and fourth Saturday, or down in the valley, or in the top half on Sunday, you know the subject of our Spotlight. Coasting up and down the streets of Solera in her brightly decorated golf cart, Ingrid Serina happily doles out delicious fruits and vegetables that are left after her volunteer work with the church of South Las Vegas and Three Square. Or maybe you have had the opportunity to pick up some perishables in the Rec Center (clubhouse) on Sunday afternoon.

Ingrid wants you to know that she does NOT grow the produce in her back yard. She also does not charge for the items. And NO, she doesn't take appointments. It is all part of Ingrid's belief in Community service. She does it because she enjoys helping people.

The Vegetable Lady loves to meet people. Since 2006 when she moved here to Solera, she has made friends with her neighbors, who were her first customers, and then many others whom she has met along the way. She insists that she lives on the greatest street in Solera (Divine Sky). In fact, her ailing golf cart was once towed home by one of her fantastic neighbors.

So, what did Ingrid do before she came to Solera? After graduating from Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, New York, she obtained an associated degree in accounting from Queensborough Community College. She then worked for the New York World's Fair and got to drive a Cushman, a utility cart (maybe in preparation for her Solera golf cart experiences). Later, she was a volunteer Park Ranger at Vasquez Rocks in Palmdale, California for many years.

When she eventually arrived in Las Vegas, she worked for a tour company and ended up getting comps for every show and tour in the area. (Terry Fator is her favorite.) Ask her about her helicopter trips to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

"Happily divorced," Ingrid takes advantage of all the "Senior Stuff" offered around the area. In addition, she is the Senior Member of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) and joins the Needlework group every Thursday morning.

The next time you see that colorful golf cart, check out the sign on the back. Ingrid's granddaughter Sarah sent her a placard that reads "Girls Just Want to Have Fun!" Dahlis and Carolyn in Alaska and Sarah in California certainly know their grandmother!

We are happy to have this positive, fun-loving person in our Community. \*





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HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MARGARITA

BY FRANK NOBEL

I would like to say this is a newly discovered Mexican restaurant, but it was established in 1892 and is the home of the original margarita.

We asked John Moten, the general manager, if there were any validity to the claims regarding founding date and margarita creation.

Turns out the date of 1892 is very solid, the original cantina was envisioned by Hussong Oertel, a German immigrant to Mexico. There is paperwork supporting the opening date.

On the other hand, the claim of the original margarita is somewhat clouded by history. John admitted that there were conflicting versions, but said he supported the view that the margarita was first made by Don Carlos Orozco in 1941.

The story is that a Mexican ambassador's daughter, Margarita, requested a drink that was both sweet and sour. Don Carlos produced tequila, triple-sec, and lime juice — and the rest is history.

But there are other versions of the story. In this one, Carlos "Danny" Herrera created the margarita for a Ziegfeld Follies girl.

And there are other stories, but the tales shared feminine inspiration are too similar to not have the ring of truth, and the other tales also mention Hussong's Cantina in Ensenada, Mexico.

The local Hussong's is located at 3440 St. Rose Parkway, though you cannot actually see the restaurant from that street. Instead, turn off the road at the sign of the golden arches and you will see Hussong's.

The cantina has a happy hour, Monday through Friday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. featuring — what else? — \$6 margaritas, \$4 beer, and \$4 tacos.

The restaurant offers mariachi band entertainment from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday.

One word of caution. The restaurant offers a \$5 margarita on Saturdays, but do not confuse that drink with the Cadillac Margarita, which not only costs more, but you are best prepared for the buzz.





## SOLERA'S OTHER POOL SHARKS

AQUASIZE CLUB MEMBERS FIND FITNESS IN THE WATER

BY MARCIA ADAMS

Perhaps the first thing you should know about the Aquasize Club is that it is not just about exercising, it is about friendship and camaraderie of participants.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Diane Fimiano, president and one of the original members of the Aquasize Club at Solera. She explained that the club began approximately 16 years ago. There had been some form of previous water instruction, but it had been sporadic. Participants decided they needed more stability and consistency of instruction, and the club started with 20 individuals each putting in \$20 to cover the cost of certified instructors.

The club currently has 70 members, and rather informal rules. There is no minimum class size, nor is attendance at each session mandatory. Per their bylaws, there is one formal meeting a year.

Classes are conducted four days each week — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (Friday's is a special class of Aqua Zumba) from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The average class size is 20 people who occupy the entire Solera pool during that time slot. For safety reasons, Aqua exercise needs space between participants.

Residents are welcome to attend one free class to check it out. Cost per class is either \$3 per session or members can buy a pass, the more reasonable option. A pass for eight classes costs \$20.

Participants are urged to arrive at least 10 minutes before class time so they can shower and get their toys — items used as part of the exercises, such as noodles and weights.

Diane publishes a newsletter weekly to keep members informed. (I was impressed with the handouts that are given to new members when they join.)

Although the club is made up mainly of women, men are encouraged to attend as well. There is a lot more effort than most suspect when exercising in water. The waves in the motion of the water provide resistance, while the buoyancy of the water takes weight and pressure off



the joints in the body, allowing more ease of movement. Participants are encouraged to proceed at their own pace to avoid discomfort and potential injury.

Diane stressed that the members should enjoy the sessions, but it is not a social club; you need to be prepared to work and to learn the terms used in the routines. Certified instructors are paid \$30 per session. Instructors are either up on deck or in the water for ease of demonstrating certain moves.

In the words of one member: "There is a friendship and sense of community. We are all there for the same purpose — to keep moving and stay healthy — and we have fun doing it. We laugh, and we enjoy." ✨

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2485 Jade Sky St	\$399,000	1,142	Lewis	2571 Jada Dr	\$454,200	1,596	Whitney
2341 Celestial Moon St	\$409,999	1,142	Lewis	2475 Hamonah Dr	\$459,900	1,596	Whitney
2345 Celestial Moon St	\$428,000	1,142	Lewis	2467 Moonlight Valley Ave	\$474,900	1,596	Whitney
2444 Gamma Ray Pl	\$419,950	1,142	Lewis	2539 Stardust Valley Dr	\$450,000	1,596	Whitney
2561 Cosmic Dust St	\$399,900	1,142	Lewis	2423 Jada Dr	\$429,000	1,596	Whitney
2550 Evening Twilight Ave	\$399,900	1,248	Clark	2651 Solera Moon Dr	\$529,888	1,596	Whitney
2537 Nashira St	\$405,000	1,248	Clark	2535 Jada Dr	\$474,900	1,768	Franklin
2558 Divine Sky Dr	\$429,000	1,248	Clark	2413 Hamonah Dr	\$475,000	1,768	Franklin
2421 Gamma Ray Pl	\$404,000	1,248	Clark	2534 Starlight Valley St	\$509,900	1,768	Franklin
2538 Capella Star St	\$445,000	1,596	Whitney	2560 Crater Rock St	\$400,000	1,768	Franklin

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2552 Cosmic Dst St	\$1,850	1,142	Lewis	2546 Stardust Valley Dr	\$1,899	1,425	Fremont
2346 Amana Dr	\$2,095	1,248	Clark	2514 Capella Star St	\$1,900	1,596	Whitney
2558 Divine Sky Dr	\$2,400	1,248	Clark	2452 Cosmic Ray Pl	\$2,300	1,768	Franklin

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