



# AIRE TIME



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JULY 2021

## **DESERT AIRE NEWS**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Barry Rutz, President Desert Aire Board

Well, here is hoping everyone is healthy and enjoying their Summer at home. Speaking from a Canadian perspective, we are very hopeful the borders will be open for October and we hope all the Canadians get back to Desert Aire. As our Province is getting more vaccines in the arms, we are slowly opening up from Covid 19 restrictions and able to see our kids and grandchildren. Gerri and I welcomed our 9<sup>th</sup> little one May 10<sup>th</sup> and she is a cutie!

Work around the park is progressing nicely. Our crew has completed their work at the main pool and the new deck is going to be done in July. A pool refurbishment is complete and B pool will follow shortly. Irrigation and ponds are a constant work agenda.

We will be following California/Riverside County rules again this season and hopefully we can resurrect most of the traditional activities we enjoy at Desert Aire.

Cheers!

### **MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN**

By Carolyn Quintana, Community Association Manager

### **HOT HOT HOT!!**

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. It has been hot here in Desert Aire. The crew has been busy painting the walls around the flower beds in the pool area preparing for the upcoming pool deck project. They have also redesigned all the irrigation in the flower beds in the pool area to be more efficient. Hopefully this will solve some of the irrigation problems we were having in this area.

We don't have many homeowners in the park at

this time. We do have some remodels going on with the park models that were purchased this spring. They look great. I am hoping that next season will be a little closer to normal and that all of our homeowners will be able to come down for the season.

Enjoy your Summer and Hope to see you all in the Fall.

Take Care!

### **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

By Teddy Wilson, Chair

Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and fun filled Summer! Right now, we are having a scorcher of a heat wave up here in Oregon, Washington and parts of British Columbia and Alberta! Portland set a new high temperature record of 108-degrees yesterday and is set to break another high temperature record today of 113-degrees. I mentioned the high temps to a friend who lives in Santa Clarita and she thought I was in Indio instead of Portland! I am sure that many other records have been or are being broken up here throughout Oregon, Washington & Canada.

I don't know about you, but I sure am hoping that all of our friends in Canada will be able to join us at Desert Aire this coming season. It has been way too long since we have all been able to spend time together. We have all been missing socializing with friends and events – dinners, dances, donuts (the 3 D's!), cards, golf, hiking, water volleyball, Toy Luncheon just to mention a few. And of course, we miss the spontaneous Happy Hours and dinners with friends.

We are planning to have all of our activities up and running this season. Of course, all of this is dependent upon the CDC and the State of California in the event Coronavirus restrictions are once again announced, etc. So, for now,

please stay tuned and keep a flexible and open mind as we try to give Coronavirus a final boot and say “Good bye & Good riddance!”

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **2022 Arts & Craft Fair**

We do have two volunteer opportunities available. Sadly, Sue Tasca, has informed me that she is stepping down from running the Arts & Craft Fair scheduled for February 2022. If you are willing to volunteer for this event, please let me know. Sue told me that there is a flash drive with all of the information needed for the Arts & Craft Fair. I am also pretty sure that Sue would be able to answer any questions you might have.

### **Entertainment Coordinator**

We are also looking for someone to volunteer for the Entertainment Coordinator. This position is a member of the Activities Committee. Jim Campbell will be stepping down for the 2022-2023 Season. If you have any questions about this position or would like to volunteer, I am sure that Jim would be able to fill you in on what is needed for this volunteer position.

That's all for now. Please stay healthy, safe & cool throughout the Summer!

## **ARCHITECT COMMITTEE**

By Elaine Babcock, Secretary Architectural Com.

The committee hopes you are all enjoying the summer. If you are planning on making improvements on your Desert Aire lot, please review the rules, pages 38-44 in the Desert Aire Directory, and submit a work request to the committee for approval. Please include specific measurements if applicable. The committee will be ready to inspect all properties on November 15, 2021. Rule 11 lists the homeowner's responsibility for the inspections.

Email. Daarchitectural15@gmail.com

Dan Spino, Chair, Elaine Babcock, Secretary, Randy Miles, Suzie Terry and Jim Greeley

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Don Hammond, Chair

The 2020/2021 season for the B&G crew was extremely busy and productive.

Finding a solution for the water quality of the ponds continues. It is a process of self education because there isn't a manual on the subject. We have gleaned hints and ideas from the professional folks we have talked with and Dave has expended extensive hours investigating and studying the subject. The chemicals Alfonso used are now illegal to use and have been delivered to a hazardous waste facility. The new processes use an oxidizer to kill the algae. Enzymes and bacteria are introduced to the system to digest the dead algae which helps prevent the sludge build-up on the bottom of the ponds. Part of the process is to add oxygen to the water via aerators which discourages the growth of algae. In April/May, volunteers and staff did some weed removal but alas, the stuff grows like weeds and is already on its way back. This tells us that we need to clean the accumulated sludge from the bottom of the ponds. On the plus side, we have been able to control algae growth with our new products which keeps water clarity good. Getting the process and proper amounts of ingredients seems to be more alchemy than formula. A key part of the process in the future, will be to find and repair leaks where contaminated water reenters the ponds. The process and results are often frustrating for everyone, so please don't try to help the process by adding your home remedies to the system. The whole problem has been years in the making and can't be solved over night without hiring expensive outside help. The work goes on!

Work to clean the mud and muck from the NE corner of the NE pond by the B&G crew revealed

that pumps in place to deal with overflow and flooding no longer worked and in fact there seems to be a bit of a mystery where the excess water is supposed to be going when the pumps do work. Obviously, we have more work to do to learn all we need to know about the infrastructure and operation and maintenance of the ponds. While on the subject of out of order pumps, just at the end of the season, it came to our attention there's a couple of pumps in the SE corner of the park that are on the streets edge but no longer work because of defective electrical components with a mystery of where the water is supposed to go when the pumps do work.

As previously announced, the ice machine died over the 2020 summer. We purchased and installed a new ice machine for the kitchen that is very similar to the old one. Our crew is enjoying the use of it during the summer months.

After extensive searching, we finally located suitable replacement sockets for the cone wall light fixtures that hang on the exterior of the clubhouse, mostly over doors. Over the years, the electrical sockets eroded to the point of being non-functional. Jesse will rebuild the fixtures over the summer.

The decks and coping edges of all three pools will be refurbished early this summer.

Prep work around the main pool has already begun. The most extensive work will be required around the clubhouse pool. In addition, the sloping sidewalk from the spa towards the main entrance will also have cool decking installed because of it being so slippery when wet. Also, the area under the shower will be ground so water will flow from the building to the flower beds and then will be cool decked also. Dave and Don Hammond have organized this project.

The experimental solar light located near the office continues to perform well. We have been able to experiment with variable heights and

tilting the light from parallel to the ground to an upward angle of 30 degrees. We have found that when the light is mounted at 11 feet from the ground and tilted 30 degrees upwards, the cone of light extends over the width of the street and about 78 feet along the street. The interesting thing is that the solar light's entire energy is focused at the ground where our current street light's energy is a ball of light 6 feet from the ground. When viewed from adjacent properties, the solar light appears as a point of light in the distance. Both lights emit light at about the same energy level. We have left the solar light mounted and functioning through the summer to see how it survives multiple 100 plus degree days.

At the end of the season, the B & G crew led by Richard Jinnings conducted a survey of the in-ground garbage cans and receptacles throughout the residential portion of the park. The system consists of multiple sized containers by multiple manufacturers. The in-ground canisters are deteriorating and some need replacing now. The garbage pails that slide into the in-ground canisters are rotting with several missing the entire bottom of the can. Lids have been run over, bent, broken or otherwise damaged. Deterioration of the system is a huge problem because there is only one supplier whose product is overpriced and of significantly inferior quality – we have a few installed which are already failing. The B & G folks have a few schemes in mind that are within our abilities to create quality components and will be a good solution at a reasonable cost. We are hopeful the fall will find our most capable fabricators in residence lending their expertise to the solution.

As part of their summer work schedule, our staff have upgraded the flower beds and shrub irrigation systems. Soon they will paint the retaining walls.

The B & G Crew acknowledges the many residents that contributed to the upgrade and

functioning of the park's facilities over the 2020/2021 season. Projects such as the conversion of the majority of fluorescent fixtures to LED bulbs, researching and purchasing the new tractor, cleaning and organization of storerooms and the shop, making all the street lights work and making the lights that light the palm trees at the entrance work required large numbers of hours. The ongoing work with the ponds has taken untold hours of time. Upgrading the functioning and day to day operation of the pools has required experience and dedication to the task every day – even through the summer. It was inspiring the way folks rallied to the need and organized garbage and recycling collection for the two weeks the crew was out with COVID. Other projects like the cleaning and organization of LOT 4 initially required a significant investment of time and needs constant monitoring. The replacement of roofs on the common buildings continued this year. The quick organization of folks to pick and distribute unused fruit in the park was a meaningful aid in the control of unwanted critters and a big aid to the mission with so many hungry people to feed. A huge thanks to all participants for your efforts on these projects and all the others that were accomplished this past season which reminds us why Desert Aire is the BEST. Please remember to cut any yard debris into small pieces when you put it out for pickup. The smaller pieces allow for greater efficiency when loading the trailer for transport.

If you see something in the park or one of the facilities that requires attention, please tell Carolyn or a member of the Building and Grounds Committee. It is particularly important to report lights that aren't working so they can be promptly repaired.

Remember, we now have a Building and Grounds e-mail address: [dabldgandgrds@gmail.com](mailto:dabldgandgrds@gmail.com). You can use it to report lights out, etc. Or if you are of a mind, you

can also use it to comment on a project or the need for a project.

## **LANDSCAPE & DESIGN COMMITTEE**

By Nancy Clarke, Chair

In hopes that the border restrictions are eased and we can once again reunite with our DA friends, it is a "happy thought" to focus on the upcoming season, in our Park. We will be working on some improvements to the entry to the clubhouse to make it more welcoming. The newly desert scaped garden, that was completed last season will be sprouting new growth. The annual flowers have been ordered and will be planted in the flower beds by Kirkpatrick Landscaping, in mid-October. We will keep you updated with any new projects that are initiated in the upcoming season. The Memorial Garden that was maintained by our dear L&D committee member, Grace Hartwig, will lovingly be maintained in her memory. Grace was a cherished friend to many in the Park.

Until we reunite in the fall, enjoy the summer months, wherever you are and keep healthy.

Quote: "All gardening is landscape painting".

## **PARK TIDBITS**

### **CALLING ALL SINGERS!**

By Carolyn Stastny, Choir Director

We've had a year's vacation and it's time to gather together to make some beautiful music! The Desert Aire Choristers will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 3 PM on the auditorium stage. We will begin working on the numbers for our Christmas show which is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 at 7 PM. All current choir members as well as any of you who would like to join us are welcome. Being able to read music is NOT a requirement, but rather, having fun with each other and making music together is. Questions? Don't hesitate to give me a call. Carolyn Stastny, Director. 971-237-2387

## **JACK & JILL GOLF**

By Steve & Karen Such, Coordinators

This is a call for **help!** We plan to have all of the Jack & Jill Tournaments this coming season, but we have no one signed up to plan the November 21st tournament. If you have participated in Jack & Jill in the past years, we are asking at least 3 couples to step up to plan the November event. We have very detailed instructions and suggestions for you and we can answer any questions you may have. Please email or call one of us to let us know that you will help. We will pass around a sign up sheet at the November tournament dinner for the rest of the season tournaments.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again and we hope this will be a fun season with our activities back in play!

## **DESERT AIRE FAMILY**

**Jackie Hurst**, formerly of lot 273, passed away sometime in March. Her husband Carl preceded her in death. Our sympathies to her family.

**Jean Leathers**, Lot 271, passed away in a nursing home in Washington on March 8. She had been ill for some time with alzheimers. Jean was involved in many things at Desert Aire during the years she and Bud were here in our resort. Our love and sympathies to Bud and the family and friends!

**Margaret Anderson**, former renter of Lot 292, passed away April 3. She and her husband John had purchased a home in Arizona a few years ago for their winter months away from the cold in Canada. Our sympathies to her husband John and family

**Eleanor Burke**, formerly of Lot 113, passed away April 5. She had been ill with cancer and dementia. Our sincere love and sympathies to her husband Howie Burke and family.

**Bob Bennett**, Lot 26 passed away during the week of June 13. He had been ill and unresponsive for some time. The family was with him and just before his death, he woke up and looked around and spoke to Norene. He then went to sleep and passed away. Our love to you Norene, and family.

**Bob Kinsey**, Lot 66, passed away June 8. We have no details to pass on. We send our sympathies to his wife Colleen.

**Grace Hartwig**, Lot 101, our dedicated homeowner and friend passed away from a brain tumor on May 29. Her family lovingly stood by her side at the time of her passing. Grace was a very dedicated member of the Landscape and Design committee. Our sympathy and love to her family and friends.

**Bill Ford** Lot 243, a long time Desert Aire Homeowner of Edmonton, AB passed away on April 17 from a massive stroke. His loving wife Earla was by his side at the time of his passing. Our love and sympathy to Earla, family and friends.

