



This is the final edition of the Verde West Newsletter for the "2021-22 Winter Season." There may be a mid-summer edition, and monthly editions should resume "next year" in November when the monthly board/VWRA meetings start.

This hiatus is an excellent opportunity for someone else to take over the Verde West Newsletter project! (Seriously, I'm going to hand it off.)

TAKING OFF SOON?

Don't forget to take care of things before you go.



If you are among those packing up or getting close to packing up and heading "home," please be sure to take care of a few important owner responsibilities before you go.

SPRAY FOR WEEDS! The darned things keep growing even after we leave.

CHECK OUT! Be sure to sign out in the notebook on the office counter labeled "check in/check out." The office uses this book to keep track of who is and isn't here and to know what to do with your mail.

ALSO, be sure to notify your "home" post office to stop forwarding your mail to Verde West so the office won't have to re-forward your forwarded mail after you leave.

Check with the office to make sure they have labels for you in case something does need forwarded.

TIDY UP! Be sure to leave your lot clean and tidy. REMOVE/SECURE/SILENCE things that might blow away, make noise or create other possible irritation while you are away. Specifically, remove your smoke alarm battery (so it doesn't chirp as the battery dies in your absence),

wind chimes, unsecured patio furniture/cushions, door mats, doo-dads, etc.

And, while you're away, be sure to notify the VW office if you have a change of address, phone number or email. Don't wait until you come back next season; send an email to verdewestcoop1@yahoo.com or call 829-575-4128 with your update.

DUES DILIGENCE

Reminder: the monthly dues increased from \$85 to \$100 per month effective January 1, 2022. If you are set up with autopay for your dues, be sure to make the adjustment to the amount and cover the retroactive difference. If you have questions or want to check your balance status, talk to one of our great office staff!

WHO'S NEW NEWS

The only thing that's constant is change, and Verde West sees its share of changes in ownership. Here is a list of new owners since the last list in the 11/2021 newsletter: (I count 35 changes in lot owners since the February 2021 newsletter!)

<u>Lot</u>	<u>New Owner(s)</u>
1	Craig & Kathy Loughlin
24	Tim Tinsley
37	Robert & Diane Burdolski
42	Gilbert & Linda Aguilar
47	Terry & Julia Hopkins
86	Susan Ross
119	Chris & Jennifer Williams
300	Jim & Phyllis Woods
312	Don & Janell Scheier
315	Toby & Mary Ellen Bach

HELP ~~WANTED~~ NEEDED:

VERDE WEST NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Time's up! I took over the newsletter on a *temporary* basis when the long-time editor left the park several years ago. At the time (and repeatedly since) I've said it was meant to be a short-term endeavor just to keep the newsletter going until someone stepped up and took on the project. I know folks are a bit reluctant to offer to do something that someone else is already doing, so since this is the last newsletter of "the year," this is a great time for someone to pick it up. It's not difficult, and will be a great opportunity for someone (else)!

March VWRA Meeting

The following information is a “recap” of the recent association and board meetings as scribbled at the meeting by the newsletter editor. These are not official meeting minutes. Official meeting minutes are posted in notebooks at the back wall of the clubhouse.

The March Residents’ Association meeting was held Thursday, March 3rd. **JACKIE PENNER**, Acting President, called the meeting to order at 9 am. Other officers present were **PAM SATATHITE**, and **SUE ZIMMERMAN**. The first order of business was supposed to be presenting a check to the Buckskin Fire Department, but they hadn’t arrived (**PAM SCHWAB** presented the check to the fire department on March 5th). Minutes from the January 27th meeting were approved.

Treasurer **SUE ZIMMERMAN** gave the treasurer’s report:

Beginning balance:	\$ 6,994
Expenses:	\$ 2,743
Income:	\$ 7,738
Ending balance:	\$ 11,998

(Income included \$863 from photo directories, \$1,917 from meals, \$240 from cans, \$1,192 from the quilt raffle, \$514 from the cart clean up, \$1,876 from the state basket raffle and \$590 from the bake sale; ending balance figure does not reflect the (\$3,206) check presented to the Buckskin FD, which will appear as a March expense.)

JACKIE thanked those who’ve stepped up to chair events (^ see February newsletter; * see additional information in this newsletter): **KIM & RICHARD WHITE** ~ donuts and coffee at monthly meetings; **STEVE & SALLY BATCHMAN** ~ 2/9 Steak Feed^, **MARIE MILLER** ~ Quilt Raffle^, **PAM SCHWAB** and **CATHY SCHMADERER** ~ the State Basket Raffle^, (and **Kelly Hughes** ~ the music); **CARMEL LEWITZKE**, **VONNIE EDELMAN** and **KAREN PULLEY** ~ 2/17 Bake Sale*; **DARLEEN SMITH**, **GINA ANDERSON** and **KAREN PULLEY** ~ 2/19 Valentine Dance*; and **KAREN PULLEY**, **PAM SCHWAB** and **PAM McMILLAN** ~ 3/2 Potato Bar lunch*. Jackie also thanked those who participated in the Garage Sale 2/26 (Jackie LOVES garage sales!).

New Business: The 3/6 Canadian Breakfast* is for ALL residents (it is called the Canadian Breakfast because Canadian residents prepare and serve the breakfast).

The final “organized” event for the season is the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner* (corned beef & cabbage +) on 3/17.

Vacant VWRA officer positions were filled. VP/Acting President **JACKIE PENNER** was “promoted” to president, which resulted in a cascade effect by creating a vacancy in the vice-president position. Secretary **PAM SATATHITE**, moved into the VP position, creating a vacant secretary position. **GINA ANDERSON** will fill the Secretary position. **JOAN BLEVINS**’ third year in one of the three Treasurer positions is up, and **KAREN PULLEY** will fill that 3-year term. **SUE ZIMMERMAN** still has two years on her 3-year treasurer term and **PAT SLOTA** has one more year in the third treasurer position.

Other discussion: Should the park hold more than one garage sale each year and should the sale(s) should be advertised and open to the public, or remain a “park-only” event? After much input, a show of hands indicated “yes” to two sales (one closer to “the beginning” of the season and one closer to “the end” of the season), and “no” to advertising and opening the sales to the general public (although “friends and family” of park residents are fine, and no one would actually turn down shoppers if someone happened to drive in.) Should other VW events such as cards, shuffleboard, pool, etc. be open to the public? The general response was “no” (although “friends and family” of park residents are okay). “Food activities” cannot be open to the public.

The clubhouse is home to a brand new commercial-style coffee maker. **CONNIE FUNK** purchased the machine at a cost of \$719.51. The VW Board had offered to pay \$350 toward a new machine with the VWRA covering the remainder. A motion to put \$369.51 toward the cost was approved.

The kitchen committee needs help and **JACKIE** said she hopes to see more participation from new residents in the park. In the past (pre-COVID) there were monthly breakfasts. In order to resume these types of events, however, participation/attendance and HELPERS are needed. Monthly breakfasts are set to resume in December 2022; volunteers are needed!

PAM SCHWAB announced that, prior to COVID, entertainment acts had been brought to the park every year. A Neil Diamond tribute performer had been scheduled to come, but was cancelled because of COVID. Pam said he is booking events again and she is wondering if there would be enough interest to reschedule him for “next year.” She said she’d need a minimum of 75 people (at \$15 each) to schedule him. A show of hands indicated insufficient interest to move forward on this.

There was similar lack of interest in putting together a Verde West Cookbook.

There was a request for someone to volunteer to chair the annual Veteran's Breakfast held on Veteran's Day in November. **DARLEEN SMITH** pointed out there are always a lot of people willing to help with events, it's "chairs" that are needed. **KIM & RICHARD WHITE** volunteered to spearhead this much-appreciated event.

MARDENE WHALEN thanked those who've taken the food handler's class and received a certificate. She recently spoke with the La Paz health department. They've decided to lighten up on us regarding food events. As a private park, Verde West won't be "a permitted kitchen" so food handler's cards will not be required. The county did not charge for the classes or any of the certificates. Mardene said the health department still advises no potlucks at the clubhouse, and the VW board concurs.

DAVE ZIMMERMANN asked if folks were interested in having music/dancing "like when Steve the DJ" came and played in the clubhouse. **JACKIE** said the VWRA would do what the park wants and asked if people are willing to pay for these kinds of events. **JOAN MEYERS** said in the past, money from the dinners paid for the band at the dance, and added that you usually have to book musicians about a year in advance. This year, for the New Year's Eve and Valentine's events, **KIM WHITE** compiled music via her computer at no charge and it worked out very well.

PATTI BIPPERT said there'd be music and dancing after the St. Patrick's Dinner. **DARREN SEYMOUR** suggested there could also be music and dancing without a meal; maybe bring drinks and snacks and pay for music; it would be cheaper than "going into town" and no one would have to drive home. There was discussion about options for music, meals, participation at events and willingness to pay for them.

There are still photo directories available in the office (\$6 each).

JIM STARK commented on the erratic phone service in the park. He contacted Suddenlink a couple weeks ago after calls to 9-1-1 were dropped, but had little success with getting any response until he threatened to sue them. Then the Vice President of the company in Texas contacted him. Apparently Suddenlink had installed new equipment and it blew out other equipment. He said

they are working on it, but it would take between 10 and 25 days to fix it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

March Board Meeting

DARREN SEYMOUR, President, called the March Verde West board meeting to order at 9:50 am. Other board members present were **MARDENE WHALEN**, Treasurer; **DIANE BERGEN**, Secretary; **SKIP ALLERT**, Vice President; and **EARL WHETSTONE**, **JIM WOODS**, and **JIM ALAVIZOS**, members at large.

MARDENE gave the treasurer's report (which was approved):

Horizon:	\$129,363	(Checking Account)
CD:	\$200,000	
Wells Fargo:	\$ 96,990	(Major Replacement)

DARREN said he'd previously indicated he thought the CD money was earmarked for the sewer project and therefore not available for general fund use, but that is not the case; it is general fund money.

Wayne Posey, District Manager for the Buckskin Sanitation District, was introduced and made a presentation on the progress of the sewer project that will affect Verde West in the not-too-distant future. The sewer project encompasses the area between the traffic signal on Hwy 95 at "Bobby D's" all the way to the Parker Dam and is being constructed in six phases. They are currently working on phases five (Verde West is in phase 5) and six. The sewers along Hwy 95 are already in.

The engineer's preliminary estimate, done in 2018, was \$20 million for construction of the wastewater treatment plant (across from River Island Park), sewers, and system collection within parks like Verde West. Once the plant and conveyance system is complete, they'll hook up to Verde West (and other parks). They'll create an improvement district and do an assessment. The project has secured a 40-year, \$10M loan at 2%. Before they can put the project out to bid, they have to finalize easements for rights to construct on private property. They plan to bid the project the first part of July 2022. Due to inflation, the bids will likely come in above the \$20M estimate. Once it is bid, they'll put in for a cost overrun and will hopefully get some grant funding. They're estimating the bid will probably be closer to \$28M, so they would look for \$8M in grant money.

Mr. Posey invited questions.

Q: What is the timeframe is for the project?

A: The contract allows 600 days to construct the treatment plant and collection system then 300 days to construct in the parks, so July + 600 days = they will be doing work in Verde West.

Q: What will happen to existing septic tanks at VW?

A: They will be crushed and back filled; not removed.

Q: Is there any funding available for private construction (fixing roads after they do work in the park)?

A: Contractor is required to return the road to the same or better condition.

Q: Any preliminary figures for cost to the park?

A: The sanitation district will assess the park, not each lot. Based on the 2018 estimate, the assessment will probably be \$10,000 per EDU. Park Models are considered to be one half an EDU, so their assessment would be \$5,000. (They won't know actual figures until any grant funding is secured.) The park will be billed annually. The park will pay and then charge out the individual assessments to owners. Darren's quick calculation figured about \$200 a year per unit in the park –based on the 2018 estimate.

(The assessment is for construction costs; it's not for the use of the system.) Mr. Posey said the monthly residential "sewer bill" rate is \$42 for a full EDU (or \$21 for a half EDU), "cheaper than cable." they have an alternate rate of 90% of actual water flow, so if units are only used seasonally, such as with RV parks, it is usually cheaper to use the 90% of flow rate.

DARREN thanked Mr. Posey for his presentation and said the board would be meeting with him "next week" to sign the easements. Those with additional questions could submit them, in writing, via the Board Suggestion Box, (questions needed to be in prior to the publication date of this newsletter). The sanitation district will host a public meeting at the end of April at the boat safety house where they will present information and answer questions.

The park's new "rental forms" are ready for use and those who rent out their properties but haven't filled one out or sent in their deposit yet need to do so.

Regarding Capital Projects: **JIM ALAVIZOS** is working on the cell phone issue. **DARREN** would like to know what peoples' ideas are for a "facelift" for the clubhouse and

asked those with input to put it in writing, with name and lot number and put it in the Board Suggestion Box. He asked that suggestions be kept brief; no "laundry lists," please.

JIM STARK reminded everyone with non-local cell phones to use the local Parker Dispatch number when calling "9-1-1" to avoid an emergency call potentially being routed through your home area's dispatch center instead of Parker. The **local Parker Dispatch number** is 1-888-818-4911 and can be found on the bright emergency information form everyone is supposed to have "on their refrigerator."

DARREN asked whoever had mentioned a way to get more spaces out of the storage lot to please contact him. He said they are hoping to get some work done in the lot before "everyone" leaves the park.

PATTI KING had scheduled a Clubhouse Cleanup* event for Saturday, March 12th at 8 am. Patti had to leave the park early this year, but the clean-up will still happen. Everyone was invited to come and help.

There's apparently still some confusion about the one-way section of road in front of the clubhouse. That section is one-way only for automobiles, but two-way is okay for carts (but pay attention). Folks are also asked to not hit the stop sign in the road. It's happened a couple of times. They are looking at ways to make the stop sign more visible.

Per park by-laws, parking spaces at the clubhouse (in front of, on the back side, and along the pool side) are for guest parking and those using the clubhouse. They are not extra parking for residents. **DARREN** said it's getting pretty bad and, if it continues, will need to be addressed, as hints aren't working. If someone is having a special event at their lot and wants to move their vehicle to one of those spaces during that event, that is okay, but those areas are not intended for ongoing or regular parking of vehicles.

New Business: **DARREN** asked if anyone was interested in heading up the "paint the lot numbers on the street" project. **PATRICK BERGEN** (Lot 132) volunteered.

DARREN reminded everyone to put the chairs up on the tables after events in the clubhouse so the floors can be cleaned.

The board voted to contribute \$350 toward the purchase of the new clubhouse coffee maker.

Reminder about “garbage courtesy” – don’t pile stuff outside of or in front of the dumpsters. If it won’t fit in the dumpster (or if you have a big load), there is a free waste disposal site just up the road across from Strokes restaurant and another place near the casino.

Anyone wanting to have their palm trees trimmed should check with the office, as they will be scheduling Parker Tree Service in July. Those wishing to take advantage of the service will need to pre-pay before they leave.

DARREN thanked everyone for working through the struggles of the last two years as COVID brought extra issues and raised things to the surface that hadn’t been an issue in the past (i.e., potlucks). But things are being worked on, people are enjoying the park, and hopefully we’ll all get back to normal, even if it’s a new normal. Also, this is the last board meeting of the 2021-22 winter season, but the board will continue to meet as needed via Zoom. Also, although there are board members who are year-round residents, he asked that those with issues in the park use the Board Suggestion Box affixed to the front counter to bring matters to the board’s attention (he also said everyone has access to his phone number and email address and could contact him if they felt the need).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

HAPPEN—STANCE?

(Dog) POOP HAPPENS - Pick It Up!

What **HAPPENS** at Verde West Stays at Verde West is the park’s **Facebook** page. **PAULA KASTEN** is the page administrator. It’s a great way to stay connected while in the park, and away! Check it out and join in.

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING?

STATE BASKETS will happen again next year; everyone is asked to bring items from your home state next season for the basket raffle. You can bring several items (for a stand-alone basket) or a few or even one item that can be or combined with other items to make a basket.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

SUPERBOWL SQUARES

Thanks to **KEN & JOAN MEYERS** for facilitating the Super Bowl Pool in February. There were a total of four pools (one \$10, one \$5 and two \$1/square). Those who won the second quarter also won the final score, and one

person won in two different pools. Actual monetary winnings are not listed, although the “big winner” walked away with \$600 🍀 (that’s almost enough to fill a tank of gas these days!) The game itself was won by the LA Rams 23-20 over the Cincinnati Bengals. Winners of the pools, in alphabetical order, were: **ROY ALLISTER** 🍀, **MONTE DICKMAN** 🍀, **PAULA GIMBEL** 🍀, **TERRY HOPKINS** 🍀, **MARILYN HORSCH** 🍀, **BOB MCMILLAN** 🍀, **WALLY PAGE** 🍀, **IKE SCHMIDT** 🍀, **HARPO SKALECKE** 🍀, **JIM THARP** 🍀, **MARDENE WHALEN** 🍀.

BAKE SALE! The annual bake sale was held Feb. 17th in the clubhouse. “Doors opened” at 9 am, and there was a flurry of activity immediately, but there were still plenty of goodies to be gotten throughout the morning. In exchange for the \$590.25 raised, shoppers came away with delicious treats (and even a small quilt that was donated by **BONNIE ANDERSON**).

VONNIE EDELMAN and **CARMEL LEWITZKE** chaired the event, **KAREN PULLEY** • **SUE ZIMMERMANN** • **CONNIE FUNK** • **JEAN PETERSON** • **KATHY GRUENENWALD** • **SHARON DONALDSON** • **REYMA WEAVER** and **LESLIE DICKMAN** helped out.

VALENTINE ♥ DANCE

This year, due to the proximity of the Steak Feed to February 14th, there was no dinner/dance on Valentine’s Day. However, there was a Valentine’s Dance held on Feb. 19th. **KAREN PULLEN**, **GINA ANDERSON** and **DARLEEN SMITH** organized the event and **KIM WHITE** and **JOAN MEYERS** put together an excellent array of music for attendees to dance to. Love was in the air, and everyone had a great time.

GARAGE SALE

The annual Verde West garage sale was held Feb. 26th. It was a sunny morning, but a bit cold and windy—although the wind seemed to be coming from the right direction, as the experienced bargain hunters were able to stealthily sneak up on great deals and carry off their prize finds with great success. Thanks to all who shopped and all who sold/gave away their unwanted/no longer needed stuff.

“It’s a proven fact that those who have the most birthdays live the longest...” *Warren Wiersbe in “Be Patient”*

POTATO BAR LUNCH

On 3/2 a group of hungry folks converged on the clubhouse for the “famous” potato bar lunch. Spuds with a choice of fixins filled the bellies of 65 attendees. **PAM SCHWAB** chaired the event with help from **PAM & BOB McMILLAN • JEAN PETERSON • JACKIE WHETSTONE • SHARON DONALDSON • KATHY O’NEIL • KAREN PULLEY • PAM SATATHITE • MONA FONTAINE • CARMEL LEWITZKE • VONNIE EDELMAN • CAROL PIPGRAS**. Income of \$479 (65 @\$6 + \$10 in sales) offset the \$232 grocery expenses for a net profit of \$256.

CANADIAN BREAKFAST

What is by far the most popular and successful foreign policy ever? The Verde West Canadian Breakfast, of course! This year’s “Food and Fun Summit” was held Sunday, 3/6 at 10 am in the Clubhouse. In addition to a hearty and delicious breakfast, attendees had the opportunity to participate in the brown bag raffle and win prized Canadian favorites, eh? Income of \$2,396 (177 meals at the bargain price of \$7 each, brown bag ticket sales of \$1,006, and \$151 in “leftovers” sales) minus \$1,058 in grocery expenses left a profit of \$1,338.

DARLEEN SMITH chaired the event, with help from fellow Canadians **JACK SMITH • JEAN PETERSON • IKE & BUTCH SCHMIDT • MONA FONTAINE • BRIDGETT & JOHN • WAYNE PATTLE & DORIS LUMGAIR • WAYNE & FAY TONER • PATRICK & DIANE BERGEN & CAYDEN & BRITON • DONNY & HAZEL SMITH • DARREN & LIZ SEYMOUR • JAMES & JACKIE PENNER • LILA & HALEY MCCONNELL • KAREN CAMERON • TOM BOVILL & SANDEE SNOW**

CLUBHOUSE CLEAN UP –

On Saturday 3/12 a group of dedicated Verde Westers gathered for a couple of hours in the morning to give the clubhouse a good scrubbing. They cleaned those hard to reach places like ceiling fan blades and light fixtures, as well as all the usual places that accumulate “reasons to clean.” There was even music to entertain while making the chores a little more fun, and to keep the workers moving.

A HUGE Thank You to **DARREN & LIZ SEYMOUR ☺ LENNIE & BONNIE MULL ☺ CATHY SCHMADERER ☺ PAM McMILLAN ☺ KATHY PIKER ☺ LINDA BURKHART ☺ RICHARD & KIM WHITE ☺ DIANE BERGEN ☺ BURT & LINDA INABNIT ☺ TRISTAN & TERESA ATKINS ☺**

ST. PATRICK’S DINNER & DANCE

The final organized event of the 2021-22 winter season was the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner & Dance held 3/17 at 5:30 pm. A fine Irish corned beef and cabbage dinner was served and the post-dinner music practically turned the clubhouse into a “Riverdance” performance (well, *maybe* not, but there was dancing). **PATTI BIPPERT** chaired the event with a wee bit of help from the following leprechauns: **RICHARD & KIM WHITE • TRISTAN & TERESA ATKINS • JERRY GIMBEL • LYNN KEISER • CINDY MILLER • LINDA BURKHART • JOHN & SALLY CORKLE • GEORGE & PATTI CRACRAFT • KAREN PULLEY • PAM SCHWAB • LINDA INABNIT** Income from the dinner was \$910 (91 dinners @ \$10 each) and expenses were \$566 (considerably less than expected due to donations and an “employee discount”), resulting in a profit of \$344.

SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT

Winners of the end of the year Shuffleboard tournament held March 18th:

Champion: **FLORENCE THARP**

2nd: **CARMEL LEWITZKE** 3rd: **WALLY LEWITZKE**
4th: **JOAN MEYERS** 5th: **HARROLD ROSS**
6th: **KEN MEYERS** 7th: **DORIS LUMGAIR**
8th: **JEAN PETERSON** 9th: **PAULA GIMBEL**

Special recognition and thanks to **KEN BRYA** for refinishing two of the park benches at the Shuffleboard courts! They look GREAT!



FOR SALE –

The following properties are currently listed for sale (as of 3/18/2022) in the VW office.

Lot	Description	Price	# to Call
6	Park Model	\$165,000	951-205-1657
63	Park Model	\$185,000	204-822-3347
251	Park Model	\$175,000	816-914-7462
255	RV Lot	\$120,000	703-501-4124