

IronOaks

Lifestyle

Spring
Vol 7 | 2024



**THE
PULSE** 

Get to Know Your Committees

Turf Talk with Ross Buckendahl

New Lifestyle Activities & Events



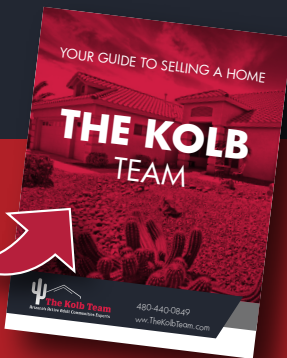
Get Insider Information

We live, work, play, and volunteer in Sun Lakes and we know the ins and outs of this community



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- ✓ How to determine price
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Inside the *Issue*

Spring 2024 | Vol. 7

- 4 **Message from Paula Ferguson | Message from John Reyhons**
- 5 **Message from Lynelle Glysson | Get Involved**
- 6 **Dial-In Directory**
- 7 **Election Committee | Unit Captains**
- 8 **Finance Committee | Turf Talk**
- 9 **Turf Reduction Project**
- 10 **Upcoming Events & Activities**
- 11 **Advertisements**
- 12 **The Crystal Card Project**
- 13 **Rhombus Security Gate Operating System**
- 14 **Cox Communications**
- 15 **Paws & Claws Corner**





A Message from the **IronOaks President**

As my tenure as a Board member and President of IronOaks concludes, I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the privilege of serving you, the homeowners.

Working alongside my fellow Board Members, management, and staff has been an honor and a privilege, contributing to the enhancement of our community as a better place to live. Over the past six years, I've witnessed the resilience and unity of our community in action. Together, we've achieved significant milestones, from organizing events and improving amenities to fostering a strong sense of belonging and camaraderie among homeowners.

Upon reflection, a deep sense of pride fills me as I consider our collective accomplishments. We established pickleball courts, covid protocols, and carryout menus. We renovated Grill on the Green, refurbished the Ironwood Pro Shop, and are now anticipating the IronOaks Community Center renovation just to name a few.

However, I am also mindful of the challenges and disagreements that naturally arise in any community setting. In the face of differing opinions and perspectives, it is crucial that we prioritize treating each other with kindness, empathy, and respect. Our community flourishes when we embrace diversity, listen with open hearts and minds, and seek common ground even amid disagreements.

As I pass on the leadership responsibilities to the incoming team, I encourage each of you to uphold the values of respect, tolerance, and inclusivity that form the foundation of our community. Let us continue to cherish and celebrate the unique contributions of every homeowner, irrespective of background, beliefs, or opinions. Together, we can ensure that IronOaks remains a welcoming and harmonious place for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and friendship.

Paula Ferguson

IronOaks Board President



A Message from the **General Manager**

It's wonderful to see the continued success and positive developments at IronOaks in 2023! The community's financial surplus, successful reopening of the Grill on The Green, and ongoing commitment to various projects demonstrate a thriving and engaged community.

2023 was an incredible year for IronOaks as homeowners continued to support all our amenities, dining rooms, and lifestyle events. Community engagement and support are crucial for the success and well-being of our community.

Financially we concluded the year \$208,000 better than planned. We also continued to complete numerous projects with funding from the community FACE, Capital, and Reserves funds. Of course, the biggest news from 2023 was the re-opening of the Grill on The Green.

In 2024 we have lots on the horizon. We continue to work on the Poolside project as it relates to the architectural and interior design plans for the Poolside building which will be brought forth to the key committees for their review. We also will be closing the Lakes Golf Course from May - November as we replace the irrigation mainline, remove turf to comply with the Arizona Department of Water Resources 5th water management plan, replace all the sand bunkers with new liners and sand, new tree installation, and shoreline piling replacement. We will also purchase new golf course equipment for our Golf Course Maintenance Team as well as a few new pieces of kitchen equipment. We will continue with road work in the community as well.

The new gate software and cameras will be installed shortly, which will alleviate the opening and closing issues that we have been challenged with for several years. The new menu in Stone & Barrel has been well received, and if you haven't tried any of our new menu items, we hope to see you soon. We are bringing back the live bands on Friday night at Grill on The Green. The bands will play inside with their speakers facing inside, we will have a decibel reader to measure the volume of the music, and bands will play from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. We appreciated everyone's input and patience as we worked through this issue. It's clear that the community values open communication and input from residents, as seen in the handling of the live bands issue at Grill on The Green. The proactive steps taken to address challenges and incorporate feedback demonstrate effective collaboration between residents, management, and the Board.

The Oakwood Golf Shop patio extension is nearly completed, and we hope our golfers enjoy this new venue to relax and congregate after their round. Misters will be installed the closer we get to the warm summer months.

And don't forget, Easter and Mother's Day are right around the corner, so please make your reservation soon as these events sell out quickly. Looking forward to another great year at IronOaks.

Wishing IronOaks a fantastic 2024 filled with successful projects, community events, and continued growth and prosperity. Here's to another great year ahead!

John K. Rayhons C.C.M., C.C.E., C.A.A.M.

IronOaks General Manager



Community Message from the **Executive Director of Community Services**

Gates have been on everyone's minds in the last year and beyond. They are certainly something I have thought about daily. Management has communicated to the community that we are working on a solution, and I am happy to say that we finally have one. You will see information on the solution on page 13.

It took some time to arrive at a solution for our gates, which tested the patience of the community and management. I would like to describe the process so that you can understand why it took time.

The Association has a thoughtful and well-defined process for moving a project from inception to fruition. This applies to almost any project and certainly applies to a project as impactful as the gate operating system. The gate operating system project process was initiated, and a task force was formed. The task force is comprised of management, committee members from several committees, and a Board representative.

The task force developed a request for proposal (RFP) that will now be used as a template for future projects. During this time, the task force also researched service providers and attended demonstrations to learn who might have the best solution for our gate access system. The RFP was sent to five different service providers who were well-researched. After responses were received, each was evaluated by the task force using a weighted scoring system. Additional demonstrations were performed, and a recommended service provider was selected.

The recommendation then went before the Technology Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and the Finance Committee. Management then prepared an RBA for the recommendation to go before the Board for approval. Once the Board approved the recommended service supplier, management worked with the Association attorney on the contract details. This took some time to ensure that all the promised services, pricing, and features were included, as well as protections favorable to the Association were in place.

We now have a signed contract with Innova, who will install the Rhombus camera system and the Envoy guest access system. Town Halls have been scheduled, and a transition plan is being developed to ensure a smooth transition to the new gate operating system. We will keep the community informed every step of the way.

The importance of this project was such that careful consideration was given to every detail. That meant that it took time. The new gate operating system will not solve every problem. We will still have challenges with equipment failure, gates being hit, and other various issues. However, we are confident that the gate operating system will improve the experience of residents and guests entering the community while also making our gates more secure.

- Lynelle Glysson

Executive Director of Community Services

Get *Involved!*

Each committee is comprised of volunteer Homeowners, who provide important services that make our community special. Log into your IronOaksAz.com account and navigate to the HOA menu tab at the top. Click on the committees' tab that appears, and it will take you to a list of all the committees available for you to join.

Architecture & Landscape Committee

Assures that standards for construction, modification, or improvements preserve the aesthetic value of the community.

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Advises the senior management and the Board regarding maintenance, repair, alteration, acquisition, and disposition of any HOA property.

Unit Captains

Keep residents informed about all aspects of IronOaks. Through monthly meetings, they receive updates from the Board, staff, and other committees, ensuring that residents stay well-informed about community matters in a timely and efficient manner.

Finance Committee

Reviews and provides oversight of the financial and business operations of the Association, reviews the proposed annual Operating Budget, and makes recommendations as deemed appropriate in concert with a review of the three-year Business Plan and the Reserve Study Report.

Election Committee

Monitors voting timeline and promotion for the HOA. They are responsible for ballot counting and announcement of the winners.

Rules & Regulations Committee

Collects data, provides information, and recommendations to the Board regarding all rules development or enforcement matters related to the Board's administration of the affairs of the Association.

Master Planning Committee

Develops the long-term vision for the community while working with the Board to achieve the vision.

Technology

Provides oversight of technological initiatives.

DIAL-IN DIRECTORY

You have chosen one of the best active adult communities to live in the U.S. Our homeowners enjoy a superb resort lifestyle in one of the most desirable locations in the Phoenix metro area. Sun Lakes is an unincorporated area of Maricopa County except for Ironwood Estates. The IronOaks community includes two neighborhoods: Ironwood and Oakwood. Each clubhouse has a golf shop and restaurant with full bar service, as well as pools and tennis courts among other amenities.

CONCIERGE

Our concierge assists our residents with activity information, Billboard concert tickets, directions, and so much more.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm | Saturday 9am-12pm | 480.317.3600

ACCOUNTING

Our accounting team processes all financials for IronOaks.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm | 480.895.3126

GOLF

Both courses, 45 holes, are professionally managed and maintained. Our Golf Shops make sure you are never too far from new equipment or gear. There are professional golf instructors on site with lessons and clinics available regularly to improve your game.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 6am - 2pm | Oakwood 480.895.1159 | Ironwood 480.895.0614

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services Department (CSD) is responsible for: Gate Operations | Permit Requests | Adhering to Rules | Guest Passes | Vehicle and Pet Registration | Entrance Decals and Devices | Plus much, much more!

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm | 480.317.3669 | CSD@slhoa3.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Our communications team provides residents with up-to-date information on all activities and events happening around IronOaks. Stop by our office to subscribe to our digital email newsletters.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm | 480.317.3620 | communications@slhoa3.com

www.IronoaksAZ.com | Facebook: @IronOaksAtSun Lakes | Find us on your smart phone's App store: search for IronOaks

FITNESS CENTER

Our staff of fitness and health professionals provide different paths to help achieve and maintain overall health, fitness, balance, and well-being.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 6am - 7pm | Saturday & Sunday - 7am - 4pm | 480.802.6853



The Elections Committee

Where Voting Meets Vision

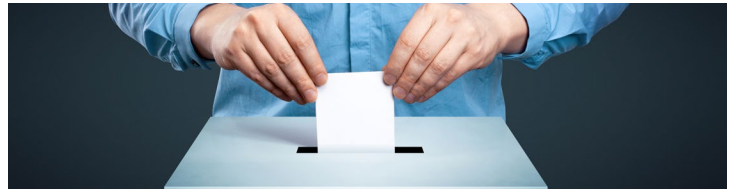
Welcome to the heart of community democracy at IronOaks – the HOA Election Committee! While the idea of administering elections and managing votes might not sound like the most thrilling adventure, this group of dedicated individuals knows how to infuse fun into the process. Let's take a casual stroll through the duties and camaraderie that make up the IronOaks HOA Election Committee.

DUTIES:

At the core of the committee's responsibilities is the administration of the election of Board members. Additionally, they handle any other matters requiring the community's voice through a vote. This involves overseeing the mailing of ballots, validating votes, and collaborating with other committees and management to ensure a smooth and transparent process. It's a vital role that keeps the gears of IronOaks turning smoothly.

While the Election Committee may not be a rollercoaster of excitement, it's certainly not a snooze-fest either. Laughter is a constant companion during their meetings, and they've mastered the art of turning seemingly mundane tasks into enjoyable moments. After all, a little fun goes a long way in fostering community spirit.

In a world where communication trends are as dynamic as the IronOaks' landscape, the Election committee prides itself on staying ahead of the curve. They are not just about traditional flyers and bulletin boards; they're on top of social media trends, engaging emails, and any other means of capturing homeowners' attention.



Why? Because when it comes to voting, every voice matters, and they want to make sure every resident feels connected and informed.

If the thought of timelines gives you a thrill rather than a chill, you might be the perfect fit for the Elections committee. Monthly meetings are not just about ticking off boxes; they're an opportunity to collaborate, plan, and execute with precision. From setting deadlines for ballot submissions to ensuring votes are tallied promptly, our team understands the importance of punctuality in maintaining the community's trust.

If you enjoy striking up conversations and passionately discussing the importance of voting, you'll find kindred spirits within our committee. They believe that fostering a culture of active participation starts with genuine conversations. So, if you're a people person who loves sharing the significance of each vote join the conversation.

The IronOaks HOA Election Committee may not be the flashiest ride in the amusement park, but it's essential. With duties ranging from overseeing elections to injecting joy into the process, this committee plays a crucial role in keeping our community vibrant and connected. If you're up for a blend of responsibility, camaraderie, and a touch of merriment, welcome to the IronOaks HOA Election Committee – where every vote counts, and so does your enthusiasm!

IronOaks *Unit Captains*



I care about my neighbors and like to keep them happy. I'm lucky to be in this active adult community because even with its flaws, the HOA is mostly looking out for all our best interests.

I want to be sure what my neighbors are saying is factual and not a rumor. I have found a way to do that: I go to board workshops and board meetings to check up on what committees are planning and executing, as well as reading the literature put out by the board and administration. Now this seemed to be a lot of time and work, but I figured that out too. By becoming a Unit Captain, information is sent to me, I don't have to look for it.

Our co-chairs send UCs a management report each Monday and occasionally I get another email with a special event or potential problem, e.g. repaving of the clubhouse area or a new concert booked at the clubhouse. I attend UC meetings so I can have a say in what I think the board should be doing. Now remember that I said I wanted to keep my neighbors happy, so I have a list

of their emails and I send them what I receive so that they are "in the know" too.

My neighbors often have questions spurred on by the info that I send them, so I pass any questions on to the co-chairs for answers. They are good with an immediate response so I can pass the answers back promptly. Sometimes if a problem is big or encompasses more than my unit, the co-chairs take it to our monthly meeting for resolution tapping into the knowledge of the other Unit Captains and/or administration.

The General Manager and Executive Director of Community Services attend our monthly Unit Captain meetings, so that I can clarify their answers or ask for additional information or explanation.

There are 35 Units in IronOaks with 40 Unit Captains. This diverse group of UCs has helped me widen my acquaintances outside of my general area, and I have learned a lot about our community and the workings of our HOA through this relationship.

THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE INTERESTED PEOPLE, SO WHY NOT BECOME A UNIT CAPTAIN?

Contact Sharon Dankowski at shardankowski23@aol.com or Molly Bergesen at unit42captain@gmail.com

IronOaks *Finance Committee*

Let's face it when you hear "finance", some of us turn the page or scroll right on by. "Debits", "credits", "adjustments", "risks", and "portfolio" are just a few terms that may make your head spin. They can be daunting. We have a group of homeowners who have extensive financial backgrounds and relish these words. They work tirelessly to ensure IronOaks runs fiscally responsibly.

The Finance Committee is a group of your neighbors within the Homeowner Association. This committee serves at the behest of the Board of Directors and is accountable to the Board. They provide oversight of the financial operations and in many instances request clarification and provide direction to Management. Its primary role is to ensure the financial health and stability of the organization. Here's a breakdown of its key responsibilities:

1. Financial and Business Operations Oversight

The Finance Committee monitors and evaluates the financial activities of the association. This includes reviewing financial statements, reports, and other relevant documents to ensure accuracy and compliance with established financial policies.

2. Annual Operating Budget Review

One of the main tasks of the Finance Committee is to review the proposed annual operating budget. This involves scrutinizing the budget to ensure it aligns with the organization's goals and priorities. The committee shall assess the proposed expenditures, revenues, and overall financial strategy.

3. Recommendations

Based on its review of the annual operating budget and other financial reports, the Finance Committee makes



recommendations. These recommendations could include adjustments to the budget, suggestions for cost-saving measures, or proposals for improving financial efficiency.

4. Three-Year Business and Reserve Study Report

The Finance Committee works in collaboration with the buildings & ground committee in the examination of a three-year business plan and reserve study report. These reports include projections and analyses of the organization's financial position and inventory of assets due for replacement over the next three years. The committees assess the validity of these projections and may make recommendations for adjustments or improvements.

5. Concerted Decision-Making

The Finance Committee works in concert with other relevant stakeholders to make informed decisions. This collaboration may involve consulting with management, board members, or other committees to ensure a comprehensive and well-informed approach to financial matters.

In summary, the Finance Committee plays a crucial role in maintaining financial transparency, stability, and sustainability within this multi-million dollar "small city" of an organization. It serves as a watchdog for fiscal responsibility, contributing to the overall success of IronOaks at Sun Lakes.

Turf Talk

WITH ROSS BUCKENDAHL

As we all start to warm up and get those frosty days behind us, the maintenance team is starting to think about this summer. The first process that always comes to mind is the transition of the grass back to Bermuda. We have started this process in February by lowering heights, aerifying, verti cutting, grooming, etc. These are all processes that aid in the transition process. It removes the canopy of the grass, so there is less shade, and the sunlight can penetrate the soil and heat it up to allow the Bermuda grass to grow. That will be our focus for the next few months at Ironwood and the Palms and Sonoran courses at Oakwood.

The Lakes golf course will be closing in the month of May, and we will be tackling the irrigation system along with some other projects that we have in place. We are getting prepared for the irrigation project which will be started in a timely manner. Our contractor, National Turf, has been ordering the product, so they are prepared as well. Things will happen a little differently on the



Oakwood Lakes Golf Course; Hole 2

Lakes course. As soon as we close the golf course, we will spray out the ryegrass so that we are only growing Bermuda. Doing so will allow us to have the strongest plant possible. During this time, we will also be doing some turf reduction on the Lakes golf course. We will be converting some areas to desert landscape that includes rock and plants.

There will be a lot going on over the summer at IronOaks, but they are all great things that will enhance the property for years to come.

Lakes Golf Course Irrigation Redesign & Turf Reduction Project

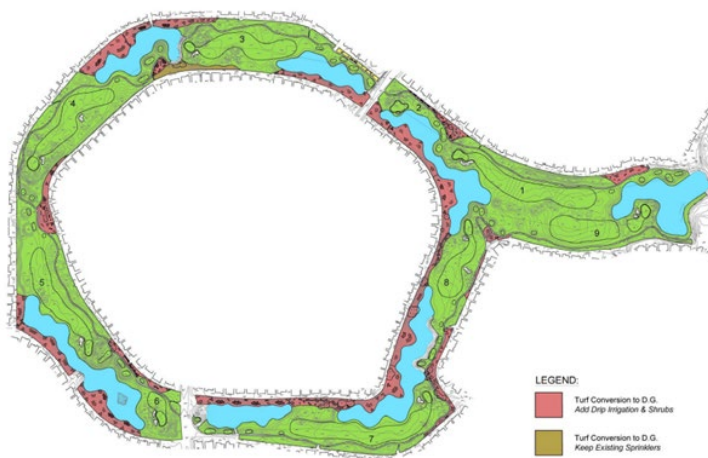
Arizona has a long history of water conservation which makes sense considering we live in a desert. It is a priority for our very survival. A significant event in Arizona's water history was in 1902 with President Theodore Roosevelt signing the National Reclamation Act which is still visible throughout the Phoenix Metro area with the irrigation system of canals and the construction of the Roosevelt Dam¹.

In 1902, Arizona's population was a mere 138,000. In 2023, the population reached 7,431,344. A record growth rate has been experienced since 1957 with a nearly 500 percent increase to what it is today². Without a viable source of water, we literally could cease to exist.

How does IronOaks begin to participate?

In 2022, our golfers utilized USGA trackers to determine what areas of the course were most predominantly "played". Where did balls typically land? What areas never saw golf traffic and how could we adjust our course to maintain an aesthetic and be cognizant of our unnecessary water usage. These trackers were turned in and a story of play became apparent. We had opportunities to improve playability of the course, decrease water usage being proactive for the 2025 AZ Department of Water Resources restrictions, and maintain the aesthetics for our players and homeowners living along the course while determining a return on this significant investment.

Here's a quick look at the areas targeted for conversion:



Zone Enhancements: Existing areas of Decomposed Granite (DG) will be enhanced by adding drought tolerant shrubs with drip irrigation. If areas need improvements, additional shrubbery will improve the presentation of that area. Existing trees in these areas will have turf removed around the canopy area and bubblers will be added enabling less water to go deeper to the root system. This practice in the ball landing area serves a player's benefit by their shot more playable.



Turf Removal: Noticeable predominantly in the areas around the lakes and adjacent to cart paths enhancing the aesthetic with flowering plants. Sample plants³:



What's Next?

The Lakes Course will close beginning May 6th for this extensive remodel. The Golf Maintenance team is already purchasing and storing supplies and equipment to support some aspects of the work.

The removal of turf will begin this summer. Followed by mainline and general irrigation replacement, the addition of decomposed granite, and Shoreline repair with 650 linear feet of existing retaining wall material to environmentally friendly railroad ties.

The golf team is looking at the golf league play schedule to plan alternate tee times and shotguns. **Anticipated grand re-opening of the Lakes Course is expected after overseed on November 7th.**

This project is vital to the long-term well-being of golf and IronOaks. We all look forward to a sustainable community and healthy golf program

Sources:

- <https://azgovernor.gov/sites/default/files/related-docs/securingazwaterfuture.pdf>
- <https://www.macrotrends.net/states/arizona/population>
- Sun Lakes IronOaks Oakwood Turf Reduction Project – Lakes Course; Forrest Richardson; July 26, 2023 <https://www.ironoaksaz.com/files/Sun%20Lakes-TURF%20RED-July%202023%5BR2%5D.pdf>

Upcoming Activities & Events

St. Patrick's Day Dance & Irish Whiskey Tasting

March 14th | Oakwood Ballroom | \$20++

Community Garage Sale

March 16th | 8am-2pm | Open to the Public

Spring Training Bus Trip

March 21st | Chicago Cubs vs Colorado Rockies | \$200+tax
Includes Private Game Day Buffet

Spring Fling Fashion Show

March 24th | 1pm-3pm | Grill on the Green | FREE to attend

Classic Cocktails by My Club Wine

March 26th | 5pm-7pm | \$30++ | Ballroom

Ken Sorensen Lecture on The Secrets of Stonehenge

April 4th | 11am | Ballroom A | Admission FREE

Dinner Dance with Outside the Line

April 4th | Doors Open 6pm | Ballroom | \$30++
Menu: Slow Braised Boneless Beef Short Rib | Garlic Mashed Potatoes | Seasonal Vegetables | Assortment of Cookies

The Cellar Diaries: Wine History & Tasting

April 10th | 4pm-6pm | \$30++ | Ballroom

Be There, or be Square: Square Dancing Lesson

April 16th | 6pm | \$10 | Ballroom | No Experience Needed

Musical Instrument Museum Bus Trip

April 19th | Bus Departs 10:15am | \$70+tax

Whiskies of the World by My Club Wine

April 25th | 4pm-6pm | \$30++ | Ballroom



Scan me to view all upcoming Lifestyle Events & Activity Flyers

2024 Billboard Concerts

Purchase tickets at www.OakwoodTickets.com

Pink Floyd Tribute - Shine on Floyd

Concert Date

Mar 13

Tennessee River- Alabama Tribute

Mar 20

ABBAFAB- ABBA Tribute

Apr 3

Jimmy Buffett: Buffett's Margaritaville: Outdoors*

Apr 17

The Beach Boys Tribute

Apr 24

Garth Live-Tribute to Garth Brooks

May 1

Piano Men: Generations-Elton John & Billy Joel

Nov 6

One of These Nights: Eagles Tribute

Dec 11

The 3 International Tenors

Dec 18

*Ticket Priced at \$35



Sip & Create a Valentine's Vase

Attendees chose from an assortment of tissue papers and decorated their own flower vases.



Grill on the Green "The Big Game" Party

Delicious food, raffles, and the big game made for an eventful Sunday party.



Music Video Bingo

What better day to play bingo than on Valentine's Day? We loved seeing the festive outfits!



Be There, or be Square,...Square Dancing Lessons

Residents learned the basics of Square dancing from the professional caller, Carl T.



Bus Trip to TUBAC Festival of the Arts

Homeowners enjoyed the small community of Tubac, AZ and explored hundreds of art vendors.



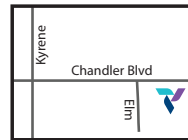
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chandlerpain@thevirtuousteam.com

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Ben Pollard
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Mary Kay Hobby
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100% OF OUR GOOGLE REVIEWS ARE 5 STARS ★★★★★

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The Crystal Card Project

Recycling Greeting Cards for Charity

The Crystal Card Project reached \$100,000 in donations for My Sister's Place, a crisis center for domestic violence victims and their children. The Crystal Card project collects new or used greeting cards, holds workshops for volunteers to repurpose the cards with new paper and scrapbooking materials, and sells the cards throughout Sun Lakes for only \$1 a card.



Win! Win! Win!

Isn't it great when a project is a win for all concerned? That certainly applies to The Crystal Card Project. Recycling old greeting cards that would otherwise go into the trash is a WIN. Bringing community members together in a service project to remake and sell these cards is a WIN. Using the proceeds to help victims of domestic violence and their children is a WIN.

Nationwide Support

The CCP receives donated greeting cards from all over the United States. Some come from Sun Lakes residents who have moved "back home" and continue to collect cards from their friends, neighbors and some from total strangers who were once a recipient of a Crystal Card.

Local Support

The stated objective of the project is to donate ALL proceeds from the sale of their cards. This would not have been possible without the support of the Greater Sun Lakes Community Foundation, the Sun Lakes Women's Association and individuals who donate funds to cover the costs of supplies and materials.

Home Delivery

During Covid the project was not able to hold their regular monthly sales throughout the community. This challenge resulted in Crystal Card Home Delivery service. Sun Lakes residents could request cards be delivered directly to their front door. This service remains available.

While the initial conversation to start the Crystal Card Project was enthusiastic, the founding members, Bobbie Reed and Charlene Petragallo from Oakwood and Kathy Skrei from Cottonwood Palo Verde, never dreamed that their project would raise over \$100,000.

"We are so thankful to everyone who participated by volunteering, buying cards, donating cards or helping to spread the word," said Charlene Petragallo. "None of this would have been possible without the support from our wonderful community."

For more information visit TheCrystalCardProject.org

Rhombus Security Gate Operating System

YOUR Voices have been HEARD. We are enhancing the gate operating system software and camera infrastructure to offer you, your friends, caregivers, and service providers a more convenient and flexible gate access system. You will have control of who comes and goes while our Community Services team monitors these important access points.

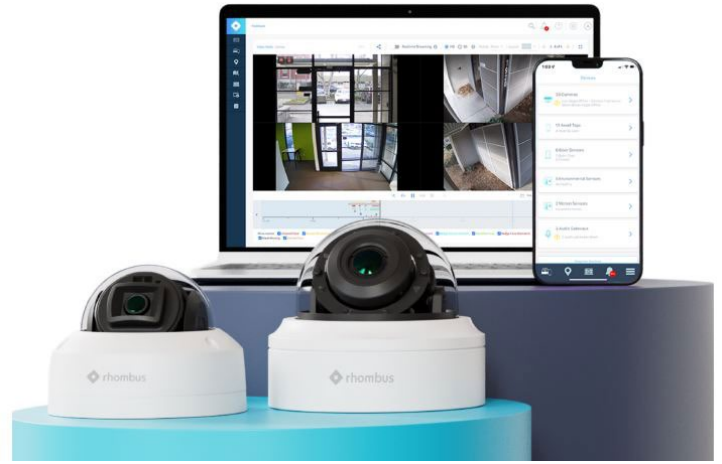
Following a comprehensive review by the HOA Board and committees of various security systems, Rhombus was chosen as the most suitable option for our community, offering innovative solutions in both physical equipment and user-friendly software that could be tailored to our community.

Innova is the company that will be installing the Rhombus Security System for our community. Founded in 2016, Innova is one of the first companies in the world to develop cloud-based security. On a path of continuous improvement, they work to provide innovative solutions.

All of this information is indeed valuable. However, how does it personally impact you as an IronOaks homeowner aiming to navigate the community and collaborate with others for efficient access?

In the upcoming months, as we gradually implement this new software, you will gain the ability to:

Effortlessly oversee your guests and family members with various



access options. For instance, if you have recurring Wednesday guests, input their details to generate a personalized QR code for seamless entry. Similarly, when family members visit, you can provide them with a QR code to facilitate easy access in and out of the community. This is just one illustration of the enhanced capabilities of this new gate operating software.

The software boasts additional features such as face recognition and license plate reading, and more! The entire team dedicated to this project eagerly anticipates introducing homeowners to this system at the next two upcoming Town Hall meetings:

March 25 at 9am in the Oakwood Ballroom

March 26 at 3pm in the Oakwood Ballroom

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Paws & Claws Corner

FUN FACTS ABOUT DOGS!

Ready to learn some paw-some dog facts? Let's dive into the fascinating world of canines where we will discover fascinating tidbits about man's best friend. From their loyal hearts to their curious quirks, we will unveil some delightful facts that may surprise you!

1. Dogs are the most popular pet on the planet!

A third of ALL households around the world have a dog as a pet.

2. Dogs evolved from a now-extinct species of wolf

Dogs were the first animal domesticated by humans, over 20,000 years ago! Evidence from fossils have suggested that five dog breeds had evolved by the Bronze Age (4500BC). The dog breeds that evolved were mastiffs, wolf-type dogs, dogs resembling greyhounds, pointing dogs and hearing dogs!

3. Dogs can learn over 100 words & gestures

Scientists believe dogs to be as smart as a two-year-old child.

4. Dog noses are 40 times more sensitive than ours!

The Bloodhounds are often used in the police force to find and locate escaped criminals. Their sense of smell is so accurate that it can actually be used as evidence in court!

5. Dogs only sweat from their paw pads

Dog sweat is much oilier than humans', & contains lots of chemicals that only other dogs can detect.

6. Dogs can be right or left-pawed

Similar to humans, dogs have a dominant paw. To figure out your dog's preference, watch how they walk! Notice which paw they always start walking with and you'll figure out which one is dominant.

7. Dogs have dichromatic vision

Dogs' eyes only have two types of cones, which limits their vision to only seeing shades of gray, brown, yellow, and blue. The colors dogs see the best are yellow & blue, so be sure to stock up on blue & yellow toys!

8. Dogs have 18 muscles in their ears

Dogs have 18 muscles they use to tilt, raise, and rotate their ears, which helps them identify and capture sounds from different directions.

9. Dogs have fewer taste buds than we do

Dogs have an average of 1,700 taste buds compared to our 9,000. Similar to us, dogs can identify sweet, sour, salty and bitter tastes, however, they also have special taste buds aimed at tasting only water. These receptors are located at the tip of their tongue.

10. Walt Disney's Dog, Sunnee

Walt placed Sunnee in a hat box as a gift for his wife, which inspired the scene in *Lady and the Tramp* where Lady is taken out of a hat box as a Christmas Present

IronOaks Pets!!



Two of our resident fur babies were out walking with their owners, Tamara and Joe, so we just had to stop and chat.

Ginger is a ten-month-old miniature poodle and Fox is a nine-year-old Pomeranian mix. The idea was to get Fox a "friend" so he wouldn't feel so alone and maybe to give him more pep in his step.

As of the time of our meeting, Ginger hadn't quite warmed up to Fox. Tamara felt like it was getting better, and they were growing to love each other. Both pups knew some basic commands, and both were adorable and friendly.

Tamara and Joe have been homeowners since February of 2022, and they absolutely love it at IronOaks.

PEANUT BUTTER & PUMPKIN TREATS

Ingredients: 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour | 2 large eggs | ½ cup canned pumpkin | 2 tablespoons peanut butter | ½ teaspoon salt | ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon | 1 teaspoon water, or more if necessary

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 Degrees. Combine flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl; stir with a spatula until combined.

Transfer mixture to a work surface and work it with your hands until mixture starts to come together. Add 1 teaspoon water at a time (only if needed) to help make the dough workable, it should be dry and stiff.

Roll the dough to a thickness of 1/2 inch.

Cut into 1/2-inch pieces and transfer to a baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until dog treats are golden brown and crunchy, about 40 minutes. Let cool before serving to your dog.

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