



# Community News

## January

### 2018



MONTEREY PARK ASSOCIATION, VILLA MONTEREY 5/5A

## FROM THE BOARD . . .

### Social Committee – Randy Brenckman

The Social Committee has been without a chair person for some time. Randy Brenckman has agreed to act as Social Committee Administrator. He will not be hosting events, but he will assist in recruiting (if necessary) individuals to host the events and he will assist with the final accounting records of each event prior to presenting to the treasurer for reimbursement.

### Treasurer – Sandy Mucci

The board has approved a preliminary budget for 2018. Amounts were specified for pool deck repair as well as the social committee, including a budget for the coffees, cocktail/potluck, and special events. The budget will need to be approved by the homeowners at the annual meeting in March.

### Real Estate – Dody Tait

No Pending sales or Under Contract.

Coming Soon:  
7840 E Highland,  
7824 E. Coolidge  
8 closed in December

Highest closing: 7743 Meadowbrook \$369,000  
8 listings in all of Villa Monterey, 3 Under Contract.  
*Any questions, call Dody Tait*



## HOA BOARD

*president:* Craig Sjodin  
*vice-president:* Randy Brenckman  
*secretary:* Don Couture  
*treasurer:* Sandy Mucci  
*board member:* Bob Grandestaff,  
*board member:* Dody Tait  
*board member:* Bev Tyson  
***please see the directory for contact information***



**Lockboxes for Seniors** allows police or firefighters to gain entry to your home, in an emergency. The Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors, Scottsdale Police and Fire Departments and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office are offering lockboxes for seniors and others with special needs for \$25 (free if annual income is less than \$25,000) Please fill out the form by [clicking here](#) or call 1-877-229-5042.



Meeting  
Reminder

## BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 5, 9 am  
all are welcome



Many neighbors are out enjoying our neighborhood.

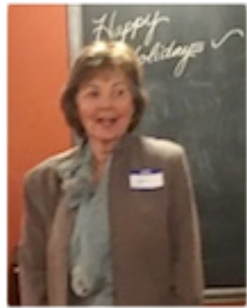
## COMMITTEES

*coffees:* Madeline Krska  
*compliance:* Beverly Tyson  
*landscape planning:* Randy Brenckman  
*library:* Sandra Barnes  
*newsletter:* Patti Frinzi and Mike Sikes  
*park & ramada maintenance:* Randy Brenckman  
*pool & spa:* Bill Mucci  
*potluck happy hour:* vacant  
*ramada:* Gayle Sjodin  
*real estate:* Dody Tait  
*social committee:* Randy Brenckman  
*street lighting:* Craig Sjodin  
*web page & directory:* Sue Carey

***please see the directory for contact information***



Carolina Grandestaff & Kathy Hartmann hosted a lovely coffee on January 6.



Sally Devney playing the VM trivia game at the Jan 12 Cocktail Party that she hosted with Carroll Nelson.

## Mark your calendar



### Community Coffee

Ramada

February 3, 2018, 9:30 am

### Happy Hour Potluck

Ramada

February 9, 2018

5:30 pm



### Water Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays  
11 am at the pool  
Bev Tyson or Sue Carey



(friendly round robin)

Wednesdays

1 pm at the Ramada  
bring a lunch snack

Bev Tyson



1:30 pm

Tuesdays, 4 Ramada  
Fridays, 5/5A Ramada  
Sandy Mucci



### Committee Chair needed

**Potluck-Happy Hour.** An event held the second Friday of the month. Hosts please sign up on the sheet in the Ramada near the library. A Chair is needed to maintain the schedule.

Would you like to meet up with creative people who share your interests? Are you curious about **Art** but have never tried it (or not lately)? Are you interested in creativity? You are invited to a fun, interactive meeting of VM5/5A residents at the Ramada on **January 22 at 2 pm.** Coordinated by Jackie Brigham & Patti Frinzi, this idea hatched from November's art exhibition in the Ramada. All mediums welcome, but no artistic skill is required.



Randy Brenckman has proposed the idea of a Villa Monterey 5/5A **Time Capsule**, to be placed in the Ramada wall behind the mirror next to the fireplace. In it we would place artifacts and mementos of our times here for unveiling at the 100th anniversary of Villa Monterey in 2065.

The Time Capsule would provide an invaluable historical source for later generations. Stay tuned as this idea receives further discussion in future Board meetings.

### BRUSH AND BULK COLLECTION

*weeks of January 15 & February 12*

<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/solid-waste/brush-bulk-collection>



The ***New Year's Eve Party*** was a great event with over 35 in attendance. Thank you to Ann Lane and Val Borg for the decorations and helping to order the tenderloin meat. A very generous homeowner donated the funds for the lovely tenderloin. Thanks to the guests who brought the other items to round out the festive meal. We had a wonderful time visiting with friends and neighbors. - Sue Carey, former acting chairperson.



## NEWS FROM HISTORIC PRESERVATION

For the last several months, Villa Monterey 5/5a president, Craig Sjodin, has been meeting with representatives from the other Villa Monterey HOAs and representatives from the Scottsdale Historic Preservation including Steve Venker, Historic Preservation Officer for Scottsdale. The purpose of the meetings has been to condense the Historic Preservation guidelines and rules, eliminate those that don't apply to Villa Monterey, and modernize them for today's world. A draft of the proposed new guidelines can be viewed on the Historic Preservation website. Click the links below:

[Preservation Plan and Guidelines](#)

[Villa Monterey Units 1-7 Historic District Historic Preservation Plan and Guidelines, draft](#)  
[Scottsdale Historic Preservation Program](#)

Here are some other informative sites:

[Mid-Century Modern Paint Colors](#)

[Scottsdale Zoning Ordinance Sections 6.100 - 6.133 \(HP\) Historic Property](#)

[Do I need a building permit?](#)



## REMEMBER WHEN . . .

In November 2017, the newsletter team interviewed three long-time residents of Villa Monterey: Ruthie Mathis, who lived on Coolidge and now lives at McDowell Village; Helen Maher, who still lives on Coolidge; and Fran Oberst, who lived on Northland. (Thanks to Sue Carey for setting it up.) Last month we presented some of their memories of Holiday parties. This issue they recount their memories of neighbors and friends. The full transcript of the interview will be available on the community website and in the newsletter binder in the library.



*left to right: Helen Maher, Ruthie Mathis, Fran Oberst taking a break at the White Dove Thrift Shop*

Fran and Val Oberst moved to Villa Monterey in 1978. At that time the lamp poles were gas powered and there was a golf course and country club behind their home, “We had our Christmas Party [at the Country Club] till they sold it to La Villita. We lived [on Northland] for 34 years and loved it . . . We used to drive up and down [Villa Monterey] before we turned 50 and say, ‘some day we are going to live here.’ My husband turned 50 in August and we were there in November. Val was on the Board, and I was Social Chairman for I think at least 10 years. . . I loved it. Ruthie and Helen and Betty Engberg and Wuanita Plum and Judy Preston, we always worked together on holiday parties—we had some wonderful holiday parties, we always had a good attendance, 65 to 75 people. And it was so much fun, but we all enjoyed doing it together.”

Ruthie and Bob Mathis lived on Coolidge next door to Helen. “We were there from ’94 until about 2014 when I moved here [McDowell Village]. I loved Villa Monterey....I lost my husband, it was a little over two years ago, and then I had a hip that didn’t repair itself well . . . I’d still be there if I could get around. I loved it till the last day I was there. I was very sorry to leave.” We moved [to Phoenix] in 1953 from Atlanta for my husband’s health, and he got well. We never looked back, never thought about going back to Georgia. My momma had never been west of the Mississippi before I moved here. She was sure we were really coming where there were Indians and cowboys.”

Helen and Bob Maher moved to Coolidge around 1990. “I guess we were there awhile when Ruthie and Bob moved in. I served on the social committee with Fran and Ruthie. We had Happy Hours at different homes. And parties. Any excuse for a party. In those days I loved to cook and I would make the hors d’oeuvres. My husband Bob would bring his little keyboard and Bob Plum would bring his clarinet and saxophone. . . whoever wanted to danced.”



*Wuanita & Bob Plum(saxophone)  
Helen & bob Maher (keyboards)*

Ruthie: “When Bob [Ruthie’s husband] and I celebrated our 50th anniversary our children gave us a big party at Los Olivos. Bob [Maher] and Bob [Plum] said they would come and provide the music. They were very sweet and they played the whole afternoon. At some point during the dinner, Bob said they had a special song they wanted to sing in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary. They had a long intro, and then Bob Maher sang, ‘Are you bloated tonight, are you feeling alright, shall I get the Viagra and Tums,’ it went on and on.” (laughter) Helen: “That was Bob Plum, that wasn’t my husband.” Fran: “They played at her anniversary party, they played at our 50th. It was really nice. If we had any kind of big thing they would play.”

Fran told about her first Villa Monterey party in 1978: “The people across the street from us—the ambassador, George Baraclough—had a party for us to welcome us to the neighborhood, which I thought was lovely. . . . What do we wear? We didn’t know anybody . . . So [Val] just put a shirt on and slacks and dress shoes. He looked nice. I just had skirt and blouse. So we got there and everybody’s dressed to the nines. Suits and ties. Cocktail dresses. So the next day he [George Baraclough] comes over to me and says, “I don’t mean to embarrass you, but when we have parties we expect Val to wear a suit.”

Fran told another story about Northland neighbors: “Val had a bike. And he would ride every early morning. . . . There was something on the peddle, it click, click, click as he rode. One day, we came home there was a brand new bike sitting at our back gate. . . . Where did it come from? We had no idea. Do you know, the man across the street, the ambassador, eventually confessed. He couldn’t stand that noise.”

Fran also told about another early neighbor, Dick Schnor: “He was the funniest guy . . . nice, nice guy. His wife was lovely, beautiful woman, dressed to the nines. He’s a millionaire three or four times over. He had a wine cellar in his backyard, bigger than this room. They had money. And every time we got together, especially Wednesday nights, he’d come. He’d put his one foot over the other, big holes in the bottom of his shoes. He’d have holes in his shirt. We used to say, ‘what in the world?’ He’d say, ‘when I get money, I can replace this.’ He was filthy rich and he’d dress like that. When he went out to a party, that was different, he was dressed to the nines. But whenever it was just casual, or we’d see him on the street you would have thought he was nothing but a bum. The nicest guy in the world. After I had my surgery. . . he sent me a card every day for a month, just to encourage me from my surgery. That was another nice thing. You have surgery or anything, you always had somebody bringing your meals in. That was great.”



*Fran & Val Oberst*

Further explaining how thoughtful people were, Ruthie explained: “We hadn’t been there long when Bob had surgery and I would spend the day at the hospital with him. We were not long-term neighbors at this point. I would pull in the driveway at 7:30 or 8 at night, absolutely exhausted. Here would be Helen standing at the end of my driveway with a plate. ‘Just put this in the microwave, this is a disposable dish, you don’t need to return it.’”

Northland was apparently the social hub. Ruthie: “Oh, gosh yes, if you got invited to a Northland party, it was something. Helen: “No, Northland socialized with me. I lived on Coolidge. (laughs) I think that the reason we were invited . . . was because Bob used to tell jokes. He was a great story teller.”

Ruthie: “I remember the parties at the Ramada when we didn’t have walls, it wasn’t enclosed. And they encouraged everybody when they remodeled to save the Arcadia doors so we could put them up around the edges and enclose the Ramada And I remember Bob playing his keyboard. Oh, we had some good parties at the Ramada.”

Ruthie: “From the Ramada and the parties there were these splinter groups. There was a group of us, about 12, who used to go over every Friday night to the Legion. We had a big table and sit in the bar with the piano player. And sometimes Bob would play. And we would sing and carry on just like young people.” Fran: “That was Friday night for fish.” Helen: “Yep. We’d sing and we’d dance and just have fun.”

Helen: “Wednesday night we’d go to the pool area, take our bottle of wine and sandwich and have a little happy hour. Just sit around the pool and talk and laugh and tell jokes.” (laughs).

Helen: “You know, one time Judy Preston—her husband’s birthday is around the same time as my husband’s birthday—so she invited our group to dinner. But we had to get all dressed up. The guys had to wear their tuxedos and the girls something long and pretty. And she just had a wonderful dinner. It was gorgeous.”

Fran: "Remember she had the Red Hat Group. We all came with our big red hats." Ruthie: "Red feather boas." Fran: "You wore the boa. It was such fun. And I decided, well if the women are wearing red hats, then why don't we have the men wear them. So they all came with red baseball caps. Oh, it was hysterical. She had a couple other themed parties. They were such fun."

The ladies shared about some of their other Villa Monterey neighbors. Ruthie: "And you know, when we first moved to Phoenix in 1953, there was one radio station and one television station. and the emcee and the spokesman that you always heard was Bob Katz." Helen: "Yes, Betty's husband." Ruthie: "He was big in the city. If you had a big meeting, he was the emcee. . . . They lived in Villa Monterey and they were just fascinating people." Sue: "She was a painter. We hung her pictures in the Ramada." Helen: "In fact when we moved to Coolidge, she was the first person who came to my door to welcome us. Betty Katz, yeah, we became good friends."

Fran: "And then there was Jane Madden." Helen: "When I met Jane, there was something going on at the Ramada and Bob and I went. I saw her standing there all by herself. So I walked over to her and introduced myself and I said, 'Do you live here or are you visiting?' She said, 'Yeah I just moved on Coolidge.' I said, 'That's where I live!' We really got to be good friends, because she loved my husband. And we would take her here and there with us, you know, and the three of us, three musketeers. We'd be walking down the street, Jane and I, and she'd turn around and she'd say, 'Where's our husband?'" (laughter)

Ruthie: She worked at the White Dove [Hospice thrift shop on McDonald and Granite Reef where Ruthie, Fran and Helen work now] with us on Thursday afternoons. She'd stand at the counter of the White Dove, which you know is a resale shop, and as people would come in she'd say, 'welcome to Nordstrom's'. (laughter) Helen: "And then she'd say, after they'd purchase, 'would you like this gift wrapped?' And then pull out a newspaper."

Helen: "Bob used to call us the walkie-talkies, because we did more talking than walking. He'd see us standing on the corner talking."

Fran: "Don Ameche [the actor] used to walk by our home, a nice man. He had a townhouse on Coolidge on the other side of 78th Street, that 2nd house, I believe it was on the left hand side. He lived there and then when his health deteriorated, he moved in with his son who lives on Northland."

Fran: "So that's the kind of things we did. Ruthie would tell jokes, Bob would tell jokes. And it was so funny, so many jokes and so many laughs."

Helen: "We had a lot of laughs"

Remembering their days in Villa Monterey, "Kind of makes you feel sad and happy and getting old all at one time," said Fran. But Ruthie offers, "It's kind of like when I lost Bob. I realized I was accepting, and my grieving was over when I was able to say, isn't it awful we lost him, but aren't we glad we had him."

Sue: "I think I should [tell you] why I put these three ladies together to meet you. When I moved here 15 years ago, as a single lady, I went to the Christmas Party, knew absolutely no one because I had been so busy just doing the house. And it was Christmas time and I went to the party. Bob and Bob were playing, it was at the Scottsdale House, and Fran, Ruthie, and their husbands invited me to join their table. I'll never forget how much these ladies and gentleman made me feel welcome."



*Ruthie & Bob Mathis*