



Las Palmas Grand Residents Association

Observer

February 2025

Vol 5 Edition 1



Are you new to the community or someone who is not sure about the Las Palmas Grand Residents Association (LPGRA)? Because you live here, you are automatically a member of LPGRA -- there are NO dues to pay!

Come join us! We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9:30 am in the clubhouse, and we'd love to see you there. We give away prizes (\$20 door prize and 50/50 raffle). Our meetings are informational, and our purpose is to enhance the quality of life within Las Palmas Grand through communication, as well as to provide an organized approach for resident and management interaction. Feel free to bring any questions and concerns you may have. See you at our next meeting!!

2025 LPGRA Meetings

JANUARY 2, 2025	9:30 AM
FEBRUARY 6, 2025	9:30 AM
MARCH 6, 2025	9:30 AM
APRIL 3, 2025	9:30 AM
MAY 1, 2025	9:30 AM
JUNE 5, 2025	9:30 AM
JULY 3, 2025	9:30 AM
AUGUST 7, 2025	9:30 AM
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025	9:30 AM
OCTOBER 2, 2025	9:30 AM
NOVEMBER 6, 2025	9:30 AM
DECEMBER 4, 2025	9:30 AM

LPGRA Board Members

Donna Provost, President
802-236-0381

Sue Smith, 1st Vice President
801-628-0025

Cheryl Jorban, 2nd Vice Pres./Treasurer
253-224-4453

Peggy Marcone, Secretary
585-752-8279

Recycle Program



2024 was a great year for the Las Palmas Grand recycling program, which has been up and running for 4 years now. This past year, over 2 tons (!!) of aluminum and plastic (4,420 lbs.) were recycled and kept out of the landfill, thanks to Bob Williams and his team.

In 2024, \$1,887.50 was made from this recycling program which has paid for LPGRA Board expenses (webmaster, donuts and coffee for the General meetings in the summer months, miscellaneous office expenses, and door prizes) and the annual donation to a non-profit organization(s) chosen by the residents.

This year the residents voted to send \$500.00 to two different organizations -- Sunshine Acres and the 100 Club. Thank you to all of you that participate in this beneficial recycle program.

As a reminder, the LPGRA recycling program ONLY recycles aluminum cans and clear plastic liquid containers. Please do not place any other materials (i.e. glass or non- clear plastic containers) in the blue barrels, which are located in the green waste area on Juniper Hills.



Home Safety Education Program

The Home Safety Education (HSE) Program is a free Mesa Fire and Medical Department program available to all City of Mesa Residents.

The HSE Program aims to reduce the risks of falls and fires within our homes, and to link residents to outside resources as needed.

The HSE Program will send a trained fire department volunteer to your home to help you identify possible hazards within your home. The volunteer will make suggestions and changes wherever possible, including

- Smoke Detector Checks
- Fire Extinguisher Safety
- Fire Prevention Measures
- Home Escape Plans
- Fall Prevention Measures
- Community Resources

Call to request your free Home Safety Check:

480-644-2200

NEW ITEM FOR SALE FROM LPGRA!



Get your royal blue LAS PALMAS
GRAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
thermal cooler bag (with a
complimentary generic ID tag)
TODAY!

ONLY \$10 to display your
Association PRIDE

Contact Cheryl Jorban
253-224-4453
cheryljorban@gmail.com

FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT



A one-time shredding event at Las Palmas Grand is scheduled for March 22, 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Arizona Secure Document Destruction (ASDD) will come to Las Palmas Grand for two hours to do a one-time pickup for residents. Because Management also has quite a lot of papers to be shredded, our Manager has agreed to pay for this one-time service. ASDD is a social enterprise of The Centers for Habilitation (TCH), and 100% of the money collected goes directly to providing jobs for people with disabilities. ASDD also has a 5-star rating.

ASDD will bring a large truck with 32 locking bins holding 95 gallons each. They will take care of placing your documents into the bins, which will be locked and placed on to their truck. The bins will then be taken directly to their plant for shredding. The bins are locked right up until they are dumped into the shredder. The manager of ASDD will come to our site until the time is up or all the bins are filled.

This is something that many residents have requested, so start gathering your papers to shred and bring them to this event. If you have questions, please contact any LPGRA Board member.



THE STORY OF CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Chocolate has a long and fascinating history dating back to ancient Mesoamerica, a region that begins in the southern part of North America and extends to the Pacific coast of Central America. It is considered one of the six areas in the world where ancient civilization arose independently. The Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs were some of the first cultures to cultivate cocoa beans and use them in various ways, including as currency, medicine, and a beverage.

When the Spanish conquered Mesoamerica in the 16th century, they introduced chocolate to Europe. At first, it was primarily consumed as a bitter beverage, but over time, Europeans began to sweeten it with sugar and add milk, giving rise to the chocolate we know and love today.

Chocolate has been associated with Valentine's Day for many years. The tradition of giving chocolate as a gift on

Valentine's Day can be traced back to the 19th century when Richard Cadbury, the founder of Cadbury Chocolate, began selling heart-shaped boxes of chocolates for Valentine's Day.

Today, chocolate is one of the most popular gifts to give on Valentine's Day. It is a sweet and romantic gesture that both partners can enjoy. There are many different types of chocolate to choose from, including milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate, as well as various flavors and fillings.

Over the years, chocolate has become an even more significant part of Valentine's Day celebrations. Many chocolate companies now create unique Valentine's Day-themed chocolates and packaging, such as heart-shaped boxes, red and pink foil wrappers, and messages of love written on the chocolate itself.

In addition to its cultural significance and relationship with Valentine's Day, chocolate has been shown to have some health benefits. Studies have found that dark

chocolate in moderation can reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke, lower blood pressure and improve cognitive function.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, don't forget the incredible journey chocolate has taken to become the iconic gift we know and love today. So go ahead and indulge in a bite of chocolate, and share the love with someone special.

Following are some favorite chocolate recipes submitted by our residents:

CHOCOLATE WAFFLE COOKIES

Cream these two ingredients together:

1 ½ cup sugar and 1 cup shortening

Blend in the following:

4 eggs, 2 tsp vanilla, ½ cup cocoa powder, pinch of salt, and 2 cups flour

Drop the size of cookies onto a waffle iron to cook. Sprinkle powdered sugar on top.

Submitted by Jan Byrnes

SUNNY'S GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE COOKIES

Ingredients: 2 sticks butter, softened; 1 cup light brown sugar; 1 cup granulated sugar; 2 tsp vanilla extract; 2 large eggs, beaten; 2 ¼ cups flour, ½ cup unsweetened cocoa; 1 tsp baking soda; pinch salt; 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips; 1 cup shredded coconut; 1 cup pecans

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a stand mixer or large bowl using a hand mixer, blend the butter, both sugars, vanilla and eggs. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. Gradually add the flour mixture into the butter mixture and blend until combined. Stir in the chocolate chips, coconut, and pecans.

3. Drop the dough by tablespoonfuls onto the prepared baking sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on a cooling rack.

Submitted by Cathy Reid

ALMOND JOY COOKIES

Ingredients: 1 bag shredded coconut (14 oz); 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips; 2/3 cups chopped almonds (slightly salted); 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

1. Combine all ingredients – mix together.
2. Scoop onto baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Moisten tips of fingers with water and shape into discs. Flatten the tops a little bit.
4. Bake 12 – 14 minutes.

Submitted by Debbie Oriti

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE SLOW COOKER DUMP CAKE

Ingredients: 1 box Devils Food cake mix (16-18 oz); 1 box chocolate pudding mix (3.9 oz); 1 cup Nutella; 1 ½ cups milk, 1 stick of butter (melted)

1. Line your slow cooker with parchment paper or liner.
2. Dump the cake mix evenly along the bottom of your lined slow cooker.
3. Then repeat with the chocolate pudding mix.
4. Pour melted butter evenly over the top of dry ingredients, repeat process with the milk.
5. Last, spoon the Nutella over the top.
6. Take a spoon and press down any dry mix that isn't wet.
7. Cook on low for 3-4 hours. Cooking time will vary depending on the size of your slow cooker. The larger it is, the less cook time.
8. The cake will be slightly "wet" in the center – you don't want to overcook it. Enjoy!

Submitted by Cheryl Jorban

CHOCOLATE PEANUT CLUSTERS

Ingredients:

1 lb package almond bark. I use vanilla.
12 oz. chocolate chips.

Melt together in microwave (about 2-3 min)
Stir in 1 ½ pound of salted peanuts.

Let the mixture cool a few minutes until it thickens.

Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheets covered with waxed paper.

Refrigerate until hard. Remove and eat!

Submitted by Karen Clausen

TRIPLE FUDGE CAKE

Ingredients: 1 large package Jello chocolate pudding (cooked, **not** instant); 1 package chocolate cake mix – any brand; ½ cup Nestle chocolate bits; ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)

1. Cook chocolate pudding as directed on the package in a large saucepan (be sure it is fairly deep).
2. After pudding is cooked, turn off heat and add the entire box of cake mix to the hot pudding. Mix well.
3. Pour into a greased and floured oblong baking pan.
4. Sprinkle the top with the chocolate bits and the nuts.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

After cake cools, cut into bite sized pieces (smaller than a brownie because it is rich!).

I like to sprinkle powdered sugar on top when I serve the pieces. Enjoy!

Submitted by Margaret Jacoby

GOOEY CHOCOLATE HUG COOKIES

Ingredients: 1 package chocolate cake mix;
½ cup butter; 1 tsp. vanilla; 1 8 oz. pkg.
cream cheese; 1 egg; 1 bag Hershey hugs;
powdered sugar

1. Beat butter, egg and cream cheese until fluffy. Add vanilla.
2. Mix in the chocolate cake mix. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. Roll batter into balls and dip in powdered sugar.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 – 12 minutes. Let cookies cool for 5-10 minutes, then insert a hug in the center of each cookie.
5. Refrigerate 30 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

Submitted by Debbie Oriti

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTED YOUR FAVORITE
CHOCOLATE RECIPE!**



According to legend, if a groundhog sees his shadow on February 2nd, there will be six more weeks of wintry weather; if it doesn't, then spring is right around the corner!



AAMHO (Arizona Association of Manufactured Home Owners) is a non-profit association representing YOU as an owner of a manufactured home here in Las Palmas Grand. You live in a community that is governed by the AZ Mobile Home Parks Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (LTA). AAMHO is the organization that introduces and supports legislation in Arizona to protect and strengthen your rights, opposes legislation unfavorable to community residents, and monitors all legislative actions for possible unintended consequences. Additionally, AAMHO is here for you when you have questions or concerns about manufactured home ownership.

The following is a short list of AAMHO accomplishment that benefit you:

- Landlord's required Statement of Policy
- Written Rental Agreement
- 90-Day Notice of Rent Increase
- 30-Day Notice for changes in Rules and Regulations
- 180-Day Notice in event of Park Closing
- Relocation Fund
- No Right to access home by Landlord.
- Tenants Right to meet in clubhouse or your homes.
- Tenants Right to choose selling agent.

AAMHO (cont.) PLEASE JOIN!!

Membership is the backbone of every effective organization. Please consider joining AAMHO in order to keep AAMHO vocal for you as a resident of Las Palmas Grand.

For under \$3/month (\$35 per year, \$60 for 2 years, or \$150 for 5 years) you will gain access to a wealth of knowledge and support from the longest standing Manufactured Home Owner advocacy group in the state of Arizona, and the only organization that employs a Lobbyist.

To join, please pick up an AAMHO flyer at the monthly LPGRA meeting, or go to their website at <https://aamho.org>.



LIVING WITH THE (OCCASIONAL) COYOTE

Yes, we occasionally have coyotes here in Las Palmas Grand. They are clever and well adapted to living in cities, rural towns, and agriculture areas. They can be seen at golf courses, parks, preserves, and in many neighborhoods just like ours.

Coyotes eat whatever is available, including seeds, fallen fruit from your fruit trees, dead animals, rodents, rabbits, garbage, pet food, cats, and small dogs.

If you see a coyote when walking your dog, let the coyote know you are there. Either gather your dog in your arms or keep it as close to you as possible, while also using some of the deterrents described below.

- Never approach a coyote
- Show you are dominant by keeping eye contact with the animal
- Yell or make loud noises with whistles, or blare music from your cell phone.
- Encourage coyotes to leave by spraying them with a hose or a large squirt gun filled with diluted ammonia (10% ammonia and 90% water).
- Make a “coyote shaker”, which is an aluminum can filled with washers, pebbles, or pennies, wrapped in foil and taped closed. Shake the can to scare away the coyote.
- Don’t stimulate a coyote’s chase instinct by running.
- Pick up small pets.
- Protect small children (your grandchildren) if out and about with you, so they won’t panic and run.
- Remember, YOU are dominant and must act that way.

It is generally not normal for coyotes to attack or pursue humans. It is a learned response to human feeding or indifference. So please don’t throw bird seed on the ground, or leave food outside for the rabbits or feral cats. Store your garbage in your trash bin and pick up your fallen fruit. BE SAFE!



Presidents' Day in 2025 will be observed on Monday, February 25th. This federal holiday, officially known as Washington's Birthday, honors George Washington, the first President of the United States. It also serves to honor Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is on February 12, as well as all other U.S. presidents, past and present.

Historically, Americans began celebrating George Washington's birthday just months after his death, long before Congress declared it a federal holiday. It was not until 1879, under President Rutherford B. Hayes, that Washington's Birthday became a legal holiday, to be observed on his birthday, February 22.

Washington's birthday was celebrated on February 22 until well into the 20th century. In 1968, Congress passed the Monday Holiday Law to "provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays." By creating more 3-day weekends, Congress hoped to "bring substantial benefits to both the spiritual and economic life of the Nation."

Because of the Monday Holiday Law, Presidents' Day is now celebrated on the 3rd Monday in the month of February.

One of the great traditions followed for decades has been the reading of George Washington's Farewell Address by a U.S. senator in legislative session, which remains an annual event to this day.

Although the federal holiday is held on the third Monday of February, George Washington's birthday is observed on February 22. To complicate matters, Washington was actually born on February 11, 1731! How can that be?

George Washington was born when the Julian calendar was in use. During Washington's lifetime, people in Great Britain and America switched the official calendar system from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar (something that most of Europe had already done in 1582).

As a result of this calendar reform, people born before 1752 were told to add 11 days to their birth dates. Those born between January 1 and March 25, as Washington was, also had to add 1 year to be in sync with the new calendar.

By the time Washington became president in 1789, he celebrated his birthday on February 22 and listed his birth year as 1732.

MYTHS ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON

Legend has it that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree when he was 6 years old and, when confronted by his father, said, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my hatchet."

Well, Washington didn't say this; he didn't even chop down the tree! This tale was, in fact, concocted by Parson Mason Weems (1759–1825), one of Washington's biographers, who made up the story hoping to demonstrate Washington's honesty.

This tale is not the only myth about Washington. His wooden dentures? They weren't made of wood. Throughout his life, Washington wore numerous full and partial dentures that were constructed of materials including human, and probably cow and horse teeth, ivory (possibly elephant), lead-tin alloy, copper alloy (possibly brass), and silver alloy.

Additionally, George Washington did not wear a white wig. Even though wigs were fashionable, Washington kept his own hair. He kept his hair long and tied back in a queue, or ponytail. As a young man, George Washington was actually a redhead!

Although he didn't wear a wig, George Washington did powder his hair, giving it the iconic white color seen in famous portraits.



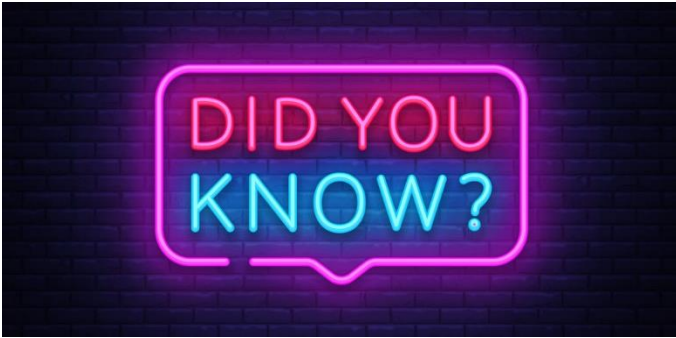
HAPPY EASTER

Easter this year is April 20, 2025. Did you ever wonder why, although always on a Sunday, the actual date changes from year to year?

Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Last year, Easter Sunday was March 31st. Next year in 2026 it will be on April 5. But don't try to figure it out. Your calendar will always let you know when Easter is!



Here's a fun Easter fact: Americans eat about 1.5 million Peeps during Easter. That makes these colorful marshmallows the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, factory makes an impressive 5.5 million Peeps a day. Try dipping yours in melting chocolate for an even tastier treat!



- ❖ That the front office at the clubhouse has a listing of “SERVICES OFFERED BY LAS PALMAS GRAND RESIDENTS?” This listing is valuable to have if you need a ride to the airport, a handyman for repair jobs, a notary public, a dead tree or bush removed, sewing alterations, a pet sitter, a caretaker for your home while you are away, and many, many more services.
- ❖ That the green waste bin on Juniper Hills is strictly for green yard waste only (leaves, branches, etc.)? Please do not use this bin to throw away other garbage such as furniture, appliances, cardboard boxes, or anything else other than yard waste. Thesman management (maintenance) is allowed to use the bin for occasional clean-up items, but residents may only throw in their leaves and branches from their yard. Also, this area is NOT a place to put your used furniture items for anyone to take. Call the office for information on disposal of unwanted large items that do not fit in your garbage bin. Thank you for keeping this area clean!
- ❖ That soliciting in LPG is strictly forbidden? Beware of the occasional scam “businessman” who comes to your home to try to sell you products such as leakage protectant for your roof, fantastic surface products for your driveway, or any number of products that you have not requested.
- ❖ That you should place your garbage bin at least 5 feet away from any street lamp pole so that the garbage truck can safely maneuver their pick-up apparatus so as not to bump the pole?
- ❖ That the speed limit for all vehicles is 15 mph inside the park? Please encourage your visitors to honor this in order to protect our elderly residents.
- ❖ That LPG has name tags that you can purchase? Contact Nancy in the Activities Office at the clubhouse.
- ❖ That if you haven’t already picked up your 2025 sticker for your car, they are available at the front office?
- ❖ That the Activities Office publishes a new LPG directory every year? This directory lists all current residents by name and lot number, with telephone contact. You can pick up your free directory from the Activities Office in the clubhouse.

DON'T WORRY....BE HAPPY

Do you ever find yourself worrying about something so insignificant that you wonder why you were worried in the first place? Here's some advice to go look at a cow!

Ode to a Cow

From The Old Farmer's Almanac: 1938

When life seems one too many for you,
Go and look at a cow.
When the future's black and the outlook blue,
Go and look at a cow.
For she does nothing but eat her food,
And sleeps in the meadows entirely nood,
Refusing to fret or worry or brood
Because she doesn't know how.
Whenever you're feeling bothered and sore,
Go and look at a cow.
When everything else is a fearful bore,
Go and look at a cow.
Observe her gentle and placid air,
Her nonchalance and savoir faire,
Her absolute freedom from every care,
Her imperturbable brow.
So when you're at the end of your wits,
Go and look at a cow.
Or when your nerves are frayed to bits,
And wrinkles furrow your brow,
She'll merely moo in her gentle way,
Switching her rudder as if to say:
"Bother tomorrow! Let's live today!
Take the advice of a cow."



*"Age is an issue of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."
Mark Twain*

Next Observer Newsletter

May 2025

In addition to articles regarding LPGRA, I am thinking about articles about "MONEY" --something we can all relate to.

I'd like to hear from you your story about "The Best Money Spent" in your life. You can submit your story to me at cheryljorban@gmail.com or via text at 253-224-4453. Deadline for articles is April 15.

I'm also happy to receive any story, joke, recipe, or suggestion you have.

It takes a community to make a newsletter!

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