



Vista Del Lago

Newsletter #37

December 2010



The loss of a really great neighbor.....

It is with sincere sadness that I report our community has lost a very important member. Jim Dixon notified a few of that Gloria unexpectedly passed away on November 30, 2010 in Tucson, AZ, after suffering a serious stroke on November 28th. Gloria was kept on life support long enough so that her family could gather around her and say their farewells. Gloria passed away in the comfort of her family.

Personally, I will miss Gloria incredibly. Gloria and I spent many afternoons poolside, talking about various things and she always kept me laughing. She had a great sense of humor, with some of the best one-liners I have heard in a long time. I don't know if

she always meant to be funny, but when I laughed, she seemed quite proud of herself! When issues were getting out of hand this past summer in VDL, she and I shared some laughs when we needed them the most. Gloria and her famous hairdo-in- the-pool memories will be with me forever, especially each time I get in the pool and watch someone attempt to keep their hair from getting wet! Gloria was a caring, gracious, funny and classy woman and I will miss her.

Jim said the family is going to have a private service for her sometime before Christmas. He requested no flowers, but did say if you would like to remember Gloria in some manner, donations of any kind to those less fortunate would be what Gloria would want. As I walked into QFC today, some high school girls were conducting a fundraiser for our local food bank. As I dropped some cash into the collection jar, my thoughts were with Gloria and her family. I think the best way we can remember and honor Gloria is to help out someone in need, either through a donation of cash, food, clothing or presents. If each of Gloria's friends makes one donation, we will have helped a lot of people and honored Gloria's spirit.

To Jim and his family, the VDL community will miss Gloria immensely. We are all fortunate to have known her. If we can be of any assistance to you or your family, please reach out and let us know. We will be there to help you through this very difficult time. God bless you and your family.



VDL Holiday Party.....

The annual VDL holiday party will be held in the clubhouse on December 31st. Happy hour begins at 5:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:00. If you are interested in attending, please email Pat and Bob Krell at [REDACTED] the party is a potluck event, with a voluntary \$10 gift exchange. The gift exchange is often times the most fun event of the night, especially if Bob Krell plays!! It gets quite exciting, but sometimes your stomach hurts from laughing. So if you don't like pain, you might not want to play! Seriously, it is always a good time and there is always a good turnout, so if you are going to be in the park, you should plan on attending. Oh yeah, and there is always a ton of really good food!!

All I want for Christmas.....



All I want for Christmas this year is peace in VDL. I became sure of this after I looked up the definition of peace. This is what I found:

peace 

1. The absence of war or other hostilities.
2. An agreement or a treaty to end hostilities.
3. Freedom from quarrels and disagreement; harmonious relations:
4. Public security and order:
5. Inner contentment; serenity:

Yes, all I want for Christmas is peace in VDL. I don't know if we will ever get there again, but there was a time, not long ago, when we had about 15 residents. We had peace because we all got along really well. We did have our disagreements, but we sat down and talked (we didn't raise our voices) about them face to face. We didn't have screaming matches in the street, there were no assaults, no threatened court orders and no condescending/rude/arrogant/angry emails. We had our battles with the Jewell's, but the residents banded together and fought for our rights as a cohesive group, not as warring factions. We didn't have secret meetings in living rooms, plotting against each other. We had patio barbeques and were genuinely happy when the neighbors stopped by for a visit. We hoped everyone was at the pool, so we could catch up on the events of the day and relax together. Yes, I miss those days and would love to have some semblance of them back.

I get that people are upset about the current status of VDL and the zoning issues. I get that everyone wants to have it "their way." I get that promises were made by the Jewell's and now some people are disappointed to discover they bought something other than was originally represented. Trust me, we have all been screwed by the Jewell's in one way or the other, you are not alone. However, all this negative energy that is directed at the board and others who are trying with all their hearts to right this ship is completely misdirected. None of this was created by the Association or the Board. The Jewell's and some county employees from the early 1990's (who are no longer there) are responsible for the mess we are in. If you want to direct your anger at someone, direct it at the person(s) who are responsible for this, not those who are trying to clean it up. If you think you can do better, offer to help in a constructive manner, don't just throw stones and lob insults via email. That is for cowards and is definitely not constructive.

Definition of constructive: Serving to improve or advance; helpful

There are some things in life we can effect change on and other things we cannot. We all need to learn to pick our battles, fight for the things we have the ability to change (and are worth changing), accept what we cannot change and move on.

I sincerely hope we do not have a repeat of last summer. It was a crappy summer and one I would soon like to forget. If we continue to blast each other with rude and condescending emails, make unreasonable demands and continue on with this theme of me against you, we are guaranteed another crappy summer. If you are unhappy in VDL, maybe you should consider relocating and let those of us who are content to accept and play within the rules, live in peace. I just wish VDL was the way it used to be; a friendly, peaceful, fun, lively, positive place to be. I promise to do my part and I hope you will do yours. I hope I get my Christmas wish.



For those of you traveling this holiday season, please be careful and pack your car with the essential emergency items, including snacks, water, blankets, tire chains and extra warm clothing. For those of you in sunny locations, I wish I was there and don't forget the sunscreen! And for everyone at VDL, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy Holidays. Have a safe, healthy and happy new year.

-Leslie

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