

O.K....Everybody INTO the pool !!!!

With summer's arrival, and Turtle Rock Vista's swimming pool now heated for the new season, your Vista View (VV) thought it would be a good time to check in with Sandy Bennett for an update and some background on our recreation center. Sandy has been our volunteer "Pool Meister" since day one of our development. The following are excerpts from VV's recent friendly chat with Sandy.

VV: To begin Sandy, what is the swimming season.....what's the period that the pool is heated?

Sandy: Typically we run the heater from Easter to Halloween....this may vary slightly from time-to-time....but this is the period that is most important from the standpoint of swimmers. Beyond Halloween the cost of heating the pool sorta loses its cost-benefit rationale. Another important point and many folks don't realize this, is that the Jacuzzi is open and heated throughout the year. That is a real therapeutic and comfort plus for some of our homeowners.

VV: Tell us about the basic care and maintenance of the swimming facility.

Sandy: Well, we contract with a pool company that makes regular service calls three times a week during the summer and twice a week in winter. They vacuum and brush the pool each trip, clean leaves and debris out of the skimmers, maintain the balance of chemicals in the water and check and service the filtering pumps, tanks and hardware. Twice a week we have cleaners come in to cleanse and maintain paper supplies in the dressing/ bathrooms. Our Vista gardeners trim hedges and surrounding ground cover and hose down the decks on a regular basis.

Those are the regular day-to-day things. Where there's emergency equipment failure or the occasional misuse of the complex by a member, then we have to respond to the requirement and get things back into working order.

VV: That all sounds like a lot of people and assignments "in motion". How can you as a volunteer, part time overseer keep up with it?

Sandy: With the contract people it is primarily a matter of task assignments and general supervision. These folks have been with us a long time....they know their jobs....and they perform their work professionally. The only difficult situations we have are from time-to-time when a homeowner or young member of a family doesn't remember to treat the swimming center as if it is a piece of their own personal property....which of course it actually is. I want to keep this issue in perspective, but I also want to remind folks that they are responsible for their actions and those of their young family members for respecting the property and abiding by the pool area safety rules.

VV: Speaking of rules, we're republishing the Pool Rules with this article as a reminder and update for all of us. With that in mind, it's a good opportunity to ask you if there are any specifics that you think deserve special emphasis?

Sandy: Of course they're all important, but there are two that I always think about and want to remind everyone about. First, keep your eyes open for the safety of young folks around the Jacuzzi.....actually, children under 14 are not allowed in the spa. The other special attention item is to use plastic drinking glasses; don't bring glass drinking or food service items into the pool area. Broken glass shards seem to defy clean-up.

VV: As a closing question, how do pool facility needs get identified, approved and funded?

Sandy: Sometimes we can handle a problem or a need by simply working it out with our contracted pool vendors. If that doesn't work or fit the need, then we'll communicate the pool equipment or pool furniture requirement to the Board of Directors with our assessment of cost and remedial steps to solve it. With consideration of the budgetary effects, the Board will typically approve our recommendation. This in turn will result in issuing a purchase order, or in some cases where a practical cost solution is called for, we'll go to Costco or some other similar vendor to directly purchase the required product. The pool umbrellas we bought from Costco are an example of achieving results for half the cost of a patio store alternative.

Sandy thanks for sharing your thoughts and answering some of our questions about the pool operations. I'm sure that we all have a better understanding for the issues and problems you deal with on behalf of the Homeowners. The Vista View wishes to express the appreciation we all feel for your volunteer efforts.

