

# LOS LAGOS NEWS

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## Announcements

### Annual Meeting

Sat January 25, 2020, 10:30am.  
Avail Property Management,  
51350 Desert Club Drive, #5  
La Quinta, CA 92253

### Notes from Board Meeting October 25, 2019

The board voted to appoint  
Gay Baker to the board to fill a  
vacant seat .

Dues will increase by \$15 to  
\$510 per month for 2020. This  
is the first increase in seven  
years and accounts for  
inflation.

The pump house will be  
pressure washed and painted.

### Editorial Staff

Harris Demetre, Editor.  
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Patrick Shannon, Webmaster.  
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## *Our Indian Wells in the Beginning*

OK neighbors, the year is now 1823 and the Coachella Valley is part of Mexico. The Mexican Government wants a route through the desert to Tucson and thus is created the original Indian Wells settlement. It is located around a Cahuilla Indian hand-built well that was dug very deep over many years, an important source of water that allowed the natives to live here. This Indian well was situated in the now-vacant land east of Miles Avenue and north of Hwy 111, across from the current Indian Wells Country Club and the Carl Bray artist's monument. By 1850 it is an established Indian village, and California is not a part of Mexico but has just become an American state.



The County Well circa 1910

With the discovery of gold on the Colorado River in 1863 everything changed for both the Indian Wells Village and those hardy persons living here. The Bradshaw Trail was built from Los Angeles through the desert to take prospectors and their gear to their mining outposts near the River, and Indian Wells was a

## Community column

### FOR SALE IN LOS LAGOS\*

44380 Ontario	499,000
44340 Michigan	569,000
44255 Tahoe	575,000
44080 Mohave	485,777
44047 Erie	499,700

\*Taken 10/27 from [zillow.com](http://zillow.com)

### Landscape Incentive

The board has announced an incentive for homeowners who wish to make landscape improvements to the common property in front of, or in back of, their homes. The incentive will rebate ten percent of the total costs up to a maximum rebate of \$500. More details and application forms will be available on the website very soon.

### Pickleball

Jim Turcott reports, "The equipment box is back in place and available for all to use. We haven't planned any games yet but will for sure when some of the snowbird players return."

### Editorial Staff Change

We are sorry that Darlene Pienta is leaving the staff of this newsletter. Her volunteer efforts will be directed to other commitments not least of which will be helping out with the 2020 Residents' Directory. We'll miss her monthly contributions.

stagecoach stop along that route. Then the Southern Pacific Railroad built its line as far as the Coachella Valley, and by the mid-1870s the Wells Fargo Company was running stagecoaches through our area as well. The stagecoach ride to Old Rancheria, the name of the Indian Wells station, could be a dangerous one with occasional hold-ups and shootings. It was for the brave and adventurous, yet the early settlers came through the late 1800s.

In an attempt to meet the needs of these hardy souls in our desert, which was without enough water (or any air conditioning!), in 1870 Riverside County built the County Well near the old Cahuilla Indian water hole, which by then had been abandoned. White settlement of the Coachella Valley had led the Cahuilla Indians to move into the surrounding mountains and canyons. For the next forty years until 1910 this important County well was our desert's main water source.

Settlers kept coming to the Indian Wells area in spite of the momentous heat and other challenges. We slowly acquired the ability to meet the needs of these adventurous souls with a market and a post office by the late 1800s, and a one-room schoolhouse around 1914. By then an early Model-T or tractor owner could even buy gasoline at Jim O'Neil's Market, funneled from a 50-gallon tank for anyone brave enough to drive in the desert.



Caleb Cook

Then a new and different kind of gold was struck here in Indian Wells: DATES! In 1916 Caleb Cook (think of our Cook Street) moved his family from the Thermal area to a ranch at what is now Cook Street and Hwy 111 at the site of the current Desert Horizons Country Club. Cook is credited with importing the first Deglet Noor dates from Egypt to the Coachella Valley and thus creating a new and important industry. The Magaw date farm was then established where Los Lagos is now located. Look

around you at the few date palm trees remaining from Indian Wells date ranch days. Our desert became a booming farming and ranching center, and the rest, as they say, is history...

*By Harris Demetre*

### *2020 Los Lagos Residents' Directory*

Please review your individual entry in the Los Lagos Directory and if needed, forward any changes, deletions, and/or additions to Darlene at [dpienta@san.rr.com](mailto:dpienta@san.rr.com) no later than January 5th. She does have information from the Directory Information Sheet that new residents completed and has already added that information to the new Directory. She is hoping to publish the 2020 Directory on or about January 15th. Thank you.

### *Editor Wanted*

Los Lagos News has an opening for a contributing editor. The pay is terrible, but the rewards in terms of praise from happy neighbors are incredible. If you want to learn more, contact either Harris Demetre, [gdemetre@earthlink.net](mailto:gdemetre@earthlink.net), or Patrick Shannon, [p.shannon@mac.com](mailto:p.shannon@mac.com).