

# THE HIGHLANDER

Lifestyle Magazine for the MacDonald Highlands Community

FALL 2019

## Concours d'Elegance

makes Vegas debut  
In MacDonald Highlands

page 16



**DRAGONRIDGE GOES HOLLYWOOD**

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**WANDERLUST: family vacation in England**

page 13



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# From THE DEVELOPER

• By *Rich MacDonald*

Over the years, I have written about how to protect your pets from the resident coyotes, whose homes we have invaded.

Recently, I've noticed signs requesting the return of a missing dog. This is extremely sad because, unless someone finds a missing pet, it is rare for them to survive the night. When one lives in the mountains, you must stay with your pets. You cannot use a doggie door – you will lose your pet, eventually, if you do. You need to go out with your pet and pay attention when they are outside. When walking your pet, keep them on a leash. If you see coyotes, pick up your pets. Coyotes have been known to seize dogs when on a leash! It is necessary to be alert. Our two dogs weigh 55 and 65 pounds, respectively, and we always stay with them when they are outside.

I also need to remind our residents that we do not allow people to post signs on our granite directional signs or various power boxes in the community. Also, nothing can be posted on our light poles, especially the new solar light poles. While I am a dog lover, too, we can't allow this to trash our neighborhood. I would suggest obtaining permission from the homeowners association management to place a small sign (like real estate stab signs) at entries and exits of the community. This needs to be done quickly and needs to be up for only one or two days. Of course, anyone who finds a loose pet needs to pick it up, notify the guards, and hold onto the pet until the owner is found.

On another note, now that we're building out MacDonald Mountain, everyone in the valley can see our new lot program. There is a major buzz about what we are doing and interest is increasing in our community. These will be our last lots. Many of our existing residents have already purchased in the new mountain development, and if you've been thinking of moving into the area for the incredible view, act now. They're going to go fast, and high-profile individuals from outside the community are now discovering MacDonald Highlands. If you are interested, don't lose out!

See you at the club.

*Rich MacDonald*





*A message from the management:*  
**HOA LETTER**

*Dear MacDonald Highlands residents,*

In 2002, the Colorado River began experiencing the worst drought in its recorded history, with flows measuring less than one-quarter of average — a drought that continues to this day.

Because our community relies on the river at Lake Mead for 90 percent of its water supply, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) responded by introducing mandatory seasonal watering restrictions and limiting grass in new commercial and residential developments while encouraging residents and businesses — including community associations and golf courses — to replace thirsty grass yards and streetscapes with water-efficient, drip-irrigated plants through the Water Smart Landscapes Rebate (WSL) program.

With WSL, homeowners and businesses who convert their landscapes receive \$3 per square foot of grass converted, up to the first 10,000 square feet of turf removed (the rebate is \$1.50 per square foot beyond that; the maximum award for any property in a fiscal year is \$500,000).

Since its launch in 2000, WSL has helped Southern Nevada upgrade more than 200 million square feet of grass to water-efficient landscaping, saving billions of gallons of water. Each square foot of water-efficient plants, trees and shrubs uses 55 gallons less per year than an equivalent amount of turf.

For individual homeowners, participation in WSL not only means you are using less water to irrigate ornamental grass, but the initial capital outlay also will pay off with lower monthly water bills — along with the satisfaction of knowing you're doing your part to help all of Southern Nevada reduce its water consumption.

WSL and a slate of other SNWA conservation programs have yielded positive results; since the drought began, Southern Nevada's population has increased by 43 percent, but water consumption has decreased by 25 percent. In recent years, however, progress has slowed, with the community's Colorado River consumption creeping up by nearly 5 percent since 2016.

Consequently, conservation has never been more important than it is now — and there is plenty of work to do, as next year, our Colorado River water supplies will be reduced by 3 percent due to low water levels in Lake Mead.

The association has recently converted a large amount of grass to artificial turf and encourages the installation of drought-tolerant landscape in accordance with the community architectural design guidelines. If you are planning any type of landscape conversion or change, please remember you must submit for and receive Architectural Review Committee approval from the association prior to the commencement of any work, even though you may have approval from the SNWA. Contact management to obtain a copy of the guidelines or an ARC application. Both items, as well as other important association documents, can be obtained online at [www.rpmginc.com](http://www.rpmginc.com) after going to The Foothills @ MacDonald Ranch Master on the left hand side of the homepage, then clicking on "Homeowner Login." Simply enter your account number and password for access.

To enroll in the WSL program, or to learn more about how you can help conserve our community's water resources, visit [snwa.com](http://snwa.com) or call 702-258-SAVE.

I hope this information is useful and informational to you. If you have any questions regarding the above referenced information, or any other association-related matter, do not hesitate to contact the management office at 702-933-7764, or via email at [LRoberts@rpmginc.com](mailto:LRoberts@rpmginc.com).

*Lisa Roberts*

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Supervising Community Manager  
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3077 East Warm Springs Rd.  
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## THE HIGHLANDER

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### ON THE COVER

*Stuart Sobek with one of his rare cars, which will be included in the Concours d'Elegance  
Photo by Tonya Harvey*





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# Movie Screening A YEAR IN THE MAKING

• By Valerie Putnam

Photos by Bill Hughes

“The anticipation has been huge,” DragonRidge Communication and Activities Director Charlotte Evans said. “We’ve never done anything like this before.”

On Sept. 19, DragonRidge Country Club pulled out all the stops to host an exclusive, full-blown Hollywood-styled advance screening of a major motion picture.

“High Strung Free Dance,” written and produced by Michael and Janeen Damian, made its official debut exclusively for club members during a special three-hour event. Michael Damian also directed the film, which officially opens nationwide Oct. 11.

The Damians began planning the special evening along with DragonRidge General Manager Larry Wright and Evans last year.

“The Damians have given us a wonderful gift,” Evans said. “By sharing their movie before it’s on wide release. We’re very grateful.”

Guests were treated to a Hollywood-themed celebration featuring special décor, concessions, cocktails and live dance performances.

“We’re trying to be trendsetters,” Wright said. “Doing fun, unique things you can’t get anywhere else.”



Arriving in a 1957 Chevy for the premiere of the movie “High Strung Free Dance” at the DragonRidge Country Club are from left, actors Harry Jarvis and Ali Tomineek and writers/producers Janeen Damian and her husband, Michael, who also directed the film.



Valets met arriving guests at the club entrance where the lush red-carpet invited moviegoers to pose for photos against an exclusive backdrop. The photo opportunity commemorated the evening and drew guests in as integral parts of the night's festivities.

"This community, MacDonald Highlands, is touted as the new Hollywood Hills," said former Fox 5 anchor and personality Monica Jackson, host of the upcoming MOJ Show. "And, it's just that."

The filmmakers, along with film stars, Harry Jarvis and Ali Tomineek, arrived in a classic cherry-red 1957 Chevy Belair convertible followed by two other classic Chevys carrying exclusive guests.

As a precursor to the special screening, professional dancers, Natacha Bachour and Adrian Lomeli, performed a live salsa dance sequence to get the crowd in the mood. Bachour is the star of "Baz and Showstoppers" and Lomeli is the Latin Ballroom Champion.

"These are some of the best dancers in the world at this specific type of dance," Evans said.

The Club's 4,800-square-foot ballroom was transformed into a movie theater with rows of chairs and movie-themed concessions. An expansive 8-foot-by-24-foot cinematic screen projected the film in high resolution enhanced by high-quality surround sound. The equipment was installed by Freeman, a brand experience company.

"It's going to be an awesome cinematic experience," Michael Damian said prior to the showing.

Following the movie Tomineek, who plays Alex in the film, gave a live performance. Attendees also were provided a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers and stars.

"I'm proud of my friends, Janeen and Michael," Emily Jackson said during the event. Jackson attended with her 5-year old twin boys, Jaylen and River. "I'm here to support them. I know it's going to be great."

Tickets for the event cost \$55 for adults and \$35 for those 20 and younger. A portion of the proceeds was given to Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation.

"They are the official partner of ours," Wright said. "Every bit of the extra revenue went to the charity."

Younger attendees were treated to a special dive-in movie presentation of the previously released Damian film, "Marley and Me 2 The Puppy Years." Cost for the dive in was \$15, which included dinner, child care, lifeguards and indoor craft room.

"High Strung Free Dance" is the anticipated sequel to the Damians' original "High Strung," released in 2016. The film is one of 15 the couple have done together.

"It's a stand-alone story," Janeen Damian said. "It's not



Natacha Bachour and Adrian Lomeli perform a tango before the premiere of the movie "High Strung Free Dance" at the DragonRidge Country Club on Sept. 19.

*Story continued on page 11*





# Community SPOTLIGHT

Club member inspires women with 'Ladies Roadmap' podcast while living in glam motor home

• By Valerie Putnam



JoJami Tyler and her husband, Eric, live in a 48-foot Prevost motor coach docked in a luxurious Las Vegas recreational vehicle community.

Photos by Tonya Harvey

JoJami Tyler proves age is irrelevant. Determined to make the most of life, the vivacious, 59-year-old entrepreneur continues to grow and learn new things.

“I keep reinventing myself over the years,” Tyler said. “I’ve been an image consultant, fashion blogger, full-time traveler and now podcaster.”

Tyler’s other credits include professional speaker, author and executive film producer, as well as having developed video training guides such as “Creating the Ultimate Image” and “The Ultimate Cure for the Dysfunctional Closet.”

Her penchant for reinvention led her to create the “Ladies Road Map,” a podcast developed with her best friend and business partner, Lana Helda. Launching 18 months ago, the podcast provides women in their prime a place to share their personal reinvention stories.

“Lana and I are passionate about this,” Tyler said. “It’s a platform for women who are doing amazing things.”

To date, they’ve produced 63 episodes, including interviews with celebrities Marie Shriver and Cristina Ferrare. Tyler hopes sharing these incredible stories of reinvention inspires other women to remain vigilant about self-development.

“I think it’s important,” Tyler said. “Because I think if we don’t keep learning and growing, we stagnate.”

In addition to the podcast, Tyler and Helda co-authored “The Ladies Roadmap Journal” as an accountability partner for those wanting to experience their own reinvention. The journal can be purchased on their website, ladiesroadmap.com.

“We’re really proud of it,” Tyler said. “It’s been getting good response.”

During September, the women presented “Ladies Roadmap to Living Ageless” as part of a special Mind Candy lecture series at DragonRidge. Tyler hopes to hold future events at the club, focusing on other topics like fashion and interior design.

“Lana and I have these talents,” said Tyler, who hopes to add workshops on updating wardrobes and on home decor. “And, we can dig in more.”

Her creative style and ability to adapt easily could be attributed to growing up around the dance and entertainment industry.

“I was raised in a trunk,” said Tyler, who was born in Los Angeles. “We grew up at the theater. That is where we hung out all the time because my parents were always there working.”

Her father, James Best, was an American television, film, stage and voice actor, as well as writer, director, artist and musician. His most famous role was “The Dukes of Hazzard’s” Sheriff Rosco P.

*Story continued on page 12*



## Movie Screening CONTINUED

necessary to see the first film to understand the second one.”

The high-energy dance drama is full of incredible dance sequences choreographed by Emmy award-winning Tyce Diorio. The film features a cast of more than 80 dancers performing ballet, tap, hip hop, contemporary, Bollywood and Bob Fosse jazz numbers.

Jarvis, who plays Charlie, an aspiring pianist in the film, shared the challenges of preparing for his role.

“I had to learn to play the piano,” Jarvis said. “I had a basic understanding of chords and knew how to play to a very basic level.”

Having only a month-and-a-half to learn 18 songs, Jarvis spent over eight hours a day honing his skills.

“I got all of them apart from one because of hand placement,” Jarvis said about learning to play the different compositions. “But 17 of the songs are in the movie.”

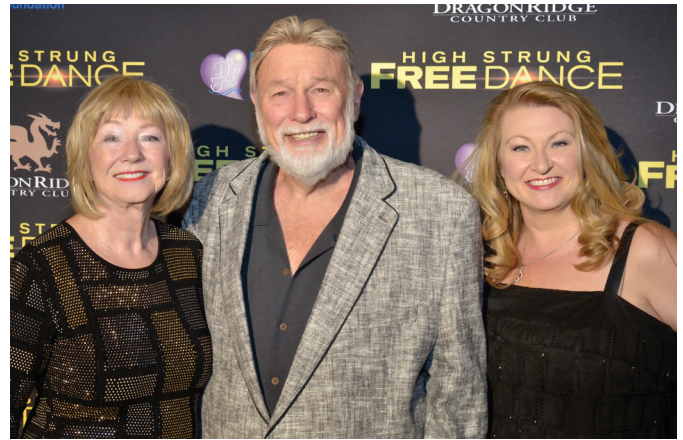
Joining Jarvis and Juliet Doherty is Barlow, a young contemporary dancer determined to make it to the Broadway stage. Together, they get a break when young choreographer, Zander Raines, played by Tomas Doherty (no relation to Juliet Doherty) casts them in his new Broadway show, “Free Dance.” Jane Seymour, who reprises her

“High Strung” role Oksana, plays Barlow’s mother.

Members who missed the event can catch the movie at the AMC Theater in Town Square upon its national release.

During the event, Michael Damian hinted there might be a third installment of the “High Strung” series.

“Keep your fingers crossed,” he said. “We’re developing it.”



Rich MacDonald, center, is shown with his wife, Claire, left, and daughter, Paige MacDonald, during the movie premiere.

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*DragonRidge Country Club member Jojami Tyler and her business partner, Lana Helda, produce a podcast, "Ladies Road Map." The show provides women in their prime a place to share their personal reinvention stories.*

## *Ladies Roadmap* CONTINUED

Coltrane. He later started the Mississippi Film Commission and served as director of the Jacksonville Theater.

Her mother, Jobee, a dancer who goes by Coco, started a dance school in Jacksonville, Mississippi. Tyler recalled growing up learning all styles of dance.

"I was dancing since I was 2," Tyler said. "We did everything, ballet, tap, jazz and baton."

Though her professional dancing days were short-lived, Tyler danced with "Sesame Street Live" and aboard the Azure Seas Cruise line.

"I didn't have the natural ability for it," Tyler said about dancing. "I loved it, but just didn't have the talent."

Tyler was drawn into the world of fashion, where she helped other women find their individual style. Forming her own image consulting business, Mode Image, later renamed [www.jojami.com](http://www.jojami.com), Tyler spent over 20 years in the industry.

Besides consulting women, Tyler spoke at large companies, such as Dow Chemical and Mark Victor Hanson, as well as keynote speaker for several women's conferences.

A year after launching her company, Tyler pioneered into the fashion blogging world with Deborah Boland, whom she met during the online class "Book Yourself Solid" by Michael Port. The result was [Fabulousafter40.com](http://Fabulousafter40.com).

"We both loved fashion, so we teamed up," Tyler said about what turned into a 15-year partnership. "We did business a whole year together before we met in person."

Tyler sold her share of the blog to Boland approximately six years ago, who still operates it.

One of Tyler's most significant reinventions was eight years ago when she underwent a complete lifestyle change.

After spending 20 years raising their two children, Cameron and Tessa, she and her husband, Eric, sold their 5,000-square-foot Delaware home – and practically everything they owned – with the sole purpose of seeking a new place to settle.

"Delaware is cold in the winter and we thought there was a different place we'd like to live," Tyler said. "Our kids were grown so we looked at each other and said, 'Let's go buy a motor home.'"

Tyler has no regrets about their decision to downsize and live on the road full-time. Their travels took them across the country four times and to every state, except Alaska and Hawaii, logging more than 100,000 miles. Over the past eight years, the couple has owned two rigs.

The couple lives full time in their 48-foot Prevost motor coach docked in a luxurious Las Vegas recreational vehicle community. Their private lot features an outdoor living space they designed.

"We love it here," said Tyler, who plans to purchase a home in the area. "We haven't left the past two summers."

Through her sister and brother-in-law, Janeen and Michael Damian, they discovered the DragonRidge Country Club, of which Tyler is now a member. The Damians purchased a home in the community three years ago.

Janeen Damian is a famous dancer, actress, producer and screenwriter and Michael Damian is an actor, musician, screenwriter, producer and director.





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# England MAKES FOR A GREAT FAMILY VACATION

HISTORY, PALACES, JEWELS  
AND HARRY POTTER

*Wanderlust* • By Claire MacDonald

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We just returned from our family vacation. Each year we take our children and grandchildren somewhere for about a week. We have been doing this for more than 10 years. We have gone to Hawaii, San Francisco, Lake Arrowhead, Alaska, a Mediterranean cruise, beaches at Turks & Caicos, Paris and a stay vacation in Las Vegas.

This year we went to England. There were only seven of us, as our grandson joined the Marines, got married and had our first great-grandchild.

We flew into London Heathrow Airport. We had booked a private van to hold all of us with all of our luggage. We reserved three rooms in the hotel. It was good location, only a five-minute walk from the Paddington Underground Station. We bought Octopus cards and traveled around, mainly by the underground.

On our first night, we walked around Covent Gardens. We had dinner in a typical English pub. Food is pretty good, and is reasonably priced. There are plenty of choices, from fish and chips, to shepherd's pie, steak & ale pie, bangers and mash (sausage & mashed potatoes) and chicken, lamb and beef dishes.

The next morning we took a hop-on-hop-off city bus tour. This gives you great overview of the area. We took the Underground to the Kensington Palace, which is the home of Prince William and Kate Middleton. As with any palace, you are limited to the state rooms, which are the public areas where dignitaries are entertained.

After that, we went on the London Eye, which is the huge Ferris wheel where each car holds about 25 people. The city views were magnificent.

---



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*Stonehenge is one of the prehistoric wonders of the world*

On Wednesday, we did a private tour of the Tower of London. Of course, we saw the crown jewels. The Imperial State Crown, which Queen Elizabeth II wore at her coronation, has 2,868 diamonds, 273 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and five rubies. The largest diamond is 317 carats. There is a 170-carat ruby and a 104-carat sapphire. One sceptre has a 530-carat diamond, which is the largest clear-cut diamond in the world. There were several other crowns, bejeweled swords, jewelry and other gold items.

We also saw the “chopping block” where only four people actually lost their heads. The most famous was Queen Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII.

We took a tour of Buckingham Palace, which is only open to the public from mid-July to the end of September. Luckily, that’s when we were there. We watched the changing of the guard from the street.

There is an interesting story about a man named Michael Fagan who broke into Buckingham Palace in 1982. According to newspaper reports, he shinned up a drainpipe to gain entry. He startled a housemaid, who called security. By the time the guards got there Fagan had disappeared. He claimed he spent a half-hour eating cheddar cheese and crackers, drinking wine and wandering about the palace halls.

A month later, he did it again. The second time he broke in, he ended up in the Queen’s bedroom. Initial reports said Fagan sat on the edge of her bed. In a 2012 interview, Fagan said the Queen left the room immediately to seek security.

The police finally showed up and removed the man. He was actually only charged with stealing a bottle of wine. The charges were dropped after a psychiatric evaluation. He served no jail time.

After learning this intriguing story, we were ready for more local lore. So, we had afternoon tea at St. Ermin’s Hotel. This hotel is known for its rich history. During the 1930s, the hotel was an epicenter of the war’s espionage activities of the Secret Intelligence Service and MI6. During World War II, Sir Winston Churchill took over an entire floor for his Special Operations Executive staff whose main aim was to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance. It was said that Ian Fleming, who wrote the James Bond books, was a naval intelligence officer, and his books were based on discussions with his colleagues in the St. Ermin’s Hotel.

We spent one day traveling by train to the Cotswolds, an area south of London, known for its unspoiled historic and famous towns and villages. Many of the honey-colored stone houses had thatched roofs and the area was declared the largest region of outstanding natural beauty in England. We visited five different villages with a local guide, and had free time to wander through shops and grab coffee/tea and lunch.

We also took a bus tour to Stonehenge, Windsor Castle & Bath.

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle and has been occupied by the Royal Family for 900 years. It is beautiful and although we were only allowed in the areas used for entertaining and meetings, they were spectacular.

Stonehenge is one the prehistoric wonders of the world, and I would bet if you showed 20 people a photo, at least 18 could identify it. This ancient circle of stones was built by Neolithic people about 5,000 years ago; and each stone stands about 13 feet tall and 7 feet wide, and weighs about 25 tons. It is really impressive. The stones are now fenced, but you can still get great photos.

We visited an old Roman bath complex. A temple was constructed in 60-70 AD and the bathing complex was gradually built up over the next 300 years. In the 17th century, doctors prescribed drinking the thermal waters for illnesses. The baths fell into disrepair in the early 5th century, and were rediscovered in 1878. It is now a World Heritage Site, and while you cannot swim in the water, you can drink it directly from the spring.

Our daughter, Paige, her husband, Leo, and our granddaughters are Harry Potter fans. So, they went on the Harry Potter Walking Tour of London. They really enjoyed it. Although, to me, the Harry Potter Tour of Warner Bros. Studios in London looks like the best choice. It is a seven-hour tour, but the problem is that it books up months in advance and we waited too long.

The only thing we missed that we wanted to see was Hampton Court Palace, an estate occupied in the 1500s by King Henry VIII. The kitchens are so large they could serve 1,600 meals a day. We visited Hampton Court several years ago, and wanted to visit again; but we just ran out of time.

This trip to England is a great trip for families or couples. Be sure to add it to your bucket list.



*The Imperial State Crown*

*Photos provided by Claire MacDonald*

*Don't forget to attend the following events by A Destination Travel at DragonRidge Country Club, Montrose Room, on Travel Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, all 702-248-1234.*

- *Tuesday, Oct. 8 – Royal Caribbean Cruises*
- *Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Holiday Open House*



# Concours d'Elegance

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## MAKES LAS VEGAS DEBUT

Variety of rare cars to be showcased

*MacDonald Highlands will host an exotic car show in late October that's expected to bring car owners and observers from across the country to Henderson.*

*The show will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Oct. 26 at DragonRidge Country Club. It culminates Oct. 28 with a golf tournament at the club, featuring celebrities from the world of cars, music and sports.*





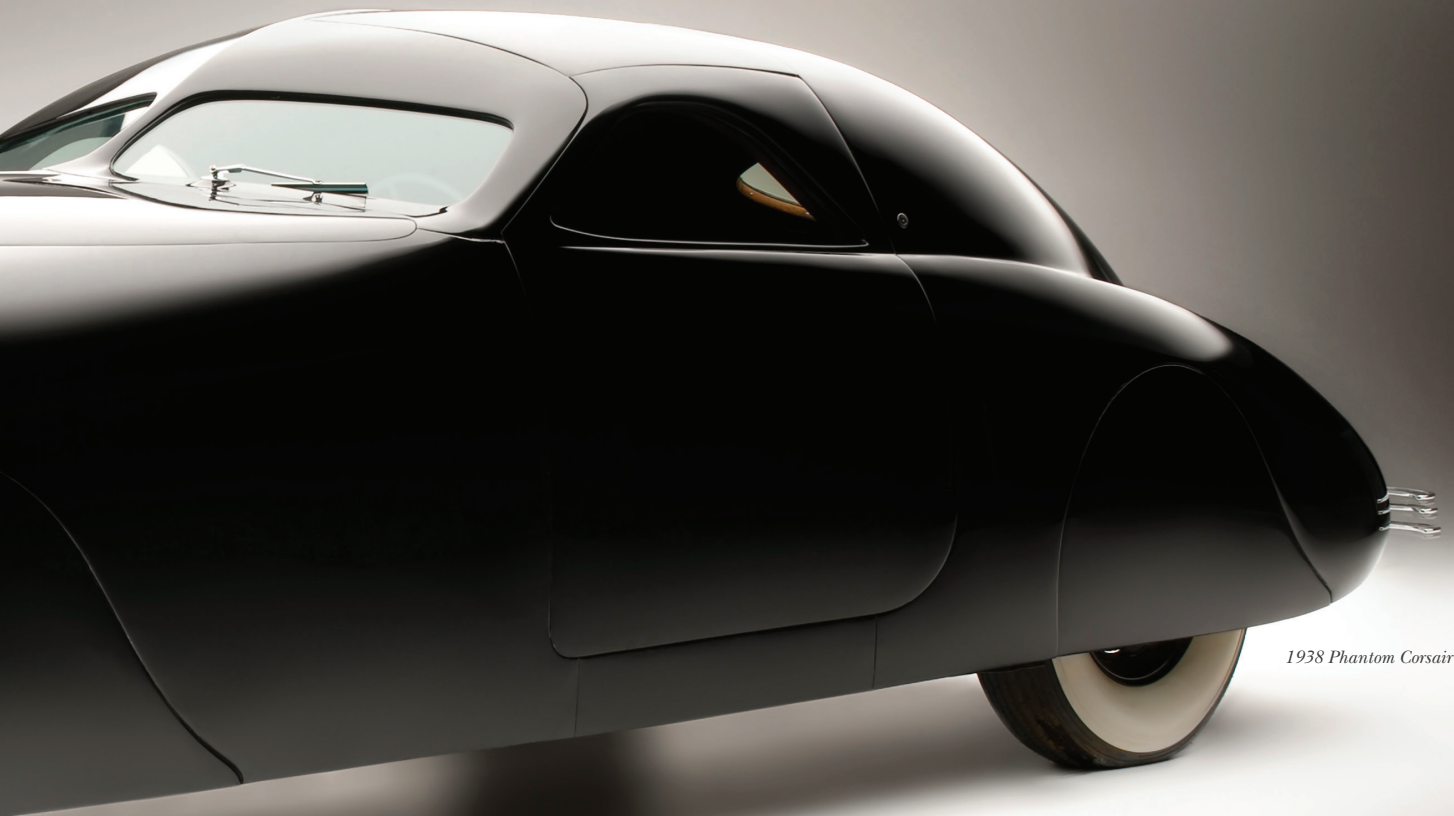
The celebration kicks off Oct. 25 with a gala at the Keep Memory Alive Event Center in downtown Las Vegas from 7-10 p.m. It also features cars parading down the Strip on the morning of Oct. 27.

Called Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance, the show, which is planned to be an annual event, is a project of Las Vegas resident and 32-year car collector Stuart Sobek, who is the founder and chairman. He said he's had as many of 37 cars in his collection that included a Bentley, Mercedes, Porsche and 1933 Lincoln.

Sobek said there are about 40 such large car shows across the country each year, and about five or six big shows in Europe. There will be European-made vehicles in the Las Vegas show.

"I was at a show at Pebble Beach two years, and I said: 'Why don't we have this in Las Vegas,'" Sobek said. "We have everything else. We have an ice hockey team. We have the Raiders coming. Everything is about experience and what you can do. We have great hotels and everything in place to host a show like this."

*"The cool thing about this is that all of these cars have a story. A guy in 1933 in the middle of the Depression paid \$16,000 for a Duesenberg when most people were losing their homes and the average house was \$1,000. It would be a doctor or lawyer, or back then someone infamous."*



1938 Phantom Corsair



“It’s been in my blood. It’s what I do. It’s my hobby,” Sobek said. “We’re passionate about cars and showing them off. You have them in the warehouse and keep them; and the fun part is taking them out and letting people enjoy them, especially when they are rare and unusual. This is not what these people do for a living. They are

---

*“We want to make sure everybody has a beautiful experience with no long lines,”*  
*Sobek said.*

---

pillars of industry. This is what they do on the weekends for their hobby. It’s fun because they’ll bring their cars across the country. We have cars coming out here from as far as New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, and they’ll ship them out here simply for bragging rights.”

Sobek said he approached the city of Henderson about doing the event and officials suggested he call MacDonald Highlands developer Rich MacDonald, who said yes.

It’s an invitation show, and Sobek said he’s traveled the country looking for the best cars and collectors.

There will be 135 cars from every level to a 1903 Cadillac – there are only six in the world – to the latest \$3 million Bugatti hyper cars to the latest Ferraris. There will be cars that will be valued at \$30 million to \$40 million.

“There will be Dusenbergs and some old classic Mercedes that are probably \$15 million cars,” Sobek said. “I have assembled a group of cars you would never see in one place and put them in your backyard. It’s like a pop-up museum for a day.”

In the car collector world, many owners go after one-of-a-kind cars and half of the field is that, Sobek said.

“Maybe they made 50 or 60, and there’s two left,” Sobek said. “The cool thing about this is that all of these cars have a story. A guy in



*1935 Dusenberg*

1933 in the middle of the Depression paid \$16,000 for a Duesenberg when most people were losing their homes and the average house was \$1,000. It would be a doctor or lawyer, or back then someone infamous.”

The prizes are trophies that will be awarded, which are being called The Helene Awards. There will be best of show, best car pre-World War II and best car post war. They are named after the late Helene Rother, the first woman to work as an automotive engineer.



*The Helene Award*

The ticket costs \$100 for entry, and there will be food and drink vendors on the ground. The event is capped at 4,000 tickets, and Sobek expects many people to come to Las Vegas to attend because they admire the cars.

“We want to make sure everybody has a beautiful experience with no long lines,” Sobek said. “There will be great food I am trying to design the show I always wanted to go to.”

The cars will be parked on the grounds of the golf course at the 10th and 18th holes. During the afternoon, the cars will come across the stage where the story about them will be told. Saturday afternoon is a rolling car show.

*The cost of the Friday night gala is \$200.  
There’s an \$800 VIP package that covers  
the gala and car show.*

*For more information, go to  
<https://www.lasvegasconcours.com/tickets>.*





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# WORLD CHAMPIONS TRAIN AT DRAGONRIDGE

• By Charlotte Evans

This year, the DragonRidge Tennis and Athletic Center is home to the newly crowned U.S. World Champion Aerobic Gymnastics Team, coached by Stephanie Furstahl, a former world champion who brought the sport of aerobic gymnastics with her to Las Vegas from her native Hungary.

Furstahl sat down the Highlander to talk about what the team has accomplished and where they're headed next.

**Q** How did you become a coach teaching world class aerobics gymnastics here in Southern Nevada?

**A** I brought it here five years ago. I was a three-time world champion in Hungary. Aerobic gymnastics is huge around the world. It was practiced here (in the U.S.) in the 1980s, and then it faded away. So now, its back, because I'm here. That's my purpose, to bring this amazing sport to the U.S., and have it recognized in every state in the country.

**Q** Was it difficult since a lot of Americans have never heard of aerobic gymnastics?

**A** It's always difficult starting something new, right? But at the end of the day I'm one of those people who believes in the sport. I believe in the kids, and I believe that it's not only the sport but the mental health behind the sport that is so beneficial. The mental training behind the sport is huge. What the young athletes get out of the sport is something that nobody can ever take away from them.

**Q** Can you explain how the sport works?

**A** Yes, aerobic gymnastics is based on gymnastics, but think about just the floor routine. Don't think about the four areas of gymnastics including vault, bars etc. We only do floor competition and it's on a hardwood floor. The routines are 90 seconds, incorporating skills that are very dynamic, involving flexibility and strength. It's dance combined with gymnastics, I would say.

**Q** I understand you have already done that, and that at least one of your athletes on the World Champion team is a neighborhood boy who had never done this before?

**A** Yes, Never! No experience at all. So I can totally get them there from level zero. It's the part where the parents come in (that makes a difference). No. 1, the parents need to trust me and everybody needs to be on the same page. In order for me to deliver the program 100 percent, where I can see the kids can get to a world championship, and even win it, (the parents need to) make a big difference.

**Q** What happened when the team competed this past summer?

**A** We went to the World Championship of Aerobic Gymnastics, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona, and competed against 17 other countries in five different categories. We competed against the best teams in the world, and in all five categories we won!



*U.S. World Champion Aerobic Gymnastics Team trains at the DragonRidge Tennis and Athletic Center. The kids are looking for financial help to travel to competitions in several countries.*

**Q** Was the team nervous?

**A** Yes, the team was nervous, of course, because it's the World Championships. But I said to them what I always say, "You only need to be concerned with your own performance." I tell them every time they perform, to try to improve over the last time you performed, just 1 percent, or even a fraction of 1 percent. Don't think about the other teams, only focus on your own skill, doing your very best.

**Q** How did the team react to winning the world title?

**A** They were overjoyed! Several of the athletes said to me, "This is the best thing that has ever happened to me!" It melts my heart and it feels just magical.

**Q** As someone who knows firsthand, what does it mean to be a world champion?

**A** It means that they are the best in the whole, entire world. It gives them something that nobody will ever be able to take away from them. For me, it isn't necessarily the medals or the trophies that I think about today. It's the actual memories that were created during those days when I was doing it. Those are the things that nobody will ever be able to take away from me.

**Q** What's next?

**A** The next step is ... we got invited to various countries' national and international championships including Brazil, Australia, Canada, Portugal and China. We are trying to get to these upcoming competitions, but because we don't have any federation behind us, I'm the federation (laughs) finding the money to get there is the issue.

**Q** How can people help the team?

**A** Anyone who wants to support us can go to our website to make a contribution at [USAerobics.com](http://USAerobics.com). Also I can be reached at my email, [StephanieFurstahl@hotmail.com](mailto:StephanieFurstahl@hotmail.com). You can follow us on Instagram at [USAerobics](https://www.instagram.com/USAerobics) and on Facebook at [USAGY](https://www.facebook.com/USAGY).



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# Women's pro tennis EVENT SLATED FOR NOVEMBER

• *By Buck Wargo*

*Photos courtesy of Henderson Tennis Open*

Women's professional tennis is coming to MacDonald Highlanders in November, and the tournament will be broadcast nationally on the Tennis Channel.

The Henderson Tennis Open will take place at DragonRidge Country Club in partnership with the city of Henderson beginning with qualifying matches on Nov. 4 and concluding with the finals Nov. 10.

The Henderson Tennis Open is a U.S. Tennis Association pro circuit women's \$60,000 event that is part of the USTA Competitive Pathway series that takes place throughout the nation. These tournaments provide a pathway for aspiring tennis players and established professionals to earn Women's Tennis Association (WTA) points that can lead to competing in the world's largest tennis tournaments, including the Australian, French and U.S. Open and Wimbledon, according to Jean-Francois Blais, the tournament's director.





## Women's pro tennis CONTINUED

Last year's winner, Belinda Bencic of Switzerland reached the semifinals of this year's U.S. Open. She defeated defending champion Naomi Osaka at the U.S. Open before losing to eventual champion Bianca Andreescu.

R.J. Tessier, the tennis and athletic center director at DragonRidge said the tournament is leasing their facility to hold the event.

"It's huge for us and think of the publicity that we'll have," Tessier said. "It's national exposure. (It's) something we wanted to do for years, and our members will be impressed by the presentation that we're going to give them. There will be a food court and VIP boxes built around the stadium."

DragonRidge has five courts at its tennis center (four that will be used for matches) and two at a nearby park that will be used for practice. Bleachers will be added to the stadium court to create about 300 seats. Other courts will have some bleachers, as well.

The tournament was previously held for 10 years at the Red Rock Country Club in Summerlin before moving to Henderson under a new management team.

Blais said when they learned that tourney wasn't happening, the USTA reached out to them because his group has been running a men's pro tourney every fall at UNLV.

"They were going to move it to a different city until someone could take it over," Blais said. "We reached out to DragonRidge because it's a good facility and beautiful country club. It has a similar vibe to Red Rock, but it's better in my opinion."

Blais said the players come from around the world, including Switzerland, England, Bulgaria, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Norway, Italy, Canada, Slovakia, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Egypt, Poland, Kazakhstan, as well as the United States. The field won't be known until two or three weeks before the tourney.

The tournament attracts about 70 up-and coming tennis professionals with world rankings of approximately No. 100 to No. 300. Many of the women who will compete in the tournament have recently played at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. The main draw will feature 32 singles players and 16 doubles teams, with another 24 singles players entering in the qualifying rounds. A total of 68 matches will be played over seven days.

There's no cost of entry for the weekday matches, but there will be a fee on Friday, Saturday and Sunday that starts at \$10 on Friday for general admission that elevates to a higher price over the weekend. There will be a VIP area for sponsors for VIP packages that will be sold that will include a lounge with food and drinks on the final day of the tourney.

*The tournament is looking for sponsors and volunteers. The tournament's charity is the Inspiring Children Foundation.*

*For more information, go to [www.hendersontennisopen.com](http://www.hendersontennisopen.com).*



# Real ESTATE REPORT

• *By Kristen Routh-Silberman*

The luxury housing market slowed a bit this summer. The hot months are generally a slow time, as luxury buyers are out of town, escaping the desert heat. I thought it might be different this summer because we had such a late spring, but it was slow as usual.

So far in 2019, 366 luxury homes in the valley have sold for more than \$1 million. Out of that number, 257 homes were in guard-gated neighborhoods.

MacDonald Highlands recorded 30 sales of this total. That accounts for 8 percent of the overall luxury market (including non-gated) and 11 percent market share for guard-gated luxury home sales.

Of the 366 luxury homes sold so far this year, The Ridges had 40 sales; Anthem Country Club, 25; Southern Highlands, 24; Red Rock Country Club, 29; Seven Hills, 14; Lake Las Vegas, seven; and Ascaya did not record any sales.

The Las Vegas Valley continues to sell more lots for custom homes. So far this year, 17 lots have sold in MacDonald Highlands and another four are in escrow and pending. The Ridges sold five lots. Southern Highlands sold four lots; and Ascaya has sold two lots.

In MacDonald Highlands, plans are being finalized for more exciting projects to roll out for 2020. Stay tuned for more news on luxury residential projects from Blue Heron, Christopher Homes and Richard Luke Architects in MacDonald Highlands.

Finally, we are very excited that MacDonald Highlands will host the first Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance (Think Pebble Beach) on Oct. 26. In addition to all the cars on the 18th green, we will be hosting open houses. Plan on enjoying and seeing the best of the best homes that MacDonald Highlands has to offer. Go to [www.lasvegasconcours.com](http://www.lasvegasconcours.com) for Car Show tickets and stop by the Sotheby's booth for a great luxury home experience. Bring your friends and spread the word!

MacDonald Highlands is a luxury country club lifestyle that is firmly entrenched as the top luxury residential community in Henderson. Together, let's keep it that way.

Live an inspired life,

*Kristen Routh-Silberman*

MacDonald Highlands Master Listing Agent  
Synergy | Sotheby's International Realty





*The most expensive new home that closed during the first six months of 2019 was a 7,500 square-foot home with six bedrooms for \$3.99 million in MacDonald Highlands at 661 Falcon Cliff Court.*

## *MacDonald Highlands*

# HOME TO NO. 1 MANSION

Richard Luke Collection estate nets top sale mid-2019

• *By Buck Wargo*

*Photos from Richard Luke Five Star Collection*

MacDonald Highlands continues to play a big role in the new home luxury market in the Las Vegas Valley and has several projects on tap to expand on it.

Home Builders Research reported that through the first six months of 2019, MacDonald Highlands had the second-most new home closings of \$1 million or more in master-planned communities at 25. Only the much larger master plan of Summerlin at 55 ranked higher.

MacDonald Highlands had four of the 10 highest-priced new homes sold during the first six months and eight of the top 20.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported famous video gamers Alia Shelesh, who goes by SSSniperwolf and Evan Young, known as Evan Sausage bought a \$2.9 million home in MacDonald Highlands. The home measures 5,000 square feet and has three bedrooms and four baths and Shelesh talked about her new home on YouTube.

The most expensive new home that closed during the first six months of 2019 was a 7,500-square-foot home with six bedrooms for \$3.99 million in MacDonald Highlands. It's part of the Richard Luke Five Star Collection at MacDonald Highlands, which had four new home sales in the top 10 in mid-2019.

The Richard Luke Collection, is a group of 20 luxury homes constructed by five different builders. It debuted in December. They are single- and two-story homes that range from 5,000 square feet to 7,000 square feet with listing prices of \$3 million to \$5 million, according to Kristen Routh-Silberman, MacDonald Highlands master listing agent and Realtor with Synergy Sotheby's International Realty. There are plans to add another 15 to 20 that will be announced this fall.

The homes feature class pocket walls and open concept designs, Routh-Silberman said. They feature theaters, game rooms, wine bars, offices and a wine cellar. There's also infinity-edge pools. The homes have 15-foot ceilings, European flooring and contemporary counterparts, she said.

"We have done our research of who the buyer is, what they want and the price point, and we have the knock-out views," Routh-Silberman said. "You couldn't sell them fast enough."

Christopher Homes had four on the top 20 sales list. It was all part of the Vu collection of town homes at MacDonald Highlands, which launched in 2017, and has sold 78 of 110 of the units that start in the low \$900,000s and can surpass \$2 million.

Home Builders Research reported that there were 44 custom lot sales in MacDonald Highlands in the first six months of 2019 to lead the way in the valley.



*The Master Bathroom features a soaking tub.*



*A wine wall is just off of the kitchen.*



*The master bedroom.*



*The home has views of the strip.*



Homebuilder Blue Heron and Target Construction will do a joint project to build 45 new custom luxury homes priced in the \$2 million to \$4 million range called Dragon Rock.

“We have never seen anything like it in MacDonald Highlands,” Routh-Silberman said. “It’s in a hidden valley surrounded by rocks where nobody has lived, and there are no other houses in the canyon. It’s right under the dragon formation. They will be showstoppers.”

Routh-Silberman said MacDonald Highlands has completed a sale of lots to Christopher Homes to build Vu Pointe, and homes are getting framed. The homes will 2,800 square feet to 4,000 square feet and range between \$1 million to \$2 million, she said. Some five homes of 71, which have been planned, have been sold. There are eight homes in the first release, according to Erika Geiser, vice president of sales and marketing for Christopher Homes.

Sales have begun for Vu Estates, 17 single-story homesites ranging from 3,600 square feet to 5,500 square feet and priced from \$1.25 million and with lot premiums the can surpass \$2 million. Eight have sold and are under construction, Geiser said.

“It’s going great,” Geiser said. “The luxury market is going well because of consumer confidence in the Las Vegas market and influx of out-of-state buyers, especially from the California market.”

Geiser said 40 percent of all of their sales for their three projects are out of state and half of those from California.

A Blue Heron show home that measures more than 13,000 square feet remains under construction and valued at more than \$20 million. On the hillside above it, Blue Heron is doing a seven-home community called Equinox with homes that range in price from \$4 million to \$8 million.

## By the numbers

- Macdonald Highlands: 4 of top 10 Las Vegas luxury new home sales mid-2020
- All 4 were Richard Luke Five Star Collection
- 4 of top 20 were Christopher Homes
- Custom lots sold in MacDonald Highlands - 44





# CHEF *Eric Castillo* CRAFTS NEW MENU expands restaurant hours

• By Buck Wargo

Photos by Charlotte Evans



Executive Chef Eric Castillo and club General Manager Larry Wright.



DragonRidge held Sushi and Sake night at the club Sept. 5.



Chefs prepare sushi in the DragonRidge kitchen.

As the temperatures cool in Las Vegas, the dining scene at DragonRidge Country Club heats up. Fall ushers in the busy season at the club. In anticipation, DragonRidge Country Club Executive Chef Eric Castillo has some culinary surprises in the works.

“We expand our staff for the fall, we expand our restaurant hours, and most importantly we redesign and amp up the menus,” Castillo said.

The upscale Montrose restaurant at DragonRidge will be open three nights a week this fall: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5-9 p.m., offering cutting-edge creations and seasonal favorites. (During the summer it was closed on Thursdays with shorter hours.)

“The Montrose will introduce new and daring dishes along with extraordinary classic fare,” Castillo said. “Our goal is to ensure that sophisticated diners are inspired. We’re upgrading our meats to prime and dry-aged. The Montrose will have dry-aged rib-eye, prime New York steaks and rotating butcher’s cuts along with the fan favorite filet mignon.”

The menu in the Montrose will change monthly, which Chef Castillo notes has not been done before. Also, the Montrose will adopt a steakhouse emphasis, offering four varieties of steaks ala carte.

“Side options will include roasted potatoes, macaroni and cheese, roasted asparagus, creamed spinach; sides that give a steakhouse feel.”

The Montrose also will run weekly fish specials, such as scallops, fresh oysters, sashimi and other delicacies that give dining in the Montrose an elevated feel.

“Oysters will be sourced from the Pacific Northwest,” Castillo said. “It’s all about upgrading the quality to a higher level. Those who prefer a mouthwatering chicken entrée with traditional appetizers, soups and salads will not be disappointed.”

The Montrose will make its own pasta in house, including favorites such as lobster ravioli and a pappardelle Bolognese. Another high-end culinary offering in the Montrose will be beef tartare.

Reservations are recommended in the Montrose at 702-614-4444.

The Dragon Grille, which offers more casual ambiance and weekly specials, will be open with extended hours. Weekly dinner specials in the Dragon Grille will be served Wednesday through Friday from 5-8 p.m. The operating hours of the Grille will expand allowing members to dine from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday; and from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. (Reservations are not required in the Dragon Grille.) The weekend brunch specials have increased weekend traffic in the Dragon Grille.

“The chefs get to have a lot of fun and put inspired twists on food with big, bold flavors and international flair,” Castillo said.

Weekend brunch specials will still be served in the Dragon Grille Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The ONYX Bar at DragonRidge Country Club will be expanding its fall hours to accommodate increased golf traffic and televised sporting events. This fall, it will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights from 5-9 p.m. On Friday’s there will often be live music in the ONYX. The ONYX features a bar menu with popular appetizers such as chicken wings, nachos and pizza, but diners also can order high-end dishes and appetizers from the Montrose.



# DragonRidge MEMBER EVENTS



*More than 2,000 people attended the MacDonald Highlander's Fourth of July party. The event included fireworks, food trucks, giant water slide, dunk tank, games and live music by the Lucky Devils Band*



Photos by Bill Hughes

## OCTOBER

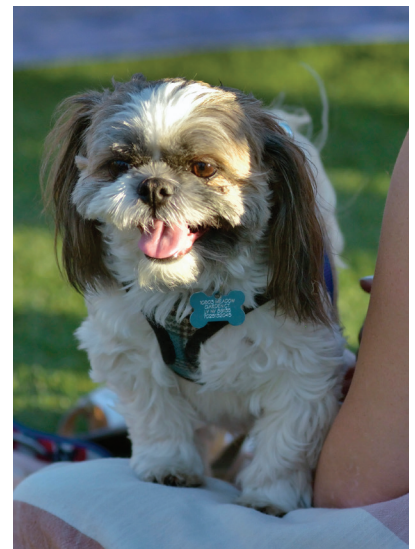
- Oct. 6, 5-8 p.m., The DragonRidge Welcome Back LUAU
- Oct. 6, 9-10 a.m., Bloody Mary Bar at the Dog Park, Pooches Welcome. Event open to HOA.
- Oct. 25, 5-8 p.m., Halloween Costume Contest & Party in the ONYX
- Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Las Vegas Concours d'Elegance, [lasvegasconcours.com](http://lasvegasconcours.com).
- Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m., Halloween Kids Party at the Fitness Center
- Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., LVCE Golf Tourny

## NOVEMBER

- Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m., Fall Fest on the Driving Range, event open to HOA
- Nov. 4-11, The Henderson Open at the DragonRidge Tennis & Athletic Center; tickets at 702-407-0045; USTA Women's Singles & Doubles, televised on Tennis Channel
- Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, club open
- Nov. 17, noon- 5 p.m., couples 18 & dine
- Nov. 28, 8 a.m., Turkey Trot 5K Run & 1K Walk. Event is open to HOA and community.
- Nov. 28, noon- 3 p.m., Thanksgiving feast in the ballroom

## DECEMBER

- Dec. 8, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Breakfast with Santa in the ballroom
- Dec. 15, noon-5 p.m., Couples 18 & Dine
- Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., DragonRidge New Year's Eve Party





*Kids enjoyed the last few days of summer  
break during Family Fun Day at  
DragonRidge Country Club on Aug. 10*

*Photos by Charlotte Evans*





*On Sept. 7, underprivileged Las Vegas youths enjoyed a summer pool party and poolside barbecue buffet at DragonRidge Country Club. There was a giant water*



*slide and a balloon artist was donated by Celebrate Kids. The party was sponsored by Casa de Luz whose mission is to “bring light, love and resources” to people in need. The charity, Goodie Two Shoes, supplied new shoes for the children who are able to pick out the styles they like, and be fitted before enjoying their day at the pool.*



*DragonRidge members hiked to Mary Jane Falls at Mount Charleston on Aug. 24*



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# Numbers TO REMEMBER

## MacDonald Highlands Real Estate Office

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Cell: 702-467-7100

macdonaldhighlands@synergysir.com

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## Valle Verde Main - 702-614-9330

Stephanie Gate - 702-434-4169

## Main Clubhouse - 702-614-4444

552 South Stephanie Street

Henderson, NV 89012

## Main Tennis & Athletic Center - 702-407-0045

1400 Foothills Village Drive Henderson, NV 89012

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## Executive Chef - Eric Castillo

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## Superintendent - Rick Friedemann

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## Reception Desk Direct

702-835-8140, Reception@DragonRidgeCC.com

## Golf Shop - 702-835-8144

## Dragon Grille - 702-816-4348

## Onyx Bar & Lounge - 702-835-8151

## Snack Bar - 702-835-8150

f ..... www.facebook.com/DragonRidgeCC

@ ..... www.instagram.com/DragonRidgeGolf

🐦 ..... www.twitter.com/DragonRidgeGolf

## FALL HOURS 2019

Clubhouse (Closed Mondays)

### Dragon Grille:

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Closed Monday

### Onyx Bar Hours

Wednesday - Friday: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00pm

Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m.

Half Priced Drinks at Happy Hour

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Featuring Limited Food Specials

### Montrose Dining

Wednesday - Friday: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Reservations Recommended

(702) 614-4444

reception@dragonridgecc.com

### Tee Times Start: 6:30 a.m.

### Golf Shop: Tuesday - Sunday: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Tennis & Athletic Center

Monday - Friday: 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Tennis Court Hours

Monday - Sunday: 6:00 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Child Care Hours (with 24 hour notice)

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Utilities

Henderson Utilities - 702-267-5900

NV Energy - 877-860-6020

Cable (Cox) - 702-966-2290

### Medical Services

Emergency - 911

St. Rose Medical Services - 702-564-2622

### Henderson City

City of Henderson - 702-267-2323

Animal Control - 702-267-4970

Parks and Recreation - 702-267-4000

Chamber of Commerce - 702-565-8951

### Other

Clark County Sheriff - 702-828-3231

U.S. Postal Service (89012) - 702-837-1624

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