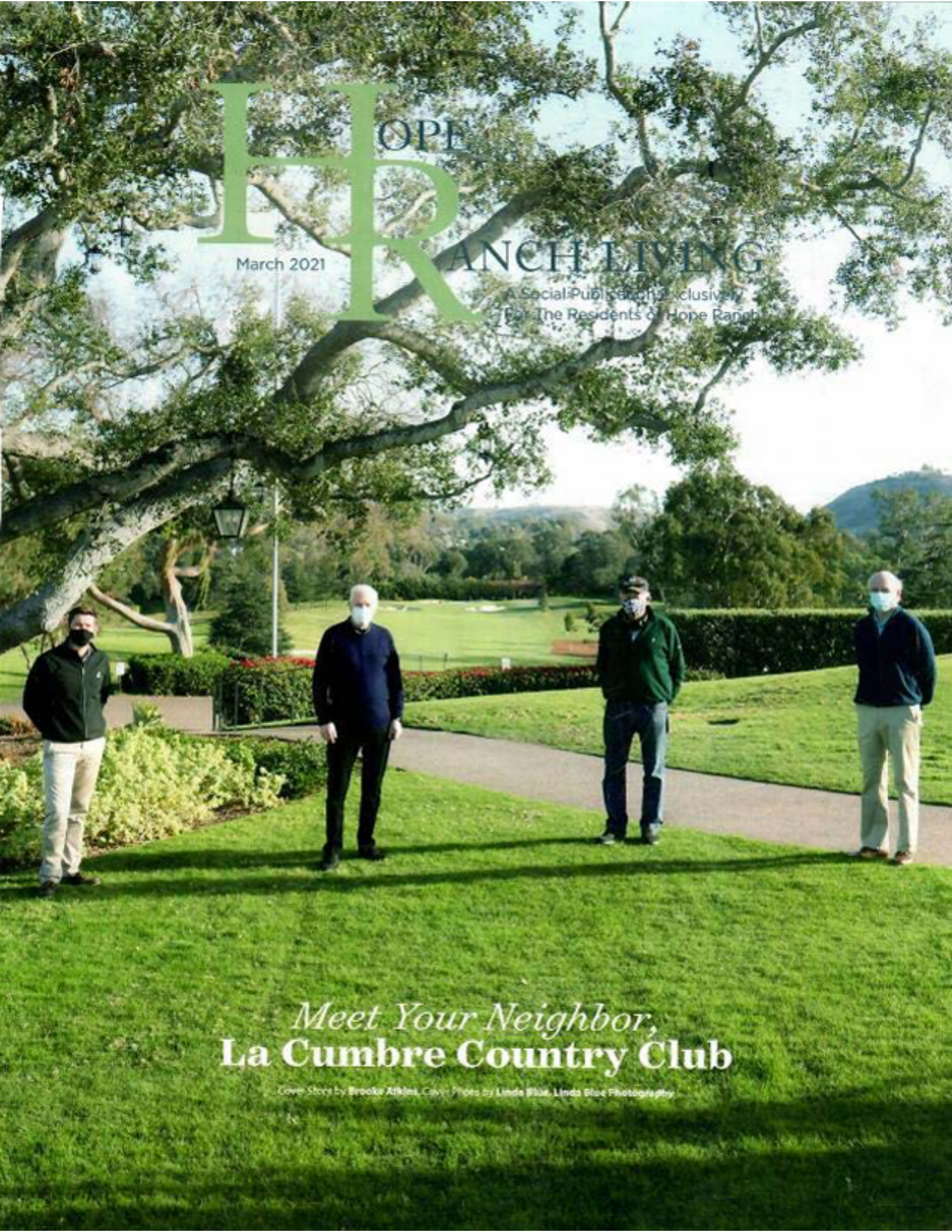




HOPE RANCH LIVING

March 2021

A Social Publication Exclusively
For The Residents of Hope Ranch

Meet Your Neighbor, **La Cumbre Country Club**

Cover Story by Brooke Attkiss, Cover Photos by Linda Blue, Linda Blue Photography



meet your neighbor,

La Cumbre Country Club

Managing a Club in the Time of Covid

By Brooke Atkins, Communications Director at La Cumbre Country Club

La Cumbre Country Club Golf Course, open during the pandemic. Photo Courtesy of La Cumbre Country Club

2020 was undoubtedly a challenging year for everyone, particularly for businesses. It required anyone and everyone to think fast, pivot, and respond to community demands. Private clubs have been an oasis for those looking to get outside. And while La Cumbre Country Club had to adjust much of its services related to indoor dining and fitness, they found a will and a way to make it work for both their membership and staff. So how do you manage a social club during a time of social distance? Very carefully and with a great deal of care for our members.

Golf

The Santa Barbara Department of Public Health recommends getting outside and exercising, and activities such as golf are on the list. The management at La Cumbre has had to create new ways of playing the social sport such as mandatory mask wear before entering the course, socially distant play, sanitized carts after each round, and implementation of new “touchless” pins. This creative

solution, set in place by our golf course superintendent, Wayne Mills, enables any golfer to remove a ball from a cup by touching their putter to the hook and gently lifting upward. The convex cup inset lets the ball fall out without any skin-to-cup or skin-to-flagstick contact whatsoever.

Although we have been unable to welcome golfing guests during this pandemic, our members have flocked to the course to enjoy the outdoors and something close to normalcy. Rounds played in the fall of 2020 were up 25% over the previous year.

When it comes to managing the La Cumbre course, COVID couldn’t stop Wayne and his team from keeping the course grounds pristine. More native plants have been added, reducing water usage while increasing the nesting of indigenous birds, bees, and wildlife. Speaking of water, La Cumbre just signed a contract to access reclaimed water from the City of Santa Barbara. The reclaimed water will provide some

assurances of water during future droughts. This agreement with the City and La Cumbre Mutual Water District has been a culmination of over ten years of work by the club. It will ensure a secure, cost-effective future for the club’s water supplies in an environmentally friendly manner.

La Cumbre celebrated re-certifying as a National Audubon International Golf Course in 2021. We are one of the 71 courses in California (out of 921 total) with this designation and have been a member since 2017. Wayne was also awarded the second runner up in the 2020 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards by Golf Digest for Healthy Land Stewardship. This is the second year to win this prestigious award and a massive statement regarding the La Cumbre course’s environmental quality and care.

Dining Services

In March, the club had to shut down much of its facilities, including its two dining outlets. Take-out services



from Left, Robert Lowes, Tom Carey and Russ Werner outside of main dining/event area at La Cumbre Country Club. Photo by Linda Blue, Linda Blue Photography



Swimming Pool at La Cumbre Country Club, offering lane swimming by reservation, family swimming, and socially distant water aerobics several days a week during the pandemic. Photo by Peter Malinowski

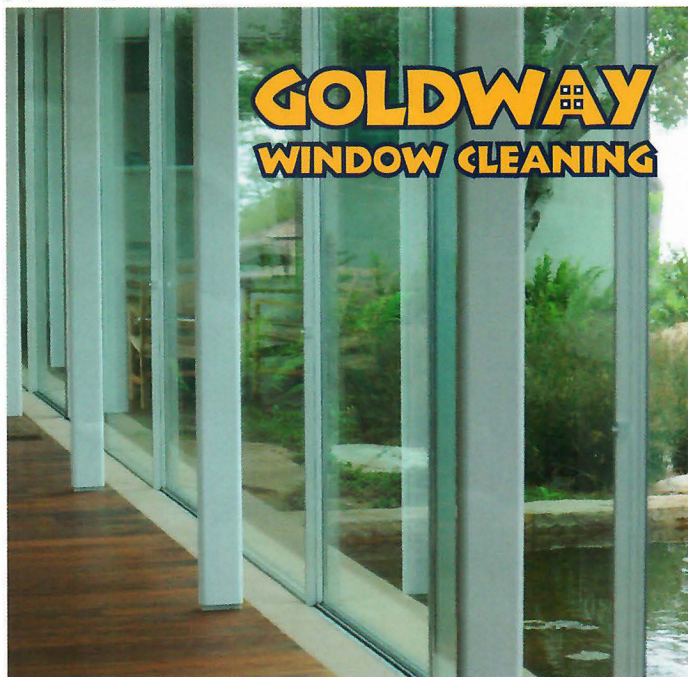


Touchless Golf Pin. Photo by Linda Blue, Linda Blue Photography

were the only viable option. The club created a Farmer's Market menu to provide a unique offering to the membership that gave options to order grocery items such as fruit, dairy, and meat and have them readily packaged and picked up at the club. This service alleviated the need to go out and shop the already empty shelves we all remember last Spring. Chef Eric Widmer, who has been with us for 26 years, began creating a custom to-go menu, which he is still adapting, to pique members' culinary interests.

La Cumbre's General Manager, Eric VanderWerff, who also happens to be a Level 3 Sommelier, created a club Bottle Shoppe during quarantine, a successful program. Members can shop for their favorite wines and liquors at competitive prices to enjoy with their sumptuous club meals to-go.

Holidays have always meant popular, well-attended events at the club, but we needed a new approach the past year. Take-out menus – full meals, single entrees, sides, desserts, beverages – all were offered to give members flexibility in planning their holiday celebrations. These large productions take a lot of strategic thinking by Chef Eric and his crew but provide so much joy during these times of stress.



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During the windows when dining has briefly reopened, we are fortunate enough to have space poolside and around the clubhouse to accommodate socially distant dining.

Fitness, Swim and Tennis

Again, getting outdoors and exercising is of great importance, and La Cumbre was ready to make fitness and swimming available to its members in the safest way possible. A great amount of cardio and strength training equipment was brought outdoors under both tarps and a new outdoor fitness deck. We now offer our members personal training via Zoom and hope to restart outdoor classes like yoga and core stability.

Although members are not currently lounging poolside, we still offer lane swimming by reservation, family swimming, and socially distant water aerobics several days a week.

Tennis has also been a welcome reprieve and a way for members to get out and get exercise. While we cannot currently welcome league play against other teams, the members have enjoyed playing against each other in friendly matches.

Leadership

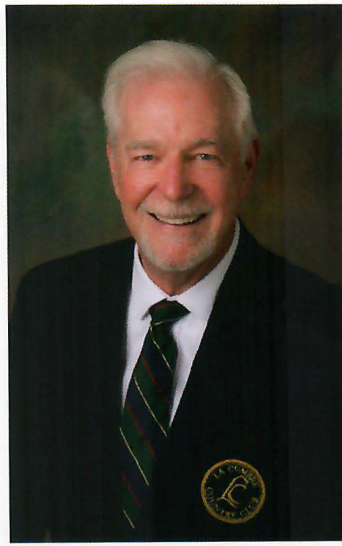
Tom Carey and Robert Lowes, both Hope Ranch residents and the club's 2020 and 2021 Board presidents, respectively, have taken on the task of leading the club during a time of unprecedented challenges. Certainly, it wasn't what Tom expected when he took on the role of president in December 2019. Along with his other goals for the year, he also had to oversee the health and safety of a large membership and staff.

Tom says his biggest challenge as president was "trying to balance both the club's economic issues and membership needs while evaluating our responsibility to the community and staff given the sometimes-conflicting COVID regulations." There are always highlights with any challenges, and he said his were "working with Eric and knowing we were the 'go-to club' for setting the standard during this time. We also managed to keep the golf course in pristine condition." Tom said that one of the most consistent comments from members was that they felt the club gave them a respite from the pandemic.

Russ Werner, another Ranch resident, who served as the Membership Chair last year and is on the La Cumbre Board of Directors and the Hope Ranch HOA Board of Directors, referred to the club as being a "sanctuary" for its membership in 2020. Russ said, "Santa Barbara, and Hope Ranch, in particular, has become a preferred destination for not only people from throughout the country but increasingly as a second-primary home for Californians from LA and the Bay Area. Particularly as remote work has become a new feature of our changing world." He continues, "La Cumbre saw a notable increase in applications for membership during this difficult time. The feedback our Membership Committee gets from applicants regarding the condition of the course, the excellence of the facilities, and the



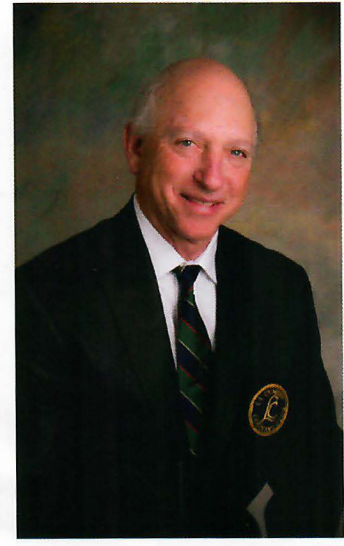
Robert Lowes, Hope Ranch resident and 2021 La Cumbre Country Club Board President



Tom Carey, Hope Ranch resident and 2020 La Cumbre Country Club Board President and 2021 Committee Chair



Eric VanderWerff, La Cumbre Country Club General Manager



Russ Werner, Hope Ranch Resident and La Cumbre Country Club Board Director

overall good feeling at the club has been gratifying to experience.”

Bob Lowes, the club’s current Board President expressed the following, “Most importantly, I want to thank Tom Carey for his time, his patience, and his leadership steering the club through an exceptionally difficult year with the pandemic, various health restrictions, and business disruptions.” He continued, “Building on Tom and Russ’s comments, I believe that people feel safer and more secure at our club than out in public venues. We are always trying to help and look out for our course and facilities and our membership, staff, and families. Hopefully, with the vaccines starting, everyone will continue to stay safe, be patient, and help.

Regarding the club’s plans at this time, Bob said, “Through all the shutdowns, we have continued to work on two important initiatives for our club: (1) water conservation and (2) clubhouse refurbishment. For water, we have continued to accelerate our course turf reduction in favor of native plants while pursuing reclaimed water. For the clubhouse, we have initiated Zoom focus groups with our members to identify what they would like to see and use here at the club.

In closing, La Cumbre has survived several wars, recessions, depressions, and now a global pandemic. It has always been with our leadership’s commitment, a dedicated staff, a strong sense of responsibility from our members and our community at large that has allowed La Cumbre not only to survive but to prosper.

www.lacumbrecc.org communications@lacumbrecc.org

Wednesday through Sunday 3/24-3/28

« To Go »
LA CUMBRE
COUNTRY CLUB
— SANTA BARBARA —

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Soup & Salads

☐ Soup du Jour Wed - Guinness French Onion Soup Thur - Tuscan Tomato Soup Fri - New England Clam Chowder Sat - Lentil Soup Sun - Curried Corn Soup Salsa Cream	☐ Caesar Salad Romaine hearts, spiced croutons, and Caesar dressing
☐ Mini Wedge Salad Iceberg lettuce, bleu cheese crumbles, scallions, Heirloom cherry tomatoes, bleu cheese dressing	☐ Mache Salad with Prosciutto and Ciliegine Mozzarella Balsamic vinaigrette, with toasted pistachio and chives

Main Courses

☐ Hawaiian Rice Bowl Stir fry vegetables with sticky rice, drizzled with teriyaki sauce Chicken / Shrimp / Salmon	 PAIR WITH ROMBAUER Los Cerrillos, CA 2019
☐ Eggplant Parmesan Panko crusted, confit garlic ricotta, mozzarella cheese, broccolini, San Marzano sauce, and shaved parmesan	
☐ BBQ Baby Back Ribs Mashed potato, creamed corn, and spicy coleslaw	
☐ Pistachio Crusted Local Halibut Served over saffron rice with barberries and herbs drizzled with chermoula and buttered broccolini.	
☐ Beef Bourguignon Beef stew with mushroom, carrots, pearl onions, and oven-roasted peewee potato	
☐ Grilled Filet Mignon Mashed potato, sautéed brussels sprouts, carrots and morel sauce	

Desserts ☐ Chocolate Chip Cookies (2) (1dz) ☐ Cherry Pie ☐ Key Lime ☐ Carrot Cake	Frozen To Go ☐ Beef Bourguignon ☐ Chicken Enchiladas ☐ Chicken Pot Pie ☐ Goulash
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The To Go Menu available at La Cumbre Country Club during the pandemic