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Relaxed, cordial describe neighborhood's residents

Linda Meierhoffer

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Culturally diverse, laid-back and cordial come to mind when describing the Indian Canyons neighborhood.

Originally built in the 1960s, most of our real estate has been refurbished to reflect its modernistic roots, and those who live here have chosen this place not only for its distinctive architecture but also for its unmistakably welcoming vibe.

Roughly bounded by Laverne Way, Murray Canyon Drive, Caliente Road and Calle Palo Fierro, our neighborhood's name changed last year from Canyon Country Club to Indian Canyons to reflect the new ownership of the 18-hole, William Bell-designed championship Indian Canyons North golf course that our homes surround. Name changes aside, much of our neighborhood remains the same.

Dog walkers, joggers and bicyclists still populate the palm tree-lined streets, snowbirds on a stroll continue to stop and chat with professionals who work in the Coachella Valley or fly here from their high-pressure lives somewhere else, and authentic mid-century modern homes stand fashionably next to tile-roofed Southwestern ranches.

The stories of movie stars with connections here are more than urban legend. In the early 1960s, Frank Sinatra founded a golf tournament at the former Canyon Country Club to benefit desert charities. Doris Day lived here in the late '60s following the death of her husband. Fess Parker and Chuck Connors, famous for their roles as frontiersmen, owned homes in the neighborhood. Richard Gere roared up in a Mercedes 450 SL to a Yosemite Drive address for a scene in the movie "American Gigolo."

The Indian Canyons Neighborhood Organization was founded in 2009 to promote social interaction among residents and to facilitate organized communication with the city of Palm Springs. Two annual meetings later, involved neighbors agree that those goals are being met.

Distinctive bright yellow and red sign blades to delineate our neighborhood are nearing installation, and key fobs have been distributed to residents who can show them at local businesses and receive discounts.

Natural desert beauty is our neighborhood's trademark. We look out our picture windows to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, like bulky chocolate carvings during the day that dapple gold and purple at sunset, or out across Indian Canyons' lush fairways, dotted with thousands of stately palms or olive trees, to the Donald Wexler-designed golf clubhouse. Nearby, the majestic water jets of the historic Walt Disney Fountain shoot more than 100 feet into the air, reminding us that we're home.

For more information about organizing your neighborhood, visit the city's Web site at www.palmspringsneighborhoods.com or call Lee Husfeldt at (760) 323-8255.