

Bellasera Neighborhood News

February 2006

www.azbellasera.org

A CHANCE TO WIN \$100—RETURN MANAGEMENT COMPANY SURVEY INSIDE

BOARD ELECTION LOOMS, APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 20

It's that time of year - time to elect community members to serve on the Bellasera Board of Directors.

There are now four members serving on the Board (one vacancy exists) - **Paul Broad**, **Bruce Martin**, **Mike Simpson**, and **Carol Sotnick**. The terms of Directors **Broad** and **Simpson** expire in April of this year. Added to the existing vacancy, this means three members will be elected to two-year terms at the community's annual meeting on April 6.

The Bellasera community does not govern itself without the involvement of every member of the association. Many serve on committees, which advise the Board in making decisions that affect each and every resident. Associated Asset Management Company manages the day-to-day affairs of Bellasera. The Board gives direction to AAM, determines policy, and approves all expenditures exceeding \$500.

All candidates for the Board positions must be members of the Association. A candidate should have an interest in the affairs of the Bellasera Community, a desire to improve the community, the ability to work as a team member, and be able to serve a two-year term. The Board of Directors typically meets at least once a month throughout the year, A Director must be available year-round to attend all meetings, and is also required to serve on at least one standing committee.

An application form is available on our web site (www.azbellasera.org), or from the community manager's office. In order to meet publishing deadlines, applications must be returned to the association office no later than Monday, February 20.

MANAGEMENT SURVEY, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, SHOPPING CENTER

—*By Carol Sotnick, President, Bellasera Board of Directors*

Time has been going so quickly that it is hard for me to realize that we have been working with our new management company, AAM, since last August. Since we changed our management company usage with fewer hours and an administrative assistant as well as a community manager, I want to know homeowners assessment of AAM. I personally am quite pleased with the dramatic progress that we have made with AAM as our management company. But I don't want a one-sided perspective so I strongly encourage you to complete the enclosed questionnaire even if you have minimal contact with AAM. There is a drawing for a \$100 incentive to complete the questionnaire.

I am aware that Buildings & Grounds has identified what they consider areas for improvement on the part of the management company. While the committee has not always presented these concerns appropriately, the Board as always looks to its committees for counsel and advice. There will be a special Board meeting on February 21st at 3 PM to discuss B & G concerns, and all are welcome to attend this Special Board meeting.

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MEETING NOTICES

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Activities Committee will meet on **Thursday, February 2, at 10 a.m.**

Governance Committee has not scheduled a future meeting.

Building and Grounds Committee meeting date & time will be posted.

Board of Directors special meeting to address Building & Grounds issues will be on **Tuesday, February 21, at 3 p.m.**

Modifications Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14, at 5:30 p.m.** Modification applications are due no later than the Monday before the meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee will meet on **Thursday, February 16 at 3 p.m.**

Communications Committee will meet **Tuesday, February 21, at 1:30 p.m.** in the club-

****MANAGER'S CORNER****

—By Patti Smith, Bellasera Community Manager

It's hard to believe we'll soon be at a half year with Bellasera -- the time flies by! In the past 6 months, Sheila & I have been closely working together as a team, however, many homeowners have asked us in the past who handles what, where, how, and the sometimes, "why". I thought I would give our homeowners some examples of our duties and responsibilities.

Sheila handles the day-to-day administrative aspects, such as the rental agreements with the clubhouse, Architectural requests, answering various homeowner questions, and the administrative part of the violation process. She also works heavily with preparing documents such as the Board packets for our monthly (and sometimes bi-monthly BOD meetings), and attends every meeting to take minutes and be in-the-know of community involvements.

I work on the community inspections, incoming community bids and coordination of work with the vendors — everything from landscaping maintenance to pool maintenance.

Though we handle specific functions, we also work very closely as a team alongside our helpful AAM staff at the corporate office in Phoenix, which works on financials, accounts payable, bulk mailings, etc. This is to ensure everything runs smoothly and efficiently with the Management and Association. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please let Sheila or me know as we are in constant communication with one another. The e-mail address to reach us both is **manager@azbellasera.org**.

Now, on to business and updates...

We are thrilled that the clubhouse renovations are underway. During "construction", we researched and contacted several alternative fitness facilities for homeowners looking for an interim alternative location for their workout. This information was posted at the clubhouse for people to choose from.

Many homeowners have asked us for recommendations on reliable vendors that have performed work within the community's homes. We are happy to assist in referrals for vendors. Please e-mail **manager@azbellasera.org** for recommendations. Additionally, there is a white binder in the clubhouse (in the niche by the main entrance doors) that has business cards homeowners have placed there from past work done on their property. It is quite helpful as there is no better resource than the homeowners themselves.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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VALENTINE COCKTAIL PARTY

Will be held in the clubhouse on **Saturday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.** Sign-up is required by February 6. This is a catered affair with no cost to residents. The party is limited to 70 people. If you sign-up and need to cancel, please cross out your name and write "canc" in case there is a waiting list. Come out for a fun, social night (w/or w/o your sweetheart) and BYOB.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 16 at Cantina Laredo in the Promenade, at FLW and Scottsdale Road. Lunch is at 12:00 noon, meet at the clubhouse at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool. Sign-up by Feb 14.

ESTATE JEWELRY PRESENTATION

Monday, February 20 at 11:00 a.m., a presentation in the clubhouse on the History of Jewelry from experts at Hyde Park Jewelers at the Biltmore. They will explain the value of estate jewelry. If you have jewelry you wish to have appraised and sell, you are welcome to attend this event. **There will be a complimentary lunch** following the presentation. For information, please call Sheila Lavin at (480) 473-0348 by February 13.

DANCE LESSONS WITH GABRIELLE:

Remember how much fun residents had in December? Gabrielle is now offering group lessons in the clubhouse. Starting on **Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.**, and every 1st and 3rd Friday night through May (not March 17, but March 24). Payment of \$12 per person for an hour class each week is required for sign-up of 6 classes. This is \$72 each. She will teach Ballroom, Latin or any other dance requested. Please call Sheila Lavin at (480) 473-0348 by February 12 if interested.

BOOK CLUB

Meets **Wednesday, February 15, 7 p.m.** Poetry Night - come share your favorite poem.

GOLF

Tuesday, February 7, at Vistancia at Trilogy; **Monday, February 13**, at Tatum Ranch; **Tuesday, February 21**, at Dove Valley; and **Tuesday, February 28**, at Dove Valley. Anyone interested in playing on any of those dates, please contact **Ellen Bornstein**, 480-575-9848, or e-mail embornstein7@att.net.

HIKING

Two hikes scheduled--twice as much fun! **Monday, February 6** hike one of the many trails in the Tortilla Flats/Superstition Mountains area. This 3 mile up and back moderate hike takes you to the Massacre Grounds in the Superstition Mountains. A bit of history tells us this is where the Apaches attacked miners from Mexico employed by the Peralta family as they were taking as much gold ore out of the area as they could before it became Arizona Territory of the U.S. True or not, it provides foundation for tales of the Lost Dutchman Mine. **Monday, February 27** Camelback Mountain Cholla trail to the saddle. Hint: Build up your quads and calves for this one. As always bring plenty of water, sunscreen, proper hiking gear. Plan on stopping for lunch after both hikes. Meet at the clubhouse at 9:00 am the day of the hike. For further information contact Vivian Kurtz, 575-1391, or e-mail Roy312@cox.net.

WATER AEROBICS

Water aerobics continues on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon during the winter months. Water's warm and there's always a great turnout. If you wish to join the group, you may borrow the DVD which shows all the underwater moves. Call Janet Biondo, 480-488-0259, for further information.

REMINDERS...

—To reserve the clubhouse massage room, e-mail manager@azbellasera.org.

—A Bellasera homeowner needs to be present on each tennis court unless there is a special event. Please notify the Manager's office for reserving a special tennis event.

COMING IN MARCH...

Thursday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the clubhouse: Bunco again. Singles and couples are encouraged to participate. Bunco is a simple, fun game played with dice. Five dollars will be collected for prize money. Dessert and coffee will be served.



FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

By Pauline Marx, Arizona Master Gardener

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February brings us Valentine's Day and, perhaps, thoughts of roses. As it happens, February is a good month to pay attention to the roses in your garden as well as general fertilizer, pruning and watering needs.

Roses

Bare root roses should be planted by mid-month while container grown roses can be planted until early spring. Check and be sure that they have been in the container long enough for new roots to have been formed and were not simply bare root roses moved to a container recently.

Established roses can be fertilized around mid-month which is weeks before a target bloom date of April 1. Some gardeners wait until the first growth has reached 2 inches in length before applying fertilizer. Any necessary pruning should be finished by mid-month.

Fertilizer

Some general rules/guidelines for fertilizers:

- The three numbers on fertilizer packages refer to the percent of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in the product.
- Only apply fertilizers when plants are actively growing or it will be washed away before they can use it.
- Don't fertilize frost-tender plants until danger of frost is over, usually early to mid-March.
- Apply fertilizers carefully. Too much fertilizer can cause salt burn and too little can cause nutrient deficiency problems.
- Water both the day before and immediately after applying granular fertilizers to reduce the chance of salt burn.

Fertilize deciduous fruit trees with nitrogen when they leaf out. Mature citrus should be fertilized 2-3 times per year, in February, May and July with 1/3 to 1/2 of actual nitrogen per feeding.

Pruning/Watering

Finish pruning non-native deciduous shade trees, deciduous fruit trees and grapes by mid-month. Prune frost sensitive citrus after they begin to leaf out, if needed. As a general rule, citrus needs to be pruned only if there are aberrant branches ruining the shape of the tree.

Continue to water citrus and landscape plants deeply once every 3 to 4 weeks unless rain is adequate (which it hasn't been) to provide freeze protection.

Did you know that Native peoples planted by the signs of nature? When mesquite trees began to leaf out in late February/early March, it was time to plant crops. So, prepare your garden soil for spring planting. Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and native plants can develop root systems before the heat hits.

Pests

Aphids- These are cool season insects found on the growing tips of many annual plants and shrubs where they suck the sap. Hose aphids off or spray them with soapy water.

Add 1 teaspoon to 1 Tablespoon of non concentrated dish detergent (don't use citrus-based soaps) to 1 gallon of water. Before spraying the entire plant, test a few leaves for leaf burn.

Rabbits- Are they eating up your plants? Some plants to avoid are British ruellia, dwarf ruellia, bush morning glory, hearts and flowers and ice plant. They are both tasty and a good source of water which is what the rabbits are after. However, there are some plants that they don't find very appealing. These are bur-sage, chapparal sage, golden fleece daisy, creosote bush, euphorbia rigida (gopher plant), rosemary, and turpentine bush.

You can protect ornamental plants that are appealing to rabbits with chicken wire for the first year after transplanting. Maintain a schedule of deep, infrequent watering and once they are established, rabbits feeding on them should not be a problem.

(Questions about plants? Call me at 575-0404 or mail me at PlantPerson@prodigy.net)

(MANAGEMENT SURVEY, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, SHOPPING CENTER, cont. from p 1)

Karen and **Dean Husted**, **Mike Worley**, **Sandy Rooks** and I met with **Gary Pederson** and several city staff people on January 18 to discuss the landscaping and berming of Bellasera's NAOS in conjunction with the commercial development on Lone Mountain. It was the firm opinion of the city staff people that close landscaping (tree planting close to our view fences) provided the most screening and the least disruption to the NAOS. Berming would only occur in very limited areas and to enhance already existing contouring. **Gary Pederson** has submitted one plan to the city's Design Review Board (DRB) and is making several changes to his plan to obtain acceptance. Once those changes are made and the DRB has reviewed those changes, then a public meeting will be scheduled.

This column is being written before the January 30 Board meeting, but I would be remiss if I didn't urge any interested homeowners to volunteer to run for the Board. The wider participation we have on the Board, the better the contribution the Board is able to make to the community. And personally --- HELP!!

—PEOPLE OF BELLASERA—

Sandy Fox has lived in the Phoenix area for 51 years and, even though born in New York, feels as though she's almost a native. Sandy has been a journalist her entire life, writing for a daily newspaper and authoring two books. She keeps busy now as a travel agent in addition to a variety of other activities such as bridge, mah jong and sorority.

In September 1997 she was the first one to sign up and buy in this development a few months after retiring from teaching high school journalism and English for 28 years in Phoenix. To give you some background about those first months, there were about 20 people who ended up spending the night before Bellasera opened for purchase, sleeping in the desert with the coyotes! A list was posted on the trailer door, and people signed up so Del Webb knew in the morning who was first, etc. Del Webb had a couple of benches out and a few coolers with water and soda. It was very hot! Those who spent the night had a great time getting to know their future neighbors. There were no models built yet, so everything was chosen from paper drawings. (That's how Sandy bought the only three homes she's ever lived in, and they all turned out just fine!). Many of the initial cadre watched as the first phase went up with much noise and dirt surrounding them. Sandy loves it here, with all the beautiful surrounding areas and the very friendly residents.

—Another of the people who call Bellasera home. If you'd like to be included, answer the four questions posed on page one of the December 2005 newsletter. E-mail to: editor@azbellasera.org. Past newsletter issues are always available on our web site: www.azbellasera.org.

FEBRUARY 2006

			1 Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	2 Pilates 7 a.m. Activities 10 a.m.	3 Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	4
5	6 Hike—9 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. City Bulk & Brush Collec- tion Week	7 Pilates 7 a.m. Golf Poker 7 p.m.	8 Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	9 Pilates 7 a.m.	10 Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	11 Valentine Party 7 p.m.
12	13 Golf Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	14 Pilates 7 a.m. Modifications 5:30 p.m. Poker 7 p.m.	15 Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Book Club 7 p.m.	16 Pilates 7 a.m. Residents' Luncheon 12 noon B & F 3 p.m.	17 Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Dance Lessons 7 p.m.	18
19	20 Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Jewelry 11 a.m. Presidents' Day	21 Pilates 7 a.m. Golf Communications 1:30 p.m. Board 3 p.m. Poker 7 p.m.	22 Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	23 Pilates 7 a.m.	24 Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	25
26	27 Hike—9 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	28 Pilates 7 a.m. Golf Poker 7 p.m.				

GENERAL NEWS UPCOMING EVENTS

RED CROSS CPR CLASSES

The Red Cross will come to Bellasera to teach classes for the following fees:

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—Adult CPR, a 4 hour class, for \$33 per person.

—Adult CPR and first aid, a 6 hour class, for \$42 per person.

—Adult CPR, child and infant CPR and first aid, a 7 hour class, \$47 per person.

They will provide one instructor for 12 people, and require a minimum of 8 people to have a class. They also provide one manikin for every 2 people. For those interested, please contact **Maureen Simpson** at **(480) 575-7893**.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in joining this committee, which plans fun, social activities for our community, please call Sheila Lavin at (480) 473-0348.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS AVAILABLE

Volunteers who were unable to attend the volunteer event on January 15 can pick up their certificate and mug at the Clubhouse Office during normal business hours until April 15th.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

Long time Bellasera resident **Russ Toosley** is opening a UPS store around February 15th near the 101 and Cave Creek Road intersection, adjacent to the new Costco store.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to: editor@azbellasera.org, or turn them in to the Association office no later than the 15th of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is Keith Christian, 480-575-7109.

Neither the Bellasera Community Association nor its Board of Directors provides any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, of any information contained in this newsletter in any form or manner whatsoever.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE BRUSH & BULK COLLECTION



The city of Scottsdale will pick up **brush and bulk items** in the Bellasera area during **the week of Monday, February 6.**

Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. It will be removed during the week.

For more information, contact Solid Waste Management at **(480) 312-5600**.

Bellasera Community Association
7350 E. Ponte Bella Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85262-2701

BELLASERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors:

e-mail: board@azbellasera.org

President—**Carol Sotnick** (carolsot@qwest.net)

Vice President—vacant

Secretary—**Bruce Martin** (marbru@cox.net)

Treasurer—**Mike Simpson** (simpsonmike@cox.net)

Director—**Paul Broad** (swagowhale@aol.com)

Committee Chairpeople:

Activities: Sheila Lavin

Budget & Finance: Carlton Rooks

Buildings & Grounds: Paul Anetsberger

Communications: Keith Christian

Modifications: vacant

Community Manager : Patti Smith • (480) 488-0400 • manager@azbellasera.org

—Office Hours—

Administrative Assistant: M thru F, 8:30-12:30 Community Manager: Tu & Th, 12-4

Questions regarding your Homeowner's Association Account?

Contact Associated Asset Management (AAM) • **(602) 957-9191**

Security/Front Gate • (480) 488-3663

Internet Web Site: www.azbellasera.org