

Bellasera Neighborhood News

February 2010

Electronic Edition

azbellasera.org

Nine Pages

Board President Resigns

Chuck Roach has resigned as President of the Bellasera Board of Directors. **Dennis Carson** will serve as President pro tem until new officers are elected by the Board in April.

Chuck has served on the Board as its President since April 10, 2006, and will remain as a Director until his term ends in April.

Editor's Note—

*While all residents may not always have agreed with **Chuck Roach's** decisions, I believe all would agree he has provided superb leadership for nearly 4 years, in a very difficult volunteer position.*

I'd like to personally thank him for filling this space each month by faithfully providing his column before deadline. I was going to mention the one time he forgot, and I had to come up with a column...but I won't!

*Thank you, **Chuck**, for all the countless hours you've given to the community.*

—Keith Christian

Moving On, Complacency, Future Plans

—By Dennis Carson

Many thanks to **Chuck Roach** for his unselfish service over many years to Bellasera as a Director and the President of the Association. Bellasera has become a better community because of him. He has been and is one of the few residents willing to step up and donate his time to serve his community. As Vice President, I had the pleasure of sitting next to **Chuck** for three of those years observing as he managed through some very difficult situations, and was always amazed at his insight, professionalism and dedication to doing what was best for the community. I know that I and many, many other folks in Bellasera will miss having **Chuck** as our President.

The recent series of burglaries have instilled in all of us a heightened awareness of our vulnerability. Although the criminal activity may have subsided, I believe we should not get too complacent. The lull may only be temporary and we need to be ever vigilant. In that regard, we received many suggestions for various actions we ought to take to better protect our property and ourselves. Some of the suggestions received are directed to things each of us can do to make our homes more secure, including those suggested by the Scottsdale police and a few residents at the meeting a few weeks ago.

Other suggestions made at the meeting and in e-mails to the board focused on controlling vehicular access to our community, premised on the belief that limited vehicular access will protect us from the thieves. Well, maybe yes and maybe no, and the question becomes what price are we willing to pay in terms of dollars and inconvenience to gain that comfort. We are formulating a plan for a comprehensive review and audit of our facilities and procedures to see if we can improve on what we have at minimal costs. It may be that some of the suggested facility improvements will justify the cost, such as cameras and/or additional vehicular ingress/egress controls, but I don't think any of us on the board has the expertise to promote any particular idea as one that will give us the most effective return on investment.

What we need now is a plan for going forward, and I'm hopeful that the Board will be in a position to present such a plan in the near future. Stay tuned.

Dennis Carson, dmcarsen@q.com, is President pro tem of the Bellasera Board of Directors

Meeting Notices

Board of Directors will meet on **Thursday, February 11**, for a study session, and on **Thursday, February 25** for their regular meeting. Both begin at **6 p.m.**

Budget and Finance Committee will meet on **Friday, February 26**, at **2:30 p.m.** Working sessions focusing on next year's budget will also be held. Residents interested in attending these sessions may contact the committee's chairperson, **Clayton Loiselle**, csloiselle@cox.net.

Building and Grounds Committee will meet on **Tuesday, February 2**, at **4 p.m.**

Communications Committee will meet on **Monday, February 22**, at **8:30 a.m.**

Modifications Committee will meet on **Wednesday, February 10**, at **3 p.m.** Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **12:00 noon, Thursday, February 4**, to be eligible for review at this meeting.

Social Committee will meet on **Tuesday, February 9**, at **6 p.m.**

Contribute to the Community

—*By Anna Ingram*

At the meeting featuring an officer from the Scottsdale Police Department on Tuesday, January 12, I spoke to an overflow crowd about volunteering. Bellasera has five committees that assist the Board in managing the community: Budget & Finance, Building & Grounds, Communications, Modifications, and Social.

Since so many residents attended the meeting, it was a great opportunity to remind everyone of the need for residents to use their gifts and talents to help maintain the integrity of Bellasera. A sign-up sheet was passed around for residents to note their name and phone number if interested in joining a committee. Out of all the residents there only THREE gave their contact information!

When you vote for fellow residents to be placed on the Board you are essentially giving them the go-ahead to run this community. The Board members do their absolute best, with input from the various committees, to keep Bellasera a beautiful and safe place to live. The Board supports input from residents - via respectful e-mails and at the monthly Board meetings. In my opinion, constructive criticism of Board decisions is given more credence from those residents who are involved in their community. Therefore, I encourage you to get involved!

Anna Ingram, bananarama49@msn.com, is a member of the Bellasera Board of Directors

In Memory

The Bellasera community wishes to express its sympathy and condolences to the relatives and many friends of resident **Louise Mason**, who passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack on January 9, while away on a cruise.

A Memorial Tribute in her name may be made to the Desert Botanical Garden, either on their web site, dbg.org, or by contacting **Jane Kernen**, **480-481-8147**, jkernen@dbg.org.

January's (Wet) Weather In Bellasera

(January 1—January 29)

Highest temperature: **67**

Lowest temperature: **35**

Rainfall this month: **5.26 inches.**

Bellasera Community Activities

Water Aerobics

We will start at **11:00 a.m.** and end at noon, every **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** throughout the winter months. The water temperature is 84 degrees and you can borrow a DVD to view the underwater steps. Just call **Janet Biondo, 480-488-0259**.

Monday Night Yoga

Experience the amazing benefits of Yoga - right here in Bellasera! Bring more strength, flexibility and inner calm to your life! Come to Monday night Yoga! It's from **6:00 to 7:15 p.m.** at the clubhouse. No class - February 8. Class fee \$10 - first class free. Questions? Contact **Marci Sheer, 480-488-3426**, youryogamarci@gmail.com.

Hikers

As of this writing, the January hike to Camp Creek Falls has not been completed. The big storm week forced the hike to be rescheduled and the rescheduled date is being threatened by another stormy day. We will report later.

For the February hike, we will return to the Superstition Mountains and follow the Lost Dutchman Trail to Parker Pass. This hike is a bit over 4 miles round trip and involves a gentle incline from First Water Trailhead to Parker Pass. Although we have done this hike before, I think it is worth repeating. I really think that the Superstition Mountains are very intriguing and this hike provides a good introduction to the area.

We will plan on a trail lunch at Parker Pass where we can enjoy the views toward Boulder Canyon and Weaver's Needle

We will meet at **9:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, February 25**, at the clubhouse. Watch the weather and remember water, sunscreen, and a trail lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse, or you can e-mail **Don Bowman, dgbobb@cox.net**, to let me know if you can join us.

Poker

Poker is meeting on **Tuesday** evenings at **7:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome. Call **Bruce, 480-575-7286**, if you have questions or want to play.

Bellasera Golf

The Bellasera golfers continue to play weekly on Tuesday mornings. In January, we played at Rancho Manana as well as Dove Valley Ranch. If you want to join us, contact **Terry Moore, 480-488-0861**, or **Stew Metosky, 480-575-7480**.

Bellasera Brown Bag Book Club

We have made our selections for the upcoming months and hope you can join us.

On **Thursday, February 25**, "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by **Garth Stein**. In March, "The Help" by **Kathryn Stockett**. In April, "Half Broke Horses" by **Jeanette Walls**. In May, "The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane" by **Katherine Howe**. As always, we meet in the clubhouse at **12:00 noon** - bring your brown bag lunch.

Social Committee Activities



HURRY... Sign ups close February 1.

Casino Excursion - Wednesday, February 3, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

A half day casino excursion is planned for early February at Casino Arizona on McKellips and the 101 Freeway. A complimentary motor coach will pick up residents at the clubhouse parking lot at **9 a.m.** Once at the casino, residents will have four hours to enjoy the casino and all it has to offer - black jack, slot machines, Keno, etc. The casino is quite nice and features several eating options from an extensive buffet, informal cafe and a table service restaurant. The group package includes the following: \$10 cash back coupon, a \$5 food coupon, \$10 Blackjack match play coupon and membership in the CASHBACK Players Club. Sign-up sheets are available at the clubhouse.

Bunko - To be or not...

Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m., may be our final Bunko. Participation has dwindled and unless it improves, Bunko will be discontinued.



Wine Tasting Mardi Gras Time

Saturday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.

Join your neighbors for a festive evening tasting a variety of wines and appetizers. Residents are requested to bring a bottle of their favorite wine and an appetizer or a \$5 per person fee in lieu of appetizer.

Monthly Luncheon - Thursday, February 25

Our monthly luncheon will be at McCormick and Schmick in Gainey Ranch on **Thursday, February 25 at 12:00**. The restaurant is located at 8777 N. Scottsdale Road. Be sure and save some time to visit the shops after lunch. Separate checks will be available. Any questions, contact **Karen Moore, kkmoore@sbcglobal.net**



Ladies Spa Evening - Friday, March 19, 7 p.m.

A special evening of pampering, enjoying beverage and snacks and girl time is being planned. Details to follow in next newsletter.

Hopi Reservation Excursion

Have you ever considered exploring the Hopi Reservation? If so, a wonderful 2 night trip is planned for April 20 - 22. Trip is all inclusive with transportation provided from Flagstaff to the Hopi Reservation, room and meals. Price is TBD. Your tour includes a walking tour of a Hopi village, Ozaivi, a pottery demonstration, dinner and discussion with community members, and a Katsina carving demonstration. La Quinta Hotel in Flagstaff will be the site for the overnights. The price for the all inclusive trip FROM Flagstaff is \$285 per person/double occupancy. (\$350 for single). For more info or questions please contact **MerryBelle Beltz at 480-575-1950 or dunerpoint@aol.com**.

Weekly Bridge Lessons

It is not too late to join your neighbors for weekly bridge lessons that started January 27. A bridge instructor conducts a 2 hour lesson for \$15 per person. Next lesson is **February 3, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** OK to invite a non-resident friend. Please e-mail **Myrna at myrna@myrnalevin.com**.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events –

March 13 – St. Patrick's dinner

April 17 – Chili Cook Off and Country Western dancing

May 8 – Cinco de Mayo dinner

Note - The next Social Committee meeting is **Tuesday, February 9, 6 p.m.**, at the clubhouse. We welcome new committee members or those interested in the planning of our social events.

Annual Meeting

April 25, 2 p.m., is the planned date/time for Bellasera's Annual Meeting. An election for the expiring terms of directors **Hope Kirsch**, **Chuck Roach**, and **Bob Shriver** will be conducted, in addition to other Association business.

Back Gate Saguaro Sentry—Gone

The stately saguaro that has been a fixture outside the Lone Mountain Road entry gate to Bellasera is history. No, it did not succumb to the high winds and rain of January, but had become so rotted that it was beyond salvage, and had to be removed. Farewell *carnegiea gigantea*!

'Best of' — Next Month

Coming in the March newsletter, a new feature we're calling "*Best of...*". If you have a restaurant, service, contractor, or whatever, that you'd consider the 'best', let us know. Think 'Best Barbeque', 'Best Massage', 'Best Landscaper', et al. Share your recommendation with all our readers. Easy to do. Just e-mail your nominations to **best@azbellasera.org**. Communications Committee member **Kelli Ballinger** will compile and research them and provide the information in future issues of the Bellasera Neighborhood News.

Donations Needed

Conor Padwe, 12, lives at Los Alisos, and is the grandson of Bellasera residents **Steve & Carol Padwe**. He has a service project to collect clothing, shoes & toiletries for children and adults at the Watkins Shelter for the Homeless.

Any Bellasera residents who would like him to pick up items can call him, **480-515-1226**, or **Carol**, **480-922-7824**. Items can also be brought to their house, 7611 East Ponte Bella. All donations are appreciated.

Clubhouse Lockbox

A locking mailbox has been installed just inside the front door to the clubhouse. It's meant to collect comments, suggestions, or any papers for the Community Manager when the office is closed. Much easier than trying to slip items under the door, now that weather stripping has been installed around the office door.

Electronic Information Distribution

Here at the International House of Newsletters, timely news of interest to residents often occurs between monthly newsletters. When this happens, an e-mail 'blast' is sent to all residents with an e-mail address in the July 2009 resident directory, and others who have asked to be included on the list. Another e-mail list is maintained for those wishing to receive the approved Board of Directors meeting minutes. A third list is for those getting this monthly newsletter via e-mail.

If you'd like to be added to any or all of the above distributions, please send an e-mail to **editor@azbellasera.org**. The address you provide will not be visible to any of the other recipients, and will not be used for any other purpose.

If you've been getting the messages in the past, no action is required.



February in the Garden

—By *Pauline Marx*

Agaves

When sprucing up your garden this spring, you should consider agaves. They are typically native to Mexico but many grow very well here and will give instant drama to your landscape. The agave is a succulent with rigid stiff leaves that form a rosette shape and, if you look carefully at the underside of the leaf, you will see an impression of another leaf. Handle with care as the spiny leaves bear sharp points at the tips.

Choice

If you do consider adding agaves to your landscape, there are about 20 varieties to choose from, and you will likely find the following at your local nursery:

- American century plant (Agave Americana)
- Foxtail Americana (Agave attenuata)
- Parry's agave (Agave parryii)
- Queen Victoria agave (Agave victoriae-reginae)

Planting

Plant in filtered sunlight. If grown in desert soil, no amendments are needed. Agaves do well in containers due to their shallow root system and, in this case, you will need to use a mix of equal parts sand, pumice, or gravel, and potting or garden soil.

Care and Maintenance

Agaves are low maintenance plants as they store water in their leaves and can go for long periods without being watered. Dead leaves and flowers should be removed. Watering recommendations are:

- Every five days or so for the first month.
- Twice a month in summer.
- Irrigate sparingly in winter.

Most agaves are susceptible to the agave snout weevil. Once infested, plants will suddenly wilt and die. If infected, be sure to remove the entire plant to prevent the weevil from invading nearby agaves.

One drawback is that when agaves bloom, they die and can leave a void in your landscape. When the plant starts to bloom, you can elect to cut the bloom off at the base and, depending on the species, may continue to grow. Maturity and onset of flowering varies among species, from ten to more than thirty years. Some species, however, produce offset plants, or "pups", which can be used to replace the dead plant and can also be dug up and planted elsewhere.

Did You Know?

1. Native people of the Sonoran Desert knew when to plant crops by observing the signs provided by nature. When Mesquite trees began to leaf out as temperatures warmed in late February and early March, the Pima and Papago people were ready to sow seeds. This transition to spring weather finds gardeners eager to begin another planting season.

2. If discovered early, aphids can be controlled with a strong stream of water. You will know of their presence by the sticky residue that they excrete. If you can tolerate a few aphids in your garden, beneficial insects such as lady beetles, green lacewings and praying mantis will soon show up to feast on them.

Bellasera resident **Pauline Marx** is an Arizona Master Gardener. For questions about plants, you may call, **480-575-0404**, or e-mail, **PlantPerson@cox.net**, her.

Community Calendar—February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Brush & Bulk Collection Week	1 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	2 Golf Building & Grounds 4 p.m. Poker, 7 p.m.	3 Fitness 7 a.m. Casino 9 a.m. Bridge , 9:30 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	4	5 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	6
	7	8 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	9 Golf Social 6 p.m. Bunko 7 p.m. Poker, 7 p.m.	10 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Modifications 3 p.m.	11 Board Study Session 6 p.m.	12 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.
14	15 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m. Presidents Day	16 Golf Poker, 7 p.m.	17 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	18	19 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	20 Wine Tasting 6:30 p.m.
21	22 Fitness 7 a.m. Communications 8:30 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Yoga 6 p.m.	23 Golf Poker, 7 p.m.	24 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m.	25 Hike 9 a.m. Book Club Luncheon 12 noon Board Meeting 6 p.m.	26 Fitness 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 11 a.m. Budget & Finance 2:30 p.m.	27
28 Brush & Bulk Collection Week						

****Bellasera Classifieds****

"ALL ABOUT CLEANING", Quality Home Cleaning Service. 2 Hrs/2 Cleaners \$89. Window Cleaning and House Sitting service. Professional and reliable. Owner-Manager "Bellasera Resident". Please visit our website: www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com. Call **Maria Dixon** for an appointment: **480-422-3168** (office) or **480-206-5237** (cellular). *Get \$15 OFF First time customers*

Could you use some assistance with a project? Errands? General Concierge? House Sitting? Home Organization? Dog walking? Other task? Contact Resident Personal Assistant **Keli Ballinger**, 77thway@gmail.com, **617-308-4229**. *Excellent References and Recommendations from Fellow Bellasera Residents* Your Trusted Source for Making Life a little more simple.

BELLASERA RESIDENT OWNER, MUNDS PARK CABIN RENTAL, 17395 TURKEY TRAIL, **Marti Bening**, owner, **480-488-4297**, or **602-616-6085** (cell). Located 20 miles south of Flagstaff, 3 bedroom/2 bath fully furnished and equipped, wrap-around deck/fireplace. Rental rates: \$300.00 Weekend, \$500.00, 3 night Holiday weekend, \$750.00 Weekly, \$850.00 Holiday week. Plus: \$200.00 Damage/cleaning deposit (refundable/negotiable)

Beautiful Buckeye Burl coffee table and end table bought from Woods West Gallery in Sedona for \$2000 will sell both for \$500. Four prints by the Wild West artist **Dan Mieduch** (each measured 22"X36): \$120 each or \$400 for the four. Call **Maya Hazan**, **480-292-8282**.

Got something *to buy, sell, want, give-away, etc.?* Why not do business within the community. Send in a classified ad — *it's affordable, in fact, it's free.*

E-mail yours to editor@azbellasera.org, or FAX to **815-333-2268**.

Ads only accepted from Bellasera homeowners; ad copy limited to 25 words if space is limited; real estate for sale, business or commercial ads are not accepted; Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

Newsletter Copy 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 20th of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian**, **480-330-7109**.

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 1**, with the next pickup the week of **March 1**.

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, **480-312-5600**.

BELLASERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**7350 E Ponte Bella Dr
Scottsdale AZ 85266-2701**

**Office: 480-488-0400
Security/Front Gate: 480-488-3663**

Internet Web Site: azbellasera.org

**Community Manager : Viola Lanam, vlanam@aamaz.com
Administrative Assistant: Sharon Foxworth, sfoxworth@aamaz.com**

manager@azbellasera.org

**—Office Hours—
Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Questions regarding your Homeowner's Association Account?
Contact AAM, LLC: **602- 906-4940**
AAM, LLC Emergency : **602-647-3034** or toll free **866-553-8290**

Board of Directors

board@azbellasera.org

President *pro tem*—**Dennis Carson, dmcarsen@q.com**

Secretary—**Bob Shriver, ra_epshriver@hotmail.com**

Treasurer— **Ted Dixon, teddixon@aol.com**

Director—**Anna Ingram, bananarama49@msn.com**

Director—**Hope Kirsch, hnk@kgklaw.com**

Director—**Chuck Roach, crpr797@msn.com**

Committees

Budget & Finance

Ted Dixon, *Clayton Loiselle*, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder

Buildings & Grounds

Paul Anetsberger, *Trish Benninger-Dixon*, Anna Ingram, Robert Miller

Communications

Keli Ballinger, Dennis Carson, *Keith Christian*, Joe McDade, Emily Shriver

Modifications

Jim Gleason, Stanley Green, Craig Johnson, Bob Shriver

Social

Suzanne Guyan, Myrna Levin, Darlene Locke,
Cheryl Renaud, JoAnne Seres, Marci Sheer, Vicki Snyder

—— indicates committee chairperson