

BELLASERA

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Disaster preparedness

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**Scottsdale Ready Disaster
preparedness program -
Saturday, May 6**

see page 4 for more information

May - 2023



Clubhouse Corner

By Richard Hoffman, Board President

2023 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Bellasera Homeowners Association was held on Sunday, April 16th at 2:00 PM on the Bellasera Clubhouse patio. A quorum was established by mail-in and delivered ballots. The weather was perfect, and the meeting was well attended.

Of the three (3) candidates vying for two (2) open Board positions, **David Wyllie** and **Craig Johnson** received the two top vote totals and were each elected to new two-year terms. At the Board meeting following Annual Meeting, the following Officers were elected: **Richard Hoffman** – President; **Tom Saari** – Vice President; **Jim Ragborg** – Treasurer; and **David Wyllie** - Secretary.

Jim Ragborg – Treasurer – gave a presentation and took audience questions with respect to the Association’s finances and the Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, a summary of which was provided at the check-in table. Jim discussed the escalation in operating costs due to the current inflationary environment and the increasing repairs and replacement required to maintain a 23-year old luxury community. Based on those increased costs, quarterly Assessments will increase to \$700 per quarter beginning on July 1st. We thank Jim and the members of the Budget & Finance Committee and our Community Manager AAM, for their on-going efforts in monitoring the finances of the Association, including our Reserves. The proposed 2023-2024 Budget was approved at the Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting. A copy of the Budget will be mailed to all Homeowners.

The significant accomplishments we made this past year were:

1. Complete Replacement of Roof on Clubhouse and Guardhouse.
2. Continuing Projects to Enhance Appearance of the Community. The second application of the new Granite topping has been completed in the Common Areas and the third and final application is scheduled for this summer.
3. New Landscape Lighting. The repair, replacement and upgrading of our front entrance lighting along Scottsdale Road and along the main Ponte Bella entrance drive into the Community. Additional landscape lighting upgrades are scheduled for the coming year.

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Office: 480-488-0400

Front Gate: 480-488-3663

Community Manager
Pamela Nunnally
manager@azbellasera.org

Board of Directors
Richard Hoffman - Pres.
Tom Saari - V.P.
David Wyllie - Sec.
Jim Ragborg - Tres.
Craig Johnson

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board@azbellasera.org

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Web Site:
azbellasera.org

Continued on page 3

4. Irrigation Replacement. The initial phase of the replacement and updating of our original Common Area irrigation systems was recently completed. Another phase is scheduled for this year.

Upcoming Major Projects –

1. Total Renovation and Upgrade to our two Tennis/Pickleball Courts. The current state of our existing courts is unsatisfactory. They are continually in need of repairs as the subsurface base of the courts is settling and surface deterioration and cracking is a recurring problem. This summer we will be filling and sealing all of the existing playing surface cracks and restriping the East tennis court to allow for pickleball play. A more permanent solution is needed. This coming year the Board will be studying and reviewing alternatives for a solution which will involve a major reconstruction of the courts and replacement of the playing surfaces. Any such project will probably not be scheduled until sometime after the start of the 2024-25 fiscal year, beginning on July 1, 2024.



Two of 4 deer spotted in the natural area on Pasaro on March 11, 2023.

photo by Fred Kuechelmann

SCOTTSDALE READY READY - SET - GO



SATURDAY

MAY 6

12:30 PM

**BELLASERA
CLUBHOUSE**

After a winter with above average rainfall, the desert vegetation is beginning to dry out and the possibility of wildfire increases. On Saturday, May 6, the City of Scottsdale Fire Department will present a program designed to show residents how they can prepare for a natural disaster such as a wildland fire. The program will cover what you can do such as vegetation management to protect your home and property from fire. It will also cover what you should do to prepare in case you are ordered to evacuate your home. And don't forget your pets and their needs when preparing to evacuate.

Contact Vicki Snyder at 602-622-2762 or vicki@snyderpromo.com if you would like to attend.

Seating is limited.



Bellasera Community Events

Board of Directors will meet on **Wednesday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m.**

Budget & Finance Committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m.**

Building & Grounds Committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m.**

Communications Committee will meet on **Wednesday, May 17 at 8:30 a.m.**

Modifications Committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 9 at 12:30 p.m.**

Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, May 4 at 12 noon**

All Bellasera residents are welcome to attend any of the committee meetings.

Mahjong is played every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse event room. If you have tiles or are a beginner, we would love to have you come and join us. Everyone is welcome to play.

Yoga: Bellasera yoga instructor **Joy** continues to offer Zoom classes, in addition to the clubhouse sessions **Monday & Thursday at 8:30 a.m.** You may contact her via e-mail, joy.blonstein@gmail.com.

Bellasera Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, May 24 at noon**, by the clubhouse. We've switched our selections and are doing "*Tears of Amber*" by **Sofia Segovia** in April and "*Unbearable Lightness of Being*" by **Milan Kundera** in May. Any questions contact **Karen Moore, kkmoore40@yahoo.com**.

Tennis & Pickleball Reservations: Bellasera will be using a new tennis/pickleball reservation company. User accounts on the prior system are invalid. All users must create a new account. Click or touch the link on our web site, azbellasera.org, "**BCA Members**" page. After account is created, click or touch MY CLUBS, then CONNECT TO MY CLUB, and select BELLASERA HOA.

Pickleball Invitation: You are invited to join a small group of men playing intermediate level pickleball on **Thursdays & Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** For additional information contact **Dan Martin, danielrichardmartin@yahoo.com, 480-734-0387**.

May Wine and Cheese Event: *California Dreamin'* - Come one, come all to join this very friendly group of neighbors. All wine and cheese lovers are invited to join us at our May Wine and Cheese Event on **Friday, May 12th from 5:00 to 7:00pm**. Bring a bottle of a nice red or white wine from California and a favorite cheese, appetizer or dessert to share with each other. The May gathering will be hosted by **Chris and Margi Lillegard, 7843 E. Visao Dr.** Please call **Margi** at **(503)580-8118** or email her at margiross@msn.com to let us know if you can attend or have any questions. You can also sign up on the sheet inside the front door at the clubhouse. We are looking for future hosts of the Wine and Cheese...either host in your home or at the clubhouse. Please let us know if you are interested, so we can continue to hold this very social event on a regular basis.

Water Aerobics: Starting in May through October, Water Aerobics will be held every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** The lap lanes will be used during these times.

Weather and General Information

April Weather in Bellasera

(April 1 - April 30)

Highest Temperature: **95.8 degrees**

Lowest temperature: **36 degrees**

Rainfall: **0.00 inches**

Rainfall this year: **6.71 inches**

Bellasera weather 24/7/365: **weather.azbellasera.org**

Bellasera Weather at a Touch: A free app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android phone. Provides instant Bellasera weather information at a touch. This app is available in the Apple App Store or Google play. In the App Store or Google play, search for “PWS Monitor” (no quotation marks). Install the free app.

Touch the gear icon at the lower left of your display.

The Settings screen will appear. Touch “Enter A Known Station ID”

Enter “KAZSCOTT79”

Touch OK. That’s it.

Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have classified ads, 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 **23th** of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Paul Rippens - 480-912-7999**.

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 community during the week of **Monday, May 22**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, June 26**. 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. **Remember, here in Bellasera, items cannot be put out prior to Friday of the previous week.** For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600**.

Web Site Search



Bellasera’s web site, **azbellasera.org**, has a wealth of information about our community. It’s easy to search for whatever you’re looking for by doing a Google (or equivalent) search as follows. To find everything on the site about the word “rain”, enter the following: **azbellasera.org:rain**. After the colon, enter any topic you wish to search for.

MAY 2023

Bellasera Neighborhood Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Yoga - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	2 Poker - 7:00 pm	3 Mahjong - 9:00 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	4 Yoga - 8:30 am Pickleball - 8:00 am	5 Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	6 Pickleball - 8:00 am Scottsdale Ready - 12:30 pm
7	8 Yoga - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	9 Modifications - 12:30 pm Poker - 7:00 pm	10 Mahjong - 9:00 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	11 Yoga - 8:30 am Pickleball - 8:00 am	12 Water Aerobics - 10:00 am Wine & Cheese - 5:00 to 7:00 pm	13 Pickleball - 8:00 am
14 MOTHERS DAY	15 Yoga - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	16 Building and Grounds - 10:00 am Poker - 7:00 pm	17 Communica-tions Commit-tee - 8:30 am Mahjong - 9:00 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am Board meeting - 1:00 pm	18 Yoga - 8:30 am Pickleball - 8:00 am	19 Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	20 Pickleball - 8:00 am
21	22 Yoga - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	23 Budget & Fi-nance - 1:00 pm Poker - 7:00 pm	24 Mahjong - 9:00 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am Book Club - Noon	25 Yoga - 8:30 am Pickleball - 8:00 am	26 Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	27 Pickleball - 8:00 am
Brush & Bulk Removal						
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY Yoga - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am	30 Poker - 7:00 pm	31 Mahjong - 9:00 am Water Aerobics - 10:00 am			

LONE MOUNTAIN ROAD CLEAN-UP



The Earth Day road clean-up brought out thirteen Bellasera residents to help with this project. Those helping were, **Virginia Burnell, Joel Erickson, Hal and Lori Malstrom, Dennis and Mary Soeffner, Steve Petranek, Sheri Dixon, Ken Strobeck, Rich and Janet Bottarini, Phil Castrovinci and Vicki Snyder.**



The semi-annual Lone Mountain Road clean-up is part of the Adopt-a-Road program in Scottsdale and the Bellasera community cleans both the North and South sides of Lone Mountain Road from Scottsdale Road to Hayden Road. As always, we thank those residents who took time on a beautiful Saturday morning to clean up trash left behind by others. We also thank Communications Committee member **Joe McDade** who oversaw the event.

The next clean-up will be October 28. Watch for an announcement in the Bellasera newsletter.

The Earth Day cleanup in Scottsdale saw 81 volunteer groups, 447 volunteers and 174 miles of roadway cleaned.

BELLASERA HIKERS

April 11th turned out to be a beautiful day for hikers from Bellasera to enjoy a hike to Cathedral Rock at Brown's Ranch. A welcoming committee of one nice sized rattle snake met them at the entrance to the trail.

Sorry but the names of the hikers were not included.



Globe Chamomile (aka Stinknet)

Some people are asking about Globe Chamomile, aka Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*). In a nutshell, it is a hugely invasive plant that spreads each spring and once the desert heat dries it out, it then becomes a major fire fuel. It has become a nightmare for firefighters.



The flower looks like a bright yellow globe, or puff ball, but don't be deceived by a pretty face, it's not a native plant to Arizona; it is native to South Africa. The Arizona Department of Agriculture placed the plant on its list of noxious weeds in 2020.

It crowds out other desirable cool-season plants, it has been implicated in cases of respiratory distress, and there have been reports of contact dermatitis from skin exposure. It forms thick drifts of plants that are a particular problem for wildfire in our Sonoran Desert vegetation. It dries and dies as Arizona enters its hot dry early summer, which is also wildfire season.

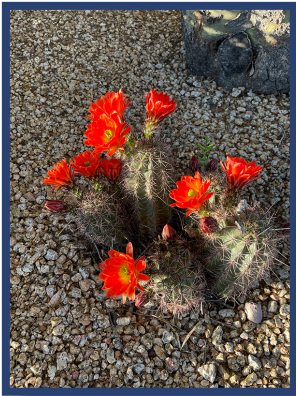
So how do you get rid of it? Basically, persistence. Clear any Stinknet that pops up on your personal property. Right now, while it's still in a green state, is a great time to get rid of it. While it's still green, it's a lot less likely to spread across your property. Once it's dried out and you start removing it, it's highly likely you'll start spreading spores into the air where they will carry.

Pre-emergent herbicides can be applied to the soil and will stop the emergence of seedlings. A good time to apply is just prior to the late fall/early winter rains, prior to weed seed germination. Due to the staggered germination of stinknet seeds through the course of the winter, a second application may be needed. Keep in mind that preemergent herbicides generally have no effect on growing plants, they only impact emerging seedlings. Most of these herbicides are not species-specific and may affect other plants, including desert wildflowers.

Alternatively, post-emergent herbicides are most effective when applied to small and young actively growing healthy plants, such as we are seeing now. The oily nature of Stinknet foliage can repel some herbicides. The use of an adjuvant such as methylated seed oil (MSO) can counter this and enhance the performance of some herbicides. Some glyphosate products (Roundup® and other brands) are reported to be poor performers unless an adjuvant is added. Glyphosate with MSO is currently the best suggested post emergent herbicide control for Stinknet (Southwest Vegetation Management Association, 2020).

Should you decide to use a post-emergent chemical herbicide it will kill most other plants! Read the instructions on the herbicide label, follow exactly as directed and wear personal protective equipment. You may also consider hiring a licensed herbicide applicator for difficult situations. For additional information you can copy and paste into your browser the links listed below:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1827-2020.pdf>
<https://www.swvma.org/invasive-non-native-plants/stinknet-globe-chamomile/>
<https://sdcwma.org/species/stinknet.php>



May in the Garden

by Joe McDade

As We Transition To Summer..... We Are Approaching Full Bloom

We kicked off our spring with an unprecedented bloom across most of the Sonoran Desert and, here in Bellasera, we were not cheated. Our record rainfall in the first three months of this year has resulted in a kaleidoscope of colors soon to be framed by our traditional Corridor of Yellow created by our **Palo Verdes** that line our streets, to be later complemented by our Ironwoods which will give off their beautiful lavender-pink blossoms. It should be pointed out that all of our trees are behind schedule due to our colder than normal spring as evidenced by our Mesquite trees that just recently leafed out.

Summer Tasks

This is an important month for your garden as the spring blooming season will come to an end as temperatures begin to increase mandating that you pay attention to some **care, maintenance, and upkeep tasks**, which I've listed below, paying special attention to **trees** and **succulents**. There is still an open window for some **selective planting** which I will include.

Trees

May is a good time to pay some attention to your trees. Specifically:

- **Pruning** - Lightly prune desert legumes (like palo verde or mesquite) removing dead limbs and small crossing branches. Delay hard-pruning until later in the summer as it will encourage a heavy regrowth which will make them unstable and prone to toppling over during monsoon season.
- **Stakes** - If you added stakes to trees that you planted in the fall, it is time to take them away. Expect the tree to lean at first, especially if it is small, but, as it gains strength, it will correct itself quickly
- **Watering** - Increase the watering of newly planted or young trees to maintain a watering depth of 3 feet. This may mean watering once a week if the temperatures are already hot or if the soil drains quickly.

Miscellaneous/Maintenance/Planting

Succulents - May through the summer is the perfect time to plant warm season succulents.

Reminder #1: Many plant families make up the succulent species, the best known being cactus. Virtually all cacti (or cactuses) are succulents, but many succulents are not cactus.

When transplanting cacti and succulents, mark either the south or west side and plant facing the orientation you marked to avoid the burning of tender tissues.

Reminder #2: Wait a week after planting your cacti and succulents before watering to minimize the chance of rot. After the initial irrigation of your succulents, allow the soil to dry out and water every 10-14 days. Cacti need to be watered once more after initial watering during the month, but allow the soil to dry out between watering.

Citrus - May is the month for the second application of citrus fertilizer. Fertilize with one-third of the tree's total annual nitrogen requirement. Water to a depth of 3 feet immediately after application. Don't worry about fruit drop. Citrus trees set more fruit than they can bear to maturity and shed the excess.

Prune Winter Blooming Shrubs - Emu bush, cassia, salvia and natal plum should be pruned early in the month to keep from getting leggy. Cut back brittle bush to 6 inch stems. Remove spent flower stalks from hesperaloes and penstemons.

Spread Mulch - Layer 3 to 4 inches of organic mulch (any combination of chipped matter, compost, leaves or well-aged manure) on top of garden beds or around the bases of landscape plants. Mulch

maintains soil moisture, inhibits weeds and adds nutrients as it decomposes. Mulch also reduces soil temperatures, helping roots stay cool and less stressed during summer.

Vegetables - Sow warm-season Armenian cucumbers, black-eyed peas, cantaloupe, okra and yard long beans. Transplant sweet potatoes.

Roses - Continue fertilizing established roses, liquid fertilizers can be added at 2 week intervals, follow the directions on the container.

Herbs - Maximize the flavors and aromas of herbs by harvesting them in the early-morning hours, after dew has evaporated but before the sun heats up.

Spring-Blooming Perennials - Penstemons, Brittlebush Globemallow Fleabane, and Golden Columbine will be producing seed. Allow them to produce seed before pruning spent flowering stems. The seed is a valuable food source for many animals.

Citrus Tree – Consider planting a *miniature* lemon or lime tree (in your backyard of course). May is an excellent month to add any desert adapted or native tree.

Ocotillo - Plant your Ocotillo from March through May as these are the ideal months to achieve greater transplanting success. This is a woody shrub and should not be treated as a succulent. Nurseries will have mature ones salvaged from the desert.

Fertilization - Most native and desert-adapted plants in the landscape do not generally require fertilizer as they are adapted to our soil conditions. In most cases, fertilizers are generally applied to prevent deficiencies. If fertilizers are needed, one application for the year is usually sufficient. If you did not fertilize in March or in April, go ahead and fertilize your landscape plants if necessary as May is an ideal month for this task.

May Bloomers

In addition to our Palo Verde trees, there are a multitude of May bloomers to look forward including:

Saguaro - The iconic Saguaro will soon sprout their flowers, opening up in the evening and remaining open throughout the following day. Many animals and insects are attracted to the white, fruit-scented flowers

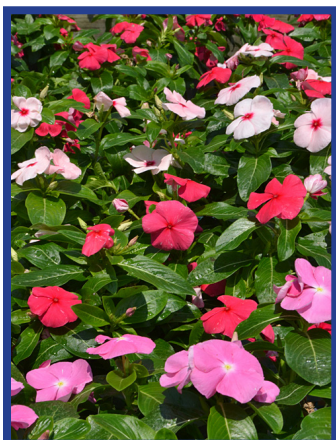


Ironwood Trees - The Ironwood will produce blush pink to white, pea-like flowers that are also sweetly scented and attractive to many animals and insects.

Ocotillo - This native, deciduous shrub is putting on quite a show right now with its spectacular fiery red flower clusters throughout our community and surrounding areas. They can be especially lavish during this first bloom cycle of spring.

Summer Annuals

If you haven't already replaced your winter flowers, I'm sure our recent temperatures have put a halt to the blooms and whatever was left in your pots may be starting to wilt. All of our local nurseries still have an excellent selection of "summer replacements" such as **Vinca** or **Zinnia** which will go a long way in brightening up your patio or courtyard. Remember to choose something that can be easily maintained and keep in mind that watering demands for flowers are different than your drought tolerant plants.



(If you have a gardening question, please contact the Maricopa County Plant Hotline at maricopacountyplanthotline@gmail.com)

Bellasera Classifieds

Arizona Real Estate – it's all the buzz... I know you've heard the market has shifted, however, it's not dead. My quarterly market updates created specifically for Bellasera show that our community is still in demand. As we head into our high season, if you have pondered the thought about selling, now would be a great time. Contact me today for a free market assessment: **Regina Alvarez**, Realtor: **My Home Group 480-334-1750** or **regina@craigbennettgroup.com**

Introducing Desert Dwellers Home Watching, LLC, a home watching service exclusively for Bellasera residents. Desert Dwellers is owned and operated by year-round Bellasera residents **Jennifer Brummet** and **Ross Stroze-wski**. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighbors have access to reliable and trustworthy home monitoring while away from their desert dwelling. For a complete list of services and to schedule a complimentary assessment contact us at **480-634-1452** or email us at **ddhomewatch@gmail.com**

Bellasera Residents: The Kiwanis Club of Carefree can pick up your unwanted furniture, clothing and household goods. All items will be sold in our Marketplace resale store in Cave Creek. Proceeds go to support kids in our local school district. Contributions may be tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. Call **480-488-8400**, for information and to schedule an appointment. Thanks for your support.

I love living in Bellasera! Our market has struck a more reasonable balance with low inventory levels. Our community is very much in demand. Does your house need some work prior to sale? We have a program called RE-ALVITALIZE. If you are interested in selling or just want an idea of market value, please call me! **Audrey Fischer**, Realtor – Coldwell Banker Realty, **(480) 740-4223** or **audrey.fischer@azmoves.com**.

A quick way to update your home is with new window coverings. I offer Hunter Douglas products, custom wood shutters, custom draperies and outdoor shades. Because you are my Bellasera neighbor, I'm offering a 25% discount on my already low prices. Let me know if I can assist you with updating your home. **Mike Alldredge** - Array Shutters and Blinds - **602-622-7575**.

All new or renewal classified ads must be 75 words or less. Ads will run for 3 months and may be renewed upon request. Editor reserves the right to edit all ads submitted. Send yours to: **editor@zbellasera.org**