

Bellasera Neighborhood News

December 2005

www.azbellasera.org

SEASON'S BEST & NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING BUSINESS

—By Carol Sotnick, President, Bellasera Board of Directors

There always seems to be so much going on in Bellasera that it is hard for me this month to know where to begin. I will begin with my best wishes to you and your family for this holiday season. This is one of those rare holiday seasons where Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa are virtually on the same day or one day later. My hopes for all of us are a happy and healthy season and a good new year.

Paul Broad determined that his travel schedule was too heavy for him to fulfill the demanding role of Board Treasurer but will remain on the Board as a Director through his term end in April. The Board thanked Paul for initially stepping forward and volunteering to fill a Board vacancy in June as well as recognizing when his personal life was impacting his work for the community. The Board then elected **Mike Simpson** as the new Treasurer.

There was a lively discussion on upgrades to the clubhouse appearance, including carpeting and painting. And as in any family, there were lots of divergent opinions. I would like to thank **Susan Loiselle** for her detailed e-mail on conditions in the clubhouse that would improve its overall appearance. The Board should finalize its decisions on carpeting and paint at the next regular Board meeting on January 30.

As always, we had so much to talk about at the November 28 meeting that the Board deferred reviewing several further changes to our By-Laws. The Board scheduled a Special Meeting for December 12 at 6:30 to finalize the By-Laws and any other critical issues that arise. There will be no regular Board meeting in December.

Several homeowners raised matters that were of extreme importance to them during the Question and Answer period of the meeting. **Dot** and **Bob Messinger** are having a pack rat problem regarding a nest behind their rear view fence in the NAOS area and rats have invaded their home. I am sure most of us have had problems with pack rats at one time or another and have moved quickly to resolve the issue as the **Messingers** have. They have requested that the Bellasera HOA remove the nest from the NAOS area. Our initial research with the City of Scottsdale indicates that we cannot destroy any native life in the area. But at their very vigorous request, we are continuing to research this issue and will let the **Messingers** and the rest of the community know the outcome. **(continued on page 5)**

READER REQUEST — PEOPLE OF BELLASERA

We're planning to add a new feature to our monthly newsletter: *brief* stories about folks who call Bellasera home. Emphasis on the 'brief.'

We'll include as many stories each month as space permits. If the response is overwhelming, we may add a special insert to a future issue.

We plan to call it "People of Bellasera", or something even more clever, if that's possible.

We'd like to get to know our Bellasera neighbors. Please answer the following questions, and reply via e-mail to "editor@azbellasera.org":

---How long have you lived here, and where did you last live?

---What are the names of those who live in your Bellasera home?

---What do you do (or did you do) for a living?

---One thing you'd like your neighbors to know about you?

Thank you for your participation!

—Editor

MEETING NOTICES



Activities Committee will meet on **December 1**, at **10 a.m.**

Governance Committee (ad hoc) will meet on **December 7**, at **2:30 p.m.**

Building and Grounds Committee will meet on **Monday, December 12**, at **3 p.m.**

Special **Board of Directors** meeting will be on **Monday, December 12**, at **6:30 p.m.**, to discuss proposed By-Law changes.

Modifications Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13**, at **5:30 p.m.** Modification applications are due no later than the Monday before the meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee will meet on **Wednesday, December 15**, at **3 p.m.**

Communications Committee will meet **Tuesday, December 20**, at **3 p.m.** in the clubhouse.

****Season's Greetings from the Manager's Office****

We would like to extend our appreciation for being so well received by the Bellasera Community.

Since we began back in August, we have had numerous visits from homeowners wanting to say hello, and it has made us feel right at home.

We both would like to take the time to wish a sincere Happy and Healthy Holidays to you and your families.

—*Patti & Sheila*

Trash Days Reminder

The black trash barrels are picked up on Tuesday mornings. They should be put out after 4:00 p.m. on Monday and must be put away by Tuesday evening in your rear or side yard behind your wall. The pink recycling barrels are picked up on Thursday mornings. (Only recyclables in here please! They won't be picked up otherwise.) They should be put out Wednesday after 4:00 p.m. and must be put away by Thursday evening. If you are going to be gone, please ask a neighbor to put your barrel away for you. This is a good way to meet your neighbors!

Bellasera Dog Owners



Please remember to always have your pet on a leash when walking your dog around the premises. The City of Scottsdale mandates that this be in effect at all times.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Bring 1 dozen of your favorite cookies to share and trade to the clubhouse anytime from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 3.** And join the Dale Team in collecting toys for the less fortunate children this holiday season. A collection box is located in the clubhouse.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

We hope you will come to the **Neighbor Network** gathering on **Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 AM.** This event will be at the clubhouse and a **light brunch will be provided.** Please sign up at the clubhouse by December 1. This get-together is the first of two planned annually to welcome new members to the community, so please come and meet your new and old neighbors! All residents are welcome. Call Shari Rotherham, 209-7873, with questions.



DECEMBER LUNCHEON

A special holiday luncheon will be on **Thursday, December 15 at 12:00 noon.** Residents will be going to the **Crescent Moon Restaurant** at the **Four Seasons Resort**, 10600 East Crescent Moon Drive, Scottsdale, telephone is 480-515-5700. Please sign up by Monday, December 12 in the clubhouse. Those who wish to carpool should meet at the clubhouse at 11:30 AM. Please contact a member of the Activities Committee if you have any questions.

DANCING



On **Friday, December 9,** Gabrielle Lomas will be at the clubhouse beginning at **7:00 p.m.** to teach dance steps to those in attendance. Residents will have the opportunity to learn current and classic dances. **Snacks will be provided.** Gabrielle will charge a flat \$100 fee to share her expertise, however, there is **no cost to participants.**

TAKE A HIKE



Please join us on a hike in the **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy** on **Monday, December 12.**

We'll **meet** at the **clubhouse** at **8:00 a.m.** to carpool to the trailhead located off 128th St. Wear appropriate hiking gear, bring water, sunscreen, hat and snacks. For information contact Vivian Kurtz at 480-575-1391, or e-mail Roy312@cox.net.

WE NEED YOU!

Many new activities are planned for the months ahead. Some of possibilities are: Bunko night, a Valentine dance, community fundraiser, speakers, and other events. Your participation is needed and would be welcome. Please consider joining the Activities Committee to help, meet new people, and have fun at the same time. Contact the Community Manager for more information.



DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

—By *Pauline Marx, Arizona Master Gardener*

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December ushers in winter conditions like frost and rain as well as some planting opportunities. So, with this in mind, let's review some December garden chores.

Rain

When our winter rains appear, be sure to adjust your watering schedule for wet weather. This would mean resetting automatic timers to reduce watering frequency. Some specific watering recommendations are:

- Established desert-adapted trees every 30 to 60 days.
- Ground covers and vines every 21 to 45 days.
- Non-natives usually require more frequent watering. Trees, 14 to 40 days and 10 to 14 days for shrubs, ground covers and vines.

Always apply the same amount of water; only the frequency changes with the seasons. Water should soak 3 feet deep for trees, 2 feet for shrubs, and 1 foot for smaller plants.

Frost

Native and desert adapted plants can handle the low desert temperature fluctuations. However, cold sensitive plants such as bougainvillea, hibiscus, natal plum, citrus, succulents, annual flowers and some vegetables may need frost protection.

Pruning

Now is a good time to start thinning, pruning and reshaping many of our desert trees such as mesquite, palo verde, acacia and other deciduous types. Tree sap has moved down to the root system making it the most desirable time to thin and prune. Take off touching branches that cross over each other and limbs that rub against structures and neighboring trees. Also, thin overall to decrease the tree's susceptibility to wind damage. It's a good time to prune Texas Sage, roses and other desert and deciduous shrubs. Refrain from pruning frost-sensitive plants such as bougainvilleas and hibiscus.

Citrus

Taste test navel and Arizona sweet oranges, mandarins, and tangelos to determine if they are ready for harvest. The longer the fruit stays on the tree, the sweeter it becomes. Grapefruits should be ready but generally improves in taste later in the winter. Pick exposed lemons and limes just before a hard freeze. Some damage to these fruits, especially the ones on the upper and outer portions of the tree, will occur when temperatures drop to 28 degrees. Other citrus fruit can tolerate colder temperatures.

Planting

Winter vegetables- While the rest of the nation is dealing with snow, we can plant a winter vegetable crop of lettuces (from basic to exotic), numerous Oriental vegetables, onions, radishes, spinach, garlic, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, peas, turnips, Swiss chard, beets and kohlrabis (turnip cabbage).

For easy germination of winter vegetables, use a white geo-textile frost blanket available at local nurseries. Once the seedlings have sprouted and are an inch high, remove the blanket. Frost is a potential problem for some, so cover them as needed. To stimulate fast growth, use a slow release, balanced winter vegetable fertilizer such as 20-10-10. Drip irrigation works well with winter vegetables. Plant winter vegetables at recommended spaces so there is plenty of sunlight for the plants to develop properly. Space rows about 3 feet apart and plants in the row one foot apart.

Stock- This is a fragrant annual flower that will permeate the air with a clove like scent. Single or double flowers, some in shades of pink, blue, lavender, red or white. Plant it out of doors in a rich organic planting medium. It likes consistent soil moisture, so apply a generous layer of mulch to keep the soil moderately moist. Stock declines quickly as temperatures rise but, if you plant them now, you can enjoy them all winter, It is an excellent cut flower, spreading its fragrance indoors as if spice cookies were baking in the oven.

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

(SEASON'S BEST & NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING BUSINESS—cont. from page 1)

In addition, **Mel Lavin** raised an issue concerning a tree in the NAOS area that was impinging on his property. **Patti Smith**, our Community Manager, will follow up on the issue to determine whether the tree in the NAOS meets the requirements for removal under NAOS guidelines.

We are closer to a resolution on the ongoing issue of the clubhouse dumpster and the trash issue. Buildings and Grounds came back with a proposal at the Board's request. Their resolution resulted in another lively discussion among Board members and as a result, the Board asked **Paul Anetsberger**, the chairperson of Buildings and Grounds, to come back with a modification to the committee's resolution. I am confident this will result in an even better proposal that will be both fiscally responsible to the community and considerate of part-time residents.

Buildings and Grounds offered a second resolution regarding the use of the clubhouse parking lot for long-term parking and storage of personal vehicles, boats and trailers. This resolution was offered to maintain the look and feel of our beautiful community and also to ensure adequate parking for those who are using the clubhouse facilities. Under this Board-approved resolution, residents of the community may now park in the clubhouse parking lot for a period of no longer than three consecutive days only with the written permission of the Community Manager. Offenders shall be fined \$50 per day, and a notice shall be placed under the windshield wiper of the vehicle violating this resolution.

The Board also passed a resolution on next year's reserve fund policy, which provides for the planned replacement of all listed major assets. Highlights of the policy are a 30-year time window for replacement of assets and a funding level that shall be maintained at a level or above the amount sufficient to repair or replace community assets at the appropriate time. A Reserve Review shall be performed every year and a Board member shall be appointed as a committee of one to make his/her recommendations to the full Board. The selected Board member may call upon any committee members of Budget and Finance, Buildings and Grounds, or our management company to review the asset list as well as to comment on any changes to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a reserve expert. The appointed Board member has the sole responsibility for the content of the presentation to the full Board.

Crawford Love presented an update to the Pederson commercial development project. The Scottsdale Design Review Board has still not established a date for its hearing. **Karen Husted** hosted an open house in mid November for those who are most impacted by the shopping center so they could review design details of the project.

Patrick Quinn's resignation from the Governance Committee was accepted, and **Patricia Bradley** was appointed in his stead. We thank one **Pat** and wish our new **Pat** the best on the committee.

Board members did not come up with any pressing topics for a Town Hall meeting in January. Therefore, there will be no Town Hall meeting in January 2006. If anyone has pressing issues they would like discussed, please e-mail those issues to the Community Manager for consideration at the Annual Meeting in April.

And that's all she wrote except to again wish you a happy and healthy new year.

DECEMBER 2005

				1 Body Workout 8 a.m. Activities 10 a.m.	2 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	3 Cookie Exchange 11—2
4 Neighborhood Network 11 a.m.	5 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	6 Body Workout 8 a.m. Poker 7 p.m.	7 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m. Governance 2:30 p.m.	8 Body Workout 8 a.m.	9 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m. Dancing 7 p.m.	10
11	12 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Hike—8 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m. B & G 3 p.m. B of D 6:30 p.m.	13 Body Workout 8 a.m. Modifications 5:30 p.m. Poker 7 p.m.	14 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	15 Body Workout 8 a.m. Residents' Luncheon 12 noon B & F 3 p.m.	16 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	17
18	19 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	20 Body Workout 8 a.m. Communica- tions 3 p.m. Poker 7 p.m.	21 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	22	23 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	24
25 Christmas City Bulk & Brush Collec- tion Week	26 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Golf Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	27 Body Workout 8 a.m.	28 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	29	30 Group Circuit 7 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	31

GENERAL NEWS UPCOMING EVENTS

WIRELESS COMPUTER NETWORKS

—by *Pat Manion, your Bellasera web master*

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During a drive around our community, I discovered that about half of our residents who have wireless computer networks do not have any security on their network. This is easy to determine with a simple "hot spot" finder available at Fry's Electronics. No security means two things. One, your packet data can be snooped and two, persons on the street (or your neighbor) have access to your bandwidth. Here are some steps you can take to limit access.

Disable SSID(Service Set Identifier, the name of the network) broadcast on your router/gateway/access point. The access point will no longer broadcast your SSID making it more difficult to attach to the access point. Note however, that a dedicated hacker with the right tools will be able to easily retrieve your SSID. Disabling SSID broadcast will cause the lazy to search for an easier, open access point.

WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) is currently the most secure wireless protocol. This security generates a new password every n(user configurable) minutes. If your router/gateway/access point has this type of service, choose it and enter a passphrase in the PSK(Pre-Shared Key) field. Your laptop will usually recognize that WPA is necessary (since the access point will advertise it) for the connection and will ask for the passphrase. If this doesn't happen automatically you may need to create a new connection object which will then recognize that WPA is enabled.

WEP(Wired Equivalent Privacy) is less secure and can be cracked by a dedicated hacker. Still, for general use, it is better than no security at all and will deter busy-bodies without access to sophisticated tools. At least one WEP key is required and sometimes up to four, depending on the software. Both access point and laptop must have the same WEP keys to get things talking.

Finally, many access points allow connections to be limited to specific devices. Every wired and wireless network connector has a unique (in the whole world!) identifier called a MAC address (Media Access Control address). Find out what the MAC address is of your laptop's wireless transmitter and enter it into the allowable MAC addresses on the access point. From now on, the access point will only respond to that address. Once again, a sophisticated hacker can spoof the MAC address, but this will deter the lazy.

That's It!

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 COLLECTION DATES



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

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—**Crawford Love** (lovesinaz@cox.net)
Secretary—**Bruce Martin** (marbru@cox.net)
Treasurer—**Mike Simpson** (simpsonmike@cox.net)
Director—**Paul Broad** (swagowhale@aol.com)

Committee Chairpeople:

Activities: Shelia Lavin

Budget & Finance: Carlton Rooks

Buildings & Grounds: Paul Anetsberger

Communications: Keith Christian

Modifications: Anna Ingram

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

—Office Hours—

Administrative Assistant: M thru F, 830-1230 Community Manager: Tu & Th, 12-4

Questions regarding your Homeowner's Association Account? Contact Associated Asset Management (AAM) • (602) 906-4940

Security/Front Gate• (480) 488-3663

Internet Web Site: www.azbellasera.org