

# Bellasera Neighborhood News

April 2018

azbellasera.org

Eighteen Pages

Homeowners opinions/comments on the pickleball ballot proposal .....	pages 3-6
Latest from Laurie.....	page 2
Community Activities.....	pages 7, 8, 10, 11
Joe's Garden.....	pages 14, 15

## Happy Birthday Bellasera

*Editor's Note: This is the last time you'll see Richard's byline as Board President. After serving 6 years on the Board, including 5 years as President, he's no longer eligible to serve on the Board (6 years max, per our Bylaws).*

***Craig Johnson** also concludes 6 years as a Board member. I join all other Bellasera homeowners thanking both for their long & faithful service.*

By **Richard Hoffman**, President of the Bellasera Board of Directors

- **Bellasera is 20 Years Old!**

Our upcoming Annual Meeting of Homeowners on **Sunday, April 29** will mark the 20th year for the Bellasera Community!

As an established community, we have much to be proud of. Our finances are stable and in excellent shape and our physical assets are attractive and well maintained. We have set aside adequate reserves to maintain and enhance those assets going forward. But, as an established community, we have challenges and issues going forward that require our attention and focus: assets wear out or reach the end of their useful lives, new amenities or enhancements to existing assets (i.e., the dog park) may need to be considered. We now have a Facebook page!

All this is the consequence of the tireless efforts of many volunteers, your neighbors and friends, who have served on committees and our Board of Directors to make Bellasera the place that it is today. If you have not already volunteered or are new to our community, I encourage you to step forward and participate. It's relatively (sic) painless and new ideas and perspectives are welcome and appreciated.

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting on the 29th, we will be serving cake and beverages to celebrate our Community Birthday!

- **Meet The Candidates Night On April 19 At 7:00 P.M.**

At our upcoming Annual Meeting, homeowners will be voting to fill three (3) open positions to our Board of Directors. We have four capable candidates who have agreed to stand for election for those three openings. As is our custom in such situations, we will be holding a "Meet the Candidates Night" beginning at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, April 19** in the clubhouse. The four candidates will introduce themselves, share their perspectives, and answer questions from homeowners. Please consider attending. See you there!

## Clubhouse Corner

--By Laurie Forte, Community Manager

### • New Air Conditioning Units Installed

The middle of March brought giant cranes to the clubhouse to deliver two brand new 12.5 ton air conditioning units. It was quite a site to watch the crew from Johnson Controls take the old units down from the roof and install the new units ([see photos below](#)). We are now nice and cool and ready for summer. For those who were here that day...sorry for the cold showers!

### • A Big Thank You

The entire Bellasera community would like to thank **Annette Barnard** for all the work she does putting up and changing the bulletin boards in our clubhouse. She does all of this out of the kindness of her heart and pays for everything out of her own pocket. Thank you for bringing your sunshine to share with the entire community.

### • Trimming Behind the Fences

Just another reminder that AAA Landscaping is continuing to work behind the fences to clear the mandatory 5 foot fire lane behind your home. If you have branches from inside of your fence hanging over (or through) the fences, they will be trimmed back to 8-10" from your fence. Also, as a reminder, if your growth is more than 8-10" over the top of the fence, they will likely start hanging over the fence. Please have your landscapers trim appropriately as we head in to the growing season.

This is an ongoing project, if you want to do something special with your bushes, etc., please do so immediately.

Also, next year we will be once again painting fences throughout the community. You will be responsible for clearing vines on your fences. You might want to start keeping this in mind now. More information will be made available as we get closer to the start of this project.

### • Pool Time

Just my friendly reminder that we do not have a crew cleaning up the pool area when you leave. Please remind your guests of this as well. When you/they leave, the umbrellas should be closed, and the chairs placed back the way you originally found them. Also, no glass is allowed around the pool area. Enjoy this great asset!

### • Join our Facebook Group

We are closing in on almost 1/3 of our community participating in our private Facebook group. Search for AZ Bellasera to join!



## **Pickleball: Yes or No**

*Bellasera homeowners responses to an earlier request for opinions on this year's Annual Meeting ballot issue are below. Edited only for spelling/typo correction. Straw poll: **69% "Yes", 31% "No"**. --Editor*

We have been a home owner in Bellasera for a little over 2 years now and been full-time residents for about 1 ½ years. Since we got here full-time, we have been searching for physical and social things to do in the development which are of interest to us, like pickleball. We have several friends who live in the Phoenix area who have said that pickleball has helped to rejuvenate their communities.

As the first generation of home owners have been moving out of Bellasera over time, there is a new generation moving in who is looking for additional physical and social activities in which to participate. One example is Yoga, which was recently started again with huge success and has now expanded with additional scheduled days. Pickleball is one of those activities that can be played by people of any age and doesn't require the rigorous physical workout of something like tennis or some other sport, and it's fun to play.

As we look to keep Bellasera a top-tier development in this area, pickleball is one of those amenities that prospective new residents are seeking when purchasing a home in a community like ours. It's one of those things that can add value to our homes. Let's pass the proposal of the Board to add pickleball to the amenities of Bellasera. Thanks.

**Tom and Dianna Saari**

While I used to be a tennis player, I gave it up as my stamina and flexibility decreased. I have tried pickleball elsewhere and think it is a fun game with lots of action but without the strain of tennis. Therefore, I support the addition of pickleball courts, especially if we can do it without great expense and without losing a tennis court when they are needed by those who are committed to playing tennis.

**Brian Blaesing**

I vote no on the pickleball. Instead of spending all that money on something only a few would ever use, how about lowering the HOA fees for a change! Go back to the "good old days".

**Gayle Eddins**

Yes, we support adding pickleball lines to Tennis Court 1.

**Jan Dunlop and Paul Bourdon**

I do not want to spend \$12,000 to modify the tennis courts for the few Bellasera pickleball players and am concerned that it will cost much more than that for the noise abatement. Also, this will attract a large number of non-residents as it will be the only free pickleball court in the area.

**Virginia Burnell**

We are in full support of adding pickleball to the Bellasera courts. Think it's a great idea and will utilize the courts better.

**Carla and Lonnie Mahrt**

Vote "yes" for pickleball.

**Eugene & Caryn Hollander**

We'd love to see a pickleball court in Bellasera.

**Liz & Brent Walters**

We feel that pickleball would be a good addition to activities offered in our community. We also feel that every effort should be made to reduce the impact on those property owners immediately adjacent to the court. Perhaps hours of play should be restricted and sound deafening materials be used. We support pickleball play in Bellasera.

**Cameron MacGillivray & Patricia Holtan**

I do not live near the location of the proposed pickleball court so the additional noise it would cause would not affect me. However, that might not be the case for those owners who live near the proposed court. I believe that the opinions of those who might be affected by the additional noise should weigh more heavily upon the decision to construct the court. Also, it should be determined beforehand how many residents would actually use the court before taxing the rest of the community with the expense of providing it. If few residents will be using the court, I'm sure the money used to provide it and maintain it could be better used elsewhere in the community.

**Jeff Melman**

Why use a tennis court and not use the basketball court that very rarely gets used. You can make multiple pickleball courts on the basketball court. When people used the courts in the past for pickleball (which they weren't supposed to) they marked up our newly redone courts and never raised the nets back up. I'm against it.

**Len Van Niel**

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. Residents must leave our community to play while the tennis courts are generally vacant. Addition of the pickleball courts will provide an opportunity for residents to play and practice in their own community and will raise property values as this new feature makes us current with other communities in Scottsdale. We should not be the only community in North Scottsdale lacking pickleball courts.

**Bryce Bartruff**

It's my observation that the tennis courts in Bellasera are significantly underutilized, i.e. this is not a tennis community. At the same time pickleball has sustained tremendous growth in popularity among senior citizens in many parts of the country and especially in Arizona communities. Its appeal is based on it being easier and way more fun than tennis. Those of us that live here recognize how great Bellasera is as a community and should be cognizant of how we can continue to make our community more attractive. Adding pickleball would be an incredibly positive step in that direction.

**Loren & Dee Hinger**

I do not support pickleball or any other additional activity. No more raised cost on our Homeowners fees. It is already too high period! This is a no!

**Mary Huff and Family**

Becky and I think it is a great idea! It is a sport designed for seniors, yet fun for every age. You might note that the new development at Verde River has 12 pickleball courts! We are really missing a bet in terms of attractive amenities if we don't get on board. Thanks.

**Charlie & Becky Johnson**

Very much against this idea...no value for the community.

**Stanley Green**

Pickleball is the fastest growing sports in the USA. Many nearby communities have added it as an amenity. I think it would be a real benefit, both as a shared activity and as an added value to our community.

**Joe and Mary Carlon**

Sounds like a great idea.

**Dan Braun**

No pickleball!

**Phyllis Green**

In favor.

**Tony Bagneschi**

Think this would be awesome for the community- it's the Rage- most high ended communities sport them. I'm in favor.

**Kathleen OKeefe**

First, it was cutting back on our guards to save money. You've already taken away one of the three tennis courts for a lousy dog park which cost us a fortune. Don't take away another one. If you want to play pickleball, tell the city and have them put one in a nearby park. We bought in this development because of what it originally offered. Slowly but surely, our community is being eroded for the few, not the majority!

**Sandy Fox**

I think if the noise exceeds that of ordinary tennis, and is audible at any homes, then we shouldn't do it. Otherwise, I'm for it.

**Harold Levin**

We would like to keep it as a tennis court. Most recently we couldn't get on the courts as they were busy. Might be more difficult to play if they were to take the one tennis court away.

**Larry and Sheri Krpan**

This is a vote thumbs up for pickleball at Bellasera. It's definitely a crowd pleaser! Looking forward to more social opportunities for

**Mary and Jim Clifford**

I live on E Visao and would like to see a pickleball court constructed by the tennis courts. I believe it would add new friendships and happy times to our community. It would also be a great opportunity to meet new people. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter.

**Cathi Taylor**

A comment regarding the pickleball court proposal: Our community is changing with the addition of many youthful members. It is time to update the community club with a wider range of activities to include these members. Pickleball would be an excellent beginning because it accommodates many skill levels. As we move forward, we would like to see an inclusive club with activities for everyone.

**Jan & Dawn Hulej**

Hi, I am opposed to the pickleball court. Thank you.

**Pam Leeds-Ragborg**

Cindy and I strongly support having a pickleball court in Bellasera. It would be a great addition and make Bellasera an even more desirable community in which to reside. We started playing about 2 years ago, and find it a great activity for any fitness level. We find it a great way to socialize with neighbors, meet new people, and even get some exercise while playing!

**Carl & Cindy Leroux**

**Brian & Suzy Morris** of 7748 E Ponte Bella Dr are in full support of the Pickleball Court Proposal.

Would love to see pickleball included in our amenities.

**Kathy Porter**

Great idea! My vote is yes.

**Mary Landau**

Yes to pickle ball on tennis court 1. I would definitely like to play this very popular game and it would benefit the Bellasera Community.

**Claudia Rose**

This is the last thing we need. We have enough problems taking care of existing amenities. We don't need more.

Let me predict the future on this. We're going to spend in the area of 12,000 dollars not including maintenance cost for an amenity that is going to be used by more outside guests than Bellasera's (that's us). Just like our tennis courts. All I ever see are outsiders playing on our courts.

If this money is burning a hole in your pockets, give it back to us as a "Dues Break" or consider spending it on a playground for our children and grandchildren. Something nice for our kids. You know like swings, slide, seesaw and of course monkey bars.

On the flip side use the money as a vanguard for updating our club house. The place is dark, dull and dingy. The lighting, interior colors, furniture and those cheesy fake plants augmented by the even more cheesy artwork. Place looks like a funeral home.

You wanted an opinion for your newsletter, this is my opinion.

**Michael Dietz**

As long as the court is still available for tennis, I am okay with having a pickleball court on it. If tennis is not able to be played on the court, I am opposed.

**Ellen Bornstein**

Does it have to be on the tennis court. We have already lost one court. Could it be on the basketball court? Perhaps a better question would be would pickle ball be used any more than the tennis?

**Lou Garrett**

Why You Should Vote "No" For The Addition Of A Pickle Ball Court

The homeowners that purchased property in the vicinity of the recreation area understood the possibility of noise coming from the tennis, pool and basketball court. The noise has been minimal. Pickleball creates a very high decibel of sound and that's why 26 homeowners in the vicinity petitioned the Board not to change of the use of the court. Pickleball does not benefit the Bellasera community for the following reasons:

- 1) The initial cost is projected at \$12,000. The proposed project will modify an existing Tennis Court to accommodate both Pickleball (PB) and Tennis. Only a handful of Bellasera residents are expected to utilize the PB Courts.
- 2) Current estimated cost of \$12,000 for court modification does not include maintenance, repairs, etc.
- 3) Unfortunately PB creates unusually high noise levels due to the nature of the equipment that is employed. The proposed noise reduction solutions (sound suppression matting around the court and mandatory PB composite racquets) will only at best lessen the noise to a certain degree.
- 4) Mandated PB composite racquets, hours of operation and rotation of the court between PB and Tennis is unenforceable.
- 5) Terravita, at one time accommodated PB. Due to multiple reasons mainly noise level complaints, interference with other sports activities and a proposed lawsuit. PB has been discontinued.
- 6) PB fosters league participation thus increasing the number of outsiders entering our community. It's just par for the course, that they will also be using our Clubhouse amenities. As it is in evidence by our Tennis guests.
- 7) Outside private and some public PB Courts charge a playing fee which will make our free court very attractive.
- 8) PB Courts should be located far from residential homes. Not the location that has been proposed. We would be spending at least \$12,000 for a few Bellasera residents but the vast majority of players benefiting will be outsiders. Research has indicated that the PB Courts will not increase property value. In addition, with the expected high levels of guests entering our beloved community to play free PB as guests, utilization of our clubhouse and its facilities our ceiling of liability with regard to injury will be increasing. We would appreciate you voting "No". Thank You,

**Jerry and Karen Meiliken**

## Meeting Notices

**Meet the Candidates Night** will be on **Thursday, April 19** at **7 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting** of the Bellasera Community Association will be on **Sunday, April 29** at **2 p.m.**

**Board of Directors** next meeting will follow the Annual Meeting.

**Budget & Finance Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, April 18** at **1 p.m.**

**Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, April 10** at **10 a.m.**

**Communications Committee** will meet again on **Wednesday, May 23** at **8:30 a.m.**

**Modifications Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, April 10** at **noon**. Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, April 5** at **12 noon**.

## March Weather In Bellasera

(March 1—March 30)

Highest temperature: **85**

Lowest temperature: **36**

Rainfall: **0.19 inch**

Rainfall this year: **1.55 inches**

Bellasera weather 24/7/365: **[weather.azbellasera.org](http://weather.azbellasera.org)**

## Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have classified ads, meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**, or turn them in to the association office no later than the 25th of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian, 480-382-9310**.

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, April 23**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, May 21**.

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**.

## **Potluck, Friday Night, April 13, 6 p.m.**

Bellasera's first Kentucky Derby Party was a huge success with 50 of our residents attending. The ladies were looking beautiful in their hats and **Audrey** won the hat contest. The 50/50 brought in some much needed funds to the potluck cookie jar so thanks to all who participated. All the guests really did an incredible job on the food resulting in a great dinner: highlights were pulled pork, spiral ham, sticky chicken, scalloped potatoes and more. No one was wanting for a dessert. The range went from original Derby Pie, Flan and Kentucky Banana pudding and, of course, fresh whipped cream! Thanks to the crew that helped and for the great attendance. See next page for photos.

April potluck will be hosted by the **Rooks Family** and will be held on **Friday, April 13**. The theme will be Spring and the rumor is trivia may be part of the night. For anyone new to the community or new to potluck here is how it works: We collect \$1.00 per person to cover the cost of paper supplies, coffee and basics, guests bring a dish that will serve ten people, the dish can be an appetizer, entree or dessert you sign up for at the clubhouse. Identify on the sign up sheet which category of dish you are bringing. If you see multiple people signed up for one category please sign up for another so we can have a balanced menu. We need a host(s) for May, October, November and December. Please consider hosting. It's fun for a couple or join up with another family. Please contact **Mary Kallighan, mkall033@gmail.com, 480-659-8960** or cell **732-239-4792** to volunteer. Let's get some new people involved! See you on the 13th.

## **Water Aerobics**

Water Aerobics will be every **Monday, Wednesday & Friday** at **10 a.m.**

## **Chair Yoga**

Chair Yoga will be offered all **Fridays** in the month of April at **9 a.m.** in the clubhouse. Hope to see you there. --**Sandy Rooks**

## **Book Club**

On **Wednesday, April 18** at **noon**, we will meet in the clubhouse. Our April selection is "Little Fires Everywhere" by **Celeste Ng**. Join us, as we discuss the various characters.

If you wish to read ahead, our May selection is "The Great Alone" by **Kristin Hannah**. Any questions, please contact **Sandi Berger, sandals85@live.com** or **Karen Moore, kresmor60@gmail.com**.



## Kentucky Derby Potluck Pix





## Happy Trails



Bellasera hikers at the Wild Burro Trail on March 17.

(L- R): **Bruce Van Cleave, Brian Blaesing, Debbie Blanchard, Michelle Shannon, Pat Nielsen, Tom Shannon, Mary Van Cleave, Kay Cherokee, George Cherokee, Carolyn Vernacchia, Dennis Soeffner, Lou Garrett.** Photo by **Ralph Vernacchia** (not pictured).

### April Hike

The April hike will be the Gateway Saddle Loop in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Our scenic hike goes around the mountain & is 4.5 miles. This loop is rated moderate with an elevation of 625 feet. After the hike we can have lunch at the Pony Express Cafe.

The hike is **Tuesday, April 17**. Meet at the clubhouse parking lot at **8:30 a.m.** Remember to bring water & wear a hat. Sign up in the clubhouse or e-mail **Karen Meiliken, [meiliken1@aol.com](mailto:meiliken1@aol.com)**.

## And the Winner Is. . . .

Thanks to all of you who voted for your favorite wine at our March wine and cheese event. It was a close call, but with all of the votes counted, Italy won over France by 2 votes! There were 20 votes for the Italian wines and 18 for the French. We hope that you had fun tasting and voting and hope to see you at future events.

--John and Mary Moore

## Ladies Luncheon

Bellasera Ladies Luncheon hosted by **Diane Gaberman** will be on **Thursday, April 19, 12:00 noon** at Le San Souci French Restaurant, 7030 E Bella Vista Drive, Cave Creek. For more information contact **diane.gaberman@gmail.com, 509-952-3703.**

## Cooking Group?

Would anyone be interested in being part of a cooking group where residents can get together and learn from each other? There are so many talented cooks in Bellasera with tremendous gifts and techniques to share. We could meet to teach each other; share ideas and discuss food trends and area restaurants—among other things. It could be very rewarding and a lot of fun for those of us who love food and cooking.

If this appeals to you please contact **Rae Culotta, 516-987-2897, rsugarrae@aol.com.**

## We Need You



Once again this year Bellasera will participate in a City-wide Litter Clean-Up Event. For several years our community has adopted a portion of Lone Mountain Road, from Scottsdale Road to Hayden Road, part of the Adopt-a-Road program.

Communications Committee member **Emily Shriver** will lead the group of Bellasera volunteers on **Saturday, April 21 at 9 a.m.** If you'd like to volunteer to join the effort, e-mail **editor@azbellasera.org.**

All material will be furnished. Volunteers will be asked to sign waiver forms.

## Home Safe Home

Scottsdale Fire Department "Home Safe Home" program helps the elderly and frail reduce falling risks. Trained Fire Department volunteers visit seniors in their homes and point out potential tripping and falling hazards. Volunteers can replace smoke alarms batteries or install a new alarm and give free nightlights to ensure areas are well-lighted. More information: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/fire/home-safe-home>

## Snake!

With temperatures consistently approaching the 80s, rattlesnakes and other reptiles are on the move.

Warm weather rouses snakes. They leave their underground lairs to look for food, water and companionship. That can lead to potentially dangerous encounters between reptiles and people.

While many types of snakes pose no threat to people, venomous species — including rattlesnakes — do. According to the Arizona Game & Fish Department there are 13 species of rattlesnakes in the state.

Communities with lots of open spaces have the most snake activity (such as Bellasera). As the weather heats up and dries out, snakes may come closer to homes in search of food and water.

Fortunately, it's not hard to avoid rattlesnakes.

Most importantly, be on the lookout. Avoid reaching under rocks or shrubs without looking first. Be sure to use a flashlight or headlamp when walking at night.

If you're hiking, stay on trails. Those cleared and compacted paths make it easier to spot snakes. Venturing off trail can lead to trouble.

If you're off the trail, you're not going to see (snakes). They are designed to blend into the environment. They do not want to be seen. That's what makes them dangerous.

If you encounter a snake, take a step (or two) back.

Snakes can only strike at a distance of one-third of their body length. A three-foot snake has an effective strike range of 12 inches. The average human stride is 36 inches, so that puts you out of harm's way.

### What to do if someone is bitten

Call 911 immediately.

While waiting for help, keep the victim calm and remove jewelry and watches from the bite area.

**Dr. Frank LoVecchio**, medical director at the Banner Poison Drug and Information Center, recommends keeping the bite area at or above heart level because it helps reduce the pain.

Do not apply ice or a tourniquet to the bite. Do not make an incision and try to suck out the poison. Do not give drugs, alcohol or electric shock treatments.

If someone is bitten while out in a remote area, get him or her to a doctor as soon as possible.

### Discourage Snakes From Your Property

The Scottsdale Fire Department's website offers tips for making your property less hospitable to snakes.

- Eliminate rodents — a snake's preferred food — from around your home.
- Remove wood piles and junk from your yard to eliminate potential homes for snakes and their prey.
- Walls deter snakes from entering your yard. Solid walls 4 feet high with a four-inch lip angling outward will discourage most snakes. Sink the bottom of the wall well into the ground. Fill any tunnels burrowed by rodents.
- Install gates snugly against the ground.
- Keep walkways clear of brush. Light pathways around your home.

### Rattlesnakes on your property

Rattlesnake removal around your property is not a DIY activity.

If you find a snake, call the non-emergency number for your local fire department. Keep an eye on the snake so you can direct authorities to it.

You can also call the Phoenix Herpetological Society's hotline at **602-550-1090** or the Arizona Herpetological Association at **480-894-1625**.



## **Bellasera in the Rear View Mirror**

*A look back in Bellasera history. This may bring back memories for long-time residents and be of interest to those not living in our community 5 & 10 years ago. Clips from past newsletters follow.*

### **Bellasera Neighborhood News, April 2008, 10 years ago**

- Congratulations to Freya and Robert Weissner, lucky winners of the \$50 AJ's gift card, drawn from the over 200 Bellasera homeowners who returned the 2008 resident survey. Results of the survey were published in last month's Bellasera Neighborhood News.
- Last spring Dee and Sharon Luse celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with "old" high school friends. The whole group stayed at Camelback Inn for 3 nights of festivities and came up to Bellasera to finish the celebration.
- On a recent Sunday there was a lot of activity around the clubhouse pool, with many residents and their guests present. During this time, solid waste was eliminated in the pool and the spa. People who were there were obviously dismayed, and reported no one offered to clean it up.
- Recently completed projects include receipt of our new treadmills and installation of the new windscreens at the tennis courts. Our new elliptical trainers should be coming in any day.
- The major project for next fiscal year (JUL 08-JUN 09) will be painting all the view fencing in the community. By the way, I was asked by one resident why that was the Association's responsibility and my response was that the developer set it up that way in order to maintain consistency within the community.---Chuck Roach

### **Bellasera Neighborhood News, April 2013, 5 years ago**

- If you drive north on Scottsdale Road, you will notice the Summit Shopping Center, located on the east side of the road just before you reach Carefree Highway. It's a high-volume center that contains a Safeway and a Target surrounded by many other businesses, including three Starbucks. There is nothing unique about that, but the land where the center was built has a story that may not be familiar except to those who have lived in the area for the last 40 or so years.
- The Summit was built in 2000 on 47 acres that used to be part of Carefree Studios, a movie and television production company. It was originally called the Fred Graham Studios when built in 1968, as it was established by Graham, a movie stuntman and actor who appeared in almost all of John Wayne's films. By 1970, Graham had recruited Dick Van Dyke to do a new sitcom series at his property. It was a good fit as Van Dyke was living in nearby Cave Creek and didn't want to make the weekly trip to Hollywood for taping. It was around that time that the property's name was changed to Carefree Studios.
- At a community meeting on the evening of March 7, 2013, the Association's legal counsel in the easement litigation with the owners of the adjacent 12-acre parcel, Jason Smith of the law firm of Carpenter Hazelwood, gave a report regarding the current posture of the lawsuit. Jason also responded to numerous questions from the audience regarding the status of the litigation and its potential impact on Bellasera. We understand many owners were not able to attend the community meeting and members of the Board continue to receive questions on this subject from homeowners. The community meeting was recorded and a transcription of the meeting will be posted on the Bellasera website, along with all of the other easement dispute documents.



## April in the Garden

--By Joe McDade

### Our Spring, As Beautiful As Ever!

As snowstorms were proliferating in a good portion of our country, spring in the Sonoran Desert was evolving into its usual four-month-long spectacle of life and color, a constant evolutionary beauty. I believe there is no other community that portrays those signs of spring than here, in Bellasera. We are awash in color! Look around and observe:

#### Shrubs, Vines and Groundcover-Blooming Now

Our **Bougainvillea** has been blooming for the most of the winter and, right on schedule, is now undergoing a growth spurt which will add to their intensity and luster. In addition **Penstemon**, **Fairy Duster**, **Senna** and **Lantana** are coming into their own, adding to the bouquet. It's the tip of the iceberg as a myriad of other "Bloomers" will quickly join the color parade. And, of course, we have our omnipresent **Desert Marigold** with its beautiful yellow flowers cropping up everywhere.

#### Trees - To Bloom Soon

Bellasera is widely populated with **Palo Verdes** (the desert "bean" tree) and, during the next two or three weeks, they will bloom and make the desert golden. There are four species of green-barked trees: the **Blue palo verde**, the **Foothills palo verde**, the **Mexican palo verde** and the **Palo Brea**. Once pollinated, the yellow flowers will produce edible beans and, as they begin to open, their yellow to creamy blooms will create **corridors of yellow** throughout our community. The first to bloom will be the Blue palo verdes followed by the Foothills palo verdes, about two weeks later. The Mexican palo verdes bloom as the Foothills are finishing and can bloom through August.

#### Cacti

The cacti will begin to bloom as well, with a few of the prickly pears, chollas, and hedgehogs starting off. By the end of the month, some saguaro cacti will open their big, white flowers.

### Time To Enhance Your Garden

Although a lot of this happens naturally, we do enhance and add to the total beauty by nurturing and maintaining our part of the desert. To that point, I'd like to focus on some general maintenance topics including **planting** and **pruning**, as well as some **monthly garden tips**.

#### Planting

Although your summer planting should be nearly finished, you still have time to add life to your garden. Just remember to choose native plants or plants that are adapted to our high temperatures and alkaline soils. This is a good month for transplanting as you should beat the heat and have them in the ground before temperatures climb beyond 100 degrees. Some suggestions:

- Tropical plants like **Bougainvillea** and **Lantana**.
- Desert-adapted trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, ornamental grasses, perennials, cacti and succulents.
- Citrus Trees- Remember, dwarf only and they need to be in the rear of your property.
- Herbs- Transplant warm-season favorites, including **basil**, **lavender**, **rosemary** and **sage**.
- Warm-Season Veggies-Sow seeds for **black-eyed peas**, **cantaloupe**, **cucumbers**, **jicama**, **lima beans**, **okra**, **peanuts** and **summer squashes**, such as **crookneck**, **pattypan** and **zucchini**.

#### Warm Season Annual Flowers

Your winter-growing annuals should still be doing well and may thrive well into the month. However, as our temperatures begin to climb, they will have to be replaced with warm season annuals. So, when it is time to give up on them, nurseries should soon be providing good choices. Some suggestions are:

- **Celosia** - **Gaillardia** - **Globe amaranth** - **Portulaca** - **Gazania** - **Zinia** - **Verbena** - **Lisianthus** - **Madagascar periwinkle** - **Marigold** - **Petunia**

If you have doubts about what to choose, local nurseries are always glad to help.

#### Pruning

As emphasized last month, pruning should be done to maintain plant health (remove dead, damaged or diseased portions, cross branching, etc.), to highlight the "natural" shape of the plant, to train a young plant, and to eliminate hazards. With this in mind, April is a good month for pruning as follows:

- Continue to prune evergreen trees.
- Lightly prune your **Mesquites** and **Palo Verdes** after bud break or after flowering.
- Pruning newly planted trees and shrubs is **not recommended** and in fact can be detrimental. However, corrective pruning of broken or torn branches and/or limbs can be done at planting time. Save other pruning activities for the second or third year.
- Continue to prune summer and fall flowering shrubs by mid-month including:
  - **Texas Sages** - **Yellow Bells** - **Lantana** - **Turpentine Bush** - **Mexican-honeysuckle** - **Sky Flower** - **Black Dalea**
- **Rosemary**- Spring growth should be well underway and, following the blossoming of its vivid blue-violet flowers, can be safely trimmed back.

(there's more....on the next page)



**Cactus-** If *cholla* or *prickley pear* cactus become too large, they should be cut to a joint with a saw or large clippers. Remember to wear heavy gloves to protect your hands. Also, it is not necessary to treat a cut on these types of cactus if the cut is made at the joint.

**Yucca** should not be pruned unless it is necessary to remove dead or diseased stems. If you need to prune, cut back to either a joint or as low on the plant as possible and dust the wound generously with powdered sulphur until it completely dries out.

#### **Do you have a shrub that needs to be rejuvenated?**

Shrubs that have been repeatedly sheared into unnatural shape are in a near constant state of stress and, over time, develop a thin layer of leaves that scarcely cover an unsightly interior. Give these shrubs a new lease on life by pruning them back to stems 12 to 18 inches high. Follow up a deep watering to support new growth.

#### **Monthly Garden Tasks**

**Roses-** During spring's peak bloom period feed and water to promote continued flowering. Apply fertilizer every two weeks until the heat of summer begins. Water twice per week when temperatures are below 80 degrees, increasing to three times weekly when temperatures are above 80 degrees or conditions are windy, which can dry out foliage and blooms.

**Drip System-** As mentioned last month, you need to clean out sediment and algae as well as replace clogged emitters and also clean filters. Adjust your drip system to *water more frequently*. *How much?* This is always one of the hardest questions to answer. Generally, be sure to run your system long enough to wet the top two feet of soil. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkle.

**Feed Citrus-** Fertilize trees with their second feeding of the year this month or next. Apply one-third of the tree's total annual nitrogen requirement. Water deeply after spreading the fertilizer.

**Weeding-** April and May are usually the worst months. However, with our dearth of winter rain, we should get a break this year.

#### **Birds**

Birds in the desert are always looking for food and a free handout. If you elect to feed them, please be aware that there are many dangers involved in feeding any of the wildlife here in the desert, the main one being the attraction of predators and other unwelcome visitors such as:

**Mice and Rats-** They love seeds **Snakes-** They love mice and rats **Coyotes-** They love Quail.

In addition, excessive bird droppings can create unsanitary conditions which can cause over sixty transmittable diseases. So, please think it through before you decide to feed the birds, especially this time of year.

#### **Houseplants: Maintenance**

As days lengthen, houseplants begin producing fresh shoots. Gradually water more frequently and apply houseplant fertilizer according to package instructions. If roots poke out the bottom of the pot, or if growth was stunted last year, repot in fresh soil. In the process, trim or spread out encircled or overgrown roots, and wait to fertilize for a month to allow roots to re-establish. Clean and disinfect pots with a 10-percent bleach solution (1-part bleach to 9-parts water) before reusing. Don't be afraid to repot a plant! The internet has numerous sites that will help you.

#### **Observations**

**Shifting of the Sun-** We don't change our clocks like most of the country, however, we in Bellasera, are very much aware of the shifting of the sun. First of all, we get to see a lot of the sun and a good number of our homes face north/south. Hence, the sun's shift to the back or front of your house is obvious. Our plant life is certainly aware of this also as everything on the north side of your house will finally catch up to the plantings on the south. Check it out.

**Citrus-** your citrus should be full of buds and soon they will give off a beautiful spring aroma.

**National Arbor Day is April 29-** This day is set aside to celebrate trees. Just a reminder, trees increase home values, improve air quality, provide shade, lower surrounding temperatures, attract wildlife, stymie strong winds and lower utility costs.

#### **Some Final Thoughts**

•Conclusion of March Madness •The Masters •Baseball Is Back (Does it get any better?)

(If you have a gardening question, please contact the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service at 602-470-8086)

# \*Community Calendar—April 2018\*

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
Easter	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Poker 7 p.m.	Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Yoga 8:45 a.m.	Chair Yoga 9 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m. Bridge 1:30 p.m.	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Building & Grounds 10 a.m. Modifications 12 noon  Poker 7 p.m.	Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Yoga 8:45 a.m.	Chair Yoga 9 a.m.  Water Aerobics 10 a.m.  Potluck 6 p.m.	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Hike 8:30 a.m.  Poker 7 p.m.	Water Aerobics 10 a.m. Book Club 12 noon Budget & Finance 1 p.m.	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 12 noon Meet the Candidates 7 p.m.	Chair Yoga 9 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.  Bridge 1:30 p.m.	Lone Mountain Road Cleanup 9 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Brush & Bulk Week	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Poker 7 p.m.	Water Aerobics 10 a.m.	Yoga 8:45 a.m.	Chair Yoga 9 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.  Bridge 1:30 p.m.	
29	30					
Annual Meeting 2 p.m.	Yoga 8:45 a.m. Water Aerobics 10 a.m.					



## **\*\*Bellasera Classifieds\*\***

For Sale by Bellasera homeowner: Tempurpedic Grand Cloud Supreme king size mattress - brand new! Retail cost: \$9,339.00. Your price: \$4500.00. Call **Larry Brader, 509-952-7007**.

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White Wooden Shutters for sale. Fits large great-room and family-room windows of Opala model. Excellent condition. Make offer. Call **Shelley, 602-525-0673**.

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2000 Saleen Mustang S281 Super Charger convertible (black), 4.6L V8 350HP, 28,500 miles (original). In excellent condition. \$24,500. Text or call **Lonnie Mahrt, 402-680-4953**. Must see to appreciate this beauty!

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Massage is a potent medicine. There is no question that proper massage can relax tense muscles, and decrease pain. Relaxing therapeutic massage is available in the privacy of your home or at the clubhouse Massage Room. For an appointment or further information contact: Bellasera resident **Jim Birkholz**, Licensed Massage Therapist, **480-244-9567**. Gift Certificates available.

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All About Cleaning \*\*\* Professional Window Cleaning. Inside-Outside-Screens-Tracks. Power Wash (After Monsoon season Must!). Request an over the phone estimate or on-site free estimate. Call **Maria, 480-206-5237**, [www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto:Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com).

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Cabin available for rent in Munds Park. Enjoy fall foliage or plan ahead for snow adventures. 3 bedrooms 2 sleeper sofas/2baths; Gas fireplace; Fabulous deck; Full kitchen; Washer/Dryer. \$300 weekend/\$500 for 3 night Holiday weekend. Cleaning fee negotiable. Call Bellasera resident **Marti Bening, 480-488-4297** for details.

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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.

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All About Cleaning \*\*\*Regularly scheduled Home cleaning \*\*\* One Time Cleaning \*\*\*Move In/Out cleaning, \*\*\*After Remodeling Cleaning. We have excellent references from long-time Bellasera Resident customers and surrounding areas. Call **Maria, 480-206-5237** (owner-operator, Bellasera resident for over 10 years). Licensed-Bonded-Insured. [www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto:Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com).

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*Classified Ads are only accepted from Bellasera homeowners. Real estate for sale, non-resident business or commercial ads are not accepted. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.*

Your ad will run for 3 months, and may be extended upon request. E-mail your ad to: [editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org).

# **Bellasera Community Association**

7350 E Ponte Bella Dr  
Scottsdale AZ 85266-2701

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

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**  
Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**  
Community Directory: **directory.azbellasera.org**

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Community Manager : **Laurie Forte, lforte@aamaz.com**

—Office Hours—  
Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Questions regarding your account?  
Contact AAM, LLC: **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-354-0257**  
AAM, LLC (after hours, emergency): **602-647-3034** or toll free, **866-553-8290**

## **\*\*Bellasera Community Volunteers\*\***

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.*

*Interested in volunteering? Go to [azbellasera.org](http://azbellasera.org), "BCA Members" page.*

### **Board of Directors** **board@azbellasera.org**

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Secretary—**Dennis Carson, dmcarson7@gmail.com**  
Treasurer—**David Reid, dreid997@gmail.com**  
Director---**Joe Carlon, jmc0465@aol.com**  
Director— **Craig Johnson, cl7610@aol.com**

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Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder

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#### **Communications**

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#### **Modifications**

Stanley Green, David Hathaway, **\*Craig Johnson\***

#### **Security Advisory**

Dennis Carson, Dennis Soeffner

**\*\_\_\_\_\_\*** indicates committee chairperson