

# BELLASERA

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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*"All our dreams can come true, if we  
have the courage to pursue them"*

Walt Disney



January - 2020



# Clubhouse Corner

by Annette McCarthy & Trudy Vinger

## Happy New Year to our Bellasera Residents!

We wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support this year and let you know how much we enjoy working with such a wonderful group of folks!

There have been a few administrative changes this year but **Trudy's** and my goal is to assist you in enjoying the Bellasera lifestyle and keeping it a very special environment in which to live.

Please feel free to contact **Trudy** by phone at **480-488-0400** or via email at **tvinger@associatedasset.com** for any concerns that may arise in the community. She is your first point of contact and she and I will work together to resolve any issues that are brought to our attention.

We are look forward to continuing to serve you in 2020!

Sincerely,

**Annette McCarthy and Trudy Vinger**

## View Fence Painting/Side-View Fence Painting And Rabbit Fencing View Fence Painting:

The "big" project that will occur during the first quarter of 2020 is the view fence painting. The view fence is the fence between you and common area, and not any fencing between Lot owners. Our CC&Rs mandate the Association with the sole responsibility

to care for and maintain the main view fence. It is something that must be done periodically to maintain the fence's useful life according to our reserve study. We recently awarded the painting contract to DR Paint (they painted the view fencing the last time). A schedule will be posted as soon as it is developed in coordination with the contractor.

All rabbit fencing, vegetation, plants, etc. must be removed from the fence between your lot and the common areas prior to painting.

The main view fence will be painted from the common area side, and we doubt the contractor will need access to anyone's yard to paint the main view fence. However, if they do need to access a yard, the owner will be noticed beforehand.

## Side-View Fence Painting:

The side-view fence is the fence between lots, separating owners. You and your next door neighbor can hire DR Paint to paint the side-view fence between you and your neighbor. The side-view fence is private property, co-owned by adjoining residents and not common area, so the Association is not responsible for its maintenance, and will not be involved with painting any side-view fences. The Association will not coordinate any work with DR Paint to paint the side-view fence. If you and your neighbor agree to have the side fences painted, you and your neighbor are responsible to make arrangements directly with the contractor and coordinate to remove the vegetation from the side fences.

DR Paint quoted the cost for painting the



side-view fence painting at \$35.00. The Association will not pay DR Paint for painting any side-view fence. We ask that all residents coordinate with their neighbors to split the cost (\$17.50 each! What a deal!). If you cannot coordinate with your neighbor, but still would like to have the side-view fence painted, you will be solely responsible to pay the entire \$35.00 fee.

The resident who contacts Dave to schedule side-view fence painting will be billed for and responsible for making payment to DR Painting for the entire \$35.00.

**You must contact DR PAINT directly at 480-570-5038 and schedule with Dave.**

**You must contact them prior to your back-view fence being painted as they will not "back track" and paint the side-view fence once the main view fencing has been painted.**

**DR PAINT employees must have access to one of the yards in order to paint the side-view fence.**

**DR PAINT will provide a schedule of what and when areas will be painted. As of this date we do not yet have the schedule. We will post the schedule as soon as it is developed.**

#### **Rabbit Fencing:**

All rabbit fencing must be removed before DR Paint arrives to paint the main view fence. DR Paint will not remove or replace any rabbit fencing. You must do the work or arrange to have the work performed by your landscaper or another contractor. The Association will not take part in the removal or replacement of any rabbit fencing. We hoped to provide a list of contractors' owners can contact to perform that work, but none have responded to date. We will post a list if we get fortunate enough to find contractors willing to do the work.





## *Rear View - A Bit of History*

**January 2010:** Four burglaries were reported in Bellasera during December. There was a vehicle vandalism incident reported as well. Be Alert. Watch for suspicious persons or activity and report them immediately to the Scottsdale Police Department, 480-312-5000. Residents are encouraged to ensure all outside lights are working, and when you're away from home, leave a light on. Check to make sure your home intrusion alarm is working to your preference.

Three families received their entire wish list and then some thanks to the generosity of many Bellasera residents. Thanks to all who helped these under-served families celebrate the holiday with hope, joy and your plentiful gifts.

**Food Drive Success:** Thanks also to the many food contributions received for our 1000 pound 2009 Food Drive. While we exceeded last year's collection, we were shy of our goal by less than half. We collected 630 pounds of food which is an impressive amount.

Social Committee starts New Year's with a complimentary Holiday Brunch for all residents. Please join your neighbors in welcoming in the New Year and enjoy a fully catered brunch hosted by the Bellasera HOA. If you plan on attending the annual New Year's brunch, please sign the reservation sheet at the clubhouse. Brunch is January 1, from 1 - 3 p.m. We hope to see you there. As with all events, soft drinks **ONLY** are provided by Bellasera. Residents are welcome to bring other beverages of their choice. We hope to see you there.

Our primary mission in enforcing the Governing Documents is to gain compliance on a voluntary basis. It is not to punish our residents in a heavy-handed manner. However, when it is clear a resident is aware of the violation and still refuses to comply, it is sometimes necessary to impose fines to gain enforcement. The Association has the option of attempting to resolve the matter itself and billing the resident or filing a lawsuit. Both of these approaches are potentially costly and very contentious. So far, the Association has not had to resort to these approaches to gain compliance. I hope we never will! --Chuck Roach

**January 2015:** Bellasera resident Gregg Dittoe, 61, passed away Saturday, December 20 due to complications from leukemia. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 27 at Highlands Church in Scottsdale. The large number of current and former Bellasera residents in attendance attest to residents' appreciation for his many contributions to the Bellasera community. This one man truly had a significant impact in our community.

I met with our contractor for the new hiking trail connecting to Lone Mountain on December 20. Construction of the new trail will begin the week of January 5 and should take approximately two weeks to complete. Additional maintenance and repair of some of our existing trails will be performed as well. We will make a further announcement of the official opening of the new Lone Mountain Trail sometime late in January.

Vehicle Transponders It has recently been brought to the attention of the Security Committee that some Bellasera residents may have removed the soft transponders which were affixed to the windshield of a 'registered' vehicle and transferred (re-affixed) them to a new vehicle 'unregistered' with the management office. This is a serious breach of the Vehicular Transponder Rules adopted by the Board to enhance community security. The new soft Vehicular Transponder system was adopted and implemented by the Board at significant cost to the community to enhance security and accountability over the old 'hard' portable transponders. Moving transponders between vehicles without notifying the management office defeats the purpose and design of the system.

The view-fence painting program was a resounding success. As a result of the tireless efforts of our many resident volunteers and management staff, the program was well-planned, well-publicized and professionally executed with our painting contractor. While past view-fence painting efforts experienced significant owner non participation, this year only six owners elected to 'opt-out' – assume responsibility to maintain their view fences themselves. This experience should serve as a model for similar improvement and maintenance projects in the future.

The ongoing Easement Litigation with the owner of the adjacent 12-acre parcel was settled on favorable terms and the lawsuit was dismissed. The cloud that this litigation cast over our community for the last few years has now been removed and we have some certainty and predictability regarding the future use and development of the 12-acre parcel by our 'neighbor' to the Southeast.

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### **Web Site Search**

Bellasera's web site, [azbellasera.org](http://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.

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### **Burn Cleaner & Burn Better**

Consider alternatives to burning wood this winter season. The harmful health effects from wood smoke are well documented by those who suffer from asthma, COPD, emphysema or other respiratory ailments. Tiny particles in wood smoke are about 30 times smaller than a human hair and can be absorbed into the blood stream where they lower lung function, exacerbate bronchitis and asthma and can even lead to heart attacks. Instead of burning wood, choose an alternative, such as electric, natural gas and fireplace retrofit devices that cause little to no emissions. Other cleaner selections include woodstoves, pellet stoves and oil furnaces.

# JANUARY 2020

## Bellamera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Brush & Bulk				<sup>2</sup> Yoga - 8:00 am	<sup>3</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	<sup>4</sup> Pickelball - 9 am
<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup> Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>7</sup> Poker - 7 pm	<sup>8</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball - 2 pm	<sup>9</sup> Yoga - 8:00 am	<sup>10</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	<sup>11</sup> Pickelball - 9 am
<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup> Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am Board Meeting - 1 pm	<sup>14</sup> Building & Grounds - 10 am Modifications - noon Poker 7 pm	<sup>15</sup> Communica-tions - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball - 2 pm  <u>Town Hall Meeting</u> - 6:30 pm	<sup>16</sup> Yoga - 8:00 am	<sup>17</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	<sup>18</sup> Pickelball - 9 am
<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup> Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>21</sup> Hikers - 9 am Budget & Finance - 10 am Poker 7 pm	<sup>22</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball - 2 pm	<sup>23</sup> Yoga - 8:00 am	<sup>24</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm Wine & Cheese - 5 to 7 pm	<sup>25</sup> Pickelball - 9 am
<sup>26</sup> Brush & Bulk	<sup>27</sup> Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	<sup>28</sup> Poker 7 pm	<sup>29</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Book Club - noon Pickelball - 2 pm	<sup>30</sup> Yoga - 8:00 am	<sup>31</sup> Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	

## Meeting Notices

**Community Town Hall meeting** on **January 15** at **6:30 p.m.**

**Board of Directors** will meet on **Monday, January 13** at **1 p.m.**

**Budget & Finance Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, January 21** at **10 a.m.**

**Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, January 14** at **10 a.m.**

**Communications Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, January 15** at **8:30 a.m.**

**Modifications Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, January 14** at **noon**. Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, January 9** at **12 noon**.

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### December 2018 Weather in Bellasera

(December 1 - December 31)

Highest Temperature: **72 degrees**

Lowest temperature: **28 degrees**

Rainfall: **1.97 inches**

Rainfall this year: **16.56 inches**

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

**Bellasera Weather at a Touch.** A free app for your iPhone, iPad only will provide instant Bellasera weather information at a touch! This app is only available in the Apple App Store. In the App Store, 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. More information, if required, is available by e-mail, **[editor@azbellasera.org](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)**

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### 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 **20th** 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.

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### 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, January 27**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, February 24**. 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**.



## B e l l a s e r a   C l a s s i f i e d s

KitchenAid refrigerator – stainless steel, side by side, built-in (42" W, 25" D, 84" H), 25 cu ft, in-door ice & water, model KBSD612ESS00. Only used for 2-1/2 years. Excellent working condition. 3-Month money-back guaranty. Original cost approx \$10,000. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call **Peggy** or **Joel**, **480-200-7163**, or e-mail, **plcpch@cox.net**.

Hoover Floormate...save your knees, back with this tool. Vacuums the dirt, lays down the floor cleaning solution, scrubs with 6 brushes, and vacuums the floor clean. Good condition, \$100. Dyson "Animal" Ball Vacuum. Excellent condition, powerful, efficient, with tools. \$160. **SgreenP@MSN.com**

2019 Lexus NX 300, white, like new with 9,800 miles. \$35,500 or best offer. **916 214 1851**.

I love living in Bellasera! Did you know that real estate inventory levels in our community are very low? I have buyers who want homes in Bellasera. Have you been thinking about making a move? Now is a great time to sell. Contact me today for a market analysis: **Audrey Fischer, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 480-740-4223** or **audrey.fischer@azmoves.com**.

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 at **480-244-9567**. Gift Certificates available.

All about Cleaning \*\*\* Professional Window Cleaning. Inside-Outside-Tracks. Power Wash (After Monsoon season Must). Request an over the phone estimate or on-site free estimate. Call **Maria** at **480-206-5237**, **www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaning Arizona.com**.

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

Bellasera Residents: The Kiwanis Club of Carefee 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.

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** at **480-206-5237** (owner-operator, Bellasera resident for over 10 years). Licensed-Bonded-Insured. **www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**.

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 Strozewski. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighbors have access to reliable and trustworthy home monitoring while away from their desert dwelling. We are licensed and insured and provide a variety of weekly, bi-monthly or monthly visits. We provide visual inspections of the interior and exterior of the home including, but not limited to, check of windows and doors for any potential problems, visual inspection of landscaping, run water in all sinks, bathtubs and showers (to keep traps from drying out and prevent sewer gases from entering your home), start and run vehicles, and post storm surveying. All visits include a comprehensive home watching report. For a complete list of services and to schedule a complimentary assessment contact us at **480-634-1452** or e-mail us at **ddhomewatch@gmail.com**.

*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***



# Bellasera Hiking Group



The Bellasera hiking group had a stellar day for taking on Coyote Canyon Trail on **Thursday, December 12**. As planned, we all posed for a photo in front of this rare double-crested saquaro, a highlight of the trail. Pictured (left to right) are **Pamela Ewing, Michele Shannon, Rick Forbes, Caryn Hollander, Ellen Roach, Gene Hollander, and Cheri Valuet**. **Tom Shannon** was the photographer.

# Bellasera Community Events

**The Joy of Chili!** Hey we live in Arizona and who doesn't love this comfort food. If you have a special recipe you want to share or have a favorite chili, bring a pot of it to the clubhouse **Friday, February 7, at 6 p.m.** Or you can bring a salad, cornbread or anything else you think goes well with chili. A sign up sheet will be in the clubhouse. We are looking to try as many chili dishes as possible: beans; no beans; meat; no meat; vegan; chicken; turkey; atomic or mild chili. Just bring it on!

**Bellasera Book Club** will meet on **Wednesday, January 29 at noon** in the clubhouse and review books we've read and plan our choices for the new year. Contact **Karen Moore, [kkmoore40@yahoo.com](mailto:kkmoore40@yahoo.com)**.

**Bellasera Clubhouse Kitchen Reorganization:** A group of volunteer ladies will be working in the kitchen of the clubhouse in January to purge and reorganize the cupboards. If you are missing any items of your own, and you think they may have been left in the clubhouse kitchen, please let the ladies know before **Wednesday, January 8** and they can make arrangements for you to pick them up. They will be discarding non-working coffee pots, as well as linens, decorations, and other miscellaneous items, which are deemed unusable. You may contact **Dianna Saari, [disaari@aol.com](mailto:disaari@aol.com), Pat Nielsen, [pnielsen53@att.net](mailto:pnielsen53@att.net), or Mary Moore, [ponte7548@gmail.com](mailto:ponte7548@gmail.com)**.

**Welcome 2020--January Wine and Cheese:** Please join us for our first wine and cheese of 2020. The event will be held on **Friday, January 24 from 5-7 p.m.** We will be welcoming the snowbirds back to sunny Arizona, our new residents to our fine community and everyone to the New Year. Please feel free to bring a bottle of your favorite wine and an appetizer to share with the group. Your hosts for the evening are **John and Mary Moore** located at 7548 E. Ponte Bella. If you are planning to attend, you can sign up in the clubhouse, or contact us, **[ponte7548@gmail.com](mailto:ponte7548@gmail.com), 480-248-6510**. We hope to see you there!

**Bellasera Hikers - Tuesday, January 21:** Our hike will take us to the Apache Wash Trailhead in the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. This trailhead is located at 1600 E. Sonoran Desert Drive. The hike will be between 4-5 miles, depending on our route. Be sure to layer clothing and bring a snack and plenty of water. We will stick to easy/moderate trails and likely go out and back on the same trails. Hope you are able to join us. Sign up sheet is located at the clubhouse front entrance. **Ellen Roach, 480-488-0961**. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the clubhouse parking lot.



# When eating is a Problem

These recipes are from a booklet given by the Mayo Clinic with suggestions for increasing calorie and protein intake. Possibly these will help someone.

## Tuna Loaf

(An alternative to meat loaf)

8 slices bread

2 cans (6½ ounces) flaked tuna, packed in oil

1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup

1 cup whole milk (or high-protein milk)

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon paprika

2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Tear bread into small pieces and mix with tuna in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, mix together soup, milk, salt, paprika and eggs. Add to bread and tuna. Mix well. Bake in greased 5-inch by 9-inch loaf pan for 45 minutes. Slice to serve. If desired, top with white sauce or processed cheese sauce.

Yield: 6 servings

Calories per serving: 300

Protein per serving: 18 grams

## Cheese Spinach Pie

⅓ cup onion, chopped (or 2 tablespoons dried onion flakes)

1 tablespoon butter or margarine

4 ounces Swiss or Muenster cheese, sliced

1 cup frozen spinach, thawed and drained

3 eggs, large

½ cup whole milk (or high-protein milk)

½ teaspoon salt

Dash of pepper

One 9-inch pie shell or thin biscuit dough to fit a 9-inch pie pan

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cook onion in butter or margarine until tender.\* Lay cheese slices over pie dough, follow with spinach. Beat together eggs, milk, onion and seasonings. Pour over ingredients in the pie shell. Bake for 35 minutes or until a knife inserted into the center of the pie comes out clean. Serve hot.

\*If using dried onions, add onions and butter or margarine with milk.

Yield: 4 servings

Calories per serving: 400

Protein per serving: 15 grams





# January in the Garden

by Joe McDade

## Winter Has Settled In ...It's "Quiet Time" For Your Garden

We had a taste of winter in December, cold nights and mornings along with some rain. It even rained on Christmas day for the first time in a decade! Not ideal for our holiday visitors, but winter moisture is certainly needed for your garden and is a great companion to the beautiful weather we get during this time of year. There is a view held by many that January is the only month of winter in our part of the Sonoran Desert. These wintry conditions are the norm for the low desert in January and paves the way for a ***slow month of gardening***. Your primary focus should be on protecting your frost sensitive plants along with some selective pruning, and planting. Take advantage of this "quiet" time by preparing for upcoming spring projects. I'll cover these topics below with exception of frost protection which was covered extensively in last month's column (December 2019) and can be found at [www.azbellasera.org](http://www.azbellasera.org).

### Pruning

**Roses**- A fairly severe haircut promotes April's glorious bloom period. In general, remove dead, crossed, or crowded canes and those that grow across the center of the bush, inhibiting air circulation. Specifically:

*Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras*- Cut back one-third to one-half of the bush, leaving four to eight of the youngest, sturdiest canes for optimal bloom. Remove all of the foliage and the small twiggy growth.

*Floribundas and Miniatures*- Leave 8 to 12 canes and more of the small growth.

*Old Garden Roses*- Wait to prune until after their spring bloom.

**Succulents** - As a general rule, if plants have severe cold damage, resist the urge to prune affected stems until the weather warms next month. The only exception is flowering stalks on ***aloes***, which can be removed anytime. \*\*\*see more on succulents and cold weather on page 13\*\*\*

**Deciduous Fruit Trees** - Cut out all dead, diseased, or broken wood, any crossing branches, and waterspouts.

**Do not prune**- Any frost sensitive evergreens or leguminous trees like mesquite, ironwood, acacias or palo verdes this month.

**General Winter Guidelines**- Wait to prune cold-tender plants until danger of frost is over in mid-March. Prune native plants after they bloom in late spring or early summer

### Planting

**Bare Root Roses**- I touched on planting and purchasing in December and thought I should expand this month on selection as the local garden centers should be flush with a wide selection. First, a reminder that:

*Roses are arguably the oldest garden plants in the world. Cultivated in China and parts of Europe for centuries, these extraordinary plants hold a special place in the hearts of gardeners everywhere.*

For large flowers on sturdy stems, choose hybrid tea roses such as:

- *Change of Heart* (pink blooms with a spicy scent)
- *Voluptous* (deep pink with sweet scent)
- *Elle* (shell pink and yellow blooms with a spicy citrus scent)

For large clusters of smaller flowers, consider these new floribunda types:

- *Fragrant Wave* (white and spicy)
- *Tuscan Sun* (apricot orange with light spicy scent)

### **Cold-Hardy and Fall-Winter Growers:**

- Penstemons
- Salvia
- Brittlebush
- Sugar Sumac
- Bur-sage
- Red Barberry
- Cleveland Sage
- Mohave Sage
- Aloes
- Globemallow
- White Sage

**Succulents** - Plant winter-growing succulents in the ground or in containers. Choose a location with high, filtered shade or one that is shaded from the afternoon sun. While winter sun suits all winter-growing succulents, summer sun, especially in the afternoon, can be too much for them.

**Cool-Season Herbs**-Transplant borage, cilantro, dill, parsley and thyme.

**Cool-season veggies**-Sow seeds for peas, root crops and salad greens. Transplant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Chinese cabbage.

**Warm-Season Vegetable Seeds**-(If you are ambitious) Sow seeds indoors for peppers and tomatoes so that seedlings are ready to transplant outdoors between mid-February and mid-March (with frost protection). Small- to medium-size fruits are more likely to produce a good crop than beefsteak varieties, which often crack before they mature.

### **Citrus**

If you have established citrus in your garden, you are beginning to enjoy the harvest of fresh lemons, limes, grapefruit and/or oranges. To help guarantee a good crop every year, this is a reminder that your citrus should be **fertilized** in **January** or **February** with one-third of the tree's annual nitrogen requirements. Follow these guidelines:

- Apply at the tree's drip line (edge of the canopy) and slightly beyond, which is where actively growing root tips will absorb the product. Water deeply right after applying fertilizer.
- The amount to apply depends on the tree's size and how many years it has been in the ground.

A small two-year-old tree needs one-half pound of nitrogen per year.

- The amount increases one-quarter pound annually until the tree is six years or older. It then takes about 1.5 pounds of nitrogen annually, with the exception of mature grapefruit trees, which require half that amount.

**Remember:** Citrus in Bellasera needs to be "Dwarf" and in your backyard. Also, the best place to keep most citrus is on the tree as long as possible. Citrus will grow sweeter on the tree even after ripening. Tangerines will not stay on the tree as long as other citrus.

### **Succulents and Cold Weather**

First, let's define **Succulent**: "Any fleshy plant that belongs to one of many diverse families; among them species of cactus, aloe, stonecrop, houseleek, agave, and yucca." We have a variety of indigenous succulents that have adapted to the extreme heat and dryness of our environment. During our winter months, you will need to follow some specific guidelines for their proper care which are outlined below.

**Frost Protection-** When freezing temperatures are predicted, protect tender succulents or those in bloom by covering them with a blanket, sheet, frost cloth (available in plant nurseries) or cardboard box overnight. Remove the covering in the morning when it warms up.

**Aloes-** Many aloes are hardy enough to withstand short-duration freezes, but their flowers are not. To protect flowering aloes, use a frame of pipe, wood or bamboo stakes over the plant then lay the protective covering over that.

### Garden Observations for the Month

**Cacti-**If your saguaro or other cacti have a reddish color during the winter, it may simply be a response to the cool dry conditions of winter and nothing needs to be done.

**Mesquites-**They begin to lose their leaves this month as they fade to yellow or brown and begin to fall off which is normal leaf loss in these plants. While screwbean mesquite is completely deciduous each year, velvet mesquite lose their leaves gradually, often as the new leaves emerge.

**Color bowl-** it's never too late to create some cool-season color on your patio or in your courtyard. Transplant easy-to-grow sun lovers such as calendula, dianthus, gazania, marigold, pansy and viola.

### Watering Schedule

I feel obligated to provide a monthly watering guide as it is very important to water smartly during the winter. Schedules should be adjusted to about 1/3 of the summer frequency for deciduous and dormant plants, but water deeply each time. Winter lawns and annual flowers may require once to twice per week watering depending on the weather. However:

***Watering frequencies and ranges are affected by rainfall amounts. Miraculously, plants seem to know the difference between irrigation and rain. Even with steady, appropriate irrigation, fruit set and growth is always better with adequate rain. \*\*\*With the rain we've had in November and December, your drip system should have been turned off for the last two months and kept off in January as long as our current rainfall pattern continues. Of course, this would not apply to newly planted items and winter annuals which all require special attention. \*\*\****

### Miscellaneous

**Annuals-**Yellowing seen on older leaves (at the base of the plant or stem) may indicate nitrogen deficiency in flowers and vegetables. Apply nitrogen fertilizer according to the package instructions. Continue to incorporate compost in gardens to improve soil fertility over time.

**Spring Projects-** Our growing season starts next month and you should start by preparing and planning for your upcoming planting projects.

**Houseplants -** It's time to inspect houseplants for aphids, scale insects, spider mites, and mealybugs. Rinse infected plants with commercial insecticidal soap or a solution of 1 tablespoon of dishwashing liquid mixed with one gallon of water. Blast gray aphids off plants with a strong jet of water.

*Happy New Year!*

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





## **Bellasera Community Association**

**7350 E Ponte Bella Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85266-2701**

Office: **480-488-0400**

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

**M-F: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.: Sat: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Sun: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**

Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**

Community Directory: **directory.azbellasera.org**

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Community Manager: **Annette McCarthy** ([manager@azbellasera.org](mailto:manager@azbellasera.org))

Resident Services Coordinator: **Trudy Vinger** ([manager@azbellasera.org](mailto:manager@azbellasera.org))

-Office Hours-

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 12 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Questions regarding your account?

Contact AAM, LLC: **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-354-0257**

AAM, LLC (after hours, emergency): **602-957-9191** 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](mailto:board@azbellasera.org)

**President - Dennis Carson**

**Vice President - Joe Carlon**

**Secretary - Dennis Soeffner**

**Treasurer - David Reid**

**Director - Carl Leroux**

#### **Committees**

**Budget & Finance** - ([bandf@azbellasera.org](mailto:bandf@azbellasera.org)) Audrey Fischer, Mary Moore-Chair, Chuck Roach, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder

**Buildings & Grounds** - ([bandg@azbellasera.org](mailto:bandg@azbellasera.org)) Bob Gromko, John Mattox, John Nielsen, Tom Saari-chair, Dennis Soeffner, Bruce Van Cleave, Jill Wyllie

**Communications** - ([comm@azbellasera.org](mailto:comm@azbellasera.org)) Dennis Carson, Keith Christian-Chair, Joe McDade, Carol Padwe, Paul Rippens

**Modifications** - ([mod@azbellasera.org](mailto:mod@azbellasera.org)) Stanley Green, David Hathaway, Craig Johnson, David Reid-Chair

**Security Advisory** - ([sec@azbellasera.org](mailto:sec@azbellasera.org)) Joe Carlon

**Wildfire Safety Advisor** - Paul Rippens