

# BELLASERA

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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### Autumn

*The leaves start to swirl  
as the winds begin to blow  
the air starts to cool  
as Autumn arrives - way too slow*

*We've waited thru the summer heat  
for this change to finally come  
cooler days and chilly nights  
Sweaters will come out for some*

*The leaves will change color  
and turn from green to gold  
we love this time of year  
something that never gets old*

*The days will grow shorter  
we'll enjoy the cool evening air  
and enjoy the days of Autumn  
for winter will soon be here*

Paul H. Rippens - 2020

October - 2020





# Clubhouse Corner

## **Car Transponders, Clubhouse Fobs and Assessments:**

Car transponders and clubhouse fobs are available by contacting the management office. We

would like to remind all residents that when you need a new or replacement transponder or key fob, there is a \$25 dollar fee that is payable by check at the time you receive it. Please make the check payable to the Bellasera Community Association. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, a friendly reminder that your quarterly assessment is due on the first of the month for the quarter being billed. We appreciate your prompt payment. - **Budget & Finance Committee**

## **Outdoor Pool Shower Remodel Completed**

It has taken too long, but the remodel of the outside pool shower has finally been completed. I hesitate to say it, but the final product has been worth waiting for – a beautiful end to the story.

## **New Landscaper for Bellasera:**

Effective September 1, our new landscaper – Back to Nature Landscape - began its service to the Bellasera community. A great deal of work went into developing the scope and details of our bids for ongoing landscaping services. I would like to thank the other members of the Board and the Building and Grounds Committee for their efforts to bring this to a conclusion. While it is still early, I believe we can already see some improvement in the general appearance of the community. Having said that, it will be an ongoing process to get Bellasera back to the level we all desire. I encourage our residents to report any

specific issues that require attention to our on-site Assistant Community Manager, **Pamela Nunnelly**, in the clubhouse office, who will be dealing directly with our landscapers. Other enhancements and improvements to our Common Areas are under consideration – stay tuned.

## **Community Pool Refinish and Repairs:**

Our Community Swimming Pool is now scheduled for a major refinishing and some needed repairs. This will be the most significant improvement project undertaken by Bellasera for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. In order to complete this project, our pool will need to be drained (in whole or in part) and the work could conceivably take about one month. This project will not be starting until sometime in 2021. In evaluating our options, the Board will look to schedule its timing to cause the least amount of disruption and inconvenience to our residents. - **Richard Hoffman, Board President**



# BELLASERA COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Bellasera Yoga Continues:** Just a reminder that, although the Bellasera Activity Room remains closed, **Joy**, our Yoga Instructor, continues to offer on-line yoga classes through Zoom. The classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., Arizona time. Weekly video recordings of the classes are also being provided. If you are interested in being added to the "Zoom" invitation list and/or would like to receive a weekly class recording, please contact **Joy, joy.blonstein@gmail.com**.

Classes and recordings are \$7 per class. Yoga packages (10 classes for \$63) may also be purchased. Any remaining classes that you have in yoga packages may be applied to these classes.

**Book Club:** Weather and virus permitting, we will meet by the pool at noon on Thursday, October 29. We'll discuss our summer reads and pick our selections for the rest of the season. I've missed getting together and hope better times are ahead. Contact **Karen Moore, kmoore40@yahoo.com**, with any questions.

## **Bellasera Hiking Club:**

Due to COVID-19 I will not be organizing any Bellasera group hikes for the remainder of this year. I will provide an update in the December newsletter. Stay safe. ---**Karen Meiliken**

**Water Aerobics Invitation:** Water aerobics group is meeting almost every morning at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Social distancing will be observed. For additional information contact **Linda Sotnick, lindagschwend@gmail.com**.

**National Fire Prevention week is October 4-10:** This year's theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen." Cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Get kitchen fire prevention tips at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).



## **The Owl and the Pussycat**

The Owl and the Pussycat visiting **Fred** and **Nancy Kuechelmann**. The owl is a rare Elf Owl and of course the pussycat is one of Bellasera's resident Bobcats. What a rare and wonderful opportunity to enjoy the wildlife of the Sonoran Desert.



## Meeting Notices

**Board of Directors** will meet on **Thursday, October 29** at **1:00 p.m.**

**Budget & Finance Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, October 27** at **1:00 p.m.**

**Building & Grounds Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, October 13** at **10:00 a.m.**

**Communications Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, November 11** at **8:30 a.m.**

**Modifications Committee** will meet on **Tuesday, October 13** at **12:30 p.m.**. Modification applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, October 8** at **12 noon**.

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## September Weather in Bellasera

(September 1 - September 30)

Highest Temperature: **112 degrees**

Lowest temperature: **60 degrees**

Rainfall: **0.00 inch**

Rainfall this year: **6.08 inch**

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

## Bellasera Weather at a Touch

A free app for your iPhone or iPad 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, September 28**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, October 26**. Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. It will be removed during the week. **Remember, here in Bellasera, items cannot be put out prior to Friday of the previous week.** For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600**.

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# OCTOBER 2020

## Bellasera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Zoom Yoga - 9 am	2 Water Aerobics - 10 am	3 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
4	5 Zoom Yoga - 9 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	6	7 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	8 Zoom Yoga - 9 am	9 Water Aerobics - 10 am	10 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
11	12 Zoom Yoga - 9 am Water Aerobics - 10 am 	13 Building & Grounds - 10 am Modifications Committee - 12:30 pm	14 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	15 Zoom Yoga - 9 am	16 Water Aerobics - 10 am	17 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
18	19 Zoom Yoga - 9 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	20	21 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	22 Zoom Yoga - 9 am	23 Water Aerobics - 10 am	24 Pickleball Open play - 8 am
25	26 Zoom Yoga - 9 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	27 Budget & Finance - 1 pm	28 Pickleball Open play - 8 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	29 Zoom Yoga - 9 am Board Meeting - 1 pm	30 Water Aerobics - 10 am	31 Pickleball Open play - 8 am 
Brush & Bulk Pick-up Week						



## Pack Rats...Our Pesky Neighbors!

by Joe McDade

Before you ever settled here in the Sonoran Desert, I imagine that the only pack rat you were familiar with was Webster's first definition: **A person who collects or hoards especially unneeded items and not the second: A bushy-tailed rodent of western North America that has well-developed cheek pouches and that hoards food and miscellaneous objects.** If you've lived here in Bellasera for a while, there's a good chance you have become acquainted with the second definition. Of course, I'm using the term acquainted liberally as you may have never actually seen a pack rat but rather witnessed their mess or destruction left behind after a night of activity.



### Why Do We Have Pack Rats ?

Environmental awareness was a guiding principle in the design and development of Bellasera which is why 40 % of our 290 acres was untouched, devoted to preserving the wild and unspoiled high Sonoran Desert. I think we all would agree that it has been a success as we have blended in well with the surrounding desert. Our wildlife has thrived and includes pack rats, rodents who have been here hundreds of years and happen to be an important link in the natural food chain for snakes, owls, bobcats, coyotes and even road runners. They can be a nuisance and tend to bring out the killer instinct in us. However, we have no choice but to learn how to deal with them just as we have learned to live with rabbits, snakes, javelina etc. Unfortunately, pack rats are here to stay! Some insight into their **Behavior, Biology, Diet and Habitat** might help you.

### Basic Behavior, Biology and Diet

- Properly called: White-throated Wood Rat (*Neotoma albigula*)
- Strictly nocturnal and rarely seen during the day.
- Tail is thick, round, blunt-ended, covered with short hairs and is shorter than the body. Ears are large and almost naked. Fur is soft and dense.

- Coloration is dark gray-brown on top with a lighter underbelly.
- Size: up to fifteen inches & eight ounces.
- Great diggers and adept climbers.
- Mature in 6 to 8 weeks. Life expectancy: 2 years.
- Primary foods are cactus and mesquite beans, but will eat just about anything.
- Obtain moisture from what they eat and therefore do not need free-standing water.
- Must have shelter. Cannot survive when exposed to extreme heat, cold or direct sunlight.
- They are the homesteaders and hoarders of the desert animal kingdom.
- They are constantly on the lookout for predators
- One female can produce two babies every two months, and a newborn female can start the same production line in just two more months, blessing us with a ten-fold population jump each year.

### Habitat

They live in nests (called middens) built of plant material like branches, twigs, sticks and other debris. The huge, beaver-dam-shaped structures may be up



to 4 feet across. They are usually constructed on the ground at the base of a tree or rocky ledge. The nest provides both shelter from extremes of desert temperatures and protection from predators by using cactus pads and cactus spines in the construction. They'll use the same nest site for generations. Our natural area open spaces (NAOS) area has plenty of them. Pack rats have over 100 acres of Bellasera NAOS to build nests. Furthermore:

- They will reuse existing empty nests before starting new nests.
- Nests are continually fortified with additional material including cactus, rocks, sticks and just about anything else they find useful.
- The presence of additional fortification material is the telltale sign that distinguishes a pack rat nest from that of a squirrel or other rodent.

### Urbanization Impact

Urbanization has an impact on the pack rat's **habitat** and, to a lesser degree, **diet**. Their **behavior** doesn't

change but we have an upfront seat to it. Having lived a perilous life in the open desert for millennia, pack rats view a desert community like Belasera like a nine-year old looks at Disneyland. Well-watered landscaped yards offer shelter from the storm. Here they find fatter cactus, fewer predators and lots of stuff to chew.

Being constantly on the lookout for predators (who are also nocturnal), our neighborhood offers them a safe haven and potential nesting spot from all of that. Remember, we provide them with non-natural nesting opportunities - pool equipment, AC's, cars, barbecues etc.

Although they may choose not to build a nest on your property, they may still venture onto it at night to search for items that will add to their nests and, can be very destructive in the process. What are they looking for? Think paper, pillows, wiring, irrigation tubes, open food containers and shiny trinkets. In the process, they may also find something to eat (think citrus), have a drink in your fountain or go for a swim in your pool (which they don't survive).

### **How to Contend With Packrats and Minimize Their Impact**

#### **Eliminate Nests and Potential Nesting Sites on Your Property**

To minimize the impact of pack rats, you need to start with eliminating any existing nests and potential nesting opportunities on your property. If they haven't found a spot on your landscape, they will certainly take advantage of any sheltered area you provide them (their first choice). I've known them to set up house in a barbecue (especially a structure) and live there for quite a while



b e f o r e being discovered. If you park a car outside, check under the hood occasionally as

they can do a lot of damage by either nesting or going after the wiring.

If you find a nest, the resident rat needs to be caught and removed before taking out a nest. A displaced pack rat must have shelter and may seek refuge or take up house somewhere else on your property.

After removing the resident rat (see below for sugges-

tions on how to accomplish that), the nest needs to be completely removed before another rat moves in. All debris should be removed. Any hidden underground chambers need to be located and filled in. If the nest was in a structure, e.g. a barbecue, be sure and seal up the access.

### **Monitor and Deal With Nocturnal Visits**

You may not have nests on your property but still have to contend with nocturnal visits. You should occasionally inspect your property, and if you should find obvious destruction like chewed pillows or damaged agaves, you know you've had a visitor. It's also the case if you find fecal rat pellets, usually concentrated in area and very easy to spot. ***A frequent visitor needs to be eliminated and it's not very difficult. How?***

- Purchase a HavaHart Cage Trap at a local hardware store (Ace Hardware has them).
- They are guaranteed to work. Surefire bait is a slice of orange, it works every time.

After they are trapped you can relocate them to another part of the desert (preferably not in Bellasera). You may have other ideas on their disposal which is up to your discretion. If you leave them in the trap, in sunlight, they don't survive.

Note: If you prefer, there are any number of pest control companies that can provide those services.

### **Poison Bait Is Dangerous And Ineffective For Pack Rats!**

There are fewer owls and hawks each year, not from the lack of habitat or food, but from the widespread and improper use of poison bait in misguided attempts to control pack rats. Putting out poison bait for pack rats is not only ineffective but it also poses great risk to owls, hawks and other animals. ***Please don't!***

### **In Summary:**

- You cannot control the food supply - the desert provides all they need.
- You cannot control the population of pack rats outside your property.
- You can control nest and nesting opportunities on your property.
- You can deal with frequent visitors on your property.

**Pack rats are here to stay!**

## *Rear View - a History of Bellasera*

**October 2015:** The schedule for the maintenance work on our roads and culverts has now been finalized. A formal notice will be circulated shortly and posted at the mailboxes throughout the community. The scheduled work includes cleaning and filling of some of the cracks in our streets, some minor isolated asphalt repair and cleaning of our culverts and drains. The work should take about four weeks to complete, weather permitting.

A Community Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the clubhouse to discuss and answer homeowners' questions and concerns regarding a new potential Verizon Cell Tower in Bellasera. Members of the Board will be in attendance as well as a representative from Verizon Wireless. There will be a drawing of the proposed location and elevation of the new cell tower displayed.

The Bellasera community extends condolences to the friends and family of long-time resident Bonnie Jones. She passed away on September 23 following an earlier diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

**OCTOBER 2010:** Our friends at Terravita have invited us to join them on a wonderful tour of 3 wineries in Sedona. Cost is \$59 per person. See flyer in this month's newsletter. Sign-up sheet at the clubhouse. Coach leaves Terravita at 9 a.m. Bellasera residents to meet at clubhouse 8:30 a.m. and carpool to Terravita.

We look forward to celebrating Oktoberfest with a variety of German Brautwursts, live entertainment and enjoying the evening with our neighbors and friends. In order to help us plan for plenty of food, please include on the sign up sheet at the clubhouse whether you would like to bring a side dish or pay \$5 per person at the door. The main course, potato salad and sauerkraut are included with the festivities. Wine, beer as with all events are BYO.

Bellasera's own Barry Kluger is now hosting a daily talk show, Klugertown! on the new NBC1260AM/96.1FM from 1-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Kluger, a frequent columnist for The Arizona Republic and an author, discusses the day's issues and mixes his usual blend of controversy with his sardonic wit. You can also hear him live at [www.nbc1260.com](http://www.nbc1260.com). Click on the Listen Live button.


**OCTOBER 2005:** Frank and Janet Biondo want to let friends and neighbors know that their daughter-in-law, Anita, had a successful kidney transplant on September 20th at Mayo Clinic Hospital. About one year ago the family was trying to find a kidney donor. Following a story that appeared in the Arizona Republic, responses were received from a dozen people who were willing to donate one of their kidneys.

The Pederson development on Lone Mountain and Scottsdale Road dominated the agenda of the well attended September 19 Board meeting. There were a number of outside guests who had been invited to address issues concerning the development. These guests included Bob Littlefield, Scottsdale City Councilman and a former resident of Bellasera, Graham Kettle, a Director of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak or COPP, and Jim Pederson, President of the Pederson Group.

First, I would like to thank all the Bellasera homeowners for making Sheila and me feel so welcome in the community. Part of my role is to help ensure that the community remains a



desirable place of residence. As part of my role as your Community Manager, it is my responsibility to inspect residential lots as well as the physical components of the Bellasera Community Association to insure that the community's rules are being followed. Your cooperation is always appreciated.--Patti Smith



# PLEASE STOP POISONING OUR FOOD.

**RAT POISONS DON'T JUST KILL RATS.**  
RAT POISONS ALSO KILL THE WILDLIFE THAT EAT RATS AND MICE,  
LIKE HAWKS, OWLS, FOXES, BOBCATS, COUGARS, COYOTE,  
RACCOONS, SNAKES, AND SKUNKS.

**PLEASE STOP USING RODENTICIDES.**  
**Help natural predators survive so that they can  
help control rodent populations!**

[bancarnivores.com/poisons](http://bancarnivores.com/poisons)    [raptorsarethesolution.org](http://raptorsarethesolution.org)    [poisonfreemalibu.org](http://poisonfreemalibu.org)



# Lone Mountain Road Clean-up



Saturday, September 26th, dawned a beautiful morning here in Bellasera when eight residents showed up to help clean up trash along Lone Mountain Road from Scottsdale Road to Hayden. Shown above are the people that assisted in this effort to help keep Scottsdale beautiful.

Left to right are: **Shawn Brown, Jane Hillerson, Jane Kiefhaber, Cheri Valuet, Jeff Thormann, Mary Soeffner, Dennis Soeffner, and Susan McLellen.** Shawn Brown and Jane Kiefhaber are new residents who have been here for only six weeks. Thank You to everyone who helped and to Communications Committee member **Paul Rippens** for being the coordinator for this effort.



# October in the Garden

by Joe McDade

## **Our Dry Spell Continues....But The Heat Is Being Turned Down!**

September was certainly true to form as we hoped for cooler weather which never materialized and, to make matters worse, our monsoon continued to be among the missing. However, our recent cool morning and evening temperatures are a hopeful prelude to seven or eight months of moderate, comfortable weather. Unfortunately, we can't say the same for precipitation as there is none in sight....our dry season continues. What does this mean for our garden in October? Let's explore!

### **Is Time To Plant? - Yes**

As I mentioned last month, based on our very poor monsoon season and slow cool down, the optimum time to start planting would probably be the end of September. Well, October has arrived and ***it's time to dig in!*** Our night temperatures have fallen into the 70's which will make it less stressful for root systems to establish causing plants not to need as much water to survive. However, since we did not have the normal monsoon rains our soil is lacking normal moisture and nutrient levels. So, as you are planting, be mindful to provide these.

### **What Can You Plant in October?**

October is the best month to plant in the low desert (we live in the heart of it) but, you can plant just about everything—***trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, vines, ornamental grasses, cacti, succulents, wildflowers, cool-season veggies, herbs and flowers.*** We are truly in our prime planting month. Here are some suggestions:

#### **Herbs**

Growing herbs are really very easy. If you prefer not to dig, most of them can be easily grown in pots. Also, "starter pots" are available at most grocery stores at a reasonable price.

Some suggestions:

#### ***Sow seeds for:***

- borage •caraway •chamomile •chervil •chives •cilantro •dill •fennel
- lemon •balm •parsley •salad burnet •sorrel •horehound

#### ***Transplant:***

- marjoram •mint •oregano •rosemary •thyme •sage.

#### **Shrubs**

Here in the Sonoran Desert, we do not get the brilliant fall colors like other areas. However, I would recommend that you consider several shrubs (below) that rise to the occasion.

- ***Heavenly Bamboo*** • ***Firebush*** • ***Beach Vitex*** • ***Crape Myrtle***
- ***Copper-leaved*** • ***Caesalpinia*** • ***Mexican Jumping Bean***

*When planting shrubs, follow these simple steps:*

1. Prepare a hole that is three to five times as wide as the container and just as deep.
2. Most soil amendments, including mulch, are unnecessary. However, if you choose to use mulch or compost in the hole, scratch it in well and roughen the sides of the hole to encourage the plant to move out of the hole.
3. ***Do not prune as you plant.*** It is tempting to prune shrubs in containers that are overgrown or unruly or have lost their form. However, pruning as you plant can severely reduce the vigor of the plant and increase the time it takes to overcome transplant shock. To start a good root system, it is best not to trim anything but dead wood from a plant as you're planting it. There should be plenty of time next year to correct any deficiencies in the form of the plant



## Cool-Season Vegetables

Why do we call them cool season veggies? They respond to short days and cool nights and they are grown from September through April. So, sow seeds directly into the soil for *peas, root crops (beets, carrots, onions, parsnips, radishes, kohlrabi, and turnips), chard and all sorts of leafy greens*. Sow seeds or set out transplants in the *cabbage family (bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale)*.

In the September column, I included a detailed list of which cool season veggies to plant and when to plant them. You can find the column archived at [www.azbellasera.org](http://www.azbellasera.org).

## Citrus Trees

Right now there is a wide selection of citrus available in our local nurseries; orange, grapefruit tangerine etc. Citrus are easy to plant as you simply have to remember to prepare a hole no deeper than the plant's root ball but at least twice the width of their containers. This promotes root growth out into the native soil. **Remember: Only dwarf citrus trees are allowed in Bellasera.** These will still provide you with plenty of fruit.

## **Overhaul & Rejuvenate Flower Beds**

If you have summer annual flower beds (most likely in pots), it's time (probably later in the month) to pull them out (perhaps compost them) and replace them with **cool season annuals** which are best planted in mid-to-late October. The nurseries will be packed with glorious selections in every size, color, and shape. Spend time preparing the soil which simply entails tilling the soil (invest in a hand held cultivator) and adding some amendment along with potting soil, if needed.

To help you, below is an extensive list (which I like to publish every October) with **color info** along with guidance on **where to plant them** (sun, shade, etc.), Remember, fall flowers need to establish their roots in warm soils. So, starting this month will help develop a healthy root system before the cool fall and cooler winter slows them down.

- **Alyssum:** A low growing border plant in white, pink or purple. Full sun to light partial shade.
- **Begonia:** Gives masses of color in shady spots, red, pink or white in dark leafed varieties, or a mixture of colors in green leafed types.
- **Calendula:** Yellow or orange flowers with dark centers, makes excellent cut flowers. Needs sun.
- **Chrysanthemum paludosum:** Miniature daisy flowers cover this low growing annual in a cloud of white. Use for sunny borders.
- **Dianthus:** An array of reds, pinks, violets and white adorn these specially selected Sweet Williams. Sun or partial shade.
- **Dusty Miller:** A foliage plant with silver colored leaves. Full sun to partial shade.
- **Geranium:** Available in a rainbow of colors. Full sun to partial shade.
- **Linaria:** Covered in mini snapdragon-shaped flowers of blue, yellow or red. Full sun.
- **Lobelia:** Arizona's favorite border plant for sun or partial shade. Deep purple, blue, rose, lilac and mixed colors.
- **Ornamental Kale:** Great foliage color in predominately purple or white. Full sun.
- **Pansy and Viola:** The most popular flower for fall and winter, these hardy free blooming plants are available in a wide variety of colors to suit any décor. Pick a sunny spot for best results. Violas will take light shade.
- **Petunia:** Reds, pinks, whites, burgundy and blues. Full sun.
- **Poppies and Primroses:** These favorites will be ready for you when the weather starts to turn cold. Iceland poppies for bright sunny spots and traditional primrose for shady areas.
- **Snapdragons:** Taller mid-sized varieties are great for cut flowers or colorful backgrounds. Dwarf types make fantastic borders. Either way, you can't go wrong with their rainbow of colors for sunny spots.

- **Stock:** Harmony and Trisomic varieties are very fragrant and make tremendous cut flowers. Midgets make excellent border plants. Full sun.

**Note:** It might be helpful to distinguish an annual vs. perennial. Simply put:

*If a flower is an annual it means the plant will only grow one season. If a flower is called a perennial then it means it will come up year after year, continuing to bring you beautiful flowers.* Feel free to plant a perennial as long as it blooms in the fall through winter.

### Miscellaneous Tasks

**Citrus-** Late summer application of nitrogen fertilizer will help fruit sizing. This is more significant for fall ripening (navel oranges and tangerines) than spring-ripening (grapefruit and Valencia oranges).

**Prune Perennials-** Cut back spring-flowering perennials like brittlebush, globe mallow, ruellia, and groundcovers like sundrops, and trailing bush hard this month. If the plant is especially leggy or unruly, prune to remove at least 1/3 of the plant or more. After pruning, water well.

**Deciduous Fruit Trees-** Prune the water sprouts.

**Landscape Plants-** Cut off spent blooms to stimulate rebloom.

**Weed Control-** Pre-emergent herbicides can be applied from October through early December for winter weed control. Follow the package directions carefully for best results. Do not use pre-emergent herbicides where you will be planting seeds this season.

**Mesquite Trees-** If your Mesquite trees are looking tall and scraggly, take action now to do some corrective pruning.

**Roses-** Resume full fertilizing of established roses as the weather cools.

**Fertilize-** If you did not fertilize established cold-hardy shrubs last month, do so early this month. This is the final fertilization of the year.

### Watering

Yes, it is finally time to cut back on your watering. Reduce watering frequencies as plant needs decrease with shortening, cooling days. Once the temperatures begin dipping below 100° (which they have), gradually start cutting back water to all plants to begin hardening them off for the winter. Remember, both frequency and duration need to be adjusted gradually. Do not stop cold turkey. Change your irrigation timer to reflect the changes in temperature.

### October Musings & Observations

**Our Friendly Skies:** Wintering hawks arrive; common raptors include northern harriers, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks, kestrels, Merlins, and prairie falcons. Turkey vultures are mostly gone, but loud groups of common ravens replace them on carrion patrol.

**Baseball Playoffs Start:** After a 60 game season? To be played before an empty stadium?

**Think Pumpkin,** as in, *Pumpkin Bread, Pie, Latte, and Candles.*

**Welcome Back To Our Early Returnees:** We will begin to see our neighbors who escaped to cooler climates returning this month.

**Don't Forget: Halloween October 31.**

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

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

Wood Working Tools: Ryobi Biscuit Joiner, \$50; Craftsman Skill Saw W/Laser, \$40; Craftsman Router W/Table & Bits, \$65; Carbide Router Bits, \$40; Clamps, \$5. Household: Rug Runner 2.6' x 12', hand made in India, 100% Wool, \$75; Original Oil "Spring Flowers in Glass", 18 x 24 in., Framed, \$100; **Roy & Vivian Kurtz, 480-575-1391 (Res), 480-290-8334 (cell).**

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. This year I have represented 3 buyers and 2 sellers in Bellasera bringing contracts to sellers in very short order. 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](mailto:audrey.fischer@azmoves.com).**

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](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto:Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.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 fruniture, 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 informatin 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](http://www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com), e-mail: [Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@azbellasera.org)***





## **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.-5p.m.**

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**

Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**

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

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Community Manager: **Pamela Nunnelly - (manager@azbellasera.org)**

-Office Hours-

Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 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): **602-957-9191** 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**, "BCA Members" page*

Board of Directors - (**board@azbellasera.org**)

**President - Richard Hoffman**

**Vice President - Dennis Carson**

**Secretary - Dennis Soeffner**

**Treasurer - Jim Ragborg**

**Director - Joe Carlon**

### **Committees**

Budget & Finance - (**bandf@azbellasera.org**) - **Andrey Fischer, Mary Moore-Chair, Jim Ragborg, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder**

Buildings & Grounds - (**bandg@azbellasera.org**) - **John Nielsen, Tom Saari-Chair, Dennis Soeffner, Bruce Van Cleave, Jill Wyllie**

Communications - (**comm@azbellasera.org**) - **Keith Christian-Chair, Richard Hoffman, Joe McDade, Carol Padwe, Paul Rippens**

Modifications - (**mod@azbellasera.org**) - **Joe Carlon - Chair, Stanley Green, Craig Johnson, Cheri Valuet**

Security Advisory - (**sec@azbellasera.org**) - **Joe Carlon**

Wildfire Safety Advisor - **Paul Rippens**