



# Arroyo Rojo Community News

Arroyo Rojo HOA

June, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

Special points of interest:

- HOA BOD making a difference.
- Thank You, Dennis
- 4th of July
- New Color Palette
- Monthly Meeting Dates

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## Board Actions Benefit Your Neighborhood



Letter from your HOA President

Dear Neighbors:

Be assured that the Board of Directors you elected to represent you as members of the Arroyo Rojo HOA has been doing a very good job.

You probably noticed that there was no increase in dues this year. This was not typical for homeowners associations in a year when so many are having difficulty with financial and housing issues. Your Board of Directors determined that we would take a proactive approach by cutting costs rather than asking our neighbors to absorb even a small increase in dues. This was

accomplished in two major methods: 1) We bid out and renegotiated our landscaping contract. Our landscaper has been doing a good job for a number of years. But, given the current economic climate, we asked him to reduce his fee. He worked with us to realize a significant savings; 2) we have worked closely with our management company to reduce administrative costs.

We are not finished. Additionally, we did our research, put our management contract out for bids, and interviewed other companies. Your Board of Directors recently decided to contract with a new management company, Associated Property Management. There will be a transition period and the existing contract with Cuellar must be terminated first, but this change will result in additional savings and a positive change for our neighborhood.

Another concern to some of our neighbors is the commercial development project on the North boundary of our community. The neighbors bordering the development have intrusive lights shining in their backyards and homes. We met with the City of Phoenix and negotiated with the project developer. As a result, the developer will be planting a border of Sour Orange trees along the 540 foot boundary to block the lights and improve the views.

It is important that you realize that your Board of Directors is taking an active role in representing you. Our costs savings through May exceed \$17,000. There are many other issues that the Board deals with on a regular basis. Your Board of Directors takes their responsibility seriously in representing your neighborhood. We encourage you to contact us with concerns and compliments. It is our goal to make Arroyo Rojo a neighborhood you can be proud to call home.

Dick Reader  
President

## There's a Hero In Our Midst

Many thanks to our neighbor, Dennis O'Dell.

Early in May, a fire broke out along 12th Street to the North of Ross Avenue. As several people stood watching, Dennis came charging from his house with a fire extinguisher in each hand. Without hesitation, he pulled the pin from one extinguisher and knocked out a good portion of the blaze before running out and picking up the second extinguisher to finish the job. Phoenix Fire Fighters arrived at the scene about 5 minutes later to hose down the area.



We are very grateful to Dennis for coming to the rescue. Five more minutes, and the fire could have quickly spread and endangered some of our homes. The cause of the fire was not announced, but an improperly discarded cigarette is suspected.

## Reminder: Garbage & Recycling

Please be mindful when placing your garbage and recycling cans by the street on collection day. Make sure that YOUR can is sitting in front of YOUR home.

Several home owners have recently been fined for "leaving their can out" when it was actually their neighbor's can. Be a good neighbor and place your can in front of your home.

Remember, cans are to be placed curbside no earlier than sunset the evening before collection and must be properly stowed by sunset the evening of collection.

*"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it."*

*-Russel Baker*

## Arizona State Flower

Saguaro Cactus Blossom  
*Carnegiea gigantea*

As you all know, the Saguaro Cactus Blossom is in bloom right now here in the valley. Here's its history. In 1901 the saguaro's blossom was adopted as the official territorial flower, and later, in 1931, it was confirmed as the state flower. The saguaro cactus typically blooms in May and June. It is one of the most unique state flowers, and is characterized by having a waxy feel, but fragrant aroma. There may be hundreds of flowers on a saguaro cactus that bloom just several at a time over a period of more than a month. The saguaro flowers have a short life; they open at night and close permanently during



the next day. Many of the blossoms will become pollinated and, later in the summer, the flowers become red-fleshed fruits that are enjoyed by the local bird population.

## Crime Log

Following is a listing of crimes reported to Valley law enforcement agencies. This list is reduced to occurrences in or near our community reported between April 1, 2009 and June 18, 2009. Exact addresses are not provided.

1100 Block of E Mohawk Drive: Theft  
1100 Block of E Irma Drive: Burglary  
1000 Block of E Topeka Drive: Burglary  
700 Block of E Potter Drive: Burglary  
1000 Block of E Monona Drive: Drug Related  
20400 Block of N 7th Street: Burglary  
20600 Block of N 8th Street: Simple Assault  
900 Block of E Mohawk Drive: Burglary  
700 Block of E Irma Drive: Burglary  
20600 Block of N 10th Street: Burglary

Please call 911 to report crimes in progress.



## Flag Trivia

You are probably aware that Betsy Ross made the first American Flag. However, that was back in 1777 and there were only 13 stars.

Do you know who was responsible for the design of the 50 star flag that represents the United States today?

*See page 4 for the answer.*

## Fireworks are Out but Fun is In

Fireworks, without a permit from the Arizona State Fire Marshall, are illegal in Arizona. That includes everything from roman candles to firecrackers to, yes, even sparklers. In fact, sparklers are a very common cause of burn injuries to children.

Likewise, it is also against the law to fire guns into the air in celebration. Stray bullets are known for causing injury and even death.

Check your newspaper and/or your favorite local websites for listings of the activities and schedule of fireworks displays across the valley. Many include water activities, live music, and great fireworks displays.

As applicable to your plans... please drive safely, drink responsibly and, whatever you do, have an enjoyable 4th of July!

## 4th of July

Independence Day, commonly known as the 4th of July, is an annual, Federal holiday commemorating the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, declaring our independence from Great Britain. Although the signing was not completed until August, 1776, the Fourth of July holiday has been accepted as the official anniversary of U.S. independence and is celebrated in all states and territories of the U.S.

The holiday was first observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, at which time the Declaration of Independence was read aloud, city bells rang, and bands played. It was declared a legal holiday in 1941. The Fourth is traditionally celebrated with parades and pageants, family picnics and outings, patriotic speeches, organized firing of guns and cannons, and displays of fireworks.



Signing of the Declaration of Independence

## New Neighborhood Color Palette



The Design Review Committee has been working on a new exterior paint color palette for Arroyo Rojo. We have just received the final additions from Dunn-Edwards and will be presenting the palette to the Board for approval at their July meeting.

If you are thinking about painting your home in the near future, please be sure to check with the Design Review Committee on the new colors. We think you will be pleasantly surprised by the number of options that will be available to update and freshen your home's exterior.

The architectural request form is available on our website at [www.arroyorojohoa.com](http://www.arroyorojohoa.com).



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**EMAIL OR PHONE CONTACT FOR BIDS**

8912 East Pinnacle Peak Road, #107  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255-3659  
P: 480-563-5255 F: 480-502-2270  
M: 602-550-2139 MichaelEJK@cox.net

## Summer Safety Tips for Pets

As the triple-digit temperatures settle in, we almost instinctively know the appropriate precautions to take to protect ourselves from the heat.

We have a huge pet population in our neighborhood, so let's not forget that our four-legged friends require special treatment in the heat as well. Here are some reminders to keep your pets healthy and happy all summer:

- Keep pets in well ventilated areas.
- Only exercise early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are lowest.
- Keep pets indoors in a comfortable environment during extreme temperatures.
- Limit sun exposure during mid-day hours.
- Provide plenty of fresh, cool water. If outside, do not use metal bowls and keep in shady location.
- As temperatures quickly change, allow pets to acclimate. Often, heat-related illness occurs as seasons change and pets are not used to the warmer temperatures.
- Ensure that puppies and kittens drink adequate amounts of liquids.
- Be wary of hot surfaces when walking your dog. If the sidewalk is too hot to touch for a full minute with your bare hand, it is too hot for your dog's paws.
- NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME.



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## Board of Directors

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Marli Smythe, Treasurer  
Nicole Schaeffer, Secretary  
John Bradford, Director  
Michael Porter, Director

## Community Volunteers

Penny Bradford - Design Review  
Al Cappello - Design Review  
Helen David - Design Review, Block Captain  
Jim Wallace - Design Review  
Brian & Dana Dumas - Block Captains  
Randy & Robin Lloyd - Block Captains  
Kathleen Dunne Millar - Block Captain  
Cathy Reader - Block Captain, Neighborhood Watch,  
Newsletter  
Chris Naude - Website  
Nicole Schaeffer - Website  
Marli Smythe - Newsletter  
Joe McShane - Newsletter

## Cuellar Realty Services Inc AMO

Bill Haas, Community Manager  
Tel: 602-277-7070 ext 8509

## Flag Trivia - Answer

Our 50-star flag was the intuitive creation of 17 year old high school student, Bob Heft. In 1958, before Alaska or Hawaii were even granted statehood in 1959, Bob created the flag using his mother's sewing machine and hot iron. Why? He was doing a project for his History class. Mr. Heft is quoted saying, "I never set out to design the flag of the nation. I just wanted to keep from getting a bad grade in history." July 4, 1960, Bob Heft stood with President Eisenhower as the first 50-star flag was raised.



Refreshing and Healthy!

## Green Salad with Strawberry Balsamic Vinaigrette

2 Teaspoons Strawberry Jam  
1 Tablespoon Balsamic Vinegar  
3 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO)  
Salt and Fresh Ground Black Pepper  
4 Cups Chopped Romaine or Mixed Greens of any kind  
6 Strawberries Sliced  
Walnuts (Optional); I added them to the salad and it hit the spot!

Yields: 2 Servings

Place jam in a medium bowl and whisk in the vinegar, then EVOO. Season dressing with salt and pepper. Add greens to the bowl and toss to coat evenly with dressing. Garnish with sliced strawberries and walnuts.

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## Dates to Remember

You are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings held in the conference room on the 2nd floor of West Wind Aviation at Deer Valley Airport.

**Thursday, July 16, 2009**

**Thursday, August 20, 2009**

**Thursday, September 17, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

The Board welcomes your concerns and ideas as well as your company. Join us just to see what is involved in running your neighborhood.