

THE VILLAGES OF EASTRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A Word from our President...

Dates to Remember

- **Mar. 9th @ 7pm** HOA Board Meeting
- **May 8th @ 4:30pm** Spring Fling—Main Park
- **May 11th @7pm** HOA Board Meeting

All meetings are in the auditorium at Desert Ridge High School

Check it out...

We have recently updated our website. Hopefully this new website will be a little more user friendly. There is a lot of new information. You can now make payments online, print off the Architectural forms, see maps of our communities, look at the design guidelines and many more things. The website address is the same one we have always had-- so please take a look!!!

www.eastridge85209.com

Spring time is here and it is great to see all our community members outside enjoying our great parks. I know you hear me often talk about the great expense it is to take care of our parks, grass, and other landscaping, but when I see so many out enjoying it, it all seems worth it. At one of our last Board meetings, a community member put the costs associated with running a community into perspective for us. As another member argued against the need to raise dues, another supported the increase stating that for years the City has tried to raise taxes and fees for more money for parks and extra community amenities. When the voters would not approve the increase, the City had to start taking the extras away, quality of life extras.

Drive around residential areas in old town Mesa, without Associations, and ask yourself if you would be willing to compromise your largest investment without a manager taking care of it, without fulltime landscapers and without a board of homeowners that meet to discuss the needs of the community. As a former skeptic of the needs of an Association, I am now a believer and would never go back. I love our community, and take pride in it. I would encourage all to take time to meet your neighbors on your streets and in the parks. Use the parks for what they are intended, take long walks with your loved ones, enjoy our wonderful community, and enjoy the benefits of an Association.

Sincerely,
Jeff Lee--President

Join Us for the 4th Annual Villages Spring Fling May 8

Put on some sunscreen and a party hat because the Spring Fling is only a month away! Mark your calendars for **May 8 at 4:30 p.m.** so you will be sure to attend. It will be a great event for every age and a wonderful opportunity to mix with your neighbors.

The HOA will provide hamburgers, chips, and drink, but as in years past we are asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The BAKE-OFF contest will back for the second year running. If you would like to participate, your entry must be at the judges table by 5:30 p.m. Enter your favorite baked goodie and vie for a blue ribbon. Kid's entries are also welcome. Judges will be chosen on site, so bring your appetites.

Other activities will include a variety of kids' races and a basketball shootout. Prizes will be awarded to all winners. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair or blanket for your comfort. Get in the party spirit and join us at this year's Spring Fling. You won't want to miss it!

Ask Alex—Advice from the Villages Landscaper

Pruning Guidelines

Many opinions exist when discussing professional shrub maintenance. Some believe that proper maintenance is not being performed unless all ornamentals are frequently sheared and kept in shapes. While this type of trimming was made popular by theme parks, it is not responsible professional landscape management, particularly in the desert southwest. Formal trimming requires specific types of plants that grow in a manner that allows this technique. Most desert plants cannot tolerate tight shearing. Having said that, since many shrubs are planted in areas that are too small to allow proper growth, similar types of pruning are used. This should be the exception, not the rule. Professionally designed landscape is meant to co-exist with the natural desert. Sometimes referred to as "Natural Trimming", shrubs are allowed to take on a more natural appearance and yet accentuate the beauty of the overall architecture and land. When properly executed, natural trimming can provide food and shelter for wildlife while retaining a maintained, healthy appearance that includes colorful flowers.

Seasonal cutbacks in fall, winter, and spring (depending on species and frost hardiness) allow for healthy and colorful growth the rest of the year. Cutbacks or "hard pruning" will be low to the ground with plants such as Red Bird of Paradise or Lantana which are done every year, or simply half the size of the existing shrub such as a Sage or Baja Ruellia. With mature root structure, re-growth usually begins within days during the summer. Many times if a shrub has been "formally trimmed" for several years, the only repair is to "stump" the shrub so that it can be rejuvenated with new, fresh growth. Constant trimming in a formal manner removes the natural protection from the sun that damages the plant. This creates dead or woody areas to appear which will never grow back. Shrubs require much more water to grow back the greenery and less photosynthesis occurs. Additionally, more debris is created with each shearing adding to more clean up time, more waste in the landfills, and more debris mixed with the granite even after raking and blowing has been completed. Some benefits of natural trimming include: Healthy appearance, more plentiful blooms, less chance for disease, less water usage, longer life of the plant, and more productive use of labor while servicing the property. With more leaves and blooms to fill in the structure of the plant, there is more texture and color. The shade provided reduces the amount of water needed for the plant and also less water needed for leaf replenishment.

Please Note.....

We have recently received some complaints about residents not cleaning up after their dogs. This has been a long standing problem that the board has been trying to deal with. We have spent a lot of money putting doggie stations around the community. Please be a responsible owner and clean up after your dog. Also, please be especially conscientious and clean up if your animal makes a mess on someone else's yard. No one wants to clean someone else's mess, especially one that is so disgusting.

Important Phone Numbers

Community Manager Kevin Bishop
 480-813-6788
 kevin@rcplimited.com
 www.rcplimited.com

Landscapers Sculptured Earth
 info@sculpturedearth.com
Emergency 343-5217

Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergency	644-2211
Fire Non-Emergency	644-2101
Animal Control	644-2211
Street Light Outage	644-3191

If you notice a light out please call the above number. You will need to have the street light number.

City of Mesa Website www.cityofmesa.org
 Villages of Eastridge www.eastridge85209.com