



Across the Back Fence

April 2007

News For Neighbors From The City of Mesa Neighborhood Services Department

Congratulations to the Neighborhood Award Winners

Neighborhood Events/Community Building Award

Villages of Eastridge is a 900 home community located near Baseline and Crismon. The judges praised the Women's Association of the Villages of Eastridge (WAVE) for three different programs: a \$500 scholarship made available to a Villages of Eastridge high school senior graduating in the class of 2006; a weekly summer reading program which included a story hour filled with picture books, story tellers and puppets; and a holiday concert and lighting contest.

Neighborhood Public Safety Award

Comite' de Familias (CF), located in west Mesa. Led by Carmen Guerrero, the CF neighborhood was registered with the City of Mesa in 2000. A Block Watch program was formed for residents with the assistance of the Mesa Police Department. Crime reduction immediately fell from 30 calls per month to two or three calls per month. Comite' de Familias has also formed partnerships with local businesses, churches and non-profit organizations and has worked to assist and represent the Hispanic community.

Neighborhood Beautification Award

Dartmouth Trace, a community of 118 condos on May Street in west Mesa. Using a PRIDE grant from the City of Mesa, volunteers gathered on October 7, 2006 to plant low-watering plants and provide other landscaping at the front entrance to the community. The impact of the activity led to a holiday party, increased attendance at the association board meetings and interest in applying for another City PRIDE grant for a more ambitious project involving the community.

Margie Frost Advocacy and Organization Award

Casa Mia Neighborhood, located in east Mesa. Led by Michelle Ortiz, the neighborhood was recognized for its monthly newsletter and for partnering with numerous City departments, including Neighborhood Outreach, Code Compliance and Transportation. Casa Mia, which was annexed into the City in the mid 1990's, has started long-term planning. The plans include landscaping improvements along Baseline Road in front of the community and painting houses in disrepair of residents who may be unable to do it themselves.

Virginia M. Lamb Award

Beverly (Bev) Tittle-Baker, Bev has been recognized for her work as a tireless volunteer, leadership skills, ability to get others involved and for being a role model to others. In 1994, she founded the CARE Partnership (Community Asset and Resource Enterprise), a grassroots organization that brings together individuals and organizations that share their time, knowledge and resources to improve the life conditions of others. Bev received national recognition in 2006 as one of 10 recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award for her work in establishing and developing the CARE Partnership.

For more information about the Spirit of Mesa Neighborhood Awards or how your neighborhood can apply log onto www.cityofmesa.org/neighsvc/awards



Be Water Smart

Are you aware of how silent a drowning is? Many people believe that when a child starts to drown they will splash and yell, and someone will run over and pull the child out of the water. But, it doesn't work that way. In fact, drowning is a silent killer ...If you or someone you know has a pool, toilet, bathtub, bucket, or even water pet dish, you and your family are at risk. Drowning crosses over every socioeconomic household and origin of nationality. Many times a drowning will happen at a family gathering when everyone is busy and thinks someone else is watching the kids.

It takes 20 seconds for a child to lose consciousness in the water. After 20 seconds, the child will turn blue and require CPR. Permanent brain damage can start in as little as four minutes without oxygen. Brain death occurs at eight minutes. Nearly all who require CPR die, or are left with

severe brain damage. Drowning is 100% preventable. It's as simple as constant eye to eye supervision. The problem, as we all know, is that it is extremely difficult to execute constant supervision every minute of the day with children. We have so many distractions in our daily lives, what is a parent to do?

Children who have access to water should have **eye to eye contact with an adult** and never be left unattended for any reason. **Barriers** like fences and door locks can restrict access to water, but should only be used as a second line of defense. **Empty bathtubs, wading pools, and buckets** immediately after use. Adults should be **trained in CPR**, and children need to have **swimming lessons** at the appropriate age. In the event of a drowning, **start CPR immediately & Call 911**. A rapid emergency response can make a difference.

For more information on CPR and Water Safety classes contact Mesa Fire Department (480) 644-2294

Take The Mystery Out of Landscape Watering

The City of Mesa will take the mystery out of landscape watering by offering a **free workshop** to explain landscape plant water needs, how to create a watering schedule, and how to program an irrigation timer. Hands-on instruction with the timers will be provided. Proper outdoor watering and timer programming can save residents 30 to 50 percent on their landscape watering this season.

The workshop, *Landscape watering by the numbers: water scheduling and controller programming*, will be held from 6:30 to 9 pm. on April 18, at Mesa Community College at Red Mountain, Mesquite Building Community Room, 7110 E. McKellips Road. Advance registration is required.

To register, call (480) 644-4400 or e-mail your name, mailing address and the workshop name to conservation.info@cityofmesa.org

Meter Safety

When it comes to your natural gas meter, you can avoid potentially hazardous situations by following these simple guidelines.

Do: Protect your meter from vehicle traffic (trailers, RV's, boats, cars); ensure your gas meter's regulator vent is at least three feet from any electrical source, doorway opening, window or intake vent (ventilation, air conditioner units) & keep the area around your gas meter open and free of obstructions.

Do not: Stack toys, garden hoses, or other types of equipment on or near the meter; chain bikes, boats, or pets to the meter, or allow children to sit or play on the meter. (The extra weight and strain can damage both the meter and the connecting gas pipes.)

When planting trees, shrubs, or plants, be sure to allow plenty of room for future growth around and below the meter area. Fully grown trees could obstruct or even uproot your gas lines if planted too close to the meter. Please keep all growth trimmed so meter dials are visible. Also when planting, remember to call Arizona Blue Stake two days prior to any digging project at (602) 263-1100. For more information on natural gas safety, visit our website at www.cityofmesa.org/utilities/gas

Selecting Management Company And Other Vendors

One of the most difficult tasks of serving on the Board of Directors of an HOA is selecting vendors and understanding contracts. If you would like more information to make informed decisions for your community, then this class is for you.

The class is offered through the Leadership Centre, April 19, 6:30 pm. and held at the Chandler-Gilbert Community College, 2626 E. Pecos Rd in Chandler. To enroll call (480)732-7174 or e-mail tlc@theleadershipcentre.org

Survey & New Web Link for City Development

The City of Mesa's official Web site www.cityofmesa.org now has a link to Land Planning, Development and Building. From the City's home page, click **Business>Land Planning, Development and Building**. This page offers links to development fees, codes, guidelines and applications. Links answer questions about everything from installing a swimming pool to developing a subdivision. The page also provides links to the web pages of the Divisions that work closely with development activities.

A key site link provides an explanation of the Development Review System Process Improvement plan and provides an opportunity for everyone to comment on the current processes. Stakeholders studying the Land Development Review System and the efficiencies of the system continually ask the question, "How can we provide better service?"

An on-line survey for applicants, developers, and residents has been developed to get customers' thoughts. The survey includes questions about issues faced during the process, frustrations and examples of good customer service. One of the questions asks you to finish the sentence, "The development process would be more successful if..."



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