

# Together

We can accomplish much when we work...

PHOENIX HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood News and Upcoming Events – Spring Issue 2005

## Annual PHA Meeting



**It's that time of year again!**

The Phoenix Homestead Neighborhood Association will be having our yearly meeting on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 12 noon. It will be a **potluck** at the park, located at Flower and 27<sup>th</sup> Street. We will be discussing neighborhood issues and electing a new board while enjoying the beautiful weather and delicious food. All neighbors interested in being on the board, voting for the board, or who are just plain hungry are welcome to come join us.

In order to be on the board or to vote for candidates you must be a dues-paying member of the association (dues are \$24.00 a year). A main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Also, **bring a chair**. Please come, join in, meet your neighbors, and celebrate life in our beautiful community.

## Neighborhood Yard Sales!!



It's time to get rid of some of that stuff you don't use any more and to make some extra money!



Start planning your sale in the  
**Phoenix Homesteads Neighborhood  
of Yard Sales**

on **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, starting at 7:00 a.m. We will have an ad in the newspaper and signs out on the street directing people into our neighborhood for  
**"Multiple Yard Sales in the Neighborhood."**

If you don't want to sell your stuff at your house, you can join the many people setting up a table of their own at the Creighton District Office parking lot along 28<sup>th</sup> St. between the two Flower streets. Typically multiple yard sales bring many buyers and early April is a prime time for people yard sale shopping. What you can't sell can be given away to charity (Salvation Army is located just north of the Creighton District Offices, on Flower and 28<sup>th</sup> St.).

So, put **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** on your calendar and join your neighbors as they clean out their storage closets & collect some extra cash.

## **Roof Rats? By Kris Straub**

Looking for information on protecting your home from roof rat damage? Arcadia Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign has a very helpful website, [www.roofrat.net](http://www.roofrat.net).

You will find information on recognizing, discouraging and controlling roof rat populations. If you don't have a computer you can call 602-667-0366.



**Check Out the  
Phoenix Homesteads Website  
at:**

[www.phoenixhomesteads.com](http://www.phoenixhomesteads.com)

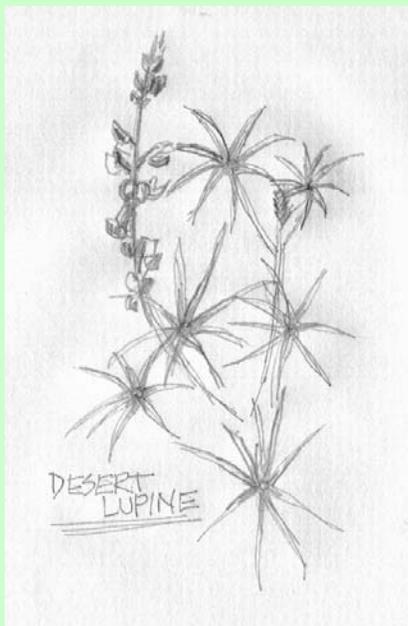


**For all the latest updates, ancient history  
and interesting news on  
your neighborhood!!!**

## **Desert Journal: Chit Chat by Sylvia Wagner**

I have been thinking about the nature of beauty, and the beauty of nature. In early March, I made a series of hikes in Piestewa Peak Park. From the street in front of our present home, the Peak appears through fog, stands in lavender splendor, reflects golden sunsets and remains mostly unblemished. It is a constant in the middle of a sprawling series of cities and towns that press onto it and greedily grow ever outward.

Walking through a wash one morning, the northern rock faces were green with lichen. Quail struggled to wave and bob through wild flowers while two hawks circled overhead. Brittlebushes were starred with daisy-like yellow blooms. Arizona poppy, violet scorpion weed, purple coulter's lupine, yellow fiddleneck, powder-blue barestickweed and orange desert globemallow opened to the sun. Each found room to gather moisture and nutrients in just the right spot to grant the most perfect color display. Miniature pools of water were clear and cold. Ocotillo were fully leafed out with coral tips aflame – the burden of bloom not quite mature enough to open. The palo verdes were all green and black textured limbs – many must be over a hundred years in growing. The saguaros were fattened like well-grazed cattle with the promise of abundant crowns of white fluted flowers to come.



The air was lovely, clean and pure. This is the benign desert of fat winter rains and one of the many faces of this mountain. Temperatures will rise and much of this life both animal and plant will succumb to the summer heat and aridity. And that season too will be beautiful in its sparseness. I am reminded at this time of year of a botany professor who told me that annuals are the rock stars of the botanic world – they rise brilliantly, grow at a rocket pace, bloom madly and die young leaving behind the memory of a life lived too fast, too passionately with seeds scattered indiscriminately.

Why is it we want to touch and gather the flowers, the soft lichen, lift the stones from beneath the sparkling water knowing full well the blooms will wilt, the lichen will play dead, the stones will turn dull and dusty? Is it because we want an intimate experience with beauty, which calls every one of us deep in our souls and grants us joy in life? It is a fleeting courtship with a season sometimes so starved for moisture it lies dormant until the next winter rain in another year.

All the wonder I felt in my childhood wandering Dreamy Draw and this very same mountain alone and with my dog, Gypsy, comes to me. I urge all of you this spring to experience the wonder and take a drive north, west, south or east of Phoenix. Enjoy our local preserves, the Botanical Garden, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superstition Mountains – anywhere in the state to share the beauty of nature in this lush desert spring.

## Ratatouille

Recipe by Charlie Boyce

My mother gave me this recipe, along with a number of other French recipes, many years ago. I've made this a number of times for dinner guests, always serving it cold as an appetizer. It's a delicious dish, and it can be made well in advance of the meal.

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 yellow onions, sliced

½ cup olive oil

3 zucchini cut in strips

2 green peppers cut in strips

1 eggplant, peeled and sliced ½" thick

4 tomatoes, peeled and sliced

Freshly ground pepper to taste

Dash marjoram

Salt to taste

2 tablespoons flour

*Parmesan cheese – if appetizer*

Sauté garlic and onions in hot olive oil until onions are transparent. Add rest of vegetables, tomatoes last. Season. Add flour and mix well. Cover and simmer 1 hour.

Uncover, raise heat, and cook 15 minutes more to reduce the amount of liquid. Serve hot.

Serves 6.

*Note: Chilled for several hours in the refrigerator, Ratatouille becomes an excellent and unusual appetizer. Sprinkle it with grated Parmesan cheese. Serve with hot French bread.*

## Annual Luminaria Festival Phoenix Homestead Neighborhood

By Annette Sexton

Our annual Luminaria Festival began at about 8:30 AM the Saturday before Christmas. We all gathered at the neighborhood "park" to begin the assemblage of the luminarias. After lots of chatter, laughter, finding a place in the sun so we could get warm, we discovered that before we knew it we had 3,500 luminarias ready to go and be distributed throughout the neighborhood. The trucks lined up and we filled them with the little brown bags and off they went to light up the area later that night.

As the sun started to set people came out of their houses and lit the luminaria candles. Pretty soon the entire Phoenix Homestead area looked magical. There were parties scattered throughout the neighborhood complete with food, drink and a fire to keep the strollers warm. Some ladies sporting red hats, purple clothing, and sparkling jewelry stopped to sing Christmas Carols along the way.

Remember to mark your calendar for next year. If you can't make it for the free coffee and doughnuts in the morning, come and meet your neighbors in the evening. It was a night of fun and friendship for all and a wonderful way to capture the Holiday Spirit.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Phoenix Homestead Association was created to unify the residents of our neighborhood and to strengthen our community. Our goals are to create a safe and secure environment, to beautify our neighborhood, and to build a shared sense of community. Achieving these goals will benefit all in this area by increasing our property values and improving our living environment. We need your help in achieving these goals.

Membership fees are only **\$24 a year**. These fees help to support neighborhood events, projects, and activities:

- **Neighborhood Clean-up days,**
- **Holiday Luminarias,**
- **and many other projects and events.**
- **Tree plantings,**
- **Community Get-Togethers in the park,**

Please show your support for the neighborhood by becoming a Phoenix Homestead Association member. Make checks out to: **Phoenix Homestead Association**. Mail to: PHA, 3013 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - I am also interested in volunteering some time for neighborhood projects. (check if 'Yes)

**PHA Board Contacts**

President: Annette Sexton, 956-0806  
 Vice-Pres: Kris Straub, 381-0382  
 Treasurer: Charlie Boyce, 957-8880  
 Secretary: Maegan Snow, 840-4719  
 Board Members:  
 Jon & Christina Murillo, 553-8891  
 Sylvia Wagner, 956-2762  
 Vicki Council, 413-0289

Sí tenga interés en recibir las noticias de nuestro barrio en español, favor de llamarnos al numero 602.840.4719 o contactarnos por email a [snow0022@hotmail.com](mailto:snow0022@hotmail.com). Favor de dejar su nombre y dirección en su mensaje.



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