

Together

We can accomplish much when we work...

PHOENIX HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood News and Upcoming Events – Spring Issue 2006

Annual PHA Meeting



It's that time of year again!

The Phoenix Homestead Neighborhood Association will be having our yearly meeting on Sunday, April 10th starting at 11:30 a.m. It will be a **potluck** at the park, located at Flower and 27th 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!!



Saturday, April 1st

Spring Cleaning is upon us! It's time to get rid of some of that stuff that's taking up place in your closets. PHA is offering the perfect opportunity for you to do so, and to make some



extra cash in the process! So start planning your sale in the

Phoenix Homesteads Neighborhood of Yard Sales

to be held on **Saturday, April 1st**, 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 28th 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 28th St.).

So, put **April 1st** on your calendar and join in on the selling mania fun!!!



by Sylvia Wagner

This column is dedicated to Ruth Bingham, a longtime resident of Homestead who passed away recently. Ruth was born in Georgia on a poor rural farm in 1920. Her childhood was difficult as her Mother suffered a severe stroke and was unable to care for her daughter. She was raised by various relatives, married twice, reared several children and remained her own person throughout it all. Moving to the area in the 1940's, Ruth maintained her own home on Flower until the end.

Anyone who knew Ruth was aware of the fighting and independent spirit which resided within her ailing frame. If there was a problem that existed in her immediate world, friends and local residents, city and state officials or school and neighborhood board members heard her voice. She was a tireless campaigner for children's rights and the rights of those dispossessed through divorce or life's misfortunes.

I have been considering Ruth's humble beginnings, the lack of deep affection and education in her early years and the struggle her life became at various twists and turns during the years. Would I have fared as well? My instinct tells me that my good fortune in life never prepared me for the uphill battle that life offered so many that endured the Great Depression and the social imbalances that women Ruth's age wrestled with on a daily basis. Ruth's feistiness made it possible for me to be kinder, gentler and able to go out to train and aim for any job I can dream of.

It is by thoughtful writing I come to many insights, one of which is that Ruth Bingham is one of those who truly provided many of us with our own present life. Thank you Ruthie.

Dog Show in the Park

The Dog Show in the Park was another great success! We had over 30 dogs and owners sign up, and about 75 neighbors showed up to cheer them on. Along with the Arizona Humane society, we had Paul Sanchez, owner of 'Simply Artistic' attend with his beautiful airbrush artwork. He provided us with a 40% discount certificate for the grand prize winner of the drawing.

We would like to thank all neighbors and friends for helping with everything. Sally Boyle, for her great ability for organizing and directing, along with photography and judging. Also judging were Julie Wright and my good friend Terry Teeples. Harimandir & Morgan, for their great ideas in the structure of all paperwork involved and for creating the beautiful baskets for the prize winners. The Morrow family helped tremendously; Melody with shopping and passing out flyers and her husband David for setting up for refreshments and events, along with their son, Tyler. Tyler and my son, Levi Pyse, set up all music and everything else we needed. And of course my husband, Barry for just being there for support. I would like to thank Charlie Boyce and Kris Straub, and the Homesteads Association for financial support.

I could go on and on but I like to thank the Arizona Humane Society for being there with us and making everything worth while. We raised \$158 as a donation to their organization. Next year we plan to raise more and have more vendors and possibly pets for adoption are in the works. This has been an inspiring event for myself and others, I know. Thank you all for making this a memorable time and we hope to see you all next year! **Sincerely, Vicki Council, Board Member**

**May the road rise up to greet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face...
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May god hold you in the palm of His hands.**



What Does the Neighborhood Association Do?

By Charlie Boyce

I've lived in this neighborhood since 1995 and have been active in our community since arriving here – either serving on the Board or helping out with association-related activities. I have to admit that I have done so mainly for selfish reasons. I want my neighborhood to be safe. I want my neighborhood to be beautiful. I want to know and like my neighbors. I want to come home at the end of the day to a place that I belong and that I've helped to make great.

The Phoenix Homesteads is a vibrant and interesting place to live. Our community is the envy of many neighborhoods. People want to live here, not only because of our location but also because of the community that we have created.

The great work of creating this healthy and lively community belongs to each and every one of us. I thank you all for the work that you have done, for fearlessly addressing local issues of safety and security, for getting to know your neighbors and for actively participating in our community's life. I especially thank the Phoenix Homestead Neighborhood Association Board for its hard work in bringing our community together.

During the past year the PHA Board has coordinated numerous activities and events to bring neighbors together and improve our neighborhood. Some activities and events include newsletters, flyers, clean-ups, block watch meetings and outreach to local business, Holiday Luminarias, Breakfast in the Park, and a Dog Show.

We have our Annual Meeting and Potluck coming up on Sunday, April 10th. I encourage you to participate, make a dish and bring it down to the park on Flower & 27th St. Come meet your neighbors and find out more about the local neighborhood association. Get involved with your community. Do it for selfish reasons. Do it for yourself.

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 activities
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Community Event 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 checks to: PHA, c/o Chris Mayor, 3014 N. 27th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

PHA Board Contacts

Jon Murillo: President, 553-8891
Annette Sexton: Vice-Pres, 956-0806
Christopher Mayor: Treasurer, 373-1201
Kris Straub: Secretary, 381-0382
Board Members:
Charlie Boyce: 957-8880
Suzanne Bracker: 468-0114
Vicki Council: 413-0289
Rick Englemann & Sally Boyle: 956-1178
Jackie Gill-Solares: 468-1282
Sylvia Wagner: 956-2762



Discover the Strength Within!

The Sword in the Stone

April 22~30

PHXTHEATRE.ORG
Order On-Line!
602.254.2151

Season Host Sponsor
WELLS FARGO

phoenix theatre's
cookie company
25 years of investigation

Roof Rats

You can keep roof rats off of your property and out of your home by following a few easy steps:

1.) Get rid of the roof rats food supply by harvesting citrus and other fruit

- Pick all fruit (ripe or not) on citrus and other fruit and nut trees and pick up any fallen fruit. Do this promptly and completely. Fruit and nut trees having the most activity are the ones which come in contact with other trees, houses, fences or with power lines running through.
- Donate any excess fruit your family won't be able to eat to the closest food bank. Next winter, when the roof rats are under control or eradicated altogether, enjoy your harvest, but be sure to pick your fruit promptly and donate what you can't use. You don't need to remove fruit trees from your landscape.

2.) Manicure your landscape.

- A clean yard is a deterrent.
- Rake under your trees and shrubbery. Prune fruit trees so the ground under them is open and visible. Remove wood piles and brush piles from your yard. Store wood and lumber piles at least 18 inches above the ground and 12 inches away from walls. Thick ground covers should be thinned.
- Keep your palm trees trimmed. Roof rats nest in the skirts of old fronds, as well as in piles of debris and hollow trees.
- Thin out bushes until you can see daylight through them. Oleanders are particularly prone to harbor roof rats in the summer. Thin bougainvilleas as well.

3.) Don't feed the roof rats unknowingly.

- Roof rats will eat ANYTHING to survive this includes pet food and garbage.
- Don't leave pet food out, especially overnight. Keep dog feces picked up.
- It would be best to stop filling your bird feeders for the next few months. Otherwise, provide just the amount of bird seed that will be consumed in a day and sweep up fallen seeds on the ground before sunset. Store bags of bird seed in sealed, rat-proof containers.
- Store bulk foods in sealed, rat-proof containers.
- Keep garbage containers tightly covered.

4.) Strategically place snap traps and bait stations

- Maricopa County does not provide bait stations or traps to the public. Bait stations can be purchased at cost through Barry Paceley at <http://www.roofrat.net>.
- To prevent rats from entering your property, or to eliminate rats that have already entered your property, set snap traps in your laundry room and garden shed baited with creamy peanut butter. Don't put much on the bait tab so the rat will have to work at it to get it off. This will ensure that the trap will trip. Place the traps well away from pets and small children. Roof rats are nervous and cautious of new objects, so leave traps in the same location for at least a week before moving them.
- Bait stations made of plastic, cardboard or metal provide a protected place for rats to feed. They allow you to place poison bait in some locations where it would otherwise be difficult because of hazards to non-target animals.
- Place two bait stations in your yard, 4 feet or higher off the ground. Optimal locations are in your citrus tree and anywhere near potential rat pathways, such as close proximity of wires to house roofs, trees or oleanders.
- It's important to close the bait station opening in the morning to protect wild birds that might be attracted. Open it up in the late afternoon about sunset.
- The practice of wiring poison bait blocks directly to tree branches causes accidental poisoning of cats and wildlife. Use poison bait blocks only in bait stations and slide the blocks all the way to the back.
- Residents will be responsible for purchasing and placing the bromadiolone poison in the bait station. Read the entire label first and strictly adhere to all instructions, restrictions and precautions.
- Bromadiolone is sold as "Just One Bite" and can be purchased at feed and hardware stores. "Just One Bite" is an anti-coagulant that kills rats in 3-5 days.
- It is important that the resident's home is properly sealed so the poisoned rat doesn't enter the house and die, creating a bad odor which may be hard to remove.

What doesn't work

- Rats quickly learn safe travel routes through yards to avoid dogs. Cats will kill dispersing juvenile rats, but are rarely able to handle an adult roof rat.
- There is no evidence that ultrasonic and electromagnetic devices drive rodents away. There is evidence that ultrasonic devices can cause hearing loss in pets, especially dogs.
- Maricopa County Vector Control tested Coca Cola (rumor has it that roof rats can't burp and die from drinking it), but found that it was ineffective. In fact, the rats loved it.
- Don't use d-Con. If pets or wild birds nibble on a rat killed with d-Con, they can become sick.

Long term solutions

- Strongly consider xeriscaping your yard. Xeriscape doesn't have to be gravel and a couple of cactuses. There are many lovely options.
- Combine xeriscape with a citrus-free yard to create a very effective control against roof rats.

Maintain a defensive line on your property by continuing the use of bait stations, keeping a clean yard and removing pet food and water dishes at night.