



JULY 2009



Next Board Meeting  
Thursday  
August 20th  
7:00 pm  
Freestone  
Recreation Center

## 2009 BOARD

President:  
**Kim MacFadyen**

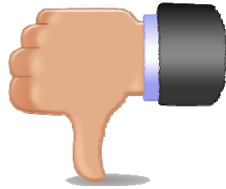
Vice Pres:  
**Art Casillas**

Treasurer:  
**Sabrina Marmont**

Secretary:

# Happy Days of Summer

Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it. -Russel Baker



## RV Amendment: Did Not Pass

The proposed amendment to the CC&R's changing the amount of time an RV is allowed to be parked in the community did not pass. In order for an amendment to pass, 91 affirmative votes/ballots from homeowners must be received. This is 67% of the 136 homes in the community. Unfortunately, only 81 ballots were returned. Out of the 81 ballots returned 37 homeowners voted NO to the additional hours, and 50 homeowners votes YES.

How does this affect you? The verbiage in the CC&R's stands and will continue to be enforced. Section 5.11 of the CC&R's state that commercial vehicles or recreational vehicles may be temporarily parked not to exceed 4 consecutive hours.

If you have questions regarding the Amendment process , outcome or variance requests, please contact Korin @ Preferred Communities.

## Secretary Needed!

Volunteer Needed! The Board of Directors is looking for someone who would like to serve in the office of Secretary for the HOA. The responsibilities are to attend and take minutes at the Board Meetings, Board Work Sessions and the Annual Meeting



If you are interested, please contact Korin Hatch @ Preferred Communities.



# Community

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## Homeowners

Do you have questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas?

**Come to the Board Meetings!**

**If you're unable to attend the meetings, contact a Board Member or the management company.**

**Make sure your voice is heard!**



## Preferred Communities

PO BOX 5720  
Mesa AZ 85211

480-649-2017

info@gothoa.com

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## Community Manager

**Korin Hatch**

480-649-2017 ext 303

korin@gothoa.com

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## A HELPING HAND

Community associations are not immune in this recession. Sadly, some homes have been abandoned. The homes were foreclosed and the owners moved away. When banks take over these properties, they usually don't realize they need to pay the regular assessment. With the depth of the foreclosure crisis and their own financial problems, banks are struggling to keep up.

It's hard not to complain about a nearby property looking downtrodden. We all want to come home to a community we can be proud of. If the house next door is abandoned or not maintained, offer to help. Be sure to check with the association first if you want to clean up an abandoned property. The property may belong to the bank, the association or the financially-strapped owner. If no one is given notice that volunteers are coming to maintain a property, trespassing charges can be filed—not exactly a nice return on generosity.

If given approval to access a property, there are simple things volunteers can do to improve the look. When the trash is cleaned up, the yard is watered and mowed and the newspapers, door hangers and phone books are picked up off the porch, the home is less inviting to thieves and looks better.

Having unity in the community has never been more important than in times like these. Thankfully, as neighbors, we have one another. Don't get angry, get helpful.

# What is a neighbor?

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***We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race ~ Cicero***

Do we want to have community where no one knows each other or helps each other? Or do we want a Community Neighborhood where we know each other, give a helping hand and keep an eye out for each other?

## What is a neighbor?

The definition from Websters Dictionary is:

1. person who lives close to someone else
2. one who demonstrates kindness and friendship toward others
3. fellow human; a fellow human being

**Let's put neighbor into our Neighborhood and Neighborhood into Community!**

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## Crime Alert

**Let's tell those criminals: This is our neighborhood and Crime is not allowed!**

In today's down economy crime rate has increased. Now that school is out, the crime rate in our area is increasing even more! Please watch for suspicious persons and activity at all times. Suspicious activity is anything that looks like it could be connected with criminal behavior— someone casing a neighborhood, forcing open a door, grabbing a child, screaming, pounding or strong chemical odors coming from a residence. If the activity appears to be threatening to property or people, IMMEDIATELY report the suspicious activity by calling 911. Time is critical in apprehending criminals. It is better to be overly-suspicious than to let a criminal get away.

Keep a watch in the neighborhood! If someone is trying to break into your neighbors house, what's going to stop them from breaking into your house?

## Head Injuries



When should you go to the ER after a Head Injury?

1. **Be Vigilant:** Keep an eye on someone who has hit their head, even if the person never lost consciousness. People are under the assumption that as long as you're not knocked out, you're OK, but that's not true.
2. **Look for dizziness, vomiting, headache & confusion:** If the injured person has these signs, take them to an emergency room.
3. **Look for changes in symptoms and behavior:** Any sudden change, such as a headache going from mild to severe in minutes, means the person needs medical attention. For example: if a person gets suddenly sleepy in the first 12 hours after a hit, it may mean the parts of the brain responsible for staying awake are experiencing pressure from a bleed.
4. **Be especially wary if someone has been drinking alcohol or is on blood thinners:** It's tough to distinguish brain-injured behavior from drunken behavior, so when in doubt, take the person to the hospital. Also, blood thinners can turn a mild bleed into a major bleed, so be especially vigilant if the injured person is taking blood thinners such as warfarin. Also, be extra vigilant when an elderly person hits their head.
5. Go to a certified trauma center if you can: A hospital that's not a trauma center may not have a neurosurgeon on call.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GO! IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF BEING CONSERVATIVE!

## SURVIVING JOB LOSS



by: Melisa Pullins

It's never a good time to lose your job. However, the current economic environment has resulted in business closures, downsizing and layoffs for many in our community. If you are one of our residents experiencing a loss of income due to job loss, please do NOT give up on paying your assessments! Unpaid assessments can result in further collection fees and even court costs if necessary.

If you are currently behind on your assessments, please call Melisa with Preferred Communities at **480.649.2017 ext. 304** to be placed on a payment plan. We will work with you and your budget needs. Please call today for more information.

# Community Updates



- ◆ **Social Committee:** We had a great turnout for the Spring Easter Egg Hunt and Chili Cook Off! Congratulations to Melissa Casillas for winning the title for "Best Chili".

- ◆ We have several ideas for neighborhood events coming up in the Fall! Maybe an outside family movie night at the green-belt. Stay tuned for more details!
- ◆ We are still trying to put together a neighborhood bi-monthly bunko (6x/year). We need 12-16 players to commit. Interested? Contact Margaret (her contact info is below).
- ◆ We are always looking for additional social volunteers to help on the committee or with the event setup. Contact us if you would like to help.
- ◆ Do you have ideas for neighborhood get-togethers? Do you have thoughts for a fun activity with your neighbors? Email the social committee and let us know!

Social Committee Contact: [Margaret @Caldwellfl.com](mailto:Margaret@Caldwellfl.com) or 480-455-9174

- ◆ **Landscape Committee:** The Landscape Committee met with the Board of Directors on June 10 to discuss their ideas of a landscape plan that would incorporate how the landscaping looks today and how it should look over the next 20 years. This includes a plan for upgrading and replacing lost plants & trees in all common areas. Considering first area to begin with is on Orion Street. The Board & Committee are looking for more homeowner involvement—help to beautify our community while keeping costs down. We are thinking of a work Saturday with snacks and drinks provided by the HOA and labor by homeowners, planting plants and spreading granite. With budgetary issues, bringing community spirit and volunteers together will help produce faster results for less cost. Watch for an e-mail or a knock on your door! **For more info on the landscape plans, come to the next HOA meeting!**



- ◆ **Trash Can in the Green-Belt!** The Board has purchased a trash can & doggie waste station. It should be installed soon, please start using it and let's not have any more accidents of stepping in stinky mushy stuff!
- ◆ **Common Area Landscaping:** The Board and Landscape Committee is working with the current Landscape Company, Altius to make sure that the grass in the green-belt area and the plants & trees in the common area are maintained appropriately. Because we didn't overseed this past year, we have more weeds. The Board will re-evaluate for next winter.
- ◆ **Block Wall Paint Inspection:** The community block walls were painted a few years ago and they are still under warranty. The painting company has been out and inspected the walls and will repaint where needed. If additional items are identified, these will be addressed at the next board meeting.

## **New Location**

**Preferred Communities has moved. The mailing address and phone numbers remain the same, however, our new physical address is:**

**Preferred Communities  
1050 E University Dr, Ste 1  
Mesa, AZ 85203**