



JULY 2009



Next Board Meeting
Thursday
August 27th
6:30 pm

At Fire Station #217
10434 E Baseline Rd
In the community Room

2009 BOARD

President:
LeAnn Wolf

Vice Pres:
Nate Moore

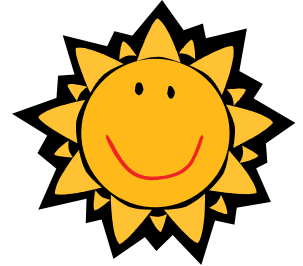
Treasurer:
Dallan Randall

Secretary:
Scott Weaver

Director at Large:
Valorie Salcido

Happy Days of Summer

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



Gate Code Change

As everyone should know by now, La Fortina will no longer have quarterly gate code changes. There has been an increase of non-resident traffic in our community. The goal of moving to individual gate codes is to identify which codes are given out to non-residents and how often and at what times these codes are used. We are hoping that this will help reduce the traffic and maybe even help reduce the crime rate in our community.

Two notices were sent to each homeowner providing an individual code for each home in La Fortina. **The community gate code of #9378 will be deactivated on July 16, 2009.** If you are renting your home out, please make sure that you provide the individual gate code to your renters.

If you know any renters in the neighborhood, please make sure they are aware of the changes to the gate code.

Please help keep our community secure and DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR CODE to just anyone!

**IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR CODE, PLEASE CALL
KORIN @ PREFERRED COMMUNITIES 480-649-2017 EXT 303**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The best way to keep our community informed is for everyone to stay connected and up-to-date on what's happening in the community. Please check out the community blog, or if you'd like to email your questions, we now have a community email. We've included a magnet so you'll never forget to stay connected!

**Community
Garage Sale**

**Saturday
Nov. 7th**

**Would you like
to help with the
ANNUAL FALL
FESTIVAL?**

**Please contact
Korin @ Preferred
Communities.**

**Volunteers are
Needed!!!!**



Preferred Communities

**PO BOX 5720
Mesa AZ 85211**

480-649-2017

info@gothoa.com

**Would you like
something placed in
the bulletin board,
or do you have an
article for the
newsletter? Send
an email to
lafortina@gmail.com**



Community

A HELPING HAND

by: Melisa Pullins

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?

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!



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?

Neighborhood Watch

Don't you think it's time to join the Neighborhood WATCH?

With as much crime that has been happening in our community we need EVERYONE to step up to the plate and take some action!

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a successful effort that has been in effect for over thirty years in towns, cities and rural areas across the country. Based on the concept of cooperation, neighborhood watch programs bring together law enforcement, city officials and residents and ask them to work together to provide protection for their homes and communities. Crimes such as burglary, vandalism and mischief threaten every member of each community in Arizona and crime watch efforts such as The Neighborhood Watch Program help discourage this type of activity. Supported by the National Sheriff's Association since 1972, the Neighborhood Watch Program is helping the public eradicate residential crime in their neighborhoods.

Also called Crime Watch, Block Watch, or Community Watch, the program's success is based on the commitment of the public and their local police department in Arizona to work together to observe, report and dissuade crime in their communities. Residents not only take care of their own homes and businesses, but also those of their neighbors. By taking an active role in the protection of their families and possessions, residents are better able to discourage criminal activity and keep their neighborhoods safe.

Each street in the community needs to have a Block Watch Captain. We do have an active Neighborhood Block Watch group on EL Moro. Are you willing to spend a little time each week in helping to keep our community safe and reduce the crime? Call or email Melisa at Preferred Communities and we'll get a block watch started on your street!

Without each homeowner getting involved, the criminals ravaging our community will continue to have free reign. You never know who's home will be burglarized next.

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

Just a few reminders that will help keep our community safe and beautiful!

Please keep the rocks from your yard swept off of your driveway and the sidewalks! It is a safety issue when the rocks are on the sidewalk and it detracts from the maintenance of our community.



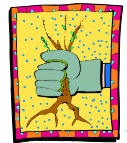
Smokers— if you smoke in your yard, please put the butts in a container and refrain from tossing them onto the ground or street. It could be a fire hazard, a health hazard, and the butts are just plain ugly lying on the ground.

Dog Lovers— Please Keep your dogs from pooping in the common area and neighbors yards. If your dog needs a place to poop—why not use your own yard? What a surprise it is to step in a squishy mess—a surprise that most of us wouldn't like to have. **Please scoop the poop!!!!**



Please keep your dogs on a leash. It's not only a rule in our CC&R's, a Law! All dogs must be kept on a leash when outside of fenced area. If you see dogs running loose in the community, streets or in the common area, please call Animal Control and they will come and remove the dogs.

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds: Please keep your weeds under control. With the monsoons coming, weeds will sprout up quickly. If one yard has weeds, then those weed seeds spread quickly to neighboring yard.



The Call Box at the main gate has been replaced at a cost of \$1400.00, and the lock on the Pedestrian Gate on Pueblo has been fixed. If you see any suspicious activity around the gate immediately call the police. If you know who the vandals are—please let the police and Preferred Communities know. We want the vandals to pay for any repairs—not the community! The Board has authorized a \$500.00 reward for anyone has information that assists in the apprehension those who vandalize our property.



Please remember that there is **NO PARKING** in front of Fire Hydrants. The City Code states that there is no parking within 15 Feet of a fire hydrant. If your vehicle is parked in front of a fire hydrant, it may be towed, at your expense.



Abandoned, Inoperable, or expired/unlicensed vehicles are not allowed to be parked on the street or in your driveway. If an one of these vehicles is parked on the street, the vehicle may be towed at the owners expense.

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**