

MARLBOROUGH MESA

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★ LABOR DAY ★

By Donna Delpier

The origins of Labor Day are disputed by historians. What we do know is that it began over a century ago to honor the working people of the United States. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a bill making Labor Day a national holiday.

Labor Day is observed as a legal holiday on the first Monday in September throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. Although we think of the holiday as being strictly American, our neighbors around the globe celebrate their working people in similar ways. In Australia, Labor Day is called Eight Hour Day, and it commemorates the successful struggle for a shorter working day. In Europe, Labor Day is observed on May 1, also known as May Day.

Today, the holiday has come to be known in the United States as the long weekend in which we say farewell to summer – and in Arizona that's a Joyful Day! However you choose to celebrate, have a safe and happy Labor Day!

"Better be safe than sorry"

*Remember those words? They were probably spoken by EVERYONE'S mother! Well, September is **National Preparedness Month**.*

National Preparedness Day

When: September 9, 2006 8:00-11:00 AM

Where: Target Store, Power and McKellips Rds

Contact: City of Mesa at 480-644-3921 or 644-2073

Join the Mesa Police and Fire Departments, as well as many other city, county and state agencies, from 8-11 am on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Target store, located at Power and McKellips Roads, to learn about taking care of yourself, your family and community before and during a disaster.

There will be demonstrations, static displays and educational information for all aspects of national preparedness and disaster training. Learn how to prepare a 72-hour survival kit and what programs are available to assist you in the event of a large-scale emergency.

Any disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. Families can cope with disaster by preparing in advance. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

- Do you have a Family Disaster Plan?
- Where will your Family be when a disaster strikes ... at work ... at school ... in the car? How will you find one another?
- What would you do without basic services?

Working with neighbors can save lives. Make a plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster until help arrives. This would make a perfect Neighborhood Watch Meeting. Know your neighbors' special skills (e.g., medical, technical) and consider those with special needs. Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home.

The City of Mesa website has a plethora of information about preparedness on it.

FYI: Costco has an emergency food supply, nitrogen-packed in a 5-gal. bucket for \$110.00. It contains 275 servings with a 20-year shelf life.

CODE ENFORCEMENT TO BEGIN AT CITY WITH NEW CODE DIRECTOR

By Nina Williams

Recently, several representatives from Mesa neighborhoods met with Ray Villa, the new Code Compliance Director to discuss the future of that department in the face of recent cutbacks. The focus has been how volunteers could be of help in their own neighborhoods.

Mr. Villa seems to be as concerned for our neighborhoods as we are and is as anxious to make sure that the downward spiral of some areas are reversed.

It is important to note that most areas of Mesa have followed the code compliance rules and regulations of the city, but there are always a few areas or neighbors who need assistance with general upkeep or a reminder.

Mr. Villa is in the process of enforcing the current laws as well as seeking input from neighborhood leaders for the betterment of all of Mesa's communities. Having been at these meetings, we can only say that he seems to be on the right track. He will need all our help and support now and in the future.

Stay tuned ... in the next newsletter we will outline the whole plan the city has set forth.

CODE COMPLIANCE COMING

From our new code director –

By Ray Villa

My name is Ray and I am the new Code Compliance Director for the City of Mesa. As I am sure you already know your neighborhood has an excellent reputation for being one of the best places to live in the city of Mesa. Marlborough Mesa is an award-winning community that other neighborhoods can admire and model after. We are currently developing a code compliance team that will be specifically working with your

community. Our purpose is to encourage compliance with codes that are already in place. Our goal is to keep Marlborough Mesa the neighborhood that you all have come to appreciate and respect. Enforcing the codes will be achieved both proactively and through complaints from the citizens of your neighborhood. Below is a **list of codes** we will be acting aggressively upon. I encourage you to read the codes and become familiar with them. I hope by working together we can continue keeping Marlborough Mesa on the honor roll. **Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.** My number is 480-644-4546.

CODES WE ENFORCE:

This new code applies to everyone who **owns** or **rents** a home in Mesa. The following list offers examples of items included within the **Property Maintenance Code**.

- **Yards and landscaping** should be well maintained and free from weeds and litter. Grass/weeds should be no more than 9" tall.
- **Outside storage**, junk and garbage should not be visible from streets and sidewalks.
- **Fencing** should be properly maintained, structurally sound and in good repair.
- **Graffiti** is the responsibility of the homeowner to remove.
- **Parking**: It is unlawful to park or store any vehicle within the front or side yard.
- **Inoperable Vehicles** cannot be stored for more than 10 days even if being worked on in the front or sides of property. Tarps & covers- not acceptable.
- **Recreational Vehicles** can be parked in the driveway for 72 hrs. or on a public street for 48 hrs.
- **Boats & Utility Trailers** can only be stored inside a garage, the rear yard or behind a 6' tall fence in the side yard.
- **Commercial Vehicles** with a weight of 13,000 lbs. or having dual wheels exceeding 17" cannot be parked in residential neighborhoods.
- **Exterior Housing Maintenance** must be structurally sound, not show deterioration, disrepair or blight.

Our New Website

By Paul Simpson

We have purchased a new website, www.marlbroughmesa.org, in order to allow more versatility in the manner in which we share information. Currently, the site on Neighborhood Link is the primary site, with the photo albums hosted on myphotoalbum.com, the crime logs at mmcrime.com, and links to various other sites for other information. Owning this domain will allow us to consolidate all these ancillary services into one place.

The initial plan involves merging the photo albums, crime logs, a new blog so that community leaders can quickly share news & information with residents, and more.

A copy of the applicable codes and a complaint form will be available on the site to enable residents to report code violations directly to the city. These reports will work in the same manner as the crime report log does. If you see a complaint about your property, you will be able to post a response comment if you have fixed it. The city enforcers will periodically review the log and mail notices to those with pending complaints.

Other features being considered include the availability of me@marlbroughmesa.org email accounts or aliases, current news feeds from local sources (Trib, Republic, TV, as available), links to city contacts, and subscribable RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds & emails for news, crime, and code logs. If anyone has any additional suggestions for features, or things you would like to see, please let me know at website@marlbroughmesa.org.

Security Lighting

Jim Jones and Mark Foster have completed the installation of security lights on individual homes. This was the Security Lighting Project that we had applied for a grant and received from PRIDE and Mesa United Way.

Leftover are still 2 available lights. A couple of residents have asked that we hold them for you but have not called back. They are now "up for grabs" with just a phone call – or you can ask that they be installed. This will be the last opportunity. They will be returned to Costco if no one claims them. Call Jim at 480-831-1525. Remember – these are **FREE for the asking!**



New Dairy Queen Owners!!

By Sandra Scully

Yes, the sign in the store window with the smiley face is true. The Dairy Queen has NEW owners. So if you are craving an ice cream treat, do stop in at DQ where you'll now get service with a smile and a friendly attitude from a whole new staff.

Pete Simms and Bill Sladek, the new owners, both have over 14 years experience as Regional Field Consultants with DQ. Plus Bill owns a few DQ stores. One of them is on the corner of Rural and Elliot. Pete and Bill's number one goal is to endear themselves to the community. They want Dairy Queen to be a place where families and friends come to eat, celebrate, and have fun.

Our Dairy Queen was one of the stores in Pete's territory. So when the store went up for sale, Pete and Bill knew they wanted this store due to its great location. They will be staying in the same location and not rebuilding by Nellos. So far, they have replaced the drive thru speaker system and painted the exterior of the building. If their plans for remodeling the interior are approved, this Dairy Queen will be the first "Grill and Chill" in the Southwest!

Pete and Bill have given our neighborhood this special coupon deal. Enjoy. Also, they will be putting coupons in all of our Welcome Baskets.



Buy One Get One Free

Blizzard™ Treat!

Good only at:

2754 S. Alma School Rd. (at Guadalupe)

any size - (free one is equal or lesser value)

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP! GIVE US A TRY.

Cable America – Cox emails

If you had a Cable America email, chances are your email has changed. I could just change ALL Cable America emails to Cox – but I don't know if individuals have changed their entire email or not. Please update me on that at

almajones2006@cox.net

G.A.I.N.

Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods

Mark your calendars for **October 21, 2006**. October is crime prevention month. G.A.I.N. is the “Arizona version” for celebrating

National Night Out.

Get out those fold-up tables and chairs, call or send a flyer to the neighbors in your Neighborhood Watch Group and enjoy SOMETHING! ☺ Be creative – you can do whatever you can think up. This is a perfect way to get to know your immediate neighbors better. We have funds in the treasury for ANY and ALL Neighborhood Watch events. Contact either Debbie Glick at 480-752-1767, Sandy Scully at 480-345-9823 or Alma Jones at 480-831-1525.

Should you want to barricade your street or register for this event, contact Lindy Marino at 480-644-3921 at the City of Mesa.

If you do not have a Neighborhood Watch on your street – start one – it’s as easy as you want it.

REMEMBER: ***A good neighbor is one of the most effective crime prevention tools ever invented!***

To Seed or Not to Seed

City encourages residents to skip winter rye

by Donna DiFrancesco

Water Conservation Specialist, City of Mesa

Sustaining a lush, green lawn throughout the year is appealing to many. However, the additional water needed for cool-season grasses is difficult to justify when water is such a precious resource, especially now as Arizona contends with an extended drought.

YOU must decide whether or not to overseed your lawns this fall. As part of the City of Mesa’s continuous effort to promote wise and efficient outdoor water use, it is encouraging all water customers to consider limiting, or forgoing the overseeding of turf areas.

Top 10 Reasons NOT to Plant a Winter Lawn

1. **Give your Bermuda a break** - Overseeding can be stressful for your Bermuda grass. In the fall, scalping the summer grass before dormancy doesn’t allow for adequate storage of energy in the roots. In the spring, the rye competes with Bermuda, and customers often withhold water to

transition from winter to summer grass.

Unfortunately, this will also stress the Bermuda.

2. **Set an example** - We live in a desert and this is an opportunity to demonstrate your community leadership with a responsible outlook towards our water supply (this is the third year that Mesa has asked members of the community to join in this voluntary effort).

3. **Save frustration** - Problems with seed germination, fertilizers, diseases, and irrigation are all common when planting a winter lawn.

4. **Decrease noise pollution** - Mowers, weed whackers, and leaf blowers have become a major source of background noise in many neighborhoods. The drone of lawn equipment contributes to an already noisy world.



5. **Save the air** - Gasoline mowers and other lawn equipment contribute to our air pollution problems, and the scalping process releases dust and other particles into the air.

6. **Save landfill space** - Scalping Bermuda grass creates a great deal of waste for the landfills. Ryegrass clippings can create additional waste all winter and spring.

7. **Save money** - Save on the cost of seed, labor, water, and gasoline for mowing. Also, wastewater rates are often determined by your winter water usage. If you use more water in the winter, your utility bill wastewater rates will be higher the rest of the year.

8. **Preserve water quality** - Less fertilizers and pesticides will be needed. Much of our water pollution comes from runoff of these products from urban landscapes.

9. **Save water** - Getting ryegrass seed to germinate requires watering three times a day or more, and spikes in water usage are always noticeable during the months of October and November when winter rye is seeded. By not overseeding, over 8,000 gallons of water can be saved for every 1,000 square feet of grass each season.



10. **Save time** - No need to scalp the lawn, prepare the seedbed, seed, water, or mow.

With all the recent rains, our Marlborough Mesa sign at Pampa and Alma School is beginning to be covered up a bit with vines. Any chance someone could go down and cut them?

7th Annual Marlborough Mesa Christmas Toy Drive

By Sandra Fischer

Even though Christmas seems so far away, be sure to mark your calendars, so that you can join the celebration and help some needy children at the same time. Bring an unwrapped toy, have a FREE breakfast and even see Santa! He comes to Marlborough every year.

DATE: Saturday, December 9, 2006
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
WHERE: Our Park at Peralta & Wycliff

We are doing a breakfast this year so come join in and meet lots of your neighbors. There is no charge, but we would ask that you to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to the **East Valley Child Crisis Center**.

Santa will also be available for pictures and will be accepting the gifts for the needy children.

Please contact me as we need just a few helpers to assist in the planning, cooking, cleaning, decorating, taking pictures and helping Santa with the pictures. If you cannot help, ask your teenagers if they would like to – they can earn extra credit for Honors if they do.

I am excited about this toy drive and look forward to seeing you all there. Contact info:
home: 480-820-2773 cell: 480-234-1658
email: uffdaskf@cox.net

PAINTING Fences?

Have you looked hard at our perimeter fences lately on both Guadalupe and Alma School Roads? Do you think they need to be painted again? Should they all be the same height? There are many questions – these are just a few.

Our perimeter fences belong to all of us even though they are the property of the owners that back up to Guadalupe and Alma School. They paint a picture of our neighborhood to the community. When you drive by a neighborhood, have you often said to yourself ... “that looks like someplace nice to live” or have you said “I would not want to live in THAT neighborhood?”

Relationships are the foundation for any community project and we have built many of those over the years. Committing time and energy

to make a visible, tangible, lasting improvement to a neighborhood does create lasting bonds.

Everyone who worked on this project back in 1999-2000 agreed that it was a huge improvement once finished. AND – they even enjoyed it. We embraced the opportunity of getting to know one another in a whole different light.

So, is it time once again to begin to put something together? We could get the paint from the paint re-use program from the city.

What, When and Who is needed:

- Choose a weekend (February may be a good choice for a month)
- A Blocklayer (repairs are needed)
- Someone to transport paint. (Home Depot will mix all the paint together)
- Paint supplies (rollers, screens & brushes)
- Coordinator for Alma School fence
- Coordinator for Guadalupe fence
- Painting volunteers

Contact me at almajones2006@cox.net or 480-831-1525 if you have ideas, are willing to help in ANY way or know of a blocklayer.



Health & Wellness Fair

- *Free Nutritional Counseling
- *Free Samples
- *Free Literature
- *Free Chair Massage

Enter to Win Prizes!!!

“Let Yourself Bloom in 2006”

Saturday, September 9th, 2006
11 am to 2 pm

SUNFLOWER FARMERS MARKET

730 S. Cooper Warner @ Cooper
Gilbert, AZ 85233 (480) 926-0405

Sunflower Farmer's Market will also be putting in a \$10.00 gift certificate into all Welcome Baskets.

Since you asked ...

I spoke with Dale Brunk at the city regarding the condition of our streets, as I began seeing the Dobson Ranch area being resurfaced. He told me that our streets are due to be repaved with a latex modified slurry seal around March of 2007. The top course will be like a new street once finished.

Neighborhood Notes



Rainfall in Marlborough Mesa

We hear rainfall totals in Mesa and around the Valley, but ever wonder what they are right where you live? Well, Jim Jones has been keeping accurate rain measurements for as far back as I can remember. He has a variety of rain gauges to make certain he gets precise measurements. So ... "the Rain Report" is the newest addition.



*Jim's Rain Report
in Marlborough Mesa*

June 0" July 3.03"
August to date 1.98"

Yearly Total to Date: 7.27"

MM CLASSIFIEDS

BABYSITTING available: Amber, 13 Yrs old. Certified in CPR. Have an 8 year old brother that I have been babysitting since he was 3. I live on Portobello. 480-634-7310 or 480-529-5741.



GUITAR TEACHER: I have 8 years guitar experience. I am open to teaching different styles, including but not limited to classical/orchestral, rock, jazz, contemporary, easy listening, heavy metal, alternative, and pop/commercial. If you prefer, I will come to your house and teach you in a setting that is comfortable for you. As long as the student is

committed, any age is welcome. Contact : Atom Passwater. Phone # : 480-241-2088. Email : atom@de-evolvin.com

FREE ROCKS. Large (4" - 6") smooth river rocks. Recipient needs to move them. 480-831-0031, Bonnie.

TWO-PIECE, dual-level office/computer work-desk. \$120 OBO. Black with Cherry wood trim, in Great condition. Buyer must be able to pick-up. Please contact 480-233-6694.

JOIN us for open mic, hosted by Dan Wiebe, at Korean BBQ on Monday nights, 7 to 9. Located at 2711 S. Alma School Road, in Mesa. On the north east corner of Alma School and Guadalupe Rd., behind the Walgreen's.

COMPAQ Computer for sale, 533MGZ processor, 512 Ram, DVD/CD writer, Windows 98 and other software. Keyboard, Mouse, & Speakers. Works Great- Just wanted a faster system. \$125.00. 480-897-0276

WIRELESS "B" broadband router with USB receiver for setting up your wireless network in your home. Comes complete with software instructions and cables. \$40.00 for whole set up. 480-897-0276

FREE FISH!!!!!! for anyone setting up a fish tank. We have Molleys and more Molleys. Great starter fish! 480-897-0276

LIKE to Scrapbook? Enjoy making handmade stamped cards? Want to earn money doing a hobby you love? Ask me how! Your MM Neighborhood source for all your Rubberstamping & Scrapbooking needs! ***Reference this ad and get the new 2006-2007 Idea Book for only \$5! (That 50% off the retail price!)* Barb Melnick, Independent Demonstrator Stampin' Up! PH: 480.699.6079 Email: inkinpaws@cox.net Learn more about Stampin' Up! @ www.stampinup.com

Neighborhood Website Address:

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/mesa/marlborough>

For info concerning this newsletter, please contact the editors/publishers: **Jim and Alma Jones** 1031 W. Posada almajones2006@cox.net 480-831-1525 or 602-321-1139

Other neighborhood contacts are:

Sandy and Michael Scully, 2810 S. Emerson, runscully@msn.com/ 480-345-9823 or 480-250-7750.

Linda and Mike Murphy, 3048 S. Spruce, asufan2002@yahoo.com, 480-820-5742.