

### Board of Directors

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*Melissa Campbell*

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**Director at Large**

*Laura Martin*

### AAM After Hours Emergency Numbers

**602-647-3034**

**1-866-553-8290**

### REMINDER: Recycle Pickup

*Mondays*

### Trash Pickup

*Thursdays*

Cans may be out at 5pm the night before and until 11pm the night of.



## Message From The President

Since we recently changed our monthly meetings from the first Thursday of the month to the fourth, this edition of the newsletter

was prepared prior to the February meeting. So I am unable to comment on February proceedings. However, at the January meeting, one of the issues discussed was the build-out of our community. I would like to share that information with those of you who were unable to attend.

As you already know, excepting Elite Homes at the North West corner of our community, Sun Groves development is complete. However, Elite has

approximately fifty lots still available, and,

with activity seemingly come to a halt, and rumors abounding, I wanted to have a clearer picture. Together with Carla Helmstadter, our community manager, I had a meeting with Elite management in January.

Briefly, my understanding from the meeting is that, in the current economic climate, with some banks going out of business and others being more reluctant to lend than in the past, Elite have been having difficulties in raising construction funding and cash for operations. They have ceased building



and, since sales forecasts are dismal, there are scant prospects for resuming construction in the foreseeable future. In fact, being strapped for funds, they do not anticipate doing so. Various actions are currently under consideration.

Meanwhile, for those Elite homeowners whose properties are still under builders' warranty, we were informed that Elite does intend to honor those warranties. They have been compelled to reduce staff, so they may be a little slower in reacting to requests than they have in the past. But they do intend to continue providing warranty service.

So far as the affairs of the Association are concerned, Elite is currently up to date with their assessments on the lots they still own. We hope that will not change. However, they are clearly short of cash and have been slow to keep the parcel tidy and free of weeds. We have had to complain strongly in the past few months to get attention. They did, eventually, take care of the problem. However, in mid-January weeds were encroaching once again on vacant lots, The Company did not respond to our approaches. At the end of January we had to resort to setting the Self Help procedures in motion to restore the appearance of the parcel.

We shall continue to monitor the situation and will keep everyone apprized at our monthly meetings.



### Contact

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**sungroveshoa.com**

## What is NAZ?

NAZ is Neighborhoods Arizona and the 2009 NAZ Conference is coming. NAZ is hosted by the Leadership Centre (LC). The LC is a non-profit organization located at the Chandler Gilbert Community College. The LC is a partnership between several AZ cities and several educational facilities. The LC arose from a need to raise awareness for direct assistance to neighborhoods, HOAs and community associations led to this collaboration.



This annual state-wide NAZ Conference brings together those who live in and work with neighborhoods to network and learn about neighborhood issues. This year's theme is "Swimming Upstream: Navigating the Current Economic Condition. The Conference is Saturday May 16, 2009 from 8:30-2:00 PM. There is a \$25.00 registration fee per person, and breakfast and lunch are included. For more information go to: <http://mywebport.org/published/1/ea/leadership/composite/1/>

## Be on the Lookout...

The Sun Groves Communications Committee will be going door to door to help promote the community in signing up for the Sun Groves Newsletter. You can help out by signing up to receive the Newsletter simply by going to [www.sungroveshoa.com](http://www.sungroveshoa.com)

click on the “subscribe” link on the right side of the screen, it only takes a minute to complete.

Thank you for your participation!



### 2009 Board Meeting Dates:

The Board of Directors meets the **fourth Thursday of each month.**

Executive Session begins at 5:30pm for Board members only.

Open Session begins at 7:00pm and is open to homeowners.

Locations to be determined.

### INPUT:

We're looking for input from homeowners regarding future newsletter content. Contact Carla Helmstadter at [chelmstadter@aamaz.com](mailto:chelmstadter@aamaz.com)

### PARKING:

*Parking in the street or on the landscaping is prohibited in accordance with our CC&R's (Section 10.11) vehicles must be parked within a garage or on a driveway.*

Newsletter design by Sun Groves homeowner Jeff Boyer, [www.boyerdesign.com](http://www.boyerdesign.com)

[sungroveshoa.com](http://sungroveshoa.com)

## Help for Freeze-Damaged Landscapes

Even in the desert freezing temperatures can occur causing damage to many landscape plants and making them look a bit 'toasted'. While many frost-sensitive plants can tolerate freezing temperatures for brief periods, nights that dip into the low 30's or below for several hours can be deadly for even the hardiest of plants.

Plants that are the most vulnerable to freezing temperatures are Bouganvillea, Ficus nitida, Natal Plum, Yellow Oleander, Jacaranda, and some agaves.

What can you do now? First, resist the urge to prune off any dead or damaged foliage for a few more weeks. Even the crispy leaves and stems will act as an insulator and protect the interior of the plant against any future frosts. Typically our last frost date occurs in late February, although there have been rare occasions where frosts have been recorded in March. Waiting a while will actually make it easier to tell where tissue damaged by the freezes ends and live tissue begins. As new leaf buds emerge the green color will indicate where it is safe to prune away the dead foliage or stems.

When you prune your shrubs its important not use shears. Instead, use bypass hand pruners to create a more natural-looking plant rather than the geometric shapes often left by electric or hand shears. Shearing into odd shapes (cylinders, sphere, cupcakes, hockey pucks, etc.,) destroys a shrub's form and blooming potential and causes the interior and lower part of the shrub to become bare and twiggy. Eventually only the top of the plant is crowned with leaves. This type of pruning requires regular maintenance to retain its sculpted shape and results in increased maintenance costs. More importantly, it increases the plant's water demands.

Take care with agaves, yuccas and desert spoons. These striking accent plants are not supposed to look like pineapples and the removal of green leaves makes them vulnerable to extremes in temperature as well as destroying their attractive features. Allow lower leaves to remain on these beauties as long as they are green.



If you're in doubt about whether or not to prune a tree or shrub, then you probably shouldn't. Most plants require only annual pruning for optimum health as long as they are being watered correctly. This is especially true of large shrubs like Texas Sage and Cassia that may reach six feet in



height. Most established desert-adapted shrubs only need to be watered deeply once every two to three weeks in the early spring, increasing to once every two weeks in the summer. A watering schedule can be found on the landscape resource page at [www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)

### Best Time to Prune (Phoenix metro area)

**Desert adapted trees** - early summer (May – early June)

**Desert adapted deciduous trees** - during winter dormancy (January)

**Conifers** (Pines, Junipers, Cypress) - during winter dormancy (January)

**Citrus** - don't prune except for hazards or health

**Spring-blooming shrubs** - after bloom is finished

**Summer-blooming shrubs** - during winter dormancy (January/February)

**Frost-sensitive shrubs and trees** - remove damaged foliage after danger of frost has passed (late February into March)

To learn more about the correct pruning of desert plants try "Pruning, Planting & Care", by Eric A. Johnson. It is filled with great information and step-by-step instructions. ISBN 0-9638236-5-1.

The University of Arizona has a wealth of information on-line. Try AZ1048 Care of Desert Adapted Plants - <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1048.pdf>

Better yet, make plans to attend the pruning workshop offered FREE by the City of Chandler on March 10, 2009 from 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm. Call to register at 480-782-3580.

Be sure to visit the City of Chandler Water Conservation web pages for free landscape workshops, landscaping tips, rebates, frequently asked questions and more.

[www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)

