

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



Garage Sale Gal

Gracious Garage Sale ***Lynda Hammond***

Cindy Fossum is scared.

I know what you're thinking—it's Halloween so, she must be concerned about ghosts and goblins, maybe even the stock market since it is after all historically the spookiest month of the year on Wall Street. Instead the Ahwatukee resident is concerned about...a garage sale.

"I'm pretty worried. I feel like I'm planning a party but nobody will come," Cindy says.

Oh...we'll come! We live in what I like to call the Garage Sale Capitol of the World—so I'm sure you won't be alone. But Cindy's sale is a bit different. When most of us hold a garage sale we just need buyers to show up but Cindy needs *sellers*, too. I know this may sound a bit odd but wait 'til you hear the idea Cindy has drummed up.

Cindy is the social services director of her church, Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee. For years, they've held a garage sale fundraiser by picking up donations from stores and other members of the church and selling all the goods in the parking lot. But with an aging congregation—many volunteers that normally help with the sales are now in their 70s and 80s—it's getting to be just too much work. So, the church is asking for a little help from...us. They're renting spaces in the church parking lot to sellers who may not be able—or don't want—to hold a sale at their home. "We've never tried a parking lot sale this way. At other sales we've brought in as much as \$10,000, so I hope this is still successful."

Here's how it's going to work. For just \$25 anyone can rent a slot to set up shop for the day. Each renter or vendor is responsible for getting their items to the church (on time), setting them up, selling them and handling the money. Whatever riches you bring in is yours to keep. The church is providing each seller with one of those long cafeteria-sized tables and two chairs. All the advertising and posting of the signs is taken care of. Heck, they'll even haul away your stuff that doesn't sell.

Yes, it's true you will have to lug all your belongings to the church parking lot but once that's done you can relax and watch the customers swarm to your table. Think about it. No ads to pay for. No signs to hang. And no clean up. You know what I say? Yippee!!

Cindy says a few of the booths on the list so far include an antique gun booth, arts and crafts and of course, garage salers--folks who just want to get rid of a few things around the house. There will also be a huge array of baked goods for sale—courtesy of the church volunteers.

So, if your HOA won't let you have a sale—(or maybe you've already surpassed your quota for the year), if you live in an apartment complex or if you simply don't want strangers, like me, walking up your driveway—now's your chance to make a clean break from all that clutter.

Parking lot charity sale

Where: Mountain View Lutheran Church, 11002 S. 48th St., Ahwatukee, 85044. One block south of Elliot.

Who: Anyone who wants to sell items—household goods, collectibles, just about anything.

When: Saturday November 7, 7-1, set up time is at 6

How: Rent a 9x6 ft space (the size of a parking space) for \$25

Why: To raise money for the church outreach programs which include St. Mary's Food Bank and Advocates for the Disabled.

How to sign up: Call Cindy Fossum, 480-893-2579 or contact her by email,

cfossum@mvlutheran.org

Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!

Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda can also be seen on local TV stations sharing her garage sale tips.

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