

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Raising money with Garage Sale keeps

HOA fees low

Lynda Hammond

The Wells Retirement Community in Mesa could use some work. The basketball court needs resurfacing, the putting green needs some TLC and the stoves in the clubhouse should be replaced. So, to foot the bill, the people who live in the modular home park are holding a garage sale. “Well the way I see it we might as well be raising funds for the park instead of putting our things in the trash,” says Marilyn Crain, Chairperson of the “flea market”.

Most of the people who live in the neighborhood love to go to and hold garage sales...so what better way to raise money to keep the common areas looking spiffy than to have an annual sale...something they’ve been doing now for more than 25 years.

Residents opt to have the sale each year for several reasons. For one, it’s a great way to keep clutter under control. “Each week throughout the year, a worker goes up and down the streets stopping at our homes in a truck picking up things people want to get rid of.” And the money raised each year goes into improving the common spaces such as the club house and recreation areas. This is important because it helps keep HOA fees low. But one of Marilyn’s favorite reasons for the sale is simply that it’s good for the soul. “I’m a person that doesn’t want to sit in the house all day. I want to get out and talk to people and I think we’re more cheerful if we know people and have someone to talk to. I’ve gotten acquainted with so many people here that I know I wouldn’t have had I not been doing this.”

The big sale has proven to be quite popular and profitable. Each year, Marilyn says people are lined up outside the clubhouse to snag bargains which helps to raise about \$7000. Most of that goes to the common area repairs but whatever is left over—both in money and goods-- is donated to area charities such as The Salvation Army.

The Wells Belles Ladies Group, a fundraising group comprised of residents at Wells, gets the gears in motion for the event but in all more than 150 residents volunteer their time for the event each year—by helping out with the sale. After all a lot of work goes into this. Items are sorted, priced and then neatly displayed on tables. Signs and ads are posted in hopes of getting the biggest crowd possible.

Residents sell just about anything you could possibly find at a typical garage sale—furniture, tools, clothing, sports equipment, household items and a lot more.

They also have ticket raffles with the prizes being meals at restaurants. And for a small fee, you can even grab a little something to nosh on.

So, come to the event with an empty stomach and a loaded wallet!

The Wells Flea Market

*The Wells Retirement Community
Saturday February 20
7-1
5735 E. McDowell Rd. Mesa 85215
Close to Recker and McDowell Roads*



(pic provided by Mary

McDermott) Marilyn Crain (left) and Wanda McKinnon are in charge of the “Wells Flea Market”.

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 also does garage sale segments on local TV stations.

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