

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Street Seller Folo

Lynda Hammond

Times are tough for all of us. We're losing our homes, our jobs—struggling to make ends meet. But despite the hard times there are still people in the Valley who want to help others.

"I was heartbroken. I don't have all that much money but I could give him \$5," Tempe resident Deb Parkhurst says about one garage saler who's down on his luck.

Deb is talking about Terry Spaulding, a Mesa resident I introduced you to in my column in the *Republic*, June 11—"Traveling garage-sale man faces rough times, has hope". The story hit a nerve with readers. People contacted me wanting to know how they could help.

Terry has a brain injury and can't hold down a job. So, he gets by the best way he knows how: he loads up his truck with odds and ends and sets up a sale at busy intersections. Knowing it's illegal to open up "shop" on city or county property Terry just hopes to make a little bit of money before police make him "move along". "Your column was very touching. At least he's doing something. I know people that are in dire straits and they don't try to help themselves and he does. I respect that," another reader, Doris Kelbel of Peoria told me.

Deb and Doris are just two of the couple of dozen readers who want to help Terry.

Deb, who is in between jobs as well said she'd like to buy something from him, anything if it'll help.

Doris runs a Arizona Estate Sale Services and often has leftovers available from her sales. She says she'd like to help by giving Terry some of those things to sell. "We always have things that don't sell. In the end I have to pack things up and get rid of them somehow. I would be very happy to give him quite a bit of nice stuff," Doris says.

Terry appreciates hearing that folks want to help him. "That would be great. The more stuff I get the more stuff I have for sale and that'll help me out a lot. I'm down and out you know. It's been rough because last Sunday I made three dollars all day. It's been terrible."

Terry hasn't yet received any donations. Turns out part of the problem is finding him. If you'd like to help, email me at my address below and I'll put you in touch with him.

Garage sale signs

If you've been reading this column for awhile then you know I've written stories on the importance of taking down your signs after a sale. But at least once a week I get emails from people asking me to remind everyone. So, here goes: while signs are helpful to point people in the direction of your sale, afterwards they become an eyesore and litter the neighborhood. Plus, posting signs on city or county property is illegal. And J.A. May of Gilbert has another reason for us to remove signs. "You drive all over looking for the sale and realize the signs are from

yesterday!! It is so annoying, time consuming and rude. Please remind everyone as a common courtesy, if you aren't open, remove your signs!!”

Although we're more likely to see red, white and blue streamers than garage sale signs on this 4th of July weekend don't forget about J. A.'s advice when you do hold your next sale.



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Terry Spaulding lives in a small mobile home park where garage sales are allowed only once a year.

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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