

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



“It’s all your fault” *Lynda Hammond*

“Dear Lynda, It’s all your fault.”

That’s the first line in a letter I recently received from a reader. Now, even though this starts off fairly negative most people wouldn’t immediately assume it would be bad news but well, I did.

You see I take things personally a tad too often ...I’m working on it but still my skin is thin—and a bit wrinkly as I approach the big 5-0.

Anyway, I was certain my career as a writer of all things garage sales was over. What had I done to this person—Carol Miller—(yes, I’m revealing her name!)? Just how angry was she? Could I rectify the situation?

Turns out I could not-- much to the happiness of her neighbors.

Yes, it *was* all my fault but I’m thrilled about it, too.

The Mahogany Home Owner’s Association overwhelmingly passed an ordinance allowing residents to hold a neighborhood sale once a year.

“Oh, I was tickled to death,” Beverly Williams said when I stopped at her sale where she had hundreds of small glass collectibles up for grabs for pennies on the dollar. “I’ve been a collector all my life and I have a lot of stuff to get rid of. So, I was just excited, so excited that we put it to a vote and (the garage sale ordinance) passed.”

This is an upscale, newer community in northeast Mesa and residents have never been permitted to have a garage sale. But someone (I don’t know who but I’m told it’s an avid reader of this column in the *Republic*) brought the issue up to the board for consideration. “And it passed by a huge majority,” wrote Carol, chairwoman of the board.

I knew I had to stop at the sale and see how it was going. It’s a gorgeous upscale community with mature trees and newer, pricey homes. Just wish I’d gotten there earlier for crème of the crop. But you know how it is when you’re hunting for garage sales—you see another neon pink sign that grabs your attention and you’ve just got to go to one more sale before you get where you’re aiming to go!

About a quarter of the residents participated, not bad for the first year.

When I pulled up to one sale I couldn’t get over the fun, colorful fabrics up for grabs. The seller had owned a uniform manufacturing company in Hawaii. And turns out *she* was Carol, the letter writer and in fact, she had one of the biggest and most interesting sales of the day.

“Oh, no I wasn’t mad at you. I just wanted you to know that it was because of you that we were having the sale,” Carol told me smiling.

I spent the most money at Carol's sale, too. I bought a Santa Claus statue (think Nome-like) carved out of one piece of wood, a collectible Longeberger mail basket and a flour mill dish cloth. Paid \$50 for the stash but it was well worth it.

So, gosh I've already been visited by Santa this year. So I *have* been a good girl after all, I think?!

Don't miss this rummage sale!

Desert Shadows Middle School Fundraiser

Money raised from this event goes toward sending the band to compete at the Heritage Festival in California

Tomorrow 7-noon

Where: School parking lot

5858 E. Sweetwater Ave

Scottsdale 85254



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Carol Miller at her garage sale.

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 the author of the new book, [The Garage Sale Gal's Guide to Making Money Off Your Stuff](#). Check out www.GarageSaleGal.com for details on where to buy the book. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

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Dear Lynda,

It's all your fault.

One of our homeowners who reads your column, wrote to the Board of Directors of our HOA about having a Community Wide Once a Year Garage Sale .

Our C C &R's strictly prohibit individual garage sales, but she wondered if the Board would consider doing it enmasse once a year.

The Board decided to put the question on the annual ballot, and it passed by a huge majority.

So come Saturday, Oct 15, Mahogany will have a mile long yard sale for our 84 homeowners for the first time EVER in 13 years.

Our garages are overflowing and we need to move this stuff ~!

Gates will be open between 7am and 12 noon for shoppers to attend....our community is in an orange grove with lush green landscaping on Brown Rd., halfway between Val Vista and Greenfield.

I have attached a flyer for the event.

We look forward to seeing you !

Best regards,
Carol Miller, chairman
480-699-5871