



# BelAir Neighborhood Communicator

Neighborhood Web Site

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair/>

**We are a Fight Back Neighborhood!**

## Upcoming Events

**September 13th** - VIN Etching Event, 9am-noon, (Free VIN Etching)

at Prince of Peace Church, 3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix (N. of Indian School Rd.)

**October 18th** - G.A.I.N. Event: Volunteer for the Neighborhood Breakfast

Ready for our first community pancake breakfast? Our neighborhood will be participating in Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) along with many others in Phoenix on Saturday, October 18. The BelAir board, community enhancement committee members and neighborhood volunteers will be hosting the neighborhood for a pancake breakfast in the American Lutheran Church auditorium (corner of 19th Avenue and Glenrosa) from 8am -10am. Please drop in, have some coffee, 'cakes and conversation to start your Saturday! We also need volunteers to help! If you've been looking to get involved, but don't have a lot of time, now's a great time. We need 8-10 volunteers to help with set up, cooking, raffle and take down. Please call Theresa at 602-358-9976 to sign up or get more information. Thanks in advance!!

**November 1st** — Placement Begins for Bulk Trash Pickup.

**November 10th** — Bulk Trash Collection Begins.

**November 13, 14, & 15** — Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave. (SE corner Central/Bethany).

*There are two opportunities coming up to attend the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol & Block Watch Leaders Training. The dates are Saturday, September 20th or Saturday, December 6th from 7:30am-11:30am at the FOP Lodge #2, 12851 N. 19th Avenue, Phoenix. To RSVP call Mary Roestenberg at 602-495-6896. Any neighbor that is interested is welcome. This training would serve as a great benefit to our neighborhood.*

**Do You Need A Large Print Copy? Call 602-647-2832**

The next BelAir Board Meetings will be on:  
MONDAY, AUGUST 4th at 8 P.M. at the  
Fireside Room at Martin Luther School.  
(This new date and time was chosen to  
hopefully accommodate a larger number of

## Bel Air Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

board members' schedules.) & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 P.M. at the Fireside Room at Martin Luther School.

### Newsletter

Mark Day asked for a volunteer(s) to learn how to produce the newsletter. Virginia Anders volunteered. Carrie Frazer will act as a backup.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



**Date:** August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Location:** Martin Luther School, Office

The meeting began at 8:00 pm.

**In Attendance:** Carrie Frazer, Wayne Harmon (guest), Don Hilton, Lisa Hubbard (Neighborhood Services, City of Phoenix), Roshelle Johnson, Theresa Martinez, Carolyn McBane, Sal Munoz, Mike Ferris, Chris Saxton, and Charles Wilfong.

Roshelle Johnson presided over the meeting.

### Crime Discussion

There was a discussion regarding an incident in our neighborhood. The crime is being investigated by the Phoenix Police Department.

Aaron Stephens is our Community Action Officer. He can be reached at 602-361-0043.

Call Crime Stop or 911 for crimes in progress (graffiti, illegal dumping, etc).

Lisa Hubbard with Neighborhood Services led a discussion about rental property issues. She is working on a Fight Back Letter to the Community. She also reported that a Fight Back phone message line is in the process of being prepared for use by the four neighborhoods surrounding the 19th Avenue & Indian School Road intersection, which includes BelAir.

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## FIGHT BACK COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Community Enhancement Committee  
We are still meeting to come up with ways to improve our neighborhood and get to know our neighbors. But we need your help. Please take a moment to fill out the neighborhood survey we recently sent you.
- Crime Committee  
The Crime Committee is still working on our tasks and goals. When the temperature drops a bit, we will canvass the neighborhood with representatives from Phoenix Neighborhood Services to update and complete the curbside house numbering project that will help the City locate our homes in an emergency. We are preparing to purchase BlockWatch signs and post them around the neighborhood. We are also finalizing designs for two products to distribute to neighbors to help us identify and remember details about possible vagrants or potential criminals traveling through our neighborhood. In September, Virginia will attend an all-day BlockWatch training hosted by the City of Phoenix.
- Preservation Committee  
The Preservation Committee's #1 goal is to reduce blight & address property maintenance issues in our Bel Air Neighborhood. The Preservation Committee is organizing quarterly assessments of blight violations. We are beginning a Quarterly Neighborhood Front Yard Award. Look for details in the next newsletter.
- Traffic Committee  
The first round of speed humps have gone in on Westview/17th Avenue. There are 6 rounds total. A new yield sign has been installed on Monterosa eastbound. We are reviewing proposals for the gates to secure the easements and canal access. We are working with the city to gradually bring alley trash collection in the neighborhood to curbside. Subsequently, we will implement creative ideas for beautifying the alleys. The city has wisely chosen to reduce the two lanes going north and south on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to a single lane each way. And coming soon... ALL neighbors are invited to a BelAir Neighborhood Walk Around. Together we will pinpoint specific areas that may be enabling crime and need more lighting.

## Meet More Of Our Board Members

The following residents have volunteered to serve on the BelAir Neighborhood Association Board. Board members were elected via elections held at the May 15th general meeting or appointed by the board at the July 10, 2008 board meeting. Please welcome the following new board members for terms starting July 2008.

### *Roshelle Johnson*

Hello, my name is Roshelle Johnson and I am your Bel Air Neighborhood Association President and Traffic Committee Chairperson. I have lived in my home for nearly 8 years and have served on the board in various capacities for five of them. My husband and I love BelAir and are thrilled to be raising our three children here. I look forward to meeting more neighbors and progressively tackling the concerns and ideas that many of you have. Hopefully, you have already begun to see positive changes. Thank you for making BelAir the great neighborhood that it is. See you soon!

### *Charles Wilfong*

My name is Charles Wilfong. My wife, Ute, and children have lived at 1747 W Glenrosa Ave since 1976 when we returned from 12 years as missionaries in Brazil. After 30 years as pastor of the Lutheran church at 1830 W. Glenrosa, I retired in 2005. My wife retired shortly afterwards after 20 years as director of the pre-school and day care center. We first met at the church youth group in 1956 and recently celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary. I have served on the BelAir Neighborhood Association board for several years. It has been a neat experience working with and getting to know neighbors and the neighborhood. The BelAir neighborhood is a wonderful place to live. I count it as a privilege to serve on the board.

### *Marney Redmond*

Hello! I have been a resident of Bel Air since Summer of 1964. I don't remember moving in then because, I was just a few days old. I am a second generation Bel Airst. Like my brother, and other neighbors I had such great memories of this area that I just can't leave. We had a lot of special people come and go through out the years. My favorite memories involved us being kids. I remember playing "ditch-em", riding bicycles, roller skating, sleepovers and most of all our famous "Fourth of July" Devonshire street parade. (Ok, we imported a few kids from Mackinzie.) We still have the pictures for proof if anyone is interested. I just remember this was a terrific place to be. Pretty ironic that one of the Devonshire kids would grow up and nominate me for the Board of Bel Air.

Bel Air is very special and I am very proud to be a part of it! I went to school at Encanto, Clarendon, West Phoenix High, and Phoenix College. Over the course of time I have served as a volunteer in several community efforts too many to list with the space provided. In the four decades that I have resided here I have seen alot of changes. Thankfully, over the last decade the changes have been getting even better. I think it is due to the terrific people that come in and embrace this area and want to keep it as such. I have been involved with the Bel Air Association since it's beginning, I have taken a few breaks and now I am back with the passion of keeping this area special for the next generation. I hope to see them and you have some great experiences and memories also.



**Community Pancake Breakfast**  
**October 18th, 8 a.m.-10 a.m.**  
 American Lutheran Church

## Recent Flood Zone Changes May Help You Save Money

As of January 14th, 2008, the BelAir neighborhood is no longer designated as being in a Special Flood Hazard area! This means that you may no longer be required to pay for flood insurance. Contact the City of Phoenix Floodplain Management if you have not yet heard from them or your mortgage company. They are located at 200 W. Washington St., 5th floor and their phone number is 602-262-4960.

You may be able to choose between

1. Having your flood insurance policy rewritten as a Preferred Risk Policy.
2. Cancelling your policy.

It is important to know that over 30% of all flood insurance claims occur in Non-Special Flood Hazards Areas, the same zone that the BelAir neighborhood is now in as a result of the remapping.

## Attention: Neighborhood Irrigation Users

A meeting was held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room of American Lutheran Church. During that meeting, a discussion was held about maintenance of the ditches and irrigation boxes and other matters.

A decision was made to continue the annual tradition of collecting funds from each irrigation user.

The customary amounts are:  
Large lots contribute \$40.00  
Small lots contribute \$30.00

Please make checks out to:  
**Kearnie Estates Irrigation**  
Drop off or mail to:  
Kearnie Estates Irrigation c/o Charles Wilfong,  
1747 W. Glenrosa Ave., Phx, AZ 85015-4737

These funds will be used for current and future maintenance of the ditches and irrigation boxes within our neighborhood.

Questions? Call Charles Wilfong at 602-266-9342

## Yard Art By Virginia Clifford - Anders

While I dig out monsoon-born weeds, my five-year-old grandson happily plays with his yellow truck in the dirt near by, doves and pigeons survey the scene from the telephone wires, and my cats monitor my progress from the porch. I'm in my own little world, but I'm not alone.

But we have a world of gardening friends offering ideas, tips, and projects across the World Wide Web. One of the ideas I found particularly intriguing is the concept of community gardens, which I found through the *Arizona Cooperative Extension* website, under their *Programs* section, at *Urban Horticulture*, which lead me to *Community Gardens in Maricopa County*. (Arizona Cooperative Extension website: <http://cals.arizona.edu/extension>). I read about three Valley community gardens, one at Scottsdale Community College, one in Mesa called the "Garden of Pride," and the George Wyant Community Garden, in Sunnyslope.

I called Grace Wagner, listed as the project's organizer, to ask about the current state of that garden because the website was last updated in 1998. The George Wyant Community Garden grew from a late

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Resources Are Available to Help With Blight Due To Foreclosures and Vacancies

There is a new City of Phoenix Web site that homeowners, residents and prospective home buyers now can turn to for help finding answers to many of their foreclosure questions and concerns. It is:

phoenix.gov/nsd

Included on this Web site is information that can help neighborhoods deal with the blight that often follows foreclosed properties, including homes in disrepair and yards with overgrown weeds.

*"As a realtor, I know that it is extremely URGENT for neighbors to keep an eye on all properties current for sale or vacated due to foreclosure. This is lowering their own property values and if they see an unkempt house, they need to notify the realtor, lender/owner, and Neighborhood Services." - Beverly Brown*

### Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Crime Stop	602-262-6151
Community Action Officer, Aaron Stephens	602-361-0043
Abandoned Vehicles	
<i>Private Property</i>	262-7844
<i>Streets, Alleys</i>	262-6151
Child Safety Seat Info.	602-495-5007
Gang Hotline	602-534-4264
Graffiti Busters	602-495-7014
Graffiti Reward Hotline	602-262-7327
Impounded Property	602-261-8371
Silent Witness	602-948-6377
Traffic Complaint Hotline	602-534-7733
Water Safety Hotline	602-534-7665
Zoning Enforcement	602-262-7344



## Yard Art

### By Virginia Clifford - Anders (cont.)

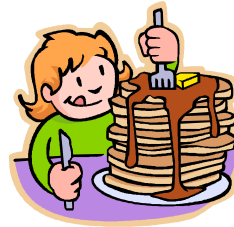
(Continued from page 5)

1990's Fight Back Grant. The garden was supported through block watch grants for several years, with further funding and resources from APS, John C. Lincoln Hospital, American Fence, Southwest Gas, and Home Depot. The community intent was to reduce blight, create a common meeting place for families, and discourage vagrancy and other crime.

Originally situated on a plot provided by John C. Lincoln Hospital, the project later moved to the Wagners' back yard, where the garden still thrives, maintained by Grace and her neighbors. Grace said they have planted trees, plants, and grow vegetables, organically. Periodically a generous soul will make a financial or other kind of donation to this non-profit venture, so the overhead remains manageable. Grace told me that even residents from a couple of women's shelters come to help out sometimes.

Since gardens commonly produce more zucchini, peas, carrots, and the like than a single family can use, I asked how she distributed their harvest. She has found that most large food banks already have many commercial and other contributors, and not enough of her Sunnyslope neighbors appreciate the value of lettuce grown without pesticides. But Grace has found others who truly appreciate what the Sunnyslope gardeners grow. The neighbors have the pleasure of working together and the joy of sharing the results with those who really appreciate what they have to offer. Now that's a true community garden. I plan to visit the George Wyant Community Garden and expect to bring you up to date soon.

**FYI:** I have renewed my membership in **An-gie's List** ([www.angieslist.com](http://www.angieslist.com)), which is a community website for sharing member-driven information and ratings on regional and local services for an amazing array of categories from pets to physicians to elder care to insurance providers to appliance repair to builders to auto repair and more. Ratings are based on price, professionalism, quality, and responsiveness. The organization has a call center to take complaints and answer questions for their members. Angie Hicks launched her website concept from her home in Ohio, in 1995. Her service is now available in 27 regions across the country. Call me if you have a service you want help re-searching. After all, that is what neighbors are for, right?



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Community  
Pancake Breakfast  
October 18th  
8 a.m. -10 a.m.**

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### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

  
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### ADVERTISE IN THE BELAIR NEWSLETTER

Small Ad: \$7.00 (Business Card Size)  
Large Ad: \$14.00 (Double Business Card Size)  
Announcements: \$7.00 (Births, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Neighborhood Events)

#### Procedures for Submitting Ads:

1. Submit the ad by email, diskette, or printed form to Virginia Anders. It must be exactly as you want it to appear in the newsletter.
2. Contact Virginia about how to submit your payment.