



BelAir Neighborhood Communicator



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Neighborhood Wide Yard Sale

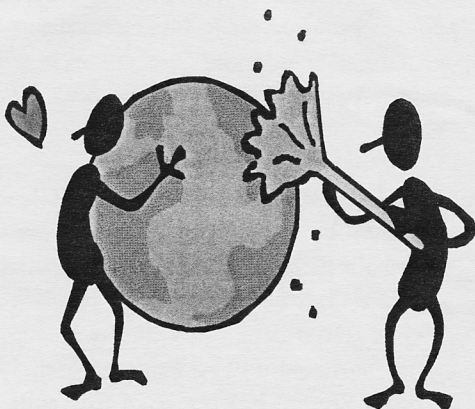
Saturday, April 14th, 2007

Donation Drop-Off Friday, April 13 from 6-8pm

4110 N. 16th Drive

BelAir Clean-Up Days

Keep a lookout for dumpsters this month



Neighborhood Web Site

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/public/main.html?nneighid=984418676&nsupercity=559970528>

BelAir Board**PRESIDENT**

Susan Thompson-McHugh
(602) 604-8629
camus01@earthlink.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jaime Canedo
jcanedo1@cox.net

SECRETARY

Sherri Gallagher
(602) 265-0304
sherrigallagher@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Mark Day
(602) 791-4003
markdday@cox.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Virginia Anders
(602) 265-8498
vanders@cox.net

Steve Armenta
earmenta2@cox.net

Betty Dales
(602) 265-4856

Aaron Goldman
goldmanaaron@hotmail.com

Jonathan Massey
jmassey@asualumni.org

Boyd Puffer
boyd_puffer@hotmail.com

Charles Wilfong
(602) 266-9342
uwilfong@aol.com

Jeannie Garcia
jeanniegarcia@msn.com

The BelAir Neighborhood Association publishes the *Neighborhood Communicator* monthly.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who make this project possible.

\$

Account Balances

As of February 28, 2007:

BelAir General Account - \$1,687.14

BelAir 301 Block Grant Account - \$1,210.56

\$

BelAir Board Meeting Minutes

The board meeting on March 1, 2007 was called to order at 7:05 pm. Attended members: Mark Day, Sherri Gallagher, Aaron Goldman, Jeannie Garcia, Boyd Puffer, Jonathan Massey and Charles Wilfong, Jaime Canedo. Absent members: Steve Armenta, Virginia Anders, Betty Dales, Susan Thompson-McHugh. **Meeting minutes** from January 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: see above for account balances.

Committee Reports

By-Laws committee: By-Laws were voted on at the February 15th General Meeting and all changes of By-Laws were approved with 22 ballots counted. **Preservation Committee:** Los Tre Molcajetes is a small chain restaurant applying for a liquor license and will be located at 19th Avenue and Indian School. The will come talk to the board. Tesco (British Company) is planning on opening a healthy alternative convenience store at 7th Avenue and Indian School. **Community Report:** \$2 million in funds are available to spruce up business fronts along 19th Ave between Indian School and Camelback over the next 2-3 years. No trespassing signs will be posted on the access roads and violators will be arrested. Bridge on 19th Avenue over canal will be replaced in 2008. SRP is building a well on SE corner of 19th Ave & Camelback and will be drilling 24 hours a day for the next 2 months. Arrests of transients in our area between 15th Ave to Freeway and Thomas to

Dunlap. If see a transient call Crime Stop. If transients come back into an area they were previously arrested in and caught, they will serve a longer sentence. Sex offender in neighborhood—detective said he is not on parole/probation so can live anywhere.

301 Grant: No updates.

Newsletter: March/April Newsletter articles due March 15. Newsletter to printer on March 16th.

Block Watch: Crime-Training on March 22 for Neighborhood Watch and to receive a Neighborhood Watch kit. Jaime will attend the training. Motion to spend up to \$150 for the training and kit. Motion was granted and voted in by board. Graffiti—paint to cover graffiti available at Neighborhood Services (contact Lisa Hubbard Higgins at 602-266-7681). Call Victor Harris at Neighborhood Services if you see businesses opening on Indian School that are zoned residential (houses on north side between Westview And 18th Avenue).

Old Business

Watch for dumpsters for BelAir Clean up Days in March. April - Neighborhood Yard Sale Saturday, April 14th at Jeannie Garcia's house 4110 N. 16th Drive. Drop off for donations to neighborhood will be Friday, April 13th from 6-8pm at her house. Aaron will advertise Neighborhood Yard Sale in AZ Republic and on Craig's List. **Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Fireside Room in the Church Gym.**

Graffiti Busters
602-495-7014

Blight
602-262-7844
blight@phoenix.gov

Neighborhood Services
602-266-7681



In Partnership With
Phoenix Police Department

Block Watch Grant By Mark Day

On behalf of the residents of the neighborhood, the Bel Air Neighborhood Association recently submitted an application for a City of Phoenix Neighborhood Block Watch Grant for the next fiscal year (July 2007- June 2008).

The Block Watch Grant Program was created to provide funding to neighborhood groups to undertake new and innovative programs and activities aimed at preventing and reducing crime in the community. Funding is provided on a competitive basis for proposals that demonstrate the potential to produce the greatest measurable results for a definable population or area.

The aim and purpose of the Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program is to detect, deter, or delay crime. This is done by educating individuals to work together to solve problems, encouraging citizens to develop a sense of ownership for their neighborhoods, developing and addressing common neighborhood goals, coordinating pertinent neighborhood/community meetings, and teaching

crime prevention and safety techniques.

Last year, our neighborhood received a grant in the amount of \$9,434.00 to cover the utility costs of our alley lights, newsletter printing costs, general meeting expenses, liability insurance and Block Watch program expenses. Without this funding, these costs would have to be paid for by the residents of the neighborhood. Our grant application for the upcoming year (July 2007-June 2008) has requested funding for the same programs listed above.

The City of Phoenix Police Department will award the grants in June of this year. I will notify you of the status of our grant once I receive notification from the City. Please call or email me with any questions that you may have regarding our Block Watch grant.

Important numbers:

CRIME STOP 602-262-6151

For non life-threatening
emergencies

Bicycle safety programs 495-2462

Water safety Hotline 495-5555

Graffiti Busters 602-495-7014

**Watch Your Car Program
1-888-668-4433**

Contact NSD

Administrative Services Division	602-534-5033
City of Phoenix general information . .	602-262-6011
Community Development Division . .	602-534-2393
Coordination Division	602-495-3738
NSD Director's office	602-534-2825
Fight Back Program	602-495-3738
Graffiti Busters hotline	602-495-7014
Graffiti cell phone hotline	#4663
Graffiti in progress	9-1-1
Grants Administration	602-262-7158
KEEP IT CLEAN!	602-534-4444
Landlord/Tenant counseling	602-262-7210
Neighborhood Association list	602-495-0113
Neighborhood Economic Development	602-495-5249
Preservation Division	602-262-7844
Property maintenance violations	602-262-7844
Property maintenance violations	blight@phoenix.gov
Revitalization Division	602-262-4808

phoenix.gov/NSD

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thirty-eight individuals attended the Block Watch/ General Meeting held on February 15, 2007. By-Laws have not been changed for more than 10 years. The board made the proposed changes available to residents 30 days prior to the General Meeting in the January 2007 Newsletter. By-Law changes were approved by 22 votes. Three individuals from the Police Department spoke about neighborhood safety and burglaries.

Jerry Coffman has been a member of the Phoenix Police Department for 20 years. He is in charge of the Westside Squaw Peak neighborhoods and works closely with Neighborhood Services, speeding, transients, and sex offender cases. He has six detectives on his team and they spend time in a neighborhood and stake out houses. Det. Coffman has been working in Park Lee Apartments and has made 100 arrests since August 2006. The apartment complex is under new management and they have really cleaned up the complex because they are doing background check and some access control. Since December 2006, calls for service at Park Lee have decreased significantly. In BelAir, our crime is much lower because we do not have many apartment complexes and we have the canal as a "bunker." Across 19th Avenue, crime is still much higher. With all this in mind, it is still a problem if we are burglarized. Det. Coffman suggests the following as crime prevention:

- Get to know your neighbors (behind, next to, in front of, and across the street)
- Develop phone trees for your street
- Transients and people from outside the neighborhood do not want attention so go outside and say hello and introduce yourself. They will most likely leave.
- If you see suspicious individuals in neighborhood and/or Burglars on Bikes (BOB) call Crime Stop.
- Put Bird Off on the tops of block walls to ward off intruders
- Know your neighbors because this is your neighborhood and you want to take care of your neighborhood and work together.

Det. Coffman can be reached on his message phone at 602-246-9942. Leave him a message with your concern (suspicious individuals, houses) and your phone number and he will call you back. He is out on the street working most of the time, but he assured that he would call back.

Det. Abe Flores is a burglary detective for Squaw Peak Precinct. There are two burglary detectives in the precinct and they take the cases that have a high probability of being solved because of some type of identification and/or license plate numbers. Burglaries have a 5% solve rate nationwide and Squaw Peak solves about 7% of the cases. The detectives will investigate areas where there is a peak in burglary rates. They investigate pawn shops. Project ID helps owners recover their stolen goods. So register with Project ID and put an ID number on your electronic equipment. Most vulnerable place in your house for a break-in is the back door, especially if there is glass! Det. Flores works closely with the crime lab to solve cases. The detectives do plain clothes surveillance in neighborhoods. Call in any suspicious activities! **Det. Flores was in our neighborhood and went into residents backyards and was spotted by neighbors, but no one contacted the police.** It is very important to contact the police if you see someone suspicious. Most residential burglaries occur between 8am and 3pm. Even if it is a petty crime, call and report it because in crime analysis any peaks will alert the detectives. Det. Flores can be reached at 602-495-6877.

Det. Caroline Heaps is our Community Action Officer. You can request a Vacation Watch if you will be out of town. A police officer will monitor your property (drive-by) for up to 30 days. Contact the Squaw Peak Precinct at 602-495-5007 for more information. For sex offenders, look on the DPS website for addresses and level of offense. The registered sex offender in our neighborhood lives at 1738 W. Glenrosa, Apt. B. Det. Heaps educates children about safety and strangers with a program called "Charlie Check First." Please contact her if you would like her to present at your child's school. If you see young children in the neighborhood who are unsupervised call Child Protective Services at **1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)**. Det. Heaps can be reached on her message line at 602-534-6277, please leave a message because she is out in the field working most of the time.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:
Crime Stop 262-6151
Neighborhood Services 602-266-7681
Blight 602-262-7844
Graffiti Busters 602-495-7014

YARD ART

By Virginia Clifford Anders

One of the loveliest aspects of living in BelAir is taking walks along the streets, looking at the plants and trees, flowers and imaginative landscaping that enhances people's properties. Over the years, no, make that decades, that I've lived in BelAir, I've noticed the evolution of landscape styles. For many years, people planted lawns, palm and citrus trees, and lots of large bushes close to their houses. Now, partly as a security measure, many people remove the bushes close to the house or plant a low hedge or flower bed. More of the homes have desert landscaping, with large decorative boulders and stone paths and exotic cactus plants.

What continues to surprise me, however, is how many people seem to feel the overall look of their yards isn't affected by anything beyond the manicured edges of their lawns. As I walk around the neighborhood, I almost always find crushed plastic bottles, candy wrappers, fast food containers, beer bottles or cans, and other trash just off the edges of even well-cared-for yards.

On the day of and just after the weekly City garbage pick up I find even more debris. This often is true even when vehicles in the driveways would suggest the owner is home. One yard had a child's white sock on the sidewalk for at least four days before I picked it up. In front of another yard, a pile of trash that had spilled from the container when the truck picked up the garbage can for at least three days. Why?

I've started carrying a plastic bag with me on my walks to pick up trash as I find it. It isn't hard to do, but I often wonder how people can drive over or by such eyesores just beyond the edge of their property.

A home does not exist as an island unto itself. It exists in a community. And living in a community means the opportunity to build friendships with people who live next door or just down the street. It means sharing the awareness that the green sedan that turns the corner

every afternoon belongs to Mrs. Jones. It means feeling concerned when a faded older van keeps driving through the neighborhood but doesn't stop at any house and therefore doesn't belong to anyone who lives here. The car parked in the dirt across the street hasn't moved in months and spider webs have begun decorating the wheel wells. Whether it is trash or an unkempt yard or a car that never moves, these are signs of neglect, at the very least.

The importance of such observations comes from who is paying attention when we aren't. Burglars watch for such signs. Potential home buyers feel uneasy about investing in a nice house with a great yard in a neighborhood with trash in the yard a few houses away, scruffy weeds in the yard across the street, or a seemingly abandoned car parked near by.

The philosopher Edmund Burke said, "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." Paying attention and taking a little time to keep the areas around our properties picked up does more to protect the value of our own properties and our neighborhood than we might imagine. If everyone does a little, together we accomplish a lot.

**Vector Control**

To Report Mosquitoes or Stagnant Water
visit:

<http://www.maricopa.gov/ENVSVC/WATER/VECTOR.ASP>
OR
Call 602-506-6616

Maricopa County Environmental Services
Vector Control
3343 W. Durango, #3911
Phoenix, Arizona 85009
(602) 506-0700 (Office)

FOR SITUATIONS THAT DO NOT
REQUIRE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Crime Stop 262-6151

After the fact report calls such as: burglary reports,
theft or stolen vehicles reports,
non-urgent traffic problems, complaints of loud parties

WITNESS 948-6377

Reporting information on unsolved felony crimes

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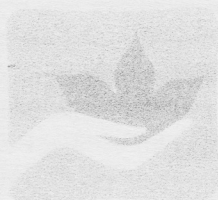
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David L. Brown

Mobile. 602.909.3253

dlbrown@alphagraphics.com

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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 Sherri Gallagher or Jonathan Massey. It must be exactly as you want it to appear in the newsletter.
2. Contact Sherri or Jonathan about how to submit your payment.