



BelAir Neighborhood Communicator

Neighborhood Web Site
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair/>

We are a Fight Back Neighborhood!

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE YARD SALE

SATURDAY – MARCH 29TH 7AM TO NOON

Hold your own yard sale or join with a neighbor!

We will do the advertising in the newspaper and put out the signs!

**Come out and meet your neighbors and get rid of your extra items
at the same time!**



Bel Air Neighborhood Clean-Up Days March 28-30

Be on the lookout for dumpsters

WE NEED COURIERS TO DELIVER NEWSLETTERS!! CONTACT BOYD PUFFER at boyd_puffer@hotmail.com IF INTERESTED. REQUIRES 30 minutes to 1 hour of time every other month.

Fight Back General Meeting Minutes February 21, 2008

An overview of the Fight Back Grant was presented by Lisa Hubbard. Bel Air was given a \$54,000 Fight Back Grant for our neighborhood. Each committee chair presented their goals and tasks to the community (refer below and the following pages for the goals and tasks). The community members who attended the meeting gave committees approval to start the action plans via hand vote. All committee goals and plans were unanimously accepted by the Bel Air Community. Thank you awards were given to Aaron Goldman, Rochelle Johnson, and Theresa Martinez-Prefontaine. Also, thank you to all neighbors who served on the committees.

Volunteers are needed from 3:00pm to 9:00pm on March 15th for the Melrose on 7th Avenue Street Fair. Contact a board member to sign up. Come celebrate the Vitality in Central Phoenix!

Crime Prevention Committee

Committee Chair: Virginia Anders

Neighborhood Action Plan

Goal: Continue and enhance crime prevention and expand neighbors' watchfulness for mutual protection

Objectives: Increase neighbors' involvement by 5%; Reduce vagrancy issues by 10%; Reduce overall crime statistics by 4%; Establish a "safe house" on each block for our children.

Tasks:

- Activate Block Watch
- Complete phone tree mapping for each block
- Work to establish an elder support watch for older neighborhood residents
- Provide two educational speakers for neighborhood meetings concerning crime related topics
- Work with Squaw Peak Precinct on a program to reduce transients in the neighborhood by 10%
- Purchase and post 15 new Bel Air Block Watch signs throughout neighborhood
- Paint house addresses on curbs and in alleys or rear fence of property
- Create a Bel Air North Safe House Program by printing and posting signage at 10 homes, which will identify Safe Houses for youth to go to in case of emergency
- Create a Neighborhood Crime Hotline for the purpose of receiving information on crime in the area as well as the opportunity to report suspicious activity
- Conduct a "Night Safety Audit"

Traffic Committee

Committee Chairs: Rochelle Johnson and Scott Stevens

• To reduce speeding and cut through traffic, redirect non-resident pedestrian traffic in alleys/easements, reduce vehicular traffic in alleys, and ease the ability to walk across 15th Avenue.

Objectives: Reduce residents' perception of speeding in the neighborhood. Secure entrances/exits to alleys, easements and canal. Increase neighborhood lighting. Create common bike path/walkway in alley between 16th Drive and Westview.

TASKS:

- Identify locations for speed humps. Locations will be identified by utilizing the resident survey and past traffic mitigation surveys. Once locations are determined request petitions for the installation of speed humps.
- Install gates at identified entrances/exits to alleys, easements, and canal
- Install all eligible street lighting
- Request striping on W. Monterosa eastbound
- Request crosswalk on 15th Avenue and Glenrosa
- Place door hangers on 60% of the neighborhood residents' doors educating them about the 25 mph speed limit on residential streets
- Identify possible options for the alley between 16th Drive and Westview (behind the Chinese Buffet)
- Work to bring all trash collection in the neighborhood to curb side.

Community Enhancement Committee**Committee Chair-Theresa Martinez-Prefontaine****Goal: Community Enhancement** – Create a sense of community that is felt within the community and recognizable outside of the neighborhood**Objectives:** Increase neighborhood capacity by 10 %; Increase neighborhood communication by 10%; Increase neighborhood identification by installing a minimum of 10 signs.**TASKS:****Public Art**

- Meet with City of Phoenix Arts and Culture to research public art possibilities (bus stops, planters, laterals, etc.)
- Identify potential spaces for public art, including researching fencing on canal

Identification

- Promote a BelAir logo contest
- Install sign toppers with new logo
- Explore entrance markers with Bel Air name
- Buy Bel Air table signs and shirts
- Research historic preservation of church/gym and first neighborhood home

Communication

- Set up a community website and blog
- Set up speaking events and speakers

Social Events

- Expand and promote neighborhood social events. Coordinate four annual joint social events with the church (yard sale, pancake breakfast, basketball, urban forestry program, etc.)
- Appoint a new neighbor committee
- Purchase barricades and tents
- Include child care at neighborhood meetings
- Purchase office supplies-copy paper, flip chart paper, envelopes, labels

Preservation Committee**Committee Chair-Aaron Goldman****Goal: Reduce blight and property maintenance issues in the Bel Air Fight Back neighborhood.****Objective:** Planning assessment property maintenance survey results, conducted in August 2007, reflected 9% of the homes were in need of maintenance. Enforcement/preservation goals are to reduce the overall figure by 25% by December 2009.**TASKS:**

- Work to eliminate graffiti in the neighborhood within 48hrs once it is identified. If committee can not remove the graffiti it will be turned over to the city of Phoenix Graffiti Busters for removal.
- Provide Top 8 brochures and assist with draft of letter to residents identifying the neighborhoods' Fight Back efforts to reduce blight. Include information about rental registration in the letter.
- Finalize and distribute letter with brochures to area residents.
- Coordinate 4 neighborhood clean-ups that will include alley's, easements and the canal banks.
- Provide map and quarterly updates at committee and neighborhood meetings on all Preservation activities (cases opened, closed and special needs properties identified).
- Open cases and begin enforcement on 10 single family properties and 3 commercial properties as referred by the Preservation committee. Reduce blight by 25% of the August 2007 planning assessment property survey.
- Conduct close out survey to determine % of blight reduction.

Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol Program and Block Watch Leaders Training Dates

All 2008 Trainings held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #2

March 15, 2008; May 17, 2008; July 19, 2008

Contact Mary Roestenberg 495-6896 for details and sign-up

Yard Art

By Virginia Clifford-Anders

I love watching and listening to the birds fly around the neighborhood. For awhile I bought seed bells at Fry's to hang on my back fence for them. I always knew when the Peach-faced lovebirds were snacking, for instance, because they make such a racket. But store-bought bells became expensive because the pigeons liked them too, of course. Now I make my own out of dried corn cobs. I spread cheap peanut butter on the cobs then roll them in a plastic butter tub of cheap bird seed. Then I wrap them tightly in saran wrap and store them in the freezer in a small plastic container because the seed becomes more set in the peanut butter that way. The curved-bill thrashers and the mockingbirds that live in my hedge like them. They don't let the pigeons get to the cobs.

Another cheap treat for my feathered friends is popcorn. Any leftover popcorn I've cooked up in my hot-air popper gets stored in Zip-lock bags. Since I don't use oil or salt, I don't worry about offering the popcorn to them. My grandson John and I break up the kernels so we have lots of small pieces to spread on the ground. This makes them more manageable for the birds to pick up. The doves love that. Yes, so do the pigeons, but they are ubiquitous. I once tried to reduce the pigeon population in my yard by lacing a bag of dried corn with chili powder, then tossing it around the back yard. I watched in fascinated horror as they ate it as if they were a crowd of six-year-olds diving into a bowl of Halloween candy. They thought I was their best friend. A couple of years later, in a biology class at Phoenix College, I discovered that birds of all kinds love chili peppers, the hotter the better. Apparently chili peppers are good for their digestion and keep disease-carrying parasites at bay.

My favorite treat to offer however, is the joy

juice. That's what I call the liquid hummingbird food I hang from my Japanese elm tree. The juice doesn't have to be colored, by the way. The birds don't really care. However, the red color allows me to see from a distance when I need to fill the feeder again. My friend Eleanor instructed me in the 'recipe' for the juice. A quart of water and a cup of sugar boiled together for ten minutes on the stove does the trick. I add five drops of food coloring as it boils. Then I cool it in a wide, shallow bowl, with several ice cubes thrown in to speed the process. I store it in an old Gatorade bottle in the refrigerator. During the hot months I don't put out as much at a time because the effect of the build-up of heat in the container can cause the sugar to create mold in the hanging feeder, which would sicken the hummingbirds.

At the very least, if you do nothing more than set out a large shallow bowl of water for the birds, you give them what they need most. If you put it on the ground under a shade tree the larger birds, such as crows and starlings will come around too. Just know that the neighborhood dogs out for a stroll will love you too, so be prepared to fill the bowl often.



Vector Control

Roof Rats

For more detailed information on how to prevent roof rats from making a home on your property, or what to do if they already have, just point your web browser to:
<http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/WATER/VECTOR/roofrats.asp>

OR

Call 602-506-6616

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

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