



BelAir Neighborhood Communicator

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING AND BLOCK WATCH MEETING

Topic: CRIME and BLIGHT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2006 at 7pm

American Evangelical Lutheran Church Hall

1830 W Glenrosa Avenue

Interested in volunteering, having a voice,
making a difference in our community?

Board Member

Block Watch

Newsletter Courier

Contact a board member for more information

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The BelAir Neighborhood Association publishes the *Neighborhood Communicator* monthly. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who make this project possible.

A very special Thank You to Roshelle Johnson for her service to BelAir as the editor of the BelAir Communicator!

\$

Account Balances

As of January 1, 2006:
BelAir General Account - \$1,126.43
BelAir 301 Block Grant Account - \$4,206.44

\$

**Minute by Minute
BelAir Board Minutes**

Meeting began at 7:08 p.m. at Charles Wilfong's house

In Attendance: Susan Thompson-McHugh, Betty Dales, Mark Day, Sherri Gallagher, Charles Wilfong, Boyd Puffer, Jonathan Massey, and Virginia Anders

The meeting minutes for December 2005 were reviewed and approved with the following amendment: "It is projected that a \$22.93 deficit will need to be funded through the general fund." This refers to the gap in alley lighting funding from the 2005

grant to July 2006.

Treasurer's Reports: Account balances are in the above box.

Grant Projects Status Update: We will publish another Spanish insert in the April 2006 BelAir Neighborhood Communicator as we were funded for in the current grant cycle. The security doors have been awarded but not yet installed. Susan, Virginia, and Mark are finishing the details of that project. February 4th will be the next Neighborhood Clean-Up Day – all par-

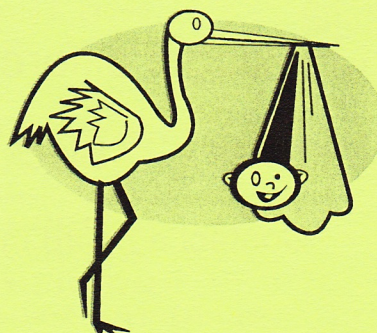
ticipating neighbors will meet at the Martin Luther Church parking lot at 8 a.m.

February 9th will be the next General Meeting at 7 p.m. at Martin Luther Church. Jonathan will contact Lisa Hubbard from the City of Phoenix's office of Neighborhood Services for a possible speaker. February 10, 1948 is the official birth date of BelAir so we will celebrate this at the General Meeting with a birthday cake and other party goodies.

(Cont. on pg. 4)

C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s !

Congratulations to Roshelle and Chris Johnson on the arrival of their new baby. They now have a daughter as the new addition to their family. Her name is Kayla Janet (pronounced "Jan" - "A") Patrice Johnson! She was born January 8th, 2006 at 6:33pm. She weighs 7 lbs. 10 oz. and is 20 1/4 inches long.



President's Message

By Susan Thompson - McHugh

Dear BelAir Neighbors, I've received a number of calls and e-mails from neighbors concerned about crime in our neighborhood, so instead of writing my usual President's letter I've compiled a few statistics. These crime statistics from January 1 to December 31, 2005, were taken from the Phoenix Police Department web site and are based on Arizona Revised Statutes for Reported Crimes. They are reported by grid, which does not necessarily follow neighborhood boundaries. The data for BelAir is in grid BH25 which falls between West Campbell and Indian School to the North and South

and 15th and 19th Avenues to the East and West. Our grid reported 162 Total Crimes with 18 Violent Crimes, 122 Property Crimes and 22 Drug Crimes.

I next compared our crime statistics to our adjoining grids.

-BI25, to our immediate north extending to Camelback reported 355 total crimes for 2005 with 43 Violent Crimes (1 Homicide), 277 Property Crimes (1 Arson), and 35 Drug Crimes.

-BG25, to our immediate south extending to West Osborn reported a total of 105 crimes including 10 Violent Crimes (1 Homicide), 89 Property Crimes and 6 Drug Crimes.

-BH24, extending west to 23rd Avenue between Indian School and West Campbell, reported the most total crime at 580 for 2005. There were 64 Violent Crimes (3 homicides), 407 Property Crimes (2 arsons), and 109 Drug Crimes.

-BH26, between Indian School and West Campbell and extending east to 7th Avenue reported 287 total crimes with 28 Violent Crimes (1 homicide), 233 Property Crimes (3 arsons), and 26 Drug Crimes.

In conclusion, the area north of BelAir reported 355 total crimes, to our south there were a total 105 crimes, to our west there (cont. on pg. 4).

Yard Art

By Virginia Anders

When I have asked neighbors how they chose the plants for their gardens, for most people the process is one of trial and error. For those who have no small children playing in their yards this is simple enough. But I suggest there are some plants which deserve extra attention.

Peony plants for instance, with their fragrant, deep pink blossoms, have graced family yards and formal gardens for centuries in many places in the world. However, all parts of the plant are poisonous when ingested in large doses. Peonies can cause an accelerated heartbeat, vomiting and skin irritation. Jasmine vines are poisonous to humans and to dogs. The Lantana plant, which I love for its variety of flower colors, can make pets very ill. Privet shrubs are often used in hedges for privacy. They are a hardy plant and seem to grow well in many zones, but all parts of the plant are poisonous and may cause vomiting, headaches, and other violent reactions. Virginia Creeper

vines, which can look particularly beautiful in the fall, can cause a variety of severe reactions if ingested, even kidney damage. Hyacinths and Narcissus (daffodils) are lovely flowering plants in the spring. The bulbs, however, can cause nausea and worse reactions, including death if they are eaten. Juniper shrubs are great plants to help control weeds and retard erosion, and make a sturdy groundcover. But they have berry-like cones which if eaten can cause kidney damage. Castor bean plants, with their large purple leaves, are often used as an ornamental plant in landscape designs. But the castor oil seeds have a deadly toxin called ricin. Holly shrubs, popular at Christmas especially, have red berries. However, eating them can cause rather violent physical reactions. Of course there is the inevitable Christmas mistletoe. The red berries are quite toxic.

Most of our front yards in BelAir do not have any fencing, which I think of as a friendly as-

pect of our neighborhood. But it also means children and family pets do not have many deliberate barriers between them and their natural tendencies to put in their mouths a little of this and a little of that, to taste test the world around them. And so I bring this aspect up because the less obvious properties of our plant choices may actually be important when thinking about our gardens. Beyond color, compatibility, watering schedules, soil conditions and so on, it is worth considering the possible toxic properties of our foliage and shrubbery.



P r e s i d e n t ' s M e s s a g e (c o n t .)

(cont. from pg. 3)
 were a total of 580 crimes and to our east there were 287 total crimes. The BelAir Neighborhood had the second lowest total crime rate at 162, the second lowest Violent crime rate and was the ONLY neighborhood with no homicides. I would like to thank all of you who watch out for your neighbors. This kind of diligence is what helps in

our on-going fight against crime, but we can always do better. It is up to you get to know your neighbors, report suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers (602) 262-6151, and attend Block Watch meetings.

Our next General Meeting is February 9th with a special speaker from the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services discussing blight.

We have an opening on the board for one new member.

Our next Neighborhood Clean-Up is February 4th. It is up to ALL of us to make this a truly GREAT neighborhood.

Graffiti Busters
 602-495-7014

We Need Volunteers!

We need couriers to help distribute the monthly newsletter. There is a small time commitment (about 1 hour per month). If interested please contact Boyd Puffer for more details at
 boyd_puffer@hotmail.com

B e l A i r B o a r d M i n u t e s (c o n t .)

Boyd noted that we need more carriers for the monthly distribution routes. Anyone willing to make himself or herself available for this simple, brief monthly neighborhood project please contact Boyd Puffer as soon as possible. A woman contacted Mark Day to offer a monthly health and fitness column in exchange for a waiver of monthly advertising fees for her business. Because the 301 Grant is written by the City to fund projects regarding neighborhood safety and security, this request falls outside

the restrictions of the funding requirements.

Committee Reports/Update:

Charles reported that there was no meeting in December, so he had no report. However, he did note that APS had corrected the focus of the safety lighting over the playground equipment. Jonathan has been monitoring any change of status on the empty lot at the corner of 15th Avenue and 16th Drive and had nothing new to report yet.

Block Watch: Jaime has distributed new neighbor kits to 2

new households on Monterosa and one on 16th Drive. If anyone is aware of other new neighbors, please let Jaime or another board member know so we can give them a new neighbor kit.

Newsletter: People like having the upcoming events on the front page. Jonathan's Preservation Committee Update was helpful to clarify the City of Phoenix's criteria for obtaining historic status and why the board has broadened its focus to reflect the general intent of (continued below)

M e e t i n g M i n . (C o n t .)

improving and maintaining BelAir's property values. Even if we had achieved historic status, as residents, we would all still need to police the alleys, monitor the traffic through our neighborhood, watch for potential intruders, and address blight issues.

Old Business: We have no new information from SRP or the City of Phoenix about the construction project on 19th Avenue.

New Business: Mark, Susan, and Virginia will meet on Monday morn-

ing 10 a.m. to discuss the 2006 Block Watch grant. Our intended focus will be continued funding for the Neighborhood Communicator, hall rental fees for the General Meetings, liability insurance for the General Meetings, and printing of event and/or special notice flyers for neighborhood distribution.

February 2nd will be the next board meeting, at Virginia's house.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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



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Phoenix Police Department

BelAir Block Watch By Jaime Canedo

Hello BelAir,
Happy New Year to all of you, I hope that all of you are in good spirits and may your New Year resolutions come true for all of you. Let me start out by giving you the total crime report as reported by Phoenix PD. Total crime includes the following: Violent crime, Drug crimes, and property crimes. There were a total of 8 as opposed to 12 for the month of December 2005 vs. Dec 2004. There were a total of 102 calls Dec 2005 for service vs. 134 for Dec 2004. If you have access to the internet, these reports can be found at www.faxnet1.org. This report is for our area grid which is from 15th Ave and Indian School up to Campbell and from 19th and Indian School up to Campbell. As the new year is underway, all I can say is to keep up with the basics by reporting any suspi-

cious activity, get to know your neighbors and exchange phone numbers with each other so you can contact each other in case of emergency. If you would like to get more involved there is the Neighborhood Patrol Program. The program is a short course on doing a patrol of your own neighborhood. The course consists of knowing what numbers to call, what type of activity to look out for while patrolling and some other basics such as safety. The next training dates are March 18 and May 20 2006. For more info contact Officer Mary Roestenberg at 495-6896. I will be looking to attend one of these courses. I will also be looking into attending a class called Tools For a Successful Block Watch this year. I hope to get the information I need to help all of you in keeping BelAir a great and safe place to continue living.

Remember that the Phoenix Police force is understaffed because the city continues to grow. There is still a need for more police out on our streets. So it is up to us to help each other and police ourselves. The police do everything they can to assist but they handle calls by priority. So if you contact the police for a minor incident which is non life threatening, please remember to have some patience as they do their job to assist those who are in immediate danger first. Well friends and neighbors, I look forward to seeing all of you at our next General neighborhood meeting where we will also be having our Block Watch meeting. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at jcanedo1@cox.net or 602-321-5706. Thank you and let us make 2006 a fun and safe one!

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New Requirements

1. A Parent or guardian must accompany each player at registration.
2. The Signature must be done in front of the registration board.
3. The player must reside within the Clarendon Little League Boundary or be eligible for a waiver (ask if not sure)
4. Must bring a certified copy of birth certificate to have players date of birth verified (we do not keep)
5. Must bring 3 forms of proof of residency.
(Utility bills, driver license etc.)



Registration Calendar - 2006

Sat. Jan 21, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Noon

Clarendon Field Snack Bar

Wed.. Jan 25, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Clarendon School Library

Sat. Jan 28, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Noon

Clarendon Field Snack Bar

Sat. Feb. 4, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Noon

Clarendon Field Snack Bar

REGISTRATION 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

TRY-OUTS

8:00 a.m. 12 year olds

9:00 a.m. 11 year olds

10:00 a.m. 10 year olds

11:00 a.m. 9 year olds

12:00 p.m. 7 & 8 year olds

Please be 15 minutes early

Final Registration & Try-outs

Saturday FEB 11, 18, and 25th 2006

Call for information 602.212.0455

On the web: www.clarendonlitttleleague.org

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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.

David L. Brown
Owner

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