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

\$

Balances as of 8/4/05:

BelAir General Acct - \$990.20
BelAir & Am. Ev. Lutheran Church
Grant #62 - \$175.46

BelAir Grant #50 - \$395.59

\$

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun 9/4 – Sat 9/10

BelAir Litter Free Week

Keep BelAir beautiful by
keeping the area around
your home free of trash and
debris.

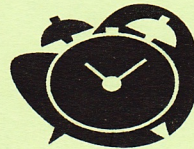
Tue 9/13

City Election Day

Coming in October...

**GAIN Progressive Dinner
and Block Watch Meeting**

MINUTE BY MINUTE



BelAir Board Minutes
August 4, 2005

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Mark Day,
Susan Thompson-McHugh,
Betty Dales, Anna Blevins,
Sherri Gallagher, Steve
Armenta, Jonathan Massey,

Jaime Canedo, Charles
Wilfong, and Virginia Anders

The July board meeting minutes were not approved because not everyone had received them – three members do not have e-mail and they were not distributed to them.

Treasurer's Report: Block
Watch Grant #50 had an ending
balance of \$395.59

BWG #62 ending balance is
\$175.46

General Fund balance is
\$990.20 after payment to
Alphagraphics \$9.34

Grant Projects Status Update:

Anna will update the new
neighborhood packets which
will include a map, voting
information, public schools, and
important numbers such as
recycling, hazardous materials,
etc

Jaime will provide a Spanish
translation of our newsletter for
October

Susan has a list of people who
e-mailed her to be candidates
for security doors
Sherri will look for contractors
for installation of the doors on
Angie's List

Committee Reports:

Community Update- Charles
said Spectrum Mall has a new
owner who has plans for several
new stores, as yet unnamed.
BlockWatch - is looking for
neighborhood crime statistics
on the City website.
Preservation – Jonathan has
been researching any detailed
information on BelAir he can
find at the City office to provide
more background information
on the formation of the area.

G.A.I.N. – We have 2 households so far signed up to host a portion of the ‘progressive’ dinner during the October 15th neighborhood night-out event. How many more houses do we want? Where? We need to make sure there are several green garbage cans out on each block that night for the refuse generated as people carry their plates of food down the street.

Newsletter: There was general discussion of the cost of the monthly newsletter and making it self-supportive. Boyd asked if we can pay in advance and be able to control costs better that way.

In the August issue, two articles had formatting problems, which may have occurred at the printer. Also, three new board members weren’t listed: Sherri, Anna, and Betty.

Old Business: The 19th Avenue bridge renovations will begin when the canal is drained this winter.

New Business: We need to make sure as board members that we are at the church for the 8/11/2005 General meeting by 6:15 p.m. so that everything is set up for the 7 p.m. opening of the meeting. Our committee reports will be very brief that night due to the debate between the two District 4 City Council candidates and the fact we want the meeting to be over by 8 p.m. Virginia will make the directional sign for the gymnasium door so that people know to go to the church instead.

There seems to be a surge in graffiti, which is a blight issue for the neighborhood. This may be somewhat alleviated when the schools are in session again. Make sure that local businesses have the Graffiti Busters business cards so they too know who to call.

There seems to be more transients in the neighborhood also. They are drinking beer and discarding their cans and bottles in yards.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

GENERAL **MEETING RECAP**

August 11, 2005

The BelAir general meeting was held in the Martin Luther Church building in August, due to a lack of air conditioning in the school gym. Our new board president, Susan Thompson-McHugh ran a tight meeting of one hour. Betty Dales was the time keeper for the debate between the two announced candidates for District 4 and did a superb job, enabling Susan to keep the meeting to an hour, as promised.

The new board members were introduced to the audience of over 50 of our BelAir neighbors.

Mark Day gave his treasurer’s report.

Anna Blevins explained the purpose of the October 15 G.A.I.N. event. We are planning a progressive dinner, with as many different areas of BelAir offering hot dogs, chips and salsa, ice cream, soft drinks, cake, and so on as we can enlist.

This way neighbors will have a chance to talk with one another while enjoying a variety of treats as we walk around the area. The even is expected to last from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Jaime Canedo** urged the audience members to pick up a copy of the Residence Reference sheet in the back of the hall after the meeting. The sheet is meant to serve as a kind of phone tree for immediate neighbors and to provide a measure of safety by encouraging us to at least know basic logistical information about our nearest neighbors. There will be a Block Watch meeting on October 18th, though the time and place were not announced.

Susan Thompson-McHugh told us that we could sign up as possible recipients for one of the ten security doors the board will purchase with Block Watch grant funding.

Betty Dales described the structure of the evening’s *Candidate Debate* and introduced the candidates.

Chad Campbell, our first candidate speaker was born and raised in Phoenix. He earned his Biology degree at NAU and became an environmental consultant to the commercial business industry for many years. In 2001 he began consulting for the non-profit sector and has served in the Arizona Leadership Institute, with Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Maricopa Association of Governments among other agencies. His main focus has become land use planning,

transportation, and especially mass transit. He sees the priorities for District 4 as crime prevention, youth leadership, and a re-evaluation of the economics of city growth.

Tom Simplot is the current representative for District 4, which encompasses 24th street to 51st Avenue, and Thomas to Bethany Home Roads. He has a long career also in public service in a variety of capacities, including as a past president of the Maricopa County Board of Health. He described some of his accomplishments as our representative, including getting a pedestrian bridge built across the intersection of 35th and McDowell Avenues. He also participated in the partnership with Maricopa County Flood Control District for City of Phoenix money to buy a lot north of the Grand Canal for \$600,000 that will be used bolster flood control in the area. The issues they debated ranged from the issue of controlling rundown rental properties to creating new economic development appropriate to the area, meaning restricting the number of liquor stores, bars, and check cashing locations in the area surrounding BelAir. There was a general concern expressed over the City's rights of eminent domain over private property. Anna asked about the anticipated effects of building the light rail tracks in the area. Both candidates felt committed to spending more time and attention on neighborhoods such as BelAir, getting to know the issues that affect our daily lives.

Kudos to Betty Dales for her prowess with her stopwatch! Let's all remember to vote on September 13th!

GAIN Progressive
Dinner in BelAir
Saturday October 15,
from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Various food stations will be located throughout the neighborhood in the front yards of host neighbors. We encourage you to turn on your porch lights and get out and walk our neighborhood. You can visit any or all of our food stations. Locations and items available at each station will be included in our October newsletter. There is no charge to participate in this event. If you would like to donate money to help purchase food for this event please notify any board member.

NEIGHBOR
INTERVIEW

Betty Dales

By Virginia Clifford Anders

"It was a great place to raise kids," Dorothy Campbell told me, as we sat at her dinner table. Dorothy has been my neighbor for 32 years, but she has lived in her home here in BelAir from the very beginning of the neighborhood. She has a longer perspective on the area than most of the rest of us. Since we are still talking about seeking historic status, it seems

a good idea to know some of the history.

"We'd lived in Parker for about a year and a half before that because my husband, Giff, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department of the Interior, at Parker Dam. They moved us and a lot of others down to the valley when they set up an office here. We bought our house for \$8,800 in November of 1948 and moved in the following February, on the 8th. BelAir was just opening, so there were graded dirt streets, but they didn't pave the streets and the sidewalks until 1951."

"Everyone had kids and they all played together. There was very little traffic and a circle at the end of the block, so parents didn't worry about where their kids were or what they were doing. The kids liked feeding the ducks in the Encanto Park pond. There were a lot of farms still north of Northern, so we'd drive the kids down to feed the horses for something to do. It seemed like we were taking a drive into the country. Of course they all played hopscotch, kick-the-can, and hide-and-seek. They'd make up stories and play the characters. Simple stuff, not like now."

When the kids became teenagers, they could sit on the curb at night and yak for hours with no parental worries. Our daughter Linda was born in October 1949 and Elaine was born in December 1954. They grew up here along with everyone else's kids. Mata and Bob Britt were the grandparents of the neighborhood. They were an older couple whose children

were already grown and gone. They were very good to the neighbor kids, even singing with them. They were so helpful to everyone.

There were no hedges or fences or walls separating neighbors from one another like we have now. Sometimes you'd open your back door and find little Scotty Hamilton sitting on your back doorstep. Or you'd see the desert tortoise one of the neighbors owned, wandering from yard to yard."

"We knew mostly the people on our own block because everyone worked, so there weren't a lot of parties or get-togethers among the adults. July and August were hot and sticky, but we didn't call it a monsoon season. When the heat was too much for the swamp cooler, it was pretty awful. We'd didn't sleep outside but some people still did during the summer. When air conditioning came in the 1960's it sure made life easier.

The surrounding area wasn't built up like it is now. I remember St. Gregory's and a grade school on Encanto. The high schools were West, North, and Phoenix Union High School. Asbury United Methodist Church was established in November 1948, and we joined in 1956. St. Gregory's church and school came along in 1949. There were a few small restaurants, but families didn't go out to eat very often.

People tell me I ought to sell my house and move because the prices are so high. But the house was paid off a long time ago and I love living

here. It's still a great neighborhood and I'm happy here."



YARD ART

By Virginia Clifford Anders

I've come across a lovely little book at the grocery store checkout line I had to share with you. It's called Gardening for Dummies, and is a gem because it has practical information in a very straightforward approach. The authors provide tips to save money, warnings about bad choices, good basic advice even experienced gardeners may not know, even phone numbers and addresses for ordering special equipment. They even show the reader ways to remain earth-friendly. There is a description of six different types of lawn mowers, two different kinds of trimmers, climates and microclimates!

One of the best pieces of advice offered is to pay attention to the home environment for the plants you like. Does it match our desert, or does it come from Michigan? Plants that require a lot of attention and protection may be more trouble than they are worth. If they take more time and effort than expected, they may discourage you as a gardener. So, some questions to consider are how much time and effort do you realistically plan to devote to your garden? Are you away from home often? If you are planting a tree, how much root space will

your tree need? This means, how far away from the house or a walkway do you need to plant it so that it doesn't lift the walk or grow under the foundation of the house? Will you be planting for color? Shade? Flowers? What time of year is best to plant these plants? What kind of soil do they need?

Microclimates describe areas of your yard that may be considerably cooler or warmer than the overall space you have to use. Because some plants grow best in direct sun and others need shade, walk around your yard at different times of the day to see where the heat and the shadows are strongest. For that matter, how will you ensure each planted area has optimum water? If one plant needs a lot of water, frequently, and its neighbor is a cactus, you can kill the cactus while you nourish the cornflower. So, if you thought an automatic watering system would cover everything, you may need to think this part through a little longer.

Another aspect to consider is how you want to use the cultivated space you are creating. Do you want to meditate in private there? Do you want to give outdoor parties in your garden? Do you have a dog or two in the same space? Do you have small children who need a safe place to play? If you decide to plant flowers next to their tricycles, you are risking a lot of family stress when they make mud pies in your gardenias. The whole idea is to enjoy your home and property, breathe a little fresh air, and be able to tell your sister in Maine about the

tomatoes you harvested in March, right?



In Partnership With

Phoenix Police Department

by Jaime Canedo

Hello BelAir,

We will be holding our first general **Block Watch meeting on October 18th at 7:00PM**. I encourage all of you to please come out and attend this meeting and get involved in Block Watch. The more people involved the better and more effective Block Watch will be. You can really help us make a difference in our neighborhood! There are two goals that we have set to start. One is to increase regular Block Watch patrols by 10%. Second, to get at least 20 households trained on Block Watch procedures and participating in the program. I am pleased to report that BelAir's crime stats are very low compared to other neighborhoods near by. I will be putting out official crime stats in the upcoming newsletters. Our neighborhood continues to be kept up very well thanks to all of you who take pride in your homes and reside here! One of the issues that I still notice is aggressive driving through our neighborhood streets. If you notice any aggressive drivers on your street you can contact the TRAFFIC COMPLAINT HOTLINE at 602-534-SPEED. There are still some blight issues in some

areas. Blight conditions can also be reported by email to blight@phoenix.gov

Burglary prevention: Lately Phoenix Police had reported a number of burglaries by suspects who were dressed and impersonating City of Phoenix workers. Please be aware of any suspicious activity. If you are unsure if anyone is actually a city worker or any other department in that case, do not open the door and ask to see ID. If you are still uncomfortable with that then call the City of Phoenix and find out if there is actually city work being done in your area. This goes especially for our seniors. Burglars try to take advantage of seniors. Remember if you have any questions or concerns, you can email me directly at jeanedo1@cox.net or you can email my two great partners on the Block Watch committee Sherri Gallagher at Sherrigallagher@hotmail.com or Steve Armenta at earmenta2@cox.net We will try to help you in any way we can. Again, remember to attend the Block Watch meeting on October 18th at 7:00PM. And I encourage all and any new residents to our neighborhood to attend. We need your help to keep our neighborhood safe and keep a strong Block Watch in BelAir. Thanks again!

Important Phone

Numbers: 911 for immediate emergencies and CRIME STOP 602-262-6151 for non-life threatening emergencies that do not require an immediate response. Example: stolen vehicles, loud parties, illegal parking

10 Security Doors for BelAir

Congratulations BelAir! The City of Phoenix approved our 301 Grant Proposal and awarded us a grant. This grant funds the basic operating costs of the BelAir Neighborhood Association such as this newsletter, the rent for our board meetings and the general meetings, the event insurance for our general meetings and supplies for our neighborhood clean-ups. In addition, it funds this year's special project of purchasing and installing 10 security doors. If you are interested in obtaining one of these doors, please call or email one of the board members. If more than ten neighbors express interest in the doors, they will be entered into a drawing. The winners will be notified and officially announced in a newsletter and at a General Meeting.

Criteria:

1. You must be a BelAir resident
2. Only one entry per household.
3. Can only be installed on the front of your house.
4. Entry deadline is October 15, 2005.

If you win, you can only cancel installation once.



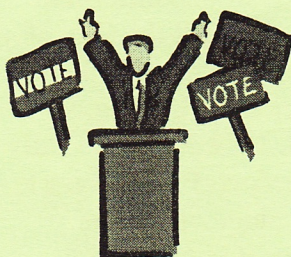
NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNICATOR

September 2005

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Tuesday, September 13th



BelAir residents can vote at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4735 N. 19th Avenue.

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