

BELAIR
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATOR
August 2005

Come Meet Our City Council Candidates
Tom Simplot and Chad Campbell
at



The BelAir General Meeting

Thursday, August 11th at 7:00pm
Martin Luther School Gymnasium
(Corner of Glenrosa & 19th Avenue)



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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 7/7/05:

BelAir General Acct - \$990.20

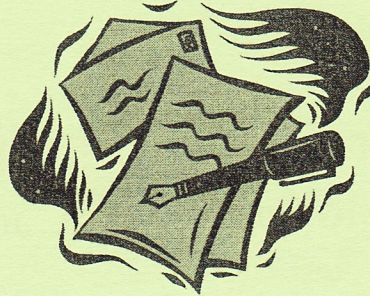
BelAir & Am. Ev. Lutheran Church

Grant #62 - \$175.46

BelAir Grant #50 - \$395.59

\$

Message From the President...



Hello Neighbor,

This power outage July 17th and 18th provided yet another example of how you are great neighbors. Relative strangers came together to help clear storm debris from homes, streets and sidewalks and turned potential catastrophe into an opportunity to make friends. Thank you. There are several more opportunities to help or participate in your community. The first is the General Meeting on August 11, at 7:00 p.m. Come meet our City Council candidates Tom Simplot and Chad Campbell who will be available to answer your questions. A second opportunity is the 2005 Census Survey. City funding is allocated based on population density so participation helps all of us. Another opportunity is our GAIN event, which will entail a walk through the neighborhood. We are looking for volunteers to host snacks

and beverages in their homes and patios. If interested please contact me, Susan Thompson-McHugh, at 602- 604-8629.

Thank you,

Susan Thompson-McHugh

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun 8/7 – Sat 8/13

BelAir Litter Free Week

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

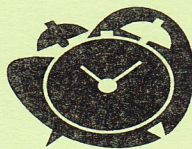
Thu 8/11 @ 7:00pm

General Meeting in Martin Luther School Gym

Mon 8/15

Bulk Trash Pick Up

MINUTE BY MINUTE



BelAir Board Minutes
July 7, 2005

The meeting began at 7:10 pm.

In Attendance:

Chris Sheedy, Boyd Puffer, Jonathan Massey, Susan Thompson-McHugh, Charles Wilfong, Anna Blevins, Mark Day, Betty Dales, Virginia Anders

Grant Projects Status Update:

The BelAir signs have not been posted yet. Neighbors need to

be contacted first for permission to establish a pole on their property because the City won't allow us to use their poles. The new grant, starting July 1, 2005 is for \$6,000. This is to cover the insurance policy, quarterly general meetings, publishing of the monthly newsletters, alley clean ups, 10 security doors, and updating the new neighbor welcome kits.

Susan established an on-going grant committee with participation from Mark Day, Charles Wilfong, and Virginia Anders. The purpose of this committee will be to track the contracted activities for the existing grant and to research other possible funding sources for neighborhood projects. The committee will find time in the next few weeks to hold an initial meeting.

Committee Reports:

Jonathan's Historic Preservation report: The Daniel and Clara Boone house at 1720 W. Elm St. has passed the 1st of 3 hurdles to being awarded historic status. The Central Village Association is also pursuing historic status and their application is now awaiting passage by the planning commission and City Council. The city historic preservation office is launching a study of post-World War II housing in the Phoenix area, starting in August, for the next three years. Jonathan will follow the progress of that study.

Newsletter: Boyd will now pick up the newsletter from the printer. Chris will be the

substitute coordinator for distribution of the newsletter.

Old Business: The G.A.I.N. event is set for October 15, 2005, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. According to the Old Farmers' Almanac, the sun will set at 6:55 pm that day. That means we will be out walking the neighborhood beyond the real heat of the day and through sunset. As a simple progressive dinner, the early volunteers include Anna for hosting the desserts, and Betty grilling hot dogs. We will write a letter to ask for material support from nearby businesses.

New Business: We are looking for someone to help us establish advertising sources so that the newsletter can become self-sustaining. The City won't fund that project indefinitely in their grant funding.

The August general meeting will feature political candidates who will be asked to speak for no longer than fifteen minutes, followed by a timed Q&A session from the neighbors. Betty will time the speakers and the Q&A session.

We expect to produce a Spanish version of the October 2005 and April 2006 newsletters.

We will list the qualifications in upcoming newsletters for those who want to apply for one of the ten security doors. The G.A.I.N. event will be the last time to submit names for this lottery.

Possible blight issues noted by board members: oleanders along the canal are a risk for becoming a fire hazard and blight. Cars parked in yards rather than in driveways

constitute a possible code violation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

NEIGHBOR INTERVIEW

Hugh Lander

By Virginia Clifford Anders

I grew up in a house built in 1910, in the heart of the Midwest. Our house and the surrounding area were full of mature landscaping and shade trees. There are only about two thousand people in the entire town, so living there was like living in one big neighborhood.

When I looked for a house to buy in Phoenix, I wanted something close to work, but also a place that didn't have a dirt yard or was too new to have any character. BelAir seemed typical of downtown Phoenix neighborhoods. When Tillie was born, I began walking with her in her stroller, stopping to talk to neighbors. Just that much can make a huge difference in what happens around the neighborhood because we all share what we see and hear. Watching out for one another helps us all feel safer. For about three or four months of the year in Phoenix it's hot enough to keep inside their homes, but the rest of the time you see everyone walking around.

I've participated in community volunteer work all my life, through my church, Red Cross, and disaster recovery in the Air Force. My mother has always participated

in community work. I just grew up believing it is important to in a neighborhood association before. It's a way to be proactive about neighborhood crime and safety issues.

Of all the neighborhood services personnel, Gabe Ramirez has been the most responsive, sometimes going out of his way to help us find resources to resolve a blight issue. He even came out on his day off a couple of times. His job as code inspector for the City of Phoenix is unending and thankless, so his commitment is remarkable. The City website provides a wealth of links to services and associations, some of whom are more helpful than others. They aren't always up to date, which is frustrating, but at least we have people at the City who care about what BelAir needs, even if they are understaffed. Being president of the BelAir Association was an opportunity for me to learn and grow as a member of my own community and as a homeowner. Karen and I will really miss our neighbors in BelAir



In Partnership With

Phoenix Police Department

by Jaime Canedo

Hello BelAir,

I hope that everyone is doing what they can to stay cool this summer. It's been a hot one! As you all know there has been a changing of the guard

give back to others. Since this with the Bel Air board. I will be brief in this issue with just a few things that I would like to inform everyone about.

Tom Simplot sent us some new resourceful tools for the neighborhood to utilize when needed. First it is the **Phoenix Police Vice Hotline**. With some of the recent problems of prostitution in the area, you can now call the hotline to voice a complaint against prostitution or drug activity. The hotline number is **602-426-1231**. You can also email Vice complaints to Vice.complaints.ppd@phoenix.gov The hotline will be manned for approximately 18 hours a day, 5 days a week, with voice mail to leave your complaints. Also, if there are any liquor complaints, you can email Liquor.taskforce.ppd@phoenix.gov. I urge you to use these resourceful tools when needed. These are the types of things that we need to continue to do to make BelAir an exclusive place to live. Remember the more that we get involved in blockwatch and other activities in our neighborhood, the more effective blockwatch will be!

It is very pleasing to see how much our neighborhood takes pride in their homes, keeping them well maintained and landscaped very nicely, keep up the good work neighbors! Also remember to turn on nightlights in the front of your homes at night. This helps keep the neighborhood well lit and deter most criminal activity. Get to know who your neighbors are and phone numbers to help each other out

is the first home I've ever owned, I haven't been involved when you can. Well, thanks for now and remember to make every effort to attend our next neighborhood meeting! Feel free to email me anytime at jeanedo1@cox.net with questions or concerns.

Crimes of Opportunity - Burglars Look for Easy Targets

- Unlocked Doors
- Unlocked Windows
- Open Garages
- Items left in yards
- Unsecured Storage Sheds
- Unlocked vehicles
- Keys in vehicles
- Vehicles left running unattended
- Poor Lighting
- Overgrown Landscapes
- Children Home Alone

COMMON METHODS OF ENTRY USED BY BURGLARS TO BREAK INTO YOUR HOME

Door Kicks: A burglar can be in and out of your home in two minutes. Works best with hollow core doors with weak frames.

Window Entries: A burglar can make a complete sweep of your home and personal property within four to five minutes.

Sliding Doors: A burglar can easily lift an arcadia door from its track or break it quickly with a swift hit from an object.

Attached Sheds: Burglars have easy access to the attic. Once over the residence, they use a "ceiling kick" to gain entry.

Open Garages: Burglars can make visual inventory of your valuables...and leave with them.

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 1, 2005.

If you win, you can only cancel installation once.



YARD ART

By Virginia
Clifford Anders

As a follow up to my July gardening notes, I thought I might share some helpful planting tips to keep in mind. For instance, did you know that spring blooming wildflowers are best planted before the fall, and that summer blooming wildflowers should be planted before the monsoon season? It's best to choose an area with plenty of sun. No problem there, right?

First, loosen the ground with a rake or trowel, mixing the seeds with soil, sand or mulch as you work to distribute them evenly. Just keep them in the top ¼ inch of the surface area. You can cover them with a thin layer of mulch to help them retain moisture, but it isn't necessary to do this. You do want to water the area lightly after planting them. Because this will be the germinating phase of the seed growth, keep them just moist for a few weeks to help the process along. After that, water them intermittently to help them grow.

I love the names of wildflowers: Trailing Four O'clock, Bahia, Farewell to Spring-Godetia, Cosmos, Chinese Houses, Owl's Clover,

Woolly Daisy, Toadflax, Arizona Poppy, Cream Cups, Firewheel-Indian Blanket...I think it would be fun just to be able to point casually to an area of riotous color and slide those names into a conversation with a visitor. Now if you are feeling really ambitious, I can give you their Latin names as well!

The Arizona Native Plant Society, which of course has a website, <http://aznps.org> is a lovely place to visit, full of facts and photos on Arizona's native plants. One page displays their merchandise, including brochures, flyers, booklets, t-shirts, and wildflower posters (think Christmas presents). The printed materials are even printed on recycled paper. Another page shows a list of world-wide web site links on seeds, plants, and related information. There are a couple of sites listed for photos of native plants. One of their web pages provides laws governing native plants of Arizona. The contact name at the Arizona Department of Agriculture is provided too. There are programs that help you lay out your garden design, but I think there is something counter-intuitive about *designing* gardens of *wildflowers*, don't you? Whatever you decide, happy gardening!

Coming in
October...
GAIN BelAir
Points-of-Pride
Fun Walk

**DID YOU
KNOW...**

that the City of
Phoenix
Neighborhood
Services Department
loans out garden and
landscaping tools for
FREE?
Call (602) 262-7844
for more details.

Procedure for Submitting Ads:

1. Submit the ad by e-mail or on diskette to Mark Day. It must be exactly as you want it to appear in the newsletter.
2. Submit, with your ad, a check or cash to Mark Day at 4238 N. 15th Drive on or before the 20th of the month.

Small Ad - \$7.00

Large Ad - \$14.00

(Business Card Size) (2x Business Card Size)

David L. Brown
Owner

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feedback on the *Neighborhood
Communicator*. Please email your
comments and suggestions to
Roshelle Johnson at
crkjohnson@yahoo.com.
Thank you!