



NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNICATOR

February 2005



Happy Valentine's Day!

Monday, February 14th



PRESIDENT

Hugh R. Lander
602-264-4366
rednail64@hotmail.com

TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

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

Board Members

Roshelle Johnson
602-437-0734
crkjohnson@yahoo.com

Jonathan Massey
602-266-4309
jmassey@asualumni.org

Susan McHugh
602-604-8629
camus01@earthlink.net

Boyd Puffer
602-218-6588
boyd_puffer@hotmail.com

Marne Redmond
(602) 241-1633
mredmond@tmail.com

Todd Shealy
602-285-0995
wodddco5@aol.com

Pastor Wilfong
602-266-9342
uwilfong@aol.com

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 2/1/05:

BelAir General Acct - \$1,159.18
BelAir & Am. Ev. Lutheran Church
Grant #62 - \$1,740.00
BelAir Grant #50 - \$2,318.07

\$

Message From the President...



SHOW YOUR LOVE!!

It's February, and as such, our thoughts often turn to the subject of love. You can't walk into a store without being overwhelmed by candy and cards. Now don't get me wrong - I love Valentine's Day. My wife might argue the fact that I'm not much of a romantic, but I do try.

While we show our love this month for our families and friends, we can also show some love for our great neighborhood. Here are some simple ideas for you to share your love of BelAir:

- Adopt a street for a month and pick up the trash weekly

- Volunteer to cut down weeds in an elderly neighbor's yard
- Join us on a Saturday morning to install fence slats at the school playground (call me for details)
- Bring in your neighbor's trash can when you bring in your own
- Introduce yourself to your neighbor and trade phone numbers

Simple things for sure, but when we add them up across the 475 households in BelAir, they sure do make a difference.

We had a short & sweet General Meeting on January 22nd. Gabe Ramirez, our fantastic inspector from the City's Neighborhood Service Department, gave a short speech about what the department can and cannot do. I was sitting in the back of the gym under the weather, but thanks to Jonathan, Boyd, Susan, Pastor Wilfong and Marne for all their support.

Our next General Meeting will be sometime in April. We'll be holding elections for new board members and for officers at that meeting, so it is important that you come!

Yours in commitment,

Hugh Lander

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun 2/6 – 2/12

BelAir Litter Free Week

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

Thu 2/3

BLOCK WATCH MEETING

7pm @ 4311 N. 16th Ave

Sat 2/5

GENERAL BELAIR YARD SALE

Sat 2/12

BELAIR CLEAN-UP

Mon 2/14

BULK TRASH PICK-UP

MINUTE BY MINUTE



BelAir Board Minutes
January 4, 2005

Meeting Began 7:07 pm

In Attendance: Hugh Lander, Roshelle Johnson, Susan McHugh, Boyd Puffer, Charles Wilfong, Jonathan Massey, Marnie Redmond, Virginia Anders.

November 2004 board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund shows no change: \$1159.18

The next update on the grants is due in two weeks to the City.

Grant 50: Installation of the new signs will require installation of poles on homeowner properties due to utilities and the City not allowing us to piggyback on established poles. This project will necessitate getting homeowner signatures to allow the installations.

Block Watch committee meetings – anticipate starting them in February.

Grant 62: Installation of privacy slats for church fence still isn't finished. Project proved harder than expected due to condition of fence. Another workday needed.

Newsletter

Neighbor Bryan Vincent graciously donated MS Publisher and Windows XP for newsletter publication.

Class picture of the current Bel Air board members will be taken at the next meeting.

Mark is picking up route 8A.

Hugh looking for someone to translate the newsletter into Spanish

Roshelle is going to put a reminder in the newsletter that it is not lawful for homeowners to burn trash.

Community Update

There was an open house at Donna Neal's in Westwood.

Gabe from the City Neighborhood Services and Hugh are going to do a ride-around in the neighborhood to see if we qualify for the Fight Back program. The City has budgeted for three areas for fiscal year 2006. St. Gregory's Church neighborhood is already online for this program. The crime statistics for Bel Air are higher than 2003.

Preservation Committee

Roshelle and Jonathan are preparing an article on the differences between going historic and becoming a Special Planning District. Sign toppers that say Bel Air may be possible in either case

Meeting Adjourned 8:37pm

February's #1 Crime

Prevention Tip:

Keep your porch light on!
Lighting deters theft.

ARE WE GOING HISTORIC?

by Jonathan Massey

Greetings from the Preservation Committee here at BelAir! I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a quick update with regards to preservation issues in our neighborhood. Members of the board and the committee have been hearing from residents, real estate agents, etc. rumors that BelAir's designation as a historic neighborhood is just around the corner. To clear the air, after
(Continued on page 4)

lengthy discussions and a good deal of surveying of the neighborhood by the committee and City of Phoenix Historic Preservation reps, it has been decided that it would be in our best interest *not* to pursue historic designation for the BelAir neighborhood. Let me explain.

The popular notion in Phoenix is that once a neighborhood turns 50 years old, it is instantly eligible to be designated as a historic neighborhood by the city. This is certainly not an unreasonable threshold for a relatively young city to have of a historic property. Our neighborhood was built between 1948 and 1952, at the beginning of the post-WWII housing boom, when ranch style homes like these were all the rage. Growth was exploding up Central Ave. and to the east and west to meet the demand. 50 years later, with tax incentives and matching restoration grants accompanying historic status, the potential financial burden on local agencies requires officials to be more selective in their historic designations due to the sheer volume of neighborhoods now turning 50. Also, the volume of neighborhoods going historic can eventually fade the prestige and luster of that designation. As a result, age is no longer the sole factor in choosing which neighborhoods go historic. In Phoenix, like many of those

cities mentioned, there are other criteria that any neighborhood must meet before they can begin to be considered a historic neighborhood:

Design: Do the homes possess a distinctive method, period, or style of construction? **Setting:** How does the neighborhood fit in with adjoining neighborhoods, landscaping and sidewalks?

Materials & Workmanship: Do the homes possess their original style of materials such as roofs, windows, and doors? **Feeling:** Does the neighborhood still call to mind a feeling of a certain time or place? **Association:** Does the neighborhood show a link to a noteworthy person or event?

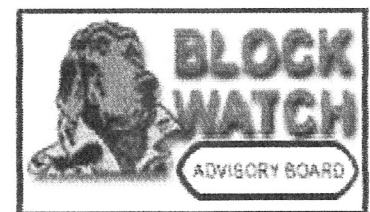
Through a good deal of research into how we stack up against these criteria, and through meeting with city officials, we have determined that our best path is not through historic designation.

You may be asking, so what about our property values? What is our best path? First of all, our first step on the best path towards the preservation of BelAir's character and charm lies in the hands of every BelAir neighbor. As Hugh Lander reminded us in January's Communicator, Get Involved. Join us for our neighborhood clean-ups. Attend the General Meetings and let our city's leadership know that we care about our neighborhood. Call Crime Stop at (602) 262-6151 when you see suspicious activity.

Attend the association's board meetings and have a hand in BelAir's future!

Second, the preservation committee is looking into the Special Planning District process offered through the city. The SPD process serves to tailor and fortify our existing zoning ordinance to the existing needs of our neighborhood in an effort to conserve and even revitalize our neighborhood's character that we've come here for. Our looking into the SPD process is just starting, so this serves as another great opportunity to get involved. If you're interested in contributing, please contact either Roshelle Johnson or myself.

These two are direct and tangible ways that we all can improve safety, quality of life, and property values here in BelAir. Thank you for reading, and have a wonderful spring!



In Partnership With

Phoenix Police Department

By Hugh Lander

All stats come from the Phoenix Police Crime Statistics website at www.faxnet1.org. Our grid is "BH25". "BH25" covers 15th Ave. to 19th Ave., Indian School up to Campbell north of the canal, which means

it covers all of BelAir and a little north of the canal.

Crimes reported to me this month include a suspected property theft.

We will be having a Block Watch Organizational Meeting at the Fireside Room in the AELC Church Gym on Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30PM. For those of you who expressed interest at the Crime Meeting in September, or if you'd like to get involved, please join us there. If you have any questions, please contact me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com or call me at 602.309.2097.

I'm meeting with Councilman Tom Simplot later this month to discuss the increase of crime in the area. I'll report the outcomes of that meeting in the March newsletter. Remember to report any suspicious activity. Call 911 for emergencies, or call CrimeStop at 262-6151 for all other police matters.

TRASH BURNING

It's illegal. Call City of Phoenix Public Works Dept. at 602-262-7251 for information on proper disposal.



YARD ART

By Virginia Clifford Anders

Help! How do I find a good electrician? How do I choose what to plant in my yard? I need a good plumber I can trust – who am I going to call? Whether you are new to the neighborhood or have lived here awhile, I'm sure you have your own stories to tell.

There is a nationwide service called *Angie's List* that actually answers those questions. No, it's not the Better Business Bureau. They provide a valuable service to the community, but they are paid for by the businesses that belong to the bureau. None of the businesses reviewed by *Angie's List* can put themselves on the list, nor can they pay to be added.

Angie's List is like Consumer Reports magazine, in that they are independent of the service people they review. There are chapters of this organization across the country, including one in Phoenix. They have a website, of course, <http://www.angieslist.com> but much of the information is available only to members. The annual subscription fee is \$43.00 for Phoenix. There are tickets and discount coupons that listed companies make available to members. The Members' Marketplace is an opportunity to post one free personal 12-word ad on something you want to buy, trade, or sell.

Just in our area I'm sure there are people who provide services that other neighbors would need and use. The problem is that we don't know someone needs what we know, or we don't have a forum to

share beyond one person at a time.

For instance, I have a very good handyman who has taken on a variety of tasks over the years. If I sign up for *Angie's List*, I can add his name and information to their database. I can also comment on what he has done for me, what it cost, and so on. The basis of their list is comprised of services provided in the last six months, to keep it up to date. They advertise that they will research a company that isn't on their list yet, contacting local members, the Internet, the BBB, and other such resources.

If there is anyone I've used in the past who did a poor job for me, I can also forward that information to *Angie's List*. They also have a complaint resolution service. They have a strong privacy policy that protects personal identifiers. The monthly magazine has articles on yard, home, and even car maintenance. They also write about buyer beware scams and how to do effective comparison-shopping. There is a series of articles that have been written about *Angie's List* in national publications over the last ten years.

I'd still like to get together and compare notes with some of my neighbors about house and yard projects. Anyone interested in getting together over dinner soon, give me a call. I'll bet we could get a group big enough to fill the back room at My Mother's Restaurant.*

COYOTE SIGHTING

Several neighbors have confirmed seeing coyotes in the neighborhood.

Please do not feed or pet them. Report sighting to the county at 602-506-7387 immediately.

Important Phone Numbers

APS
602-371-7171
(power outages)

CrimeStop
602-262-6151

Graffiti Busters
602-495-7014

Neighborhood Services
602-262-7844
(zoning violations)

Poison Control
602-253-3334

Voter Registration
602-261-VOTE (8683)

City Councilman, Dist. 4
Tom Simplot
602-262-7447
E-mail:
council.district.4@phoenix.gov

Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon
602-262-7111
E-mail:
phil.gordon@phoenix.gov

The BelAir Board Association welcomes your feedback on the *Neighborhood Communicator*. Please email your comments and suggestions to Roshelle Johnson at crkjohnson@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

The Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center

1822 W. Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85015
Hotline: (602) 285-0050

Our Services are Free and Include:

- 24 Hour Hotline
- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Confident, Non-judgmental Counseling on All Alternatives
- Professional Referrals – adoption, counseling, education, legal, medical, social services and spiritual
- Fertility Awareness
- Chastity Counseling
- Post Abortion Counseling
- Maternity and Infant Clothing and Food
- Assistance with Securing a Job or Housing

David L. Brown
Owner

alphaGraphics®
DESIGN, COPY, PRINT, MIRACLES™

702 West Camelback
Suite 6
Phoenix, AZ 85013
p 602/234/2944
f 602/274/8037
m 602/909/3253
dlbrown@alphagraphics.com
www.phoenix106.alphagraphics.com

