



NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNICATOR

January 2005

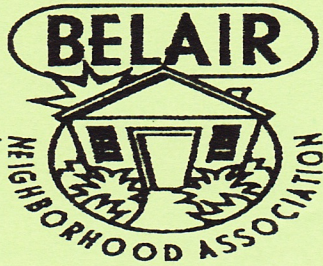
Mark Your Calendar...

**1ST BELAIR GENERAL MEETING
OF THE NEW YEAR!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND
10:00AM AT THE MARTIN LUTHER
CHURCH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
1806 W. Glenrosa**

Don't miss this one!

Meet our Neighborhood Services
Representative.

Learn how to make BelAir a safer, more
attractive place to live.



Board Officers

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

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.

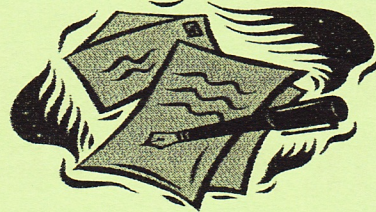
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Balances as of 1/1/05:

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...



RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED!

It's that time of year again when we all make commitments for the New Year. Some of us vow to lose weight or exercise more, to stop smoking or start watching what you eat. Whatever you resolve to do in 2005, I'm asking each of you to resolve to be involved.

I'm reading a fascinating book now called Bowling Alone. The central tenet is that while the number of bowlers across the U.S is up, the number of leagues is down - meaning more people must be bowling alone. It is an interesting look at how the sense of community involvement has decreased in the last 20 years. The

author suggests that in another 10 years, many social organizations we know will simply not exist due to lack of participation: Elks lodges, Masonic temples, Moose lodges, VFW posts, etc. Your BelAir Neighborhood Association is no different - without your participation, we will cease to exist.

I encourage you to get actively involved in something, in anything: your church or synagogue, your children's (or grandchildren's) school, a shelter for the homeless or abused women, a political party or even a bridge club or a bunko group. It is depressing to think that in a few years, these institutions could simply vanish due to a lack of participation.

There are ways that you can be empowered here in BelAir. Instead of getting mad, do something about it.

See a kid not in a car seat?	Call 1 800 505 BABY (2229)
See a Disabled Parking Violation?	Call 602 534-7722
See a Litter Bug while driving?	Call 602 712-4683
See a Smoking Car?	Call 602 506-6616
See a Speeding Car / Aggressive Driver?	Call 602 534-7733

I keep all these numbers on my cell phone and in my car. I know that many of you are unhappy

about cars speeding through the neighborhood. Pick up the phone and do something about it! You can even go to www.unsafedriver.com and report them online.

If you'd like to get involved in BelAir, you have some great chances in January. You're welcome to attend the Association Board Meeting at my house (4311 N. 16th Ave.) on Tuesday, January 4th. The next General Meeting is on January 22nd - Saturday morning at 10AM. We'll have a speaker from Neighborhood Services Department and some other great discussion as well. We'll be having a Block Watch meeting in early February, and I know that we can use your help there. We also need a lot of help to finish putting up the fence slats at the playground. If you'd like to help, please call me at 602.309.2097. Even two hours of your time is a big help.

In short, you have a small, but extremely dedicated group of about 12 people who do a lot for the whole neighborhood. Help us grow that number and do even more in 2005 by being involved in BelAir.

Yours in commitment,
Hugh Lander



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun 1/2 – 1/8

BelAir Litter Free Week

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

Tue 1/4

Board Association Mtg.

7pm @ 4311 N. 16th Ave

Sat 1/22

General Meeting

10am @ church gym

Sat 2/5

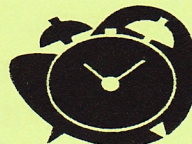
General BelAir Yard Sale

Feb 2005

Block Watch Meeting

(Check upcoming February issue of the *Communicator* for details.)

MINUTE BY MINUTE



BelAir Board Minutes
November 11, 2004

Meeting opened 7:05pm

In Attendance: Mark Day, Hugh Lander, Virginia Anders, Jonathan Massey, Todd Healy, Pastor Wilfong, Roshelle Johnson

Treasurer's Report

General fund: 1159.18

Inventory report: Hugh and Todd will go through the file cabinet, keeping three years' worth of files only. Any audit

by the City would only go back that far.

Committee Reports

The newsletter is done.

Submissions for the January newsletter are due by Dec 20th.

There was a representative from Light Rail at the Westwood meeting recently. The project has begun on Camelback, and is expected to take fifteen months.

There is nothing new to report from the Special Planning District for now.

There is a Community Resource Guide through the City of Phoenix, but much of the information can be found on the City website, such as city codes.

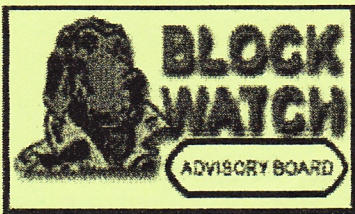
Gabe, our community representative from the City of Phoenix, is going to speak at the next general meeting. The fence slats have proved to be harder to install than originally anticipated. The Block Watch neighborhood patrol is still being formed. We expect to have a general BelAir yard sale on February 5, 2005.

The Block Watch signs can't be posted on telephone poles, so the board needs to acquire separate poles for this project.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:42pm

January's Top Three Crime Prevention Tips

1. Get to know your neighbors. This makes it easy to notice suspicious activity.
2. Keep your porch lights on! Lighting deters theft.
3. Make sure all windows and doors in your home are locked before going to bed.



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.

I wish that I had better news regarding crime in our area, but I don't. We had a home invasion last month, and fortunately, no one was hurt. You may have heard about these alleged robbers, who committed somewhere close to 40 invasions in Central Phoenix. They followed our resident home from the grocery. Luckily, they were captured a week later and will face numerous charges.

Looking at the statistics for October, we had one violent crime, a robbery; plus 6 burglaries, 12 thefts and 9 auto thefts for a total

of 27 property crimes. This compares with a total of 11 property crimes last October – a significant increase. While the majority of the increase is north of the canal, we had more crimes in BelAir than in recent memory.

If this disturbs you, it should! We have got to do a better job of protecting ourselves. I know that many of you don't want to leave your outside lights on at night because of things you have on your front porch. I know that I'd rather lose a potted plant or lawn chair than have my house cleaned out. Lights deter criminals.

You need to install window locks, motion sensing lights, and other deterrents. Know your neighbors and their routine so suspicious activities stand out. Call me and I'll help you put together a plan to make your house safer.

We will be having a Block Watch Organizational Meeting in February. Look for details coming up or call me for more info. Please

join us there. If you have any questions, please contact me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com or call me at 602.309.2097. Remember to report any suspicious activity. Call 911 for emergencies, or call CrimeStop at 262-6151 for all other police matters

Did You Know...

That there is up to a \$250 reward for anyone who knows who is vandalizing a neighborhood with graffiti. You don't even have to give the police your name. Call 602-262-7327 for more details.



YARD ART

By Virginia Clifford Anders

One night while working on a paper for my World Literature class, my cat Soxx brought me a present. She and her buddy Roo had caught a very surprised juvenile dove on the back porch and carefully negotiated the path through rooms and across hallways to place it at my feet. I saw them come in and drop something round and grey on the tile floor. I stopped writing and looked down at the scene. Amazed, I reached for the bird, which promptly fluttered across the

room to land on Crime and Punishment, on top of a pile of books. A literary bird deserved my full attention.

I got up from my chair, and slowly cupped my hands around this small creature and held it close while I walked softly outside. Presuming she was frightened, I walked around the edge of the house where Soxx and Roo wouldn't be able to see me put her down on the ground. I bent down and held my hands open so she could hop off or fly away. She wasn't frightened apparently, but quite comfortable in my hands. Actually, she was asleep. Bent over my flagstone walk, I waited for her to wake up and "escape." She did wake up, but only preened her light brown wing feathers. I walked to one of my mesquite trees and held her up to a thick branch. She clutched my finger with her feet. I sat down on the ground and put my hands, palms up, in the dirt. The full moon shone brightly, a light breeze wandered through the yard. The bird fell asleep again.

I stroked the feathers along her back. She was perfectly happy to have me touching her. "I have to finish my paper, little one. You need to go home," I told her. As an experiment, I moved my hand in a slow arc. She stayed perched on my finger.

My neighbor, Gloria, appeared in her back yard. "Gloria," I called, "I need you to be my witness." I stood up and walked to our low chain-link fence. "Oh, I see you have a new pet, Virginia." "No," I said. "My cats brought her to me. I'm just trying to release

her, but she won't leave." My neighbor loaned me a clean cage, and I created an open door shelter for this little creature to rest in overnight on a low table in the corner of the yard.

The next morning, I expected to find the little bird had flown away or died overnight. She was nestled in her sanctuary, apparently in no hurry to rejoin her friends. I gently reached into the cage to help her out, but she came out on her own, seeming irritated that I would interrupt her morning reverie. As she wandered off across the yard, two other doves came over to greet her. Casually, she blended in with them as if nothing unusual had happened. My curious cats supervised from the back porch.

FREE HOME INSPECTION

Phoenix College's home inspection program is looking for a few houses that their students can inspect as part of their coursework. A certified, licensed and bonded inspector accompanies them. You will receive a copy of the inspection at NO COST. If you are interested in supporting this worthwhile program for a good neighbor partner, call Hugh Lander at 602-309-2097 for more info!

Coming Soon...

A new and improved look for *The Neighborhood Communicator*.

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!

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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

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
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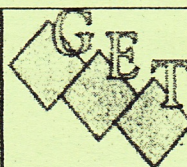
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with any questions.