

Neighborhood Communicator

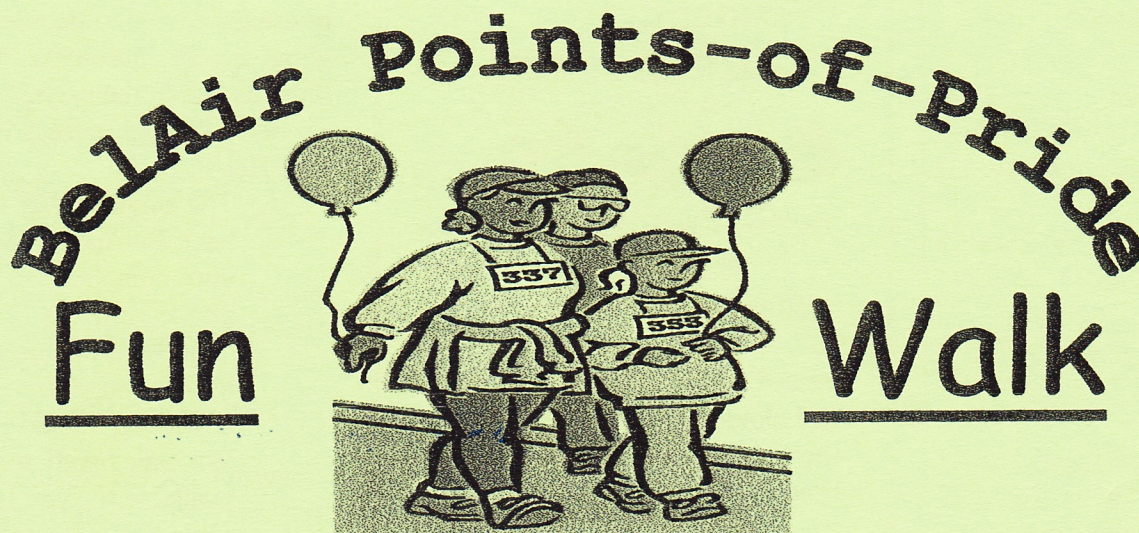


October 2004

Join your BelAir neighbors in celebrating

GAIN Night

**(Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods)
by coming along for the**



Saturday, October 16th @ 5PM

**Tour a part of BelAir to show appreciation to our neighbors
whose yards are a 'point of pride'!**

Enjoy the cooler weather!

Meet your neighbors!

Get some exercise!

Enjoy free refreshments!

**Departing from the Martin Luther Church School Gymnasium, on West Glenrosa between 18th and 19th Avenues.
The walk should take about 90 minutes. Everyone is welcome, but for safety's sake, please leash your pets, keep your kids
close and bring a flashlight or wear bright clothing.**



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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.

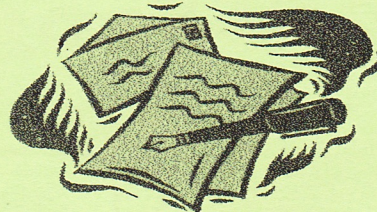
Balances as of 9/1/04:

BelAir General Acct -
\$1,143.36

BelAir & Am. Ev. Lutheran
Church Grant #62 - \$1,740.00

BelAir Grant #50 - \$2,318.07

Message From the President...



What a fantastic General Meeting we had on September 16th. If you missed it, you missed something special. We had almost 70 BelAir residents there – the most in a very long time.

A lot of that might have had to do with the topic – Crime in BelAir. I'm certain that many of you still have concerns about crime but was unable to attend the meeting. If you would like to discuss those concerns with me, I invite you to call me at 602.309.2097.

You can also email me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com

I'd like to thank everyone who helped set up this great meeting: Pastor Wilfong, Boyd Puffer, Jonathan Massey, Todd Shealy, Roshelle Johnson, Susan McHugh-Thompson, Virginia Anders and Mark Day. Thanks as well to our many family members and neighbors who pitched in as well, manning

tables and cleaning up afterwards.

So what did you miss? First, we had a moment of silence to recognize the unfortunate loss of Phoenix Police Officers Jason Wolfe and Eric White, both of whom patrolled the 73 Beat, including BelAir.

We then had an open discussion about crime in the neighborhood, moderated by Officer Giogi Chiappo, who is our Community Action Officer. Officer Chiappo provided no-nonsense advice to people there about specific problems. We then discussed the ways that residents can get involved to take BelAir back:

1. The simplest way to take back BelAir is to know your neighbors and their phone numbers. This includes the houses beside you, across the street and behind you. We have handy forms available for you to write this information down. There's no further involvement than that. You don't turn in the numbers; you maintain your own list.
 2. The next way to get involved is to join the BelAir Phone Alert Tree. We had over 20 households sign up at the meeting, all from different areas of the neighborhood. If something happens, like a child going missing, or suspicious vehicles cruising the neighborhood, in a matter of minutes we
- (Continued on page 3)

can alert all areas of the neighborhood to be on the lookout.

3. The next level is to join the BelAir Block Watch team. Prior to the General Meeting, I was the team! Now I have 11 more residents who have committed to meet, discuss and solve our crime problems.
4. Lastly, I had several residents approach me to discuss becoming members of the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol to actively work BelAir preventing crime, observing and reporting.

Again, if you are interested in learning more, discussing options, or just venting your frustrations, please contact me.

Yours in commitment,
Hugh Lander

Dates to Remember

Sun 10/3 – 10/9

BelAir Litter Free Week

Sat 10/16

**1st Annual BelAir
Points-of-Pride Walk**

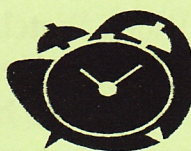
Sat 11/13

Neighborhood Cleanup

Mon 11/15

Bulk Trash Pickup

MINUTE BY MINUTE



The quarterly BelAir neighborhood meeting was quite exciting Thursday night. Over fifty adults came to Martin Luther Church with their families to enjoy the pizza, sodas, and excellent speakers. Hugh Lander, current president for the BelAir Neighborhood Association, lead the meeting with his fine PowerPoint presentation. This meeting was an opportunity for neighbors to participate in an informative discussion with the board and Officer Chioppo of Neighborhood Services and Officer Mary Rostenburg. Both officers were enthusiastic about what our neighborhood is doing to curb the growing issues of crime.

Some of the issues brought up were: abandoned vehicles on Monterosa, random gunfire, vagrants and vandals accessing our neighborhood along the canal, and non-resident cars loitering on our streets. For many of these issues, Officer Chioppo urged us to contact Crime Stop at 262.6151. She cautioned that due to under-staffing for the population in the district, there might be a delay in response time, depending on the priorities at the time of the call. However, it is important for us to make the call if we see anything or anyone unfamiliar or unusual on our streets. Her role as the Neighborhood Services representative is to follow up on reports that might

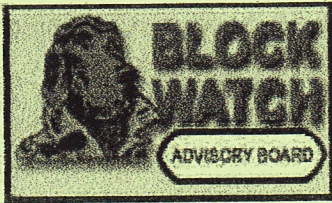
require less immediate attention. She also directed us to the website www.phoenix.gov for more in-depth information and resources throughout the valley.

Officer Chioppo and Officer Rostenburg reinforced Hugh's message that the most important safety net is here among our own neighbors. "There are 100 eyes looking back at me tonight," said Officer Chioppo. Our importance as a community crime prevention force is huge. As follow up to the police presentations, Hugh described three ways we can participate. We can know our neighbors. We can participate in the phone alert tree. We can join the Block Watch program, which is coordinated by Hugh. Or we can become a member of the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol. The board members on the back tables provided sign up sheets after the meeting.

October's Top Three Crime Prevention Tips

1. Don't leave your garage door open to allow air flow if you are not home or at night.
2. Don't leave a garage door opener in your car if you park outside.
3. If you are going out of town, inform a trusted neighbor or friend. If you don't know your neighbor, go introduce yourself!

BLOCK WATCH



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.

The numbers for June & July are 0 homicides, 0 sexual assaults, 0 robberies, 2 aggravated assaults, for a total of 2 violent crimes (note: there were 7 violent crimes during the same period in 1996). We had 5 burglaries, 9 thefts, and 7 auto thefts, for a total of 21 property crimes. This is a large increase from the January through May numbers, but during the summer months when many youth are unsupervised, crimes increase, then decrease when school begins.

Crimes reported to me during this period include a theft from a car parked in a carport.

Block Watch is getting going again with 12 people. We will be holding our first meeting in mid-October. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at call me at 602.309.2097 or e-mail me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com.

Remember to report any suspicious activity. Call 911 for emergencies, or call CrimeStop at 262-6151 for all other police matters. As we were reminded at the General Meeting, your phone calls mean more service for BelAir.

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.

BOARD MEMBER BIO

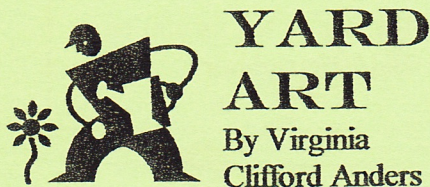
Hello, my name is Jonathan Massey and I moved into the BelAir Neighborhood in 2001. Before I bought this house, I had been working with my realtor

for a few weeks looking for homes near where I work. One day we had a list of 5 homes to look at. This was the first one on the list. Needless to say, I didn't see the rest; we filled out the contract right then. I was most impressed with the appearance of the neighborhood, and how quiet it was. Even for this being my first house, I think I hit the jackpot.

As you might imagine, I was never much of a "do-it-yourselfer" until I bought my first house here in BelAir. I had extensive carpentry, electrical, and painting experience from college, but never had an opportunity to apply it in a residential environment. But after an initial interior facelift before moving in, I found it rewarding to be able to tailor my living space to my own tastes and improve on my investment in the house at the same time.

Being a Phoenix native, and having worked in this neighborhood for 8 years, I've come to appreciate the charm and sense of community
(Continued on page 5)

I've seen here in the Central corridor. My hope in serving on the board is to help us sustain and nurture that sense of community and the family friendliness so many of us were looking for when we moved here. After 3 years in this community, my only regret is not moving to BelAir sooner.

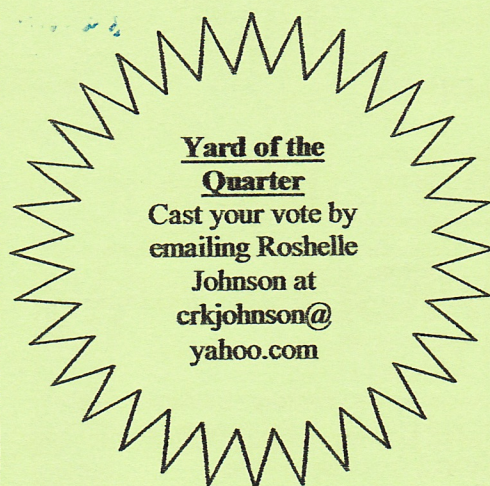


I now know what a perfect early Father's Day present looks like. On Memorial Day weekend, while Ron was out of town, Fatimah, eight of her girlfriends, and her son Gregg transformed their back yard into a work of art. Gregg laid thick, emerald green sod and installed the sprinkler system for it. Flagstones were fitted together for the covered porch, home to an Ashanti King's stool. A red brick path was laid which winds from the porch to the far corner where a cement slab was installed that weekend also for a future project. In another area a small garden party might share their repast under the new awning, perfect for shade from our desert sun.

Fatimah found new Bougainvillea, a Cassia, and potted plants at Tera's Garden. A graceful archway from Tarnished Treasures now stands in the yard, waiting for the

vines she will cultivate to embrace it. A tall, elegant figure dominates a bend in the outline of the yard, the Thinking Man, a well-known effigy in Borneo. He is their garden's guardian.

Fatimah explained the intent of the artwork incorporated into the sculptured metal gates. They represent symbols from Ghana of "a call to collective action" and "the power of God." Nothing could be a greater representative expression of harmony for this family. Through collective action, Fatimah has created a magical space where she can sit and love being at home with her husband. There is always a swirl of activity around Fatimah and Ron, but their home and gardens have truly become the calm in the eye of that whirlwind.



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

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

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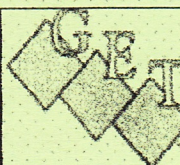
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