

Neighborhood Communicator

August 2004

Attention Residents and Businesses
Are you concerned about

Auto Theft

Burglary

CRIME

Vagrancy

Prostitution

In the BelAir Neighborhood?

**If so, please come to a Neighborhood Meeting
Thursday, September 16th @ 7PM**

**at the Martin Luther Church School Gymnasium,
on West Glenrosa between 18th and 19th Avenues**

**Meet with representatives from the Phoenix Police, Block
Watch and the BelAir Association**

**Have an opportunity to air your concerns and to show your
support for our great neighborhood!**

Let's take back BelAir!!

Website www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair



Financial Status

Ending Balance as of 6/30/04:
\$1,221.92

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

Board Officers

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SECRETARY

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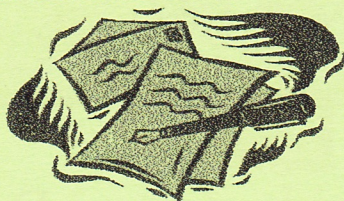
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Pastor Wilfong 602-266-9342
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Message From the President...



First off, the Board was sad to accept Sharon Bushouse's resignation as President. Sharon has a lot going on right now, and felt she couldn't commit enough time to the Board as it deserves. We all want to thank Sharon and Dick for all their support over the years, and we know that they'll continue to be active in neighborhood functions. On a personal note, I can't thank Sharon enough for her kindness, sense of humor, and her tough-as-nails attitude. I've learned a lot from her.

Secondly, it seems that I pushed a few wrong buttons with my column in June about owners versus renters. If I offended any of you, I sincerely apologize. We have many fantastic rental-residents in BelAir, many of whom are active in the neighborhood. My concern was only about those landlords who don't ask for references, who seldom inspect their properties, and who let their houses fall into disrepair. I received a very well written letter from one of our residents taking me to task, deservedly, for perhaps placing too much emphasis on appearances, and not enough on just getting to know our neighbors. The author makes a great point. Through activities like General Meetings, GAIN events, or simply knocking on the door and having a conversation, we can greatly improve the quality of life in BelAir.

Sharon Barger, a long-time BelAir resident and former board member for many years, recently dropped off to me her archive of *Neighborhood Communicators*. Going back to the first issue in June 1995, it is interesting to note some themes that keep appearing even after almost 10 years:

- The importance of an organized Block Watch to prevent crime
- Reminders about the simple things we can do to show pride, like keeping a clean yard, bringing in our trash cans, and disposing of bulk trash properly
- Lastly, the ever-present need for volunteers. Even if you can't commit time to meet monthly as a board member, can you help once a quarter with the neighborhood cleanup? With the general meeting? Distributing newsletters?

If you are interested, please contact any board member or myself. There are always easy ways to get involved.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot! Special thanks to Mark Day, Virginia Anders, Pastor Wilfong and Todd Shealy for their help in securing the Block Watch grants from the city – read the article in this newsletter for more information.

Hugh

Congratulations!

**YARD OF THE
QUARTER**

Gustavo &
Sandra Lopez
4257 N. 15th Drive

Dates to Remember

Sun 8/1 – 8/7/04	BelAir Litter Free Week
Thu 8/12/04	BelAir Board Meeting
Sat 8/14/03	Neighborhood Cleanup
Thu 9/16/04	Neighborhood Crime Meeting

MINUTE BY MINUTE

Meeting called to order 8:45am

Present: Hugh Lander, Pastor Wilfong, Boyd Puffer, Roshelle Johnson, Mark Day, Virginia Anders

Todd Shealy resigned from the secretary position. However, he will remain a dedicated member of the board.

Sharon Bushouse stepped down from the presidency due to health problems

New board members appointed by simple quorum:
Susan McHugh, Jonathan Massey

New president of BelAir Board: Hugh Lander
New secretary of BelAir Board: Virginia Anders
The Vice-President position will remain vacant until the fall.

Treasurer's Report

- Ending Balance 6/30/04 \$1,221.92.
- Last payment for alley lighting before grant begins again was for June 2004 @ \$133.83.
- Grants were approved. (See article by Mark Day for details.)
- Mark researching advantages/disadvantages to non-profit structure for BelAir.

Community Update: Police red-tagged several cars in the neighborhood last week for various infractions. Though this causes irritation to owners, it improves the neighborhood appearance, protecting property values.

Block Watch

- We cannot call on blight issues as a board but we can as individuals. This helps with keeping crime stats. (See "Block Watch Report" by Hugh Lander)
- Phone Tree: There are 2 or 3 people on the board in each zone that can call each other. (See map) This is a beginning to Block Watch. Key is to have contacts that are on either ends of the street.
- There will be a cleanup crew request at the next general meeting. Other possible helpers are students from Metro Tech, Phoenix Christian High School, Boy Scouts, etc.
- Renters are required to register with the county assessor and owners of rentals must have an in-state contact. This enables issues with rentals to get handled speedily.
- What is status of the office building behind Zia's? Jonathan's doctor used to conduct business there. He may know.

Preservation Committee

- Yard of the Quarter: Gustavo and Sandra Lopez
- Quotes for BelAir Litter Free Week signs to present at next meeting.
- Meeting regarding Special Planning District application to be announced.

Upcoming General Meeting

- Emphasize crime prevention, do flyer, discuss phone tree
- Proposed date: Thursday, Sept. 16th at the church

New Business

- Jonathan and Susan are new members. There are still 3 or 4 vacancies.
- Neighborhood Cleanup: bring gloves, rakes and wheel barrows
- Send a neighborhood survey to determine interests? Possibly combine with required survey for SPD application?

Note: Board Meetings moved to Thursday nights. Next one is August 12th at 7pm, Hugh's house.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38am.

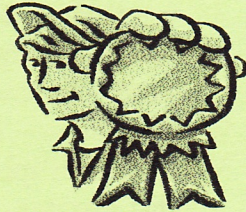
What's On Your Mind?

Question: Does the board know of any financial assistance I can receive to help do renovations to my home?

Answer: Yes! The City of Phoenix offers several different grants and low interest loans for home improvement. For example, you can get your electrical system replaced or your front yard landscaped. Simply call the home improvement staff at 602-495-0700 for more information.

BelAir Awarded Neighborhood Block Watch Grant

By Mark Day



On behalf of the BelAir Neighborhood Association, I am pleased to announce that on June 9th the City of Phoenix awarded the BelAir Neighborhood Association a Block Watch Grant in the amount of \$9,517.00. Also, the BelAir Neighborhood Association along with a co-applicant, American Ev. Lutheran Church, located in the neighborhood at 1830 W Glenrosa Ave, was awarded a Neighborhood Block Watch Grant in the amount of \$1,740.00.

Applications for the grants were submitted to the City of Phoenix on behalf of the neighborhood in February of this year. These grants are awarded to applications based on specific projects and objectives to be undertaken in the neighborhood to reduce crime and educate citizens on safety or crime prevention techniques. We were pleased that our applications were ranked very high in the scoring criteria.

The following is a summary of the objectives of each grant and the related funded expenditures:

BelAir's Pride in Community - Grant #50 Objectives:

- Funding of dusk to dawn alley lighting
- Installation of additional Block Watch signs
- Quarterly neighborhood general meetings
- Published monthly newsletter
- Block Watch committee formed, trained and patrolling

- Organized neighborhood and alley clean-up (two times a year)

Funded Items:

- Lighting (2 years for 22 lights and 1 year for 5 lights) \$7,162
- General liability insurance \$868
- Monthly Newsletter Printing \$810
- Quarterly Spanish language insert \$112
- Block Watch signs & information handouts \$299
- Hall rental - general meetings \$160
- Blight Removal supplies \$61
- Office Supplies \$45

Please note that the City of Phoenix does NOT pay for our alley lighting. The lights were initially funded by Block Watch Grants, however, this funding began to expire and the neighborhood association was required to make payments on some of the lights pending receipt of additional funding. The good news is that the lights should now remain on for two additional years.

BelAir's Safe Kids Initiative - Grant #62 - Co-applicant with American Ev. Lutheran Church Objectives:

- Installation of two additional dusk-to-dawn lights for park located at the church
- Installation of vinyl fence slats in chain-link fence on North side of park

Funded Items:

- Vinyl fence slats \$727
- Lighting (3 year contract for 2 lights) \$1,013

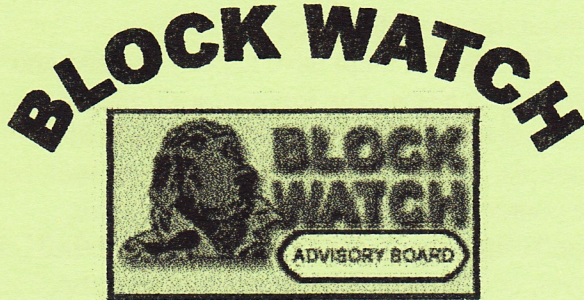
The neighborhood and American Ev. Lutheran Church wanted to make the park area located on the northeast corner on the church property a safer green space for use by our residents. The vinyl fence slats will create a visual barrier from the canal and the additional lighting should help to deter crime at the park.

Please remember that carrying out the objectives for both of these grants will require many volunteer hours. Your help would be greatly appreciated and welcomed. Please contact any board member for volunteer opportunities.

(Continued on page 4)

As always, please call me at 602-791-4003 or email me at markdday@cox.net if you have any specific questions on the grants.

Help Make BelAir Beautiful
Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, August 14th at 7:30am
Meet at the Church Parking Lot
Bring gloves, rakes and wheel
barrows if you have them



In Partnership With
Phoenix Police Department

By Hugh Lander

We will now start publishing crime stats on a monthly basis for our "grid". 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 year-to-date, January through May 2004 are 0 homicides, 0 sexual assaults, 2 robberies, 0 aggravated assaults, for a total of 2 violent crimes (note: there were 5 violent crimes during the same period in 1996). We had 25 burglaries, 16 thefts, 10 auto thefts (I know of at least 2 in BelAir last month – one of which was recovered), for a total of 51 property crimes. There were also 5 drug crimes. This compares to 59 property crimes in the same period 1996.

Crimes reported to me during this period include 2 burglaries at the church, a stolen bike, and 2 house burglaries. The

police also tagged and removed several junked vehicles on West Glenrosa – thanks Squaw Peak precinct!

Block Watch is stuck in neutral at the moment. I patrol whenever I can, and I'm hoping to start a phone tree that would include at least two people on every street in case we note suspicious activity. If you are interested in helping, 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.

Top Three Crime Prevention Tips for August

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!

WEST NILE VIRUS WARNING
Central Phoenix is a hot bed for the mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus. You can help reduce the risk of infection. Throw out any standing water around your home. And if you have a pool, get it treated regularly. If you are aware of any pools that are dark green, please report it to the county health department immediately.

BOARD MEMBER BIO

Hello BelAir,

My name is Boyd Puffer. My wife and I moved into the neighborhood in 2001. We chose to buy our first home in BelAir for several reasons. It is centrally located and close to my work in downtown Phoenix. We were looking for an established neighborhood that was nice and quiet. BelAir had everything we were looking for. I am pleased to say that we made the right choice!

My family has doubled since first moving here. I am blessed with my lovely wife Michaela and two beautiful daughters: Infinity (2yrs) and Lauren (5 mos). My wife Michaela deserves all the credit. I am so thankful that she is willing to put her career as a teacher on hold to raise our children!

My hope is to keep the BelAir neighborhood a nice, quiet and friendly place. I think it is vital to our neighborhood that we get to know each other. That builds a community. A sense of family. If we can achieve this than we can preserve our way of life!

Please get involved! Talk to your neighbors. BelAir has so many wonderful people; it's time to get to know them!

Who Wants to Play Bunco?

Neighborhood Bunco Group Forming

Contact Michaela Puffer

602-218-6588



YARD ART

By Virginia Clifford Anders

The sound of gently moving water permeates the Bushouse haven. Theirs is an organic design, having evolved over about a year. Their yard evolved, section by section. They began with a yard of old grass, a diseased Mulberry tree and gnarled dead rose bushes. The yard on the west side of the house had to be cleaned out and scraped. They built a planter box under the bedroom window and one along the driveway.

Because the soil is full of caliche, they ordered river rock and several accent boulders from Bedrock Stone Co. rather than struggle with grass. In the Services Guide of the Sunday newspaper TV guide, Sharon found Brian, who came with his Bobcat to help them unload and arrange the river rocks and boulders. Ducts-R-Us has a haul-away area of their yard, where they sell various pieces of irrigation pipe to cut and shape a 'river bed'. A little more such scrounging turned up a particularly elegant solution: large green funnels became 'flower pots' attached by hand-made iron holders to the raised driveway flowerbed.

The two of them have happily re-used and adapted many items. The iron pig scalding pot saved from Dick's family farm became a kind of cornucopia, trickling water along the river rock bed in the center of the yard. At a 99 Cent Store, Sharon bought several plastic pots, cut out their bottoms, and 'planted' them in the ground, to control the growth of bushes that otherwise might ultimately dominate the yard. Sharon says proudly of Dick, "He's a genius! You ought to see all the things he's invented!" One person sees a tired square of desert, while the next person sees a castle rising before their eyes...

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!

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

(Business Card Size)

Large Ad - \$14.00

(Double Business Card Size)

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