



Neighborhood Communicator

www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair

June 2004

Message from the President. . .

Is actually a message from the VP this month as Sharon recovers at home from surgery. We all wish her a speedy recovery and I ask that you all keep she and Dick in your thoughts and prayers.



Due to circumstances beyond our control the Neighborhood Mixer has been cancelled. It may be revisited at a later time.

If you have any questions, please call me at 602.309.2097 and I'll be happy to answer them.

Until next month, and Sharon is back.....Catch you over the back fence.

Hugh

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS BY HUGH LANDER

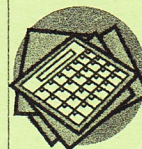
May 19th – Is it just me, or does it seem like there are more houses for sale in BelAir than there has been in a long time? In some ways, this is exciting, because we get a better feel for what property values really are and because we might get some great neighbors in the bargain as well. On the other hand, when I see so many houses for sale at the same time, I get concerned. I know that the temptation for the seller is to rent their house out instead of selling it, especially when mortgage rates are so low.

Now don't get me wrong – we have some fantastic looking rental properties in BelAir, along with some equally fantastic rental occupants! Many are active in the community and are valuable neighbors to have.

Unfortunately, some landlords don't screen their rental applicants as well as they should and our quality of life that we've all worked so hard for begins to decline.

So, what can you do to help? Help your neighbors sell their house. Make sure that any trash or weeds nearby are cleared. Be friendly, wave to people you don't know. Remember when you bought your house? How

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Dates To Remember

2nd Saturday of each month - BelAir Board Meeting

1st Full Week of each Month - BelAir Litter Free Week

2004 General Meeting Calendar

June 19 - **Cancelled**
September - Fall event
November 13 - Holiday Event

Top Three Crime Prevention Tips for June

1. Call Crime Stop at 602.262.6151 when you see something suspicious – you are not 'bothering' the police!
2. If your house has an alley behind it, please trim down the bushes and oleanders.
3. And as always, leave your porch lights on at night to deter crime!

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

HERE'S A NEW COLUMN FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS WE GET FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS AND THE ANSWERS THEY ARE GIVEN. IT'S JUST A WAY FOR US TO SHARE INFORMATION

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BelAir Neighborhood Association

Financial Status

Balance as of 4/30/2004

GENERAL FUND: \$1,422.49

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

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

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Vacant (2005)

Vacant (2006)

Vacant (2006)

Vacant (2006)

Minute by Minute

The May 8, 2004 BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am, at the Bushouse residence, 1739 West Montecito.

The April minutes were approved as presented. The April Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. There is \$1,422.49 in the BelAir Neighborhood Association General Fund. The Board made our first alley lighting payment to APS for \$39.05.

EDITORIAL NOTE: THE BELAIR MIXER HAS BEEN CANCELLED, SEE GENERAL MEETING CALENDAR ON PAGE 1.

Our next BelAir Neighborhood Association General Meeting is Saturday, June 19, 2004 at 6:00 pm. Our BelAir Neighborhood Mixer will be held at the north end of the 16th Avenue cul de sac. We will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas. There will be a fire truck there from the Phoenix Fire Department, there will also be a Police car there from the Phoenix Police Department. We will have balloons for the kids and a raffle for an Avon Gift Basket. Bring a side dish to share. Bring lawn chairs too. All BelAir Neighbors are welcome.

The BelAir Preservation Committee is working on Yard of the Quarter, Litter Free Weeks at the beginning of every month and the ongoing Historic Neighborhood process. Their next meeting is May 27, 2004, at

6:30 pm at the Johnson residence, 4249 North 15th Drive. Call Board Member Roshelle Johnson for more info.

Thanks to everyone who helped out on the last BelAir Neighborhood Rummage Sale, April 24th, at the Bushouse residence. We made \$120 for the General Fund.

Community Update: The new Melrose Art Installation/Park/Walkway around 7th Avenue and Glenrosa is now complete. The first day to put out your bulk trash is May 8th, the collection begins May 17th. Call the City of Phoenix if your trash was not picked up. Please, no dumping in other peoples dumpsters. Did you know the City of Phoenix will come out and pick up an old appliance from you for \$10? Call 602 262 7251 for more information.

Block Watch reports no crime in the last month. Call Block Watch Chairman Hugh Lander at 602 309 2097 if you see anything suspicious in the neighborhood. You can also e mail information to belairblockwatch@hotmail.com.

The BelAir Neighborhood Association would like to thank Dr. Trini Sandoval, Chairman of the Spanish Language Department at Phoenix College, for helping us with our Spanish Welcome Packet and Spanish inserts for the newsletter. Thanks to Hugh Lander too.

Thanks to Virginia Anders for

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did it make you feel if someone waved, or didn't wave? Or when you saw trash in the gutters, overgrown lawns or non-working vehicles. Those little things go a long way to selling a house, as well as 'selling' BelAir as a great place to live.

On another note, we had a few crimes since last month – I guess I spoke too soon about our stats! Specifically, we had another break-in at the church school, as well as two daytime burglaries in the middle of the neighborhood. Please keep your eyes open for strangers and strange vehicles and call the police!!

Friends, as always, please know you are not alone in your care and concern about BelAir. If you would like to anonymously report something, you should always call the Police Department and feel free to email me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com or call me at 602.309.2097. Of course I will be at the Neighborhood Mixer on June 19th. I welcome you to seek me out and voice your concerns.

Be Water Smart!

A simple way to conserve water is to adjust your automatic sprinklers to maximize their effort. A few rules of thumb to follow:

- Water early in the morning (before 8 AM). If you run your sprinklers past 8 AM, the majority of the water will evaporate before it reaches the ground.
- Now is the best time of the year to de-thatch your lawns. While Bermuda grass is actively growing, through August, your lawn will recover more quickly and you'll be able to use less water in the summer for a greener lawn, as the water will have an easier time reaching the roots.
- It is better to water longer, less frequently, than a short time each day. As a rule, you should water about once or twice a week for about 20 minutes per zone.

The Arizona Republic prints a recommended watering guide each day on the weather page.

COUNTYWIDE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Extra! Extra! Read Your Way to the Ballpark," the free countywide reading program co-sponsored by the Arizona Diamondbacks and The Arizona Republic, gets under way Monday, June 7.

Thirteen library systems representing 48 libraries throughout Maricopa County are participating in the special summer program that

runs through July 31. The reading program is open to youths from infants to teens. Children who are not old enough to read can participate by having someone read to them.

This year's program features a new game board, new prizes, special programs at participating libraries and a new spokesman, D-Backs pitcher Mike Koplove.

By reading 20 minutes, 50 pages or one book, participants advance on the game board and earn prizes along the way. Readers who reach the finish line can earn bonus prizes - a ticket to a Diamondbacks baseball game, plus a chance to attend an Arizona Republic baseball clinic for kids.

Last year, more than 95,000 children signed up for the program.

For more information, call your local library or visit summerreading.azcentral.com



School is out for the summer. Slow down while driving thru the neighborhood. Watch out for children crossing the streets!

*Vote for the
Yard of the Quarter
by calling
Roshelle Johnson
at 602-437-0734
Before
the 15th of July 2004*

Yard Art

By Virginia Clifford Anders

Gustavo and Sandra Lopez are the proud owners of the amazingly transformed home at the southeast corner of 15th Drive and Glenrosa. It would not be much of an over-statement to say everybody's been talking about this family's project.

It was apparent when I talked to him that Gustavo holds a special affection for their trees. The center of their front yard is commanded by a beautiful, mature shade tree which Gustavo refers to as "the old man." There is an even fuller version of this robust tree on the north side of their property. See, Gustavo might say, the old man doesn't grow nearly so well without the old lady tree nearby. Across the street, look how there is only one tree? That is a lonely old man tree. He is struggling. And indeed, that is exactly how these trees seem to me too.

For many of the homeowners I've talked to, their yards are a kind of gardener's playground. Experimenting is as compelling for them as creating some master plan. But for the Lopez family, Sandra's brother designed the form of the yard. From the results it is easy to see why this is his business also.

There are small, softly-curved islands of green grass separated from the expanse of red gravel by sandstone-colored concrete

dividers. Delicate flowers show up brightly against the sandy-rose gravel. At each of the two entrances, sentinel sphere-topped columns create a dramatic, almost formal effect. The house has been repainted, the windows have come to life, and the front door shows a new image as the formal entryway.

Gustavo renovates antique furniture for a living, which speaks to his preference for giving new life to what had once been tired and worn. He said many people ask him if they are moving away because so many homeowners seem to take on such grand projects in order to attract buyers. Gustavo said he and his family love living in BelAir. They have good friends across the street and I have new friends now to practice my Spanish with from time to time!

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WITH ALL OUR BELAIR NEIGHBORS.

QUESTION: I HAVE A NEIGHBOR THAT ONLY CUTS THEIR GRASS A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR AND THEN PILES THE CLIPPINGS NEXT TO THEIR HOUSE CREATING

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selling 3 ads in the last months newsletter.

Volunteer hours: Sharon 20, Hugh 14, Mark 8, Todd 6, Roshelle 10, Boyd 5, Pastor Wilfong 12, Virginia 6, Jim and Judi, 8. Please call or e mail a Board Member if you have volunteer hours to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am. The next BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Meeting will be Monday, June 7, 2004 at 6:30 pm. It will be at the Bushouse residence, 1739 West Montecito.

A DEFINITE FIRE HAZARD. WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THIS WITHOUT ME HAVING TO CONFRONT MY NEIGHBOR?

ANSWER: THE CITY OF PHOENIX AND THE PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT ARE TAKING A HARD LINE ON ANYONE THAT LET'S THEIR YARD GROW INTO A FIRE HAZARD OR THAT CREATES A FIRE HAZARD IN THEIR YARD BECAUSE OF OUR ONGOING DROUGHT. YOUR CAN DO YOURSELF AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD A FAVOR BY REPORTING YARDS THAT ARE NEGLECTED TO THE CITY OF

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BULK TRASH REMINDER!!

The city picked up bulk trash at the end of May and the next pickup is scheduled for the week of August 16th, with placement beginning August 7th. Here are some reminders for you:

- You must have your bulk trash out **NO LATER THAN** August 15th. We have several residents in the neighborhood who have put their trash out late. If this is you, please make arrangements to have it hauled away. City of Phoenix residents can dump trash at any of the City Dumps on the weekend for free. All you need is an ID and a copy of your water bill.
- No construction materials will be picked up. This includes concrete, rock, or glass.
- If your trash barrel is picked up on the street, you **MUST DISPOSE OF YOUR BULK TRASH ON THE STREET, AS WELL.** We have several alleys that are full of bulk trash because people are dumping there and the City does not pick up there. Again, only place bulk trash where your normal trash pickup occurs.

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PHOENIX, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT, NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION DIVISION. THE PERSON THAT REPRESENTS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS GABE RAMIREZ AND HE CAN BE REACHED AT 602-262-4644. HOWEVER GABE IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL REASONS BUT THE PERSON THAT IS TAKING HIS PLACE IS DAVE AND HE CAN BE REACHED AT 602-262-4643. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL AND GIVE HIM THE ADDRESS AND HE WILL COME OUT AND TAKE A LOOK. IF THERE IS A VIOLATION OF THE CITY CODE HE WILL INFORM THE HOME OWNER AND GIVE THEM A SPECIFIED TIME TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION. REPEATED VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN LEGAL ACTION BY THE CITY OF PHOENIX.

WE RECENTLY HAD A RESIDENT WHO RECEIVED A NASTY LETTER FROM SOMEONE REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THEIR YARD. YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DOES NOT ENDORSE THIS TYPE OF BE-

HAVIOR. OUR TAX DOLLARS PAY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND WE MUST ALL USE THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL AVENUES OPEN TO US TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS IN BELAIR.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT ENFORCES CITY OF PHOENIX CODES THAT INCLUDE THINGS LIKE, ILLEGAL PARKING, (ON SIDEWALKS OR ON AREAS OF YARDS THAT AREN'T PROPERLY SURFACED) DISABLED VEHICLES, IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED FENCES, WEED CONTROL AND FIRE HAZARDS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THIS DEPARTMENT DOES YOU CAN CALL THEIR GENERAL INFORMATION NUMBER AT 602-262-7844.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? JUST CALL ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS AND WE'LL GET YOU AN ANSWER AND IF IT'S OF GENERAL INTEREST WE'LL SHARE THE ANSWER WITH ALL OF OUR BELAIR NEIGHBORS.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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**PROCEDURE FOR
SUBMITTING ADS**

Two easy Steps:

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

(A check or cash **MUST** be received before the ad will appear in the newsletter.)

Small Ad - \$7.00
(Business Card Size)

Large Ad - \$14.00
(Double Business Card Size)

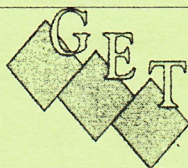
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TERA'S GARDEN

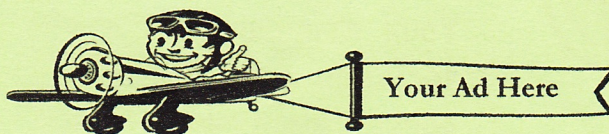
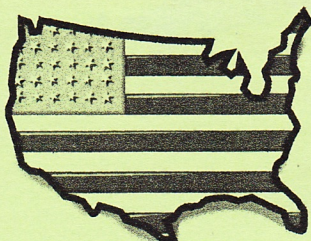
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