



# Neighborhood Communicator

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair)

March 2004

## Message from the President. . .

Looks like the alley lights will be staying on a little longer thanks to the wonderful response to our rummage sale January 31<sup>st</sup>.



I want to thank all those who contributed items, helped set up, stayed and helped and Todd and Linda Shealy for allowing us to use their home. I was quite surprised at how many of our neighbors did not know that we had to pay to keep the alley lights on that we had installed.

The 301 Block Watch Grant team did a great job and the grants have been submitted. Here's hoping that we get at least one of them. It would sure help to keep the neighborhood projects we want done accomplished.

Tom Simplot will be the guest speaker at our March 11 General Meeting. We will also have our Elections that evening.

We have been invited by the City to take part in a Neighborhood Spring Training event on April 17 with free workshops & networking in conjunction with APS & the Diamondbacks. How cool is that!

The annual Neighborhood Rummage Sale will be on April 24 so start collecting your treasures now.

Until next month.....Catch you over the back fence.....

Shar

Happy 57<sup>TH</sup>  
Birthday BelAir!

*Just a friendly reminder.....*



**General Meeting**

**March 11th**

**Guest Speaker**

**Councilman**

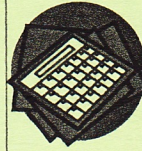
**Tom Simplot**

**7:30 PM**

***Belair Election Night***

*Join us for a great speaker, Easter raffle, BelAir's Birthday cake and the election of Board Members for the Belair Association.*

*Clip and fill out your ballot (on page 3) and drop it in the ballot box*



**Dates  
To  
Remember**

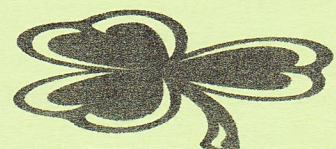
2nd Saturday of each month -  
BelAir Board Meeting  
1st Wednesday of each month  
- BelAir Litter Free Day  
2nd Tuesday each month  
Planning Committee Mtg  
April 24, 2004 - BelAir Yard  
Sale

**2004 General Meeting  
Calendar**

March 11 - 7:30PM, Guest  
Speaker - Tom Simplot,  
Elections  
June 19, 2004 - 10AM, Car  
seat inspections  
September - Fall event  
November 13 - Holiday  
Event and Craft Sale

*at the meeting or fill it  
out and drop it off with  
any board member.*

*So bring a new neighbor  
and join us for a inter-  
esting evening.*



Email: [jemathew@cox.net](mailto:jemathew@cox.net)





## BelAir Neighborhood Association

### Financial Status

Balance as of 1/31/2004

GENERAL FUND: \$948.05

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

Sharon Bushouse 602 222 8718  
slbush1943@aol.com (2004)

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Hugh R. Lander 602 264 4366  
rednail64@hotmail.com (2005)

#### TREASURER

Mark Day 602 791 4003  
markdday@cox.net (2005)

#### SECRETARY

Todd Shealy 602 285 0995  
wodddco5@aol.com (2004)

#### Board Members

Virginia Anders 602 265 8498  
vcanders8@aol.com (2004)

Roshelle Johnson 602 437 0734  
crkjohnson@yahoo.com (2005)

Jim Mathew 602 263 0548  
jemathew@cox.net (2004)

Boyd Puffer 602 266 6260  
boyd\_puffer@hotmail.com (2005)

Faye E. Robbins 602 285 1902  
(2004)

Pastor Charles Wilfong 602-266-9342  
cwilfong@aol.com (2005)

Vacant (2004)

Vacant (2005)

# Minute by Minute

The February 14, 2004 BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am, at Dick and Sharon Bushouse's house, 1739 West Montecito.

The January Minutes were approved as amended. The January Treasurers Report was approved as presented. There is \$948.05 in the Association's General Fund.

The General Meeting Planning Committee met February 10<sup>th</sup> at Jim and Judi Mathew's house. Our next General Meeting is Friday, March 11, 2004 at 7:30 pm at the Martin Luther School Gym, 1830 West Glenrosa. Our District 4, Phoenix City Councilman Tom Simplot will be speaking on neighborhood crime prevention and community involvement. We are also electing new Board Members. Call Board Member Todd Shealy if you want to be a BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Member. Our next General Meeting Planning Committee meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> at Jim and Judi Mathew's house, 1642 West Montecito.

The Preservation Committee is beginning to create a BelAir Neighborhood Special Planning District. This will help us go Historic as a neighborhood. Call Roshelle Johnson if you want to help. The preservation Committee is

also moving ahead on our Neighborhood Street Sign Toppers. Call Sharon Bushouse if you want to help.

We have new BelAir Neighborhood Welcome Packets. Call Hugh Lander if you are new to the neighborhood.

The Association sent a letter to the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department, lauding the great job done by our Neighborhood Preservation Officer, Gabe Rameriz. Thanks for all the hard work Gabe!

Our Association Rummage Sale January 31, 2004 made over \$500! We now have money to keep all our alley lights bright for the coming year. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard!

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual BelAir Rummage Sale is April 24, 2004. Every neighbor is encouraged to have a rummage sale and support our BelAir Rummage Sale at Dick and Sharon Bushouse's house, 1739 West Montecito.

BelAir Neighbors need to stay vigilant against crime. Please report all crime, suspicious activity or graffiti to Board Member Hugh Lander or [BelAirBlock-Watch@Hotmail.Com](mailto:BelAirBlock-Watch@Hotmail.Com).

The BelAir Neighborhood

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



(Continued from page 2)

Association is participating in an Arizona Public Service and Arizona Diamondbacks Neighborhood Spring Training Event April 17, 2004. There will be free City of Phoenix, Neighborhood Services Department workshops and plenty of networking opportunities. Call Board Member Boyd Puffer if you want to go.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am. The next BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Meeting will be Saturday, March 12, 2004, at 8:30 am at Dick and Sharon Bushouse's house, 1739 West Montecito.

## Lights on...for Now

Thanks to the generosity of many of our BelAir neighbors, the hard work of a few and good weather for bargain-hunters, our recent Association rummage sale raised almost \$500 to help us keep the alley and canal lights lit!

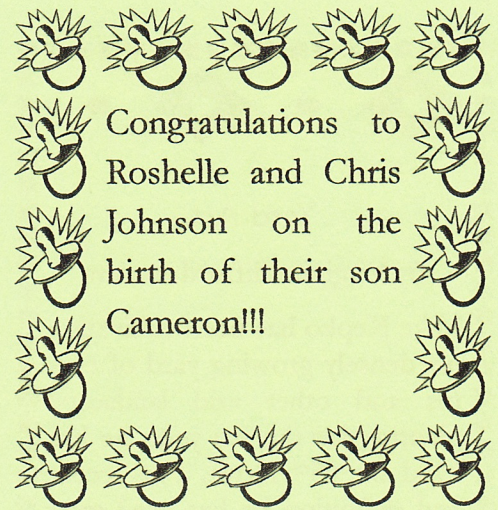
As you may remember from the last newsletter, the funding for our lighting runs out this month. The money from the yard sale will keep these lights on until June and we hope to get grant funding in July.

Some of you have even contacted me to say you'd be willing to pay for a light yourself if that means keeping them on. I'd like to say thank you and stay tuned to see whether or not we'll need your help.

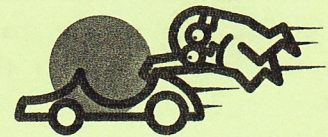
Again, let's be proactive as neighbors and discuss worst-case scenarios with those who live around us. In the meantime, don't forget to leave your front-porch lights on at night – for safety's sake.

Sincerely,

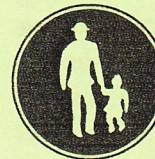
The Lighting Committee.



Congratulations to Roshelle and Chris Johnson on the birth of their son Cameron!!!



A number of our neighbors have expressed a growing concern about speeding cars through our neighborhood.



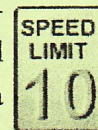
This is a residential neighborhood where the established speed limit is 25 miles per

hour.



When you are driving in our neighborhood please slow down and obey the speed limit. If you see a car speeding get their license plate number and give it to a board member. We are working with the Phoenix Police to keep our neighborhood safe.

Help prevent having to install speed humps or get a lower posted speed!! Encourage anyone driving in our neighborhood to obey the law!



## It's Election Time

### BelAir Neighborhood

### Association

### 2004 Election Ballot

Please indicate your vote by placing an "x" next to the name or writing in the candidate of your choice. Vote for no more than six.

\_\_\_\_ Virginia Anders

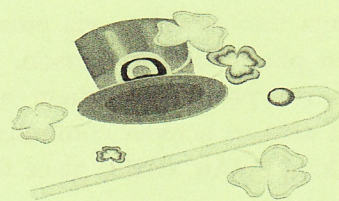
\_\_\_\_ Sharon Bushouse

\_\_\_\_ Todd Shealy

\_\_\_\_ (Write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ (Write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ (Write-in) \_\_\_\_\_



*Vote for the*

*Yard of the Quarter*

*by calling Roshelle Johnson  
at 602-437-0434 before the  
15th of March 2004.*



## Yard Art

By Virginia Clifford Anders

Mike Kepko has been cultivating his densely growing yard of cactus and other arid landscape planting for the ten years he has lived on 15<sup>th</sup> Drive. For accent and definition he has used river rocks to surround some areas and outline the narrow path from the front porch to the street.

His warm smile, framed by grey and white whiskers, greeted me as a friend not as an unknown neighbor, when I stopped by to ask him about his yard late one afternoon. Here and there among the flowers, vines and stalks it was obvious that he had been hard at work in the mid-winter Arizona sun. A small host of newly-dug up Aloe Vera plants had been laid on their sides on his driveway. These weren't discarded plants but ones now available for transplant from his rich earth to some other garden space.

Several versions of my favorite succulent family, aloe, grow in abundance in Mike's yard, among them: Aloe Vera, Coral Aloe, and Aloe Barbadensis. As a desert rat who appreciates a good shade tree, I told Mike I admired the two well-tended mesquites on the north side of his yard. Though he too likes these trees, Mike allowed that they have been a bit disappointing because of their aggressive root systems and fast-growing foliage, which he hadn't antici-

pated. His preference would have been Desert Museum Palo Brea but he couldn't find one when he was ready to plant. Mike's Red Flax plants grew so enthusiastically one year, with their chorus of red flowers that strangers and neighbors stopped by to take pictures and talk to him about them. But when he planted more the following year, he found they needed more water than his drip system provided so they haven't done as well. Once he has adjusted the watering system Mike is going to put in Blue Flax, which will add a striking contrast to the Red Flax.

Mike's friends tell him "You have too much of everything in the yard," but he just smiles and keeps right on tending to his garden.

## WE MUST BE VIGILANT

BY HUGH LANDER

Feb 16th - I've had some great interactions with a lot of BelAir residents this month - via email, on the phone and in person. It makes me proud that there are people who are actively committed to making BelAir a safer place for everyone.

You too can take an active role in making BelAir safer. The most important thing you can do is to be vigilant and report what you see. Don't keep things to yourself or think that "someone else will take care of it." Unfortunately I hear from many neighbors that they don't want to get involved - they don't want to be a bother, to

their neighbors, the association, to Neighborhood Services or the police. That's the worst kind of thinking we can have! The reality is in today's world, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Trust me, I know - calling repeatedly works!

Is your neighbor's house a blight? Are they running an unlicensed business out of their home? Trash in the yard that won't get picked up? Call Neighborhood Services at 602 - 262 - 4644. Vagrants camping in alleys or canals, living in someone's oleanders? Suspicious drug or vehicle activity? Loud music past 11 PM? Call the Phoenix Police Department's non-emergency line at 602 - 262 - 6151 and report anonymously.

Unfortunately the Police Department is stretched thin and they cannot maintain the presence in BelAir that they would like to when so many other neighborhoods are much worse off. We need to take responsibility and maintain vigilance. We can't barricade BelAir to keep people out (nor should we want to), but we can take action and ask others for help.

Friends, please know you are not alone in your care and concern about BelAir. If you would like to anonymously report something, call the Police Department or you can email me at [belair-blockwatch@hotmail.com](mailto:belair-blockwatch@hotmail.com) or call me at 602 - 264 - 4366.

The Planning Committee is still looking for crafters. Join us at the Mathew's home the 2nd Tuesday of the month.....



**Please don't continue  
breaking the law?**

**Parking on the sidewalk is illegal. Phoenix Code of Ordinances, Section 36-134.01, states parking on the sidewalk is illegal. We've noticed a number of vehicles continue to park on the sidewalks of the BelAir Neighborhood. This forces children and adults into the road to get around the vehicle. Please don't break the law!!**

**Help us keep BelAir a pleasant place to live!**

**Are you a**

**"Trash Can Violator"?**

**Phoenix Code of Ordinances, Section 27-19 J, states that trash and recycle containers can be placed at the curb after 6 PM the day before the collection date and must be removed by 5:30 AM the day after the collection date.**

**Please help us keep BelAir a pleasant place to live!**



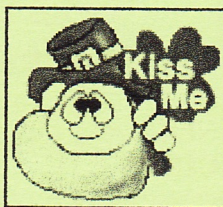
## History of

### St. Patrick's Day

Contrary to many American's belief, St. Patrick Day is a holy day. It is a celebration of the death of the patron saint of Ireland. The day is celebrated with parades, speeches, dinners, dances and a whole lotta green in America!

St. Patrick was actually from Britain but was taken a slave by a group of Irish raiders. After being taken to Ireland, he worked by himself as a shepherd. He took solace in his religion when he was lonely and scared.

St. Patrick is said to have driven the snakes from Ireland. However, this is just a legendary myth, due to the fact there never were any snakes to begin with. He is said to have come up with the meaning of trinity when out herding, he was talking with a group of youngsters and he bent down to spit up a shamrock. He talked about the 'God, the Son and the Holy Ghost'.



## Are you crafty?

Would you be interested in joining our group once a month to create holiday gifts that we can sell in November? The money received from the sale of these items will go to help with the costs of running the association and helping the neighborhood. We will be having a planning meeting on March 9, 7PM at 1642 West Monterosa St. At this meeting we hope to pick several crafts (easy or hard) to start making and have ready for a craft sale in November. If you would like more information call Judi at 602-263-0548. Hope to see you on the 10th!

*May your joys be as bright  
as the morning, and your  
sorrows merely be shadows  
that fade in the sunlight of  
love. \* May you have enough  
happiness to keep you sweet  
\* Enough trials to keep you  
strong \* Enough sorrow to  
keep you human \* Enough  
hope to keep you happy  
\* Enough failure to keep you  
humble \* Enough success to  
keep you eager \* Enough  
friends to give you comfort \*  
Enough faith and courage in  
yourself to banish sadness \*  
Enough wealth to meet your  
needs \* And one thing more;  
Enough determination to  
make each day a wonderful  
day than the one before. ~  
Irish Blessing*



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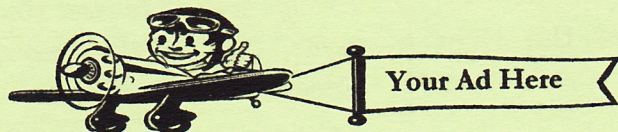
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*Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!*



Email: jemathew@cox.net