



Neighborhood Communicator

www.neighborhoodlink.com/phoenix/belair

February 2004

Message from the President. . .

How many of us have kept our New Year's Resolutions?



We always start off with good intentions and then *poof!* they're gone. Me too! Well, we have the rest of the year to make up for it, right?

The members of the Board are off and running! Pastor Wilfong is back on the Board and we are really happy to have him. He is such a diligent and hard working man. Thank you for joining our ranks again. Hugh Lander (our new Vice President) is also our new Block Watch person. Great job Hugh! Hugh has also taken the time to re-do the Welcome Packages, both in Spanish and English! We still need some more members, so check and see if you can't spare a little time for the good of all of us in the neighborhood. I know that all of you have talents to share even if you think you don't. Give it a try.

The Block Watch 301 Grant is about ready. How exciting! We are having a Rummage Sale on January 31st at Todd Shealy's to benefit the Neighborhood. Call Todd or Boyd if you would like anything picked up. Now is a good time for Spring Cleaning. By the way, did you notice that the newsletter has grown? We now have an insert. We can

Lights on for Safety

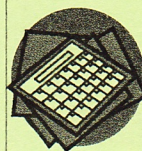
If there is one thing we know deters crime and criminals, it is light. In fact, light is perhaps the most effective deterrent. Your Neighborhood Association especially realizes the value of alley lighting in discouraging illegal activity. That's why, in previous years we asked for and received funding for 22 alley lights throughout BelAir.

Unfortunately, that grant money will run out in March. Your board is actively involved in submitting proposals for the next round of grants but that funding will not happen until July. Where that leaves us is here: We need about \$600 to keep those alley lights on between now and July. There is no guarantee that we will receive funding in July as the city has more neighborhoods competing for a limited amount of money.

Where are these alley lights? All over BelAir:

- Alley that runs north/south parallel to 15th Ave to the Grand Canal
- Alley that runs east/west parallel to Indian School from 18th Ave to Westview Drive
- Alley that runs east/west parallel to Glenrosa from 19th Avenue to Westview Drive
- Irrigation canal that runs

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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
February 7 - Begin Bulk trash
placement
February 16 - Begin Bulk trash
pickup
April 17, 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

thank our advertisers for that. Be sure and mention that you saw their ad if you utilize their services.

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

Shar

Email: jemathew@cox.net



BelAir Neighborhood Association

Financial Status

Balance as of 12/31/2003

GENERAL FUND: \$1,026.61

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

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Vacant

Vacant

Minute by Minute

The January 10, 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 December Minutes were approved as presented. The December Treasurers Report was approved as presented. There is \$1,026.61 in the BelAir Neighborhood Association General Fund.

The General Meeting Planning Committee Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 pm. They are at Jim and Judy Mathew's house, 1642 West Monterosa.

The next BelAir Neighborhood Association General meeting is March 11, 2004, at 7:30 pm, at the Martin Luther School Gym. Our Phoenix City Councilman Tom Simplot, will be our Guest Speaker.

The next Preservation Meetings are January 20th and 27th at 6:30 pm at Dick and Sharon Bushouse's house, 1739 West Montecito.

Our BelAir Neighborhood Communicator has gone to 6 pages! It

contained more ads last month than ever before. All articles and ads are due the 20th of every month.

The 301 Block Watch Grant Writing Committee reported that 22 BelAir Neighborhood alley lights are scheduled to go dark by June of this year. Our BelAir 2004 301 Block Watch Grant proposal asks for funds to prevent this. A BelAir Lighting Committee was formed with Hugh Lander as Chair. If we don't get the funds from the city, BelAir Neighbors will be billed by APS (the four neighbors around the alley light) or the alley lights will go dark. The 301 Block Watch Grant proposal is right on schedule to be turned in February 4, 2004.

Our next Bulk Trash Pick Up starts February 7th.

SRP oiled the canal from 15th Avenue to 19th Avenue to keep the dust down.

Anyone interested in being on the BelAir Neighborhood Welcoming Committee? We need more neighbors to help. Call a Board

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(Continued from page 2)

Member if you are interested.

Please remember our next BelAir Rummage Sale at Todd and Lynda Shealy's house, 1628 West Monterosa, Saturday, January 31st, at 7:00 am.

Please report any BelAir Neighborhood crime to Board Member Hugh Lander.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am. The next BelAir Neighborhood Association Board Meeting will be Saturday, February 7, 2004, at 8:30 am at Dick and Sharon Bushouse's house, 1739 West Montecito.

Enthusiastic, Caring,

Interested folks are needed

We have 2 Board vacancies to fill and need your help now! Please call Sharon Bushouse at 602-222-8718 and volunteer for one of these positions.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT...

REMODELING, REFINANCING OR CONSOLIDATING DEBT?

I CAN HELP.

My family and I live in the BelAir Neighborhood. I have a vested interest in seeing my neighbors prosper.

CALL ME FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

Chris Johnson

"My Mortgage Guy"

Office: (602) 870-5522 Cell: (602) 663-0094

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)

Classified Ads

WANTED

Cotton or cotton blend fabric scraps for quilt. (including denim)

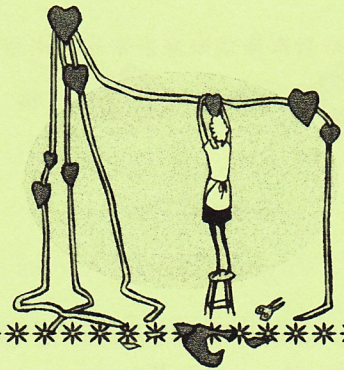
Pre-1960 Christmas Ornaments

Anna Blevins - 266-6340

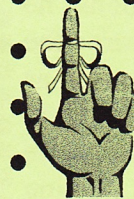
FOR SALE

Have aches & pains? Try my Flax Seed Bags. Various sizes run from \$2-\$16. Heat in Microwave or put in freezer. Makes great Christmas or anytime presents.

Sharon Bushouse - 222-8718



*
* Are you crafty? Would you be in-
* terested 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 February 10, TPM 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!



Mark your
Calendar

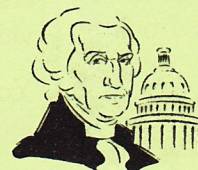
Guest Speaker for
our March Meeting

Councilman

Tom Simplot

Presidents Day

February 16



BelAir
Neighborhood
Association

Yard Art

By Virginia Clifford Anders

This month I'm excited to describe the groundbreaking project I discovered on one of my recent walks. I met Frank and Stephanie Hernandez, who became BelAir neighbors six years ago. They both work and have two young daughters, Jessica and Rayna, who are cheerleaders at their respective schools. Frank and Stephanie are almost-natives because their respective parents moved back to Arizona from California while they were still very young.

As a machinist for the City of Scottsdale, Frank works next door to Scottsdale's Parks and Recreation maintenance shop, and has mined the gardeners' knowledge over the last two years in preparation for his first desert landscaping project. From those conversations he learned how to prepare the ground using chemicals such as Round-up and a pre-emergent which attacks the seeds in the soil without harming existing plants or the animal neighbors.

Frank and Stephanie hired help to scrape the yard clean of existing weeds and plants. They contracted for several tons of clean dirt to be delivered, which Frank is now shaping into decorative mounds in the middle of the yard. Bedrock Stone Co. will deliver three tons of river rock and twenty

tons of ½" Apache Pink rock soon. Frank's brothers and nephews will help him spread the dirt and rock.

Two of his neighbors have offered "starter plants" from their gardens, which saved him money and time. Besides, now they have a vested interest in his success. One of his neighbors worked for ten years to develop his garden. Frank said of his own yard "I can't take that long!" Perhaps later this year we can look in again on their project. In the meantime, happy digging, Frank and Stephanie!

(Continued from page 1)

east/west parallel to Heatherbrae from 18th Drive to Westview

- And a few random spots around BelAir

These areas were specifically chosen by the Lighting Committee as areas that are likely to attract crime.

So what happens if we don't get the funding? APS estimates that a single light's operating cost at \$10 to \$12 dollars per month, but that cost cannot be split among accounts – that is, one household must have the billing for that specific light on their APS bill. We know that many of you are more than willing to pay the cost in order to protect your property. Others of you may take the safety provided by these lights for granted.

Your Lighting Committee is not looking to cause a panic here but

to simply lay out the facts. We are hoping that the Rummage Sale held on January 31st makes enough money to cover the bill from March to June and that our funding will come through in July.

What should you do now? We recommend that you prepare for the chance that we will not receive funding. If you haven't done so lately, take a look out your back door tonight at your alley lighting, if you have it. Knock on your neighbor's door if they share the benefit of that light and discuss arrangements for funding.

And as a reminder, Block Watch also recommends that you leave on your outside light all night and not turn them off when you go to bed. If possible, install a photoelectric cell so your lights automatically go on and off.

If you would like to know specifically about lights near your house, please contact Hugh Lander at 602.264.4366 or email belairblockwatch@hotmail.com

Happy Valentine's Day

Vote for the

Yard of the Quarter

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

ALERT! - HELP US KEEP BELAIR SAFE & SECURE

BY HUGH LANDER

In my last column, I told you I would keep you up to date on crime and safety here in BelAir. As the Block Watch Coordinator, I'm always looking for ways that we can make our neighborhood better.

Unfortunately, in my frequent patrols around BelAir, I've noticed that we have attracted a large number of vagrants. Specifically, they seem to have targeted the area along the Grand Canal as well as the irrigation canal pathways that run south of Glenrosa from 19th Avenue to 17th Avenue.

Our warm winter weather always means an increase in the homeless population. Although some of these unfortunate people are honest, and just between jobs or housing, most have mental illness or substance abuse issues, and often resort to crime to fuel their habits. Another attraction, especially near the canals, are the oleanders that provide cover and protection from the elements.

In many neighborhoods, these people form a network, and inform others about 'safe' places to camp. It would appear that we have several of these camps in and around BelAir.

What can you do to help? There are several actions that you can take, particularly if your property adjoins the Grand Canal or an irrigation canal;

Be vigilant and observant. If a vagrant feels that no one will disturb them, they'll stay put. You

may always call the Phoenix Police Non-Emergency Line at 602 262-6151 to report a squatter.

If you see evidence of a camp, clean it up. They'll get the message quickly that they are not welcome in BelAir. They'll also know they are being watched. If you are unable to clean an area yourself, or feel unsafe doing so, please email me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com or call me at 602 309-2097, and it will be taken care of.

Trim back the oleanders and other shrubs that provide cover and camouflage. We will be asking the police to step up patrols, and their spotlights reach much further without obstructions. Again, if you are unable to do this, contact me or any association board member and we will arrange to get it done.

Don't encourage vagrancy by feeding or otherwise providing assistance. There are many agencies in Phoenix that are devoted to helping those down on their luck. You may call the City of Phoenix Human Services Department at 602 262-4520, or check the City of Phoenix website at <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/CITZASST/homeless> for more information.

Again, by working together we can make BelAir safe & secure. Rest assured that others are as concerned as you are; you are not alone. If you have any questions, comments, or want to get involved, email me at belairblockwatch@hotmail.com or call me at 602 309-2097.

We are actively seeking volunteers to get involved with

Block Watch or the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol. Contact me for more information.

Here's to reduction in crime in 2004!

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!

Janna's

Pinnacle Gardens

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to your dinner table

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10am - 2pm

20th Street and Camelback

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