



BelAir Neighborhood Communicator

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD & INDIVIDUAL YARD SALE

Saturday, April 22, 2006 at 7am

4322 N 16th Drive

Donate Items to the BelAir Association for a Fund Raiser
on April 21 Between 6pm and 9pm at the Address Above

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, MAY 11, 2006

Topics: Elections, Light Rail, Disaster Response

American Evangelical Church

1830 W Glenrosa Ave

HAPPY SPRING

BelAir Board**PRESIDENT**

Susan Thompson-McHugh
(602) 604-8629
camus01@earthlink.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Steve Armenta
earmenta@cox.net

SECRETARY

Virginia Anders
(602) 265-8498
vanders@cox.net

TREASURER

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaime Canedo
jcanedo1@cox.net

Betty Dales
(602) 265-4856

Sherri Gallagher
(602) 265-0304
sherrigallagher@hotmail.com

Jonathan Massey
jmassey@asualumni.org

Boyd Puffer
boyd_puffer@hotmail.com

Chris Sheedy
(602) 540-0328

Charles Wilfong
(602) 266-9342
uwilfong@aol.com

Graffiti Busters
602-495-7014

The BelAir Neighborhood Association publishes the *Neighborhood Communicator* monthly.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who make this project possible.

\$

Account Balances

As of Feb 28, 2006:

BelAir General Account - \$1,207.44

BelAir 301 Block Grant Account - \$3,693.83

\$

Minute by Minute BelAir Board Minutes

Meeting began at 7:20 p.m. on March 2, 2006

In Attendance: Susan Thompson McHugh, Jonathan Massey, Mark Day, Sherri Gallagher, Steve Armenta, Charles Wilfong, and Virginia Anders.

Treasurer's Report:
See Above

Grant Projects Update: No formal Block-Watch report, but there are at least two street meetings being planned for April. **301 BlockWatch:** The security doors are being installed. Five of them are already installed and the remaining five are expected to be mounted by the end of March. The City of Phoenix won't pay for alley lighting. They consider it to be the

responsibility of the neighbors on either side of the alley who benefit from it because it is added security lighting, not a given service from the City. However, they do have funds for mid-block lighting. Mark will research this.

Committee Reports: Jonathan reported that Circle K has applied for a variance to allow environmental remediation. He is following this issue, and suspects it relates to their gasoline storage tanks.

Newsletter: The current newsletter editor is adapting her own style to the product, which is getting positive feedback from BelAir residents. Each editor seems to attract new readers to the *BelAir*

Neighborhood Communicator, which is a good sign. Articles are due by the 20th of the month.

Old Business: The garage sale scheduled for April 22nd needs a chairperson. We expect to put an ad in the Arizona Republic once other details have been confirmed.

New Business: The next General Meeting will be May 11, 2006. Subjects planned for this meeting include: Board Member elections, a speaker on the Light Rail, and a speaker on disaster preparedness.

The April board meeting will be April 4, 2006. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

The Neighborhood Yard Sale will be advertised in the Arizona Republic and on Craig's List. You can have your own sale or donate to BelAir fund raiser. Items may be donated to the BelAir Neighborhood Association and will be accepted on April 21 between 6pm-9pm at 4322 N. 16th Drive. Please contact Sherri Gallagher for other drop off arrangements.

Utility Repair & Replacement Program

The City of Phoenix Human Services Department invites Phoenix residents to participate in the Utility Repair & Replacement Program (URRD). The URRD Program provides emergency repair and replacement services to low-income households. Eligible applicants may receive services including:

- * Water heaters * Air conditioners (minor repairs) * Cooking stoves * Refrigerators
- * Evaporative coolers * Furnaces * Electrical wiring or gas systems * Water and sewer systems

To be eligible, residents must own their home and not have received URRD services in the past 12 months. Households must be below 125 percent of the poverty guidelines or below 150 percent of the poverty guidelines if the household contains one member who is at least 60 years old or disabled.

<u>Number in House</u>	<u>125% Total monthly household income</u>	<u>150% Total monthly household income</u>
1	\$980	\$1197
2	\$1336	\$1604
3	\$1676	\$2012
4	\$2016	\$2420
5	\$2355	\$2826

All applicants must provide proof of identity and citizenship. To obtain a list of acceptable verification, schedule an appointment or learn more about the program, call financial assistance at 602-262-4614.

How To Prevent Roof Rats

By Susan Thompson - McHugh

HOME PROOFING

Maintaining your home and landscape is a key factor in protecting your property from pests, such as roof rats, mice, scorpions, bees, insects and mosquitoes. Home pride and proper maintenance will ensure real estate values and keep the neighborhood viable.

HOME PROOFING

- Seal attic of all openings, cracks and holes
- Screen vent pipes, attic vents and turbines
- Install approved spark arrestor over chimney
- Fill all holes in fascia and freeze boards
- Repair door and window screens
- Check dryer and exhaust vent openings
- Secure pet doors at night
- Seal garage and storage room doors
- Inspect laundry rooms and pantry
- Inspect under kitchen and bathroom sinks

LANDSCAPE

- Cut tree branches 24" away from roof edge
- Prune interlocking trees
- Thin oleanders and clean all debris underneath
- Trim and thin all ivy, bushes, and ground cover
- Cut back foliage around fences, overhead wires
- Remove all debris piles and accumulated junk
- Organize all salvage in an orderly manner
- Stack firewood on rack 18" above the ground
- Clean up and organize any yard sheds

FOOD AND WATER SOURCES

Every back yard has numerous sources of food for unwanted pest and rodents. Vegetable gardens, fruit trees, uncovered trash containers, nut trees, pet foods and wild bird seed make a virtual wild life grocery. If roof rats or other rodents are present in your neighborhood, it would be prudent to do the following:

- Promptly and completely harvest fruit and nuts
 - Safe guard vegetable gardens
 - Do not leave pet food and water out overnight
 - Keep yard clean of pet waste
 - Feed birds on cleanable surface
 - Supervise water features, ponds and pools
 - Secure trash containers
- BBQ Grills Notice: Roof rats seem to favor BBQ grills, since they are dark and usually a source of grease and fats from recent outside cooking.
- After removing BBQ meats, increase heat and burn off greases
 - Cover grill after cooling
 - Dispose of all grease in catch basins

For more detailed information on how to prevent roof rats from making a home on your property, or what to do if they already have, just point your web browser to <http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/WATER/VECTOR/roofrats.asp>.

President's Message

By Susan Thompson - McHugh

Dear BelAir Neighbors,

Spring is in the air and our recent, much needed rain, has helped everything grow including weeds. Remember, even though we got a little rain, fire is still a concern as we move towards summer. Keep bushes and trees trimmed. This not only helps prevent fires but helps decrease concealment for criminals and vagrants.

As you clean out your garages, attics and other mis-

cellaneous nooks and crannies, remember the annual BelAir Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled on the weekend after Easter, April 22. You can participate by having a sale at your own home or by donating items to the BelAir Neighborhood Association sale to be held at 4322 N. 16th Drive (look for details throughout the newsletter) on Sherri Gallagher's front lawn. Donations will be accepted Friday, April 21st from 6-9pm at Sherri's house. Contact her if you

need to make other arrangements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our neighbors that e-mail or call us with information about BelAir Neighborhood issues. All I ask is that you leave your name and phone number or e-mail so I or one of the board members can respond directly to your concerns. Anonymous calls make it impossible to address your concerns.

SENIOR HOMEOWNER PROPERTY VALUATION

By Mark Day

In February the Maricopa County Assessor mailed out the 2007 property valuations for residential properties. I am sure most of you experienced a significant increase in your property values from your 2006 property valuation. Some of our residents may be able to qualify for a valuation freeze on their property or a partial reduction in assessed value. This would reduce the homeowner's property tax bill.

County residents aged 65 and older (at least one person on title of property) can qualify for a valuation freeze if they have lived in the home at least two years and their total income, including Social Security benefits, does not ex-

ceed \$28,944 for a single household and \$36,180 for a family household.

Widows, widowers and totally disabled people with modest property values (below \$209,050 for 2006) may qualify for a partial reduction in assessed value if their total household income, excluding social security, is less than \$25,637 or \$30,764 if children under 18 reside in the household. Disability must be total and permanent and certified by an Arizona licensed physician on form DOR 82514B.

For additional information, please contact the Maricopa County Assessor at 602.506.3406 or www.maricopa.gov/assessor.

A Special "Thank You"

For the past few months the BelAir Neighborhood Association has been advertising in the neighborhood newspaper the chance to win a new security door. Ken and I took advantage of the opportunity. We never win, but why not try.

At the end of February, our new security door was installed with great ease and it looks great. It is so nice to have the ability to open the front door and know that no one can enter without our permission.

Ken and I would like to thank the BelAir Neighborhood Association for this great gift. Thank you for helping make our neighborhood safer and more secure. Keep up the great work.

Ken and Sherri Pavlisick, 4201 N. Westview Dr.

Yard Art

By Virginia Anders

You and I know that garden nurseries, magazines and friends all encourage us to dig right in to any gardening project. Home Depot will teach us the best soil preparations, moisture levels and shading to ensure the healthiest zucchini, tomato, orange, or grapefruit harvest. But the nurseries and magazines don't talk about the Valley-wide invasion of roof rats. These rascals are roaming our neighborhoods, feasting on fruit that people haven't had time to pick up from their yards yet. They also climb any trees that are close enough to the house to provide access to the roof. Isn't that a pretty picture? As I walk or even drive around, I see yellow and orange fruit on people's yards and it's all I can do not to stop to pick them up. Am I just a Good Samaritan? No. If my neighbor has roof rats, then I am at much greater risk of having to battle them myself. Just as we need to pay attention to vandalism and blight, we need to help one another avoid the problem of pests.

Another potential pest problem is Formosan termites. Many of the trees that blew down during Hurricane Katrina were infested with

these voracious bugs that have flourished in Louisiana. Those trees are being mulched and sold to companies that sell inexpensive mulch products nation-wide in stores such as Home Depot. Please read the source of the mulch before you start your spring planting. They are able to destroy a house faster than just about any other termite we already play host to in Arizona. This information comes from the Louisiana State University website, by the way.

Something to think about for any homeowner, whether or not you are a gardener. Regular bug spraying of your property controls the kind and number of insects and pests you have to deal with inside and outside your home. One area to make sure you get sprayed consistently is any oleander hedge. They harbor the ticks that plague the family dogs. Ticks aren't just bothersome for dogs; they cause an illness called tick fever.

If you do have a particular problem that you intend to spray for, remember to tell your neighbors on either side what day you or your service will be spraying. Whatever pest it is will tend to migrate out of your yard into

theirs, which makes for some hard feelings between neighbors sometimes. Looked at another way, if you and your immediate neighbors coordinate your spraying, you are more likely to eliminate the problem rather than share it.

Ever have a problem with cockroaches? One of the sources may be the palm trees in your yard. Palm trees are home territory for pigeons, wasps, and cockroaches. Whoever trims your palm trees, therefore, not only has a nasty, messy job, but a dangerous one too. Plenty of tree trimmers have slipped and fallen out of a tree trying to avoid an angry swarm of wasps after disturbing their nest while cutting off the tree fronds. That's why tree trimming can be lucrative: it's dangerous.

A couple of words of caution: your pet may be considered a pest by a neighbor. If your pet roams freely, then he or she is at risk for harm and the neighbor is protected by law. For that matter, dog owners who don't clean up after their pets are not appreciated either. We all live in a neighborhood, not just in our hard-earned homes, so let's work together.

PHOENIX 911
When to use 911?

A serious crime

A Fire

A heart attack

Any serious medical condition

Any situation requiring IMMEDIATE response of
POLICE, FIRE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL

**FOR SITUATIONS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

Crime Stop 262-6151

After the fact report calls such as: burglary reports, theft or stolen vehicles reports, non-urgent traffic problems, complaints of loud parties

WITNESS 948-6377

Reporting information on unsolved felony crimes

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702 West Camelback
Suite 6
Phoenix, AZ 85013
p 602/234/2944
f 602/274/8037
m 602/909/3253
dlbrown@alphagraphics.com
www.phoenix106.alphagraphics.com



ADVERTISE IN THE BELAIR NEWSLETTER

Small Ad: \$7.00 (Business Card Size)
Large Ad: \$14.00 (Double Business Card Size)
Announcements: \$7.00 (Births, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Neighborhood Events)

Procedures for Submitting Ads:

1. Submit the ad by email, diskette, or printed form to Sherri Gallagher or Jonathan Massey. It must be exactly as you want it to appear in the newsletter.
2. Contact Sherri or Jonathan about how to submit your payment.