

Neighborhood Communicator

SOME THOUGHTS FROM
LONG-TIME BEL AIR RESIDENT
MARK WILLIAMS

Anomaly

This neighborhood is not normal, at least I don't think so. I remember growing up in this neighborhood, heck, the same house these last thirty-eight years and there is nothing normal about this neighborhood, as least that's what I've been told and now, after all these years, am beginning to believe.

For those of you that came to the neighborhood party a couple of weeks ago I think I can speak for you, to say to those that didn't, that it was fun. "What does that mean," some of you that didn't go, and kinda feel bad about it but don't want to admit it, might ask? Well, it depends on who you are. Fun for children, I'm sure, was different then the fun for adults. The kids, I know, had fun during the

games, and just running and playing from yard to yard, across my beautifully manicured, winter lawn (that \$6.95 bag for 900 pounds of bird seed thrown on top of St. Augustine grass without mowing it first, like it really had a chance). Chasing each other or looking with longing in their eyes at the hand crafted bikes all the while eating some combination of food that people brought. The games were kid games, although there were a few kids that appeared old enough to shave, the egg toss/RPT (rocket propelled throw), the licorice run /eat / trip race, all topped off by very, very expensive toys for the winners and those

that would have won had they of come in first.

The adults, ah, the adults, of which I respectfully admit to be one, with their 1500 piece puzzles, cold drinks, and wares for sale sought the quiet confines of the chairs to rest their aged legs and to let the sun, (con't on page 2)



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Tim Blevins (1997)
Marie Chapple Camacho (1997)
Jeannie Garcia (1997)
Lori Boukatch (1996)
Nancy Chambers (1996)
Fred Godwin (1996)
Bill Heedy (1996)
Jack Redmond (1996)

Neighborhood Hotline

266-9733

(Anomaly continued)

when it did appear, warm their faces and conversations with neighbors that they had never met before. The stream started at noon and continued throughout the afternoon. Some would arrive while others would leave, only to return again later saying it was more fun on Devonshire that day than at home. The old watched the young and the young laughed and played, the old smiled remembering some time in the past when it was their turn to RPT the egg at their partner.

Kids in the neighborhood, who feel safe in their own homes but wary of the outside world, were together with strangers but the bond of the larger family made them feel safe. They just stayed. When asked, they gave the answers that most teens and pre-teens do, thumped with "ahs" and "I dunno" the real reason was that they felt safe and a part of a family. It was like a big family reunion. People you see across the room and don't have a clue who they are. You just know from your Mom and Dad telling you that they are family.

So late that afternoon, when the tables were all picked up and the people had gone home, as I stood on my beautifully manicured winter lawn, sewn with the finest of winter rye, playing catch with my only son, standing in the same spot, the same St. Augustine, that my father had planted thirty plus years ago and having the sun just starting to bleed into the western horizon I realized that what the outsiders say about this now inner city neighborhood is true. We are not normal. Thank you God.



T-Shirts Still Available

Bel Air Neighborhood T-shirts make great Christmas gifts. They are only \$10 and all profits benefit the neighborhood association. Call our treasurer, Clara Wolf, at 265-1444 for details. Don't delay, get yours today!

The Electric Light Parade

Celebrate the Holiday season and join the fun for all ages at the Electric Light Parade on Saturday, December 7th at 7 p.m. on Central Avenue from Missouri to Thomas Road. Don't miss this one!

FREE People's Pops Concert

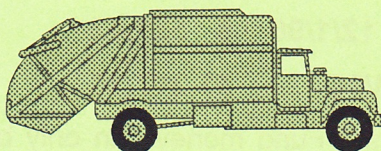
The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra will present a free People's Pops Concert on Sunday, December 15, 1996, at 7:00p.m. The holidays are not complete without this annual concert sponsored by the Fiesta Of Light. Bring the family and your friends to experience the holiday music, dance and joy that will flow freely throughout Symphony Hall this evening. Get there early to meet Santa!

The Information Corner

Be a good neighbor.

Trash and recycling bins should be put out the night before scheduled pickup days. And then, they should be put away - preferably out of sight.

Leaving them out can make the neighborhood look unsightly and the neighbors upset. So be a good neighbor. Put your trash and recycling bins away.



Neighborhood Preservation

In an effort to help you better understand City of Phoenix Code Violations, we will be featuring a three part article for the next few months on specific violations. Our February issue will also give you information on how you as a private citizen can report any of these violations as well as what will happen to you if you are the violator.

- Yard maintenance

Overgrown weeds, bushes, trees, grass and vegetation are fire and safety hazards. Yard maintenance is the responsibility of every property owner and includes the maintenance of any right of way abutting the property. Grass must be maintained at six inches or less. All shrubs in the right of way and on the property must be maintained. The branches of any tree extending over any public sidewalk, street, or other public way should be trimmed so they do not obstruct vision or the travel of motorists and people. All dead trees and vegetation must be removed and disposed of properly.

- Inoperable motor vehicles

Inoperable vehicles must not be seen from beyond the bounds of the property line. An inoperable vehicle is a vehicle that is not equipped with all parts that are required to legally and safely operate it on public streets and/or cannot be driven under its own power. Car covers, tarps, bamboo, shades and other similar types of materials are not acceptable screening.

- Junk, litter and debris

Junk, litter and debris cannot be left in the yard. It must be disposed of properly. This includes junk auto parts, appliances, furniture, building and/or landscaping material, and tires; litter such as discarded paper, cardboard, plastics, etc.; debris such as tree trimmings and fallen tree limbs; or any other items that have been discarded.



Now that we are knowledgeable on these three code violations it is hoped that we all will take a good look at our own property and correct any violations. In order to make our neighborhood a better place to live, we all need to strive to maintain our properties at even higher standards than the law requires.

Operation Community Watch

Operation Community Watch is a service provided by FAXNET1, a Block Watch grant from the City of Phoenix, Pro Act and the Phoenix Police Department. This taped message can be reached by dialing 817-0130 and is updated every Monday with the latest information on crimes that have taken place during the past week in Squaw Peak Precinct. If you want to know what is happening "crime-wise" in our neighborhood, be sure to call weekly.

Minute to Minute

This new feature of the Communicator will appear regularly. It is a brief summary of the Bel Air Neighborhood Association's Board meetings.

The last meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. on November 9, 1996. Six board positions are up for election at February's General Meeting, nominee forms to appear in the November and December newsletters with nominees to be listed in the January Communicator. Ballots for the election will be in the newsletter and available at the General Meeting. We will also try to have a speaker for the meeting.

A Committee was formed to write a neighborhood survey which will appear in the newsletter within the next couple of months. A special Board meeting will be held Monday, December 2nd, to discuss the 301 Grant - where are we now and do we need to re-allocate funds for other neighborhood safety projects. Issues have come up in the past year, i.e., scheduling of elections and some specific time requirements, that may require changes to the Bylaws. A committee will bring their recommendations to the Board and any changes deemed necessary will be submitted to the residents of the neighborhood for approval. Other topics covered at the Board meeting included; a recap of the Fall Festival, Hotline updates, progress on neighborhood blight issues from Councilman Tribken's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next regular Board meeting will be Saturday, December 14th, at 9 a.m., the location as yet to be determined. Please feel free to contact any Board member with questions or suggestions you may have. Neighborhood-wide participation is and will be the key to your association's success



Bel Air Neighborhood Association Financial Status

General Fund Balance as of 12/1/96 \$ 558.42

301 Grant Balance as of 11/8/96 \$3,317.13

****Please remember that 301 Grant Fund money can only be used for items specified in contract written at time of Grant.**

New Board Nominees

On February 5, 1997, we will be electing six new board members. Members continuing through 1997 are; Anna Blevins, Tim Blevins, Marie Chapple Camacho, Betty Dales, Jeannie Garcia, and Clara Wolf. Members vacating their seats are; Glenn Baucom, Lori Boukatch, Nancy Chambers, Fred Godwin, Bill Heedy, and Jack Redmond. These persons going off the board are eligible to be nominated for a second term if they so choose.

If you would like to nominate your neighbor or yourself, please complete the form below and drop it off at any board member's house or leave a message on the answering machine at the home of our Secretary, Betty Dales' -- 265-4856.

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address or Phone # _____

Nominated By: (optional) _____



Board Elections

Are you registered to vote?

In accordance with our Association Bylaws, members of the association who wish to vote in our election on February 5, 1997 need to be registered to vote. There are two ways to register: 1) Attending a General Meeting prior to the election. (If you attended our Fall Festival you're qualified) 2) Returning the registration form at least thirty days prior to the election. If you haven't attended a General Meeting and wish to vote February 5th, complete the registration form below and drop it off at the home of our president, Anna Blevins by January 5th.

Registration Form for 2/5/97 Election

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____



Registration Form for 2/5/97 Election

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

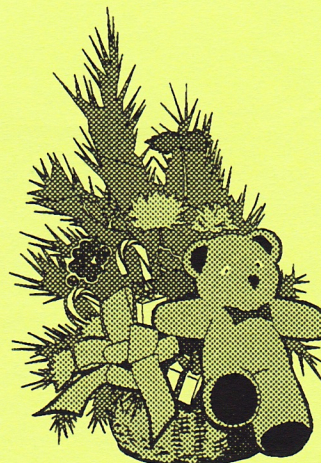


Hotline

The Neighborhood Hotline keeps you current on neighborhood happenings. It will give you information on any number of things from meeting/event dates, times and locations, to recent criminal activity here in Bel Air. The hotline will be updated weekly and any messages left on it will be retrieved at the time of update. If you know of any information you feel we should include on "your" hotline, let us know. If you need to speak to someone on a more urgent basis, please call any board member.

The Hotline is there to keep you better informed, be sure to call it weekly at 266-9733.

Happy Holidays



Bel Air Advertisements

(Ads sold here help pay newsletter production costs.)

Call 266-6340, for more about our ad rates.

Classified Ads - \$3 (25 words or less)

Support your neighborhood businesses..... Be sure to tell them you saw
their ad in the Communicator

Classifieds

Will buy: 1950 & older
Christmas ornaments - worn
OK. 1950 - 1970 American
Flyer Train & accessories.
Call Anna or Tim at 266-
6340.

Quick Start Insurance Agency

4116 N. 15th Avenue

Car - Home

Call for quote 200-9355

Your Neighborhood Carpenter

Licensed, Bonded, Insured

41 years Experience

Patio Covers - Room Additions - AZ Rooms

Car Ports - Doors - Roofs

Screened Porches - Sheetrock

General Repairs

Dell Freeman 234-2439