



BelAir Neighborhood Communicator

**The BelAir Neighborhood Association
wants to thank Tom Simplot for
joining us at our G.A.I.N. Event
and
Neighborhood Services for all of their
assistance with BelAir Clean-Up Days!**



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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 October 1, 2006:
BelAir General Account - \$1,280.14
BelAir 301 Block Grant Account - \$2,625.69

**Minute by Minute
BelAir Board Minutes**

October 5, 2006; Meeting began at 7:05pm.

In attendance: Susan Thompson-McHugh; Sherri Gallagher, Mark Day, Charles Wilfong, Boyd Puffer

Treasure's Report: (See above). No quorum to approve expenditures so board members were emailed or called for approval.

Committee Reports:
Preservation Committee: BelAir Clean-up Days. Banners on the dumpsters that read "BelAir Clean-Up Days" were purchased for \$45 from Vinyl Works. Additional board members were contacted to provide a quorum for expenditures. Since the owner of Vinyl

Works gave us a discount for the signs, we will advertise in the newsletter for 2 months for free.

GAIN Committee: Additional board members were contacted via email and phone to provide a quorum to vote for a \$150 budget for our event. Discussed tasks and responsibilities for board members.

Newsletter: November issue will focus on holiday safety. Mark and Susan will submit articles. Articles are due September 20th to Sherri. Boyd will email newsletter delivery maps.

By-Laws: will be discussed at the November meeting.

Old Business: The board will complete an inventory for the Neighborhood Association as we prepare for the GAIN Event.

New Business: Discussed the Bulletin Board signs by church. We proposed fixing them and using bulletin board for the community to post signs for missing pets, For Sale, etc. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00pm at the Fireside Room in the Church Gym. Hope to see everyone there!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!

We would like to thank all the board members who helped make October a great month to live in BelAir, especially Jonathan Massey for BelAir Clean-Up Days and Mark Day for donating his winnings from the raffle to the G.A.I.N Event!

Graffiti Busters
602-495-7014

Blight
602-262-7844
blight@phoenix.gov





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HOLIDAY SAFETY

by Susan Thompson - McHugh

Hello Neighbors with the Holiday season approaching more of us will be traveling to visit family and friends. Please take a few minutes to go through this check list to prevent a burglary from happening to you.

The Vacation Check List

Information Provided by the Police Department

You Are Going On Vacation - Help Burglars Take One Too!

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to help safeguard your home while you're away.

- Have good locks on all doors and windows and USE THEM!
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Plug in timers to turn lights, a radio or television on and off at appropriate times. This helps to disguise the fact that you are away.
- Turn the bell or ringer on your

telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.

- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
- Tell your local police you plan to be away. Patrol officers may have the opportunity to periodically check your home.
- Engrave your valuables as recommended in Operation I.D. This simple step will allow your stolen property to be identified and returned to you if recovered by the police.

Travel Safely!

- At home or away, staying alert can save the day!
- If you are driving, make sure your vehicle has been properly serviced and is in suitable condition for the journey.

- Try to have specific directions and routes to your destination.
- If you get lost, call the local police for directions or assistance.
- Always keep your vehicle doors and windows locked.
- At stop lights and other traffic delays, leave enough space in front of your vehicle so that you have an escape option in case of an emergency.
- Let someone know the route you intend to travel and your itinerary. This will help authorities in locating you if there is a need to do so.
- Plan your trip carefully and allow for factors such as weather, fatigue, facilities for lodging, food and fuel. Be sure you have sufficient finances, either cash, travelers checks or credit cards.
- Ask the hotel or motel staff about their security measures so you know what to expect.
- Use the hotel safe to store your valuables during your stay.

Staying alert to safety may make your vacation much more pleasant and enjoyable. Being a victim of a crime is no fun. RELAX, have FUN, and be SAFE!

Housing Rehabilitation Program

By Mark Day

CITY OF PHOENIX HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Source: City of Phoenix – Neighborhood Services Department

The Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department has several loan and grant programs designed to help low income residents meet code requirements and improve the safety, comfort, appearance and value of their homes. These loans and grants are available to Phoenix residents who meet income requirements.

Types of Programs

Hardship Assistance Program

The Hardship Assistance Program is available to Phoenix residents who own and occupy their homes, meet income guidelines, and have received a citation from the Neighborhood Services Department for an exterior code violation.

The Hardship Assistance Program provides up to \$10,000 in the form of a deferred payment loan for improvements to correct exterior code violations. Homeowners who have received a Notice of Violation from the Neighborhood Services Department for one or more of the following conditions may be eligible for assistance:

- Seriously damaged/blighted roof
- Chipping/peeling paint
- Exterior surfaces in poor condition

This is a special deferred payment, forgivable loan that defers at a rate of 10% each year for 10 consecutive years, provided that you continue to own and occupy the home and maintain it to city code. The loan will be forgiven after 10 years. No interest or payments will be due unless the property is sold and/or conveyed within the 10-year deferral period.

Emergency Home Repair Program

The Emergency Home Repair program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to address substandard conditions posing a serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the household and affecting the immediate livability of the home. Examples of emergencies that may be covered under the program are:

- Lack of running water or heating/cooling
- Exposed/hazardous electrical wiring
- Defective sewage system

Assistance will be granted based on priority and the eligibility of the emergency. Eligibility will be determined after a diagnostic evaluation is conducted by a rehabilitation specialist and/or licensed contractor. The Emergency Home Repair program is available to Phoenix residents who own and occupy their homes, meet income guidelines, and have an eligible housing rehab emergency.

Weatherization Assistance Program

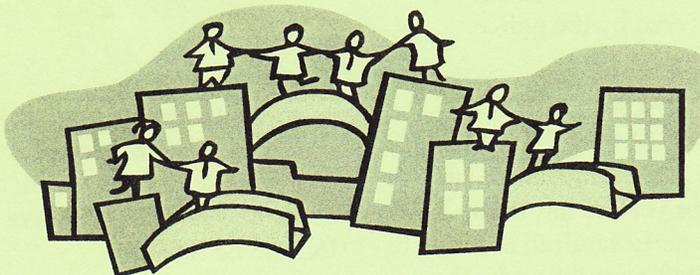
The Weatherization Assistance Program is offered in the form of a one-time grant to homeowners and renters. This program provides for replacement of existing building components and improvements to reduce energy consumption.

Examples of improvements under the Weatherization Assistance Program include:

- Repair/replacement of heating and cooling systems
- Insulation and duct sealing
- Weather-stripping and caulking

This grant is available to homeowners and renters who meet specific income requirements. Rental property owners who receive this grant must agree not to raise rents in the repaired building for one year after completion of the project.

For additional information, please visit the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services web site at <http://phoenix.gov/NSD/home.html> or call them at (602) 495-0700. You can also visit the main office at Phoenix City Hall, 4th Floor, 200 W. Washington Street. Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM.



R o o f R a t P r e v e n t i o n

We've received reports and seen roof rats right here in BelAir. These rats became a problem over in the Arcadia neighborhood back in 2002. Roof rats love to feed on citrus still hanging on trees, and nest in backyards, sometimes inside homes. The best way to prevent the proliferation of roof rats in our neighborhood is by making our homes inhospitable to these pests.

Just like eliminating standing water outside the house prevents mosquitoes from hatching, these steps can prevent roof rats from spreading:

1.) Get rid of the roof rats food supply by harvesting citrus and other fruit. Pick all fruit on citrus and other fruit and nut trees and pick up any fallen fruit. Fruit and nut trees having the most activity are the ones which come in contact with other trees, houses, fences or with power lines running through.

2.) Manicure your landscape. A clean yard is a deterrent. Rake under your trees and shrubbery. Prune fruit trees so the ground under them is open and visible. Thick ground covers should be thinned. Keep your palm trees trimmed. Roof rats nest in the skirts of old fronds, as well as in piles of debris and hollow trees. Thin out bushes until you can see daylight through them. Oleanders are particularly prone to harbor roof rats in the summer. Thin bougainvilleas as well.

3.) Roof rats will eat ANYTHING to survive this includes pet food and garbage. Don't leave pet food out, especially overnight. Store bulk foods in sealed, rat-proof containers. Keep garbage containers tightly covered.

4.) Strategically place snap traps and bait stations. Information on the local roof rats issue and on purchasing traps can be obtained through

www.roofrat.net. It is also important to seal your house so that the rats cannot enter. Make sure that gable vents have mesh behind them.

These steps are just the tip of the iceberg on what can be done to prevent roof rats from spreading. 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>. If we all do what we can to make this neighborhood less appealing to roof rats, it will make a huge difference.



V e c t o r C o n t r o l

To Report Mosquitoes or Stagnant Water visit:
<http://www.maricopa.gov/ENVSVC/WATER/VECTOR.ASP>

OR

Call 602-506-6616

Maricopa County Environmental Services
Vector Control
3343 W. Durango, #3911
Phoenix, Arizona 85009
(602) 506-0700 (Office)

FOR SITUATIONS THAT DO NOT
REQUIRE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

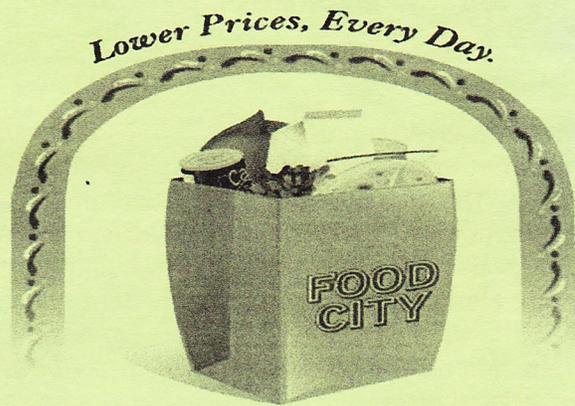
Crime Stop 262-6151

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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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.

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www.cinchplan.com/treesong**