



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
COMMUNICATOR



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SAVE THESE DATES!

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, Feb. 14th
9:00am-10:30am

Grand Canalscape

Speaker: Kerry Wilcoxon
City of Phx Street Transportation Safety & Neighborhood Traffic Section

Learn Bike Safety Tips!

at Redemption Church
1830 W. Glenrosa Ave.

7TH AVE STREET FAIR BOOTH

Saturday, March 7th
11:00am-6:00pm

on 7th Avenue north of
Indian School Rd.

**Volunteers needed to
man our booth.**

Various shifts available.
Please sign up by emailing
carriefraz@aol.com

ANNUAL BEL AIR NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

Saturday, March 21st
7:00am-1:00pm

**Participate by having a
sale in your yard!**

Meet neighbors and
make some money!

Alley Lighting in Bel Air

by Carrie Frazer

Our neighborhood dusk-to-dawn alley lighting is a large part of our crime prevention efforts! At our December general meeting, some information was shared regarding our alley lighting and a discussion followed. Here are some highlights:

BASICS:

- ◆ Each year, we apply for grant funds to pay for our alley lighting costs.
- ◆ There are 30 alley lights in Bel Air.
- ◆ Yearly costs are apx. \$4,320.
- ◆ Monthly costs are apx. \$360.
- ◆ APS owns & maintains the lights.
- ◆ APS leases dusk to dawn lighting.
- ◆ APS' E-47 rate is a non-metered rate based on lumen type, pole type and other charges.

“In 2015, and every year after, no more than 25% of your **TOTAL** requested grant amount can be allocated to pay electric bills.”

CURRENT NEWS:

While preparing to submit our application for the 2015 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program (NBWGP), the following caught our attention in the Application Guide:

“COMMUNITY LIGHTING INFORMATION

The NBW Oversight Committee strongly suggests that all grant applicants look into cost effective, energy efficient lighting options for neighborhoods. Energy efficient lighting includes solar lighting and LED lighting options.

In 2013, using grant funds to pay electric bills began a phase out. The phase out continues this year in the following manner:

In 2015, and every year after, no more than 25% of your **TOTAL** requested grant amount can be allocated to pay electric bills.

(Example, If you are requesting a total of \$10,000, no more than \$2,500 (25%) can be allocated to electric bills).

No new contracts for lighting will be allowed unless lighting systems are energy efficient.”

Bel Air Alley Lighting (cont.)

RESULTS OF OUR REVIEW OF APS' AVAILABLE LIGHTING OPTIONS:

As suggested by the NBW Oversight Committee, we looked into the available lighting options offered by APS' dusk to dawn leased lighting program.

- ◆ Our current alley lights are on Cobra poles (Lumen of 9,500 HPS, 100 Watts) and have a base leased cost of \$10.28 per pole/month.
- ◆ Comparable LED alley lights on Cobra poles (Lumen 8,300 LED, 106 Watts) have a higher base leased cost of \$12.58 per pole/month. This option would increase our costs by over \$800 a year.
- ◆ Only very minimal savings would be achieved by downgrading to noticeably inferior LED alley lights (Lumen of 3,300 LED or 5,300 LED). Downgrading to either of these inferior alley lighting options would not serve our neighborhood's best interests in regards to crime prevention.



When the facts were reviewed and discussed at our December general meeting, our board members and residents alike concluded that the most cost effective option is to continue leasing our current alley lights.

OUR CURRENT ALLEY LIGHTING FUNDS:

- ◆ Having received \$3,800 for alley lighting from The City of Phoenix Police Department's 2014 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program (NBWGP), we have enough funds to cover our alley lighting costs until about April 1st, 2016.
- ◆ In following the application guidelines for the 2015 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program (NBWGP), we were able to apply for only \$2,499 for alley lighting. If those funds are approved, they will pay for our alley lighting until about November 1st, 2016.

(Continued on page 4)

Bel Air Alley Lighting (cont.)

AS OF JANUARY 2015:

The NBW Oversight Committee has reconsidered this issue (of the electric bill phase out) three times in the past 6 months. This included the time that City Councilwoman Laura Pastor asked for The NBW Oversight Committee to reconsider this issue. Each time, The NBW Oversight Committee has decided to stand by their decision. They have expressed a feeling that communities should also be contributing when it comes to paying electric bills for alley lighting. Suggestions include fundraising.

OUR APPROACH:

The Bel Air Neighborhood Association has decided to begin asking for and accepting donations at future general meetings and events to supplement our alley lighting costs. We also plan to raise funds by selling Bel Air Neighborhood branded merchandise such as: mugs, trivets, t-shirts, etc.

If you would like to voice your opinion about the phasing out of using grant funds to pay electric bills, please submit your respectfully written comments for The Neighborhood Block Watch (NBW) Grant Program Oversight Committee via e-mail to: nbwgrants.ppd@phoenix.gov and type "Community Lighting" for the subject.

Bel Air BE AWARE! Yard Signs



Would you like a Bel Air BE AWARE! yard sign? Having been designed to discourage and hopefully prevent crimes, these yard signs are now available for those that would like to place them prominently in their Bel Air Neighborhood yards. Neighborhood block watch grant funds were used to purchase twenty of these yard signs. Crime Stop's phone number is highly visible for easy reference. To submit your request for a Bel Air BE AWARE yard sign, please email carriefraz@aol.com with your name, and address. Questions? Carrie 602.647.2832

Major Upgrades Planned for Phoenix's Grand Canal

by Juanita Soto-Ayers

Phoenix is a city built on a desert. However, many of its neighborhoods are so abundantly green with grass and big trees that at times we forget we are living in a desert. Both the lushness and growth of the City of Phoenix are a result of our local canal system. Historically, development of these waterways established our Salt River Valley as a modern-day agricultural community that brought income and population to the Phoenix area.

Today, Phoenix's miles and miles of canal banks also are a popular recreation and commuting route for pedestrians and bikers. However, according to city planners, this increasing volume of canal-bank traffic has raised safety concerns and calls for aesthetic improvements. As a result, Phoenix recently announced plans to invest nearly \$5 million for upgrades along the Grand Canal in the uptown area and near Phoenix

Sky Harbor International Airport. This money would pay for crosswalks and stop lights where the waterway meets major roads, a paved pathway, lighting and public-art installations. The upgrades along the Grand Canal are part of a broader vision to restore our blighted canals, once a focal point of community life in

Phoenix, as an alluring ribbon of oases in the Sonoran Desert.

Labeled "Grand Canalscape" by its supporters, this ambitious vision for Phoenix's canals is to improve the canal along its entire stretch from central Phoenix to Tempe, and to attract waterfront development. For now, however, the project's emphasis is to develop the canal as a corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists because the pathways provide an efficient route to navigate parts of central Phoenix without a car. To do this, the city would make crossings more visible by moving stoplights or adding a special pedestrian-activated traffic light mid-block. Less-prominent crossings will receive extra signage.

The first phase of the project focuses on the Grand Canal in two areas: uptown Phoenix, from 15th Avenue to 16th Street, and Gateway North, from Garfield to Van Buren streets near the airport. Construction is expected to start in spring 2016 and could take several months. Phoenix is selecting teams to design the crossings and create public art and the City Council still must authorize any contracts before work can begin. The \$4.9 million cost for the project is a partnership between Salt River Project (SRP), the Valley utility company that operates the canals and provides money for cities to make aesthetic improvements, and the City of Phoenix, with much of the monies for the improvements com-

(Continued on page 7)

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Bake 10 min. only
350°
From the Kitchen of: Virginia Harmon
Recipe For: Crinkle Ginger Cookies
Cream together 1 Cup Crisco
together 1 Cup white sugar
1 egg
1 Cup molasses
Mix together then add to above
4 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking Soda
2 Teaspoons ginger
1/2 Teaspoon salt 1/2 Teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 Teaspoon cloves, then add 1 cup
Milk & Chill, make small balls
balls, roll in sugar, press down a little
Don't overbake

New Here?

Sign up for e-mail newsletters & e-Alerts at
www.belairneighborhood.com. You may also
request a free Bel Air Bag (includes a L or XL t-
shirt, "Be Aware" notepad, reference card, etc.) by
sending a note to carriefraz@aol.com.

Treasurer's Report

2014 BLOCK WATCH GRANT REPORT
PERIOD COVERED: 10/31/14 - 12/31/14

DATE	ACTIVITY	EXPENSES	INCOME	BALANCE
10/31/2014	BEGINNING BALANCE			\$6,992.41
	NEWSLETTER (NOV/DEC ISSUE)	\$130.39		\$6,862.02
	INTERNET SERVICE 10/14-11/14	\$19.99		\$6,842.03
	APS ALLEY LIGHTING	\$1,673.90		\$5,168.13
	APS ALLEY LIGHTING	\$643.72		\$4,524.41
	APS ALLEY LIGHTING	\$1,482.38		\$3,042.03
	INTERNET SERVICE 11/14-12/14	\$19.99		\$3,022.04
	7TH AVE STREET FAIR BOOTH	\$140.00		\$2,882.04
	INTERNET SERVICE 12/14-01/15	\$19.99		\$2,862.05
12/31/2014	ENDING BALANCE			\$2,862.05

Major Upgrades Planned for Phoenix's Grand Canal

(cont.)

ing from SRP.

The Grand Canal improvement effort is part of a major push by the city to reinvent its urban corridor along the light-rail line. Phoenix residents who have commented on this plan have listed canal development and improvements as a top priority. Consequently, the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association will host a question-answer session regarding the canal improvement plan with City Traffic Engineer, Terry Wilcoxon, at its General Meeting to be held **Saturday, February 14th** from 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

B l o c k W a t c h

Do you know about Block Watch? The volunteer program, certified through the City of Phoenix Police Department, is active in neighborhoods across the Valley, including in Bel Air. I'm sure you are aware of what seems normal or familiar on your own street. Sometimes, as you drive around the neighborhood, you notice a car or bicyclist or someone walking by who seems out of place. You might say to yourself, "Oh, I'm just being silly. I'm sure he lives around here." But not every person or car looks out of place, right? You need to respect your doubts. But, what can you do? You can call Crime Stop (602.262.6151), post your observation online, tell a neighbor, or you could join Bel Air's Block Watch. There is a one-time, no-cost training on a Saturday morning. The next training, on February 7, will be in Mountain View Precinct's community room. The motto of Block Watch is that volunteers are the police's "eyes and ears." We do not confront nor follow, but pay attention and report. Virginia Anders would be happy to attend the training with you, and would even give you a ride. Please call her for more information: 602.369.7162. Thanks!

T r e a s u r e r ' s R e p o r t

GENERAL FUND REPORT					
PERIOD COVERED: 10/31/14 - 12/31/14					
DATE	ACTIVITY		EXPENSES	INCOME	BALANCE
10/31/2014	BEGINNING BALANCE				\$580.70
	INK CARTRIDGES		\$44.55		\$536.15
	DEC GEN MTG SUPPLIES		\$17.35		\$518.80
	DEC GEN MTG SUPPLIES		\$10.14		\$508.66
	DEC GEN MTG SUPPLIES/BAGELS		\$47.20		\$461.46
	AD REVENUE			\$84.00	\$545.46
12/31/2014	ENDING BALANCE				\$545.46

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