



www.belwoodhomes.org

IMPORTANT NOTE

This will be the last paper copy of the Belringer.

Starting with the Summer issue 2014, the Belringer will be distributed as download via email notification.

Please send your email address to hoa@belwoodhomes.org if you want to continue receiving the Belringer.

There will be paper copies available at the Cabana Club for pick-up if you prefer a hard-copy.

2014 Board of Directors

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Todd Harris: 408.250.5229

Vice President

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Treasurer

David Klenske: 408.829.3283

Secretary

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Gina Wagner: 408.358.2229
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Belringer Editor

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President's Message

Welcome 2014's first Belringer of the year! This year, the Board welcomes two new directors, Kevin Kessel, and long-time resident Tom Martin. Welcome to the Board gentlemen, we thank you for your participation, and look forward to your fresh perspectives.

I think the Cabana facility has never looked better, and with the completion of the pool deck/grounds modernization project (the largest project in over 20 years) the Board's attention will return to more routine endeavors. You may have noticed the interior of the Cabana has been painted, and the privacy shield along the fence adjacent to the shopping center is fully complete. Other items that remain known requests are the installation of a Bocce Ball court, renovation to the women's bathroom and replacement/optimization of the grounds irrigation system.

As I have made reference to many times in past Belringer articles, we strive to keep HOA dues low, and as a result, we have finite resources to make unscheduled improvements and build reserves at the same time. 2014 will be no exception, to compound this recurring challenge, the damage to the men's bathroom shower increased last year, necessitating repairs this year. In the course of completing repairs, we were able to convert all remaining pipe, in both the men's and women's bathroom, to copper, thus ensuring decades of useful life and avoiding this leak problem in the future. The infrastructure of both bathrooms is now sound, and this repair action will not preclude remodeling of the bathrooms in the future. I want to assure everyone, there was no "throw away" work that will result from these repairs.

On occasion, and from time-to-time, Belwood residents have concerns about the neighborhood, perhaps want assistance with something, or are somehow dissatisfied with this Board, or what it does, or does not do. In these circumstances, I encourage you to bring your concerns, requests and even gripes to the Board, and talk to the Board about it. Social media is a great platform for residents to share, thoughts, ideas, and concerns and otherwise discuss things in an open forum. But if you want the Board to take action on a specific matter or not, come talk to the Board. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of every month. I think you will find the Board members are just like you (we are you), and share many, if not all, of the same concerns and aspirations for our community that you do. The only difference, is that Board members have specific knowledge of our bylaws and other legal obligations (of an HOA), and are fiduciaries of our HOA with a legal responsibility to discharge the management of the Cabana facility in a safe, fair and financially responsible manner. It is only the addition of this fiduciary responsibility, which I believe, leads the Board to take actions that on rare occasion leaves a resident or two feeling that perhaps, the Board does not do enough. I assure you, you have a group of nine very dedicated volunteer Board members, and two part-time employees, all fully committed to providing you the best shared community property we can, within the financial and operational constraints to which we are bound. Social media is great, but the best way to communicate with the Board, is to come to the Board meeting.

In closing, myself and the rest of the Board invite you to join us in our efforts to maintain the value and enjoyment of our community. You do not have to be on the Board to contribute. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month and would enjoy any and all that would like to join us in our endeavor.

Todd Harris – President

Treasurer Report



The 2014 board is working hard to make this year great for all of our members.

One of the difficult things the board has to do is deal with members who do not pay their annual assessments. While we do everything possible to be flexible, the board has a fiduciary duty to collect money owed. This year, we had to send two members to collections who had not paid their dues in over a year. We send out the

collections policy every fall, and follow that process if needed. Most of you have already paid your 2014 dues, but if you have not, please do so to avoid unnecessary expenses by having us send out repeated bills. As always, if your financial situation has changed and you need some additional time to fulfill your obligation, please contact myself or any other board member and we will gladly help you set up a payment plan. I look forward to seeing you down at the cabana this year.

David Klenske – Treasurer

2014 Annual Member Meeting

Pursuant to the bylaws, the 2014 annual meeting of the association will be held at 8:00 o'clock PM on the third (3rd) Tuesday of May at the Cabana (May 20st). The agenda will include introduction of board members, review of board goals for 2014, review of association finances, and facility status and plans for 2014.

Tom Martin – Secretary

Eagle Project - Donations

My name is Carlo Armijo. I am currently a Life Scout in Troop 539 of Los Gatos, and I am a senior at Los Gatos High School. I am trying to finish my Eagle Project before May 31 of this year when I would become 18. My project is to build an 8X8 shed to service the CERT of Los Gatos. Currently there is a Rubbermaid shed that is in place and servicing the equipment for the team. The shed will serve the community in the event of a natural disaster as an outpost with supplies. The shed will be located in the back of the **Belwood Cabana Club**.

My project will ensure that the equipment is safe from natural disasters, common damage, and break-ins. This is a really big project and I am trying to get the best materials to ensure that the shed is secure. So far I have worked with Sgt. Kerry Harris, Mr. Bert Fry (a CERT member in the area), and Mrs. Gina Wagner (the facility manager of the Cabana Club). My plans are written up for the construction and all I have to do is set up the fundraising. I have so far quoted the material cost online at \$1100 at Home Depot, but I am also trying to get support from various lumber companies at the moment to see if I can get a discounted price.

I would be grateful at any amount of contribution and support. Please make checks payable to **Troop 539**. This will ensure a tax-deductible donation since the Troop is a non-profit organization. The donations can be sent to: Belwood Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 1372, Los Gatos CA 95031.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know at carlo_armijo@msn.com. Thank you for all of your support and care.

Carlo Armijo

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.belwoodhomes.org



Diane Sharp is a long time Belwood resident who contributes regularly to the Belringer.

We look forward to new stories! Thank you Diane!

A collection of pictures of our "old" neighborhood can be found on our website.

www.belwoodhomes.org.

The first neighborhood pictures were submitted by Betty Auchard. Thank you Betty!

If you have any "old" neighborhood pictures that you would like to share, please send them to bel.editor@gmail.com.

Now you see it, Now you don't!



You may think that waiting in line for a new iPad is a pain. However, forty one years ago, California's infamous "gas crisis" began. Gasoline was tough to come by. Cars waited in very long lines at the corner gas station.

In order to manage the crush of cars, and frayed tempers, a system of "odd & even" was devised. If your license plate number was even, you could get gas on even-numbered days of the month. Odd-numbered plates were handled just the same way.

Sometimes, there was just no gas, no matter what type of license plate you had! You never knew when the dreaded "No Gas Left" sign would be brought out. We housewives would dash over to the station as early as possible.



Suddenly motor bikes became a hot commodity. Sales were brisk at about \$600 a piece. Mopeds could be seen on Blossom Hill Road. The freeway speed limit was dropped to 55 mph in order to conserve gasoline usage. In our own neighborhood, gasoline was syphoned out of cars parked on the streets. Suddenly all manner of locking gas caps were being sold.



After what felt like an eternity, the "gas shortage" did come to an end. However, a few years later in 1976, a historic drought began. Now, we had a "water shortage".

Spring is when life's
alive in everything!

Christina Rossetti



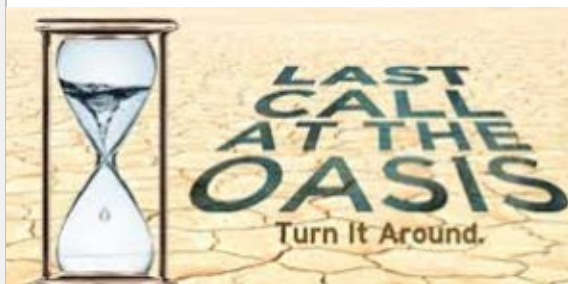
The water conservation education program started between 1976 and 1977. In order to achieve the goal of a 22% drop in water consumption, low flow toilets and shower heads began appearing in stores. "Gray water" systems were devised, which reused washing machine water for the garden.

When the drought ended, we thought we were in the clear. However, that party is now over too. Although we can buy as much gasoline as we want (at higher prices), our water supply is again in trouble. Weather and rain depends on the path of the jet stream, and that path is changing. The current drought is definitely a case of "now you see it, now you don't": if it looks like our water is disappearing, it's because it really is.

How bad is this drought? 2013 saw the least rainfall since California became a state in 1850. A local plant nursery owner told me that this drought is the "hundred year drought" and is far more serious than the one in the 1970s.

Be prepared in the near future for the San Jose Water Company to impose water usage restrictions - about one half of all household water is used for lawns and gardens.

So what can we do? How can we save well established and costly gardens? There are YouTube videos which describe all types of water "catchment" systems. Do yourself a favor by installing some sort of water catchment system, even it means putting buckets in your shower.



There is an excellent documentary on Netflix which addresses the global water problem. The title is "Last Call In the Oasis". It was produced in 2011, and it features Erin Brockovich. Everyone should be watching this documentary!

Diane Sharp

Tips for Water Conservation

There are many websites that provide water conservation advice. **100 Ways to Conserve** has an extensive list of tips. Below are some excerpts:

1. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with **YOU**.
2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
3. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
4. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a WaterSense® labeled model.
5. Teach children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.

The full list is at: <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-consume/?view=list>

Around the Pool

The pool opens for key holders only on April 14. The pool key request form can be obtained from the Belwood website, belwoodhomes.org. Lifeguards begin May 24, weekends only 1-7pm. Daily lifeguards begin June 16 from 1-7pm.

Gina Wagner - Facilities Manager



Belwood Dolphins

The Belwood Dolphins are almost ready to kick off the 2014 season! Practice begins in the afternoons starting the week of April 14th and changes to the mornings the week of June 16th. The Dolphins would like to invite all of the Belwood neighbors to come down to the pool and cheer on the team at any of our home meets. Meets usually begin at 8:15 and end about 1:00 and offer lots of spirit and excitement. Home meets take place on June 7th, 21st and July 12th.

2014 Season Meet Schedule:

May 31: Time Trials
 June 7: Silver Creek @ Belwood
 June 14: Belwood @ Los Paseos
 June 21: Montevideo @ Belwood
 June 28: Belwood @ Oaktree
 July 5: BYE
 July 12: Almaden @ Belwood
 July 19: CHAMPS @ Morgan Hill

For more information visit our website.

<http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=BELWOODDOLPHINS&s=htosports&t=c>

See you at the pool - Go Dolphins!

Lenore Grant

Water Aerobics

Ladies Water Fitness Class at Belwood Pool starts April 15th, Tuesday Evenings 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Session 1 - April & May = 7 classes, \$84.00 for this session
 Session 2 - June & July = 9 classes, \$108.00 for this session
 Session 3 - August & September = 9 classes, \$108.00 for this session

*Drop in fee for a class is \$20.00

This water fitness class provides a cardiovascular workout. It strengthens and conditions your body without stress to muscles and joints. This is a great way to cross train while adding variety and fun to your workout.

To register please contact Cindy Adams at cindyadampilates@gmail.com or call [408-655-5696](tel:408-655-5696). To learn more about water fitness please check the web site below and go to the water fitness tab. <https://sites.google.com/site/cindypilatestraining/>

Email us:
hoa@belwoodhomes.org

Cabana Phone:
 408-358-2229

HOA Mailing Address:
 Belwood HOA
 P.O. Box 1372
 Los Gatos CA 95031

Community Board

Monthly Events

Belwood Homeowners Board Meeting

Open to all Belwood members - Cabana Club - 7:30 pm, third Tuesday of the month unless a **change** is posted on the bulletin board.

Santa Clara Valley Mineral /Gem Society:

Fourth Tuesday of the month.
Please call Kathy McChristian (Junior Program) 408.258.8400 or Frank Mullaney 408.266.1791

Cabana Club Schedule

Gina Wagner: 408.358.2229
cabana@belwoodhomes.org

Nextdoor

The Belwood Belgatos neighborhood is part of Nextdoor, a private social network for neighbors. The network is growing! Currently, half of the Belwood neighborhood is participating: 346 neighbors (263 of 571 household). Build a stronger neighborhood -- Join <https://belwood-belgatos.nextdoor.com/login/>

Community Ads

Neighborhood Piano Lessons

I am a pianist who loves to teach students of all ages. I have over 20 years teaching experience. If you or your child(ren) would be interested, please call: Kathy Hendrix-Levy, 408.821.0930

Gutters, Roof, Plumbing, Tree Trimming

You name it! I have a list of workmen who can help you. Call Gail Bordi, 408.356.4624 or email gailbordi@yahoo.com

Precision Locksmiths, Inc.

I have heard through Bellringer that there has been vandalism and burglary throughout the neighborhood. I own Precision Locksmith, Inc. and as your neighbor I would like to waive all trip charge fees with a free home security check. Please contact me with any of your security needs. Precision Locksmith, Inc. 408.377.5625, Robertgolter@yahoo.com

Guest Speaker

Betty Auchard is an author and speaker. She lives in the Belwood neighborhood and is available as a guest speaker. You can email her at btauchard@aol.com or check out her website or current blog: <http://bettyauchard.com/>.

Rentals

BEACH HOUSE:

Aptos Beach House, spacious 3BR/2 bath, short walk to Rio Del Mar/Seacliff Beach. Available year-round for monthly, weekly, mid-week, weekend rental. Call Sheryl at 408.348.3237.

OAHU LUXURY TOWNHOME:

Fabulous, newly furnished Oahu townhome for rent. 3 BR, 3 BA + den, 1700+ square feet, 5 min walk to beach in the luxurious Coconut Plantation in Ko Olina. Perfect for families. See our website for pictures, details and contact info: <http://www.koolinahome.com>.

TAHOE DONNER RENTAL

Beautiful, spacious home in Tahoe Donner available for rent: 3 bedrooms, 2 bath & large loft (sleeps 6-11). The home is also available for ski lease. Corner lot amongst pine trees, green belt behind & 700+ sq ft decking. Amenities: premiere golf course, fitness club/pools, tennis courts & more. Info & pictures go to: VRBO.com # 323668 , or call Sue Ahmadian at 408.356.5276.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE RENTAL

Beautiful home for rent: 2 BR + Den, 2 BA, 1600 sq ft, sleeps 6. Large open concept living/dining room, fabulous views, spa tub, fireplace, wifi, close to lake, heavenly, casinos. Pets considered. For details go to: <http://www.vrbo.com/451904>.

VW EUROVAN FOR RENT

Interested in traveling with a Eurovan for summer camping? Eurovan Weekender Westfalia available for rent - see the possibilities here: <http://www.roadtriporegon.com/campervans/westfalia-configuration>. Fully maintained, new tires, insured, sleeps four, foldout table, and cooler. Not a camper van, so no stove, but Coleman stove available for outdoor cooking. 25% discount compared to these competitive rates: <http://www.roadtriporegon.com/rates>. Call 408.692.5080 or email: opusCdev@gmail.com.

Editor's Note

The purpose of a newsletter is to inform the Belwood neighborhood about board news, community events, offer free advice,

and advertise skills and rental postings. **Article submissions for the Belringer from the community are very much encouraged.**

The summer edition of this newsletter will be published in June 2014. Please send your contributions or ideas for Belringer improvements

or additions to Silvia E. Lee at bel.editor@gmail.com by June 10, 2014.

Thank you! *Silvia*