



[www.belwoodhomes.org](http://www.belwoodhomes.org)

The Belringer is now distributed as download via email notification.

Please send your email address to [hoa@belwoodhomes.org](mailto: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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## President's Message

**Summer is here, and the pool is open!** The 2014 Lifeguard staff is in place on weekends from 1:00pm – 7:00pm, then moving to daily once school is out. Key holders, please remember that outside of the normal Lifeguard hours, do not prop the gate open to the pool or to the grounds. We really need everyone's help with this. While this makes it more convenient to come and go from the pool area, it creates a safety hazard for younger ones (if the pool gate is propped open) and allows non-members access to the facility if the front gate is open (which can create legal risk for HOA members). This is our joint property, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure all gates are firmly closed as you enter and exit the pool area outside of Lifeguard hours. You can review the Cabana rules on our website at [www.belwoodhomes.org](http://www.belwoodhomes.org) to re-familiarize yourself with the rules; so we can have another safe summer. While we need everyone's help to minimize unauthorized access we do not want anyone putting themselves in danger. If you suspect a non-member is using the facility politely ask them if they are members, and call the police if they need to be removed. Do not attempt to remove anyone yourself.

Slow Down and LOOK: Once school is out, children and young adults will be about the neighborhood more frequently, in larger numbers and perhaps with less direct supervision. Belwood Swim Team practices will be moving to mornings from 7:30AM to 10:30AM and many walk or bike to the pool. Please take care when driving through the neighborhood anytime, but especially during the summer.

Internet at the Pool: Connection name: BHOA. No log in is required, it is not a secure connection, uptime is not guaranteed, and use is at your own risk. Guard Staff is not trained to render connection assistance, the most they can do is reboot the router during Adult swim.

Neighborhood break-ins: Since summer began, I have been told of one break-in, and another attempted break-in. If you recall, we had a similar increase last summer, the spike in activity last summer caused one of our residents to organize a community meeting with the Los Gatos Police. Below is a recap of the main points from that meeting.

The Police are a reactive solution; very little they can do on a pro-active basis. We ourselves are the best pro-active solution, we need to look out for each other, share your schedule with neighbors if you like. Finally, when in doubt about suspicious activity call the Police, they don't mind and would prefer you do so as opposed just letting suspicious activities unfold.

These break-ins, pose a threat to our personal safety, are violations of our property, and are infuriating to us as residents. Given the summer pattern, these thieves are assuming increased opportunity with many of us taking vacation, or may be actually watching the neighborhood. Our best defense in this situation is each other. Share your plans with neighbors, look out for each other, and report suspicious people and activities. Thieves are lazy and prefer the path of least resistance, if we can gain that reputation of being a vigilant neighborhood, they will seek easier targets and go elsewhere.

Our homeowners association is a volunteer organization and your help is needed for projects and events that are hosted by the Association (Bingo/Movie nights, Halloween, etc..). Please contact anyone on the board if you can pitch-in and help.

Todd Harris – President

## Around the Pool and Cabana

Lifeguards are on duty every day from 1-7PM. The pool key request form can be obtained from the Belwood website, [belwoodhomes.org](http://belwoodhomes.org). Key holder can use the pool from 6AM -10 PM.

The **Belwood Cabana** is available for rental throughout the year to residents for parties, activities, community events, picnics etc. To rent the cabana, please email us at: [cabana@belwoodhomes.org](mailto:cabana@belwoodhomes.org)



**Movie Nights** are scheduled for July 13 and August 23. Check the [belwood.org](http://belwood.org) website for times and titles.



**4<sup>th</sup> of July Party:** Let's party on Thursday July 4th at the Cabana! Bring your blankets, pop-ups, snacks and sunscreen for a fun day of games and events for the entire family. The coals on the grills will be fired up for you to BBQ your food. The fun will begin at 12:45 PM with a children's parade from Mulberry School to the Cabana club.

**Email us:**

[hoa@belwoodhomes.org](mailto:hoa@belwoodhomes.org)

**Cabana Phone:**

408-358-2229

**HOA Mailing Address:**

Belwood HOA  
P.O. Box 1372  
Los Gatos CA 95031



## Belwood Dolphins

Swim Season is in full session, with one home meet left. The Dolphins would like to invite all of the Belwood neighbors to come down to the pool and cheer on the team. Meets usually begin at 8:15 and end about 1:00 and offer lots of spirit and excitement.

Remaining 2014 Season Schedule:

- Dolphin vs Almaden Gators, Saturday July 7 at the Cabana
- 2014 Champs: Saturday July 19 at the Morgan Hill Aquatic Center
- Awards Night: Sunday July 20 at the Cabana from 3:30-10:00PM

## Water Aerobics

Ladies Water Fitness Class at Belwood Pool is offered every Tuesday Evenings 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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

To register please contact Cindy Adams at [cindyadamspilates@gmail.com](mailto:cindyadamspilates@gmail.com) or call [408-655-5696](tel:408-655-5696). To learn more about water fitness please check <https://sites.google.com/site/cindyspilatesttraining/>

## WHEN SUMMER TOOK ... ALL SUMMER



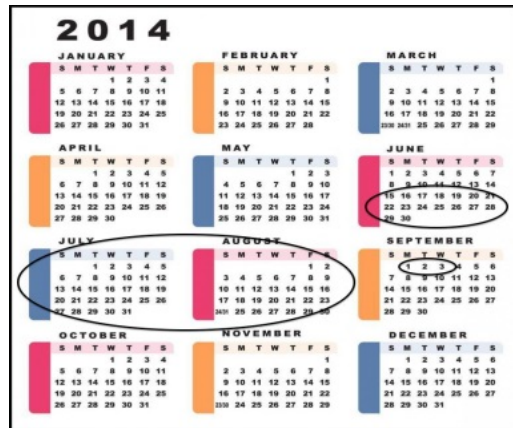
Diane Sharp is a long time Belwood resident who contributes regularly to the Belringer.

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](http://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](mailto:bel.editor@gmail.com).



Parents of school aged kids may remember when the school year ended the second week of June. Classes didn't resume until the Tuesday or even Wednesday after Labor Day.

Today's kids wouldn't know about such a long, school-less stretch of time. The school year is peppered with smaller, but more frequent, vacations and breaks.

All of my grade school, school years and even college, were based around the three month summer season. The Belwood Cabana stays open after the kids are already back in school. How times have changed.

Of course, in the 70's most moms in Belwood were not working, so the longer summer break was not a hardship financially. On the other hand, the stress of having kids under foot was no picnic, either. The code words for "Get out of here, you are driving me crazy!" were simply "Go to the pool". Walk, ride, or fly, but "Go to the pool"!

The Cabana Club always had a certain unsophisticated charm. The women's bathroom today is very much as it was then, except for the fancy rubber floor covering recently installed. Picnics and BBQs were simple family gatherings, and probably not "reserved" events. Landscaping consisted of a large lawn full of clover, and naturally full of bees as well. Many a barefooted child was stung while treading fearfully to and from the gate. The gate itself along with the fence was a flimsy affair compared to what is in place now.



Did you know that there was an actual built in diving board once? Yes dear neighbors, the diving board existed in those not so litigious days. It was about three feet high, and at the deep end of the pool. The lifeguards had to enforce the Rules vigorously.



That deep end of the pool always had a raised Lifeguard Chair with a Real Person in it. Someone had to blow that whistle and control the general "enthusiasm". The diving board had a slight bounce to it, but jumping was forbidden. Cannonballs were fine and dandy. The splashing, the screaming, the whistle blowing all made for a less than relaxing pool side experience. Forget about adult swim lanes. They did not exist, and it would have been pointless to swim headlong into the general mayhem.

Back then, we had the wonderful ice cream truck. The vendor knew the neighborhood like the back of his hand. The junior population was much larger in the 70s. That man had a captive audience, and we moms were darn happy to get the kids out of the house once more.

You may be thinking that we moms were miserable, but it was truly a time of golden summers which actually went on all summer long. The rhythm of our lives was slower in summertime. We were able to "change horses," as my grandfather liked to say.

However, by the middle of August it was to time to shop for back-to-school clothes in brick and mortar stores. The store of choice was Mervyn's, which was close by, but which is long gone - just like those lazy relaxing summers.



Diane Sharp

Spring is when  
life's alive in  
everything!

Christina Rossetti

## Fun Summer Activities

- Take bread to a creek and feed the ducks.
- Bake cookies for ice cream sandwiches.
- Volunteer at a nature center.
- Have a luau in the backyard.
- Visit the beach and collect shells.
- Make a fort out of cardboard boxes.
- Visit a farmer's market.
- Have a backyard campfire...or just use the grill! Roast hot dogs on sticks, pop popcorn and finish off with s'mores.
- Go for a walk and then make a collage from nature objects you find along the way.
- Have a water balloon fight.
- Interview an older relative about what life was like when they were young.
- Plant a garden of herbs and veggies.
- Make a sidewalk chalk mural.
- Make totem poles out of paper towel rolls and decorate them.
- Visit a museum you've never been to.
- Make a bird house out of Popsicle sticks.
- Make paper boats and race them in a kiddie pool using straws to propel them.
- Play mini-golf -- or set up a course in your driveway by laying different size containers on their side
- Get a map of the United States and mark off all the exciting places you want to visit -- create the ultimate road trip.
- Set up a net and play badminton and volleyball.
- Visit an amusement park or water park.
- Wade through a stream and search for minnows or tadpoles.
- Go zip-lining.
- Have a tricycle race at the park.
- Visit a fire station.
- Collect rocks and paint them to use as paperweights or pet rocks.
- Visit a zoo or aquarium to learn about animals.
- Run through the sprinklers.
- Blend your own smoothie.
- Assemble a family cookbook with all your favorite recipes.
- Catch fireflies in a jar (and let them go at the end of the night).
- Go to a flea market.
- Volunteer at an animal adoption organization.
- Visit a retirement home and read stories to residents.
- Attend an outdoor festival or concert.
- Set up a tent in the backyard to use as a summer playhouse.

## Transformation – Conservation

Walking through our neighborhood, one is able to admire the many well-maintained yards that are reflecting the home owner's pride and joy, and the hard labor that goes into maintaining such a beautiful area.



When we purchased our home many years back, we bought with it a monotone green front yard that over the years was taken over by Bermuda grass. Our children moved out of the house and with that the free lawn mowing was no more. Water availability has also become a scare commodity and so last year we decided to convert the front to a drought resistant yard.

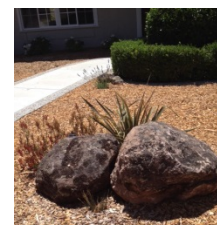
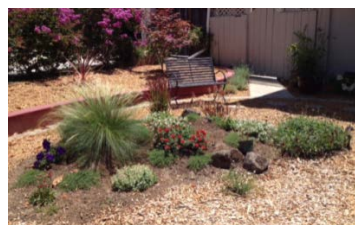
I scheduled an appointment with a garden company that specialized in "natural front yards". However, the cost seemed a bit steep and so we decided to do it ourselves. To get a head start we hired a gardener to remove the top layer of the Bermuda grass. Well, there's a cost with dumping the dirt and of course he did not remove enough topsoil. So, within a few weeks the Bermuda grass sprouted again. Discouraged, we did nothing – for a year.



Then my friend and neighbor, who is an avid gardener, offered her help. We started talking about design elements, plants, sprinkler system, lighting, etc. Together, she and I removed about 3 inches of soil, incorporating it into the front yard design by creating berms. At some point I hired help because it was difficult labor digging up the hard soil. What I learned from the natural front yard consultations (and Internet) was put to good use. To keep the indigenous grasses from growing back, newspaper was laid down as a barrier. The newspapers came from many nice neighbors who replied to my asking in Nextdoor. As for the mulch, I called a tree trimming company and asked if they had any cedar from a tree removal. Because they would have to pay the dump for the wood disposal, they deliver these wood chips for free! My husband

added/updated the sprinkler system which again was free. He also painted a retaining wall, creating a colorful red accent. The internet and of course my friend helped me decide what type of plants to buy.

It took several weekends and many evenings after work to finish the project but in the end it was a very rewarding project and we have gotten many compliments on how inviting our front yard looks. And as added benefit, our water bill has decreased.



Note: the Santa Clara Valley Water Districts offers Landscape Conversion Rebate. <http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/Landscaping.aspx>. We checked it out but decided not to take advantage of it because it required quite a bit of paper work and we would have had to replace the sprinkler system. (We build on our existing sprinkler system.)

Silvia E. Lee

### We're on the Web!

Visit us at:  
[www.belwoodhomes.org](http://www.belwoodhomes.org)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:gailbordi@yahoo.com)

### Precision Locksmiths, Inc.

I have heard through Belringer 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Call 408.692.5080 or email: [opusCdev@gmail.com](mailto: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 September 2014. Please send your contributions or ideas for the Belringer to

Silvia E. Lee by September 01, 2014. [bel.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bel.editor@gmail.com)

Thank you! *Silvia*