
BELWOOD BELLRINGER

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December 2010

2011 Board of Directors

President	John Bills 358-3027
Treasurer	Dave Klenske 356-9768
Secretary	Ed Sharpe 358-7661
Director	Roy Chadwick 356-5431
Director	Lloyd Grant 358-4956
Director	Josh Lamour 221-7813
Director	Todd Harris 358-0349
Director	Rich Dobner 358-3101
Director	Mark Morgan 356-0906
Facility Mgr	Gina Wagner 358-2229 or e-mail: wjlgwag@aol.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE by Jackie Sandoval

Hi Belwood residents, just a quick note to kick off the last newsletter of the year! There's plenty of news in this issue—thanks to Josh Lamour for the important safety article—there have been quite a few burglaries in the neighborhood so it's important to keep vigilant, and report anything that looks suspicious. And of course, **keep your garage doors shut and your cars locked** (don't make things too easy for the burglars). See page 2 for Josh's article. Wishing you all a safe and happy Holiday season...and enjoy the holiday lights in the neighborhood. As I drive home and see the neighborhood twinkling, it makes me feel lucky to live in Belwood! (Comments to jackiefs@comcast.net)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ***by John Bills***

The Belwood HOA Board and many of our neighbors put together a great 2010. Our Belwood Dolphins swim team had a strong summer, placing 2nd in the dual meet season. The coaches expect another strong showing next year, especially with our young swimmers really hitting their stride (we had a huge number of 6 and under swimmers this year, ensuring a strong Dolphin team for years to come!)

The Cabana lifeguard staff put on one of the most entertaining 4th of July parties on record. I personally received numerous compliments on the quality of the event. Movie nights and Bingo Rich returned as another one of our popular summer highlights. Finally, (scary) hats off to our Halloween party coordinators, Mark Morgan, Carolyn Wheeler and Erica Osman for pulling together an extremely fun event for the neighborhood. They had to scramble at the last minute to rearrange the games and attractions due to the threat of rain, but they still pulled off an amazing event! There were many other key contributors involved with this party, our largest volunteer event of the year, and simply could not have had the success it had without everyone's help.

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS FOR 2011 By Ed Sharpe

The annual election of members for the Board of Directors was held. Ballots were sent out on October 13th. Returned ballots were tallied by an independent inspector for the election at the November 16th meeting of the board of directors. There were ten candidates on the ballot for the nine board positions. There were also a number of write-in votes.

As a result of the tally the nine members of the 2011 Board of Directors will be: John Bills, Roy Chadwick, Rich Dobner, Lloyd Grant, Todd Harris, Dave Klenske, Josh Lamour, Mark Morgan, and Ed Sharpe.

Officers will be selected at the January board meeting. Thank you to all association members who cast their votes. Thank you also to the board member candidates for volunteering.

The board is responsible for oversight of facility maintenance, supervision of employees, and financial planning and tracking. Board members participate in a monthly meeting and may spend a modest amount of time outside of the meeting.

Being a board member is a rewarding way to get involved and make a valuable contribution to the Belwood community. No experience is necessary. If you would like to become a candidate for the 2012 Board of Directors, please contact the board secretary or any board member any time before October 1, 2011. Another way to contribute is to help out with cabana activities. Contact any board member (or specific event coordinators) if interested. Your participation is appreciated.

HOME BURGLARY ENDS WITH RESIDENT HOLDING ROBBER IN HEADLOCK By Josh Lamour

'Tis the season to be vigilant, again. That's right, again. It seems that our oasis of quietness is once again under attack by those who aim to make a quick buck by stealing from Belwoodians. In the early weeks of November, a burglar was actually caught in the house of the resident! After running errands on a Saturday afternoon, the Belwood residents came home to find things out of sorts. After going up stairs to check things out, their ransacked bedroom and dumped jewelry box confirmed what they had feared—their residence had been robbed. While going back downstairs to call 911 and report the burglary, they heard the floorboards above their heads creaking; the robber was still in the house!

The resident, with his wife on the phone with LG Police, prepared to apprehend the would-be burglar—(please always let the police take care of business). With adrenaline flowing, the resident tackled the robber and they both tumbled over the living room couch while his wife provided the play by play to the Police.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

We have just completed the elections for our 2011 Board of Directors (see page 2 for details). I am very proud to serve on this Board, and feel lucky to work with the people who are doing the real work and are ultimately responsible for the successful management and administration of our Association.

Please remember that we are a volunteer organization and all of the activities require the efforts of all the members of our community. Thank you to all for a successful 2010.

HOME BURGLARY...*continued from page 2*

The crystal meth addict was no match for the retired fire fighter and the resident held him in a headlock while they waited for the Police to arrive. The burglar was in possession of crystal-meth amphetamine and a small knife. Scary story ending with all valuables (computers & jewelry) recovered and a strung-out meth addict going to County Jail.

Earlier that day, a neighbor reflected that she had seen a car driving up and down Belridge and that she wished she had gone with her "gut feeling" and called the Police to report the out of place character.

Rash of Car Burglaries Hit Belridge Drive

Fast forward to the last week of November and the first of December. A string of auto burglaries plagued Belridge. Not one, not two, but three cars were broken into on separate nights on Belridge Drive. One car had the soft top of a convertible cut open to gain access to the possessions inside the vehicle. The others had their windows broken to gain access. When one resident asked the LGPD if they felt Belridge was being targeted, the response was, "not likely"—simply put, it's the last street in the tract and has a few spots where street lighting is fairly minimal.

Please let this be a reminder that we need to bring all valuables in the house, don't leave GPS, cell phones, or presents out in sight. We all need to work together and trust our gut, if it doesn't feel right, it most likely isn't. Call the Police, let them know that you are reporting something that isn't right and that you are part of the Belwood Neighborhood watch- even it's a false alarm the LG Police won't mind. It is better to be vigilant and safe, than sorry. **Los Gatos Police non-emergency number: 408-354-5257**

If you have had an interesting crime fighting story or would like to share a Belwood Neighborwatch story- please send your story to:

belwoodcabana@yahoo.com

Please Join "Belwood Area Residents" or "friend" Belwood Cabana on Facebook.

TREASURER'S REPORT By Dave Klenske

We're winding down our year and looking forward to 2011 with the new board. I'd like to welcome Mark Morgan to the board—Mark led the Halloween party this past year, was a major contributor in years past, and has been regularly attending board meetings to provide valuable resident feedback on a variety of issues.

I thought it might be fun to start this report with some numbers trivia:

285 - Number of homeowners in Belwood

\$164K - The annual Belwood budget

99.3% - Percentage of homeowners who have paid their Annual Dues for 2010

2 - The number of homeowners in collections

3 - The number of years between Audits

9 - The maximum number of board of directors

We're not as small an organization as some might think!

You all should have received the 2011 budget, and noticed that our dues are once again flat. The board is very conscious of the tough economic times, and is doing everything possible to provide a great cabana facility for our homeowners while minimizing the financial impact. While we have annual external reviews of our financial statements every year, our by-laws mandate we have an audit every three years. Our 2010 books will undergo the audit process, which provides even greater assurance that your money is being appropriately accounted for.

For 2011, my financial goals for the board include:

- Making sure the Cabana pool deck replacement project stays within budget
- Satisfactory completion of the audit and assurance of our financial controls
- Getting the Belwood website back to an active state (not necessarily a financial issue, more of a communication issue)

You will shortly be receiving your 2011 dues notification. I'd like to ask that you promptly send in your annual payment. It costs us all money to continue to send statements to members, to send registered letters to those who are delinquent past certain time periods, and eliminates hassles from your side. As always, if there is a reason why you can't pay your dues or need to schedule a payment plan, please feel free to contact me or another board member to work out an appropriate arrangement for your personal situation.

If you have ANY questions, I encourage you to come to a board meeting or contact me directly.

Thanks,

Dave Klenske (dave@klenske.com; 408-829-3283)
Treasurer, Belwood Homes Association

LOS GATOS—"THE CATS" by Josh Lamour

From the town of Los Gatos website: "In 1840, the Mexican government granted a land patent for a 6,600 acre rancho to Sebastian Peralta and Jose Hernandez. Los Gatos was originally named La Rinconada de Los Gatos (Cat's Corner) by early settlers due to the screams of mountain lions prowling in the night." It should be no surprise that we live in mountain lion country— Belwood park has many signs indicating such, and 1 year ago I wrote about a deer mauled by a mountain lion on Bacigalupi.

In the first week of November, a resident on Belgatos Lane shot and killed a mountain lion that had killed her goat the night before. Reports indicate the resident had left the goat carcass out and laid in wait for the lion to return, and shot and killed it the following night. Unfortunately this wasn't any ordinary cat. This mountain lion was part of a UC Santa Cruz and Felidae Conservation Fund "Big Cat" tracking study and had been tagged, collared, and sending data to scientists via it's collared GPS transponder. (She even had a name, "Half Tail", affectionately named by the scientists tracking her.) Many Belwood residents have expressed concern that someone so close to a park, in a residential neighborhood, and 190 yards away from Mulberry school, was given a verbal "ok" to discharge their firearm in a residential neighborhood.

A few things to remember while sharing this land with the original inhabitants- The Cats:

- Bring your pets in at night
- Set-up motion lights around your house
- Don't leave food out at night
- **If you see a Mountain Lion, act big don't run away, and call the Police if the cat is on a residential street.**

What are the chances of being attacked by a Mountain Lion? It's extremely rare:

16 verified attacks in CA since 1890

6 deaths in CA since 1890

0 verified attacks in Bay Area since 1909

(Santa Clara County)

- 150 x more likely to be killed by puma's prey
- 300 x more likely to be killed by a domestic dog
- 500 x more likely to drown in your own bathtub
- 1000 x more likely to die from excessive heat/cold
- 2500 x more likely to die from an accidental fall
- 7000 x more likely to die in a vehicle crash
- More dangerous to walk the streets in any U.S. city at night than it is to live and hike in mountain lion country

Comments: Belwood Cabana on Facebook, Belwood Area Residents on Facebook or Belwoodcabana@yahoo.com

NEED HELP?

Belwood Residents
Free advice to solve home repair, maintenance, or improvement problems.

Call: Roy Chadwick
356-5431

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

KAUAI CONDO:

Kapaa Kauai Hawaii Condo for rent. Located in the Pono Kai Resort on the East Shore Coconut coast. 2BR/2 bath on ground floor, facing beach. Full kitchen, dining and living rooms. Sleeps 6. Swimming pool, clubhouse, close to shopping. \$165/night. Call: Sal Leonardi 356-5205

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>

MONTHLY EVENTS

Belwood Homeowners Board Mtg: Open to all Belwood members - Cabana Club - 7:30 pm, third Tues. 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 Pgm.**) 258-8400 or Margaret Norten (**Adult Pgm.**) 356-8254

Schedule Cabana Club:

Gina Wagner 358-2229

COMMUNITY ADS

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

Babysitting Services

Hi my name is Holly Nolan and I live on Westhill Drive and attend Leigh High School. I am 17 years old and a Red Cross certified babysitter. I love to be around kids. So if anyone needs a babysitter give me a call and I'd be glad to assist! **Holly Nolan 358-7324**

Babysitting & Pet Sitting Services

We are two sisters, Jenna (18 years old) and Andrea Goeke (16 years old). We have pet sitting and babysitting experience and would love to babysit your pet or children (over 2 years old). We live on Bacigalupi Drive so we are very close to your home. **Please call either of us at 356-4675.**

The next newsletter will be in March 2011. Please email articles to Jackie Sandoval (jackiefs@comcast.net) by **March 1, 2011.**