
BELWOOD BELLRINGER

Volume 1 Issue 4

December 2008

2008 Board of Directors

President	John Bills 358-3027
Treasurer	Dave Klenske 356-9768
Secretary	Ed Sharpe 358-7661
Director	Roy Chadwick 356-5431
Director	Behnam Ahmadian 356-5276
Director	Josh Lamour 221-7813
Director	Todd Harris 358-2229
Director	Scott Sullivan 356-3503
Facility Mgr	Gina Wagner 358-2229

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EDITOR'S NOTE – by Jackie Sandoval

Hi Belwood residents, just a short note to close out 2008. A big thank you to Jim Bowen for his tireless work as the HOA President. Jim has stepped down but we just want him to know how much he is appreciated! I remember many cabana functions and parties when Jim was always the last to leave, hauling bags of trash to the dumpster and always making sure the Cabana was left looking spiffy. He's a tremendous neighbor and if you see him around, be sure to thank him.

There's lots going on in this issue—check out Jim Handy's trail news on page 5 (great stuff if you're a walker), and if you're sick of all the depressing financial news, come party your cares away at Belwood's Pre-New Years Eve party (details on page 2)—attendance won't salvage your portfolio but you're guaranteed to forget about it for a night! That's all from me! (jackiefs@comcast.net)

*******BOARD'S MESSAGE*****By Ed Sharpe**

The HOA Board and many of your neighbors put together a great 2008 for Belwood. Our fantastic Belwood Dolphins Swim Team took a close 2nd place at the Valley Cabana Swim League Championships—congratulations Belwood swimmers! The Cabana Swim Staff put on a first class July 4th party for the neighborhood and the movie nights (and Bingo Rich) were a summer highlight. Finally our scariest Halloween party ever capped off the busy season of Cabana activities. Special thanks go to Charleen, Carolyn, and Stacy for organizing this party once again!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual **pre- New Year's Eve party to be held Saturday, December 27th**. It's a fun social event for the Belwood adults. See page 2 for details. The board continues to build a financial plan to keep the association and facilities going strong for many years. We have just completed the elections and our new Board for 2009 is announced inside this newsletter (see page 3). Remember that we are a volunteer organization and all of the activities require the efforts of all members of our community to have the programs that we do. Thank you to all for a successful 2008 and best wishes for the Holiday season and for 2009!



DON'T MISS BELWOOD'S BIGGEST BASH
Belwood Cabana Pre-New Years Eve Party!!
Saturday, December 27th
8:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M
No Host Drinks
Favorite Hors d'oeuvres
Music and Fun Adult Neighbors (no kids please!)

We are looking forward to another big turnout for our 3rd Annual Holiday Party at the Cabana. This is our only, adult-only function of the year and is always a lot of fun. We will have outdoor heaters, fire pits, and music. This is open to all Belwood Families and Friends of Belwood.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and decorate. Contact Rich Moore at 358-6300 or rich.moore@earthlink.com if you'd like to help. **If your last name ends in A-M please bring an appetizer to share, N-Z a dessert. Please also bring your favorite drinks.** Looking forward to seeing all who can make it!

Noddin Home & School Club News

Mark your calendar for upcoming Noddin HSC events. Also check out our web site for more details at <http://www.noddinhsc.org/id16.html>

- December: AIM Mail Center gives back 10% on all shipments
Jan. 11, 2009: Dining Out Night at Surf City Billiards & Café, Santa Cruz (owned by Calvin Lee)
Jan. 30, 2009: Bingo Night, Noddin Cafeteria
Feb. 27, 2009: Skate Night, San Jose Skate
March 29, 2009: Spring Fiesta (dinner, dance and live/silent auction), The History Club of Los Gatos
April 1, 2009: Dining Out Willow Street, Los Gatos
May 29, 2009: Spring Faire, Noddin
June 5, 2009: Movie Night, Noddin's outdoor theatre

Holiday Baskets: Recycle your holiday baskets and containers at the school office. We will reuse for our new *Spring Fiesta* event.

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The annual election of members for the Board of Directors was held recently. Ballots were sent out on October 16th and returned ballots were tallied at the November 18th Board of Directors meeting. There were eight 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 eight members of the 2009 Board of Directors will be: John Bills, Roy Chadwick, Rich Dobner, Lloyd Grant, Todd Harris, Dave Klenske, Josh Lamour, and Ed Sharpe. The ninth board member was not decided at the meeting. There were a number of write-in candidates. These will be contacted to determine who will accept their nomination. This process was in-progress at the time of this writing.

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 members 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 great 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 2010 Board of Directors, please contact the board secretary or any board member anytime before October 1, 2009 (contact info is on page 1 of this newsletter). Another way to contribute is to help out with cabana activities. Contact any board member (or specific event coordinators) if interested.



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dave Klenske, Director, Belwood HOA.

The year is rapidly coming to a close, and board business is winding down. We have an approved 2009 budget that has been distributed to all members, and are looking forward to next year. As you are aware, the global economic crisis is affecting us all. We have been customers of Downey Savings for many years, but given the growing reserve funds, the board decided to add to where we are investing our funds. While the FDIC insurance limit has been temporarily raised to \$250,000, that is set to expire in about a year and we did not want to risk losing any homeowner funds. Therefore, we have switched some accounts over to Bank of America in order to stay within the old FDIC limits. We will continue to monitor the situation and make the best decisions for the homeowners.

My 2008 priorities as treasurer were:

- Change from cash flow to accrual based accounting- Mandated by state law- COMPLETED
- Intelligently invest annual operating funds in CDs to maximize investment return- COMPLETED
- Have books audited by independent accounting firm as required by our By-Laws- COMPLETED

We have achieved them all, ensuring legal compliance and protection of your assets. On an accrual basis, our October 2008 YTD income statement is solid. We have an income of nearly \$170K against budget of about \$160K for the year. Likewise, expenses are about \$111k vs \$124K forecast, showing a net income of about \$58K vs. \$34K. We will be making some pool repairs in the next month or so, which were planned for in the reserve study (although the life expectancy was shorter than expected, we did plan for this expense at some point), and reserve funds will be used to for this expense.

We are wrapping up another strong year financially. If you have ANY questions, I encourage you to come to a board meeting or contact me directly.

Thanks,
Dave Klenske
Treasurer, Belwood Homeowners Association
[408.829.3283](tel:408.829.3283)
dave@klenske.com

NEW TRAILS JOIN THE BLOSSOM HILL SYSTEM

By Jim Handy

Some who have been reading the Bellringer may recall my trail guides for the Belgatos/Santa Rosa/Heintz complex right in our back yards a few years back. This time I will describe some trails that opened just last spring. Time constraints will prevent me from adding a map this time, though.

This new Oak Ridge/Rocky Ridge trail system starts at the top of the hill where Harwood ends and carries on down the other (south) side of Blossom Hill to Shannon Road. The trails were developed by Greenbriar Homes as a part of the Shannon Ranch development at Shannon Road & Hicks. Unfortunately, parking on Shannon Road is very limited. On the other hand, Belgatos neighbors don't need to drive to get there, since the trails are just past the end of Harwood.

To get to this system take Harwood to the very top. There is a gate at the top of the road with a walkway around the side. Don't worry, this is a public access, whether it looks like it or not. When you get to Santa Rosa Road you will go around a second gate. The gated section is a fire access from Harwood to Santa Rosa.

Cross the *cul de sac* to reach the Oak Ridge trailhead, a gate in a chain-link fence. It's all downhill from here, and the whole Oak Ridge trail is about 0.4 miles. This is the south face of the hill, and like so many other hills in the Bay Area, all the forests are on the north-facing hillsides and the south-facing hillsides are grassy. This means that you will have wide open views of the valley below, and the hills further to the south that constitute the Sierra Azul Open Space.

After a about 1/3rd of a mile and a handful of switchbacks there's a fork in the trail. The yet-unnamed spur to the right traipses a level half mile across the hillside to a point that will eventually connect to the trail that parallels the uphill segment of Santa Rosa, where it reconnects with Belgatos. Since all the easements have not been agreed upon, it's a dead end for the time being, but it is a very pretty walk offering a lot of solitude, and it cuts through a steep forested area. You're not all that far from home, but it's likely that your cell phone won't work here.

If you choose to go downhill rather than to take the spur, you will reach the end of Oak Ridge where it intersects with the Rocky Ridge Trail. Here you can either double-back to the left or go right. The path to the right takes you about a half mile over a wooden bridge, up a hill in the woods, then down a steep path near a horse ranch to a stream. It ends in the small parking lot on Shannon Road, very near Hicks. The path to the left at the Oak Ridge/Rocky Ridge intersection takes you 1/3rd of a mile behind the Shannon Ranch development and along its side to Hicks Road. Although you can walk along the street from the end of Rocky Ridge trail at Hicks to its other end at Shannon there are parts where there is no sidewalk and the cars pass pretty quickly, so take care!

Those familiar with the trail system may want to find other ways to get to the trailhead perhaps by approaching Santa Rosa from the top of the Belgatos Trail or from the trail that leads from Harwood to Madera Court.

The Oak Rige and Rocky Ridge trails are a fun hike, but have a pretty good incline, so take your time and enjoy the outdoors!

From your neighbor on 105 Bacigalupi, Jim Handy (408) 358-7253

A LETTER FROM MULBERRY SCHOOL

Dear Neighbors,

At Mulberry School we delight in our many gifts. We are thankful for our wonderful buildings, which provide our children perfect spaces for learning, our campus that provides us with great play areas and open spaces, and our neighbors who help foster an environment of safety for us all. As a school community, we are aware of how much you all help monitor activity around our facility both during after school hours and on weekends, and the collaboration is one we are grateful for and wish to continue.

In that light, we are struggling with a problem around our campus for which we're hoping to enlist your help. Our children use our grassy field for physical education class, as well as for recreation during recess times. They treasure that space, running and playing in ways that the lower, asphalted area does not allow. When our children have to step around and over piles of dog droppings, however, things get unpleasant for us all. Furthermore, when our parents and children have to negotiate around messes left on the space between the road and Mulberry School our front sidewalk, it makes for some unpleasant challenges. We are hoping that our dog-loving, dog-owning neighbors will help by picking up after your beloved companion animals. Please help us minimize the health risks associated with contact with fecal material, and help us continue to foster a safe, happy environment for us all.

Warmest regards,
Patti Wilczek
Head of School
Mulberry School

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>

NOTARY SERVICES

By appointment- no travel fees within Belwood, \$10 per signature per document (according to CA fee schedule)

Georgia Ricco
Home: 358-3482
Cell: 206-1978
thericcos@comcast.net

FREE Metal Recycling

Appliances, Engine Blocks, Wire. Any Metal, Free Pickup and Hauling
S.L. Ross Transport and Salvage
408-235-9800

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, 408-356-8647 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 15 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! Thanks!! **Holly Nolan 358-7324**

Babysitting Services

We are two sisters, Jenna (16 years old) and Andrea Goeke (15 years old). We have babysitting experience and would love to babysit your 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.**

Stamping & Paper Crafts

Explore your own creativity or shop for holiday gifts for your crafty friends & family. Kristy Johnson, Stampin' Up! Demonstrator, offers stamp classes, parties, products and is always happy to answer stamping questions & brainstorm project ideas.

For more information, visit Kristy's Stampin' Up! site at: <http://www.kristy.stampinup.net>

You can also see some of her stamp projects on her blog: <http://www.stampgarage.blogspot.com>

The next newsletter will be in MARCH 2009. Please email articles to Jackie Sandoval (jackiefs@comcast.net) by **March 1, 2009.**