



Bel Air

*...Orlando's premier neighborhood,
strongly rooted in history, and
providing families with a place to
grow and thrive, since 1955*

Neighborhood News – November / December 2015

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Dear Fellow Neighbors,

As the season is upon us... the board would like to wish you happy holidays and a prosperous new year. Below are some updates on activities around the neighborhood:

SAFETY MESSAGE

With the holidays approaching and the recent burglaries in and around our neighbor, below are some tips & reminders from the Orlando Police Department:

1. Trash cans - when someone breaks into a house they usually break in from the side or the rear. In order to do that successfully it is helpful if the neighbors on either side are not home. Criminals frequently case neighborhoods on garbage collection days to see which garbage cans stay out by the street with the lid open all day on each garbage collection day. Most of us as soon as we get home close the lid and pull our garbage can up. That sends a message to a criminal that someone is likely home. If a criminal sees that there are a few houses in a row on either side of the street that still have open cans down by the street that tells them that most likely no one is home in the middle house or in the houses on either side. He suggested that we make a habit when we come home and we pull our trash cans up, that if we see our neighbors' trashcan still down by the street with the lid open that we close the lid and pull the neighbors' trashcan at least halfway up the driveway. That sends a message to a criminal that someone may be home.

2. Park in each other's driveways - Officer Rosado said that he and his neighbors make a habit of parking in each other's driveways when someone is out of town. So if you are going to be out of town you can ask your

neighbor to park in your driveway while you are gone so that there is activity at the house and it does not look vacant to a criminal.

3. Video surveillance - Officer Rosado said that it is a good idea to mount one on the front of your house facing the road and get one that is motion detected and keep the footage for about a week before dumping it. He said there are many brands and types that are good now and didn't recommend any particular one.

4. Lock your doors - this seems like a simple concept but yet the vast majority of the vehicles that are being burglarized are unlocked. The criminals do not want to break the windows they are simply going around looking for unlocked car doors. The fewer unlocked car doors that can be found in our neighborhood then the less enticing it is to do that here.

5. Lights - put lights on the front of your house and leave them on all night.

STREETLIGHT OUT?

A key to a safe neighborhood is a well-lit neighborhood. Streetlights provide a greater visibility and safety for neighbors, motorists, pedestrians and law enforcement. Please report any streetlight outages to OUC at ouc.com/customer-support.

CONTACT

Have questions, comments or great ideas? Contact the board at info@orlandobelair.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know you could connect to your neighbors on social media? <https://www.facebook.com/groups/belairneighborhood/> and <https://belairorlando.nextdoor.com>

Find Bel Air on-line at:



www.orlandobelair.com

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME

Any new residents to the Bel Air community? If you see new residents moving in, please contact us so we can present them with a Welcome Gift Basket. You can post the new resident address on the Bel Air Facebook Page or send an email to Sheila Cooper at Sheilajax@aol.com or Jennifer Beard at jbgator@hotmail.com.

Also, please remember to stop by and personally say "Hi" to our NEW Bel Air Residents – it's the friendly touch of our neighborhood that makes it AMAZING! WELCOME new neighbors; if you have moved in in the last 4-6 months please let us know so we can properly welcome you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Grateful for Pie – Bel Air Cares Initiative – drop off a pie at 1830 Santa Maria by noon Friday 11/27 to be delivered to the Women's Residential Counseling Center.
- OUC Half Marathon – December 5th, 7:30AM
- Holiday Toy Drive – December 11th, 6-9 PM hosted by Lauren & Troy Enz, 1800 Antigua Drive
- Neighborhood Association Meeting Thursday, February 4, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Lake Como Elementary School

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

A Bel Air tradition continues this year at the home of Lauren & Troy Enz. This is a great opportunity to share some holiday cheer with your fellow neighbors and also add some holiday spirit to a deserving child. This year the Enz's have nominated 3 worthy organizations to donate the toys.

- The Healing Tree – The leading mental health treatment program for traumatized victims of child sexual assault
- Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children
- Women's Residential Counseling Center – Homeless shelter for women and children

There is a poll on Facebook to vote for the one we, as a neighborhood, would like to choose. If you are not on Facebook you can send an email vote to leastonenz@yahoo.com. Poll will close on 11/30. Looking forward to seeing everyone for some holiday cheer!

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS – PROJECT TEAM NEEDED

Both County and City grants were submitted to add entryway signage similar to Briercliff / Bahama. The submitted requests were for Weldona / Ferncreek, Gore / Bahama ad Curry Ford / Belmont. The city council meeting is on 12/14 and we expect to hear back from the county grants by the end of the year. All 3 projects have a target start date in January.

What we as a board need is your help. We are voluntary board members, all work fulltime, and would love to do so many things for Bel Air. Many hands make light work. Would you like to be on the Bel Air signage oversight committee or street captain? No experience required. Please contact Thomas Allen or Catherine Simmons if you are interested.

BEL AIR DINNER CLUB

The Bel Air Dinner Club met for an evening of good food and fellowship on September 1st at Citrus to celebrate magical dining month. For information about the Bel Air Dinner Club, please contact Omar Hasan at omar.s.hasan@gmail.com.

PLANT A TREE FOR SPRING!

If every Orlando resident in the City planted a tree, the canopy would increase from 25 to 40 percent. In an effort to help make that happen, the city of Orlando has launched a new program called **One Person, One Tree** which will allow residents to order a free tree online and plant them on their property.

The City, in partnership with OUC, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando, and Butler's Preserve will make the trees available via onepersononetree.com starting November 13. .

All trees are grown in Florida nurseries and species offered this fall include live oaks, tulip poplars, nuttall oaks, chinese pistaches and dahoon hollies.

There are several programs on the city's website encouraging and providing trees. In addition to the One Person, One Tree initiative there is a street tree program. The City of Orlando provides and plants trees in the right-of-way along City streets at no cost to homeowners. Interested residents should contact the City's Parks Division to request a tree. Once it is requested, the City will determine the right place for the tree to be planted and then plant the tree. The owner is then responsible for watering, fertilizing and caring for the tree.

FINANCES AND DUES DRIVE

For detailed information or spend suggestions, contact Paul Simons at simons_paul@hotmail.com. Annual dues drive began in June. We are still short of our goal for this year:

○ Annual dues goal:	\$10,000
○ Dues collected to date:	<u>- 8,870</u>
2015 DUES SHORTFALL	\$ 1,130
• Opening bank balance 01/01/2015	\$9,504
○ YTD expenses	- 9690
○ YTD dues collected:	+ 8870
○ YTD Ad donations:	<u>+ 260</u>
• Current bank balance:	\$8944
○ Remaining 2015 expenses: approx.	\$3500
○ Carry-over into 2016: approx..	\$5400

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