



Bel Air

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

Neighborhood News – January / February 2016

2015 Bel Air Board:

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Dear Fellow Neighbors,

Happy New Year! As I write this month's newsletter, the fireplace is on, I'm bundled up on the couch and I'm watching the weatherman recap snow fall on the TV – I'm so glad I live in Florida. I hope you all enjoy both days of "Florida Winter". Below are some updates on activities around the neighborhood:

2015 Recap

2015 was a busy year for the Bel Air Neighborhood. Below are some recaps:

• **Bel Air Cares**

The annual holiday toy drive was a great success. This year the toys went to the Healing Tree. A new event during the holidays was introduced this year that provided pies along with meals from a church organization to the homeless and gift cards at Thanksgiving to the Women's Residential Counseling Center.

• **Neighborhood Improvements**

Entered into a monthly contract to maintain the entrances, refreshed mulch at all entrances, painted the wall along Gore, pressure washed all entrances and walls, cleaned up the brush along Walnut street, added holiday flowers at the entrances, applied for and received city & county improvement grants and installed the City of Orlando blue neighborhood entrance signs.

• **Communication**

Updated, printed and distributed the neighborhood directory published a newsletter every other month, updated website and supported a community Facebook page

• **Events**

Held a Spring and Fall festival, neighbors hosted a progressive dinner, started a dinner club, held two HOA meetings, sponsored a garage sale, and distributed koozies as a holiday gift.

PROJECT TEAM NEEDED

Both County and City grants were approved to add entryway signage similar to Briercliff / Bahama. Please contact Thomas Allen or Catherine Simmons if you are interested in assisting with these projects.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Neighborhood Association Meeting Thursday, February 4, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Lake Como Elementary School (Refreshments will be provided) Please visit your neighbor and ask them to attend. Do you know of a neighbor with limited mobility, yet may want to attend? If so, please consider offering them a ride to the meeting.

FINANCES AND DUES DRIVE

Below is a recap of the 2015 spend:

- Advertising: \$44.56
- Fees: \$125.23
- Communication: \$1095.42
- Events: \$1922.76
- Maint. & Improvement: \$6665.21
- Supplies: \$269.43
- Total \$10,122.61

Annual dues drive will begin in June but you are always welcome to pay early. Below is our 2016 financial summary

- Opening balance 01/01/2016 \$8612.34
 - YTD expenses -1272.00
 - YTD dues collected: +0.00
- Current bank balance: \$7340.34

For detailed information or spend suggestions, contact Paul Simons at simons_paul@hotmail.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!

BEL AIR DINNER CLUB

Interested in the Bel Air dinner club, please contact Omar Hasan at omar.s.hasan@gmail.com.

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. We sent out a message on Facebook a while back, requesting that residents send in a count of the streetlights and number of houses currently on each street. We heard back from a few streets, but not all. With this information, we can contact Commissioner Patty Sheehan and request that additional lights be installed at the City's expense to light up the darker areas to keep us safer. Would anyone like to take the lead on compiling all of this data for the neighborhood so that we can put in a request for more lights? If so, please contact Catherine Simmons at catherinesimmons@ahomeisablessing.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>

CONTACT

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

EVENT SCHEDULE

- HOA Meeting - Thursday, February 4, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Lake Como Elementary School
- Bel Air Supper Club – Thursday, February 18th – Time & Location TBD
- Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 26th
- Progressive Dinner – Saturday, April 30th (We have an appetizer & dessert house – need a main dish house)

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.

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