



# BellaBuzzy

*BellaVita at Green Tee -- a 55+ Active Adult Community*

An Official Publication of the BellaVita Homeowners Association

## **BellaVita Clubhouse**

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE HOA BOARD PRESIDENT - RUTH SOUTHARD**

**September...**and it does not feel like the Falls I remember. But, then again, this is Houston, TX; it is supposed to be hot this time of year. We can be grateful the drought is over and there have been no hurricanes.

Speaking of the hurricanes, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) sponsored the annual severe storm seminar in June. We were all reminded once again to be prepared. It was a surprise to meet some homeowners who had never experienced a hurricane so we continue to find value in this annual exercise in preparedness.

The drought may be over but the impact of the rain has been felt community-wide. The landscaping crew had significant difficulty keeping up with the mowing and trimming and the work suffered. The Grounds Committee has worked tirelessly to correct this situation and we expect improved service in the future.

The lake apron repair was delayed due to the combination of a lot of rain in the early summer and work overload by the contractor.

The heat has been felt in several areas throughout the community over the past few months. The fence project is progressing steadily but we have had periodic halts due to a variety of things...heat being one of them. The whole project is projected to be complete before the end of the year. We have so many people to thank for making this enormous project go as smoothly as it has.

The new dumpster enclosure work was delayed but started up late summer and should be complete in the Fall.

The board projects include finalizing the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and the 2016 budget. The community leadership team had an excellent workshop in June to initiate the process of reviewing and updating the plan. The Finance committee was challenged to prepare the 2016 budget with no increase in monthly assessments. Both documents are scheduled for approval in the next couple of months and will be posted to the website for homeowner access.

This is a really wonderful place to live thanks to the many, many committed people who do the work that makes our lives enjoyable.







### Strategic Planning Workshop plans for future

Ruth Southard, HOA Board President

The annual Strategic Planning workshop was held on Saturday, June 27, 2015. For the first time, the meeting was held in BellaVita. For seven years we have accepted the generosity of the REMAX-Clear Lake office facilities for our workshop.

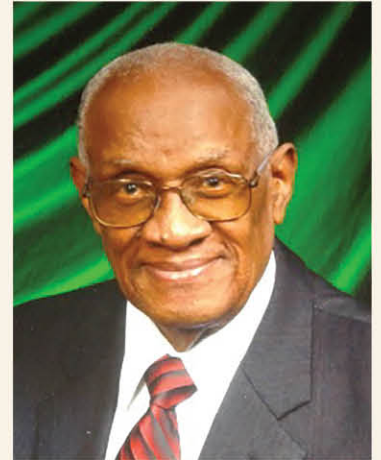
Each year the leadership team of BellaVita convenes for a full day. This team of volunteers is composed of the Board of Directors, committee chairs, club presidents, major task force facilitators, and the Clubhouse Manager. We meet both as a large group and small break-out groups to review completed projects, work in progress, and anticipated events. We discuss what we do well in the community and where we could make improvements. Without a plan there is no defined direction. The leadership team uses the plan to keep on track and on budget.

This year the open discussion centered around how to communicate better to homeowners not only what is happening but, more importantly, what it takes to get things done in the community. The HOA is organized into 10 committees each with specific functions/responsibilities. Each committee, composed of 4-15 people, meets at least once a month. Watch for some new ways we plan to use to highlight the work of the committees as well as recognizing the individual efforts of these volunteers. Homeowners are encouraged to participate in committee activity that matches your interest or skill set. Simply contact the committee chair.

New goals and revisions to the document are currently underway. The October Board workshop will focus on the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 with approval expected at the Board meeting in November. The Strategic Plan is available on the website under governing documents.

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: A MAN WHO IS A CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE AND A SERVANT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

**Virgil Wood** is a remarkable man who has devoted his life to the service of others. He was born in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was educated at Virginia Union University, Andover Newton Theological School and received his doctorate from Harvard. His career has included Dean at North Eastern University in Boston and 55 years as a pastor for various congregations.



He was one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and worked closely with Martin Luther King while serving on the National Executive Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Committee. Dr. Wood was a Coordinator for the March on Washington in 1963. He was a participant in the Civil Rights Marches on Birmingham, Selma, Danville, VA and St. Augustine and jailed three times. Three of his friends were murdered during the marches. The actions by Dr. Wood and other marchers led to the passage of the historic Civil Rights Bill by Lyndon Johnson. Later, Dr. Wood was a panelist for three White Conferences under the Johnson, Nixon and Carter Administrations. He has written 2 books: In Love We Trust, Lessons I Learned From Martin Luther King, and The Jubilee Bible.

Since he has "retired" Virgil Wood has continued his outreach to disadvantaged youth of all races. He does this by speaking to young people at schools and detention centers and stressing that "You are not your limitations and you are not your mistakes." He has lectured recently at NASA and Prairie View A&M University.

Virgil and Lillian, his wife, have been married for 62 years. He has two children, Deborah and David. Deborah lives here in BellaVita. The Wood's have 2 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Dr. Virgil Wood is a special man who inspires everyone he meets and we are lucky to have him as a part of the BellaVita community.



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## VETERANS ORGANIZATION

*Olga Vasquez, Commander*



Stay as cool as you can because Summer is here and Fall's cool weather is still nowhere to be found. The Vets had a great turnout for our 4th of July event. The mayor of Pearland, Tom Reid, was with us again this year. He shared what is going on in town and what he is hoping will come about in our great city. The Pearland Orchestra was wonderful as usual.

We look forward to our display of flags in September for Patriot's Day and again in November for Veterans Day.

A big "Thank You" to each and every member of our community that helps supports everything that we do as an organization.



## CRC COMMITTEE

*Janet Del Sardo, Chair*

Now is the time to take care of yourself; you can do so at the BellaVita Health Fair. Sponsored by the CRC Committee, it will take place on September 12 between 2 and 4 PM in the Ballroom. Pneumonia and Flu Shots will be given as well as Blood Pressure screening and Blood Sugar testing. Mammograms will be performed, after scheduling in advance through the front desk, from the portable Mammography truck. If you were not able to get your mammogram or bone density test done in August, information and sign-up paperwork will be available at the health fair. Bring your Medicare and Insurance cards!

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# That's Entertainment Club



*Carol Barber, President*

TEC has had a somewhat inactive summer this year. June saw all our clubs participate in the annual "all clubs" pool party. As usual, "a great time was had by all"! Because so many residents of BellaVita make travel plans during the summer, TEC has traditionally "taken off the month of July" from planned activities.

The Variety Show, usually held in mid-August, will be rescheduled sometime later in the year, if time and the calendar permits. The extreme hot weather, seems like, got to most of our usual participants. TEC still hopes to sponsor the "Red Hot Night" event on September the 26th. Issues with not having a music license, recently brought to light by a resident and attorney should be resolved in the very near future, maybe in time to have this event. The event was themed to welcome our "new neighbors" – the newly completed fire house at the corner of FM 518 and Yost Road. (We were going to call it "Red Hot Night")

October planned events include a very casual and inexpensive evening called "Happy Hour Comedy Club". Yes, we all like "happy hour" and the "comedy club" part is bound to bring tears just rollin' down your cheeks!! This event will feature female comedian Jeanne Robertson and her hilarious stories about her husband, "Left Brain"! Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 17th!! You

won't want to miss it "we promise"! Halloween "plays" right into our hands this year as it falls on a Saturday. Plan to join us and see what kind of costumes Billie Potter and Cindy Simmons will think up this year! Called "Masquerade," for this event, you can "dress up, or dress down, just as long as "you dress," The music for this event is still in the planning stages.

In November, everyone begins to start thinking about the holiday season. About a year or two ago, we had a very nice Sunday afternoon "listening and dancing" event. There are possibilities that we may repeat this event as it has been requested again by several residents. What are your thoughts? BellaVita "has everything" – even at holiday time! We're busy on Friday nights, Saturday nights and even Sundays. Seems like the only thing missing is Elvis!?! Don't tell, but I "heard it on the "grapevine" (as opposed to the "Grape Vine") that he's probably going to make an appearance this year – right "smack dab" in the middle of the week. We'll see!



In the meantime, "see you at the TEC meetings!"



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## BellaVita Men's Club

Cris Barrera, President

It's fun to be a part of the Men's Club. Our members were happily busy in May, June, and July. Our events were all successful and lots of fun was had by all. Attendance was great. Many residents showed up.

To begin with, in May our **Action Movie Night** did well and residents enjoyed it. Beginning in September, our movie night will now be called "**Classic Movie Night**". It will be featuring classic award winning movies. To kick it off, the first movie will be The Godfather Part 2. Huge movie classic.

In June, there were two events that were very popular. On June 6th, the Men's Club, the Belles Club, TEC, and Veterans Club combined to sponsor BellaVita's annual **Poolside Party**. Boiled shrimp, crawfish, potatoes, corn, and delicious watermelon was enjoyed by all. A live Band and a portable bar added to the fun. June 24th, the Men's Club annual **Fiesta Night** was held and sponsored by Fiesta Market which resulted in great Mexican food, beer and wine.

Fiesta Mart furnished the groceries and the Members cooked the food in the kitchen. There were also games and prizes before dinner. For listening and dancing enjoyment the combo of 2, Leo and Reynaldo furnished the live music.



In July, our popular **Pasta Night** was combined with the Belles Movie night and enjoyed by all. The menu consisted of delicious homemade pasta sauce, meatballs, sausage, salad, garlic bread, beer and wine. Afterwards, the Belles showed a movie that was well received. In August our Men's Club featured a **Saturday morning breakfast**. In September, the Men's Club will have an event that has not been decided on as of yet. In October, we will be having, our **smoked Bar-B-Q sale** on the same day as the Mistletoe Market. The Members work long hours to smoke the meat

and we sell out every year. In November, we will be having our annual and very popular **Fish Fry**. Our activities will end for the year with our **Breakfast with Santa**.



Men's Club Pasta Dinner and Movie Night



Men's Club Pasta Dinner and Movie Night



Ladies Night In



Fiesta Night





Ladies Night In



Pool Party



Ladies Night In



Pool Party







4th of July



4th of July



4th of July



## The BellaVita Belles

Kay Simpson, President



Fall is just around the corner and it is time for our annual Mistletoe Market. As usual, it will take place the first weekend in October (October 3rd) from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. But this year it will be bigger and better than ever! There will be 76 shops including fashion and food trucks.

The Treasure Box booth will support Forgotten Angels with 100% of the proceeds being donated to the Pearland organization supporting the mentally challenged. There is still time to donate gently used items for this booth. And we are planning a special Treasure Box preview sale on Friday afternoon for those shoppers who want an edge over the rest.

Lunch will be available from Hope Village and the Men's Club will be "Cooking up a Storm" at dinner time for those who are still hungry.

The Belles, the event chair, Betty Audish, and all of the committee chairs have been working hard for the big event. So, come out and enjoy the fun, food, shopping and support the Belles and their charity, Forgotten Angels.







## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Don Jensen, Chair

I imagine that almost everyone in BellaVita has observed that there are four spray type water fountains located on our community's lakes. When observing these fountains have you ever wondered what the real purpose of these fountains might be?


The primary reason for using aeration fountains on lakes is to provide additional dissolved oxygen into the lakes water to promote a natural solution to water quality management. Dissolved oxygen is effective in controlling algae, aquatic weeds as well as helping to eliminate foul odors. Operating fountains also helps to deter insects such as mosquitoes and other unwanted insects from breeding. Fish and all aquatic life almost always do better in a lake or pond that contains sufficient oxygen. The spray configuration released from the fountain adds to the aesthetics of a lake view.

The fountains have water proof lighting that is set to come on during the nighttime hours. Here in BellaVita the fountain lights operate from 6:00-10:00 PM during the winter months and from 8-10 PM during the summer months. Lights are primarily used to accent the beauty of the fountain spray at night. The fountains are set to come on at 7:00 AM and to shut down at 10:00 PM for a total operating time of approximately 15 hours a day. This appears to be the optimum hours of operation for our lake conditions.

It costs approximately \$8 a day to operate each of the three larger fountains and approximately \$3.25 a day for the little lake fountain. Over a year's period of time we spend approximately \$28,000 to operate our four lake fountains. Not an insignificant amount of cost when looking at a full year.

There are also maintenance and electrical issues that need to be addressed during the year. It is not unusual to have our Lake Management firm on site 3-4 times a year to make necessary repairs to the fountains.

The cost of operation of these fountains keeps the facilities committee as well as the Club House staff busy ensuring cost effectiveness while still maintaining a responsible operating program. Numerous changes are required of the timing controls to meet changing seasons from both a temperature standpoint and dawn to dusk variations over a year's time.



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Bob Stockinger, Chair

Time flies by with seven months of 2015 behind us already. Lots of events are coming from now until the end of the year. The annual Health Fair, Flag Displays, Mistletoe Market, New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance, and parties, meetings and other get-togethers too numerous to mention here. It will be a very busy four months. Maybe we will get a respite from the searing heat and have a non-occurrence of any hurricanes as the busiest time of the season is right around the corner. If the weather cooperates all scheduled events should come off without a hitch.

All event dates and times will be published in BellaVita sanctioned media: Daily News, Weekly News and Bella Buzz. The Weekly announcements are delivered through e-mail or may be picked up at the Front Desk. The Buzz is a quarterly publication which arrives in your mailbox. Daily News comes through e-mail. Please read all BellaVita sanctioned media as this is information that could affect each of you on a daily basis.

We are "patiently" awaiting the delivery of our pictorial directory. Unfortunately, delivery is in the hands of the photographer/printer. We will let you know as soon as we can about an expected delivery date.

All BellaVita events are planned and completed by volunteers. If you are not on a committee now and would like to become involved, come to one of the social club meetings, the sponsored event itself or talk to one of the many volunteers

## CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

Mike Sanders, Chair

Due to the budget constraints, we have been unable to accomplish all of our goals for 2015. However, we were able to replace the Ab and Back Extension Exercise machine for a 2015 model when the old machine was inoperable. The Committee has requested a complete inventory of the exercise equipment as well as the maintenance contracts for this equipment to properly budget for replacement and maintenance in the upcoming years.

A 4-year-old freezer was donated to BellaVita by a resident and put into our inventory. The Clubhouse Committee approved the donation of a new bar that was built and donated by the Men's Club as a permanent fixture to the Ballroom. The exterior doors of the clubhouse were recently refinished. Last year the Committee recommended to the HOA Board the purchase of a new defibrillator for the Ballroom. The recommendation has yet to be approved, but we are actively trying to find funding while researching the cost to replace the torn gazebo cover.





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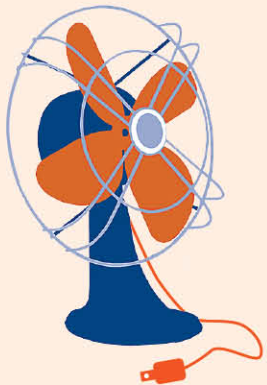
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