



BellaBuzzy

An Official Publication of the BellaVita Homeowners Association

BellaVita Clubhouse

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOA BOARD PRESIDENT - RUTH SOUTHARD

Before Halloween, I walked into a store and was overwhelmed with all the Holiday items already on display. Sometimes it is difficult to understand how quickly time passes; but, here we are, another year about to come to a close.

Fences: The Fence project has been in full swing since the last newsletter. All metal fences have been completed and work finally started on the fence between BellaVita and Villa Verde. This project has consumed many hours on the part of our homeowners. Obviously, we are grateful to the many homeowners who are involved as project management, inspectors, measurers, and the punch list group. However, we must remember that each homeowner is involved by preparing their yards for the project. Continue to watch the weekly newsletter for scheduling updates to this project.



Budget: The Finance Committee, once again, has done an awesome job putting together both the operating and reserve budgets with no increase in the monthly assessment. This was a challenging exercise this year due, in part, to the enormous effect of the fence project on costs. The 2015 budget was hand delivered to each home in November by our team of block captains.

Neighborhood Night Out: BellaVita homeowners gathered in the Clubhouse parking lot for a very successful, HOA-sponsored Neighborhood Night Out. We were fortunate to have Pearland Police, Fire and EMS Departments join in.

New security contract: Beginning in January 2015, the security contract will offer options not currently available to homeowners. Watch for updates in the Weekly Announcements.

The community experienced a significant loss in October when Judy Taylor suffered a fatal stroke. Judy had worked at the front desk for over five years. We will miss her pleasant personality and the professional manner in which she performed her job. New staffing structure will be considered in the first quarter of 2015.

Finally, in the next few months we continue to move forward with elections of three positions on the Board of Directors. Review the schedule in this issue and plan to participate in the election – as a voter and/or as a candidate.

I am continually amazed at the number of people who are involved in making this community such a lovely place to live. You will have an opportunity to recognize extraordinary efforts through the ROSE award. See details in this issue and on the website. We cannot say "Thank You" nearly as much as it is deserved.

It is with a grateful heart that, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish every one of you a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful year to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Breakfast with Santa	December 6	10:00 AM
Jazz Dinner	December 6	
Football Sunday	December 7	12:00 PM
Holiday Choir	December 12	
Holiday Gift Exchange	December 14	
Caroling in the Hood	December 19	
New Year's Eve Party	December 31	



**A NOTE FROM
THE BELLAVITA
HOA BOARD
RESIDENT SAFETY**

Oil and Water! An analogy that has almost come to fruition in the mixing of walkers and bike riders on the lake trail. Near-miss incidents have been reported between the two entities. We must practice safety to avoid any possibility of injury.

Darkness in the early evening hours is now upon us with the change of day light saving time. Walkers should wear light colored clothing and perhaps carry a flashlight to mark their location. A flashlight is also helpful for spotting any animals that may have wandered onto the trail from the nature reserve.

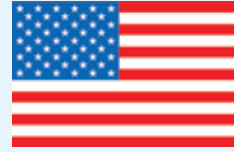
Bike riders should have a headlight and sounding device for warning of their approach to walkers. Bike riders should pass anyone walking at a very slow pace.

Walkers and bike riders share the lake walkway so they should all be aware of their surroundings at all times to avert any and all accidents. Safety first – let's all practice it.

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**MESSAGE FROM
THE BELLAVITA VETERANS**

BellaVita Veterans sincerely thank you for your support of our FLAGS OF BELLAVITA project in 2014. The response in our great community has been spectacular! From a start of 100 flags in November 2006, we have grown to more than 850, thanks to participants like you.

As you know, BellaVita Veterans, with the help of many resident volunteers, install 3x5ft US and TX flags in common areas and in resident's yards on six holidays each year. The display is beautiful and we hope that you enjoy the flags as much as we enjoy installing them.

Revenues finance the project and maintain, repair or replace the large flags and poles at the Clubhouse and Memorial Gardens. This year we financed/completed several projects for the community. These projects are: Installation of stainless countertops in the clubhouse kitchen; resurfacing of the red slip-proof concrete at clubhouse front entrances; concrete leveling at the mailbox clusters; sponsorship of the Memorial Day & Independence Day events.

On December 17, we will have our first Special Holiday Meeting. This meeting is open to all BellaVita veterans, **their spouses and spouses of deceased veterans**. It will start at 6:30pm with a social, serving finger foods and holiday drinks. A short meeting to introduce the new officers will follow.

We are asking for your continued support of our Flag project. The 2015 Flag renewal information will be distributed to your home in plenty of time for the first flag showing on President's Day 2015. If you have any questions, please call Wayne Johnson 281-464-2751 or David Southard 281-481-5855. Again, thanks very much for your support and wishing all residents a joyful and safe year end.

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"The men show variety at the YMCA."

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT CLUB

Linda Stanton, President

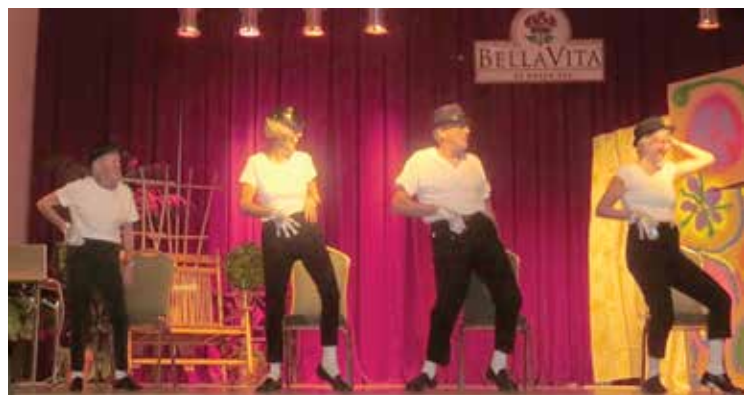
We sent summer out with a bang at our first "Variety Show". The cast of neighborhood 'characters' delighted the sold out house with their talents, humor and ingenuity. A huge thanks to all who participated to make this a great event.

Our September dance, featuring the Triple-Shot band, was enjoyed by all. This was a new band for Bellavita and everyone enjoyed their lively mix of Country/50's & 60's/classic rock. There were many requests to have them back; so if you missed them make plans to attend our January event.

Halloween is always a big event in Bellavita, and this one did not disappoint. The array of costumes was amazing! Thank you to everyone who joined in the spirit of the evening to make it a spooktacular event.

As we head into the holidays, we look forward to all of the special seasonal events and invite everyone to join in as we turn our Clubhouse into a Holiday Wonderland.

Be a part of this wonderful community that we call home. Come out, enjoy the spirit - sing, dance & be merry! We look forward to seeing you all!



"Michael Jackson?"



"The Ugly, the Good? and the Bad?"

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, A MAN WITH AN EYE ON HISTORY AND A NOSE FOR THE NEWS

David Bishop

David Bishop was born in Monroe Michigan, the youngest of six children. He entered the Navy in 1957 and served as a court reporter through 125 Courts Martial; the most interesting occurred in a trial involving a lone-shark business on the destroyer, Piedmont.

After leaving the Navy he went to work for the Ann Arbor (Michigan) News. He began his career as a reporter covering the education "beat." He next reported on the political scene, became the Assistant City Editor and eventually the Managing Editor. His career spanned 35 years during which he handled and mastered every news room job.

David says he is a real history buff; his most interesting story was covering the Watergate Scandal and the ensuing Nixon resignation. During the height of the crisis, as news was breaking, he added four extra pages at the very last minute to cover this breaking story. He retired from the news business in 1999 and moved to Tennessee with his wife Karen. His next career move was to teach journalism and inspire young journalists at Middle Tennessee State College.

David and Karen have been BellaVita residents for 10 years, have 2 daughters, Julie and Laura, and 2 grandchildren. David enjoys sports, is a real Detroit Tiger's fan, and not surprisingly, reads a lot of Civil War history books and historical fiction.

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Bob Stockinger, Chair

From late summer till now in the early Fall of the year, this committee has been A-Buzz with activity; pun intended. Writing articles for the newsletter, planning and laying out the December Bella Buzz edition, and coordinating the 2015 pictorial directory have kept members busy. These functions could not be successfully completed without the untiring help of the clubhouse staff and concerned citizens who have volunteered to host the picture taking activity. Many, many thanks to all who have stepped forward to help.

The Pictorial Directory is well underway with a full list of residents signing up for pictures. Additional sitting days are being scheduled due to the high volume. This directory will probably be available sometime in January and will be distributed to each residence in BellaVita by the committee block captains.

NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE



BellaVita residents tour our "pristine parkland" with the Nature Reserve Committee. There was a record turnout with 25 residents and guests. The weather was great and the tour saw a tree that had fallen across two places on the trail during the past week. Larry Alvarez guided the group and provided information about the vegetation and animals that are in our parkland.



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Mary Ellen Henry, Chair

Do you know someone who has contributed significantly to our community during 2014? Their effort would include a creative idea or activity that has not been done before. When you know of such a person, fill out a nomination form [found on the website] and turn it in to the office. The Awards Committee will meet in February and consider all nominations. This award is given once a year to someone who has served to better Bella Vita in a most extraordinary way.

INTREPID TRAPPER BAGS 4!

Allen Womack is at it again. In the last 2 weeks, he has trapped/ caught 2 skunks and 2 opossums in his back yard. The smell has been strong in the neighborhood, but we appreciate his efforts?

During this period, there have been 2 different skunk sightings on the opposite side of BellaVita. One was in the driveway of a resident's home. Both have been during daylight hours. Please help avoid repetitions of this type. Feed your pets inside. Do not place any type of food outdoors which might attract not only skunks and opossums but also raccoons, coyotes and bobcats. Remember, we live near a wild life area. You may find this exciting but your neighbors and their pets may not appreciate it so much.



THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Connie Harry, Chair

Work is underway by the Elections Committee for the 2015 Board of Directors Election. There will be three (3) positions open on the Board of Directors for 2015, each to serve a two year term. Each director serves "at-large" which means they represent the entire community, not a specific section. Below is the schedule of events pertaining to the 2015 election:

- January 5th **First Notification Letter** to be mailed, including **Willingness to Serve** form, and information for voters and candidates
- January 22nd **Candidate Orientation** is open to all interested residents and potential candidates. Time and location will be announced.
- February 10th **Willingness to Serve** forms due.
- February 17th **Second Notification Letter** will be mailed. This packet will include Candidate Information for those who have completed **Willingness to Serve** forms; Announcement for "Meet the Candidates" Forum; and Notice of Annual Meeting/Reception

- February 25th **Meet the Candidates" Forum** at 7 p.m. - Ballroom
- February 28th **"Meet the Candidates" Forum** at 2 p.m. Location to be announced as time nears.
- March 5th **Ballots** mailed to Homeowners
- March 18th **Ballots** due before close of business at either BellaVita Clubhouse or offices of First Service Residential.
- March 25th **Annual Meeting / Introduction of New Board Members/ Volunteer Appreciation Recognition and Reception**

Please mark your calendars for these dates and be sure to read the letters and accompanying documents as they are received. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please make plans to attend the Candidate Orientation. This program is held to introduce anyone interested in serving on the Board to the duties, responsibilities and commitment required to serve in this capacity. The Orientation is open to all residents of BellaVita. Your vote is extremely important as well as your decision to serve.

Reminders of these dates and other information regarding the election will be in the weekly newsletters. Additional information may also soon be updated on the BellaVita website (club-bellavita.org).

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All advertisements are due by the 15th of the month for the next edition. Multiple month subscriptions and discounts are available.



Judy's Taylor's Savior called her home to a better place and left to all that knew, respected and loved her the Special GIFT of Lasting Memories.

Judy was a part-time Front Desk Receptionist at BellaVita for over 5 years. Long enough to make her way to our hearts. We will all miss her smile, wit, laugh and dedication!

FENCE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM MOVING FORWARD!

Ron Lauve, BV Project Manager

As of October 31, replacement of wood and metal fences and gates at 149 homes had been completed. In addition, at homes on N. Riviera Circle and Berlino Dr. metal fences immediately adjacent to the Nature Reserve had been replaced. Consequently, the metal fencing portion of the contract is complete.

Overall, this work represents about 25% of the total linear footage of the project. Progress has not been as fast as we had hoped. There were some learning curves to straighten out between the BV Project Team and the Contractor. With the help of the BV Board of Directors issues have been smoothed out considerably. The Board's Financial Plan has been working smoothly. Due to the delayed progress the Board has not found it necessary to borrow any funds at this time. Current revenues have been sufficient. Not having to borrow saves the HOA having to pay interest.

Since the Project started in early June, our Quality Assurance Team, headed by Billy Potter, has done an outstanding job of keeping a close eye on the progress of the Contractor's work and ensuring that contract specifications are followed. A major achievement of the Team has been to demonstrate to the Contractor that our method of measuring the amount of completed footage is accurate. The Contractor no longer measures his completed work but now accepts our measurements as a basis for our payments.

Homeowners' overall satisfaction with the quality of both metal and wood fences has been high. We are continuing our close observations of the quality to ensure we get the best fencing possible throughout the project!

The Project Team appreciates the Homeowners' cooperation in making the project a success.



The BellaVita Belles

Linda Sanders, President

BellaVita Belles Fashion Show

The fashion Show began with remarks by the chairperson, Connie Harry. Connie thanked her assistants, Sandra Rogers for decorating and Sandra Bornstein for coordinating the models. Entertainment was provided by Kathy Wright, one of the talented musicians residing in BellaVita. A delicious catered lunch was served by Casarez Restaurant. The Clotheshorse Boutique, located in League City, provided the fashions for our resident models. The following ladies were models: Maureen Dixon, Dorothy Darden, Billie Velazquez, Kay Simpson, Vita Jattar, Linda Sanders, Marcia Glatzer, Helen Fargo, Linda Stanton, Helen Franklin, Maylene Moore, and Tamera Skeete. A variety of door prizes were given out and there were three raffle baskets to purchase. The mood of this event was festive and many ladies remarked about the wonderful time they had at the Fashion Show.



Fashion Show Models

MISTLETOE MARKET



Mistletoe Market Hostesses



Mistletoe Market Vendors

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Becky Spedden, Chair



Capri Court Landscaping

Grounds Committee Review for 2014:

- Created a new look in the overflow pool section of the swimming pool using rocks, urns and vegetation that minimize water usage, maintenance, and provide for seasonal vegetation.
- Trimmed trees around the lake and common areas.
- Updated several common areas and installed rocks and vegetation in areas without irrigation in order to beautify the landscape.
- Locked in a 3 year grounds maintenance contract, insuring no increases for the 2nd and 3rd year.
- Worked with FSR to improve the service request system for yard maintenance.
- Improved Annex landscaping by adding vegetation that mimicked the Mediterranean theme of the clubhouse area. Rocks were added around the building to create a pest control barrier.
- Worked with the fence committee to coordinate homeowner need for vegetation clearance in advance of the new fences.



BellaVita Homeowners Association

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