



# BellaBuzzy

An Official Publication of the BellaVita Homeowners Association

## BellaVita Clubhouse

1548 Riviera Circle  
 Pearland, TX 77581  
 281-464-3150  
[www.club-bellavita.org](http://www.club-bellavita.org)

## Board of Directors

### President – Ruth Southard

281-481-5855  
[rsouthard@club-bellavita.org](mailto:rsouthard@club-bellavita.org)

### V. Pres – Ron Gerlach

281-922-5050  
[rgerlach@club-bellavita.org](mailto:rgerlach@club-bellavita.org)

### Sec. – Wayne Johnson

281-464-2751  
[wjohnson@club-bellavita.org](mailto:wjohnson@club-bellavita.org)

### Treas. - Marc Wormser

832-288-3494  
[mwormser@club-bellavita.org](mailto:mwormser@club-bellavita.org)

### Bill Burdick

281-464-0555  
[bburdick@club-bellavita.org](mailto:bburdick@club-bellavita.org)

### David Dommert

281-464-3991  
[ddommert@club-bellavita.org](mailto:ddommert@club-bellavita.org)

### Benny Frank

281-481-1808  
[bfrank@club-bellavita.org](mailto:bfrank@club-bellavita.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOA BOARD PRESIDENT - RUTH SOUTHARD



Spring is visible in BellaVita. New HOA Board Directors were elected, flowers are blooming around the fountain, the pool is open, and the gates are closed.

The Gates Task Force has been working diligently on the transition to a real gated community. We appreciate all of the homeowner comments – positive and negative – as we began the transition. See the article on gate/entrance improvements. In addition, the Task Force prepared a tri-fold brochure to assist residents with the various options for entry. We are grateful to the Block Captains who recently distributed this brochure to each home in the community.

New board directors/officers were elected in March. The Board welcomes newly elected Marc Wormser and Wayne Johnson. This group of homeowners is committed to working in the best interest of all homeowners in the most efficient, effective ways. Over the next six months we will be experimenting with a “working smarter” concept. Starting in May, the HOA Board meetings will occur every other month (May, July, and September). On the “off” months, the board will have working sessions. These working sessions will provide board members an opportunity to discuss and research ongoing items of business or new ideas. No decisions can be made in workshops but following each session, a list of topics discussed will be included in the Weekly Announcements. Part of the “working smarter” proposal should enhance the communication between the board and the committees. The board liaison will advise the committees so that they don’t work in isolation. Also, board members will share information from committees so the board can be aware of ongoing projects at earlier stages of work. A new avenue of communication has been developed by providing email addresses for each committee. A review of communication methods is located in a sidebar in this edition.

The new Board of Directors will strive to work for you the homeowner. It is vital at this point in the life of BellaVita that we all work together.

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# Spaghetti Dinner

April 20  
2013





# Spaghetti Dinner

April 20, 2013



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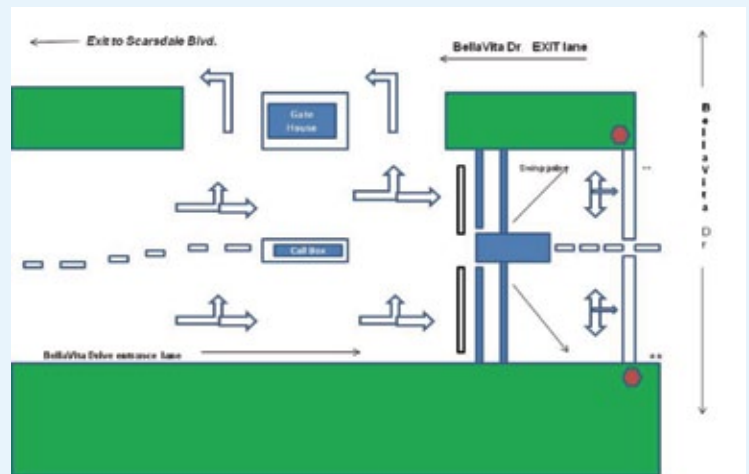
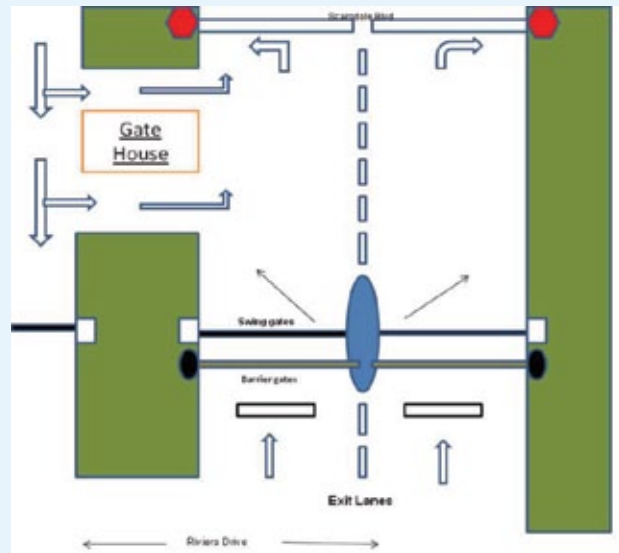
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# A Gated Community -- finally

We reached the milestone that most homeowners were promised when they chose BellaVita -- a gated community. Although we are operating the gates 24/7, this activity is not without incident and the Gate Task Force has been working full time with the board and clubhouse manager to make the system work for the homeowners. Many visitors are still having issues and the clubhouse is helping them whenever the clubhouse staff are present. Most tailgaters are having their vehicles struck by the gates and this is expensive to those vehicles and the HOA. The job is not finished and the Gate Task Force continues to work on improvements to operations.

The temporary signs will soon be replaced with permanent ones that should help to instruct vehicle drivers and especially our visitors as to how to deal with entering and exiting BellaVita. The Task Force has also been working on a drive lane painting scheme that will give additional visual guidance to traffic flow around the gate area. A cost proposal for this painting is being requested from selected painting contractors and we should see this improvement completed early this summer. A major gate area installation this spring was the addition of barrier arm gates installed on the Clubhouse side of the exit gates to help improve security control. Other gate improvements has been the replacement of the gate hinge bearings on the exit Iron Swing Gates, a relocation of the open detector loops for the exit gates and an add-on light for the Call Box/Directory. There has also been an upgrade to the area lighting to improve camera video quality as well as nighttime security. The Task Force is also discussing methods to improve traffic flow efficiencies especially in the visitor's lane as well as how to reduce or eliminate the on-going tailgating that continues to cause unnecessary labor hours and expense to repair or replace components damaged by this act.



\*\*Note: Apply the word "stop" in black on top of white stop line.



This month marks the second year anniversary of our BellaBuzz. We want to thank all of our advertisers, our publisher, and especially our "Reporters" who so diligently wrote and submitted articles for each of our issues. Also, thank you for the photos from the staff which are placed on the website. The Communications Committee hopes that you have enjoyed each issue and that we are able to continue this publication for you. We welcome your suggestions and input and will see you each quarter.

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## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Billy Potter and Nancy Triggs are overseeing the house painting for the HOA. There are a total of 81 houses to be painted this year and the painter is in the third week and is completing approximately 5 houses per week. We have received excellent reports on the houses painted thus far.

Front Door refinishing is being handled by Lyle Ganuchau and Don Jenson and by the end of April, 42 Service Requests had been completed. Please keep in mind, with the exception of Nancy Triggs, all of these people are volunteers that live in the community.

The Facilities Committee needs volunteers for individual tasks; such as overseeing minor street repairs and other small projects. Please call Nancy Triggs at 281-464-3150 or stop by the clubhouse and give her your information. Volunteers make BellaVita a better place to live.

## Communications

The main means of communication FROM the HOA TO the homeowner is via the website – [www.club-bellavita.org](http://www.club-bellavita.org).

Ways to communicate TO the HOA FROM the homeowner:

- Board member phone numbers in Weekly Announcements
- Board member phone numbers on website
- Board member email addresses in Weekly Announcements
- Board member email addresses on website
- Committee email addresses on website
- Homeowner Concern Form (available on the website and at the Clubhouse)
- Speaker Request Form (available on the website and at the Clubhouse)
- Quarterly Homeowner Forum – open discussions. Date/time posted in Weekly Announcements

## + EMERGENCY INFORMATION +

Recently, one of our Bella Vita residents had a health emergency situation. Neighbors were unable to find any information about emergency contacts. In response to that situation a form was generated and distributed for residents and neighbors use suggesting posting in a prominent place in the home.

Homeowners might also consider updating and forwarding a copy of this form to the clubhouse. All of us filled out a similar form when we became new residents. The information is on file at the front desk. Since emergency contacts may have changed, especially phone numbers, and in some instances friends and neighbors might not be available in an emergency or have access to resident's homes, we hope you will consider updating your association. All information will remain confidential.

## RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS

*By Ruth Southard*

Each year the HOA recognizes the many people who volunteer time and talent to the operations of the association. This year 100 Rose pins were distributed to Board members, committee members, task force members, Club officers, and group leaders. Additionally, Block Captains were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

This year was to be the first presentation of the ROSE award. Three homeowners were nominated for this award – Larry Alvarez, Bill Burdick, and Sue Steik. The contributions of each of these individuals are remarkable and ROSE worthy. However, the Award Information indicated a specific time frame – the preceding calendar year. Every nomination described creative ideas/activities that benefitted the community but were initiated and implemented over the course of several years prior to 2012. The committee believed that altering the selection criteria without a general announcement was inconsistent and could diminish the award. Therefore, no recommendation was presented to the Board.

We appreciate the efforts of those who took the time to submit nominations this year. To encourage and assist people in preparing future nominations, the committee determined it would be helpful if nominations could be submitted THROUGHOUT the year. SO...if you see someone "Serving Extraordinarily" during 2013 write it down and turn it in while it is fresh on your mind. The current nomination form is available on the website.

While some residents have lived in BellaVita for over ten years, 2014 marks the 5-year anniversary of a homeowner operated association. The Awards committee is seeking ideas for recognition of this milestone for volunteers. There are approximately 60 people who could qualify. Please contact the committee ([awards@club-bellavita.org](mailto:awards@club-bellavita.org)) with suggestions of what you would like to receive if you had served for five years.

After the annual meeting, a new Awards Committee chair was selected. Mary Ellen Henry will be responsible for the next BUZZ article.

It is a challenge to operate a corporation with volunteer workers. BellaVita is so fortunate to have so many capable people willing to use their skills and share their expertise to make the community a real home for all of us.



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# The Belles

By Linda Stanton, President



We boarded the 'Perfection' with all of the enthusiasm you would expect from the ladies who call BellaVita home. The cast of characters came dressed 'to kill' and had a wonderful time interacting with the audience. Everyone enjoyed an evening with good food, great friends and a fun atmosphere.

The weather could not have been more perfect for our Garden Tour. **Janet DelSardo** did a superb job of showcasing some of the beauty which hides behind the fences in BellaVita. Special thanks to all of our neighbors who so graciously shared their yards: **Carolyn & Larry Alvarez, Dorothy & Cris Barrera, Janet & Tony DelSardo, Joy & Jim Knight, Margie & Charles Parham, Linda Stanton, Anna & Kenny Velasquez** and **Billie & Donald Velazquez**.

We are looking forward to seeing what **Eva Gates & Robyn Williams** have in store for us at the Ladies Tea on May 18th. It is sure to be wonderful event. We are also looking forward to the BellaVita Pool Bash being sponsored by all of the Clubs on June 1; followed by Ladies Night-in on June 22nd. The plans for our Mistletoe Market are well underway.

We meet the first Wednesday of every month and look forward to meeting with our friends for the dinner which is prepared by that month's hostess and her crew.

This year we have enjoyed delightful meals planned by **Sarah Huang, Barbara Craft** and **Irene Flynn**. All of the ladies in BellaVita are invited to come join us. We eat at 6:30 followed by our short meeting at 7:00; and we look forward to seeing you.



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*(A man who wears many hats)*

**Mike Roberson** is now retired but has lived an interesting life. He began his career as a fire fighter for the City of Houston and moved on to train as an arson investigator. He worked on many interesting cases but the most interesting one was the fire in the home of the ex-wife of another fire fighter. The investigation uncovered the facts that the homeowner and her daughter were involved in drugs and prostitution. One of the women's boy friend had set the fire and a sheriff's jailer had aided the process.

Mike's crime solving process not only involved finding gasoline as the incendiary device but searching through numerous receipts to show links to the dates and times of the purchase of the gasoline. One of the men involved confessed under a plea bargain agreement. Unfortunately, our justice system failed to convict those involved, but the insurance company refused to pay for the claim. Mother and daughter were then under police radar and were later convicted of prostitution.

After 14 years as an arson investigator and Senior/Supervisory Investigator, Mike "retired." But his working life had just started. One of his many career moves involved working as a private investigator for Black and Decker. This job involved Black and Decker's product liability issues. He was responsible for investigation of country-wide fires that were attributed to Black and Decker products. In addition, he had responsible roles working for Texas Children's Hospital and the Permits Department in Harris County and owned his own business.

Mike and his wife Carolyn, who have been married for 50 years, have lived in BellaVita for 3 years. They have 2 sons and a Min Pin dog Dobie. His hobbies involve reading, landscaping, rebuilding old guns and traveling in their motor home.

BellaVita has many interesting residents and Mike is certainly one of them. If you get a chance, take some time to talk with Mike: he has many interesting tales to tell. The Roberson's reside at 1216 North Riviera Circle.

## BV Sewing Groups sends "Little Dresses" to the Philippines

By Joan Cummings

BellaVita residents, **Gwen and Dennis Imhoff**, recently returned from a trip to the Philippines to visit their daughter Amanda, son-in-law Derek and their 5 grandchildren. (See BridgingtheGap-Asia.org). While there, Gwen and Dennis visited "The Dump". Life there is centered around a vast garbage dump on which many of the residents survive through scavenging. The men, women, and children look for articles which they can sell for recycling value. Families inhabit miserable makeshift shelters.

When Gwen returned home, she told the BellaVita Sewing Group about the children living on "The Dump". The ladies of the Sewing Group were delighted to help send new dresses and shorts to the needy children in the Philippines. For several years, one of the Sewing Group's service projects has been to make "Little Dresses for Africa". The dresses are usually sent

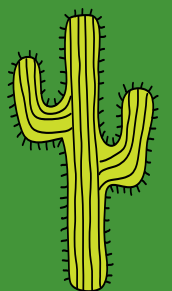
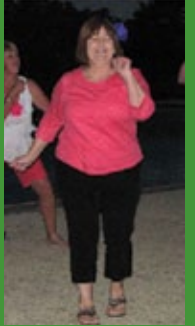
to a collection point and then distributed to needy children around the world. It will be interesting for the Sewing Group to have personal contact with someone in the Philippines who will be helping to distribute the new dresses.

The ladies are shown packing the shipping box bound for the Philippines. **Janice Hassinger, Anne Maher, Gerry McDermott, Helen Ortiz, Rosemary Grimmet, Bimla Agrawal, Sandra Haydon, Barbara Pasciak, Darshan Gupta, Joan Cummings, Marilee Plaks, Norma Barton** and **Mercedes Dies**.

**Special Note:** The Little Dresses project was initially brought to the Sewing Group by BellaVita resident **Anne Maher**, who recently completed her 270th dress! Anne is an inspiration to the other ladies who sew.



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## ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The 2013 Election saw two residents join our HOA Board of Directors: **Wayne Johnson** and **Mark Wormser**. Wayne is now Secretary of the Board and Mark has become the Treasurer. Rounding out the Board Officers is **Ruth Southard**: President and **Ron Gerlach**: Vice President. Additional members include **Bill Burdick**, **Dave Dommert** and **Benny Frank**.



Mark Wormser



Wayne Johnson

The Committee reported that 41% of our 614 homeowners voted. The Board and the Committee are hoping for an even larger turnout when four members will be elected to the Board for a two year term in March of 2014.

An invitation is extended to any interested homeowner to consider serving your community in the capacity of Board Member.

### Community Relations Committee ("CRC")

"We hope it won't, but just in case...!" - It's a severe storm or hurricane we're talking about! BellaVita will renew its information on storms and get the "latest" along with predictions for 2014 when all residents meet on Saturday, June 8th at 2:00 in the afternoon to hear Patrick Blood from the National Weather Service. There will be "storm related" door prizes, cash prizes, vendor displays and light snacks. As always, copies of the BellaVita storm planning guide will also be available.

An ICE form ("in case of an emergency") was recently delivered to each resident. This form has multiple purposes and is extremely useful to all EMS personnel should they ever need to call on your home for any reason. Kindly fill it out, give a copy to your neighbors, maybe one to the clubhouse to update your original information and place one in a prominent position in your home such as someplace on your refrigerator.

Thank you so much for helping us all helps each other! "All this" ...brought to you by... your friendly CRC Committee!!!!

## CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

If you haven't already done so, check out the new Library at the Clubhouse Annex. Projects such as this could not have been completed without the help of dedicated community volunteers. If you're looking for some fun and entertainment then I encourage you to pickup a monthly activity calendar at the clubhouse front desk and get involved in any of the many activities listed. Stay informed by attending meetings of your HOA and of the various community clubs and organizations. Help in supporting their functions. They're all run by volunteers and they all make BellaVita a special place to live in.

I have an article that was clipped out of a "Dear Abby" column years ago. It's really timeless and goes like this:

"Once upon a time, there were four people; their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

"When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it.

"So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place."

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