



# BellaBuzzy

An Official Publication of the BellaVita Homeowners Association

## BellaVita Clubhouse

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HOA BOARD PRESIDENT - RUTH SOUTHARD



Spring has finally arrived and BellaVita is alive with activities – elections, annual meeting, facility upgrades, community-wide projects and a variety of social events. Homeowner involvement is always evident but the +50% participation in the election of Board Directors was impressive. The Board welcomes new members Carol Barber and John Rodriguez as they join the board to replace outgoing David Dommert and Wayne Johnson.

The annual meeting in March marked a milestone in our community – five years of homeowner-operated association. The Association is, once again, physically and financially healthy. Be sure to read about the new Award Board in the Clubhouse and stop to see those who have served 5 years. As you walk/ride through the community you should see the new walk providing access to the lake from the east side, a new stationary bike in the Fitness Room, a new roof on the Annex, and construction of additional shade at the pool.

And then there are fences...

Over the next year every homeowner will receive a new, higher quality fence. The attendance of 200 homeowners for the fence forum was amazing and seemed to confirm the "right" decision on the part of the Board. Information updates will be provided regularly. See the article in this issue along with the website.

We also have fun. The clubs have planned a variety of events this spring. Let's get out and enjoy our surroundings. We are fortunate to be able to live in a community like BellaVita – the people make it what it is.



Ruth Cheek's garden on the garden tour

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### A MAN WHO WEARS MANY HATS

**Paul Ashline** was born in Plattsburgh, NY and lived there for 17 years until he joined the Army Reserves, the regular Army and finally the Air Force. After joining the Air Force, Paul served in many places in various capacities. His primary jobs were as a Helicopter Mechanic, Helicopter Pilot Instructor, NCOIC in charge of Maintenance and Chief of Maintenance for all of the rescue Helicopters in the United States. While stationed in San Angelo, TX, Paul met and married his first wife, Lanita, and won the Air Medal for rescuing civilians in flooded areas from a Helicopter. (In order to secure the civilians, Paul wore a collar and was suspended on a pencil-thin cable from the helicopter into the flood waters. Then he placed the collar around the civilians and they were hauled aboard.)



After serving for 22 years, Paul retired from the Air Force. His many bases included several in Texas, California, Nevada, Japan, Washington, Viet Nam and Korea. He graduated from Angelo State University and it only took him 20 years! His college career began at Angelo State and with his many moves, he finished in the same place. Paul's next move took him to Iran as a Helicopter Instructor to the Iranian Air Force. He was there when the Shah was deposed, witnessed some rioting and sheltered in place in his home for many months until returning to San Angelo. There he was the Spare Parts Manager for Mitsubishi Helicopters until they closed their plant. His next career was with the Post Office where he had various jobs including an instructor. Paul retired after 12 years about the same time his first wife died. He has known his current wife Marcia since she was 18 and a nursing student with his wife Lanita. Paul and Marcia became reacquainted after Marcia's husband died. He came for a visit to Houston and pretty much stayed. He and Marcia have been married for 10 years and their combined family totals 6; 3 boys and 3 girls.

Paul and John Kaltenbach started the veterans club and he has served as Vice-Commander and is currently Commander. The Vets have contributed a lot to the community and are currently on a membership drive. Participation at most meetings is about 25 and the Vets need more! Participation at most meetings is about 25 and the Vets need more! Paul and his fellow Vets would like to add a few new hats to the group.

## Frequently Asked Questions about FENCES

- What fences will be replaced?
- Who will be responsible for maintenance and replacement of new fences?
- Will these fences have warranties?
- What will this Replacement Program cost?  
Will there be an increase in the monthly assessment or a special assessment?
- When will the Program begin, where will it start?  
How long will it take to complete?
- Who is the Contractor?
- Are the new fences going to be of higher quality?
- Will new fences be placed exactly where present fences are located?
- Will any fence heights change?
- Will the quality of construction be monitored?
- What can Homeowners expect while fences are being built?
- What are the responsibilities of Homeowners?
- What can Homeowners expect regarding scheduling of work?
- Will Homeowners be allowed to upgrade their front fences/gates from wood to iron for a fee?

The answers to these questions can be found in a Question/Answer flyer distributed by your Block Captains recently. Answers to Questions that arise in the future will be published in the weekly BellaVita Newsletter from time to time.

Reminder: If you have other questions there are forms available at the Clubhouse to fill out or you can send questions to the Task Force at: [fenceTF@club-bellavita.org](mailto:fenceTF@club-bellavita.org).

IF YOU ARE PLANNING AN EXTENDED ABSENCE FROM BELLAVITA, PLEASE GIVE INFORMATION TO THE FRONT DESK OR SEND AN EMAIL TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS WITH YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.



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## PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Dear BellaVita Friends and Neighbors:

BellaVita Veterans sincerely thank you for your support of the FLAGS OF BELLAVITA project. The response in our great community has been spectacular! From a start of 100 flags in November 2006, we have grown to more than 600, thanks to participants like you.

As you know, BellaVita Veterans, with the help of many resident volunteers, install 3x5 foot American flags in common areas and in residents' yards on six holidays each year: Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot's Day and Veterans Day. The display is beautiful and we hope you enjoy the flags as much as we enjoy installing them.

Revenues finance the project and maintain, repair or replace the flags and poles at the Clubhouse and Memorial Garden. Any revenues above these costs will be used to support worthwhile projects within and on behalf of the BellaVita Community. The latest community enhancement funded by the project was the leveling of the mailbox clusters and refinishing the clubhouse front entrances.

Sincerely,  
BellaVita Veteran's Organization

## BOARD CHANGES

By Connie Harry, Chair of Elections Committee

The election for Board of Directors was held on March 20, 2014 with four (4) candidates being elected. At the Annual Meeting on March 26th, the election was certified. Two candidates were re-elected to the Board: **Ruth Southard** and **Mark Wormser** and we congratulate them on their re-election. Two new board members were elected and we would like to introduce them to you at this time.

**Carol Barber** is a long time BellaVita resident with a past working in education and as a small business owner. She has been active in many facets of the BellaVita community, serving and chairing numerous events and serving as president of the Belles and That's Entertaining Club. She is always available to help on projects in the community and has a lifelong commitment to civic responsibility.



**John Rodriguez** has lived in BellaVita since 2009, is a veteran of the U.S. Marines and until recently worked in the Oil and Gas industry. He is a member of the BV Veteran's Club, has served as V.P. of the men's Club and has served and chaired the Clubhouse Committee. John expressed his desire to serve the community by serving on the Board. We welcome Carol and John's addition to the Board.



The election brought 351 votes out of a potential field of 617 homeowners, representing almost a 57% turnout of votes. Thanks to all who voted and wishing the Board a successful year.

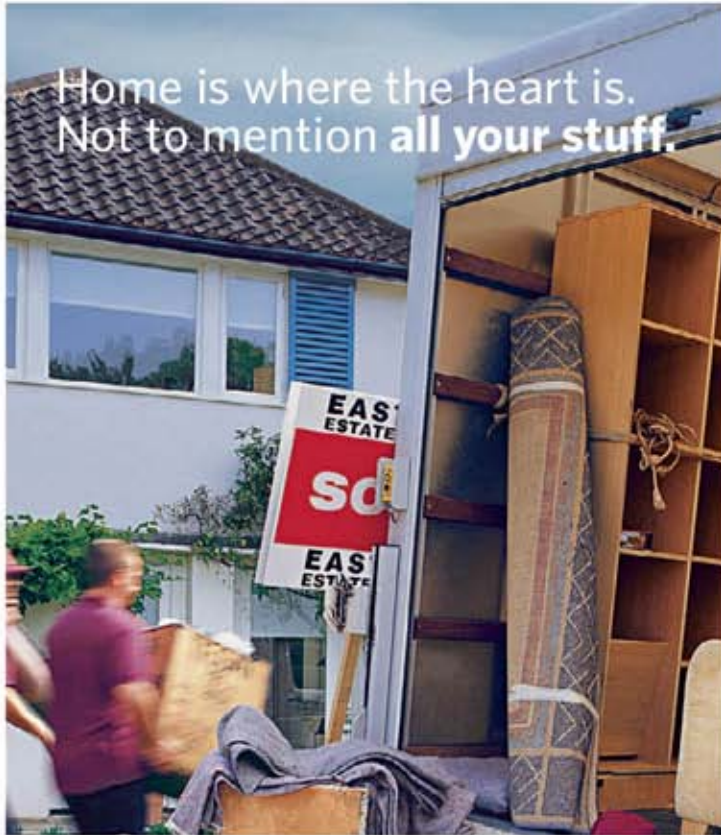


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## NATURE RESERVE

The semi-annual "Harry Reed Audubon Trail" guided tour was held on Saturday, May 3. Including some Nature Reserve Committee members, the total number of homeowner participants was 13; 4 homeowners indicated that this was their first time on the trail. It was such a nice morning that following the normal guided tour (less than 1/2 mile), over half of the group went on a more strenuous extended tour that covered about 1 1/2 miles of trail. The next guided tour is planned for the fall.

## CRC HURRICANE MEETING

The CRC is hosting its annual hurricane meeting on June 21 at 2:00 PM in the Clubhouse. The Red Cross and various vendors will be present. All homeowners are welcome.

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# The BellaVita Belles

Linda Sanders, Belles President



Pictured below (left to right) are: Rhee Haun, Sarah Huang, Linda Sanders, Belle's President, and Bimla Agrawal

## BELLE'S ANNUAL TEA

The Tea is an annual Belle's tradition where the ladies in the community enjoy tea, food, conversation, friendship and entertainment. In April the BelleVita Belle's and their friends and neighbors held their annual Tea. Chairman, Sandra Rodgers, and her committee were responsible for the food and entertainment and service. (Able-bodied members of the Men's Club provided table and escort service for the ladies under the direction of Sandra Bornstein.) The Belle's wish to thank them for their continued support which makes this event so special.

Each of the 10 tables was festively decorated by the hostesses and they were wonderfully distinctive. During the meal the Lute was played by Herbert Ward. Afterwards the ladies enjoyed a visit by Queen Victoria who read an excerpt from her diary.

## BELLE'S GARDEN TOUR

The Weather was gorgeous for the BellaVita Belles 2014 Garden Tour. It was a superb event, and the chairperson, Helen Fargo, her co-chairs, Sue Kauffman and Marjorie Parham did a wonderful job of coordinating 10 Homeowners who displayed their beautiful gardens. The homeowners who presented their gardens for the tour were: Nita Butler, Ruth Cheek, Maureen Dixon, Irene & Donald Flynn, Chris & Ted Hook, Linda Neiser, Margarete Nicholson, Mary & Cliff Trainer, Anna & Kenny Velasquez, and Kathy & Ken Wright. The Caterer, Bobby Casarez served a delicious meal of Chicken Corden Bleu with new potatoes, and assorted vegetables. Assorted pasteries, iced tea and soda completed the menu. Donna Fay Hilliard, an Organic Horticulturist of SweetOrganic Solutions (Pearland) was the Speaker at the luncheon. At the center of each table was a beautiful plant that was given as a door prize, to the lucky person who had a small green square taped under the seat of their chair. A good time was had by all.



Margarete Nicholson's garden from the garden tour

## NANCY TRIGGS AND BELLAVITA ARE TV AND INTERNET STARS



Nancy and Film Crew

Peterson Dean is the largest residential roofing company in the United States. They install commercial and residential roofing and solar systems. They installed the tile roof on the Clubhouse and the replacement composite/shingle roof on the Annex. John Collins, the Creative Director of the Company, brought a film crew to BellaVita recently. They asked Nancy Triggs, Clubhouse Manager, to film a commercial spot for the firm. The shot took place on a sunny day behind the Clubhouse. It took a couple of "takes" but Nancy performed beautifully. The commercial is scheduled for U-Tube and Television and will be shown in Houston, Austin, Dallas and California.

# FINALLY! SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

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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.



## THE GETAWAYS

The Getaways are gone away or on hiatus and will return in August!

## MEN'S CLUB

*Chris Barrera, President*

The first quarter of the year was very active with our Super Bowl Party in February, St. Patrick's Day Party in March, Beatles Tribute in April and Pasta Night in May. Our upcoming events are the Pool Party & Fiesta Night in June, Movie Night in July, and Breakfast in August.

A reminder to all men who are interested, to be a member, any BellaVita male resident simply needs to show up on the first Wednesday of the month. We have tasty food and drink at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m.. You'll be most welcomed.



### Opening Doors for You in Bella Vita!

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Charles and Marjorie Parham at the Derby

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT CLUB

Linda Stanton, President

We invite everyone in the community to join us for our new 'Happy-Half Hour' before our monthly meetings. Each month features a special cocktail by one of our resident mixologist, along with beer and wine. It is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and to meet new ones. We gather the second Wednesday of the month; with cocktails at 6:30 and our meeting at 7:00PM.

Thank you to all of the participants who made our first Mardi Gras Parade such a success. It proved to be a lot of fun, and Krewes are already talking about next year.

May left the gate at our first Kentucky Derby. Everyone enjoyed the finery which is 'The Derby'. It was fun to cheer for your favorites while sipping on Mint Juleps, the signature drink of 'The Derby'. We took a day off and returned for a fun-filled Cinco de Mayo.

The 'Variety Show' (formerly known as the talent show) will return on August 16th. This will be the third year since the shows revival, and along with being able to enjoy the wonderful talent which resides in BellaVita; everyone looks forward to joining in the fun and laughter that this event always provides. Everyone in Bellavita is encouraged to use this event to showcase their talents – so start polishing up those acts!



## ROSE AWARD FOR 2013

Mary Ellen Henry, Chairperson

**Don Jensen** was awarded the first Rose Award for his extraordinary effort in providing excellent and untiring support to the BV board while serving on the Gate Task Force. He provided exceptional effort, expertise, and physical support over and above that which was expected of him. He spent many hours identifying traffic conditions, gate systems, and cost analysis. We now enjoy a gate system that is cost effective, user friendly, and includes a speed bump to deter tailgating and damage to the visitor arm. He even physically spent time helping residents and visitors understand how to use the electronic control system. A plan to set fees for breakage was put into place along with lighting and video recording of gate activity.

We are all grateful for the hard work the Gate Task Force did in researching the systems and implementing a very workable and cost efficient system. Thank you for your hard work in making Bella Vita a wonderful place in which to live!



Don Jensen and Mary Ellen Henry

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June 2014

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