

DECEMBER 2011



# BELLA BUZZ

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)

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281-922-5050

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

**Vice-Pres. - Bill Burdick**

281-464-0555

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

**Treas. - David Dommert**

281-464-3991

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

**Secretary - Cris Barrera**

281-464-9669

[cbarrera@club-bellavita.org](mailto:cbarrera@club-bellavita.org)

Dorothy Darden

281-484-8385

[ddarden@club-bellavita.org](mailto:ddarden@club-bellavita.org)

John Devereux

281-922-1110

[jdevereux@club-bellavita.org](mailto:jdevereux@club-bellavita.org)

Elizabeth Woods

281-464-2405

[ewoods@club-bellavita.org](mailto:ewoods@club-bellavita.org)

## Management: AMI

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[www.amitx.com](http://www.amitx.com)

## President's Report - BV Homeowners' Association

By Ron Gerlach

Your HOA Board has been working diligently over the past few months to review and understand the new laws passed by the Texas Legislature and their effect on the actions of homeowner associations. Some of these laws are already in effect and others will become effective on January 1, 2012 and will impact not only how an HOA conducts its business but also its policies. We have been working with AMI and their legal staff to develop these into a working document which should be available for your review by the end of December. Some of these policies will require filing with the County Clerk and we anticipate posting the new policies on the Web site as we complete them. We will continue working with AMI, legal staff, clubhouse staff and related committees to make these changes available to each resident.

The 2012 Strategic Planning document has been completed with the work of the HOA Board, the Committee chairs, club presidents and clubhouse staff. This document is based on a five (5) year projection and is available on the BV website.

Additionally, the Finance Committee has been working overtime with the clubhouse manager and committees to define the elements of the 2012 budget and Maintenance Fees. The committee performed a zero-based budget review this year. This was a significant effort and should pave the way for several years of budget development.

On a fun note: Please get your tickets for the New Year's Party – it is a highlight to the end of the year here at BV. On behalf of the HOA Board, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

## BellaVita HOA 2012 Budget

At the special called board meeting for the budget, which was open to homeowners, the board reviewed the proposal by the Finance Committee and adopted the operations budget, set the reserve contribution, and also set the CY 2012 maintenance fee. The 2011 maintenance fee was initiated in 2005 by the builder board at \$210.00. Your board has been able to maintain that same fee for 7 years while the government reported inflation increased over 15% in that same period (not compounded). The fee established for CY 2012 was set by the board at \$222.00 which is approximately a 6% increase. This fee will begin in January 2012.





# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Clubhouse Hours

Sunday	12pm- 6pm
Monday	11am - 10pm
Tuesday	10am- 10pm
Wednesday	10am- 10pm
Thursday	10am- 10pm
Friday	10am- 10pm
Saturday	10am- 10pm

## Children's Pool Hours

Tues. – Thur.	3pm- 7pm
Sat. – Sun.	1pm- 6pm

## Pool & Fitness Center Hours

Open 6am – Closed at Midnight

## Homeowner Rental Information

**Homeowners Private Party  
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Ballroom  
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*Rental rates apply to set up  
and cleanup times.  
Tables, chairs, basic set up and  
use of the kitchen are only  
included in the Ballroom rental.*

## Streetlight Outages

***Please obtain the 6 digit  
number on the pole.***

You can report street light outages over the internet at:  
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Once you get there, you click on  
"Houston", then under "Quick  
Clicks" you select "Report a  
street light outage".

***To report outages by phone:  
713-207-2222.***

## Recent Texas Legislation



Recent Homeowner Association Legislation has allowed that the Association may email all Homeowner responses in reference to meetings, updates, documents and

anything pertaining to your Homeowner Association in addition to mail-outs and public postings. On behalf of your BellaVita HOA, we encourage all of our residents to provide a current email address by calling AMI or stopping by the clubhouse front desk to update this information.

## Clubhouse Committee Report

The Clubhouse Committee is working to update the Club Bellavita Rules and Regulations, which will include new Clubhouse Parking Lot policy. The Rules and Regulations have been distributed by our block captains and are available on the website under the Residents tab.

## "Saturday Talk" (CRC)

*By Carol Barber*

Many thanks to those that attended our "first" Saturday Talk! We had a great crowd. Ed Simmons, our guest speaker from Memorial Herman SE Hospital, spoke to us about the issue of "clinical ethics" and reviewed the current Advanced Directive (used to be called "Living Will") and



*Left to Right: Ortie Ortiz, Speaker Ed Simmons,  
Carol Wolf*

the Medical Power of Attorney forms. Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee ("CRC"), its members include Nancy Alexander, Jan Dow, Billie Velazquez, John Devereux and Carol Barber. Watch the February calendar for the next afternoon "Saturday Talk". See you then.

## Report from the Elections Committee

*By Carol Barber*

The Elections Committee wishes to remind residents that the 2012 election process will begin at the first of the year. Now is the time, however, to consider running for one of the three HOA Director positions that will become open. Directors are elected for a term of three years. Kindly consider serving our BellaVita community in this capacity. The Committee is looking forward to presenting a full slate of candidates. For information or concerns, contact any one of the Elections Committee members: Gene Reddell, Joyce Wormser, John Kaltenbach or Carol Barber.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## Facilities Committee Update

Effective November 1, Fred Fargo will take over as Chairman of the Facilities Committee due to the resignation of Dennis Akkola for reasons of family commitments. The Committee also accepted the resignation of Kelly Paterno due to health reasons. Both of these people will be greatly missed.

**Update on Fences:** The project to begin replacing fences is still under consideration with bids and costs being researched and analyzed.

**Update on Pool Refurbishing:** The Committee is still receiving bids; however, a drainage problem exists that appears to be weakening the soil around the pool. The Committee is working to identify the location of sewer drainage pipes that should be handling the drainage and will enlist the help of professionals if necessary to make sure the drainage issue is resolved before pool refurbishing begins.

**Update on Water Quality:** The City of Pearland installed a new flush valve that empties directly into the storm sewer. Since this new process has been implemented, we are not aware of any homeowner problems with water that has a bad odor.

**Update on HOA Board Policy Task Force:** To support the Board's effort, our Committee is reviewing current HOA maintenance policies to identify revisions needed to eliminate redundancy and inconsistencies in our maintenance policies.

**Update on Safety:** The drought has caused some concrete sidewalks to shift which can create an uneven path. We have had one report of a resident falling, so please watch your step when walking around the lake.



# Happy Holidays

*From the Communications Committee*



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# RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Face To Face – Meet Your Neighbor



*Dotty Raines*

Our first FACE to FACE article for the Buzz highlights our neighbor, DOTTY RAINES. Dotty was born in 1925 in South Houston, Texas. During World War II, Dotty worked at the Naval Air Station, San Diego working on highly classified war related activities. After the

war, Dotty returned to Texas where she worked for a number of large oil companies in the accounting departments. She also fine-tuned her skills as a travel agent, one of the services she still performs by specializing in group trips for our BV residents.

Dotty and husband, Jesse, moved to BellaVita in 2004 and immediately became active in the community. If you have ever attended an event at the clubhouse, you can be sure that you were treated to some of the behind the scenes work of Dotty. Dotty always ensures that the kitchen remains spotless following events and is always well stocked. Dotty and Jesse swim daily in their home pool, season and weather permitting. They also are seen frequently two-wheeling their bicycles in the neighborhood. Dotty plays Bridge twice weekly at the clubhouse, and as she says, "sometimes on bottom and sometimes on top". She just loves the game. She initiated the "Bring a Dish Luncheon" six years ago in order to bring new people to meet their neighbors. She loves to dance and she and Jesse are regularly seen tripping the light fantastic on the dance floor.

Her favorite thing though is putting trips together for the BellaVita Travelers. She loves searching for great places to visit and getting the best for the buck for everyone. Dotty has planned trips yearly since 2006 for BV Travelers, including cruise and land of Inside Passage-Alaska, Railway to Copper Canyon, Sierra Madre, cruise to Panama Canal, and the Mexican Caribbean. There

are currently trips planned for the Smoky Mountains and Branson in May 2012 and a relocation cruise originating in Rome, Italy with a cruise back across the Atlantic to the U.S. If you are interested in a trip, Dotty is always looking for new destinations of interest.

A tip of our BV hat to Dotty for your selfless work in the community.

## My Neighbors and Friends

*By Ellen Bailey*

My neighbors and my friends are very dear to me  
They are always there whenever there is a need  
We talk to each other and we borrow and lend  
Such treasures they are, my neighbors and friends  
I sing when they sing and I laugh when they laugh  
We do things for each other on the other's behalf  
They share with me their many worries and fears  
I share with them my compassion and my tears  
How lonely and cheerless a place my soul would be  
Without such neighbors and good friends as these  
I cherish them all and take each one into my heart  
Feeling the love and kindness each in turn imparts.



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# EVENT SPOTLIGHT



## Neighborhood Night Out

Our Neighborhood Night Out was well represented by most streets within BellaVita. The neighbors turned out to meet and greet (and of course, EAT). Also coming by for visits were members of the Pearland Police Department, Pct. 2 Constable's office, Fire Department and EMS crew.





# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun”

By Lynn Rodriguez

The BellaVita Belles continue to fulfill their mission by promoting activities and causes that improve fellowship among residents and enhance the general environment of the community. Our monthly meetings continue to grow with 60 to 70 ladies attending each month.

On August 20th the Belles joined up with the Men's Club to sponsor a Casino Night and Auction chaired by Linda Stanton. Light snacks and drinks were served, highlighted by a live performance by “Elvis”. The evening ended with a live auction of items from local businesses gathered by Helen Fargo.

The Belles' annual Mistletoe Market is a fundraiser to provide operational funds for the Belles. Additionally, the Belles collect new and slightly used donated items from our residents to sell at The Treasure Box, the proceeds of which are given to charity. This year's charitable recipient is The Bridge Over Troubled Waters. Mrs. Claus' Cupboard offered a box lunch for guest, vendors and volunteers. The Men's Club takes this opportunity to do some fundraising of their own by providing a late afternoon meal. The Hands of Love Stitchers sold tickets for a chance to win a beautiful handmade quilt. The proceeds from the raffle support the many community service projects of the stitchers. Ruth Southard chaired the event again this year and our thanks go to all who helped make the market a great success.

The Belles also sponsor monthly Pot Luck and Bingo which is a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon with food, fun, and friends. Light Movie Night has increased to over 100 attendees providing the latest light moves with popcorn and drinks. You can also order your own pizza slice(s) if you like. Sue Steik and Ruth Cheek are the chairs of these events and do a fabulous job!!!



## And the Winner Is...



The winner of the raffle quilt *Valiant Eagle*, made by the Sewing Club, was a man from Pearland. He looked at the quilts when he first arrived at the Mistletoe Market on Saturday, but did not buy any raffle tickets. After shopping, he returned to purchase the winning raffle ticket. Congratulations! He was excited to receive the quilt. The BV Sewing Club ladies were very happy with the success of the raffle ticket sales at the Mistletoe Market this year.

The Christmas raffle quilt, “*Holiday Gifts*”, is composed of unique packages wrapped with ribbon. The fabric for the quilt packages was selected from the Sewing Club member's stash of leftover Christmas fabric. Each package contains a beautiful embroidered label made by Deborah Joiner. The quilt was expertly quilted by Norma Barton. The quilt would make a great addition to your holiday decorations. The drawing for the *Holiday Gifts* quilt will be December 11, 2011 at the reception following the Christmas Home Tour. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at major events at Club BellaVita.

The Sewing Club would like to thank the Bella Vita residents that have supported our quilt raffles. Many neighbors and visitors stopped by the Sewing Club's booth at the Mistletoe Market and showed interest in our various service projects. The Linus Blankets and Little Dresses for Africa were favorites. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. For more information on the projects of the Sewing Club, contact Helen Ortiz (281-484-4653).

# CLUB ACTIVITIES



## LAS VEGAS NIGHT



## Join Us For Dining Out

*(Oh Boy! I don't have to cook tonight!)*

By Jo Farris

BellaVitas' Dining-Out Group gets together on the third Monday of each month for a night of casual dining in one of our areas local restaurants. We usually have a group of about thirty people sign up for these evenings out.

This year the group has been to a variety of restaurants from Steak Houses to Bar-B-Q Restaurants to Seafood Houses to Tex Mex Grills. Of all these restaurants visited this year, the Monument Inn in Laporte stands out as one of the best. The food was excellent, the service was the best that I have seen for one Waitress serving thirty people. Drink orders were taken promptly, all food orders came out together, the food was hot, everybody got what they ordered, and all the "separate checks" were in order. All of this made for a very nice evening with our BV friends.

Also, let's not forget, Landry's Seafood on the Kemah Boardwalk was a very nice dining experience. These evenings out is a great time to visit with old neighbors and get to know new neighbors, so sign up and come out and join the group. We dine out eleven months of the year, with December as a "Night Off" due to the busy holiday season. For our 2011 finale, we will be going to Luna's in Friendswood on November 21st, and will be back on schedule in January 2012. To borrow from the Belles motto 'We Just Wanna Have Fun!' Please join us.




  
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# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## BellaVita Men's Club Activities

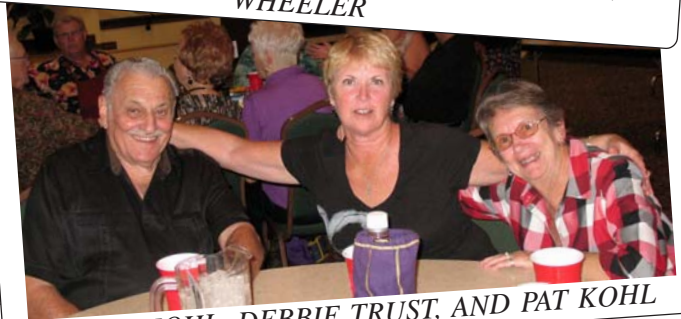
The BellaVita Men's Club (BVMC) meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month at BellaVita Clubhouse. Its membership is open to all male residents of the BellaVita community.

The Men's Club sponsored a fun trip to the Coushatta Casino for the community September 19th thru the 20th. Two charter buses were filled to capacity and for the low price of \$70, based on double occupancy, the travelers received a free night at the Coushatta Inn, free transportation, and \$23 in free play at the casino. This is a very popular trip repeated several times a year. Complimentary refreshments were served aboard the busses, coming and going.

On October 15th, the Men's Club hosted the annual Oktoberfest celebration. Guests were served home cooked German red cabbage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, German sausage and a delicious streusel topped apple pie for dessert. Guests enjoyed a travel documentary of the Rhine River.



*STEVE & DEBORAH JOINER, VALERIE & ALLEN WHEELER*



*HANK KOHL, DEBBIE TRUST, AND PAT KOHL*



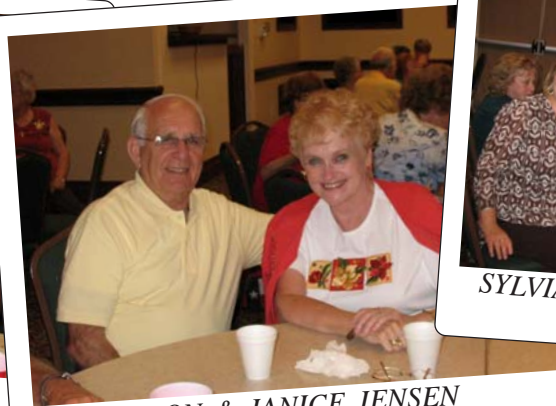
*ARVED PLAKS, MIKE & LINDA SANDERS*



*JOHN RODRIGUEZ, PATTI KIOUS AND FRED FARGO*



*GINNY & BILL BURDICK*



*DON & JANICE JENSEN*



*SYLVIA MARTIN, JEAN O'NEILL, MARTHA GRIGSBY*





## A Note From The Neighborhood Watch Program



The Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) remains active in front and behind the scenes. Through the year 2011, many articles have been written for the newsletter, board presentations have been given and signage has

been installed to alert residents and visitors of BellaVita needs and requirements.

Neighborhood patrols are conducted on a random basis and just recently we assisted Mistletoe Market staff during that event.

At the last HOA Board meeting stop signs were approved for placement on Riviera Dr. at the corners of South and East Capri Drive. Additionally, stop signs will be added at the South Venice/South Lago Vista intersection. Budget constraints and the very hard ground due the drought have delayed installation of the signs. BellaVita residents will be notified about construction dates.

Residents are urged to be vigilant of their surroundings especially during the dark times of winter, to take advantage of the home inspection offer by the Pearland Police Department and to report suspicious incidents to the clubhouse management or the police department.

Neighborhood Watch personnel wish everybody happy holidays and a prosperous and safe new year.

## Veterans Club

The Veterans Club has funded and had built an entryway to the Harry Reed Audubon Nature Trail. The bridge is located the south end of Lake BellaVita. Use it with care. It is built for seniors and has a gentle slope and shallow stairs. Please enjoy the entry.



As the end of the year approaches, it is time to renew fees for the 2012 flag season. The Block captains, in their distribution have included a brochure explaining the flag program and requesting payment, either by mail or dropping your payments off at the front desk. The Veterans Club is totally committed to this program, but it requires community support and cooperation. Please pay promptly. Funds collected are returned to the community in projects such as the Nature Trail entry, to replace old and torn or faded flags, as well as for the purchase of the new warming oven, new door in the craft room and future projects as they become known.

Within the flag renewal packet is a note requesting volunteers with "flag up" and "flag down" times. The more volunteers we have, the less each of us work. Being a veteran is not a requirement. The work is easy, full of jokes and laughter and very rewarding when we see all of those flags flying. Ladies, you are certainly welcome with open arms. All who are veterans and have not gotten into our Veteran database please send an email to [asrs1209@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asrs1209@sbcglobal.net) or [bburdick1@att.net](mailto:bburdick1@att.net).

## Harry Reed Nature Preserve

By Larry Alvarez

Several people have asked "who is Harry Reed"? Harry W. Reed was born July 4, 1922 in Chicago. He was educated in public schools, was an Eagle Scout and attended the University of Illinois majoring in business administration and journalism. In 1942, he left college to enter the armed forces, emerging as a Captain in 1945. He then entered the real estate field, which was his only real business interest. He was employed by Arthur Rubloff and Company of Chicago as a building manager and leasing agent, operating in every phase of commercial real estate. In 1949, Reed joined the Glick Real Estate Company in St. Louis as head of its commercial department. In 1951, he moved his family to Houston and opened Harry Reed and Company. He began brokering land and apartments and participating in building small apartment complexes. As time went on, his business

accelerated and expanded. He built and owned several apartments and motels in Houston, Victoria, San Antonio, El Paso and Huntsville. During this career, he built and owned over 15,000 units. In 1958, Reed was one of the founders of the Houston Apartment Association and served as Director from its inception. In 1966 and 1977, he was awarded the "Apartment Owner of the Year" and made "President for Life" in 1980 from the Houston Apartment Association.

Reed served as a Director of Med Center Bank and Main Bank in Houston. He was also a director of the Red Cross/Southwest Region and Boy Scouts of America. He was a member of the City of Houston Planning Commission, from 1981 to 2000. He was married for 57 years and had three daughters and one granddaughter. He died in 2003.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Evening At The Astros

A group of BellaVita residents enjoyed an evening at Minute Maid Park to watch the Astros, courtesy of Jim Sloan and Associates. *Thanks to Jim and his company – a good time had by all attending.*



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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Third Semi- Annual Guided Tour – Harry Reed Audubon Trail

By Larry Alvarez

The third semi-annual guided tour was recently held for the Harry Reed Audubon Trail. Tour participants, shown in attached photo, but in no particular order were: "Tom Sawyer", Daoud Karam, "Huck Finn", Larry Alvarez, Bob Dennett, Jim Jermyn, Sarah Huang, Midge Banchik, Dorothy Darden, Carlanda Hassoldt, Carol Stelling, Mike Stelling, Charles Parham, Marjorie Parham, Shirley O'Connor, Judy Edwards, Sybil Hewitt, Janice Dow, Norma Falco, Ruth Cheek, David Winchel, Judith Winchel, Linda Stanton, Helen Fargo, Terry Graham, Henry Reint, Leo Gonzalez, Lynn Gonzalez. One injury was sustained by Terry Graham, who chipped a bone in her foot and pulled a ligament when "jumping" over a ditch on a slippery slope while trying to miss someone else who had fallen. With some assistance from the group, she was transported to a point that EMS could reach her. She was transported to Memorial Herman is doing well.



## Project Linus

The BellaVita Sewing Group is currently working on Linus Quilts which will be donated to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. We have all known seriously ill children that had to be hospitalized. Project Linus provides handmade security blankets to children facing trauma. Colorful quilts and afghans made by volunteers are donated to hospitals which then distribute the blankets to sick children in hope of providing them with a sense of security, warmth and comfort. In 2010, the Houston Chapter of Project Linus distributed 9000 blankets. When making small children's quilts, we are able to use left-over cotton fabrics from other projects. The Hands of Love Stitchers also do-

nate security bears to the ER, procedure dolls to the pediatric surgery center, incubator covers and sensory heart-shaped pillows for the neonatal unit at Southeast Memorial Hospital.



*Mercedes Dies, Sandra Haydon, Helen Ortiz*

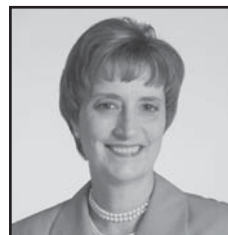
Project Linus is just one of the Sewing Club's many service projects. Proceeds from our quilt raffles support all of the Sewing Club's service projects. The Sewing Club will sell raffle tickets for their Christmas quilt "Holiday Gifts" at major events at BellaVita. The drawing will be December 11, 2011 at the reception after the BellaVita Christmas Home Tour. You do not need to be present to win. For more information contact Helen Ortiz (281-484-4653).

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# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## “The Mentalist”

By Ann Weiss, TEC

“How did he do that?” “Amazing!” “This show was outstanding!” These are some of the comments heard from BellaVita residents on Saturday, September 10th.

That's Entertainment Club brought a very different and entertaining performer to us by inviting Mark Stone from Florida to read our minds and demonstrate his unique comedic talent. He was charming, funny, and highly entertaining. When asked if he could really read minds, Mr. Stone replied, “Maybe I read minds and then again maybe I don't.”

For his first “trick,” Mr. Stone had an audience member think of a name and address freely chosen from one of several phone books. He then “read” the person's mind and revealed the very name and address being concentrated on.

Perhaps the most amazing feat of the evening occurred when Mr. Stone had all audience members write down something on a piece of paper which he then collected. One by one he had various people stand up and proceeded to tell us what we had written. He detailed birthdays, vacations, upcoming events, etc. And how in the world did he know the Wach's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was the next day? And that Richard had written that very thing on his paper. Again, “How did he do that?”



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# CLUB ACTIVITIES



## TEC Hosts Halloween

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The BellaVita ballroom was filled with well-dressed witches, hippies, princesses, flappers, nurses, cowboys, and more on Saturday, October 29. That's Entertainment Club brought "The Coastliners", a Bella Vita favorite, back for an evening of Halloween fun. As always the music was outstanding and the floor was packed with dancers all night.

More than 125 Bella Vita friends visited, ate, and danced the night away. The costumes were particularly good this year, but after much consideration, the three winners of the Best Costume Awards were:

- 1st Place: Billy Potter as the Tooth Fairy**
- 2nd Place: Gwen Imhoff as a Guitar**
- 3rd Place: Linda Stanton as a Rodeo Clown**

The other two finalists were Maria Trevino as Cleopatra and Tammy Barbour as a hippie.

Patsy Womack, President of TEC, thanks everyone for their participation in wearing costumes for this event. The number of dressed-up folks is much larger than in past years. We all look forward to this event next year.



*Billy Potter,  
Tooth Fairy (the winner)*



*Jo Farris*



*Maria & Carlos Trevino*



*Tami & Chuck Barbour*



*Pictured left to right: Gwen Imhoff—  
2<sup>nd</sup> place as Guitar; Billy Potter, 1<sup>st</sup>  
place as Tooth Fairy; and Linda  
Stanton, 3<sup>rd</sup> place as Rodeo Clown*

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