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# *Bellagio on Venice Island Newsletter*

## Venice Island, Florida



**October 2026**

*A little history for owners, years ago a large casino out west brought suit against Bellagio on Venice Island (BOVI) & others over naming rights which is why you'll see strict adherence throughout this and other documentation with reference as BOVI.*

*BOVI is the only gated community on the Island of Venice. The community of 142 homes is a private sanctuary, with wonderful amenities: a spacious clubhouse with a small library, a large heated community pool, a well-equipped exercise room, TruCourt pickleball & tennis courts surrounded by miles of paved walking/hiking/biking trails to downtown Venice, to the beaches or along the Intracoastal Waterway – BOVI truly offers something for everyone to love.\**

*\* November 20, 2012 Discover Venice and Sarasota Florida*

**Feel free to share feedback, topics of interest or ideas with the Newsletter team at:  
bellagiobulletin@gmail.com**

# BOVI Clubhouse Activities!

## Join in the fun!

There are many activities available at the BOVI clubhouse. Sunday BBQ's, pickleball, tennis, women's bookclub, mah-jong, bridge, jam sessions and water aerobics. Check the clubhouse bulletin board or the website for more information.

<https://www.bellagiohoa.com/homeowners-association/owners-only/>

## The BOVI Woman's Book Club

**Meet the “Cover Girls”.....**the “Cover Girls” meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Club House at 6pm. How does the book club work?

We have a sign up sheet for members to choose a month and the members fill in the book and author that they would like to lead the group in discussion. The member will also bring light snacks or an appetizer for the group that evening.

From time to time members have hosted special theme nights such as:

- Meet the Author night
- Sunset picnic with the book discussion at the beach
- Holiday theme pot luck dinner evenings
- Movie night - comparing the movie to the book
- Floral arrangement night/pertaining to the book we read
- And more.....



*If you are interested in joining, please contact me, so your name may be put on the mailing list.  
eMail: Dawn Mendes at [denvette05@comcast.net](mailto:denvette05@comcast.net)*

# More BOVI Clubhouse Activities!!!



## The Bellagio Jam Sessions start its 21st Season on November 5th

This jam started in another community 20 years ago with Bellagio residents among the players, playing weekly on Thursday afternoons in our Clubhouse for over ten years!



The jam is open to all Bellagio residents, guests, renters and other area musicians introduced to the jam by Bellagio Members. Some musicians have been pros at some point in their lives.

Jams begin at 1:30 PM and end at 4:00 PM on most Thursdays from November through April. There are usually between four-to-ten musicians attending. Weekly announcements are sent to all musicians to verify participation. All kinds of music genres are welcome along with any instruments, including various forms of percussion. We each take turns leading a song. The choice and genre is up to each member. Amplifiers are welcome and the house mike system is used.

There are no rules, we are all here to have fun. We don't serve food or drink and restore the room before we leave. Anyone in Bellagio, members and guests, are welcome to come in for a listen, find a seat and stay as long as you like. Musicians always play better when there is an audience.

*Let me know if you'd like to give the jam a try! I'll add you to our email invitation and answer any questions. Bob Kunath [bobkunath@gmail.com](mailto:bobkunath@gmail.com) or (847) 540-8175*

# Clubhouse Events!!!!



*New to Venice? Join in the fun!* ♠️♣️♥️♦️🎲

## A Note from Your Bellagio Neighbor, Susan Botsford



Venice Newcomers Club is a great way to meet people in the Venice area and make new friends.

Throughout the month, you'll find dining adventures, social hours, wine & spirit tastings, kayaking,

beach socials, neighborhood mixers, special events, games and so much more. You can fill your calendar or simply pick and choose the activities that are best for you. I organize one of our monthly Game Nights, and I've especially enjoyed being able to host them right here at the Bellagio.



Our community has such a great setup for bringing people together and Game Night is always an easygoing evening filled with cards, games, conversation and most importantly lots of laughter. It's been especially nice introducing some of our VNC friends to Bellagio while also giving neighbors another opportunity to connect.



Despite the "Newcomers" name, you don't have to be brand-new to Venice to join! We're also very proud that Venice Newcomers now offers sponsored memberships for U.S. Military Veterans and is a non-profit company!

To learn more about Venice Newcomers join by visiting ⇒ **[venice-newcomers.club](https://venice-newcomers.club)**

# BOVI Volunteers & Referrals:

*Standing ovation and thanks to all our volunteers*



**“It takes a Village”**....Many volunteers are needed to keep BOVI beautiful and functioning. They serve on the Board of Directors and various Committees. Consider joining a committee!



**Have you seen the clever decorations for the various social events?**



We thank **Kathy Andrews** for leading up efforts and contributing her creative flair in making every Clubhouse Event as festive as possible!

**Word of mouth referrals:** There are times we all need a reliable service provider, here are some for consideration...please share yours for next time!



**Fronckowiak Company and Construction** Josh Fronckowiak (941) 232-8395

General Contractor we used him for major bathroom & closet remodeling. (Susan & Glen Botsford)

**Kranenburg Painting** for over 22 years, Kranenburg Painting has been a licensed, insured painting contractor in Port Charlotte [kranenburgpainting.com](http://kranenburgpainting.com) and (941) 524-2937. (Denis Plehn)

**Dirty Birdy** Professional Cleaning & Home Services including painting, power washing (roofs & pavers), paver installation, concrete work & more! Contact Chris Birdsall (941) 650-1345 for estimates. (Phelan)

# Getting to know your neighbors!

*Let's see who lives in BOVI. Everybody has a story and here's one!*

Meet the.....**"Women of Steel"** 💪



Linda Browne and Berta Finkelstein first met in Bellagio, where they discovered a shared passion for music. While Berta was the first to pick up the steel drums, Linda soon followed her lead. Seeking to hone their craft, they both studied under Joe Braccio at St. Petersburg College. After



performing with Braccio's own band, the duo formed Women of Steel.

Over the past decade, they have brought their vibrant sound to weddings, farmers' markets, theater parties, the Venice Art Center playing pop, folk, reggae and calypso type music. For Linda and Berta, the music is about joy and giving back. They perform for the fun of it and donate all proceeds to charities like Doctors Without Borders.



Following their massive success at Bellagio's inaugural luau last year, we are incredibly proud to have Women of Steel as a cherished part of the Bellagio family.

**Email:** [womenofsteelband@gmail.com](mailto:womenofsteelband@gmail.com)  
for performance information.



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# Meet your New Neighbors 🤗

*Welcoming our new neighbors to the community!*

**The Sumners....**we are so happy to be celebrating our first anniversary as members of the Bellagio community!



Looking back over this past year, we truly feel that moving to Bellagio was one of the best decisions we could have made for this chapter of our lives. Sunshine, beaches, palm trees, wonderful neighbors, and a beautiful sense of community—it really does feel like our own little piece of paradise.

Jon is originally from East Setauket, New York, and is a Maritime Mechanical Engineering graduate of SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler. His career took us on many adventures, with work at shipyards, paper mills and eventually Mack Trucks, Inc. in Hagerstown, MD.

Robyn is originally from Williamsburg, Virginia. Her career has included hospitality, history, and most recently serving as Director of Development for the C&O Canal Trust. A true believer in the power of nonprofits, she continues to serve on several boards and is passionate about giving back to the communities she calls home.

Together, we enjoy biking, boating, traveling, and—most of all—spending meaningful time with our friends and family. We're especially grateful that our three beautiful grandchildren give us even more reasons to smile and celebrate life.

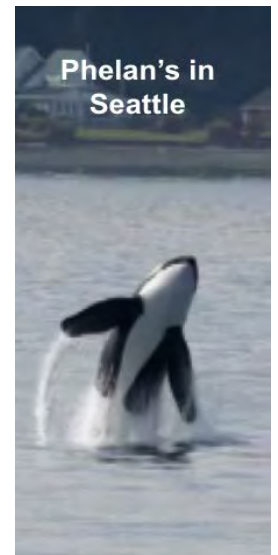
This past year has brought new friendships, new adventures and a wonderful sense of belonging. We're honored to be part of the Bellagio community and recently, Robyn was delighted to be elected Vice President of the BOVI HOA.

Thank you all for making our first year so special and for welcoming us so warmly. We look forward to meeting many more of our neighbors & getting to know you as our paths cross.

Here's to the next chapter, the friendships yet to be made, and many more beautiful years in our little slice of paradise! 🌴🍹💙

# In the 'Hood & Elsewhere!

What did you do on your summer vacation?



## Our neighbors on the mend!

- Cathy Charron (316 Rio Terra), is back on Long Island NY as is doing well after a health struggle. Her husband, Richie, is taking good care of Cathy.
- Linda Nelson (320 Rio Terra), is currently spending time with her daughter Lisa in Orlando recovering from a recent fall at home.
- Joel Garcia-Esteve (326 Rio Terra), is improving his walking with recent support from a PT helper.

## Preliminary Bellagio Community (Social Committee & BFD) Events List '26/'27

Any ideas for events, such as: progressive dinners, theater night, music trivia, wine tasting?

| Event Name                            | Date                        | Host      | Host      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>September</b>                      |                             |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, September 27, 2026  | Phelan    | Wollman   |
| <b>October</b>                        |                             |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, October 25, 2026    | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>November</b>                       |                             |           |           |
| Thanksgiving                          | Sunday, November 15, 2026   | Phelan    | Vaughn    |
| <b>December</b>                       |                             |           |           |
| Holiday Party                         | Monday, December 7, 2026    |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, December 27, 2026   | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>January</b>                        |                             |           |           |
| Italian Dinner                        | Wednesday, January 13, 2027 |           | BFD       |
| Soup Night (in lieu of Chili Cookoff) | Sunday, January 17, 2027    |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, January 31, 2027    | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>February</b>                       |                             |           |           |
| BFD Valentine's Day Party=>Superbowl! | Sunday, February 14, 2027   |           | BFD       |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, February 28, 2027   | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>March</b>                          |                             |           |           |
| Bellagio Brunch                       | Sunday, March 14, 2027      |           |           |
| St. Patty's Day                       | Wednesday, March 17, 2027   |           |           |
| Bellagio Luau (Placeholder, date TBD) | Friday, March 26, 2027      |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, March 28, 2027      | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>April</b>                          |                             |           |           |
| Paella Event?                         | Friday, April 2, 2027       |           |           |
| Beach Sunset (Placeholder, date TBD)  | Thursday, April 8, 2027     |           | BFD       |
| Block Party (Placeholder, date TBD)   | Saturday, April 10, 2027    |           |           |
| Tax Day                               | Thursday, April 15, 2027    |           | BFD       |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, April 25, 2027      | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>May</b>                            |                             |           |           |
| Kentucky Derby                        | Saturday, May 1, 2027       |           | BFD       |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, May 30, 2027        | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>June</b>                           |                             |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, June 27, 2027       | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>July</b>                           |                             |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, July 25, 2027       | Need Host | Need Host |
| <b>August</b>                         |                             |           |           |
| Barbeque                              | Sunday, August 29, 2027     | Need Host | Need Host |

### Host(s) responsibilities:

\* Check calendar for reservation====> [Bellagio website](#) (pw: Bella\*34285)

\* Submit a Request form==> [Clubhouse Reservation form](#)

\* Checklists for setup==> [Clubhouse Setup Checklist](#)      [BBQ Setup Checklist](#)

# Happenings in Venice!



## Many BOVI residents volunteer in the Venice community. Here is an opportunity:

The Venice Museum is looking for volunteers who like history or gardening. If you have an interest in history, enjoy interacting with others, and can make a commitment of three hours a week, there are opportunities to serve as a docent at the museum. Docents greet visitors, orient them on what to expect, answer questions, and ring up sales in the gift shop.

If you have a green thumb, we are also looking for people who would like to help with maintaining and improving the landscaping around the Venice Museum, Old Betsy Museum, and the Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning Archives & Research Center.

If you are interested or would like to know more about volunteer opportunities at the Venice Museum, please call (941) 486-2487 or email [venicemuseum@venicefl.gov](mailto:venicemuseum@venicefl.gov)

**WOW, check this out!!!=> [visitvenicefl.org](http://visitvenicefl.org)**

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Halloween Strut</b><br>October 31, 2026 from 4pm-6pm<br>Downtown Venice<br>Organized by Venice<br>MainStreet <b>VisitVeniceFL.org</b> in<br>partnership<br>with <b>VeniceLionsClub.com</b> | <b>38th Annual Downtown Venice Art Festival</b><br>October 31- November 1, 2026 from<br>10am-5pm<br>Downtown Venice<br>Organized by Howard Alan<br>Events <b>artfestival.com</b> and Venice<br>MainStreet: <b>VisitVeniceFL.org</b> | <b>Venice Holiday Parade</b><br>November 28, 2026 (always the<br>Saturday after Thanksgiving)<br>Downtown Venice<br>Organized by the <b>City of Venice</b>       |
| <b>Christmas Walk</b><br>December 3, 2026 from 5-8pm<br>Downtown Venice shopping and<br>dining promotion<br>Organized by Venice<br>MainStreet: <b>VisitVeniceFL.org</b>                       | <b>Venice Christmas Boat Parade</b><br>December 5, 2026 at 6pm<br>Intracoastal Waterway<br>Organized<br>by <b>venicechristmasboatparade.net</b>                                                                                     | <b>11th Annual Glow Ride</b><br>December 12, 2026<br>Island of Venice and after-party at<br>Venice Airport Grounds<br>Organized by <b>Bicycles International</b> |

# Friendly Reminders :)



**BBQ on the last Sunday of every month!** Everyone's welcome, BYOB, bring what you want to grill, plus a dish to share (appetizer, side or dessert).

 **Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste** is to be put out & removed within **24 hrs.** from collection: Trash (Mon & Thu), Recycling (Mon) & Yard Waste (Mon & Tue) in proper containers at your curb...please not community common areas!

## BOVI Gate Entry Reminder

Just a friendly reminder about the process for remotely opening the Bellagio gate for your guests, deliveries and contractors.

Upon arrival they should scroll through the gate entry box and select your name. You will receive a call to your phone and after answering you should select the "9" button from your keypad to open the gate for them.

Only give out your own personal gate code, giving out personal gate codes of others defeats the security of living in a gated community.



Add Bellagio Gate (941) 416-4101 to your contacts so you know it's the callbox dialing you for guest entry!

**Helpful Tip:** Sun glare can make the entry screen difficult to read. Shielding the screen from the sun can help, as can stepping down from larger vehicles to get a better view.

*Thank you for helping make gate entry easier for our guests and delivery drivers!*

**Message from the BOD...**BOVI Quarterly Assessments/Dues are due on the 1st of: March, June, September & December. The current amount is \$1,116.14 per quarter. Homeowners have several convenient payment options, including: Credit/Debit Card, ACH, Online Bill Pay, eCheck, USPS, or in person at a Truist Branch.

Please note, payments not received within 30 days of the due date will incur a late fee, accrued interest, and any other collection costs. For questions, contact Sunstate via email [atbrian@sunstatemanagement.com](mailto:atbrian@sunstatemanagement.com) copying [teambrian2@sunstatemanagement.com](mailto:teambrian2@sunstatemanagement.com).

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# See what you missed...

*A double rainbow in Venice on August 23rd!! You could see it from BOVI!*



# Welcome back Snowbirds!



**We look forward to your return!**

We're ready for the quicker pace, less parking and the congestion!

We hope you enjoyed your time away wherever that may be, and here we are to welcome you back to paradise!

## Snow BIRD MiGRATion





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026/2027 MEETING SCHEDULE**

*All meetings start at 4pm on the 2nd Monday of the month & will be held at the Clubhouse unless otherwise indicated.*

*October 12th*

*November 9th*

*December 14th*

*January 11th*

*February 8th*

*March 8th*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Mike Phelan, President (mdphelan9@gmail.com)*

*Robyn Sumner, Vice President (robyn.bellagiovp@gmail.com)*

*Debbie Roth, Treasurer (debbierbellagio@gmail.com)*

*Mary Murray, Secretary (mmmurraybellagio@gmail.com)*

*Ted Vaughn, Director at Large (tedvaughn57@gmail.com)*

**Newsletter Team**

*Connie Plehn, Lead*

*Tracy Phelan, Contributor*

*Kathie Vaughn, Contributor*

*Susan Botsford, Contributor*

*Mark Murray, Contributor*

**We are open to new additions, come join the team!!**

**Feel free to share feedback, topics of interest or ideas with the Newsletter team**

**at: [bellagiobulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bellagiobulletin@gmail.com)**