



Bella Vista LIFE



Message from the President... Vern Anastasio



Here's hoping everyone in Bella Vista had a great summer. Whether you packed up and went on vacation, or stayed right here in the neighborhood, I hope you took some time to recharge. After 2 weeks at the beach with the kids, I know I am ready to get back to some important neighborhood work here in Bella Vista. Here are some important notes:

"Meet Your Neighbor", Bella Vista's annual Fall fundraiser has been set for October 20th this year and will be held at La Forno at 636 South St. on the 20th of October. I ask that you all come and meet your Bella Vista neighbors as well as help Bella Vista United award the 2008 Excellence in Community Service Award and the 2008 Public Service Award to two deserving recipients. Email us at bvnews@bvuca.org or call 267-872-4686 to reserve get tickets today!

School has started for Bella Vista children. For me, this is a whole new world as my just-turned- five-year-old son, Jacob Dean, started kindergarten. Like many

young parents, Leslie and I are most concerned about the kind of education our kids will receive. For so long we were told that Philadelphia public schools just weren't "good enough" for families who valued education. But what we've found is, if families who value traditional education become invested in neighborhood schools, then the schools begin to reflect our values. As the school year starts again, let us all remember that the only way we can improve our community, its schools and the education of our children, is if we take the time to make them better. This is why Bella Vista United education committee has dedicated itself to helping the growth and expansion of Moonstone, one of our premiere pre-schools here in Bella Vista. History should judge us — and we should judge ourselves — on how much time, energy and resources we invest in the next generation. We can't start too soon. We can't stop until we're done. Help us help Moonstone and other Bella Vista schools and get involved. Just call our Bella Vista office at 267-872-4686 and say "sign me up!"

As the seasons turn, our

thoughts also turn to the coming winter. As winter is now on the horizon, we should also remember the high cost of heating our homes. In Bella Vista, we have many families of modest means and senior citizens on fixed incomes who will face skyrocketing home heating costs. Bella Vista United's Government Services Committee is dedicated to helping our members who need help with home heating costs. By working with State Senator Fumo's office and the offices of State Reps Josephs and O'Brien, Bella Vista United will continue to ensure that those who need help making heating bill payments get the help they need.

And speaking of senior citizens, our Senior Citizen Outreach Committee also has a new service available to Bella Vista seniors. Many seniors have voiced concern over the cost of drafting a Living Will and Health Care Directive in the event they become incapacitated. In short, many seniors want to make sure that THEY can determine the nature of their end-of-life care in the event they become unable to speak or clearly communicate their needs. Bella Vista United's

Continued Page 2

News

BELLA VISTA UNITED'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE *Moonstone on the Move*

Moonstone Preschool, a fixture in the Bella Vista neighborhood for over 20 years, is moving into a new space at 752-56 S. 11th Street, the current site of the Bella Vista Beer Distributor, which is relocating to a nearby building on the east side of 11th Street.



Moonstone provides innovative arts-based education to children ages 18 months through pre-K, and provides after school care for elementary age children ages 6 through 8. Today, 81% of Moonstone families live in Bella Vista, 8 % live further south into South Philadelphia and about 4% live in Northern Liberties, with the remaining 6% of the families coming from all other parts of the City. Due to Moonstone's strong program and reputation, and as a result of the growing number of families with young children choosing to live in or near Bella Vista, demand for spots at Moonstone has dramatically increased. Currently, there are over 150 children on the Moonstone waiting list.

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Bella Vista Life



NEWS Continued from Page 1

(President - Continued from Page 1)

Senior Citizens Outreach Committee has a Living Will program where local attorneys now help seniors with these concerns free of charge. To learn more about the program, please call our offices at **267-872-4686**.

Bella Vista United continues to fight the siting of the two casinos that threaten our community's quality of life. As we partner with various Civic Associations across the city, please know that our members are emailing, phoning and lobbying hard to get these two casinos to re-site. To help us in this effort, please contact us at **bvnews@bvuca.org**. We need all the help we can get to fight these massive mistakes of improper planning. Our efforts have converted Senator Fumo, who now supports re-siting. Our efforts have helped Mayor Nutter stand up against these casinos.

A note about Bella Vista resident Rue Landau for those of you who missed the great news.

Rue, who served on the Bella Vista United board for several years, was recently appointed by Mayor Nutter

to serve as the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. Congrats to Rue (who also became a new mom last year) on her new role in the Nutter administration! It is good to know Bella Vista is being well represented in the new government.

The Bella Vista sidewalk cleaning program continues. Thanks to the work of ready, Willing & Able, Bella Vista United has removed hundreds of bags of litter off the streets and sidewalks of Bella Vista. Monthly man-powered clean ups will continue throughout the rest of the year. In addition to making our sidewalks cleaner, Bella Vista United is also working to remove and replace the old WELCOME TO BELLA VISTA banners that greet our visitors. Soon, a new banner will be unveiled and presented to the community. As the holiday season is on the horizon, let me encourage readers and residents to patronize local shops and businesses in Bella Vista. Our Winter issue will feature a special section of fun and exciting businesses in Bella Vista. Look for it in the next issue.

This move will give Moonstone almost double their current space, allowing them to expand operations and serve more children in a larger space, better suited for child care. In addition to eliminating space constraints, the new facility will be designed to improve the health, safety and convenience of the preschool for staff and children alike.

Beyond allowing Moonstone to almost double its enrollment, this relocation will support neighborhood-based economic development in several ways including: enhancing employment opportunities in Bella Vista; helping to stabilize the 11th Street commercial corridor on the border between the Bella Vista and Hawthorne communities; building upon other public and private investments in the immediate area; and attracting and retaining families to the neighborhood. Moonstone expects to begin construction in October and move in to the new space in February 2009.

"Bella Vista United members have taken an active role in helping Moonstone make this move!"

Bella Vista United's past president Susanne Stone has been an integral part of this most important project. Additionally, Bella Vista United has supported the plans of Bella Vista Beer Distributor to relocate to the east side of South 11th Street while the owners also open a gourmet foods and take out adjacent to the new Moonstone building.

*Bella Vista United urges everyone to support Moonstone in this important move by shopping at Whole Foods Market at 9th and South Streets on **WEDNESDAY September 10th**. Five percent of all you spend on September 10th will go towards the **MOONSTONE BUILDING FUND**."*

IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER!

SUPPORT THE MOONSTONE BUILDING FUND BY SHOPPING AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10th
5% of everything you spend will go to support the Moonstone's Beautiful Building at 752 S. 11th Street"

SAVE THE DATES!

COMMUNITY MEETING

WED., SEPT. 24TH 7:00 Palumbo Rec. Ctr.

Annual Fall Fundraiser "Meet Your Neighbor"
Monday, Oct. 20th

La Forno
636 South St. 6:00 - 9:00

Bella Vista United Civic Association

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www.bvuca.org email: board@bvuca.org

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BELLA VISTA'S CHARLIE LY RETURNS AFTER DETAINMENT IN VIETNAM



Anyone who knows Charlie Ly, Bella Vista United board member and chair of our Immigrant Outreach Committee, knows his decades-long work in Human Rights and quality services to the members of Philadelphia's immigrant community.

This summer, Charlie decided to take a much-needed and well-deserved vacation in his birthplace nation, Vietnam. Charlie, a proud American citizen, cares deeply about the place from which he came and the people who still call it home.

While visiting Vietnam, Charlie caught up with old friends and family members. Then, as he tried to board an airplane to come home to the US, the Communist Party in Vietnam decided he could not go home. Instead, they placed Charlie under house arrest at his hotel and charged him with meeting with leaders of the Vietnamese Democratic Party, a civil rights organization dedicated to human rights and democracy in Vietnam.

After many days under house arrest, the Communist Party of Vietnam declared they would only release Charlie if he pled guilty to meeting with Democratic leaders of Vietnam. Charlie refused to buckle at such pressure. Meanwhile, here at home, Congressman Bob Brady, the State Department and the American Embassy in Vietnam worked tirelessly to free Charlie and return him home safely.

After around the clock efforts, at the end of August, Charlie was released and he flew home from Vietnam. Mr. Loi Ma from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office was at JFK Airport in New York City to greet him and he quickly drove Charlie home to Bella Vista. The entire membership of Bella Vista United welcomes Charlie home!



Bella Vista Life



It's a Great Time to Buy or Sell your Home in Bella Vista

By: Paul Fontaine, Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors

Here's the bad news—Homes sales in the 19147 zip code this year averaged approximately 40 per month. The average home sale price so far this year is \$351,000, which is down approximately 6% from \$375,000 in 2007. The average days on the market in 2007 were 90 days vs. 99 days for 2008.

Here's the good news—Real estate is a long term investment. Anyone who has owned their property for more than five years can reap the rewards and sell today for a potentially substantial profit. For sellers, your listing price is the most important aspect of successfully selling your home. A home priced correctly should sell within three months. For buyers, interest rates are still at record lows making it more affordable. Also, buyers can take advantage of the large amount of inventory and enjoy many choices when searching for their next home.

The "bottom" of the market is never known until after the fact. Those who wait for the market to hit bottom will probably have waited too long. Should you have any questions/comments or if you would like to view all home listings for sale in

Philadelphia, visit www.BestPhillyHomes.com.

Events

The BVUCA annual flea market held in conjunction with Fleisher Art Memorial in their parking lot at 7th and Christian, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 14th (raindate 9/21).

The annual fall fundraiser "**Meet Your Neighbor**", will be held on **Monday, Oct. 20th** from **6:00 – 9:00**. Our host this year will be **La Forno Ristorante and Trattoria** at **636 South St. Tickets will be \$20. (\$25. at door) \$10. for Seniors, (\$15 at door)**. Tickets will go on sale in the beginning of the first week of October. They will be available at Carolyn's shop at 757 S. 8th St. or through any BVUCA board member. You can call in advance to reserve tickets and Carolyn will call you as soon as they come in. Also you and your business can be a host sponsor for \$50.

New Rates for 2008

Bella Vista Life

Bella Vista Life is printed 5 times during the year:

- Jan/Feb •May/June •Nov/Dec
- March/April •Sept/Oct

All information must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the upcoming issue (i.e.. October 15th for the Nov./Dec. issue). Please submit your ads in print-quality PDF format.

Pricing is as follows:

SIZE	One Time	Five Times
Business Card	\$20	Same
Quarter Page (3" Wide x 5" Deep)	\$70	\$60
Half Page (7 5/8" x 4" 7/8" Deep)	\$100	\$85
Full Page	\$160	\$135
Back Page (Full Page Only)	\$260	\$235

If you would like to purchase a business card space for the next Newsletter (Nov./Dec.) please contact Carolyn Verdi at 267-872-4686 by October 15, 2008.

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Bella Vista Life



Happenings

Da Vinci Art Alliance presents *New Work* by Nikolay Miluchev & Plamen Veltchev September 6 to 28th 2008.

During the month of September at the Da Vinci Art Alliance, the Philadelphia artists, Nikolay Miluchev and Plamen Veltchev will be exhibiting their new paintings on canvas and works on paper. The exhibition will run from September 6-28th, with the opening reception for the artists being held on Saturday, September 6th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Open to the public.

Da Vinci Art Alliance

704 Catharine St 215.829.0644 [HYPERLINK](http://www.davinciartalliance.org)
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Computer Tips

By Steve Cohen,

Computer Tips Will Return Next Issue



NEW MURAL IN BELLA VISTA



The new Mural in Bella Vista at Nebinger School (6th & Carpenter Sts.) has been completed. The dedication is on Tuesday, October 21 from 2-3PM in the schoolyard.

Rosemary E. Fluehr, GRI

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Bella Vista Life

Volunteers!

BVUCA welcomes volunteers to help with various jobs and committees. A few hours a month is all it takes to help us to help the community. We welcome new ideas if you want to spearhead a project. The **civic association is YOU the residents**. We are unlike other civic associations that charge a membership fees. Please contact us at **267-872-4686**, if you can volunteer!

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Restaurant News

Cucina Forte, 768 S. 8th St., has a new look. Maria has done some interior renovations and has some new dishes planned for her menu. Of course, her famous **gnocchi** and “**Dream Soup**”, are always available. **215-238-0778**

La Forno, 636 South St, offers **wine by the glass for \$4., Mon. thru Friday, from 4:00-7:00.** Also it is **BYOB every Tues and Friday.** They also have a great room on the second floor for private parties. **215-627-9000.**

Ismael Torres & Dionicio Jimenez announce the Grand Opening of **Paxia BYOB** on 2008 **Monday September 15, located at 746 Christian St. (8th & Christian.)** Dinner service will begin at 6pm and will be a \$25 - 3 course prix fixe menu (exclusive of taxes & gratuities.) They will also have live mariachi to serenade you during your meal in observance of El Grito (Mexican Independence Day.) Reservations are highly encouraged. They also recommend bringing along a bottle of your favorite tequila to enjoy with our house made margarita mixes. If you have any questions, contact them at 215-413-0171.

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DONATIONS TO BVUCA

If you would like to help Bella Vista United Civic Association by making a donation, please fill out the information below and mail to BVUCA, P.O. Box 18022, Phila., PA 19147 (payable to Bella Vista United Civic Assoc.)

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Name _____

Address _____

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Please apply my donation to the following:

- General Funds
- Events
- Beautification
- Holiday Celebration
- Street Cleaning Project

The Annual
Bella Vista

United Civic Association

“Meet Your Neighbor”

Monday, Oct. 20th 6:00- 9:00

***La Forno* 636 South Street**

\$20. (\$25 at door) Seniors \$10 (\$15 at door)

*Tickets will be available the first week of October at
757 S. 8th St. or from any BVUCA board member.*

*You may call to reserve your tickets now
& you will be contacted when they arrive.*

267-872-4686

Host Sponsorship \$50.