

Bel Mare at Riviera Dunes

July 2020

Message from our President...



Greetings –

I hope this message finds you and your family and friends well.

Perhaps we expected to experience a pandemic in movies, books, magazine articles, news of a distant country, but not in our immediate reality. And here we are, trying to figure out how to exist in the midst of a pandemic.

Thank you for understanding the difficult decisions the Board has had to make in carrying out its fiduciary responsibility to the Association. Our actions have been, and continue to be, based on guidance from the federal government, the State of Florida, Manatee County, the Centers for Disease Control and public health officials, legal counsel Bel Mare's staff, and our extended Castle management team.

We have tried to conduct Bel Mare business as much as possible during this difficult time. The most noteworthy accomplishment of several during the past few weeks was the sale of a small portion of property near our tennis courts to the City of Palmetto for road improvements in connection with the new hotel being built near the Bradenton Area Convention Center. The sale netted more than \$465,000 for Bel Mare at the closing on June 5th. Bel Mare owner and 2020 Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Coby Gaulien, was instrumental as a liaison in this process as he and his wife, Barb, have worked with the City in various volunteer capacities for more than a decade. The Board recommended approval of the sale at the beginning of May. Later that month, the sale was overwhelmingly approved at a Special Membership Meeting vote. Owners will have a say in how the proceeds will be used to benefit Bel Mare. Thanks to all who expressed their voice by voting, and to those who helped coordinate the many details required to execute the transaction in such a short timeframe.



Association Office

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m-4:30 p.m. 941-729-5891

Toni Giliberti Property Manager

Marie Sargeant Administrative Assistant

Maintenance Office

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 941-722-4084

Peter Fehr Maintenance Supervisor

Leon Mullet Maintenance Technician

Emergency Phone number for after hours is 1-800-337-5850

Guard House

Monday-Thursday 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday –Sunday 8:00 a.m. –10:00 p.m.

Presidents Message Cont.

In the near future, the Board will be considering implementation of digital voting as an option for owner participation in important decisions at Bel Mare. Outgoing Strategic Planning Committee Chair J.C. Biebuyck earlier this year requested background information, which was compiled by Committee member Patti Brown. Preliminary findings suggest that digital voting, which was approved by Florida statute in 2015, is secure and expected to facilitate casting ballots for issues that require an owner vote. This is especially useful during those times that an owner is away from Bel Mare when a vote is held.

Board Treasurer Morris Bencini has advised that Bel Mare is \$44,000.00 ahead of budget so far this year, even prior to receipt of the property sale proceeds. This is due in significant part to cost savings and efficiencies achieved by Toni and Marie in the Management Office, and Peter and Leon in the Maintenance Department. As always, many thanks to our staff for their hard work and commitment in taking care of our home.

Best,

Valerie Biebuyck

Bel Mare Board President

To All Owners,

The proposed sale of 1.42 acres north of the tennis courts to the City of Palmetto was overwhelmingly approved at the Special Membership Meeting by 105 out of 107 votes cast from a possible total of 124. **Thank you** to everyone who took the time to share your voice and participate in this significant and important decision for Bel Mare.

Bel Mare Board of Directors



Welcome New Residents

1-1202 - Mary and John Cropsey

2-702 - Sandra and David Muzio

2-404 Donna and Mike Canfield

1-902 - Suzanne Denihan and James Scoggins











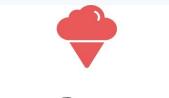


The annual fireworks show over the Manatee River, generally celebrated on Independence Day, July 4, will be moved this year to Labor Day, Sept. 7.

The decision to move the date of the fireworks was made by Bradenton Mayor Wayne Poston and Palmetto Mayor Shirley Bryant, in consultation with Manatee County Administrator Cheri Coryea.



The fireworks are set off over the Manatee River for spectators who gather on the Green Bridge and along the river on both sides. The show will launch at dark, which in early September will be around 8 p.m.



ALICE SCOOPER'S

Gourmet Ice Cream

Alice Scooper's proudly serves small batch homemade ice cream that they make in the store. They use fresh cream, whole milk, and real sugar. It's a difference you can taste!

They also serve keto, dairy-free and vegan options, all made fresh in the store.

Regatta Point Marina Palmetto, FL 941-243-6621

Did you know that Bradenton has a winery?

Manasota Vineyard formally Rosa Fiorelli Winery & Vineyard, 4250 County Road 675, Bradenton, FL 34211, (941) 322-0976. This winery is the only grape winery and vineyard on the gulf coast of Southwestern Florida. They offer a variety of tours throughout the year, group and private tours are also available. The winery also hosts special events, like Wine & Dine in the Vines.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Tammy Loecher once again put a goodie basket together in our mail room for all of the delivery drivers.

Way to go Tammy

Bob Boos saved the View for Building 2. 2nd floor. Rain from a tropical storm had our tree hanging low. He was proactive and had lawn service take care of it immediately.





The state of the s

rescuing the ducklings that are stuck in our pool. Did you know that ducklings take 50-60 days from birth to fly and become independent?

Peter and Leon have been



Email michellebencini@gmail.com to catch someone doing something GOOD. Let us know when you see an act of kindness. **Toni and Marie** cared for a duckling that did not make it from our pool to the lake with it's family. Manatee Wildlife was called to the rescue.



Maria and
Pedro work
hard to keep
our Condos
looking
clean and
beautiful.



kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see



Congratulations and Thank you Castle Group

For one year of **EXCELLENT SERVICE**



















IN MEMORY OF CONNIE "COCO" LEARY



Bel Mare recently lost a longtime owner and friend Coco Leary. Coco passed away on May 16th 2020 and will be remembered for her beautiful smile and kindness to all. Her husband Randy said "She was the super glue of our family"

A private service was held for the family and they wanted to share some of their sentiments with her friends at Bel Mare.

Randy said "Connie was the best part of me. I know God sent her to save my life and I was blessed as was everyone's life Connie touched".

Daughter Shauna said "My mom was the kind of mother who always believed that her daughters could do anything that they set their mind to do. This instilled in us the confidence to be independent and resourceful, a priceless gift that I will always treasure and hope to pass onto my own children. She had an inner and outer sparkle and lit up every room and everyone".

Her grandchildren called her "Glamma" and they said "She was quick to recognize the sparkle in all of us and to share what she discovered leaving us all to shine a little brighter".















Forever in our hearts
SWEET FRIEND





















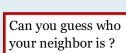
Covid 19 Quarantine at **Bel Mare**

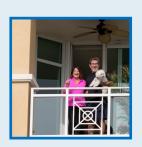














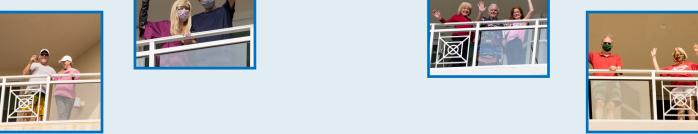


















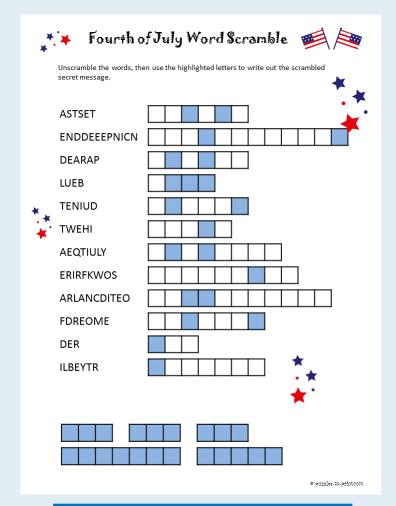




Brain Teasers are questions, puzzles, riddles etc. that make us challenge our mind. It requires us to think outside the box and use our brain in ways that make it stronger. Research has shown that a dexterous brain makes for happier, healthier people in general.







Thomas Jefferson wrote a draft of the Declaration of Independence on the original laptop—a foldable writing desk that could fit on a person's lap.

Thomas Jefferson was the first President to celebrate the Fourth of July in the White House.

Independence Day, celebrated on July 4^{th} , only became a federal holiday in 1938.

Only two of America's founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776: John Hancock and Charles Thompson. Most of the men who signed this historic document did so on August 2, 1776.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence on July 6, 1776.

While Francis Scott Key wrote his "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814, it didn't officially become the national anthem until 1931.

Calvin Coolidge, America's 30^{th} President, was born on the Fourth of July in 1872.

All men are created equal

States, independence, parade, blue, united, white, equality, freworks, declaration, freedom, red, liberty.

