

JANUARY 2017

# Eastside Venice Neighbors

Serving the residents of Pelican Pointe, Chestnut Creek, Venice Golf & Country Club, Venetian Falls and Stoneybrook



## CHESTNUT CREEK *A Hidden Gem*

Cover Photo by Dale Merriweather



Best Version Media

# Jane Rodgers

## Chats About Chestnut Creek

By Nancy Buscher



Jane works with the team to keep everything running smoothly.

Jane grew up just outside Boston in the small town of Lynnfield, MA; she graduated from Quinnipiac University with a degree in Sociology and Psychology and went on to work with Social Security Administration for 32 years in Boston. She took an early retirement and was able to return home and take care of her ailing parents. When her parents passed, Jane Rodgers and her husband came to Florida. They had friends in Nokomis and Chestnut Creek.

"This little villa was for sale and my husband and I were able to purchase

it," Jane says. "He enjoyed the area, especially fishing at the North Jetty every day. However, in 2013 he passed away. I've been down here 5 years now."

Chestnut Creek is a wonderfully planned community. It is made up of 7 subdivisions: The Estates, The Isles, The Lakes, The Manors, The Patios, The Woods and The Villas. Each deed restricted subdivision has its own amenities and each is designed to accommodate different life styles.

"In the Villas the board has developed committees; the Social Committee is very active here. For Veterans Day we had a get-together and guests brought a dish to share. We had a band and everyone gathered by the pool. I believe we had between forty and fifty homeowners attending.

Another resident, Barbara Rao is a master flower arranger and she judges events in Sarasota. (See the June 2016 issue for the interview with Barbara and Norm Rao.) Barbara gave a class recently and she had eleven or twelve ladies from the community attend.

The Villas have a wide arrangement of events scheduled. There is no time to be lonely or bored in this subdivision. In November, they went to the Red Barn in Bradenton, FL. It's been family owned and operated since 1981, and offers a traditional flea market, plaza shops, food courts and open-air farmers' markets. There is indoor shopping, fresh produce, entertainment and a variety of prepared foods.

"This month we'll rent a van and go see Herrmanns' Royal Lipizzan Stallions. There is always something to do. We may be eating out or we'll have a planned event," Jane adds. "I walk a friend's dog, and as a result I have really connected with people."

Jane is always thinking ahead. She's already got plans up through April of 2017.

"We're going to have a *Greatest Generation Party*. We have a lot of 90 year old people in this community. A woman on Pendleton will turn 100 in May, Doris on Bayport will turn 99 - and don't forget Harry - he's a veteran who served in WWII. We think about 10% of our 118 unit population are nonagenarians (90 to 100 year olds) or pretty close."

*This year on May 9, the city of Venice will also become a nonagenarian when we celebrate its 90th birthday.*

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When she has time she enjoys her lanai and being out walking with the dogs.

Shortly after Jane moved to Chestnut Creek she found a problem with the cedar siding on her house, so she sat down with her neighborhood directory and began calling people. She was a member of a local club and she called friends there too. What can you do when you are new to the area? Where do you go for help? Who do you call? Jane didn't know the local businesses and she had to get help with this problem. Finally, someone gave her the name of a contractor.

"Well, I thought to myself, 'this is no way to run a railroad!' I began creating a list - like an *Angie's List* - of important names and numbers, and I am now putting this information into the *New Homeowners' Packets*. It has everything from air conditioning to window washers, or someone to pour concrete or bee removal."

The public areas of Chestnut Creek are dotted with mature foliage and on one of the bigger lakes one will find a rookery; Bird Island Sanctuary. Whether you're out walking or just sitting on your lanai, you might keep your camera handy because you will undoubtedly spot some of the wildlife that abounds here. Don't be surprised to come across a Spoonbill, Woodpecker or Osprey. A Night Heron or Wood Stork could fly in at any moment, and this is Florida - you will likely see alligators, too.

"We, who live here," Jane begins. "We feel that Chestnut Creek is the world's best kept secret. It has neighborhoods with very small houses and then there are larger houses for families. Three communities have their own associations and the people are friendly and fun. It is a secure community with only one way in and one way out. It is safe for walking and biking, and it is quite beautiful with its tree lined drive and its 20 lakes. We feel Chestnut Creek a hidden gem."

*Do you have a story to share? We would love to feature you, your family or business in one of our upcoming issues. Contact us at [NBuscher@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:NBuscher@bestversionmedia.com).*



Jane is all about Chestnut Creek and the residents who live there.

# Engagement Rings

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