

## **BELLE TERRE NEWS**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 7 - Issue 1

### Village Website: www.belleterre.us

March 2007

### **Football Party**

On Sunday January 21, 2007, the Belle Terre Community Association hosted their second annual "Football Play-Off Viewing" at the community center. The community center doors opened at 2:30pm to watch the Chicago Bears play the New Orleans Saints on the large screen projection TV with surround sound.

Quickly the building filled with over 40 residents and their guests. The football enthusiasts dined on Hot Dogs, Wings, Beans, Beers, and Dave McAnaney's world famous old time





throw-back chili.

The game, food, and beverages all satisfied the participants sporting hunger including the Mayor Ted Lucki, and a good time was had by all. We want to thank the Belle Terre Community Association for doing a great job supporting and sponsoring this event.

# RESIDENTS HAVING FUN

### Pancake Breakfast

The second pancake breakfast, organized by the McAneneys and helped by all the usual suspects was a great success.

The tables looked charming with innovative table decorations by Carol and the food well-cooked by Dave, aided by their team of helpers.











### **RESIDENT'S REQUEST**

Please dim your bright lights when approaching an oncoming vehicle and when coming up behind another car. To-days headlights are so much brighter than they used to be. They can be quite distracting especially when you're in a car and the lights are from an SUV. Thank You.

### TRASH PICKUP UPDATE

The Village is planning to do trash pick up differently next fall. Although the dates have not been decided, there will be a separate pickup for trash and a separate pickup for leaves. That should help alleviate the problems that occurred this year. The spring pickup, for household trash only, will be April 16. No leaf pickup in the Spring.

### A RESIDENT'S THANK YOU

Dolly Snyder would like to publicly thank Constable Dominick Buffa for his help in assisting her to the Hospital. When Dolly realized she was in need of assistance and couldn't wait for 911, she called the Constable Office and Dominick was on duty. He responded immediately. He transported her to the hospital, got medical help and brought her a wheelchair. Thank you Dominick, job well done.

#### THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORS

Allan Varela of the Greater Port Jefferson -Northern Brookhaven Arts Council has been a great help to us the past couple of years, in printing this Newsletter. Now the Arts Council has a new printing machine that will print faster.

(and TA-DAH, fold the pages. Thanks Allan.)

### BELLE TERRE HAS A NEW E-MAIL SYSTEM

Belle Terre now has a new e-mail communication system. Please take a moment to give us your e-mail address. We will use it to send out notices about many different village matters, such as: meeting notices, upcoming events, newsletters, refuse pick dates, etc. Our goal is to improve communications between the village and you. Please note that your e-mail address will only be used for village business. Visit www.belleterre.us and follow the links to the registration page.

### YOUTH PROGRAM

Starts July 2nd to August 10th Entry forms coming in a couple of weeks.

#### PROTECT YOURSELF FROM POISON IVY

(Kathy Cleary uses and recommends this soap/ lotion that unlocks oils in poison ivy from skin and clothing if used within 2-8 hours of exposure.)

www.amleo.com - Safety and Outdoor Gear - Insect Repellent & Lotion - PICT After Treatment. \$9.99.

### LIVING HISTORY

I am sure that many of you saw the article in the Port Times Record in February about John D'Aquila (one of our best-known residents) talking to high school seniors. John told of his experiences as a young soldier, coming across a concentration camp during world war II.

Brianne LoManto is Pat & Grant Geelan's grand-daughter and was one of the young listeners. -----

### The Holocaust: Facts or Experiences?

The Holocaust. A word to some, a vivid memory to others. When people first think of the holocaust they probably think of the nazi's overtaking the Jews or Hitler vs. the Jews. While this is true, it is only part of what really happened. The reason for this conception is due to the fact that people rely mainly on what they see on television or read in history class. Although most of these resources are dependable, most are essentially just facts. I think in order to get the full picture of what really took place, you need to listen to someone who was there and went through this experience.

Recently, I witnessed a touching assembly taking place at my high school in Rocky Point. Going into the assembly I figured that it was going to be "just another holocaust assembly" where I was going to learn the same facts about what happened just like every other year before this. But as I listened to Mr. John D'Aquila speak, I started to realize that this was not "just another holocaust assembly"; it was much more than that. In the past I was taught all the numbers of how many Jews were persecuted and killed. The difference in this assembly was that Mr.D'Aquila taught us his experience and showed us his pictures. I think that it is very important to hear someone else's experience because it gives you a better understanding of what really happened. A writer can only write so much about an event he or she did not take part in.

Brianne LoManto

### **NEW TRUSTEE**

Joanne Cornell May was born and raised on Staten Island, graduated St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island. Attended John Robert Powers Finishing and Modeling School in Manhattan.

She worked on Wall Street for Weeden Company, as Administrative Assistant to the President Alan Weeden. Worked with the Miss America Pageant on local and state level 1963-1979.

In 1972 she moved to Long Island, started a career in Real Estate and opened her own Real Estate firm in 1979. Cornell Petsco affiliated with Coach in 2004. She has been a resident of Belle Terre since 1982 with her husband John May and her daughter Melyssa Cornell.

Joanne has been a member of the Greater Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce since 1978, served on Board of Directors 19 years, executive board for 6 years and was President from 2000-2004. Joanne was awarded Chamber member of the year for the Greater Port Jefferson Chamber 2005, by the Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce Coalition. Her affinity with the local business community has enabled her to enhance fund raising efforts for many organizations such as St. Charles and Mather Hospitals. In 1999



along with her business partner, was chosen as honorees for the Stony Brook Museums, raising in excess of \$120,000.

Was President of the Belle Terre Community Association 2004-2007. Received Community Service Award in 2007 throughout the 18 offices of Coach Real Estate.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

You saw them at birth (how time flies) Now they are a year old. Joanne and William Raso's Grand-children Kyle, celebrated January 12th and Joanna on February 8.





INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE



### Vacationing with Turtles



Several years ago we volunteered to work with Earthwatch, an organization that supports scientific research worldwide. We were first interested in a study of dolphins being done in southern Florida, after all dolphins are so cute. We quickly changed our minds when we decided that even though we were both good swimmers, trying to keep up with a dolphin, even though it would be in a small bay, would be too much for us. Instead we decided to volunteer with a group studying loggerhead turtles, we could probably keep up with them.

Our team would be studying loggerheads on Kefalonia, an island off of Greece, in the Ionian Sea. We imagined ourselves protecting little baby turtles as they scampered into the sea. We soon discovered that the little ones had already scampered and mother was now engaged in digging a nest where she would lay another 60-80 eggs. The study still promised to be interesting, fun and rewarding.

Before we left home we received a call from a grandmother who was paying for her grandson Henry's trip and research. Would we keep an eye on him? Great! We're trying to escape our own boys, and now we had to watch someone else's teenager.

We had previously been told that Earthwatch accommodations vary depending upon the location, generally in little cottages, others in small local hotels. Our base was to be a small cottage near a quaint little town. We thought, "Now how bad could it be?"

We arrived on Kefalonia and discovered that we would be living in one of two rather unkempt houses separated by a wall and two ladders. We walked up the steps luggage in tow, to a beautiful grape arbor covering a not so beautiful table filled with beer cans and surrounded by a not so beautiful group. We questioned whether we should have practiced our swimming and tried the dolphin study. Well, we did decide, "to stick it out" and soon discovered that everyone in the group was most interesting and indeed fun to be with.

The purpose of this research was to discover reasons why loggerheads were decreasing in numbers in this area. We were to gather data that would assist in this determination by locating various nesting sites, observing and counting the number of eggs laid, and measuring, weighing and tagging each turtle. Sounded quite exciting and fun at that.

Evening came and James, the scientist leading the study, explained how each group would operate. Our weekly schedule would be 5 days patrolling the beach, one day off and one day doing household chores. The chores were really a big hit with us- cleaning all common areas (kitchen, dining area, porch- yes, even the bathrooms). And remember, two houses, two ladders. We would also have to help the cook prepare the meals and clean-up afterward. Sounded like boot camp, and we had actually paid to do this research.

As turtles nest at night, our patrolling was also to be done at night-from 10:00pm until 6:00am. Each team would carry a walkie-talkie and would start walking quietly for 15 minutes beginning at opposite ends of the beach. Try walking quietly on a slope through gravel. We were to look for tracks, somewhat like those made by a bulldozer, which were leading from the water. When we found these tracks, we were to promptly drop to the sand and crawl along much the same as a combat soldier might do. If the turtle saw our

shadow against the moon, it would quickly crawl back into the water. After radioing the second group, which also had to crawl, we were to quietly inch our way up to the turtle, which had now begun to dig a hole using her back legs. She would then begin laying the eggs, most often 60 or more. A team member would burrow an arm under the turtle and begin counting the ping-pong ball shaped eggs. Dave volunteered, but I declined. We would then record the length, width, outstanding scars and anything else which could help identify this turtle. If she had not been tagged, we were to attach one. When the turtle was done laying the eggs, she covered the hole and headed for the water. Then the real challenge began. It would take three of us to hold her so that we could weigh her in a sling type scale. That being done, the turtle would then scamper back to the water, and we would resume our quest for the next turtle. Six o'clock couldn't come soon enough.

Sleeping during the day when others were awake wasn't easy, remember the cleaners and assistant cooks were about their business scaling the walls and all. Some of us often just relaxed down on the beach. We all looked forward to our day off when we were so exhausted we just laid on the beach again. One afternoon Henry, whom we had quickly discovered was a real teen-age character, remarked, "What a life! Here I am sixteen years old lying on the beach holding a beer and admiring bare breasted European tourists swim in the water." If his grandmother only knew. Research wasn't easy.

Our two weeks did go by quickly, and we still talk of this "vacation" as one of our most memorable. We met great people, did many things that we surely would never do again, and mastered climbing ladders over a wall. The cleaning we'll forget about. Earthwatch sponsors extensive research all over the world, and I'm sure many of you would thoroughly enjoy participating in one of their research programs.

Dave & Carol McAnaney

\* \* \* \* \*

This is a story that I heard at a party and I though it very interesting. Have you a tale to tell? Well tell us please and we will print it if we can.

Pat Stockdale - Editor

### **DONATION TO BELLE TERRE**

Kenneth Brady, professional historian and resident of Port Jefferson has generously donated to the Village of Belle Terre a collection of arrowheads (properly called projectile points) found in Belle Terre and Harbor Hills. This collection originated with Fred Bone, author of The Sands of Time, a volume which contains much Belle Terre history. In the Belle Terre archives, the donation now forms part of the Brady Collection.

In addition, Mr. Brady has provided Belle Terre with a series of enlarged photographs made from historical post cards in his private collection. These photos were on display at the Port Jefferson Village Center in October 2006 and are on loan from the Greater Port Jefferson/Northern Brookhaven Arts Council.

The residents of Belle Terre wish to express their gratitude to Mr. Brady.



### Nature in Belle Terre By Nancy Orth

If you ask yourself what makes Belle Terre different from other developments, you'll probably conclude that aside from the gatehouse and a small number of pre-1940 homes, the woods are what make the difference.

My dearest hope is that the woods can be saved. I think this will happen as Belle Terre residents start taking walks, looking at the trees, and learning about them. To save the woods, we need to be able to distinguish the valued species from the invasive ones, or, to put it bluntly, the good from the bad. Winter and early spring are ideal times to do this when the trunks are easily visible. The best way to know Belle Terre is to walk it. Please call me at 473-1078 if you are interested in a short walk to learn about Belle Terre trees. The walk can be anywhere in the Village, near your home if you prefer, and should be from only 1-4 people.

To preserve the natural vegetation of Belle Terre, here are some simple tips:

- 1. <u>All vines growing on trees are bad, and need to be cut</u>. These include ivy, poison ivy, bittersweet, grape, etc. Cut the vine at eye level and at the base and wait until next year to pull it down. It will then be weakened and will not cause good tree branches to break. Keep the trunk visible to see new vines that may climb. Ideally, the vine roots should be dug out, but that's really hard work!
- 2. <u>Clean the woods of branches.</u> Branches on the forest floor cause air pockets. Air pockets encourage vine growth. Branches can be put along the roadside for pickup.
- 3. <u>Do not throw away your leaves</u>. Have them blown or carried on a tarp into the woods. A bed of leaves contributes to the soil base and nourishes the forest floor yes, even oak leaves.
- 4. Put a bed of leaves under the laurel shrubs and dogwood trees to nourish the soil. After the dogwood petals fall, the fruit that contains the seeds ripens. The ripe fruit falls and releases the seeds which germinate and produce new dogwoods. Dogwoods will not germinate on grass. Dogwood, as well as laurel, loves the acid provided by the oak leaves.
- 5. Never plant bamboo unless you have been assured that it is the kind that does not spread or unless you have taken vigorous precautions to keep the rhizome (rootstock) contained or restricted not a trivial matter.

  Bamboo is not native to Belle Terre, is invasive, and crowds out EVERYTHING in its path!
- 6. <u>Sassafras trees and maple trees should be controlled,</u> i.e. not allowed to reproduce at will because they are invasive. They reproduce rapidly, take over the woods, and drive out other species. Sassafras has a leaf that looks like a mitten, and the young trunks are green. If possible, dig out the root. Roots that remain in the ground send up shoots every year which should be cut at first sight. I try to smother the area with leaves in hopes that sunlight will not reach the sassafras. For years these trees multiplied in my woods until the dogwoods were eliminated. Now I'm fighting back.

### DOGWOODS, THE ARISTOCRAT OF TREES

I have heard people say that the blight on dogwoods some years ago has caused them to disappear forever. Not true. Some dogwoods remain, and if given a chance, will reproduce. What are the right conditions? To regenerate, the dogwood needs to be vine-free and have a clean, thick bed of oak leaves beneath it. (I actually feel it's almost a moral obligation to have a clean bed of oak leaves under one's dogwoods.) Dogwoods bloom in May. When the white petals fall, the fruits that contain the seeds turn bright tomato red in autumn and fall on the soft damp ground created by the leaves. The seeds are released and germinate, and eventually small shoots appear. The important thing is to learn

to recognize the shoots and not mistake them for weeds. The ends of young shoots are dark purple and have a rather unusual pointed shape.

If you think you have baby dogwoods on your property, I would be happy to help you identify them. Once you find one, clear everything around it so that it has sunlight and unhampered space to grow. In the early years the shoot is only a few inches high. At that time it is important to select one stem that will become the central trunk and to pinch or snip off all the other leaves below those on the top of that central stem. Doing so enables the shoot to put all its energy into growing upward.

Never transplant dogwoods until they are at least three or four feet high. Let them get a good start in the spot they chose. If not big enough and strong enough, the tree will die, and you will have just lost five or six years! Transplant dogwoods only in spring. March is the best time, as long as the ground is not frozen. If you transplant a dogwood in summer, it will die of drought and too strong sunlight. If you transplant it in the fall, it won't be established enough to make it through the winter. During the first year, keep the transplanted tree well watered. After that, give it space, sunlight, plenty of oak leaves, and lots of time.

To recognize dogwoods in winter, look closely at the bark which has small oval or circular pieces, rather than being striated (having vertical lines, like sassafras). In winter if you hesitate about whether a mature dogwood is alive or dead, look at the ends of the branches. If you find even one small ball at the end of a branch, that's a bud, and it tells you your tree is alive, even if it has a few dead branches. Do not cut it down, as has been mistakenly done! Once the leaves have come out, cut off all dead branches.

It takes many years to get a good-sized dogwood. They take time to germinate, the seedlings are fragile, and they grow slowly. Once mature, however, they are long-lived and produce abundant blooms. With dogwoods there is no instant gratification, but the pleasure they give is all the greater.

### **CEDARS**

Cedars in the woods are scraggy but are glorious when out in sunlight far from shade trees. Transplant them in early spring, not autumn, and keep them well watered for the first year. Once established, they are hardy, drought resistant, and long-lived. To see beautiful cedars, notice those on the golf course along Cliff Road, or visit Cedar Beach.

### RHODODENDRON

You can never plant enough of it. It loves our acid soil, stays green all winter, is a haven for the birds, and requires little care. It does well beneath tall trees. It is important to make your choice of rhododendron according to how high you want it to grow. Otherwise, you will spend your life pruning. Some, called the "maxi rhododendrons" grow eight feet tall. It is best to keep them away from foundations which do not allow them to develop their natural shape. Beautiful rhododendron can be seen in Mt. Sinai going east on the left side of North Country Road beside the historic blue house.

Finally, may we ask that you not put rocks along the roadside. The best solution for the roadsides is a bed of leaves which cannot be damaged by cars and snowploughs. In the leaves, a good roadside planting is myrtle, also called periwinkle which has beautiful purple flowers in spring and is preferable to ivy because while remaining a dark shiny green all year, it doesn't climb the trees. It does require having the weeds removed. Lamium, which has the unfortunate common name of "spotted dead nettle", is also an attractive groundcover that grows well among the leaves.

In conclusion, may we never take our woods for granted. Last but not least, all that is said here is based solely on experience from having lived and gardened in Belle Terre since childhood.

February 2007



### Vine Cutters

Here are three of our dedicated vine cutters - Nancy Orth, Pat Geelan and Lois Weiss. On a cold, windy Sunday morning, they were fighting the vines and the elements.

Nancy said that they have since had more recruits, bringing their number up to six.





### Vine Cutting

- 1. Must be done in winter when no leaves are out.
- 2. Cut at eye level and at base to make trunk visible.
- 3. If necessary, pry vine away from tree with butcher knife or other tool, then cut.
- 4. If vine resists, pull down next year.



### **Bringing back the Dogwoods**

Cliff Road was once lined with dogwoods, and Belle Terre is now dedicated to bringing them back.

Until the leaves come out, work will consist of cutting vines and putting them along the roadside. Once the leaves are out and work in the woods is no longer possible, the unsightly vines will be picked up. You may expect to see piles along Cliff Road, but they are only temporary. Time is of the essence.

The priority is to cut and thereby kill the vine.

The goal is to complete both sides of Cliff Road during the winter of 2007.

The devastation of the roadsides that you now see and about which many residents complain is the result of thirty or forty years of neglect. Belle Terre once had a Garden Club which has been defunct for many years.

An important part of the Belle Terre Garden Club was the Roadside Committee which maintained the roadsides while keeping them natural.

Restoration is now in progress. This is hard physical work done only by volunteers. The schedule is very open, and work is usually done for an hour at a time. Anyone who is willing to spend an hour with us would be most welcome. Also, we have only one pick-up truck. If anyone has another and would be willing to participate, that would be wonderful. Need it be said that the situation is dire?

To help please call Nancy Orth at 473-1078 or Kathy Cleary at 928-5816

### **Belle Terre Beauty at Risk**

Over the years I have lived in Belle Terre, I have always enjoyed the beauty of the mt. laurels. They

make up a large percentage of the land in Belle Terre and give our community its character.

Much to my distress, over the last few years, I have noticed the mt. laurels on my property are looking sickly. Their leaves have numerous brown spots. In

addition, the plants had become much thinner because many of the diseased leaves have been dropped. This problem is rampant across many of Belle Terre's laurels.

I took leaf samples to the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead to see what the problem is. They analyzed the leaf samples and said the plants have the fungus, Pseudocercospora nandinae. It can be treated with various fungicides such as Microcop, Basicop, or Kop-R-Spray.

I contacted an arborist and I am going to have my laurels sprayed. The program will be to treat the laurels

three times each year. The arborist said that the laurels will take 2-3 years to recover the dense appearance. He did say that the fungus will never be eradicated because fungus spores can reinfect the plants from other properties.

If there are any botanists in the community, please contact the village if you have any suggestions on how to handle this problem. I hope all of the residents of Belle Terre address this problem on their own properties to preserve the beauty of Belle Terre.

Kenneth Weiss





### **Update on the Wall**

If you haven't heard from us, it's not because we've been slacking off. We members of the wall committee, according to our various talents, have been measuring, drawing, running here and there, communicating with suppliers all over the country, picking up samples - all in an effort to achieve a result that is



1905 postcard

both as aesthetically perfect and financially sound as possible.

Choosing the brick is no small matter. The brick must be as close as possible to the original in color, size, and texture. At least twenty samples have already been rejected. One hundred years ago Dean Alvord's architects purposely chose a cream-colored white brick which was essentially maintenance free. We are striving to replicate his choice.

The wall should be completed by the end of August 2007. Now, however, we would like to prepare you for what you will see during the spring and summer months. It will be a visual shock. The old wall and many of the existing shrubs must be removed. Trucks and dumpsters will probably damage the lawn which will be repaired. Unfortunately, many tall trees that now serve as a backdrop must be removed. Over time, maples, not in the original plan, were allowed to proliferate too close to the wall, and their roots have undermined the foundations. Rest assured that future plantings will be monitored so that similar destruction does not take place during the next 100years! At present we ask only for your patience. Remember that even if you change the color of your dining room, it takes time to get used to it. Change is in itself unsettling. In the future, however, you will be pleased to see the Belle Terre entrance look as it did when it was originally designed.

Until then, thank you to our donors whose contributions totaled over \$50,000, a magnificent testimony to their generosity and community spirit. In addition, thanks to the initiative of Senator Ken LaValle, those donations enabled us to receive a \$75,000 grant from the State of New York. Not to be ignored is the fact that this project is being carried out without our taxes being raised. It's amazing what people pulling together can do. To all those who contributed, the Village expresses its deep appreciation.

### The Wall Committee

Joanne Cornell Grant Geelan John Heide Rob Lafaso John May Dave McAnaney

Nancy Orth Bill Raso Bob Sandak

# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

### THE BELLE TERRE NEWSLETTER IS A RESIDENT'S PAPER.

We would like to publish any news you wish to share:

Births
Wedding Anniversaries
Weddings
Graduations
Have you any accomplishments to share?
Photos are always welcome.

One hears some good stories at Christmas parties. This past season we heard a story about an unusual vacation. We asked the storytellers if they would write it out for the Newsletter. They agreed, it will be in this issue.

It set us thinking of a new series about the happenings in resident's lives.

Most of us have something funny, unusual, interesting or even sad in our lives. If you have and would like to share it, we would like to print it.

Not sure how to write it? No problem. Tell us and we will write it for you, subject to your approval.

Phone (473-4801) E-Mail (roystock @ optonline .net)

### **VILLAGE DIRECTORY**

### PLEASE RETAIN THIS DIRECTORY NEAR YOUR TELEPHONE

MAYOR Deputy Mayor Trustee Trustee Clerk-Treasurer Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Office Assistant Village Attorney Village Justice Associate Justice Court Clerk Planning Board Building Inspector Technology Advisor	James Catterson Elaine Freda	331-4907 473-0212 473-6245 474-8686 473-3028 928-0020 928-0020 727-8250 265-7200 473-5105 473-5105 928-0020 928-0020 928-0020	Zoning Board of Appeals Assessor Beach Comm Building Comm Conservation Comm Chief Constable Fire Marshall Historian Parks Commissioner Parks Commissioner Youth Program Comm Newsletter	Dave McAnaney Ronald Matuza Sheila Knapp Grant Geelan Dave McAnaney Bob Sandak Robert Walker James Makarius Jr. Nancy Orth Joanne Cornell-May Joanne Cornell-May, Sh & Myron Ledbetter William Raso Francoise Schachner Pat & Roy Stockdale	928-0020 928-0020 473-0212 473-6245 928-0020 474-8686 928-5785 774-3706 473-1078 473-3028 neila Knapp, 928-0020 331-4553 473-4801
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BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted.

VILLAGE CLERK: 928-0020 \* FAX 928-7971. PASSPORT AGENT HOURS: Call Office.

VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.belleterre.us VILLAGE E-MAIL: villageoffice@belleterre.us JUSTICE COURT CLERK: Call 473-5105 to leave message for call-back appt.

NOTARY PUBLIC: Call office. RECYCLABLES REFUSE PICK-UP: Alternate Wednesdays.

1.CURBY: Glass, Metal, Plastics (1) & (2). 2. Newspapers, Cardboard (flattened and tied).



INCORPORATED
VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE
1 Cliff Road
Belle Terre, Y 11777