



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 8 - Issue 1

Village Website: [www.belleterre.us](http://www.belleterre.us)

March 2008

## SPRING IS SPRINGING



### THE GREAT DEBATE CONTINUES!

The Community is now reviewing a new proposal for the Architectural Review Board that concentrates on new construction and major alterations. Minor and interior alterations will not be subject to ARB review.

Pick up a copy of the current revision at the Gatehouse; also available by email:

Contact the Village Office, [villageoffice@belleterre.us](mailto:villageoffice@belleterre.us).

Comments are welcome

## **TRASH PICKUP**

**House trash pickup is April 28th.  
No construction refuse or leaves.**

## **BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES**

The dates for the summer session of Ballroom Dance Class: Fridays, July 11, 18, 25 and August 1, from 7:30 to 9 pm. at the Vincent Bove Belle Terre Community Center.

\$65 per couple for BTCA members, (Non members \$80 per couple)

For information call Joanne 928-7013  
Instructors: Stephanie & Lucio Costanzo

## **NOTE THIS**

If you want your notice to be noticed  
the letters should be as thick as

**THIS**

Smaller print can not be read from a car.



## Traveling Near and Far

Bob and I really enjoyed traveling to exotic places over the years, but we could only do so during school holidays, since we were both involved in the field of education. When I retired in June one of the gifts that I received was a book entitled, “1,000 Places To See Before You Die.” As we started to go through the checklists provided in the book, we were surprised to see how many sites we had already visited but were equally disappointed at how many more there were to see. (You’ve got

to do it while you can.)



That being said, the book set the stage for our visits to five places in the last five months. (Traveling in the “off season” is so inexpensive and there are no crowds.) We have been to Egypt, Thailand, Jordan, Israel and Rome. We even managed to do the trifecta



swim: the Med, the Red and the Dead Seas in two days.

If you are thinking of travel, anywhere, but have any reservations about, flights, food, cost, accommodations, friendliness of people, security, etc. and you’d like to talk about it, please give me a call or an email, I’d love to talk you into

it and out of any concerns that may be preventing you from going. (By the way, we’re already booked for Turkey and are looking into Antarctica for the fall.)

Ruth Sandak  
474-8686



[rsandak@optonline.net](mailto:rsandak@optonline.net)



# **“STAR OF THE SEA” AND THE FUTURE OF BELLE TERRE**

**by Nancy Orth**



**“When we were kids, we used to go down to ‘Star of the Sea’ and swing on the vines.” ----Paula Dwyer, age 46, lifetime resident of Belle Terre**

Drive down Saint’s Orchard, bear right on Valley, and you come to house number 24, “Star of the Sea.” North of it is an empty lot which once contained the trees and vines that Paula Dwyer is referring to. A few, very few, trees remain on this lot. Here, folks, you see the future of Belle Terre’s woodlands. Continue along Valley (which at some point becomes Beach) and you’ll see more of the degradation of Belle Terre’s once beautiful roadsides. If they are not reclaimed, we shall have to resort to what I call “the landscaper look.” The natural woods disappear to be replaced by lawns and shrubs from a nursery, and we will then be the same as any development on Long Island. With a few, all too few, volunteers we are trying each winter to make inroads in cleaning up Belle Terre.\* You may have noticed our efforts along Cliff Road, behind the gatehouse, and along East Broadway, but when I take walks or see areas like those at Star of the Sea, I realize what remains to be done and frankly want to weep.



On a cheerful note, I thought you might be interested in the history of “Star of the Sea.” The phrase refers to Mary and is well known in the Roman Catholic faith. Churches and schools around the country are named St. Mary Star of the Sea. The term was made known by the formidable fourth century Latin scholar St. Jerome who used “stella maris”, star of the sea, in his Latin translation of the Hebrew Bible.

Our Belle Terre Star of the Sea was built in the 1930’s. The house, at that time with natural brown

shingles and white trim, was a retreat and summer residence for the Daughters of Wisdom\*\*, the nuns who founded Saint Charles Hospital and Maryhaven. Children with polio were brought to Star of the Sea to escape momentarily the confines of a once dreary hospital. Today no one can imagine the terrorizing effect of the word “polio” in the 1940’s ... akin to the effect of “TB” in the nineteenth century and to “cancer” and “AIDS” in the twentieth. Polio was the one dreaded disease. Every night parents prayed their children would escape polio. Short of death, it was the worst that could happen. As a child I understood that if you got polio, it meant you were put in that mysterious institution Saint Charles Hospital, were placed in a machine called an iron lung, and if you were lucky enough ever to walk again, it would be with steel braces on your legs. At the time Saint Charles was so renowned for its care of polio patients that it was honored with the visit of President Franklin Roosevelt, then a secret polio victim.

Driving with my mother on Cliff Road we would often pass a small dark-haired woman walking briskly toward the point. “That’s Jenny Kazan (The accent was on “zan.”), my mother would say. “She had polio, and now she walks every day.” She said this with a certain reverence, as if attesting to a miracle.



Jenny seemed to me the only person in the whole world who had ever recovered from polio. Unlike Jenny, most kids wore braces and had their picture on a March of Dimes container.

Today Star of the Sea is still used as a place of retreat and meeting center for programs under the aegis of the Catholic Health Services (CHS). The house has always fascinated me, the way most places connected to tragedy have a hold on us. I have never been inside, but would like to go there someday. Once there, I know thoughts would flood in of all the children in the 1940’s who were not so lucky as I. And as for that empty lot beside Star of the Sea where Paula Dwyer used to swing on the vines, I hope that Belle Terre’s woodlands will not one day too be reduced to a briar patch.

February 2008

\* To help clean up Belle Terre, cut off the vine as close to the root as possible. Then cut it again at eye level to make it easy to pull down next year and to prevent any new shoots from grabbing onto the old vine.

\*\* The Daughters of Wisdom, founded in 1703 in Poitiers, France by Saint Louis de Montfort and Marie-Louise Trichet, had as their purpose to seek divine wisdom in suffering humanity. In 1904 they were forced by the secularization laws of France to seek ministries elsewhere. In that year, 1904, they arrived in northern Maine. It was the same year that Dean Alvord was building the Belle Terre entrance.



**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**



# *Out and About in Belle Terre*



## **Easter Egg Hunters**

The Sun did not shine but the faces of the little ones did as they hunted for Easter goodies. No one minded being spritzed by rain, not even the Easter Bunny.

I am sure the older kids were smiling also! But we only saw their backs as they hunted in the bushes for their share. What a nice event!!! A big thank you to Caroline Nash and Moira McCullough for organizing it.

The Easter bunny looked awfully like Mrs Santa Claus, I wonder if they are Related?







## Football Feast and Pancake Breakfast



Attendance at both football events was disappointing. The organizers had put on a nice feast but only half a dozen residents turned up. However the attendance at the pancake breakfast more than made up for it.

It was so nice to see so many neighbors. From the noise in the room it seemed that we all had a lot to say to each other.

**Question?** *What is it about the pancake breakfast that makes so many turn out while other events are ignored?* For ten years I have been baffled by the lack of interest in community events.

Here we have a beautiful Community Center and when we do get together we all seem to enjoy each other's company.



With today's gas prices soaring, a party at the Community Center seems like a bargain to me. Most of us can walk home from there and from the beach.

We have some events coming up: Casino Night and a Lobster/Steak bake. The Casino Night looks interesting. Last year's Lobster Bake was spectacular! Mike Sampogna did a wonderful job; he even arranged good weather.

SO come on residents get with it and **come out and enjoy, you know you will.**





## Congratulations

### Smit Family

While Louise Smit, swims through our office papers her daughter Julia swims to win championships. This summer both Julia and her brother Michael will be competing for a place on the 2008 American Olympic swimming team. The trials will be held in Omaha Nebraska. We will be pulling for their success with proud mama Louise.

Julia Smit, who swims on the Stanford swim team, won her first NCAA title at the 2008 NCAA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships with a win in the 400 IM. It was the only title won by Stanford at the Ohio meet.



### Gloria Snyder

Named Volunteer of the Year by the Port Times Record, for her Phenomenal fund raising efforts and her many hours of volunteering for many causes.

### Russo and Geelan Families

Two Belle Terre families will be accumulating a ton of Frequent Flyer miles from Long Island to Chicago over the next 4 years due to the signing of Letters of Intent by Jessica Russo and Brianne LoManto to attend Northwestern University. Jessica of St. Anthony's High School is the daughter of Carol and Charlie Russo and Brianne of Rocky Point High School is the granddaughter of Pat and Grant Geelan.

Both scholar athletes were highly sought nationally by many Universities such as Duke, Syracuse, Princeton and Harvard, as well as Northwestern, to play for their Women's Lacrosse teams.

Northwestern, the reigning NCAA Champion for the past three years, followed the girls successes and recruited them early in their Junior year. Jessie and Breezey played together on various elite travel teams and both played for the Long Island team that won the New York State Empire Games championship.

A unique coincidence common to both is their brothers named Nick. Jessica's brother Nick played for the 1999 Virginia lacrosse



Rocky Point's Breezey LoManto, St. Anthony's Jessica Russo, Northport's Lacey Vigmostad and West Babylon's Shannon Smith will be teammates next year at lacrosse powerhouse Northwestern, which has won three straight NCAA titles.



team that won the NCAA National Championship and Brianne's brother Nick plays for the present Delaware lacrosse team that participated in the 2007 Final Four Championship tourney.

The Russos and Geelans are enthusiastically looking forward to their future travel plans and anticipate a wealth of entertainment.

## **The LoFaso Family**

For baby Nicholas Robert Lofaso

Christmas came early this year... REAL early!

Born December 7, 2007 at 1:00 am: 2 pounds, 8 ounces and 15 inches long

Welcomed home with love at a whopping 5 pounds 4 ounces on February 7, 2008 by Robert, Gabrielle and big sister Liana.



## **Volunteers needed for your Belle Terre Community Association!**

We are putting out a sincere request to our fellow residents to help in the planning, setting up and participation of our Community events.

As many of you know, the BTCA has been an important part of our community, for many years. We are more excited then ever about the events and contributions that our organization is undertaking in Belle Terre.

We run many Core and ancillary events throughout the year: New Residents Party, Football and Movie Nights, Pancake Breakfast, Children's Holiday party and other new events are in the offing. Additionally, we have been working on helping beautify and enhance the grounds of Belle Terre.

However, with added services comes the need for added manpower. We encourage you to join and provide whatever time you can to these important community endeavors. To our new residents this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

If interested contact Rob LoFaso at 474-8980 or Joe Camarda at 928-5824

### **Condolences:**

To Charlie Russo and family on the death of his father,  
To the Camarda family on the death of Marie's mother.

## **The Suwasset Garden Club**

has extended an invitation to the  
to the residents of Belle Terre to take part  
in their Street Garden Recognition Program.  
There are flyers at the Gatehouse for those interested.





## INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE

### Belle Terre Elves

From a few overheard comments it seems to me that a few residents think that the Trustees have hired a gang, no gang is not the right word, bevy, yes bevy is better, a bevy of senior citizens to do landscaping. Let me disabuse you of that notion.



Most of the landscaping around the Community Centre and on some of the triangles is done by BTCA's beautification ladies, free and for the betterment of Belle Terre.

On the other hand, the area in front of the new wall is being prepared for the dedication ceremony, by a few ladies, independent of the beautification committee. Again free, and for the betterment of Belle Terre.



You may have noticed the new Rhododendron bushes that they have planted to finish off the curve of the wall. They will look spectacular when in bloom.

Through the months of January and February, these ladies have been collecting pachysandra cuttings from various gardens around Belle Terre. These cuttings have been put into water and are in sunny rooms again in various places around Belle Terre. Some three thousand-plus cuttings have been collected and in today's market that effort has saved the Wall Fund a couple of thousand dollars.

**save the date: wednesday, may 7, 2008**



children's maritime museum  
at port jefferson

THE CHILDREN'S MARITIME MUSEUM HONORS  
**CHARLIE RUSSO**  
AS IT SAILS INTO PORT AT SUNSET  
*with a festive evening of food and drink,  
music, and exhibits!*

See [www.childrensmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.childrensmaritimemuseum.org) to find out about our current Winter Programs



**THE BELLE TERRE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**Belle Terre Shirts & Sweatshirts**

**AVAILABLE ALL YEAR FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,  
THEY COME IN FIVE BEAUTIFUL COLORS**

**AND ARE EMBROIDERED OR PRINTED WITH BELLE TERRE LOGO**

COLORS	SIZES - ADULTS & CHILDREN
WHITE	SMALL
GRAY	MEDIUM
CREAM	LARGE
NAVY BLUE	X LARGE
HUNTER GREEN	XX LARGE



**Delivery depends on manufacturer minimum order requirements.**

**Design on shirts will be in green, blue, tan and copper.**

Sweatshirt-embroidered	\$46
Collared Golf Shirt-embroidered	\$35
T-shirt - embroidered	\$20
T-shirt-printed	\$10
Cap-embroidered	\$20

**Place your order below**

**Allow 4 weeks for delivery - Samples on display at the Gatehouse**

STYLE	COLOR	AD. SIZE	CHILD SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to the Belle Terre Community Association**

Send to:

**T-shirts/Belle Terre Community Association**

**1 Cliff Road**

**Belle Terre, NY 11777**

# VILLAGE DIRECTORY

***PLEASE RETAIN THIS DIRECTORY NEAR YOUR TELEPHONE***

MAYOR.....	Ted Lucki	331-4907	Zoning Board of Appeals	Dave McAnaney	928-0020
Deputy Mayor.....	Sheila Knapp	473-0212	Assessor.....	Ronald Matuza	928-0020
Trustee.....	Grant Geelan	473-6245	Beach Comm.....	Sheila Knapp	473-0212
Trustee.....	Bob Sandak	474-8686	Building Comm.....	Grant Geelan	473-6245
Trustee.....	Joanne Cornell-May	473-3028	Conservation Comm....	Dave McAnaney	928-0020
Clerk-Treasurer.....	Joanne Raso	928-0020	Constable Comm.....	Bob Sandak	474-8686
Office Assistant	Louise Smit	928-0020	Chief Constable.....	Robert Walker	928-5785
Village Attorney.....	Eileen A. Powers	727-8250	Fire Marshall ....	James Makarius Jr.	774-3706
Village Justice.....	Charles Russo	265-7200	Historian.....	Nancy Orth	473-1078
Court Clerk.....	Elaine Freda	473-5105	Parks Commissioner....	Joanne Cornell-May	473-3028
Planning Board.....	Vincent DeStefano	928-0020	Parks Commission:..	Joanne Cornell-May, Sheila Knapp, & Myron Ledbetter	
Building Inspector.....	Cathy Evans-Masci	928-0020	Road Commissioner...	William Raso	928-0020
Technology Advisor.....	Ken Weiss	928-0020	Youth Program Comm ...	Francoise Schachner	928-0020
			Newsletter.....	Pat & Roy Stockdale	473-4801

**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](http://www.belleterre.us) **VILLAGE E-MAIL:** [villageoffice@belleterre.us](mailto: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