



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 8 - Issue 3

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

September 2008

## After all this (And much more):



## The Village of Belle Terre

Requests your presence at the Celebration of the new Belle Terre Entrance  
Sunday October 5, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the Gatehouse







## *Notes from the Office*

### **Belle Terre Wall and Entrance Celebration - Parking**

Cliff Road will be closed to traffic, from 12 noon on October 5th, from Old Homestead to the Gates. Parking will be permitted on the west (even-numbered) side of Cliff Road.

If it does rain (hopefully not), the ceremony will still take place at the Gatehouse under a tent, but the reception that follows will be moved to the Community Center.

### **Maintenance**



A resident was told erroneously, 14 years ago that the area close to the road was Belle Terre property and that they should not touch it.

With the resurgence of interest in the look of Belle Terre roads they found that this was not true. They now have a tangle of overgrowth to clean up.

If you have been told that the roadside area is Belle Terre's responsibility please be aware that it is not. Homeowners are responsible for maintenance of all their property.

### **House Numbers**

The village engineer has told us of problems she has had finding houses in the Village because house numbers are not clearly visible.

It is very important not only for convenience, for emergency vehicles to be able to locate your house quickly.

Please make sure that your house number is easy to read from the road.

### **Recycling Cans**

The Village just purchased a new supply of recycling cans to be made available to our residents. They are available at the Gatehouse for \$13.55 each. This is what the Village was charged by the Town of Brookhaven.

### **Condolences**

We have lost quite a few residents since the last news letter.

To the following families on the loss of their loved ones.

Joan Austin

Bih-Jay Chen

Catherine Gilroy

Betty Lou Norris

Gordon Dick

And the Son family

### **NEW NOISE ORDINANCE**

**Please inform your landscapers of the new Noise ordinance adopted by the Village Board at the public hearing held on August 19.**

**Under the new ordinance, lawn maintenance, clean ups or tree work is to be done only during normal business hours, Monday thru Friday (excluding holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM.**

**No work can be performed by commercial landscapers on weekends or holidays or before 8 AM and after 6 PM on weekdays.**

**Please have your landscapers adjust their schedule accordingly.**

## **Belle Terre Bride Eva Lucki**

Our Mayor Ted Lucki and his wife Lori were very happy with the wedding of their daughter, Eva Lucki and Matt Baxter in Southampton on September 13th.



## **Resident's contributions**

Pat and I would like to thank the many residents who have contributed news and articles for the newsletter.

At times we do not have enough space for all the available articles but most of them can be held over for subsequent issues.

We would also like to say thank you to the proofreaders who pick up our spelling and other mistakes.

Last, but not least; Thanks to the volunteers that are ready to help us to label and mail the finished News Letters.

Roy Stockdale

## **Granddaughter**

Joanne Raso's new granddaughter was born on Tuesday, September 16. Her name is Marina Ann, and she was 8 pounds 8 ounces.

Her parents are Jennifer & Mike Wood and she has a big brother, Kyle.

## **Olympic Winner**

Louise Smit works in the Belle Terre office.

Louise and her husband, Peter are the proud parents of an Olympic swimmer.

Congratulations to Julia Smit for her Silver and Bronze medals, won in Beijing.







## Enjoying July the Fourth

After a traditional breakfast at the office of James von Oiste, the board members and friends joined the parade together with members of the Belle Terre Youth Program (photograph on Page 9).

At 7PM Ken Weiss cooked hot-dogs at the beach and we all enjoyed traditional fare before the evening fireworks display.





## Belle Terre Legends and Facts, Architectural and Otherwise

by Wolf Schäfer

A: Let's pull up the vines and dig into our history.

B: *What do you mean?*

A: Legends can do to our history what wild vines do to our trees.

B: *What legends?*

A: Legendary Stanford White buildings in Belle Terre, for example, reinforced by *Newsday* and local papers over and over again. There is none. Stanford White did build neither Belle Terre's Gatehouse nor the grand Clubhouse that burned down in 1934; he did not design the long demolished pergolas at the end of Cliff Road (as told in Frederick W. Bone, *Sands of Time*, 1998, page 66) or their surviving architectural twin, Port Jefferson Station.

B: *How do you know?*

A: Ah, now we are talking history, serious history. It begins when you start wondering about the truth of legends. What do we *really* know about the past and what can we actually nail down with historical images, maps, and other documents?

B: *You tell me.*

A: All right, but don't get me wrong. Legends are an important part of history. I too like to hear and tell them. However, they are more fiction than fact as long as they are not checked out. Consider this one, for instance.

After I had moved into the run-down house at 3 Druid Hill Road, I was told that a pregnant Linda Lovelace had lived there for a while. According to Marilyn Hollis, our next-door neighbor at the time, the actress of "Deep Throat" (1972) had once hidden out in our house, driving a pink Cadillac and wearing a T-shirt with an arrow pointing down to the word "baby." True or not true, I have often shared this fine piece of oral history without ever investigating it. Maybe I should have dug deeper. Wikipedia mentions that Linda "Lovelace" Boreman had a son in 1969 that was given up for adoption...

All urban, or, in our case, village legends are to be cherished *and* checked. They can motivate us to find something out, excavate a bit of the past, and learn new, different, forgotten, interesting and unexpected things.

So who, if not the ubiquitous Stanford White, designed the Belle Terre Clubhouse, our Gatehouse and "Nevalde," Dean Alvord's showcase residence? The answer is Henry P. Kirby, John Petit, and James Green of the architectural firm Kirby, Petit & Green (formed by Kirby in 1904). What else do we know about these architects? Very little. The three partners were active with projects on Long Island in the first two years of their practice ranging from the Carnegie Institution Laboratory for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor to Dean Alvord's visionary suburban real estate developments in Roslyn and Port Jefferson (see *Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects*, 1860-1940).

Another architect of note, with signature country houses in Belle Terre's "Tudorbethan" section, is Frederick Junius Sterner (1862-1931). Born in London and following his German-born father to the United States "in either 1878 or 1882," he worked in the 1880s as a draftsman for an architect in Chicago, designed buildings in Denver in the 1890s, and moved to New York City in 1906, where he made his mark with significant renovations of old and hitherto unremarkable brownstones. Sterner's retromotto — "when you go back 100 or 150 years, you get a good house" — anticipated the postmodern



sensibility of a much later time (for more on this distinct but also rather elusive innovator, see the article “Streetscapes” by Christopher Gray, *New York Times*, June 29, 2003). Yet the Belle Terre “Architect,” whom I find most interesting, is F. Ernst Lein.

I learned about Lein from Ken Brady and Nancy Orth, distinguished historians and archivists of Port Jefferson and Belle Terre. Both told me that Lein is an enigma. Columbia’s Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library carries nothing about him; Lein is not referenced in the literature; biographical data are unavailable. But I have been living in a building for almost twenty years now with Lein’s name attached to it (see **Image 1**). I find it easy to love this building’s elegant, yet simple, lines and take it as a sign of architectural appreciation that nobody has ever felt the need to alter it substantially.



**Image 1: Belle Terre Estates, Inc., Cottages. Belle Terre, Port Jefferson, 15 multipage plates with floor plans and descriptions, undated and unpaginated, penultimate plate. The tentative imprint is “New York, 1910” (according to the exemplar in the New York Public Library, Local History & Genealogy Division; subsequently cited “NYPL Cottages”). NYPL Cottages identifies Kirby, Petit & Green, Frederick J. Sterner, F. Ernst Lein, and Aymar Embury (!) as architects.**

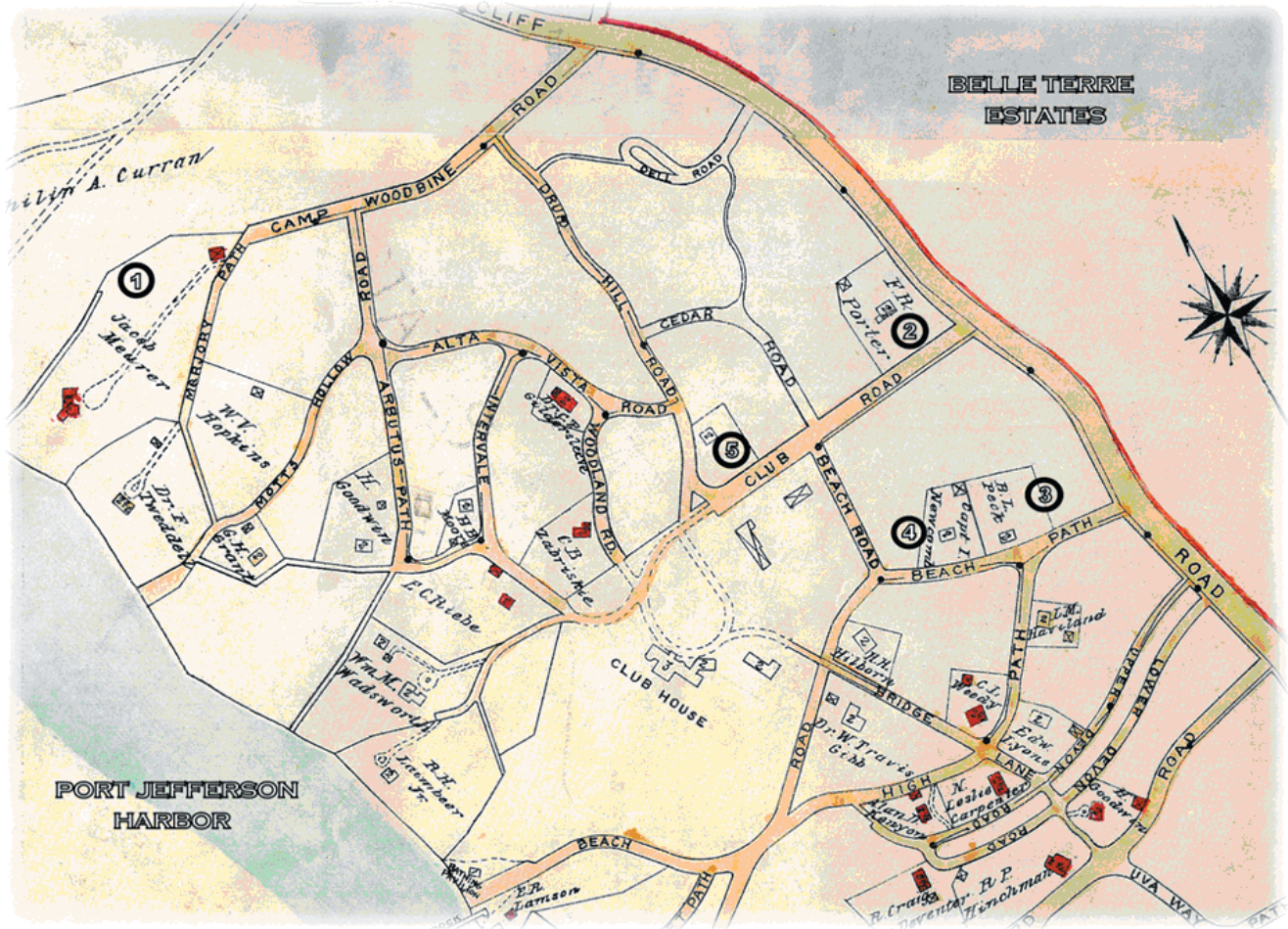
Irked by the lack of even the most basic biographical information, Ken Brady has recently discovered (via ancestry.com, available at the Port Jefferson Free Library) that Lein was a medium tall, stout, blue-eyed,

brown-haired, slightly bald, German immigrant, born September 5, 1886, in Dresden, Saxony, who was employed by one Charles Stegmayer as an “Architectural Draughtsman” (all this according to Lein’s New York World War I Draft Registration Card from June 5, 1917). The fourteenth U.S. population census (January 1920) locates “Ernest” Lein in New York City at 101 East 88th Street. It tells us furthermore that Lein immigrated to the U.S. in 1907 with his wife, Charlotte, that both were 33 years old (“age at last birthday”) and that the couple had two American-born children (8-year-old Hedwig and 6-year-old Gustav). The occupation of the family head in 1920 was still “Draughtsman” in “Architecture.”

The fifteenth U.S. census (April 1930) confirms these fundamental biographical data of the Lein family. However, the Leins reside now at 1982 University Avenue in the Bronx; the citizenship entry for husband and wife has changed from “Al” (alien) to “Na” (naturalized); and the profession of the 43-year-old “Ernst” is now “Architect” in the “Bldgs.” industry. Ken also found that the initial “F.” stands for “Friedrich” Ernst Lein (see New York County Supreme Court Naturalization Petition Index, vol. 656, p. 227, June 12, 1924). But that is all. We do not yet know the year of Lein’s death, have not seen a photo of him, or found any indication of his professional work elsewhere. This note is probably the first to credit Lein with five buildings in various parts of the original “Belle Terre Estates” (see **Map 1**).



Map 1: Friedrich Ernst Lein buildings in Belle Terre (circled 1-5 on a section of the Belle Terre Estates Street Map in *Atlas of a Part of Suffolk County*, published by E. Belcher Hyde, 1917, vol. 1, double page plate no. 35).



Described in the timeless lingo of real estate hyperbole, these five buildings comprised:

- (1) a “stately chalet, occupying one of the most sightly points on the coast” (NYPL Cottages)
- (2) a “dwelling of distinction” (NYPL Cottages)
- (3) a “small country house of attractive lines, ample porch room and an artistic interior” (photocopy, original not yet located)
- (4) a “small cottage on the bungalow order, a marvel of comfort, compactness and convenience” (photocopy, original not yet located), and finally
- (5) our residence adjoining Belle Terre Club “with unobstructed view of the lawns, tennis courts, croquet grounds, etc.” (NYPL Cottages).

Today, the Club and its amenities are long gone; grown up trees are blocking the sights; and our plot has shrunk from a projected 3.3 acres to 1.26 acres. The chalet on the sightly point is no more, yet four Lein buildings have survived the hazards of time and multiple ownership. However, we are left with the open question: How much of an architect was the twenty or twenty-some-year-old Lein in 1907 (the year he came over from Germany) or shortly thereafter, when he signed five buildings in a Belle Terre Estates prospect with “F. Ernst Lein, Architect”?

The 1917 map tells us some other interesting, but, as all maps, not necessarily doubtless things: the location of water mains and fire hydrants for instance (the fine line with occasional dots running along some streets), the number of stories of buildings (mostly two) and the name of the owners of virtually all mapped properties. Two exceptions stand out: the corporation owned Clubhouse and #5 of the Lein

buildings. Why does our house carry no name in 1917?

Surely, there had been individual owners of #5 before and after 1917: the Suburban Construction Company in 1907 (linked to Belle Terre Estates via its president Charles E. Bayliss), Bertha Herklotz in 1912; Stella Foreman in 1915, Grace Lowson in 1923, Madeline Grace Roberts in 1930, Edward L. Quattlander in 1939, Antonia Nikolich in 1948, Joseph Nania in 1961, and myself since 1989. So why are we not seeing the name of one of the early owners on that map?

The likely answer to this question appears on the front page of *The Port Jefferson Echo* of May 5, 1923. That day, the paper noted under Real Estate Transfers:



“The property in Belle Terre, which has for a number of years been known as the **Annex** (my emphasis) to the Belle Terre Club, owned by Stella Foreman, of Freeport, was sold to Mrs. Frank Lowson, of New York City. Mrs. Lowson will start at once to put the house in condition and improve the property.”

I believe that the legal owners did not occupy Lein house #5 with any regularity until 1923. Instead, the Club management used the conveniently situated property on Club Road (and occasionally two other “cottages”) to house summer guests that could not be accommodated on the adjacent hotel premises. Thus, Lein house #5 became known as the Annex to the Club (see **Image 2**).

**Image 2:** *Better Than a Purse of Gold*, richly illustrated “Bayliss Packet” for Belle Terre and Roslyn Estates with a map of Long Island (“Of Long Island’s Famous Home Communities none are so Beautiful or Inviting as Belle Terre on the Sound or Roslyn Estates on the Wheatley Hills near Hampstead Harbor”), published by Dean Alvord Company, 24 pages, undated and unpaginated (author’s collection). Photo and caption appear on page 23.

I think we should honor this local tradition by starting to call Lein house #5 the Annex again. It was the only house entered from Club Road for some time (Lein house #2 was always accessed from Cliff Road). My tax bill reflected this fact until 2005 by listing our physical address simply (and wrongly) as “Club Road” without a house number (the tax record changed to 3 Druid Hill Road only in 2006).

The Annex reminds us of both, the fabulous Belle Terre Club and Friedrich Ernst Lein, the Belle Terre draftsman/architect who never became famous. His surviving buildings have weathered changing times and served their numerous inhabitants for a hundred years. Not a bad legacy, I suppose.

**Note:** First, I would like to thank Ken Brady and Nancy Orth for their invaluable help with Belle Terre history in general and Friedrich Ernst Lein in particular. Second, I would like to encourage everybody to tell Nancy, Ken, or me any legend or fact that pertains to Belle Terre’s architectural history. We want to preserve the oral record and as many historical images and documents as possible. Finally, I have put an Appendix to this article with historical images of all five Lein houses on the “History” menu of the village website (see [www.belleterre.us](http://www.belleterre.us)).



# The Belle Terre Youth Program



The Youth Group was especially successful this year. There were 173 children registered and a good time was had by all.

This letter of appreciation was received by the Trustees:

*"We are writing to express our gratitude for the wonderful Summer Camp experience you provided for our grandson. This is the first summer camp he has attended. We were somewhat concerned that he would have difficulty being away from his family for a long period. However, we were delighted when he adjusted quickly, made new friends, and participated fully in the camp activities.*

*Your camp administrative staffs are to be commended on an excellent program development, organization, and smooth administration of camp activities. Francoise Schachner, Samantha Abelson, Arielle Schachner and Loraine Serabian are phenomenally talented and imaginative.*

*Planning and organizing such a program is a huge undertaking which they implemented very well. Our grandson's experiences at camp have increased his social skills with peers and with adults, making him more outgoing. He became especially close to his group counselor, Trevor LaBarbera and Tammy Serabian. Sean Swords, Nick Verruto and Janella Damaskos are also to be commended. Because of their warm attention, he has become more confident and enthusiastic. He especially liked swimming and has improved his ability considerably. He also liked practicing and participating in the Belle Terre on Broadway Concert. He continues to sing the songs today.*

*Please extend our gratitude to the staff, especially those mentioned above. We are so grateful to you for providing your beach facility for this wonderful experience for all the children.*

*Most Sincerely,"*

This Letter has been edited. The photograph shows the Belle Terre youths marching in the July 4th Parade.

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## The Belle Terre Community Association is holding elections for the following positions:

President: Mike Sampogna  
Vice President: Ken Weiss  
Secretary: Nancy Orth  
Treasurer: Carol McAnaney

### Directors: (Choose 5)

Mary Ellen Buono  
Lauren Cona  
Robert Lofaso  
Vincent Paziale

Linda Poirier  
Loraine Serabian  
Gloria Stange  
Kathy Yunger  
Judy Zaino

As per the BTCA bylaws, the election will be on Friday October 10, 2008 from 8 - 9PM. If a quorum is not present, the vote will be held at the next general meeting on November 3, 2008 at 8PM. Please come out to vote.



## LOBSTER-FEST

Our second lobster dinner at the beach was as good as the first. Mike Sampogna and his crew set up an outside café ambiance.

John Serabian and his band “Bishops Gate” provided the music. We shook, rattled and rolled, drank margaritas and ate sea food. NO we drank margaritas, ate sea food, THEN we shook, rattled and rolled.

Mike ordered good weather again and a perfect sunset. I don’t know how he coordinated the setting off of the fireworks across the bay at the exact moment our bon-fire was lit.



**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**





## Cooper's Hawks



On a cold, cloudy, morning this spring (March 5, 2008) we noticed a new visitor to our backyard. She perched her 20-inch high body, quietly, on a thick branch about thirty feet above the ground. As we stared at her in amazement, she was joined by her mate who circled her position, weaving between the trees, for about fifteen minutes.

In between running for binoculars and a camera and taking several pictures, we identified her as a Cooper's hawk, which according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a "medium-sized hawk of the forest...it is built for fast flight through the obstacle course of trees and limbs...breeds in deciduous, mixed, and coniferous forests... is becoming more common in suburban and urban areas." After about 20 minutes, she was, finally joined by her mate, who circled several times before landing atop her outstretched wings in order to consummate their union.

Over the next few weeks, the two could be seen building their huge nest in the shared backyard, behind our house. With the leafing of the trees, we slowly lost clear sight of the nest and unfortunately never saw any of their chicks. They seem to have taken up permanent residence in the neighborhood and visit the birdbath in our front yard, for both drinking and bathing on a fairly regular basis. They announced their visits with a loud, distinctive series of sharp "cak" sounds. They usually fly down the center of the driveway and land in the birdbath. After soaking for a while on especially hot days, they take off going in the same direction as they came, circle the garage parking area once and then reverse course back down the driveway toward the street.

We hope they have found Belle Terre to be a suitable home although they are making it difficult for the moles, voles, mice, rats, chipmunks and bunnies in the area... their favorite meals.

Ruth Sandak

# 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