



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 11 - Issue 1

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

March 2011

# SPRING AT LAST!



# Belle Terre Office Notes

## Note from the Mayor:

The beach parking lot has been washed away again. The proposal for the new sea wall has been put out to bid. The project should be started by the time the newsletter is in the mail.

## Join the Campaign to Repower Port Jefferson

Changes at the National Grid power plant could dramatically hurt our quality of life... help us convince our elected leaders to address the immediate threat and reach a long-term solution for the plant.

Come into the Belle Terre Village Office to sign the petition or pick up a copy to circulate yourself. More information can be found at [www.belleterre.us](http://www.belleterre.us)

## Gourmet Club

March 12 was a Chili Party at the Lucki home, and the following dates are :

- |          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| April 16 | Rustic Italian Feast         |
| May 21   | Fish & Chip Dinner           |
| June 18  | To be announced              |
| July 16  | Summer Barbecue Extravaganza |
| August 6 | Hawaiin Luau                 |

Anyone is welcome to attend and join in at any date.

Call for information & RSVP to Lori Lucki ([llucki@hotmail.com](mailto:llucki@hotmail.com)) or phone 331-4907

## BELLE TERRE BABY

### Our First Grandchild



Grandparents: Loraine & John Serabian, Seaside Drive, Belle Terre

Parents: Tim & Michelle Serabian, Lumberton, NJ  
Kara Charlene Serabian Born: January 10, 2011

## Death Notices

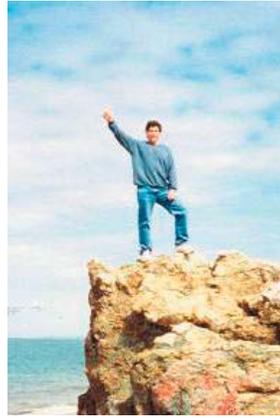
Belle Terre lost two of its long time residents this winter, Patricia Bellafiore and Thomas J. Ryan. Mr. Ryan was a member of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals for 8 years, from 1979 to 1987.

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE



## LI Greenways and Healthy Trails

This was an organization founded in 2007 with the goal of creating a practical network of interconnected trail systems on LI so there would be safe choices for everyone to reach just about all the major destinations on LI on foot or on bicycle. The effort includes getting the various off-road paved paths built and opened to the public, as well as getting more on-road improvements such as bike lanes and other enhancements to reach these trails. We also will support the creation of more mountain bicycling trails and hiking trails, where feasible.



Our main goals include getting non-motorized access to all of our wonderful barrier beaches as well as completing some projects in the Belle Terre area. A paved off-road trail about 1.25 miles long was built in 2009 in Setauket, and phase 2 of that project will begin in 2012, linking the area near Stony Brook to Port Jefferson.



The much-longer Port Jefferson to Wading River trail will begin on Crystal Brook Hollow Road and run east 13 miles to Wading River.

That project has run into various issues, most of which

have been resolved. Finally, connecting these two trails to each other, and then to the trails already constructed at SUNY Stony Brook, will require some more discussion and funding. But we will then have about 25 miles of trails, ready for all to enjoy, and if you work along the corridor, another alternative way to commute, even if only on fair weather days!

We hope progress will soon be made on the already funded Port Jefferson to Wading River former LIRR line. Many people are unaware that the Port Jefferson LIRR line once ran all the way east to Wading River.

During the Great Depression, the railroad



abandoned this line and sold the land to LILCO, which promptly installed major transmission lines. Most of the bridges were demolished, but one survived on Woodville road and will be reutilized



as part of the trail. The trail project was first conceived in the 1990's and has a total of just over \$9 million in funds that almost expired after years of limited progress. Finally, in 2009, the liability issue was settled. But State Law states that the municipal entity building the trail must have some kind of legal interest in the land, either a long term lease or easement, and LIPA

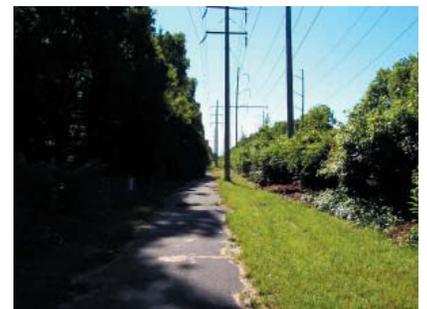


was unwilling to grant this in late 2010 without a "reverter clause" that seemed to nullify the lease agreement.

A recent story in Newsday explained that negotiations to

resolve this last major issue have begun again. We will continue to push for a final agreement so the work can begin before labor and material prices climb.

We are working on several other projects in Nassau and Suffolk at this point, including the LI Motor Parkway trail which would run right down the center of Nassau and western Suffolk County, a trail running parallel to the Ocean Parkway between Jones Beach and Robert Moses Beach, a rebuilt Wantagh Parkway path, an extended Bethpage Bikeway, and the Greenleaf trail in Holbrook and Sayville. We will have a lot of work to do to get them all funded and "shovel ready". For more info on this project visit <http://www.denisbyrne.com/lirr.html>



This article was contributed by Denis Byrne, a resident of Belle Terre. (The photographs are of the route from Port Jefferson to Wading river.)

# Letter to Belle Terre Residents

Subject: Ted and Lori's Crazy Borneo Vacation

Every year Lori and I attempt one unusual, active, explorative vacation. Two years ago, we went to Costa Rica with our children and their significant



others. Last year, we cruised to Antarctica. This year we flew for 20 hours to Borneo. I wanted to see the rain forest

before the bulldozers leveled the place. We were particularly interested in seeing Pygmy elephants and giant orangutans. By the way, Borneo is a large, tropical island between Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, north of Australia. We had a private tour guide that was very smart, knowledgeable, and



spoke the "Queen's English". He was half Chinese and local tribal Bornean. He was twenty-six years old and a pleasure to explore with. For the first three days, we were stuck in

traffic and toured a rapidly developing country. I expected huts and got condo sales signs. Toyotas were everywhere which was sort of nice.

On the fifth day, we finally made it up a river and into the primordial swamp. It was gorgeous! The birds and monkeys were all over the place. The next morning before the daily deluge of two inches of rain, our boat guide spotted them!! A family of five Pygmy elephants, near the shore grazing. They trashed everything in the path and ate the elephant grass. The largest female was only five feet tall and she had a baby that was two feet high. This is the only place in the world that you can see them and we were ecstatic. The birds, snakes, and now elephants! The local guides were our heroes. We celebrated over a bottle of wine with other travelers from Australia and Holland and touted our good fortune. However, on

the next day, I realized that we still had not seen wild orangutans. The guide told me to relax, we had two days left. I told him that I don't want to go back to the Singapore Zoo to get pictures of my ape relatives. So off we went to our last stop in Borneo.



We arrived on day five in "Shangri-La." This was the real thing- Lori and I, the guide, and the off-road driver. He had a 1997 Toyota Land Cruiser 4/4 Diesel, lifted with 200,000 miles on it. I pleaded with him to let me drive. I told him that if I cracked it up, I would send him a new one. He said I wasn't qualified. "What a downer" but what a ride- two and a half hours on a mud path. Trucks stuck and one, lying on its side. There were mud slides, rushing rivers, wooden planked bridges and animal signs all over the place. In the middle of "nowhere", it was just where I wanted to be. We finally got to the Borneo Rain Forest Lodge. It was a beautiful place to start hiking into the forest. On the fifth day we saw monkeys, Rhinoceros Hornbill



birds, snakes, rats, flying squirrels, and tarantula spiders. We saw everything but an orangutan. The next morning, on day six, I asked the guide "What's up?" "Look, do you want an economic incentive to find orangutans? I am willing to pay you or some other guide for each wild orangutan sighted." He laughed and laughed but it got him

moving. On day six, the lodge was humming. They had their phones and GPS coordinated! “The search was on.” We hiked one hour in the mud to reach our observation point. By the way, the forest is teeming with blood sucking leeches. I got nailed twice. Lori wore special Nylon knee socks and was bitten by one leech.

So we now arrived to a clearing in the woods and there was this very short, small, Southeast Asian looking, young forest ranger in a light green full length outfit. If he sat down in the bush you would never see him. [Note - I have a tendency to say the first thing that my small brain thinks] and I said to our guide “Oh, you had to bring in the V.C. to find the orangutan.” He said, “What are you talking about? What is a V.C.?” I swallowed my tongue and asked him what he knew about Vietnam, a small country about 1,000 miles north of Borneo, that America bombed and fought and died in 40 years ago. He answered that he learned in school about Vietnam. Their colonial oppressors were the French and then the Americans. He told me that it was no big deal. It was a war of liberation and a long time ago. He asked now “what is a V.C.?” I told him that the park ranger in that green outfit looked like pictures I had seen of the Viet Cong- the Vietnamese guerilla fighters. I meant no insult to the ranger but I had friends that served in Vietnam and it was still fresh in my memory bank. He said “the war is over and we like Americans. Americans are big tippers and we are going to find many, many orangutans today to make you happy.” I thanked him and took pictures of the three, wild orangutans in the tree. I found my orangutan and maybe the war is over in my mind.

Until next year! “Hi-yo Silver”



Ted

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## Belle Terre Community Association 2011 Spring Session



### Ballroom Dance Lessons

**Fridays – May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3 & 10**

**7:30 to 9:00 PM**

**at the**

**Vincent Bove Belle Terre Community  
Center**

**55 Cliff Road, Belle Terre**

**\$95 per couple**

**(BTCA members \$70 per couple)**

For information call Joanne daytime:  
928-0020

Instructors: Stephanie & Lucio Costanzo



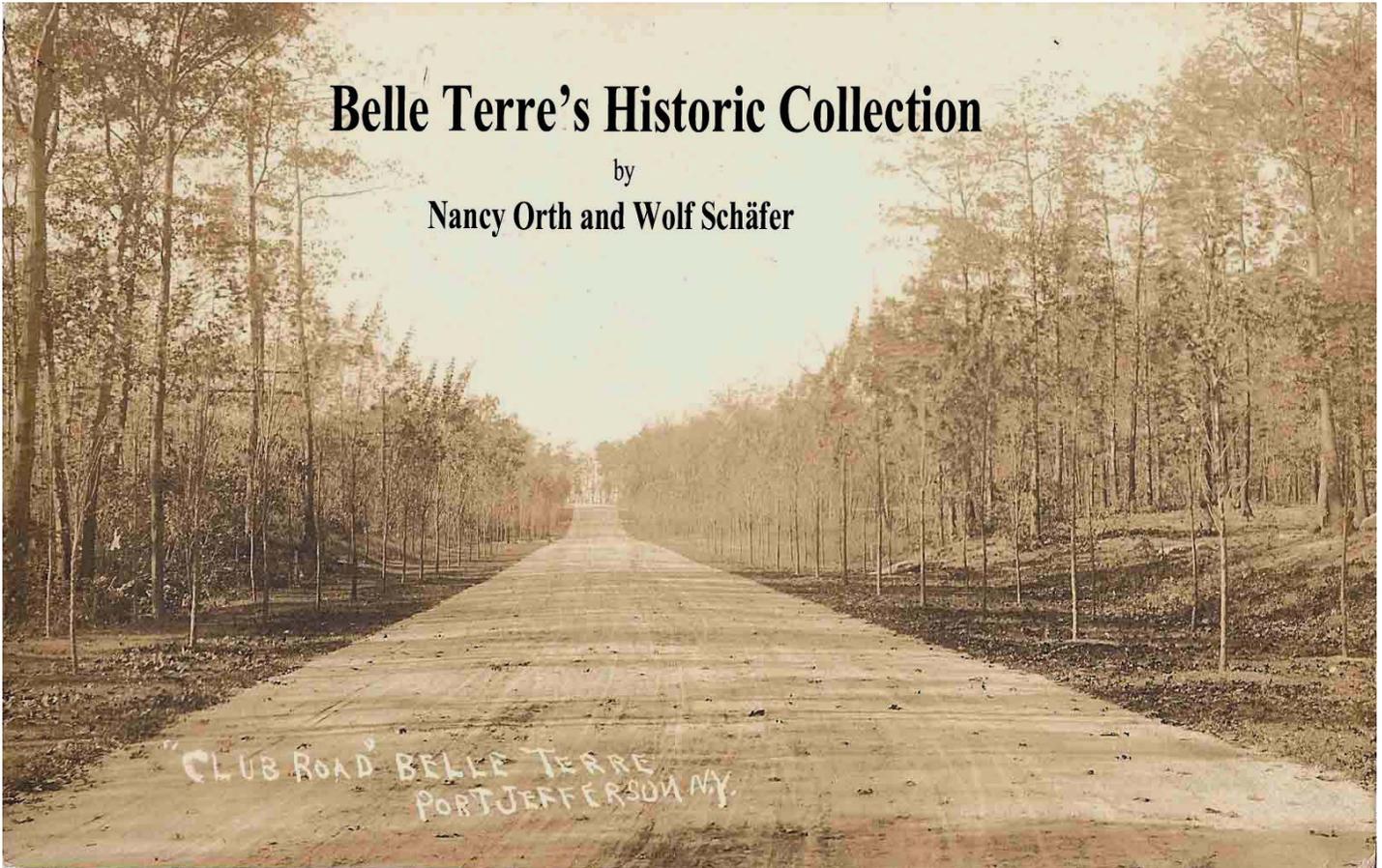
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**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**

# Belle Terre's Historic Collection

by

Nancy Orth and Wolf Schäfer



When Nancy became Belle Terre historian in the 1980s, the collection was virtually nonexistent. The “collection” amounted to four cardboard boxes full of papers. Mrs. Taintor who was then in her eighties helped sorting through the boxes. She had lived a lot of Belle Terre history, witnessed the burning of the Belle Terre Club in 1934, and served on the Planning Board for many years. Nancy met Mrs. Taintor in her house on Pine Path on Sunday afternoons. Little by little the contents of the four boxes were organized into files that found their way into what became the historian’s office in the gatehouse. Until 1989 when Mayor Bove refurbished the gatehouse, the Village offices had been at the Village Hall, now known as the Community Center.

Best among the contents of the boxes were photos taken to support Belle Terre’s 1930s bid for incorporation as a solely residential village. These include approximately forty Arthur Greene photos of our historic houses, fifteen Greene photos of the O’Brien Brothers sand and gravel operations at the foot of Anchorage Road, as well as aerial views of the Village, the Club, and Dean Alvord’s property. The collection has been expanded through purchases and donations and now includes original brochures from the early 1900s that advertise the Belle Terre Estates and show drawings and floor plans of some of the historic houses. In addition to approximately fifty-five historic picture post cards, objects acquired include a silver finger bowl and spoon marked “Belle Terre Club,” a 1912 golf trophy awarded to J. Meurer, an engraved wooden shingle sent by mail as an invitation to a barn dance, and a battered wooden road sign that reads “Belle Terre Club, Private Drive.” In recent years a substantial collection of Indian arrowheads found in the Belle Terre-Harbor Hills area was donated to the Village by Ken Brady.

In 2010, Wolf joined Nancy in the historians’ office and his initial contribution to the growing

Belle Terre archive was the acquisition of Ken Brady's extensive Belle Terre collection on behalf of the Village. This addition has more than doubled our holdings. Representing over twenty-five years of yard sale, eBay, and pre-eBay collecting, the Brady purchase has added hundreds of rare items to our historic collection, among them:

- 211 photographs
- 122 photographic post cards (including the one which heads this article)
- 77 print post cards
- 23 negatives
- 62 slides
- 5 original Dean Alvord promotional booklets for Belle Terre Estates
- a 1917 Belcher Hyde atlas map showing Stony Brook, Setauket, Port Jefferson, Belle Terre and Mount Sinai, as well as
  - a letter from October 18, 1902, signed by Dean Alvord.

Now we have proof that Belle Terre had its own post office once. Yes, a subset of the historic post cards, 13 in total, show post office stamps from 1910, 1911, and 1912, which all say "Belle Terre N.Y." Or did you know that Dean Alvord designed the "refined twentieth century homes" of Belle Terre Estates for "people of discrimination to whom the ordinary types of development do not and cannot appeal"? One of the early booklets confirms your hunch: Dean Alvord "properties are high class and are bound to remain high class."

In addition, the Brady purchase has provided us with close to 300 research files (photocopies and notes) related to the history of Belle Terre. One cardboard box came with nearly 90 manila folders ordered alphabetically along subject matters; another with deeds pertaining to our village ordered numerically by deed numbers in-between 100 and 6800; and the third with clippings and files for each year from 1903 to 2006 (except for 1942).

Now that our collection has reached critical mass, we have to take care of it professionally if we do not want to risk damage or worse. Belle Terre's extinct Pergolas and Club tell us that bad things can happen even to "refined" things. Our most precious items are already in a small fireproof safe. We are investigating if this safe is sufficient, but there is now also another matter of concern: considerable work needs to be done to fully inventory our archive and make it accessible.

To share our history with residents and visitors, the Belle Terre Community Association has generously set aside funds for the purchase of a display case so that selected historical items can be viewed at the Community Center. Less visible, but no less important, however, is the inventory task, for which we will seek to secure an unpaid intern from the Palmer School of Library and Information Science this summer.

Finally, there is the natural expectation of the digital age that everything should be available online. We will strive to comply. You can get a glimpse of how that might be achieved in the eMuseum of the Long Island History Journal, which Wolf is publishing. Point your browser to [www.stonybrook.edu/lihj/emuseum.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/lihj/emuseum.html) and click on "Belle Terre Buildings: Summer 1930 and Winter 1931." Encountering a familiar entrance, you can go ahead and browse 39 of the Village incorporation photos mentioned above. Click on each image and you will be able to inspect the roofs for missing shingles.

# BELLE TERRE



# RAILROAD

**Wow!** That was the word heard most often as visitors entered the Belle Terre Community Center for the 2010 Toys for Tots Railroad.

Many groups sponsor events or organize schools and churches to encourage donations to Toys for Tots. The toys are then gathered by the Marine Corps Reserves Post in Amityville for distribution through other charitable organizations to families in need right here in Suffolk County.

The Belle Terre Community Association's Toys for Tots Railroad is unique. We are the only program in Suffolk County that promotes the collecting of toys from the general public. Moreover, we have the opportunity to give twice. First, we give the toys to the needy boys and girls who otherwise would not get a Holiday Gift. And second, we give to the community as they enjoy the largest indoor Holiday Train Display on Long Island. There are plenty of other Holiday Train Displays in the New York Metropolitan Area, but ours is the only one that connects the joy of electric trains with the joy of holiday giving.

The 2010 layout measured forty feet by sixty feet, and featured more than 2,000 feet of track on four levels rising six feet above the floor. Thirty-one trains ran simultaneously past stations, over trestles, and in and out of tunnels. Our model of the Riverhead Train Station was joined by a scale model of the original Port Jefferson Train Station. The entire layout, including a new suite of backdrops, was designed, constructed, and painted by about thirty of our friends and neighbors from Belle Terre, Port Jefferson, and other local communities. Belle Terre residents donated their time as hosts for visitors.

The results for 2010 were outstanding! In a year where money was tight and donations were down, the Belle Terre Toys for Tots Railroad collected thirty-five washing-machine-sized boxes of toys, and over \$1,700 in cash. All in all, a 16% increase in donations from our efforts in 2009. In only one year, based on feedback received from the Marines, we have become the highest volume Toys for Tots single collection point in all of Suffolk County. Wow again!

And who is we? It's more than those who were directly involved in the project. It's all of us who live here in Belle Terre. We all participated by sharing the Community Center from Election Day in November through the second week in January. We invited our neighboring communities (from Nassau to Montauk!) to enjoy our little village. When you think about it, it really wasn't that much of an inconvenience. We still had the Children's Holiday Party with Santa Claus, the Garden Club's annual luncheon, Village and Community Association meetings, and court was still in session! Truly a small price to pay for the joy that we brought to so many!

Work on the 2011 Toys for Tots Railroad starts in July. Get involved! Call or email the Village Office for a rewarding way to give back to the community!

John Serabian

## INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE



### Hi Gang!

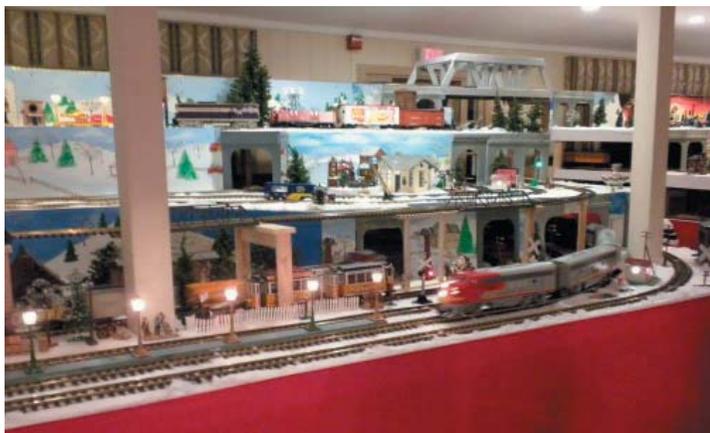
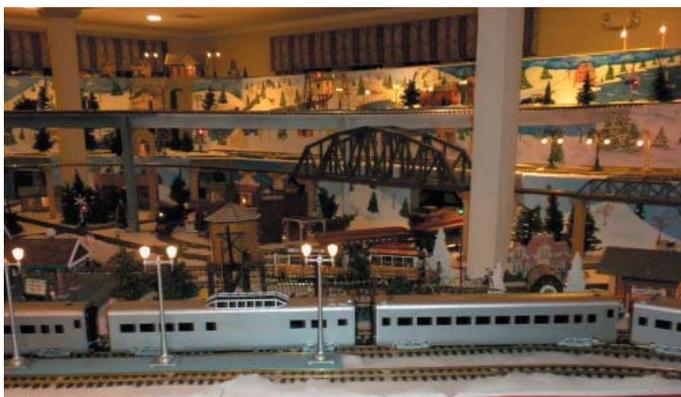
For those of you who haven't heard, we had a heating pipe burst in our game room in early February. Everything got wet, including the trains that had just been put away in the garages underneath! Everything that was stored in the plastic containers is fine. Everything that was stored in cardboard boxes is a mess. Everything has been dried out. Conditions range from "probably OK" to "submerged". The operating MacDonald's, 4 Aristocraft Freight Cars, and the LGB Super Hero Set caught the worst of it.

Ironically, Loraine paid our insurance bill just 2 weeks prior.

We'll have a few unpack - test - and repack sessions in the barn when it gets warmer.

See you then!

John Serabian



# Wet-n-Wild

This picture in a recent Newsday, took me back thirty plus years to when we lived in Halesite.

It was in the early 1970s and our road, Abbott Drive, was on the eastern side of the harbor and rose from New York Avenue to Fort Hill. We lived at the top. My mother was visiting us from England at the time and as I did not drive then, we had gone to Walt Whitman Mall by bus. On the way home the skies had opened up. As the bus got further north the hills on both sides of New York Avenue got steeper and water poured off them making the Avenue a river. We were amused at the kids leaving school, who were jumping and dancing in the flood. It was not so amusing when the bus driver declared he would go no further and dumped us in Huntington Village instead of the terminal at Halesite.



Rains on Oct. 1 cause flooding on Route 110 in Halesite. The scene is familiar to those in the area.

With another couple of miles to go we called a taxi. There were none to be had, but there was a taxi parked outside the local coffee shop. The driver was not pleased with us disturbing his break, but as the rain had let up a bit he took us. Ignoring my directions to go uphill on the east side of New York Avenue, he drove on the west side. This meant that we had to cross the Avenue. It soon became clear that the roads connecting east and west were flooded and we were dumped again.

Our last chance to cross from west to east, before the harbor was Mill Dam Road, and it was under water. As we stood on the raised parking lot of a gas station wondering what to do, a car went by causing a six foot spray that soaked us. OK, now that we were wet we'd take a chance and wade through, but first modesty went bye-bye as we took off shoes and pantyhose. We started in ankle deep water that soon became knee deep and in short order we were holding up our skirts, wading in a thigh high tide. Turning a bend in the road we were horrified to face a large semi truck coming toward us pushing a tidal wave in front of it. Yelling as loud as we could we hung onto our skirts with one hand and a fence with the other, hoping not to be swept off our feet. Luckily the driver stopped and the wave eased off. We edged our way around the truck to a sight that stopped us cold.

New York Avenue, at the foot of our road, was a lake. Kids were swimming and boating on it. On another built up gas station parking area we contemplated our lot. We needed to cross that lake, but how? I could swim but my Mother could not. A young lad with a row boat came to our rescue and within minuits we were at the foot of the hill that led to a warm house and a hot cup of tea. After rewarding the lad with the taxi fare that we had not given the cab driver, we started up and as we did it rained again. My Mum dug into her bag and brought out a head scarf, suddenly she burst out laughing "What am I thinking?" she gasped "Here I am soaked to the skin with bare feet and I put a scarf over my wet hair.

Patricia Stockdale

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**



# Mark Your Calendar! 2011

## BTCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
	TUES- 1st Public Meeting 8pm	SAT- 12th Gourmet Dining Club Begins WED-30th Spin w/Image Cycling FRI- 25th Kids Magician Night	SAT- 2nd Sock Hop SAT- 9th Coast Guard Class SUN- 17th Spring Egg Hunt
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
MON- 2nd Public Meeting 8pm SAT- 7th Mather Walk BTCA Table supplies water/snacks for walkers	SUN- 12th BT Park Fund Raiser	MON- 4th of July Party SAT-9th Garden Tour	MON- 1st Public Meeting 8pm SAT- 13th Beach Party FRI- 26th Making Holiday Decorations for Community Center
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
SUN- 25th Yappy Hour at the Park	MON- 3rd Public Meeting 8pm SUN- 2nd Residents Party SAT- 29th Adult Halloween Party SUN- 30th Pumpkin Carving Party	SUN- 20th Wine and Cheese Holiday Decorations Party	MON- 5th Public Meeting 8pm THUR- 1st Toys for Tots Train Display Grand Opening SUN- 18th Childrens Holiday Party

Support Your Community Association, membership dues are primarily to offset the cost of BTCA events and contribute to village improvements and beautification. As a result, many events are provided to members at little or no cost. Fees for events may be greater for non-members. If you have not already done so, please send in your dues today! Check the website for detailed information regarding the above events @ [www.belleferre.us](http://www.belleferre.us)

# 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
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	Louise Smit	928-0020	Constable's Office.....	.....	928-5785
Village Attorney.....	Eileen A. Powers	727-8250	Fire Marshall .....	James Makarius Jr.	774-3706
Village Justice.....	Charles Russo	265-7200	Historians.....	Nancy Orth	473-1078
Court Clerk.....	Elaine Freda	473-5105		Dr. Wolf Schafer	331-0543
Planning Board.....	Vincent DeStefano	928-0020	Parks Commissioner....	Joanne Cornell-May	473-3028
Building Inspector.....	Christopher Harding	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. **VILLAGE WEBSITE:** [www.belleterre.us](http://www.belleterre.us)

**VILLAGE E-MAIL:** [btvillageoffice@gmail.com](mailto:btvillageoffice@gmail.com)

**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, NY 11777