



BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 12 - Issue 1

Village Website: www.belleterre.us

March 2012





Notices and Notes

Picture Credit

Thank you to Jacquelyn Gernaey for sending me the early flower picture that graces our front page.

Belle Terre Community Association 2012 Spring Session

Ballroom Dance Lessons

Fridays – March 16, 23, 30,

Thursday April 5, Friday April 13, & 20

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

Obituary

Lorraine Rice's mother passed away on Jan 16th after a long illness.

Belle Terre Babies

Congratulations to:

Ellen and Gary Ferrigno on the birth of their new granddaughter.

and to Judy Zaino on her new granddaughter - Savannah Laurel Zaino, Born January 31st.

This is our Beach Commissioner's new neighbor in Florida. Let's hope she does not bring him home.

A BELLE TERRE CELEBRATION

The cocktail party to celebrate the work done at the circle and to thank those who donated time or money, was very well attended.

Richard & Mary Morrison generously hosted 130 Belle Terre residents at their beautiful house on Camp Woodbine Road.

In his thank you speech, Mayor Lucki divided the donors into two groups: The Sparks and the Saviors.

The Sparks were:

Sen. Ken LaValle for getting us the grant for erosion control.

Vinnie Parziale for engineering management, earth removal & drainage.

Lou Vecchia for asphalt.

Bob Sandak, Grant Geelan and Bill Raso for seeing to it that things got done.

Chris Vene (Case's Creek) for the erosion control and flower boxes on the cliff.

Constable Dom Buffa for getting supplies.

The Saviors were:

Richard & Mary Morrison for hosting the party and donation for drainage rims.

Robert & Kathy Frey whose donation covered tree removal and irrigation.

Lou Bove for taking the old asphalt for recycling.

Tony Gitto for the fence and landscaping plans.

Phil Buonomo for the electrical work.

Steve Bohlen and Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Smith for their cash donations.

No tax dollars have been used for this project.

Editor's observation: There are a lot of nice people in Belle Terre.



Subject: The Rehabilitation of the Circle at the end of Cliff Road

On Thursday evening many of you joined the Village Officials at Mary and Richie Morrison's home, on Camp Woodbine, to acknowledge the generous contributions of several of our residents, to the rehabilitation of the Circle at the end of Cliff Road.

The Village Historian, Wolf Schafer, presented a short history of the Circle and of the decorative "pergolas" that used to adorn it until the 1930s. He explained how important the Circle was in the overall scheme of "Belle Terre Estates", and referenced the architectural heritage of the pergolas and their similarity to the Port Jefferson Railroad Station.

I explained that through Senator Ken LaValle's office we obtained a grant to stabilize the cliff face with terraced plantings. I also thanked several residents who volunteered their companies' equipment and expertise to totally rebuild the Circle and change it from an unattractive "turn-around" for cars and trucks, into a beautiful park setting with vistas of Mt. Sinai Harbor, Connecticut, Pirate's Cove and the Old Field Lighthouse. Other residents were acknowledged for their contributions toward engineering fees, irrigation systems, sod, fencing, etc.

As far as we have come, the project is not yet finished. Since no tax payer dollars have been used for this project, I am asking each Village resident to consider making a contribution towards the completion of the project. We still have to install a crushed seashell-walking path, benches, fencing, rails, steps, lighting, decorative shrubs and bushes, etc.

We used this approach, to great success, in reconstructing the gatehouse three years ago, and are seeking your support once again. If you have any questions regarding the details of this project, please contact me. If you would like to be involved, checks made payable to the Village of Belle Terre can be dropped off or mailed to the Gatehouse, 1 Cliff Road.

Thank you for your support,
Ted Lucki, Mayor

Financial Success... an Update

By Bob Sandak

In these very unstable financial times, the Mayor and Board of Trustees have worked very hard to maintain all of our Village Services while maintaining a reasonably stable tax rate. The rate has increased only 3.5 % over the last four years.

At the same time, the Board has undertaken several projects that have been conducted without local tax support. Through the use of grants, the sale of property, donations, cooperation and assistance of other government agencies, volunteerism, and FEMA funding, we've been able to move ahead with several noteworthy projects with no local tax support. These projects include the complete rehabilitation of the seawall and replacement of the decorative entry gate at Knapp Beach, the stabilization of the bluff at the end of Cliff Road as well as smaller projects such as vine cutting, tree removal and pothole repairs.

So where do we go from here? We continue to identify possible non-tax sources of revenue and savings. We are working with the Village of Port Jefferson to undertake cooperative bidding in an attempt to lower costs. We may share equipment and personnel with their highway department if they can provide less expensive services than those currently supplied by contracts from the Town of Brookhaven. We have recently signed a contract with Cablevision that generates a small amount of annual income and are looking at the finances associated with cell tower installations as a possible permanent source of substantial new revenue.

At the same time, we are considering new projects for the Village such as improved roadway signage, renovation of the buildings at Knapp Beach and the improvement of the recreational area at the end of Anchorage Road. Always in our minds, is the instability of the situation caused by the possible closing of the Port Jefferson Power Plant and how that would affect our local school taxes and therefore our total tax burden.

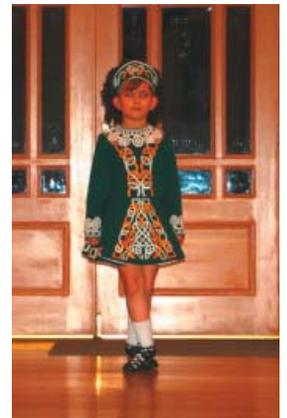
As the Mayor and Board begin meetings relative to the new budget cycle for 2013, all of these accomplishments, projects and factors will come into play.

OH! WHAT A NIGHT

The March dinner of BTCA's Gourmet Club fell on Saint Paddy's day. The members were split into two parties. Our hosts were Kathy and Mike Sampogna.

Mike and Kathy had a young violinist from Stony Brook (*Elizabeth*) play Irish music for us as we enjoyed the appetizers.

Before dinner a troupe of young ladies (*the youngest one was six*) arrived to entertain us with traditional Irish dancing. It was unexpected and beautiful.



Then as Elizabeth resumed her playing Mike and Kathy's granddaughter Kyla (*who informed us that she was going to be four in May*) had to have been watching every step the dancers did, because she did a pretty darn good job of Irish dancing. She had all the moves, her little feet tapped and she high kicked like a pro. If you want a heart-full of happiness, watch a little girl dance for joy.

The rest of our evening was filled with good food, interspersed with Irish Toasts and Irish Stories topped off with Irish Coffee.



Pat Stockdale



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE



Belle Terre Village Park

These photographs show some of the attractive park improvements that have been provided by a joint effort of the Belle Terre Village Board and the Community Association.

More improvements are planned.



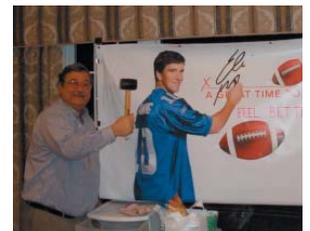
Annual Football Playoff and Chili Cook-Off

The Belle Terre Community Association presented the annual Football Playoff and Chili Cook-Off event in the Belle Terre Community Center. on Sunday, January 22 at 6pm:

Kick-off was at 6:30pm of the NY Giants vs. San Francisco 49'ers for the NFC Conference Championship!!

We all enjoyed Wings / Hot Dogs / Chili / BBQ / Suds and more. and voted for this year's BEST CHILI !!

Awards were granted for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place BEST BELLE TERRE CHILI.



Ask not what your village can do for you - Ask what you can do for your village!

As spring approaches, it is time to begin thinking about property cleanup.

As you know, our community is one of the most wooded on Long Island. Along with the natural beauty of the woods comes the need for maintenance.

Maintenance is critical in an area such as ours where you have large trees, overhead electric and communication wires, and the likelihood of severe weather throughout the year. There are many residents who believe the trees, brush and vines alongside our roads are the responsibility of the Village.

However, the Village is only responsible for maintaining property owned by the Village. Each individual property owner is responsible and liable for all trees, vines and brush on their property, including those that border roadways.

If trees and limbs are hanging too low or are in danger of falling onto the roadway, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have them taken care of. If brush and vines intrude out into the road or restrict visibility, again it is the homeowner's responsibility. During emergencies such as severe storms, the Village will do its best to clear the roadways of fallen trees, brush and debris in order to keep them open for emergency vehicle access. However, it is still up to the homeowner to complete the cleanup and removal after the storm passes. In addition, if you have a fire hydrant on your property you are also responsible for keeping the area around these hydrants clear.

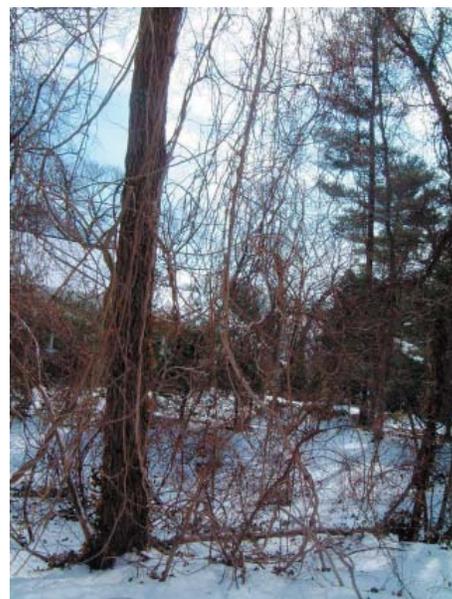
We were fortunate to have had a mild winter, but with spring arriving we need to think ahead to hurricane season. We need to get the word out to all residents, and are asking for your help.

If you own property that borders a village road, please step up and take responsibility for maintaining these areas. Cut the brush back from the roadway, cut or remove the vines that ultimately destroy trees, and trim tree limbs that may be leaning too low over the roadway or are unhealthy or dying.

Remember, if you do have to trim or cut down any trees, you will need to apply for a permit before doing any work. Blank permits can be picked up at the Village office or downloaded from the village website at www.belleterre.us. There is no charge for this type of permit. Also remember if limbs are too close to overhead lines, please do not attempt to trim them yourself but rather call an expert or the local utility company.

We all would like to be proud of our neighborhood, and want safe roads with good visibility. Your Village Board is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the community, while being respectful of residents' privacy and cognizant about tax increases. Please join us in doing your part by maintaining your property along the roadways of Belle Terre.

Mayor and the Board of Trustees



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE

Belle Terre Lacrosse Honors

This is to inform our community on behalf of our 2 womens Division One College LaCrosse players, Kaitlin LaBarbera and Jess Russo on the 2011 honors they have achieved as Student Athlete Academic Honors awards for 2011:

Saint Joseph's University : Kaitlin LaBarbera, Graduate Student, Criminal Justice

Northwestern University : Jessica Russo, Junior, Learning and Organizational Change and Business Institution

A Brief Visit

On January 10th I was clearing away the breakfast dishes, when I looked out of the window and did a double-take. A beautiful red fox was drinking from my pond.

I have an almost life size garden statue of a fox that sits on a tree stump beside the pond, so for a split second I thought it had moved. Hence the double-take.



With mind cleared I watched the visitor take a leisurely drink and casually survey the area.

He looked right at me but did not move away until my dog spotted him and barked.

Still in no hurry, he moved off toward the back off our property. Only then did I think of the camera.

I have cleaned the kitchen window and the camera is ready for his next visit.

Pat Stockdale

Make-a-Wish



On Sunday (Feb 5th) Sharon Stockdale plunged into the cold waters off Long Beach with the Long Beach Polar Bears to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Metro New York.

If you're interested in learning more about this event, follow go to <http://longbeach.patch.com/articles/long-beach-polar-bears-eye-3m-mark>

Notice Regarding Dogs on the Loose

To All Belle Terre Residents:

This is a gentle reminder to all dog owners that the Village of Belle Terre does have a code requiring that dogs over the age of six months must be licensed and that whether or not they are licensed they are not at any time permitted to run at large in the village anywhere other than the owner's property.

The village can impose a fine not exceeding \$250.00 per occurrence. The office and constabulary have received many calls in recent weeks regarding dogs on the run. Please make every effort to insure that your dogs are abiding by the village code!

Thank you.

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.....	Michael Sampogna	928-0020	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: First Tuesday of every month; work meeting.

Third Tuesday of each month, regular public meeting, unless otherwise posted.

VILLAGE CLERK: 928-0020 * FAX 928-7971. VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.belleterre.us

VILLAGE E-MAIL: 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