



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 6 - Issue 4

December 2006



*The Mayor  
and  
The Board of Trustees  
wish all residents a  
Happy Holiday Season  
and a  
Healthy and Prosperous  
New Year*

# Letter from The Mayor

On Sunday, October 8, 2006 we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Village's incorporation at the historic estate of Contessa Nadia Farber. We took this opportunity to honor some of our residents who have served the village in various capacities over the years:

Former Trustee, Pat Triant, who served the Village as both Trustee and Deputy Mayor for twenty nine years, and during that period also served as Fiscal Officer and Youth Program Commissioner.

Stephen N. Strauss, who served as Associate Justice from 1983-1984, Elected Village Justice from 1984 to 2002, served again as Associate Justice from 2002 until 2006, a total of 23 years of dedication to our Village.

James J. von Oiste, who recently resigned after 38 of years service as Village Attorney, before which he was Acting Justice from July 1967 to April 1968. We thank him for his prudent counsel and guidance.

Ken Gaul who served both as Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 1993 and Chairperson for 12 years.

And finally, posthumously, Vinnie Bove, who was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1972, became Deputy Mayor in 1974, was elected Mayor in 1976 and held that position until 2004. He was the only Mayor in Suffolk County to hold the office for over 20 consecutive years. We will all miss him.

Our thanks and gratitude to all these wonderful friends and neighbors who have given so generously of their time to the functions of the Village and to their families who supported them and sacrificed their family time for the betterment of the Village.

A very big thank you to our beloved Contessa Nadia Farber for her generosity in providing her magnificent, historic estate for the celebration of our Village Birthday. And also Yuri Farber and Barbara for their incredible hard work putting everything in place for our enjoyment and pleasure.

And to Allen Verela and Ken Brady for the beautiful historic photo exhibit held at the Port Jefferson Village Recreation Center.

Thanks for the Musical talent of Peter Beard and the students from Port Jefferson High School, and to the Organization Committee, who put this lovely event together for all of us:

Joanne Cornell, Pat Geelan, Lois Weiss, John Heide, my wife Lori and to Pat Stockdale for the wonderful journal. Thanks also to the Caterer, Eva Antonacci.

Thank you to Sen. LaValle for obtaining a matching grant for the new Belle Terre entrance wall which will be rebuilt in the spring.

Ted Lucki

## Plaques and Proclamations presented to The Village:



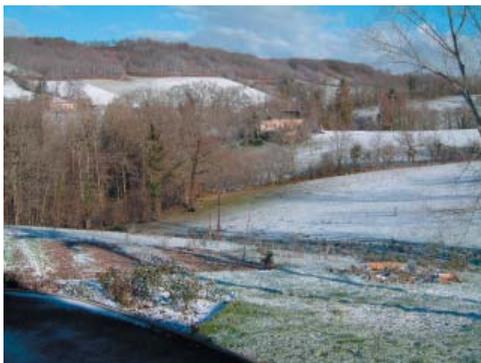


## Belle Terre – More French than the French?

I had been in Belle Terre less than 24 hours when I found myself with the ladies of the Beautification Committee battling with the jungle that inhabited one of the islands on Beach Road. I had just arrived from France to stay with my sister Patricia Stockdale and thought it an excellent way to combat the inevitable jet lag – fresh air and hard work should do the trick. As I worked away getting scratched and bitten by the bugs, I started to think what it would be like to live in Belle Terre and mused over what I would find familiar and what I would find different from my life in South West France. I had lived in London for 61 years and after retirement my husband and I decamped and moved to a tiny hamlet called Le Coste de Couronne, in the Aveyron region of France. We bought an old farm house and have two acres of wilderness for our back yard. It was a huge jolt after London where we lived 30 minutes from Piccadilly Circus in a top floor apartment with no garden.



I think that I would have a softer landing if I left France for Belle Terre. The most obvious familiarity is of course the name – Belle Terre – beautiful land or ground. At the moment America is not exactly in love with France, but I know French style is much admired. As I walked around Belle Terre I enjoyed the creative architecture, very much reminiscent of the houses in France - the lovely roofs with their turrets and slate tiles and sparkling windows, but missing the stone walls and pigeonniers of the houses in my region. And the time gap is significant, most of the farms and chateaux were built in the 13th century and are a testament to the skills of the stone masons of that era that they are still habitable. Like France, in Belle Terre no two houses are the same and the wonderful gardens have exactly the same plants and shrubs. But what I don't see in Belle Terre are the vegetable gardens. Everyone, and that includes us, has a vegetable patch where we grow a wide variety of vegetables to eat immediately or to freeze for the winter. So why don't Belle Terre residents try planting a few vegetables and enjoy the wonderful flavours? Its no less arduous that looking after flowers.



The French are great foragers; I am used to seeing whole families scouring the hedgerows and fields either looking for wild asparagus in the spring or mushrooms in the autumn- they let nothing go to waste. This time of the year we harvest the walnuts, sweet chestnuts and figs and it's time to make batches of foie gras for Christmas.

The peace and quiet and the strong village sense of community are exactly the same as in my village La Fouillade. I suspect our mayor has more powers than Belle Terre's – his is a political post and he oversees absolutely everything that goes on in the village. If you fall foul of the mayor you might as well move!

So I think I would feel comfortable living in Belle Terre after my life in France; many things would be familiar to me but could I give up the magnificent panoramic views from my kitchen window – right down our valley, or would gaining the ocean compensate? A tough call.

*If you are interested in visiting the Aveyron I can send you travel advice and a list of holiday homes and bed and breakfast establishments.*

*Gillian Hart - gill@gillhart.com*



## *Out and About in Belle Terre - by Pat Stockdale*

### **75th ANNIVERSARY**

Marvelous setting, ditto the weather, good food and a gracious hostess.



Throw in a couple of hundred friends and neighbors, add speeches, presentations and lots of memories and you have a successful anniversary party.

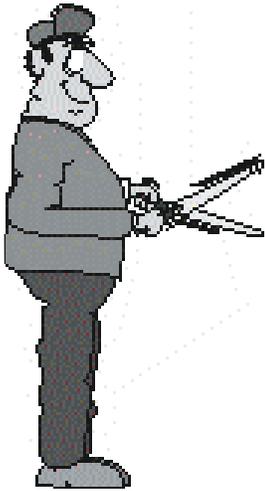


### **ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

Coming from London (as I do) I am used to a lot of pomp on an occasion such as a town's or as in our case a village's anniversary.

For instance the Lord Mayor of London wears a red coat trimmed with fur and a hat with a feather in it. Well I thought our Mayor should have a bit of bling, but I did not think we would get him into a fur trimmed red coat or a hat with a feather in it. But London's Mayor also has a gold chain, AH! I thought, maybe he would wear that? The only trouble was that we could not afford a gold chain! So we got him a brass one. He doesn't look half bad wearing it, does he?





## CLEAN UP

Those of us walking the byways of Belle Terre this summer without the poison ivy coming out to bite us, can thank Patrick Thomas and his trusty Weed Whacker.

Patrick could be seen from time to time out there, cutting down the nasty stuff and everything else not wanted on our road sides.

Thank you Patrick.

## RESIDENTS PARTY

Held mainly to meet and greet new residents, this year we were shy of any new residents. Never the less us old residents enjoyed getting together once again.

On the subject of new residents, the thought was put forward that perhaps new comers see us senior citizens doing our thing and are maybe intimidated or put off. Please don't be. We love to see new residents and frankly we need help. We also need some ideas for events that our younger residents would like to see take place. Please join us and keep Belle Terre the friendly interesting place it is.

## CHRISTMAS TREE

The color coding on the branches has worn off. Most of the lights would not work and the bows were all flattened. Were we put off? HELL NO, we

still got the tree put together, found more lights and unflattened the bows. Those that could still get down on their knees decorated the bottom others did the middle and I put the bow on top.

Note! I did say we needed help. Preferable from anyone that can still bend.



## BELLE TERRE BOUTIQUE

We had 25 vendors with much diversity in their items as well as everything being of high quality. We had over 300 people come to the event and many walked out with purchases they had made, so the vendors did reasonably, to quite well. The BTCA stands to make a profit of about \$1800.00 so not only was it a fun event, but a profitable one as well.

The Spalon Sweetie, generously donated by the T. Carlton Salon and Spa was won by J. Willkam.

We thank all who helped as well as all who supported it.

**Judy Zaino**

*It is a phenomenal job, putting this event together. Thanks to Judy Zaino, Nancy Schmitz and their team .*

## The Village of Belle Terre Website

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

Be sure to visit the website and you will see the color version of this Newsletter and other Village information.



**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**





## A Victory for History: the Draper House and the Village Hall by Nancy Orth

I don't know about you, but I'm really delighted every time I see a historical restoration, and lately Belle Terre is giving me more than my share of joy.

Take, for example, the yellow house on Woodland (turn right at the end of Club Road). In the 1940's and 50's this house belonged to Leonard and Mildred Draper. Leonard was a wealthy, handsome, gray-haired Bostonian with a prep school accent. His wife Mildred, bejeweled in summer, sipped martinis beside her cabana. My mother, not a beach person, always said Mildred's wrinkles came from too much sun. In my childhood memories the Draper house was like a fairy tale cottage in a Beatrix Potter illustration. With soft gray shingles, pale yellow trim, and delicate flowers, it belonged on the cover of a home and gardens magazine. Dogwood and rhododendron ornamented the grounds, and at the far end of the garden in the back stood tall rows of pink and red lilies. At that point in time, I had never been inside, but from the outside, the sun porch with its small glass panes was especially alluring. On my walks I used to stop and stare at this dreamlike house that looked as if it belonged in the English countryside. But then, as in life, things changed.

Mildred and Leonard both met with sad, suicidal deaths, one in their Park Avenue residence, the other in Belle Terre. I suppose the tragedy confirms the adage that money doesn't make happiness.

The Drapers were a childless couple, and so the house was sold. It was then painted tan with dark brown trim, a flat-topped room unbecoming the architecture was added onto the back, vines strangled the dogwoods and rhododendron, and the lilies were no more. The house looked sad, and on my walks I tried not to look at it.

Now, suddenly, it is 2006. I drove by the other day, and my jaw dropped. The Draper house has come to life, more beautiful than ever. Its expansion is so harmonious that it's impossible to tell where the old stops and the new begins. Now soft yellow with white trim, the house seems to be smiling. Mildred and Leonard would be happy to see what their little jewel has become.

On a similar note is our own Village Hall or Community Center, now sporting a sturdy new roof and white shingle siding. The improvement is remarkable. Here I want to tell Ted Lucki how appreciative I am. He actually came and asked which siding I thought would be historically correct. I hope that, like me, you are pleased with the results.

This building was originally the New York School of Applied Arts and was located in the woods across from the fire gong on Cliff Road. The exact site is visible on a 1917 map of Belle Terre. (The centenarian Mrs. Rice once confided to me that as children she and her pals used to peek in the windows to look at the nude models.) In the 1920's the building was moved to its present site and became the clubhouse of the Belle Terre Golf Course. At that time it was white with a green roof. The main entrance with its French doors faced the golf course, and the rear of the building on the Cliff Road side had a screened-in porch used for summer bridge luncheons given by the Belle Terre Garden Club. The porch is visible in a photo that was displayed at the recent Port Jeff Village Center exhibit. This was once a luminous structure inside, art studios always being conceived to let in as much natural light as possible. However, in the late 50's and early 60's, in answer to rampant vandalism, the French doors and small-paned windows that overlooked the golf course were walled up, resulting in a sad darkening of the interior. At the same time that the windows were walled up, the porch was made into a rather unhappy looking but substantial main entrance, and the circular village green with its center flagpole atop a

mound was buried under an admittedly necessary blacktop parking lot.

With the recent trend for beautification and historical restoration, someday the front entrance might be replaced by one more in harmony with the building... and having steps with risers easily negotiated by people over forty. I'm trying to convince my architect friend John May to make a sketch for a lovely entrance. "Sure, and how about a portico?" says he. Fine, John, and while you're at it, can we talk about parking lots? The only well-designed one I've ever seen is at the Three Village Inn. There surely must be a way to beautify ours.

December 2006

### Mayor Bove's Funeral

The photographs are of Mayor Bove's funeral procession passing through the Belle Terre gates.

I would like to thank the Chief Constable, Robert J. Walker, Commissioner Bob Sandak and all the constables for organizing this moving tribute for this great man.



Ted Lucki



### Community Center Upgrade

A special thank you to the Brett Family, owners of King Quality Siding and Windows, for doing a great job of residing the Community Center at a reasonable price.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Celebration Wines

Thank you from the Village of Belle Terre to Magnus Magnusson, for the generous gift of personalized bottles of wine in celebration of Belle Terre's 75th anniversary.

### The History of Belle Terre On Archival DVD

As of January 15, 2007 DVD's on the history of Belle Terre can be purchased at the gatehouse. Your check for \$25 should be made out to the Belle Terre Community Association. Belle Terre note cards are also available. (\$15)

### Peluso honored for excellence

The New York State Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) recently recognized Long Island resident Angelo Peluso for "Excellence in Craft."

Peluso, a member of NYSOWA, was recently awarded first place for his magazine feature, "Silvers Are Better Than Gold" (Fish Alaska magazine) and first place for a magazine column, "A Fly in Hand Is Worth Fifty Bucks in the Bush" (Fish Alaska magazine). A second place was awarded for his newspaper column, "When the Water Cools the Fish Will Bite" (The Port Times Record).

In addition, Peluso received three similar awards for photography. A first place was awarded for the still life image "Red Sled Memories," a second place for "Up the Food Chain" and a third place for "Altar of the Sun." The awards were announced at the 2006 Fall Conference of the NYSOWA in Plattsburgh.

Peluso is a frequent contributor to various local, regional and national publications. His first fly fishing book, Salt water Flies of the Northeast, is currently on sale at all major booksellers.

The New York State Outdoor Writer's Association is the largest such organization in the state of New York and one of the largest in the country.

*Reprinted from the Port Times Record*

# 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.....	Lauren McKay	928-8083	Conservation Comm....	Dave McAnaney	928-0020
Clerk-Treasurer.....	Joanne Raso	928-0020	Constable Comm.....	Bob Sandak	474-8686
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	Lee Paige-Ekstrom	928-0020	Chief Constable.....	Robert Walker	928-5785
Office Assistant	Lynn Bohlen	928-0020	Fire Marshall ....	James Makarius Jr.	774-3706
Village Attorney.....	Eileen A. Powers	727-8250	Historian.....	Nancy Orth	473-1078
Village Justice.....	Charles Russo	265-7200	Parks Commissioner....	Lauren McKay	928-8083
Associate Justice.....	James Catterson	473-5105	Parks Commission:..	Lauren McKay, Sheila Knapp, & Myron Ledbetter	
Court Clerk.....	Elaine Freda	473-5105	Road Commissioner...	William Raso	928-0020
Planning Board.....	John J. Lovett	928-0020	Youth Program Comm ...	Francoise Schachner	331-4553
Building Inspector.....	Cathy Evans-Masci	928-0020	Newsletter.....	Pat & Roy Stockdale	473-4801
Technology Advisor.....	Ken Weiss	928-0020			

---

**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, NY 11777