



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 7 - Issue 3

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

September 2007

## Message from the Mayor

I hope all residents had a wonderful summer. Listed below are several of the highlights in Belle Terre.

- 1.) On the 3rd of July I drove down to visit the beach program and was inspired by 2 residents busily digging & cleaning up the entrance to the beach. They were not hired-but volunteering their time & effort to beautify the Village.
- 2.) The 4th of July – what a wonderful birthday! We can be proud to be Americans. The parade – the flags – Joanne’s & Sheila’s colorful blouses – the patriotic spirit – the great Long Island weather - hot dogs & apple pie. What a great way to show our patriotism.
- 3.) John May and the Wall Committee designing and building the new front entrance.
- 4.) Congratulations to Joanne Cornell & Bob Sandak for being reelected as trustees, volunteering their time and effort.
- 5.) The cabanas have been rebuilt. The cabana committee discussed the cost of the boardwalk. Maybe it’s too expensive? Maybe we should skip it this year? The reality is, it’s hard for our Senior Citizens to walk down the beach on sifting sands. The next thing I hear is Mr. Mike Sampogna and crew have built them. Where do they find the time? Fortunate for Belle Terre they have the desire!
- 6.) Great job Bill Raso. The parking lot at the community center is paved.
- 7.) Beach Program-another great summer of fun!



We are becoming a real neighborhood, not just some beautiful homes in the woods!

Thank you for sharing this summer!

*Ted*

## REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN MAY

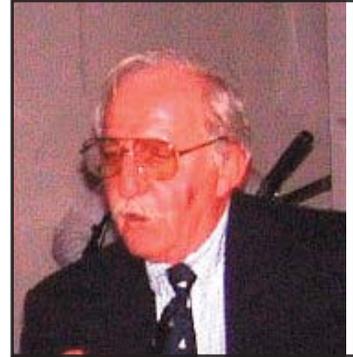
by Nancy Orth

Belle Terre deeply regrets the passing of John Sargent May on September 6, 2007. John leaves behind his wife Joanne Cornell May, one of our four trustees, a son Craig May of Southampton, New York, a stepdaughter Melissa Cornell of Virginia, and a grandson Ryan Cornell Thorpe, also of Virginia.

Born in Queens, New York on September 5, 1938, John moved to Lower Devon Road in 1975. Architect and builder, John was also an avid sailor, golfer, sports car driver and tennis player. Anyone who saw John at the Belle Terre functions will also remember him as a wonderful dancer and a gourmet pancake maker.

Especially noteworthy to us is his contribution to the refurbishing of the Belle Terre entrance gates. With his friend Dave McAnaney, John spent many hours taking precise measurements to create the architectural drawings needed to rebuild the wall. This work was done from the heart, with no expense to Belle Terre. To the astonishment of every member of the Wall Committee, John attended all meetings religiously, despite his deteriorating health from cancer. For many months Belle Terre benefited from his suggestions and architectural expertise. All admired his uninterrupted perseverance in living, coupled with a certain stoic acceptance of his fate.

To his family, we in Belle Terre extend our heartfelt condolences. It goes without saying that henceforth, when each of us passes through the Belle Terre gates, we will ever have a thought for John Sargent May.



September 2007.

## OFFICE NOTE

### A DESPERATE PLEA AND A NOTE OF CAUTION!!!

The Village Office has been receiving calls from residents, some begging, some pleading and some demanding that Village Codes regarding Construction and Noise ordinances be better enforced. It seems that with the assorted construction going on in various areas of the Village, hours of operation have spilled over, front and back to the code. (8a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and no construction on weekends and holidays).

As for our Village Noise ordinance, may we again remind everyone in Belle Terre to be considerate of neighbors' peace and quiet, always, and especially on weekends. Particularly, we hear complaints about the noise from chain saws and blowers, as they are loud and the latter seem to be used for longer periods of time than any other tool. Ah! For the calm, peaceful days of "raking and hosing".

Also, a reminder that the dumpster at the community center is for the use of Community Center affairs only. If residents cannot wait for the two pickups each year, **trash pickup is to be arranged for privately by homeowners and cardboard is not to be dumped there, but broken down, tied and put out on paper day!!!**

# Out and About in Belle Terre

## July 4th

The gray weather did not dampen the spirits of 135 Belle Terre residents and their guests at the 2007 Belle Terre Community Association 4th of July BBQ on the Belle Terre Beach. Children enjoyed beach games and the adults enjoyed the beautiful beach with their neighbors. The catered BBQ had just finished, when the sky opened up and scattered all the guests. Even though the event was rain shortened, everybody attending had a great time. We look forward to next year...

*Ken Weiss*



***My request for July 4th information resulted in this email that somehow got to me:***

Can you respond back to this email with the facts (number of people, food selection, weather situation, etc.) about this past 4th of July party. Add anything you feel makes good reading except for that part about you dancing on top of the picnic table with the lampshade on your head. Roy and Pat Stockdale wrote me a note looking for this info. They would like to add an article about the event in this coming newsletter.

*Mike*

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***(We feel that as editors we have fallen down on the job. We were not there with our candid camera. However, we are willing to pay all of 10cents for a picture of the afore-mentioned dance).***

## 1st Lobster-Clambake

A clever positioning of the canoes cordoned off the far end of the parking lot. Christmas lights and Tiki lights adorned the perimeter. Round tables with blue tablecloths, set with candles and sea-shells, and we had a setting for friends and neighbors to meet for a fun evening.



The food was delicious. John Serabian's music had our toes tapping, and the weather was just right.

What more can one ask? Mike Sampogna and his crew came up Trumps. Thank you all.

*Pat*



# BELLE TERRE BROADWAY



Once again, the young people of Belle Terre, charmed their audience with their energy and enthusiasm in their spirited rendition of a High School Musical



## **TWO BELLE TERRE BRIDES**

### **Samantha Abelson and Stephen Weigman.**



Wedding day  
- Nov 11th 2006.

This one nearly got away from us but we tracked her down as she is a Belle Terre VIP.

Those of you who have children in the youth program know her well as Samantha Abelson.

She lives with her husband in Avondale PA, but comes back

each summer to run the Youth Program.

*Pat*

### **Kristy Ferrigno and Ernie Finizio**

The date: June 23, 2007

The place: Land's End, Sayville

The day was absolutely perfect. Sunny, low 80s. Ceremony was performed on the lawn with the Great South Bay in the background. The ferries to Fire Island 'tooted their horns' and people applauded as they saw our beautiful Kristy walking up the path with her Dad to meet her future husband.



After a 2 week honeymoon in Mexico, the couple will reside in Manhattan.

*Ellen Ferrigno*

## **A BELLE TERRE BRIDEGROOM**

Dennis Geelan and his bride Karen Ranzer, married on July 6th 2007 in Sienna, Italy.

This wedding to me is the ultimate. The Geelan clan, plus the bride's family and a friend or two stayed



in an Italian villa in Tuscany. The wedding was in Sienna. What a setting? And from the photos it looks as if a good time was had by all.

And I thought flowers, floating in a swimming pool was exotic!

*Pat Stockdale*

## **A BELLE TERRE ENGAGEMENT**

Mayor Lucki and his wife Lori are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Eva Lucki to Matt Baxter:

They were engaged on Saturday August 18, 2007 on Tufts University campus, where they had met when going to college.

Eva is the eldest daughter of Ted & Lori Lucki and has a sister Sonya and a brother Michael.

Matt is from Bow, New Hampshire, the son of Carl & Cindy Baxter and brother of Chris & Caralyn.

They are planning a wedding for next summer. Eva & Matt work at Riverhead Toyota and reside in Sag Harbor.



### Our Village Constabulary

By Bob Sandak

Our Village Constabulary is as old as our Village itself. The original Constables guarded the gates at the entrance to Belle Terre as well as serving as its police force. When the Suffolk County Police Department was formed in the 1960’s, the Village had to decide whether to remain independent or become part of Suffolk County’s jurisdictional area. The decision was made to allow Suffolk County to have primary responsibility for law enforcement in the Village and the Constabulary to continue with Village Code enforcement.

The Constabulary today is housed in an office within the Bove Community Center on Cliff Road. The force is lead by Chief Constable Robert J. (Bobby) Walker. Chief Walker has been with the force for thirty-five years and was formerly a lieutenant in the SCPD. A Deputy Chief and Executive Officer (Jeff Ciulla), three Sergeants and 13 officers assist the Chief. Although all of our officers serve on a part-time basis, they all have current or former experience with police departments, sheriff’s offices or the correctional system. Unlike code enforcement officers in other villages or towns, our Constables undergo annual training and refresher courses at the Suffolk County Police Department training center. They receive annual certifications in use of firearms (marksmanship), CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), AED (Automated External Defibrillator), etc.

The Constabulary is manned 24 hours a day 7 days a week. On special occasions such as the “Mather Walk”, the 4th of July, Halloween, and others, several members of the force may be on duty at one time. The primary responsibility of the Constabulary is to patrol the roads, parking lots and beaches that make up our Village. The Constables are available as “first responders” when health or safety emergencies arise within the community. The Constables enforce our local codes which, for example, prevent people from parking on our roads, soliciting house to house, using our beaches and parks, advertising on roadside signs, disregarding noise and construction ordinances, etc. The Constables check the homes of residents who are away on vacation (several times a day) and who have requested this service. (Forms for this free service are available at the Constabulary Office.) Perhaps most importantly, the Constables appear as a visible presence to non-residents, discouraging them from “visiting” the Village if they have no legitimate reason for being here. In my reports to the community, at our monthly Village meetings, I have given innumerable examples of the interventions of our officers with individuals, who were found in our community, with nefarious intent.

In discussions with local law enforcement agencies, it is felt that the “visual presence” of armed and uniformed Constables can be credited with the low number of burglaries in the Villages where they are present, in comparison to surrounding communities, patrolled by the Suffolk County Police Department. The Research Analyst of the 6th precinct has supplied the following data.

#### Burglary Data for Belle Terre and Surrounding Areas

Hamlet	2005	2006
Belle Terre	1	0
Port Jeff Village	22	16
Port Jeff Station	52	59
Setauket/East Setauket	40	24
Mt. Sinai	15	26
Poquott	2	0
Old Field	0	0

In a typical year the Constables will respond to between 400 and 500 “calls for service.” These are usually equally divided between “quality of life” calls and “emergency service” calls. In addition they will conduct between 5000 and 6000 house checks for residents who are away seasonally or on vacation.

Under the category of emergency calls, most often officers:

- Aid residents who are ill or injured
- Respond to fire or intrusion alarms
- Respond to injured motorists
- Respond to scenes of crimes or violence
- Respond to scenes of domestic or neighbor disputes
- Clear hazardous conditions
- Search for missing persons
- Assist with Police investigations
- Investigate suspicious circumstances
- Find and report brush fires

Under the category of quality of life calls, most often officers:

- Investigate and cite code violations
- Respond to lost/found incidents
- Report on scenes of property damage
- Assist disabled motorists
- Assist other agencies in traffic control
- Gather information for other law enforcement agencies

If you should need the services of our Constabulary the telephone number to call is 928 – 5785. If no one is in the office you will be asked to leave a message on the answering machine. Officers check the machine hourly. If you have an emergency, the answering machine will direct you to call 911 immediately. Because of the topography of our Village it is impossible for us to rely on private two-way radio or cell phone service for communication with our Constables on patrol. Therefore, we rely on the multi-million dollar Suffolk County Police Department radio communications system. Each of our three vehicles and each of our patrol officers is equipped with a SCPD two-way radio. When you report an emergency to the 911 operator and the message is transferred to the SCPD, the call for response is put on the radio and our Constable receives it at the same time as the Suffolk County patrol car. Invariably our Constables are the first to arrive at the scene of the emergency due to their presence within the community compared with the SCPD sector car’s location somewhere in the Port Jeff, Port Jeff Station, Mt. Sinai area.

At a total cost of about \$180,000 a year, the Constabulary is the single most costly item in the Village’s annual budget. The peace of mind and response to emergencies that it affords the residents of our community, however, is incalculable.





Dr & Mrs James W Hoerger

## Maidstone

Dear Mrs. Stockdale,

I recently borrowed my daughter's copy of the Belle Terre newsletter and was greatly entertained by the description of your arrival in the U.S. I enjoyed it so much that I felt impelled to give you something in return. I hope you will appreciate my effort.

In 1960, I had a sabbatical leave from my teaching position in the Great Neck school system and put it to use in gathering data for the doctoral thesis I was about to write. The thesis was based on comparing the international attitudes of English and American secondary school students. My wife and two daughters, Maureen (age 8) and Mary Ellen (age 5) and I arrived in London about February 1st.

I had selected what I felt was a representative sampling of British schools-boys', girls', city, rural, government-supported and private-ten in all. In about a week I had visited Wandsworth Secondary Modern, St. Paul's, and Golders Green. My arrangements for one of the rural schools went awry, however, when the address I had used for one school was wrong. Not being able to deliver my letter, the Post Office decided to send it to the Superintendent for the whole County of Kent, a Mr. Miller. Reading my letter, Mr. Miller decided to help me out in a way that proved truly memorable. He had written me saying that if I wanted an introduction to TWO schools in Kent, that I should meet with him and he would arrange it.

So, after telephoning him from London, I drove (with Joan, Maureen and Mary Ellen) to Maidstone, and met Mr. Miller outside a tavern he had named as our rendezvous. He then took all of us to his home, which turned out to be a 17th century farmhouse with a thatched roof. It was also adorned with dozens of copper vessels of all types-ale measures, tankards, trays, bed-warmers etc, etc. Needless to say, Joan and I were so impressed that for decades afterward we collected copper pieces of our own.

But back to the business at hand: Mr. Miller suggested that I visit Maidstone Boys' Grammar in the morning, have lunch there, and then go to Maidstone Girls' Grammar in the afternoon. He was quite emphatic about this, especially about having lunch with the Boys' faculty, the reason for which I learned only later.

Events went very routinely at Boys' and after a leisurely lunch I hiked up a hillside to the girls' school. Meanwhile Joan and our children had been touring downtown Maidstone. I had arranged with Joan that she should wait at three o'clock outside Marks and Spencer,-and if I didn't show up right away, to come back and look for me again at three-thirty.

When I arrived at the girls' school, a student in a sailor's middie blouse took me to the Headmistress' office. There I met with Miss Hoffinan, a very imperious lady. I explained my mission, showed her the questionnaire that was my opinion-gathering tool, and chatted about my experiences in the schools I had visited already. She then pressed a button on her desk and another middie-blouse girl appeared to escort me to the classes. Miss Hoffinan said I should return to her office after my work was done.

About two hours later I came back to the office. Miss Hoffinan's desk was piled high with little cucumber sandwiches, scones, cakes, cups and saucers, and, of course, a handsome tea set. I was to have my first English high tea! Miss Hoffinan then asked me where my wife was, since I had mentioned that Joan, like me, was a teacher- (until Maureen and Mary Ellen had arrived.) "Where are they now?" asked the Headmistress.

"Down in town Miss Hoffinan, in front of Marks and Spencer."

"But they should be here. Why didn't you bring them?"

“Miss Hoffinan, you’ve been so good to me, I thought bringing Joan and the children would be an imposition.”

“Nonsense. I want them to come!” With that she pressed the button and a middy-blouse appeared. “Take Jennifer with you, and go down to Marks and Spencer. There you’ll find an American woman with two small children. Fetch them all back here.” And off they went.

Joan told me that the two girls stood looking at her for several minutes, one poking the other in the ribs to make the approach, and the other poking back. Finally, they came together and one of them said, “Are you the American woman?”

Joan replied, “I’m AN American woman, but not THE American woman, why?”

“Miss Hoffinan wants you to come to our school.” And off they all went back up the hill.

Back at the tea party. Miss Hoffinan turned to Joan, and said, “As a teacher, you must have noticed some differences between your schools and ours. What have you observed?”

A better diplomat than her husband, Joan hesitated a while, then ventured, “Well, Miss Hoffinan, in American schools, boys and girls go to school together.”

“Not in MY school!” said Miss Hoffinan.

*Yours*

*JW Hoerger*



I can relate to this story. My headmistress was a tarter named Miss Hiscock.

*Pat*

Thank you Dr. Hoerger for your contribution to the news letter.

Dr. Hoerger lives in Port Jefferson and his daughter is a Belle Terre resident.

The story reminds me of the St. Trinian movies that were inspired by Ronald Searle’s hilarious cartoons; For example, the one shown here.

*Roy Stockdale*

“Hand up the girl who burnt down the East Wing last night.”



## GARDENING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Questions about hydrangeas have been floating around, so, I looked in my trusty gardening book for some answers.

### HYDRANGEA

#### When is the proper time to cut back a blue hydrangea?

This species (often called French hydrangea) should be pruned immediately after flowering. Pruning in the fall or in early spring will reduce the number of flowers.

#### When is the best time to move hydrangeas?

Either fall or early spring for very hardy types; spring in the case of “French” hydrangeas.

#### What chemical will change the color of hydrangea flowers to blue?

1. Aluminum sulfate is the most effective chemical, but common alum (potassium alum) will also bring about the blue color.
2. For pink flowers, add lime to bring soil reaction to pH 6.8 to 7.0.

#### Do rusty nails in the soil produce blue flowers?

No.

(From the book 10,000 garden questions by American garden Guild)

#### I could not find an answer to this Question:

I have been told that the flat flowers are French Hydrangeas. Is that wrong? Do the flat ones have a different name from the ones that are round balls? Are both kinds French?

Does anybody know? If so let us know. If you have any gardening questions, ask and we will do our best to answer.

E-mails with ‘BTNL’ in the subject line please, to [www.roystock@optonline.net](mailto:www.roystock@optonline.net)



Picture from Woman's World Magazine

INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE





## THE EUROPEAN CUCKOO AND THE BELLE TERRE COWBIRD

By Nancy Orth

We all know the word “cuckold” refers to marital infidelity, but do we know that the word relates to the practice of the European cuckoo?

A supreme con artist, the cuckoo manages to get its eggs hatched and its babies raised by a bird of another species, a host species. About the size of a pigeon, and with a call exactly like the sound of the proverbial clock, the cuckoo generally chooses a host species smaller than itself. In spring the watchful cuckoo waits until the host bird is momentarily absent from its nest. It then casts one egg out of the nest and replaces it with an egg of its own. The unsuspecting host returns to find that all is well, since the egg count has remained unchanged.

When the eggs hatch, the host religiously feeds all of the babies, but of course one baby grows much larger than the others and eventually pushes its rivals out of the nest. All the host’s feeding efforts are then devoted solely to the voluminous cuckoo. For years this spectacle has regaled professional photographers.

Here then is the explanation for a most unusual sight on my patio in August when a small sparrow was seen stuffing food into the open beak of a large grey bird three times its size! When the grey bird, looking totally lost, appeared on a second day and was again fed by the sparrow, I suddenly recalled that the cowbird subscribes to the cuckoo’s childrearing practices. The illustrations in Sibley’s Guide to Birds confirmed that the young cowbird is speckled grey rather than the familiar black with a dark brown head, the colors of the adult male. The adult female is all grey and decidedly less striking. The puzzle solved, I was grateful that Nature had not gone awry.

We humans, less artful than the cowbird, are obliged to rely on grandparents!



August 2007

## VISITORS AND SQUATTERS

### VISITOR

Coming home from shopping one day in May we were greeted at the top of our outside steps by a tortoise. He was not in the least afraid of us and did not pull in his head when our puppy investigated him. He faced us boldly but he refused the lettuce I offered him and marched back into the bushes.



shelf. It did an “Oops humans” and flew off again. Then it did some very agitated maneuvering around us. Thinking there might be a nest in it we looked in the plant. There was! A perfect ball of moss the size of an orange, with three tiny white eggs.

We abandoned the deck to Mama Titmouse for all of June, but watched her fly in many times with insects in her beak. I only saw one chick fly off amid much ado from Mama, but all the eggs were gone from the nest. I hope we have three new Titmice in Belle Terre.



### SQUATTER

On another day in May, I was having lunch on our front deck, with my daughter, when we noticed a tiny bird fly to a Philodendron that I had on a corner

Pat

# 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
Associate Justice.....	James Catterson	473-5105	Parks Commissioner....	Joanne Cornell-May	473-3028
Court Clerk.....	Elaine Freda	473-5105	Parks Commission:..	Joanne Cornell-May, Sheila Knapp, & Myron Ledbetter	
Planning Board.....	Vincent DeStefano	928-0020	Road Commissioner...	William Raso	928-0020
Building Inspector.....	Cathy Evans-Masci	928-0020	Youth Program Comm ...	Francoise Schachner	928-0020
Technology Advisor.....	Ken Weiss	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 **VILLAGE E-MAIL:** 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  
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