



# BELLE TERRE NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Volume 8 - Issue 4

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

December 2008



♪ 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY ♪



# Notices and Notes

## BTCA Winter Session Ballroom Dance Lessons

Fridays: January 9,16, 23 & 30, February 6 & 13, 2009. from 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).  
Instructors Stephanie & Lucio Costanzo  
For information call Joanne  
daytime at 928-0020 or  
evenings at 928-7013

## Corner Cutting

Please! When you are taking a right turn off a cross-road, Keep in your own lane.

I have had a couple of close calls when pulling up to the stop sign of Beach road at Cliff road. Cars turning short have almost hit me head on.

Our roads are too narrow to cut corners.

Pat Stockdale



## Christmas Bonuses

The bonuses were stolen from our garbage pails in 2006.

Please leave your contributions for the refuse collector at the village office for additional security

.Pat

## Where are they now?

Like Mayor Lucki I too am happy to come home through the gates. It is wonderful to see the eagles especially when the sun is shining on them, they positively glow. However these days something is missing! Where are Grant Geelan, Bill Raso, Dave McAnaney and Bob Sandak?

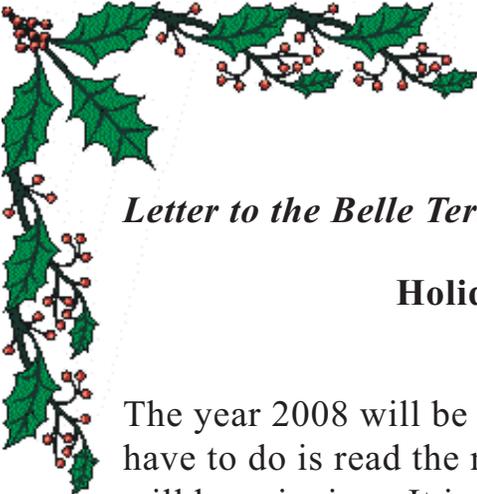
This past year every time I drove in or out, one, two or all of them were there cogitating, picking something up, putting something down or just overseeing. What are they doing, to while away their time now?



## Parasites on your trees?

The leaves are mostly off the trees now and it is the easiest and most effective time to cut the vines.

If they are cut through at the base of the tree, they will die and can be pulled down later.



*Letter to the Belle Terre Community*

**Holiday Wishes from Mayor Ted Lucki**

The year 2008 will be remembered as a time of turbulent change. All you have to do is read the newspapers for the last six months and your head will be spinning. It is a real pleasure to look back at 2008 in our Village of Belle Terre and see that things have changed in a calm and positive fashion. I can only thank the numerous residents for their dedication to the Village.

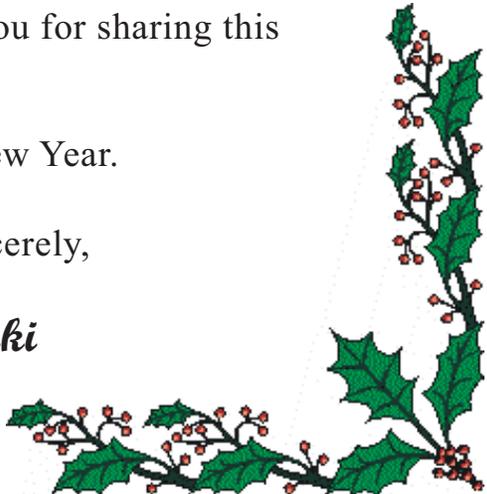
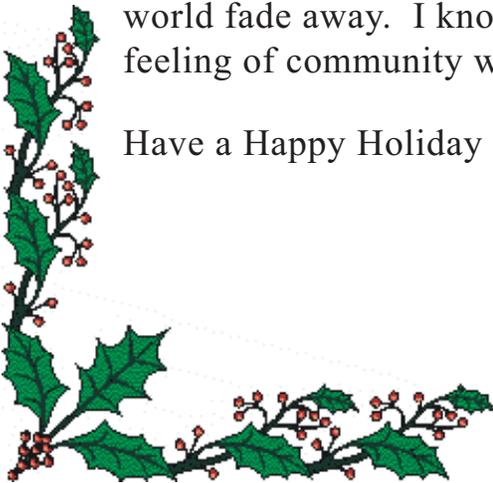
The various committees worked so well to make Belle Terre a special place. The Beautification and the Wall/Gatehouse Committees, the Community Association, and the Village Trustees all worked together to improve Belle Terre. Thank you again for your dedicated public service.

I know that 2009 will be a challenge for Long Island. I am very grateful that when I drive through the gates of Belle Terre all the troubles of the world fade away. I know I am home again. Thank you for sharing this feeling of community with me.

Have a Happy Holiday and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

*Ted Lucki*

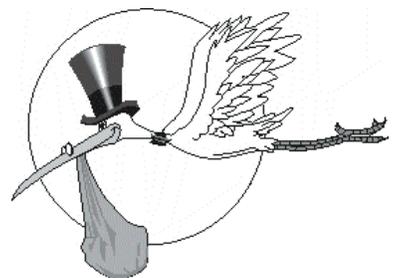


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Patricia and Grant Geelan announce the birth of a new Grandson. Robert Grant Geelan was born on October 20th in London England. He is the first child of our son Dennis and his wife Karen.

Pat Geelan

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# Your Belle Terre Community Association in Action

## The year 2008 in review:

This year for the Belle Terre Community Association has been both challenging and rewarding. We completed another banner year with events like the football play-offs, pancake breakfast, children's egg hunt, safe boating class, Fourth of July party on the beach, and residents' party. The weather was with us again for the second annual lobster bake and the food, company, music, decorations, and bon fire really topped off the night. The BTCA also played an important role in the reconstruction of the entrance wall/gates and orchestrated a rewarding and memorable dedication ceremony.

Other activities we took on during the course of the year were to begin collecting financial data from the events and activities, so that we can start budgeting year after year. Another project was to update our existing by-laws. The current by-laws we are under today, have not been updated since 1948. This task turned out to be more than just a simple exercise. After many months of research and meetings with the committee, we publicly distributed our first revision. During the public meeting, many residents voiced their opinions and suggestions on improving the document. Many thanks to all that read it, attended, and rendered their observations. The committee went back to the entire board with these recommendations and just recently completed their second revision. All the members in good standing should have received a copy in the most recent mailing. We presented this at the December meeting (12/1/08) and voted for approval.

In October, we held our annual elections and would like to welcome our new directors Mary Buono, Lauren Cona, Linda Poirier, and Kathy Yunger to the organization. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will without a doubt continue to drive this organization forward. For secretary, we are lucky to have Nancy Orth join us. Her background, historical knowledge, and respect within the community are great assets to acquire. For treasurer, Carol McAnaney has accepted this role. Carol has been on the board for over six years and has taken on many events, activities, and positions where she has brought tremendous value. Ken Weiss accepted the role of Vice President. What can you say about Ken that his dedication, loyalty, and honesty towards the community, is unparalleled. I would like to thank President Rob Lofaso, Vice President Joe Camarda, and Director Nancy Schmitz for their insights and drive to move this organization forward during the last term. The programs they initiated built a strong foundation for the association.

I would like to leave you with this; the Belle Terre Community Association is your association. The purpose of this organization is to promote the interest of all the residents of the Village in the areas of civic responsibility and cooperation, environmental quality, hospitality, beautification, and recreation. We have groups that go out planting, weeding, and cutting vines, to sustain the natural environment that we all enjoy. The Beautification Committee has done a great job with the BTCA's assistance.

The community is only as good as the people residing within. Belle Terre is a unique community; just driving through the front gates should make anyone aware of that. Join the BTCA. The annual cost is negligible and we do not ask for anything from you. We only want to alert you of activities going on in the Village, and maybe you will join us at an event.

Have a great and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,  
The Belle Terre Community Association

Mike Sampogna	Mary Buono	Ken Weiss	Lauren Cona
Carol McAnaney	Linda Poirier	Nancy Orth	Kathy Yunger
			Judy Zaino



**From: The Golub Family**

**November 5th 2008**

**To our Belle Terre Community, the Belle Terre Campers and Staff,**

This is a long overdue letter to our community and the members of the Belle Terre Camp Program. Why so long? I have thought long and hard about thanking all of you for your continued and generous support to Andrew's Memorial Scholarship Fund, and in my mind I have. It has been difficult to put into writing but it needs to be done so all of you know how appreciative we have been all these years. I know for a fact that the students who have benefited from the scholarship fund are appreciative as well.

It is hard to believe that it has been 7 years since our son Andrew, Brad from the camp program and Denise Abelson, the camp director left us. Not a day goes by that we don't think of them. It is all bitter sweet. Our family is reminded every day of the years that have passed as we see Andrew's friends mature into adulthood and are now graduating from college. They will be starting lives of their own and we often think about what Andrew would be doing now.

You know the old saying "Out of sight out of mind". For all of us who have had losses, then and now, the saying is not true. All of our passed loved ones have left their mark on us and their community. I know Andrew's friends lives were changed forever when they lost their good friend. For many of them, it was their first experience of losing someone they truly loved. It broke my heart to see their pain. We were all a tremendous support for each other. In fact, I was overwhelmed by the support from them and our community. It is essential for the healing process. As tragic as Andrew's loss was, I never felt alone.

Life today is so complicated but one thing never changes and that is that life is fragile. It can change in the blink of an eye. If we have learned anything, we have learned that every day is a gift and we need to make our days count. It is so important to be patient, kind, giving and supportive to those who need it and to those who don't. The movie Pay it Forward was so sad,

but the message was clear. It is important to slow down and enjoy life. We really can't lose sleep over spilled milk, literally. I can't tell you how many times in a day that I see a situation where I wish I could say to people, get a life.

Andrew's Memorial Scholarship Fund was set up to honor his love for art and music. It is available to the students in grades nine through twelve at the Port Jefferson High School. Two scholarships are given each year in the amount of \$500.00, one to an art student and one to a music student. All of your generous donations have stayed in our school district and to date, 16 scholarships have been awarded. Two scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 were awarded to students from Andrew's graduating class. The other scholarships went to students who participated in programs such as the summer music program at Julliard in New York City, the Stony Brook University music program and Johns Hopkins summer art program. Other students used the scholarships to pay for their tutors over the summer months and others to pay for art programs provided on Long Island. We have received many wonderful letters of thanks from these students and their families. It is wonderful to be able to help students further their music and artistic ability. I know in my heart that Andrew would be so happy.

I can't thank you enough for your support over the last 7 years and I ask you to continue supporting the available scholarship funds in our community. They provide such wonderful opportunities for our children and continued support for their many talents. Our children are so precious to us and to our community. We are truly blessed.

If you wish to contribute to Andrew's Memorial Scholarship Fund, you can send your donations to the Port Jefferson School District Business Office on Scraggy Hill Road. For donations to the memorial funds for Brad Amato and Denise Abelson, you can call the village office for information.

With Such Appreciation,

Lise Golub



## The Wall Story

By Kenneth Weiss, Belle Terre Resident.

### The Wall in Disrepair

It all started in September 2004 when Belle Terre historian Nancy Orth wrote a letter to Mayor Ted Lucki. She pointed out that the wall by the Gatehouse, the very symbol of Belle Terre, was “bereft of any maintenance” and “in a sad state of disrepair.” She asked the Mayor to embark on a project to restore our Belle Terre landmark to “its original architectural splendor”. Unfortunately, the original wall was not able to be repaired or restored, and an entire new wall had to be constructed. Mayor Lucki and the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Belle Terre Community Association, launched a four-year project to make Nancy’s vision a reality.

Building the wall to its original specifications was a complex operation. Funds had to be raised. The historical designs had to be authenticated. Construction plans had to be drawn. The historic materials had to be located and purchased. A bidding process to choose contractors had to be established. The construction had to be managed. After all this, landscaping and lighting had to be installed.

### Fundraising

The Belle Terre Community Association spearheaded the fundraising. Joanne Cornell, Nancy Orth and John Heide led this effort which began with John Heide’s designing and producing an attractive brochure that was mailed to all the residents. In October 2005 a grand kickoff cocktail party was graciously donated by and hosted in the home of Robert and Kathy Frey.

This event was attended by a significant number of Belle Terre residents. This first round raised \$51,275.25 in donations. We were very lucky to have our New York State Senator Kenneth LaValle procure two New York State historical grants, totaling \$85,000, for the wall project. A second round of fundraising was completed in 2008 bringing in an additional \$27,905. The great efforts of the fund-raising committee amounted to \$164,180.25.

### The Wall Committee

This whole process was expertly executed by a volunteer committee of nine members: Joanne Cornell, Robert Lofaso, Grant Geelan, John Heide, Dave McAnaney, John May, Nancy Orth, Bill Raso, and Bob Sandak. The committee first met in November 2006. During the project the committee met over forty times, with meetings frequently lasting up to two hours. In addition to all formal meetings, the members put in hundreds of additional hours performing individual tasks. Many of them sacrificed work hours and adjusted their schedules to attend the meetings.

### Planning

To accomplish the overriding goal of recreating the original wall, the late John May, architect and Belle Terre resident, worked at creating the construction plans. The meticulously drawn final design was approved by the committee. One of the biggest challenges was finding the specified bricks. The company that had made the original bricks had gone out of business in 1911, and it was impossible to find “readymade” bricks of the proper size and color. The committee located a company in British Columbia, IXL Brick Manufacturers Inc., that could supply bricks that closely matched those on the original wall. These were shipped across the country from Canada. Next, the ornamental iron work had to be specified for custom replication and fabrication. Finally, a manufacturer had to be located to construct the specialized pier caps. David Kucera Inc. located in Gardiner, New York, was chosen to replicate the pier caps to original specifications.

### Construction

Construction commenced on May 10, 2007, with committee member Dave McAnaney chosen to be the “on site” construction manager.

The first task was to remove the existing wall. The Village was very lucky to have Belle Terre resident Vincent Parziale donate the demolition and removal. Heavy equipment was needed to remove the old wall and the huge tree stumps behind it.

Before any work could be started, professional surveyor Harold Tranchon staked out the wall’s radius and pier locations. Next, concrete footings were poured by the Cutrite Landscaping Company.

Care was taken to maintain the exact curvature of the original wall, and the piers were placed in their original location. Umanzor Construction Company bricked the front and back of the wall. P.K. Creative Metals manufactured the wrought iron sections, each so heavy that it had to be lifted into place by a crane.

### **Finishing Touches**

After the construction phase was complete, Belle Terre residents Chip and Kathy Cleary designed and installed an extensive shadow lighting system that casts beautiful highlights on both the wall and Gatehouse. In addition, Belle Terre resident and electrician Philip Buonomo provided outside wiring to power the shadow lighting.

A committee headed by Nancy Orth planted eighty rhododendrons on each side of the main entrance. On two cold March days, volunteers including Grant Geelan, Greg Geelan, Pat Geelan, Sheila Knapp, Nancy Orth, Bill Raso, Bob Sandak, and Pat Stockdale planted the 160 shrubs.

Belle Terre resident Lorraine Doganieri spent many hours stripping paint from the centuries-old eagles that adorn the central entrance columns. The pair of eagles, male and female, was brought over from England by George Washington Hill,

president of the American Tobacco Company (Lucky Strike Cigarettes) for his Irvington, New York estate. The Belle Terre Garden Club purchased the eagles from the estate in the early 1950's. The eagles have been stripped, primed, restored and returned to their original places with new custom mountings.

As a gift to the village, local landscaper Greg Van Ostrand, owner of Villagescapes, generously offered to design, plant, and maintain a variety of shrubs and ground cover surrounding the wall and Gatehouse.

Finally, sod was installed thanks to the generous donations of Belle Terre residents Louis Bove and Anthony Gitto. This final touch is not just grass, it magnifies and showcases the grandeur and beauty of the project.

### **Conclusion**

The great story of the wall reconstruction is a product of the talent and generosity of the people living in Belle Terre. Many, many residents worked together to restore Belle Terre's entrance to "its original architectural splendor."

We owe them a great debt of gratitude. The tireless efforts of these skilled people have made the wall restoration possible.

October 2008

## **NEIGHBOR'S GIFTS TO NEIGHBORS—OVER AND ABOVE**

To supplement the article by Ken Weiss, a few gift giving residents of Belle Terre went far beyond the norm to enhance our Village, for the benefit of all. These few, who not only gave personal funds, generously extended themselves by supplying their personal talents, materials and/or machinery. The Grant from New York State along with resident donations topped \$ 150,000.00, a truly handsome amount, indeed

However, without the graciousness of the below people, our wall construction would not have been completed due to a shortage of funds. Please analyze the gift list and issue a dollar amount for each donation and see if your total agrees somewhat with mine. I have an advantage with my guesstimate as most of the tasks were items that the Village solicited quotations for but the costs were borne by your's and my neighbor. Some items were donations that the true cost is only known by the donor, so see how you fare with my guess:

- 1) Wall design drawings and specifications furnished by John May and Dave McAnaney
- 2) Kickoff gourmet cocktail and hors d'oeuvre party- soup to nuts- hosted by Kathy and Robert Frey

- 3) Knockdown and removal of deteriorated wrought iron, brick walls and columns by Vinnie Parziale's company
- 4) Major machinery use and delivery of multiple topplings of top soil by Lou Bove's company
- 5) Shadow lighting installed by Kathy and Chip Cleary
- 6) Electrical power wiring and lighting by Phil Buonomo
- 7) Rhododendron installers listed by Ken Weiss in his article
- 8) Labor to install groundcover and shrubs by Villagescapes Landscaping (Port Jefferson resident - Greg Van Ostrand)
- 9) Extremely tedious stripping of layers of paint from the entrance eagles by Lorraine Doganieri
- 10) Painting and transporting of eagles by Ted Lucki
- 11) Forty plus fun filled wall committee meetings to design, coordinate and resolve wall related issues plus multiple on site hours

All of the above gratis deeds were supplied by our neighbors as a present to the Village of Belle Terre. My dart fell on the \$ 87,000.00 target. However, I have no doubt that you would all agree with the TV ad that designates accomplishments such as the above as \_\_\_\_\_"PRICELESS".

Grant Geelan

# 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	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