



# Belle Terre Times

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE

Vol. VI- Issue 4

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

## MODERN HISTORY, VOLUNTEERISM & COOPERATION

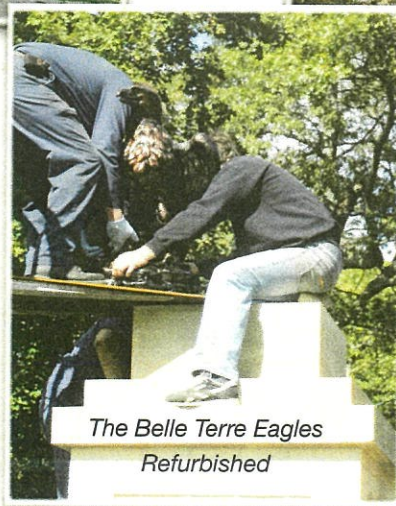
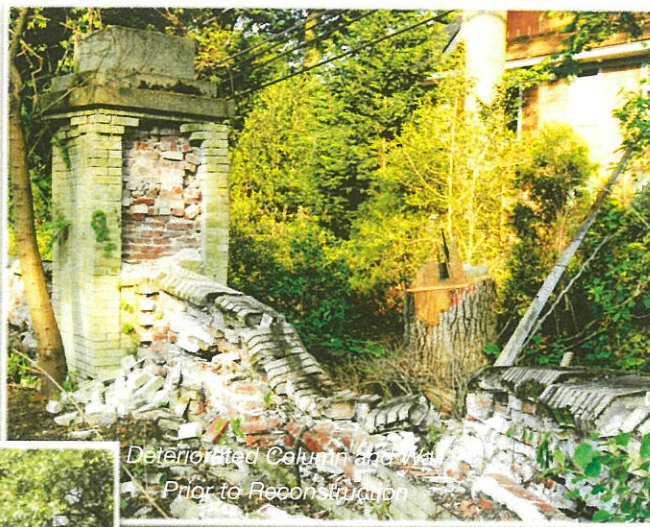


Mayor Bob Sandak

One of the characteristics that makes Belle Terre unique is the spirit of cooperation that has been the hallmark of the last two decades. One could say that the modern history of Belle Terre started in 2006 when the Village Board convened a group of residents (architects, contractors, landscape designers) to discuss the deteriorated condition of the Gatehouse and the surrounding wall. Since its construction at the turn of the last century, trees and vines had grown through the wall at the same time that large trees had grown in front of it. In 2007-08 the Gate House was renovated and modernized as an improvement out of the Capital Budget, but the wall reconstruction became a volunteer project planned and financed through private donations.

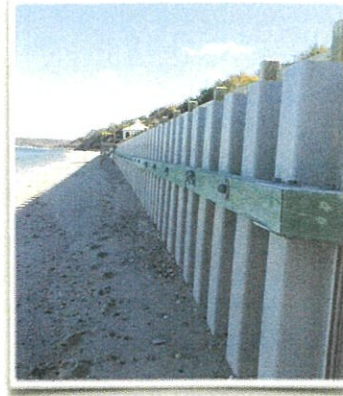
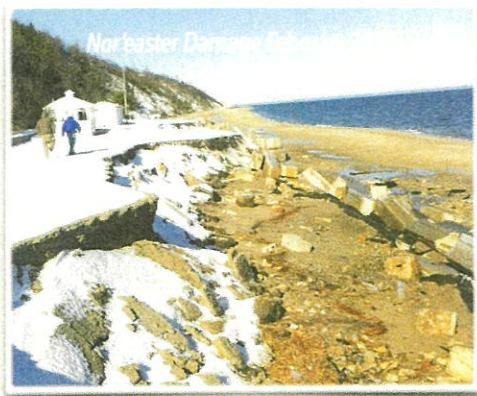
Architectural plans were developed, the original wall was taken down, vegetation was removed, new concrete footings were installed, historically correct brick was ordered, new concrete caps for the gates were manufactured, plantings were chosen and donations were collected.

The entire community (Belle Terre and Port Jefferson) watched with fascination as the project continued over several months.





The next major change in the Village involved the parking lot at Knapp Beach which had been constructed using huge concrete blocks as “the wall” that protected the parking lot from the waters of the sound. The blocks had been stacked four high and after decades of battering by northeast winds and waves had become unstable. During a series of particularly bad storms the wall finally collapsed completely in February of 2011, taking most of the parking lot with it. The construction of a new vinyl seawall was planned and installation began in May and completed before the Summer Season.



After many years of erosion, the cliff face at the end of Cliff Road had fallen away so badly that the road itself was in jeopardy of falling down to the beach below. A group of volunteers (engineers, demolition company owners, construction company owners) joined with the Village to design and construct a new “Circle” at the end of Cliff Road. The project included a new roadway, storm drains, landscaping, safety fencing, irrigation system and security cameras. A Village celebration was held at the site upon completion of the project.





In 2013, a committee of energetic residents was formed to investigate the possibility of installing playground equipment for toddlers and elementary aged children at the Park on Park Lane. Over the next year the old broken baseball backstop was removed, the new playgrounds were constructed including special shock absorbing ground cover. In the following year, the committee recommended installation of a walking/cycling track, which was completed in December 2015.



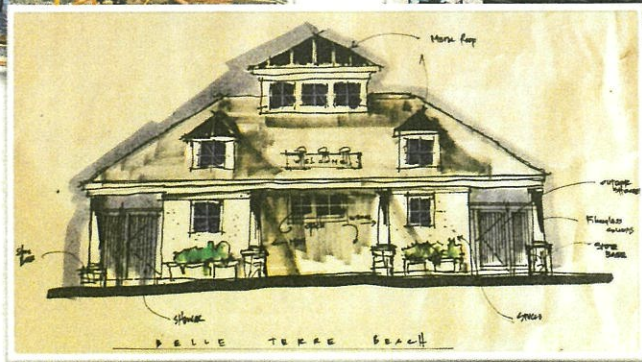
In 2015 a group of residents suggested that we construct a “kayak rack” at Knapp Beach. The Village paid for the materials and a group of volunteers worked to put it together.



Due to the kayak rack’s popularity a second rack had to be constructed shortly afterwards.



Two years ago the Board began a discussion about the need to renovate the bathroom building at Knapp Beach to make it handicap accessible. Trustee Dr. Richard Musto took pictures of a building in Hilton Head that the Board decided would meet our needs. Due to the Pandemic and the slowing of local construction projects, a local architect and general contractor volunteered their services for the project. With generous financial donations from several Village residents the project was undertaken. The old bathroom and storage building would be transformed into a modern bathroom facility with exterior showers under an expanded roof system. Storage space for emergency equipment for the lifeguards was also included in the plan. In addition, the general, historical color scheme used at Gatehouse and Community Center would be carried through on the new “Beach Pavilion.”



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...HERE'S TO THE FUTURE