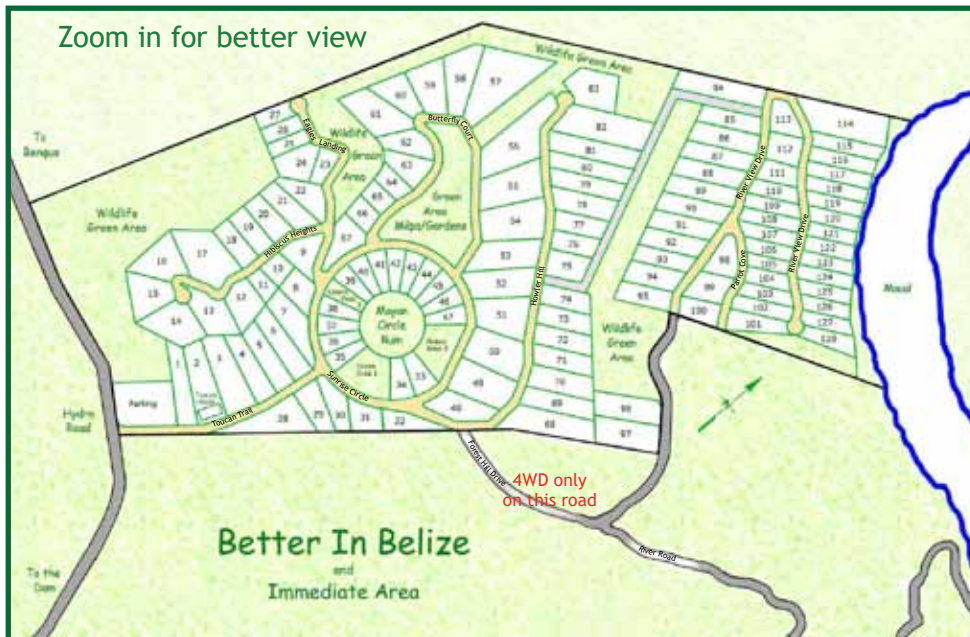


Your Better in Belize Newsletter

BIB - A Lively Eco-community in the Jungle

Spring 2019



Highlights of This Issue

Internet Status	1
How Many Houses/Residents at BIB now?	1
Belizean Holidays/Activities at BIB	2,5
A Trip to Benque on Hydro Road	3
Santa Semana, Holy Week in Benque	4
What do your HOA fees accomplish?	5
BIB Road Repair News	6
Featured Homeowners: The Wearys	7
Student Center and Scholarship Fund	8
Grow a Banana Tree, Insects, Veggies	9
Rentals and B&Bs Available at BIB	10
Dealing with Drought Conditions	11
Opening a Belize Bank Account	12

Who's Who at BIB - HOA Board & Committees

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION (HOA) BOARD MEMBERS:

Ann McGregor ▫ Sandi Smith ▫ Kathie Miller ▫ Bryan Weary

COMMITTEES:

Safety: Sandi Smith

BIB Support: Paris Caracolina

Webmaster: Dawna Bemis

Garden: Beth Weary

Roads: Bryan Weary

EAB: Doug DiGirolamo + all regular board members

Communications: Ann McGregor, Paul Prescott, Doug DiGirolamo, Ian Gerbode

Who's Here? And where are the Houses?

Can you believe there are twenty-five finished and six unfinished homes at BIB, for a total of 31 houses? It's true! Hidden behind trees and foliage, most of them are hard to see, adding greatly to the charm of our rainforest setting. More houses are scheduled to be built in the near future, and hopefully they'll be tucked into the vegetation too, helping preserve Better in Belize's jungle atmosphere.

There are eight homeowners/families now living at BIB full time, with others here a large portion of the year, and a few making occasional appearances whenever they can squeeze in a visit. Several owners have built B&Bs or rentals. The atmosphere is alive with transformation.

Our Internet is Back, and Better Than Ever!

We finally have a good internet signal again. With the switch to a 24volt system, five new solar panels, new sealed batteries and various bits of new equipment to catch and send the signal, our weeks-long struggle with intermittent wifi is over. A grateful thanks to our Communications Team, Ann G., Paul P., Doug D. and Ian G., and other valiant homeowners who made it happen.

Once more we can Skype with the grandchildren, check emails, do online banking, stay in touch with kids, parents and friends; and the Student Center kids can do their online homework. At BIB, residents use Facebook Messenger to borrow tools, plan potlucks, call for help when there's a problem, and exchange banter, recipes and advice on whatever we need to know. Lot owners all over the world join us to keep in touch. It's our lifeline and social outreach. Ask a board member to add you to the list.

So here's grateful thanks to the people who worked so hard troubleshooting it and finally nursing it to its current state of renewed good health. Thanks, one and all!!!





Neighbors and visitors gather to talk, share, and pick up produce at the Milpa

Garden Share Chat Time

BIB homeowners gather at 2:30 every Wednesday for about an hour to claim their share of whatever fruits and veggies the milpa has produced for the week. This week eight of us showed up, and two potential homeowners joined us for the fun. This is a time when we share knowledge and advice about everything from fire-ant remedies to doctor recommendations, tips and tricks for running a household in the tropics, and find out what everyone else has been up to for the past week. This is a good time to arrange ride-shares to town, plan potlucks, group outings and dinner parties.

Belizean Holidays ~ Mark Your Calendar!

Tue.	Jan 1	New Year's Day
Mon.	Mar. 11	National Heroes and Benefactors Day
Fri.	Apr. 19	Good Friday
Sat.	Apr. 20	Holy Saturday
Mon.	Apr. 22	Easter Monday
Wed	May 1	Labour Day
Mon.	May 27	Sovereign's Day/Commonwealth Day
Tue.	Sept. 10	St. George's Caye Day
Mon.	Sept. 23	Independence Day
Mon.	Oct, 14	Pan American Day
Tue.	Nov. 19	Garifuna Settlement Day
Wed.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Thur.	Dec. 26	Boxing Day

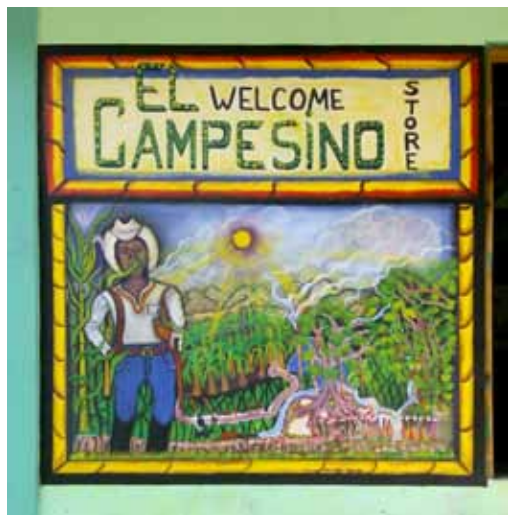
A note from the new editor

A dynamic eco-community like Better in Belize needs a lively newsletter, and Gene DeMarco set a high standard with the first two issues. Since he is not living at BIB, though, he found it next to impossible to collect information for articles, so he has passed the torch on to me. I'll try to do a good job, and I hope you all will help me out as much as you can. Send suggestions, photos and articles to irene@natureworkspress.com. Thanks in advance! Renie Brady



Uh-oh, honey, we're out of ice and chips...!

This spring has seen a fine improvement to our neighborhood with the upgrading and beautifying of the local tienda, El Campesino, between mileposts 7 and 8. Enjoy the brightly painted new store and the amazing welcome sign – it's really classy folk art! Here's Doña Ellie, ready to help you.



Doña Ellie always greets you with a smile, and can provide a surprising number of items you might discover you need at the last moment, or forgot to get in town. Stop by for last-minute ice – she freezes water in bags and sells them for a quarter. Deal!

Stop at El Campesino next time you're passing by on Hydro Road! You may save yourself a trip to town. During the dry season, be a good neighbor by slowing down so a cloud of dust doesn't settle on Ellie's grocery shelves.

Exploring Benque's Unique Streets

Typical of most Central American towns, Benque has no house numbers, and if you ask for directions you'll be given vague hand waves in the general direction and told to watch for "the orange house" or to turn just past the big mango tree. Most of the little home businesses are secrets that you'll discover one by one.



Benque is growing, and you can find most of what you need if you try. Seeking lower prices in San Ignacio, also called Cayo, with gas at \$10+ per gallon, may not save you money.

Trees are flowering along Hydro Road in March, so it's a lovely drive to town right now.

The boulevard runs past two hardware and several grocery stores, well-stocked with a fairly decent assortment of supplies.



West of the Western Highway (Benque's boulevard) is the bakery, where you can get

4 sweet rolls for \$1 usd. Next to the Mopan River is the Town Hall, (below)



where you get your driver's licence, with a little park and playground out front.



A block away is the Polyclinic, (below) where medical aid for even non-resident gringos is free.



My doctor's office is right across the street.

Closer to the boulevard, near the stadium, is the Benque Market, with your basic fruits and veggies and a meat market.

There are lots of other little fruit stands and shops all over town, too.



As you turn onto Hydro Road for your return to BIB, you might see the little coconut water/fruit stand truck, which also sells produce.



Hydro Road is bumpy, yes, but that does discourage day-tripping looky-loos, and you can use the trip for rearranging your brain on the way home from town. One word of caution, though — do watch for oncoming traffic, especially on curves.

Be in Benque for Semana Santa

Semana Santa, Holy Week, is a major celebration throughout Belize, but Benque is the place to experience it, as it is the only place where this celebration is still observed in the old time-honored style.

Schools close from the Monday before the Easter weekend till the following Tuesday. Government offices and banks shut down at midday on Holy Thursday, for four and a half days. No alcohol is sold on Good Friday. ATMs can run out of money, so think ahead.

On Good Friday in Benque plan to attend the religious reenactment observances. Last year the Passion Play took



place at John Paul II Junior College, then the procession, with the Christ stand-in carrying the cross, passed through the the streets, accompanied by townspeople, for nearly half a mile to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church where the crucifixion took place at noon. It was brutally realistic, and it was good that the narrator reminded watching children that it was just a play.

During the day on Good Friday, householders and civic groups decorate Benque's streets with colorful sawdust



designs. Then at dusk, dozens of devoted penitents carry the terrifically heavy anda on which a life-size figure of Jesus lies inside a glass coffin, slowly around Benque on their shoulders, obliterating the sawdust



designs as they walk. Reverent crowds accompany the procession on its hours-long circuit. Even non-religious viewers tend to be awed by this somber dramatization.

Sunday, of course, is Easter.

For the "sports minded," the Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycle Race is held on Saturday, and most municipalities have fairs and dances to close off the long weekend (BTW, easter bunnies aren't "a thing" in Belize).

Semana Santa is a spectacular time to visit Benque Viejo – don't miss it!

Dig Deep ~ It's for Your Home!

It's that time of year when HOA fees come due, and our new Board Treasurer, Kathie Miller has taken over the reins to make it happen. Some expensive problems have popped up and are still occurring this year, and your HOA fees are vital needed to pay for them.



new sealed batteries store solar energy which powers the internet

The internet system posed a major problem for several weeks this winter, with homeowners and internet providers troubleshooting problems and replacing equipment again and again, and trudging up Tower Hill repeatedly to reboot the system, until now we finally have a handle on it – at least for awhile. It has been an

expensive project, but necessary. This year HOA fees are \$1029, and we're definitely getting our money's worth.

Then there is the problem with Roads vs. Weather. It is, of course, vitally important that people who live here be able to get safely to and from their homes. This had begun to pose a problem, with some owners reluctant to drive up and down River View Drive in the lower section of BIB. It is also important to provide a safe road for people visiting their lots from out of country, guests of the several B&Bs, and prospective buyers who may, in the end, be our neighbors. It takes a concerted effort from everyone who owns lots here to pay for these things.

I've talked with BIB owners who feel that they shouldn't have to pay HOA fees if they're not yet living here and receiving benefits of their use. But if HOA fees



are late in coming (or aren't paid at all), the infrastructure can deteriorate to a state where it is impossible to return it to working condition without a huge expenditure. That has been a major factor in the deterioration of our roads, but it is now being addressed.

Other bucket list items, such as the Community Center, have also had to be postponed or scaled back because HOA fees haven't come in as expected.

With potlucks, shared rides to town, joining together for group rates on Mayan cave exploring, pontoon boat trips, horseback riding, kayaking, picnicing and just plain having fun together, there are



potlucks are fun for everyone

at last enough people to create a thriving, FUN community.



So we're hoping that all the lot owners will see the progress we've begun to make and will start to pull together to move things forward financially.

As our new Board Treasurer, Kathie Miller reminds us, after seeing what is happening with the roads:

"WOW, so good to see our HOA fees being well spent on upgrading our BIB roads. GREAT work everyone. We can do even more if everyone pays their past due fees as soon as possible. An update will be posted as soon as we have other payment options available but just want to remind you that your HOA fees go further if payment is



made by mailing your fees to the address on your invoice. Many thanks to each and every valued BIB owner."

Roads More Traveled Need Love, Too

This is the week we have been awaiting for a long time! The roads are being resurfaced! BIB is a big place, so you can't hear the machinery unless they are close by, but Eduardo Juan, the owner of Big Boyz Trucking and Backhoe Services has contracted to resurface the road with the limestone marl quarried from the cliffside a couple hundred yards down the road from the BIB entrance, filling in between the boulders which have jutt



BIB roads resembled dry river beds

up through the road as the rains have washed away the dirt between them. Especially over the last few months of rainy season in our community, it had become a bumpy task to drive the roads at BIB. The water had worn a 5' deep ravine alongside the curve where River Road takes off from Forest Hill Drive to the river. It had become

scary to drive the steep, slippery, bumpy hills, and we finally had to bite the bullet and get it done before it could deteriorate beyond repair.

As this is being written, the hardworking backhoe is beeping as the driver, Max, backs it up, smoothing out the heaps of marl dumped all along the road by Densel in the huge tri-axle truck. Edwardo is overseeing every move, carefully shaping the road to make sure future rains flow down, beside, and under them in the best configuration, instead of cutting deep furrows.



Densel's truck delivers more marl road fill



Down at the Forest Hill Drive curve, Jorge's crew has been pouring cement and building concrete block gutters to guide the torrential rainfall alongside the road, then under it, and off down the hillside instead of allowing it to



A concrete gutter will carry water around the corner

cut further down into and under the road as it had been doing. It will be a real relief to have that corner fixed. The next part, the big hill

going down River View Drive has been worked and awaits soaking by the water truck to firm the surface. Too bad we can't run a roller on this part, but rollers only work on level roads.

So far everyone has been careful while driving past the machinery in action. Bryan estimates the job should be completed within 2½ to 3 weeks. It's already much improved.

If you have been slow to pay HOA fees because you couldn't see where the money was going, here's one place you can really see the proof.



The Homeowners Association is also instituting a road maintenance program, overseen by professionals, to make sure it stays good – expensive, but well worth it, and the only feasible path forward!



Edwardo, Max (the backhoe operator) and Bryan Weary cooperate hands-on to get the road just right.

This Issue's Featured Homeowners Beth & Bryan Weary



Overlooking the road on Lot #86, River View Drive, Beth and Bryan Weary live in a sweet little home in the lower level of BIB. Find them on the map on page 1.

Their house is a well-proportioned cottage with one bedroom



RULED by a magnificent carved bedstead, a living room with a fireplace, a roomy kitchen featuring a stunning concrete island, a bath with shower, and a large, airy veranda where Beth and Bryan take most of their meals at a lovely hand-crafted table.

“We named it Casa de DRAW, with D, R, A, and W being a combination of our family members’ initials,” Bryan explained.

The house was built by Jorge & crew. Lot clearing began in January, 2018, and the house was finished, turnkey and ready for their arrival, September, 2018. All of the furniture was built in place with loving care, and it shows.

Beth and Bryan especially love their classy outdoor shower, the concrete counters, the colorful hardwood ceilings, the burnt-pine accents on beams and doors, and the fireplace, which they used regularly in January and February when it was cold and wet (if you haven't built your dream home at BIB yet, pay attention, folks!).

The rocky siting is perfect for this athletic couple. With a strong urge to garden and landscape, they've been spending much of their time planting ornamental plants and fruit trees, orchids, and creating stone walkways and other attractive features around the huge boulders on its multi-level terrain.

From their veranda they regularly see (and hear!) howler and spider monkeys, coatis, agoutis, possums, and squirrels. Bird visitors include toucans, blue-crowned mot-mots, hummingbirds, brilliant red summer tanagers, warblers, ocellated turkeys and other tropical birds.

Beth is the Garden Manager, in charge of the Milpa (the community garden). She and Bryan weed, prune, get vegetable plots into shape, and collaborate with the HOA workers to make Wednesday Garden Share gatherings “fruitful,” with whatever happens to be ripe in the Milpa.

Formerly a building contractor, Bryan has also taken on the title of Road Manager at BIB, and is directing the resurfacing of the roads here (see the road article on page 6). We're fortunate to have this talented couple in our ecovillage neighborhood!



If you'd like to be a Featured Homeowner, send photos and your story, and it will happen!

Waterhole Neighborhood Scholarships and the Student Center need your help



One of our scholarship families school scholarships to the children whose families live in our Waterhole district along Hydro Road.

The educational system in Belize is costly for families – so costly that until Belize Scholarships came along some families had to choose which of their children would receive a school education. With our help, that's no longer the case, and in large part the change was brought about by the generous donations of people who live or plan to live or vacation at BIB.

The kids have to rise at 5am to catch the bus before 7am, just after sunrise, and don't return home until the bus drops them off after 4pm. Since the sun sets by 5:30, this is a long, long day for the children (some of whom are as young as 5 years old).

Doing homework by candlelight or kerosene lamp, the tired kids had no well-lit, quiet place to study, and no WiFi access at home, which put them at a big schoolwork disadvantage compared with the kids who live in town.



Student Center Grand Opening 9/2019

To make this ecovillage a viable part of the community, we at BIB must interact with and be a friend to the farming families who surround us.

One way we have become good neighbors is by offering



Mt. Carmel Elementary School



Running to catch the bus home

So the Student Center was set up in a spare room at Casa de la Tierra, Lot #7, in the home of Renie Brady at BIB. Opened last September, the kids now come to the Center after school, do their homework in a

quiet spot, access the internet to research their homework assignments, and have a decent chance to get ahead

in the world. BIB homeowners volunteer tutoring for any kids who need a little help. José Rivera, a high school student, monitors and helps the others.

Both Waterhole Neighborhood Scholarships (the new name for the former Belize Scholarships, but doing the same important job) and the Student Center exist and have grown due to generous donations from BIB owners, interested visitors, and others, but there isn't enough money in the scholarship fund to provide all the help families need to



Student Center work spaces, computers and printer



Student Center library



Students at work in the Student Center

pay for tuition, supplies, fees and uniforms for the children.

Your help is needed to grow the scholarship fund and keep our Student Center

running. The two work hand in hand, but you can choose which you want to benefit if you donate money to help the kids.

Please be a benefactor for these bright, gallant kids, so determined to get an education that some walk or bike two miles or more to the Student Center after a nine hour school day to grab a chance to get ahead in the world.

Click [HERE](#) to donate.



Center is open until 8pm on school nights

Grow Your Own Bananas at BIB



Millie chops off the "hand" of bananas

Have you ever eaten an apple banana? These tiny bananas are more fruity and tart than the typical large bananas shipped to other countries, and you can grow them in your yard at BIB.

Forty-seven percent of all bananas grown in the world are of the Cavendish banana variety, chosen because

it ships well and has a longer shelf life than other varieties (taste takes second place). Try an apple banana, available in most fruit markets here, and you'll instantly taste the difference.

Last August my apple banana tree produced a gorgeous bunch of small green bananas, and my friend Millie showed me how to harvest them, chopping the tree down in the process – yep, cut it off at the knees. Since a banana "tree" is a large, herbaceous perennial related to the ginger, the new



shoots coming up from the underground corm form new plants producing more bunches of bananas.

I hung the bunch up to ripen, and discovered one morning that fruit bats had come to dine. Check out the toothmarks – these are BIG bats! I also found Giant Harlequin Flower Beetles and Owl Butterflies (see below) noshing on dropped bits of banana. I selfishly claimed the rest of the fruit for myself.



Gymnetis species

Plant a few banana corms in a sunny spot. The plants will grow without any care, and you can harvest and eat delicious bananas from your own yard, making your friends in the temperate zones wildly jealous. Under ideal conditions they'll be ready to eat in about 18 months.

At right is my chopped off banana plant six months later, already about five feet tall, and growing.



Vegetables Just Across the Road



For beautiful organically grown vegetables, FRESH from the garden, trot across the road from BIB to Roberto's garden and greenhouses. Sweet peppers, corn, tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, cauliflower, cabbages, and more in season. It doesn't get any fresher than this, and the prices are just right! Go before ten, before it gets hot.

Watch for These at BIB



Owl Butterflies are frequently seen here at BIB. Because of its big, 6" wingspan, you might mistake one for a huge moth, or even a bird as it flaps loosely around, attracted to lights in the evening. The name comes from the big "eyes" on its wings, which are probably used to scare predators, which might not want to attack prey whose eyes are that big. If it is perched, you could mistake it for a Morpho Butterfly, whose underwings look very much like this except with more "eyes."
 Drawn by Renie Brady

Places to Rent at Better in Belize

Where can you stay if you want to spend some time at BIB but don't have a house here? There are several B&Bs and many variations of service right here in the community, from totally hands-off – you cook and do for yourself – to all-meals-provided and activities arranged.

Prices and availability vary widely. Additional lodging can be found at Martz Farm two miles back toward Benque from BIB. If you don't mind the drive, there is also lodging in Benque and San Ignacio.

Here are some of the options available at BIB. Check the BIB Owners Website for more information:

<http://bibowners.com/category/rental-information/>

Casa Gala - Lot 68

\$150usd per night, 2 bedrooms \$300usd per night \$15 per adult meal.

<https://www.junglesplashtours.com>



Casa Santa Maria - Lot 127

\$129usd per night based on double occupancy Includes breakfast - optional meals also available

www.CSMBelize.com - <https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/6775096>



Casa Tropical Howler Hill - Lot 77

\$105usd per night based on double occupancy

Breakfast upon request at US\$25 per adult

Contact: millerkathiem@hotmail.com



Toucan House Eco-Lodge - Lot 2

\$85usd (winter) \$49usd (summer) room/night.

Meal option \$50usd daily for 3 home-cooked meals.

<http://www.betterinbelize.com/the-toucan-house.html> – april123@sympatico.ca



Jungle Escape Belize - Lot 97

\$85usd (winter) \$65usd (summer) double occupancy

Minimum 2 night stay, enquire for weekly or longer meals available on request

Contact: ritamartin@sasktel.net



Looks like it may be a dry year

The dry season at BIB can be very dry indeed. Last year was wet, and none of my landscaping needed water. In fact, I gave away my hoses to someone who needed them more than I did. But this is a dry year, and plants are gasping for water. Many landscape plants, not as hardy as the wild forest plants, are wilting, turning brown, and dying.

Watering plants from our house tanks, though, is a problem. Unless you have a huge storage system, irrigating the landscape can drain the tanks dry in short order. That sinking feeling you get when you turn on the faucet and nothing comes out is awful.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? When you run the tap to get hot water, collect it in a bottle, pan or bucket to take out to the plants later on. Plants also love dirty dishwater if you have only used detergent.



The soil can get so dry that when you try to water your plants the water just runs off. Think ahead when you plant, and leave a depression around each plant to catch and hold water until it can sink in. If you have added mulch to the planting soil, it will accept water much better. (A quick fix on a hot day is to prop up a section of cohune palm

frond over the plant to make instant shade.)

If the water just runs off, punch a small hole in the bottom of a gallon jug, fill it with water,



and place it at the base of the plant needing water. The hole will deliver only a dribble, and the water can sink in as the jug empties instead of wandering off where it isn't needed. This is a good use for the ubiquitous plastic containers that seem to multiply in our cupboards. Even a gallon of water may be enough to save a precious landscape plant.



If you installed a flush toilet in your house instead of a composting toilet, you may have to adhere to the old adage "If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down." Flush toilets use a LOT of water.

To ensure you'll still have drinking water in case no one is available to refill your tank on short notice, keep one or two 5 gallon bottles of purified drinking water on hand for emergency use. They're available at most grocery stores in Benque. If you use a drinking water purifier, keep that topped off, too.

Nacho Rivera, our neighbor a mile down the road, has offered to deliver 1000 gallons of water for \$60bz from his spring. There may be others in the neighborhood, too, who can make their equipment available for water deliveries.



Open a bank account - here's how

It's not easy to get your money to Belize, or to find a bank to put it in once you do. Due to Belize's money laundering reputation, banks here must do a lot of paperwork in order to hold our money for us. It can be difficult and time consuming to open an account. In fact, what might take fifteen minutes in another country can take months in Belize, and you may have to make repeated visits to the bank with various papers in hand to make it happen.

Miriam Martinez from Martz Farm (just down the road) has advice for us on opening a Belizean bank account.

Miriam says the best and most customer oriented of the banks in our area is Belize Bank, which is located in the Burns Avenue mall in San Ignacio.

She says to take along the following when you go to open an account:

- **your passport**
- **your driver's license** (optional, but why not?)
- **statements** for the last six months from your current bank (if you have an online account, print it out from there)
- **a letter** from your current bank (see sample)
- **proof that you live in Belize.** A utility bill addressed to you would be perfect. Since we don't have utility bills at BIB, an internet bill might work.

Other proof would be a copy of the title to your property, a letter from Benque's mayor or from Remax confirming that you do indeed live at BIB, or you can use an active address you keep in your home country but add a local mailing preference such as Benque General Delivery, etc.

Belize's request for a letter of recommendation may baffle the bank in your country of origin, so look at the example of what worked with Heritage Bank in Benque. Send your former bank that example, putting your name

Dear _____

Please accept this letter of recommendation from (your bank's name) on behalf of (your name). (Your name) has had accounts with us since (month) of (year).

Her/his accounts with us include savings, checking, an IRA, and a VISA credit card. (Your name) is in good standing with our bank and has \$_____ on deposit as of today, ___/___/___.

Her/his VISA credit card limit is \$_____ with no outstanding balance and no history of late payments or collections.

I hope this letter of recommendation will serve your requirements. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,

_____, (Title)

email: _____@_____

Phone: ___-___-___-___

cc: (your name)

in all the slots, and they can either use the sample verbatim or craft their own, but they will know how to provide what you need on their bank stationery. They'll appreciate the template.

Once you have jumped through all the hoops, you will have to wait a few weeks until it clears all the hurdles and paperwork. Other banks may take up to six months.

Even if you have moved here permanently, it isn't a bad idea to keep an active account in your country of origin, since banking in Belize is subject to the whims of more powerful countries. Think of it as bank insurance.

There are some other options, of course. PayPal, Western Union, Moneygram, and using the ATM or your credit card, to name a few. So, whatever works best for you....

This newsletter needs volunteers to contribute info about the sports, outings, entertainments and activities we engage in here at BIB - kayaking, hiking, potlucks, bonfires, pontooning, music nights, etc. I pretty much wrote this one myself, but I'll need help next time. Please consider contributing news and information about interesting things about BIB, Belize and whatever else strikes your fancy. This newsletter goes out to owners who may not hear about BIB any other way, and we'd like to encourage them to join us in the adventure.

You don't have to be a great writer to contribute. Polished pieces would be welcome, but so are simple notes and observations. Let us know what's happening in your neck of the jungle. Suggest topics. Ask questions. Share what you know!

Thanks to all of you who contributed to this newsletter. Send your current events, tips, information, interesting facts, photos, stories, B&B listings and anything else you want to see in future newsletters to:

Renie, at irene@natureworkspress.com.

This BIB Newsletter was assembled by Renie Brady, Casa de la Tierra, #7, 10½ Hydro Road, Benque Viejo, Cayo, Belize