



VILLAGE OF BELLPORT THE SCOOTER

DECEMBER 2024

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Greetings from Bellport Village Hall!

It's been a busy fall! Here's what's been happening!

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

VILLAGE HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

After months of hard work and dedication to historic details, the Village Hall has been restored to its original neo-classical glory. All that is left to do is to add dark green (Essex) wood shutters to complete the facade. Then, with some artful landscaping, the building will be fully restored!



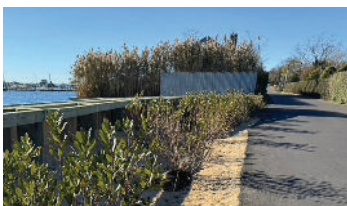
Read more here: <https://www.bellportvillageny.gov/newsletter-articles/the-village-hall-restoration-project-underway/>

BROWN'S LANE/SHORE ROAD PROJECT AND PLANTINGS



The Brown's Lane/Shore Road project took several months to complete due to the fact that the drainage at the end of Brown's Lane was below bay level, so water would routinely back up and flood the area, causing erosion. The drainage system has been upgraded and the road repaired. The final phase of the project was planting a "rain/drainage garden" that can sustain itself through the seasons without irrigation.

The Environmental and Beautification Committees collaborated on identifying the types of plants that would be beautiful, natural, and easy to maintain. They chose bayberry shrubs (the kind you see along the boardwalk when you walk to the beach) and Cape American Beach Grass, both of which are native to the area. The guardrail, which is a safety requirement for any downhill road that ends or turns at the water's edge, is made of the same wood as the dock and will weather to gray. Thanks to the neighbors for cutting down the tall hedge that grows to the west, in order to increase visibility and safety for running, walking and biking as well as drivers, who now have more peripheral vision when stopped at the stop sign!



Shore Road is now safer and prettier.

STREET REPAIR AND NEW STORM DRAINS

The Department of Public Works, led by Jason Crane, has done a great job installing storm drains to mitigate flooding and repaving rough and potholed roads around the Village. Roads had taken a beating over the past years and were in dire need of repair, including erosion where rainwater had run off along the road edges. Read full story here:

<https://www.bellportvillageny.gov/newsletter-articles/bellports-road-revival-a-smooth-ride-ahead/>



Jason Crane with new storm drain (left) and Livingston, newly paved.

GREENING OF THE TRAILER LOT

Anyone who has driven or walked down Bellport Lane to the Marina has noticed green grass growing over most of the trailer lot. It's a work in progress and there are bare patches that need to be seeded and tended to, but despite the fact that this has been a season of almost no rain, the grass is coming in nicely in most areas. (DPW will continue to seed the bare spots and allow the grass roots to take hold before allowing vehicles to drive or park on it.) The impact is already more beautiful. Standing at the Marina looking north, the trailer lot now appears to be a green extension of Osborn Park, making the south end of Bellport Lane that much prettier.



FALL FESTIVITIES!

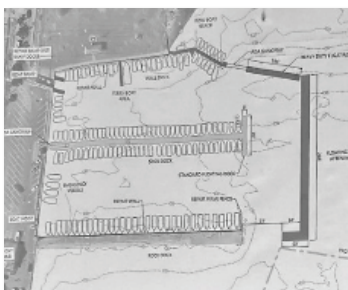
Thank you to all who participated in the festivities around Halloween. All the kids appeared to love the Halloween Parade and we had a great turnout...another successful scarecrow contest!



PLANNING AND IN THE WORKS

THE MARINA PROJECT PLANNING MEETING

A \$2.8 million HUD grant awarded in 2022 is earmarked for safety improvements and refurbishment of the Bellport marina. The Village Board, with input from the Waterfront Commission and VHB engineers, has drafted initial plans prioritizing a wave attenuator east of the docks.



A November 14th community meeting presented the plans and gathered feedback. Residents expressed concerns about the proposed wave attenuator's environmental impact, noise, and light pollution, suggesting alternative solutions.



Community meeting, rendering of proposed plan, residents providing feedback
Photos: Thomas Schultz, Lucy Danziger

VHB consultants assured residents their feedback would be considered in subsequent design phases. The project's next steps include an environmental impact study.

Several residents expressed that overall, the process of vocalizing and expressing their concerns was a positive one, since dialogue and transparency were served. The next phase of plans will incorporate the survey answers as well as written comments from residents.

GARBAGE DROP OFF: EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

This summer the Village offered a drop off program where residents could take their garbage or recycling to the Department of Public Works, sign in with a Village ID, and place their bags into the truck. That meant no more leaving the cans out on Sunday for Tuesday pickup (against code) and risking having animals get at it and drag the detritus all over the neighborhood. Dropping bags off on Sunday afternoon became a ritual for some, who appreciate the polite reception by the staff and the fact that you could leave town knowing your garbage was safely and legally disposed of. Otherwise, the risk is that animals drag your trash all over the street.



In addition to this pilot program, there have been 33 violations given to those who left garbage out.

On average, 11 people participated in the program per week dropping off an average of 29 bags weekly (between 2 and 3 per household). A total of 118 residents used the program and 78 of those have Tuesday pickups while 40 were Monday pickups.



The savings in time and effort was notable, since our DPW spends extra time cleaning up when critters get into garbage cans overnight and it gets strewn about. Plus, this program reduces the number of garbage cans that sit empty and get knocked over and roll around in the street, causing a potential driving hazard.



GOLF COURSE & COUNTRY CLUB USAGE

We are in the process of reviewing the usage of the Golf Course, Tennis Courts and Country Club in order to make recommendations for the future. The Village Board hired a consultant to conduct surveys and interview those who use the tennis courts, golf course, Peter's on the Green and the catering facility. Then continued with a full report. In a meeting in November, Treasurer Darcia Palmer walked the public through the overall budget and the Enterprise Fund during the Golf Commission meeting. The Enterprise Fund is not generally understood so it was a good opportunity to help people who are interested understand the way the fund works and what it is used for. For example, Village taxes are not used to support the Enterprise Fund.



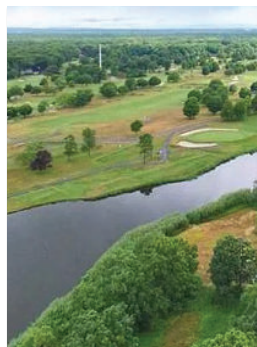
NEW SOLAR PANELS AT THE BEACH

Thanks to a grant project from LIPA and PSEG, the Village has been able to upgrade the solar panels over at the beach. These panels power the water pumps (i.e. toilets, sinks and showers) and all electricity now supplying the beach side. The panels have been on their last legs, and only work at a fraction of the capacity needed.

BREAKING NEWS: The revised permits for new panels came through as we went to press with this issue and the new solar panels are expected to be up and working by the end of the year. This is a huge accomplishment. This is an example of a true team effort and we owe much gratitude to everyone who helped make it possible.

DREDGING OF HOWELL'S CREEK

There is serious erosion along Howell's Creek, which is affecting three holes on the southeast edge of the golf course. Poor drainage at the mouth of the creek needs dredging and we have been awarded a \$3.3 million grant to address this problem along with flooding at the ends of Otis, Thornhedge and South Howells Point Road. We are hopeful that we will obtain DEC permitting to dredge the creek before the end of the year and get this 2024 grant started. Thanks to all who helped make that possible.



UNDERWAY AND ONGOING

CLOSING OF OPEN PERMITS



The Village is in the process of closing open permits. We discovered over 600 open permits when we started the audit. We offered amnesty through September, giving people the entire summer to come in and resolve the issue. We still had 265 permits open at the end of September. (These might have been opened by prior owners - some dated back to 1958.) We sent out 265 letters to check on the status of the open permits. To date, 95 are closed out, 35 are active and pending. We expect to have this work completed soon.

REVIEW OF ZBA/ARB PERMITTING PROCESSES

Over the past several months, Trustee Michael Young has been conducting a review of the building permit process in the Village. As part of the review, Trustee Young interviewed countless residents, contractors and ZBA/ARB Board members to establish a set of recommendations to enhance the permitting process. In all, he made 11 recommendations to the Board that were discussed publicly in a Work Session on December 9th. In addition, several meetings of staff and attorneys with the focus on practicalities and the law with regard to the recommendations took place. These recommendations will be the focus of further discussion among Village Board members, hopefully with input from the public. Once finalized, the drafting of codes and public hearings will follow.

FIRE SAFETY UPDATE

Unfortunately, the fire on October 25th on Main Street in Sayville impacted not just the building it started in (the former location of Cafe Joelle) but also the businesses around it. That type of event would be a nightmare in the Village, since many of the buildings are wood structures. We have undertaken a fire safety initiative with a new part-time Fire Inspector to make sure all safety systems such as sprinklers and smoke alarms are up to date. We are about half way through this important work. We also would encourage businesses to review their means of egress with their staff and tenants, should escaping a fire ever become necessary.



LI Advance

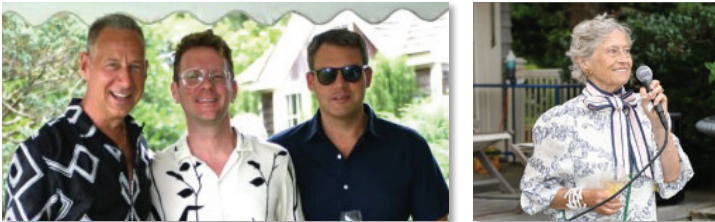
REVIEW OF VILLAGE CODES

The Board of Trustees has been reviewing the Village Codes and having Public Hearings at the Community Center to review, edit, and delete sections of the Code of Ordinances, starting with Chapter 12, Motor Vehicles and Traffic. Please check the Village website for ongoing updates and show up if interested. The review of Village Code is an ongoing process and community feedback is needed in order to make the process as successful as possible.

UPDATE ON HO HUM

Last summer, Brookhaven Town Supervisor hired a commercial boat taxi service to dock at the Marina without a permit, load passengers and bring them to the beach. Ho Hum sits within a protected Federal Wilderness and the property between the bay and the dunes was purchased by Bellport Village in 1963.

The beach facilities, ferry, and dock staff are supported by Village taxpayers. We have hired a Special Counsel to help us address this situation and determine the best path forward. "That said, most good resolutions come from communicating, and we're going to do that as well," Mayor Veitch has explained. For updates you can attend Board Meetings or listen remotely. The minutes are also posted on the website.



Save the date: the annual cocktail party and auction will be July 12th, 2025.
Elementary school students plant a hydroponic tower; students learn in the garden.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT FEATURE

The South Country Education Foundation, "We Make Ordinary Days into Extraordinary Days."

Launched 27 years ago, in 1998 SCEF helps raise funds for educational programs and events in the South Country Central School District that would not get funded otherwise. Current Board Members: Robin Young Roe, President, Diane Zanazzi, Vice President, Andrea Fassman, Treasurer, Donna Esp, Recording Secretary, Antonio Santana, Superintendent, ex officio member, Alison Buck, Michael Chiaramonte, Suzette Emma-Uzzi, Samantha Fassman, Ellen Hoffman, Pamela Lerner, Sarah Rauch, Susan Sangiamo, and Hans Temple.

Purpose & Mission: To enhance the educational opportunities for all students by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside the budget.

Raised to Date: Since its inception, SCEF has raised about \$1.3 million.

Annual Grants: Each year, SCEF gives away grants of about \$90,000 in the fall and another \$40,000 in the spring, for a total of about \$130,000 a year. "These grants go a long way to impact the students and educators, who enjoy creating innovative programming for their classrooms," says Roe.

Examples of Programs: Funding field trips, creating classroom book nooks and buying recording equipment for the middle school a cappella group. Last spring a group of third graders went on a trip to Captree to learn about the ecosystems of the bay. Another group went to the Federal Reserve Bank in NYC and still another class hosted flamenco dancers to learn about cultural diversity.

What Your Donation Supports: Just \$650 is needed to create a classroom book nook. "So, if you come to our annual fundraiser and pay \$125, you've paid for about one fifth of a classroom book nook," Roe points out. "You're making an impact locally." Donate and Have an Impact on local students and educators at <https://scefonline.org/donate/>

Save the Date: This year's SCEF Annual Fundraiser will be July 12th, 2025, hosted by Chantal and Dr. Richard Berman, who have hosted it for the past 22 years.

Get the Newsletter: The SCEF sends out a biannual newsletter to 1,600 people to inform them of what is going on and keep them up to date on grants. Want to start getting yours? Sign up at the footer of this page or email RobinYoungRoe@aol.com. Follow the SCEF on Facebook.

KEEPING UP WITH THE MAYOR!



I am now on Instagram for what I am doing around the Village (visiting new stores, cleaning garbage off the beach, admiring Trick or Treaters, meeting with public officials such as Rep. Garbarino, overseeing the work of our committees, and occasionally bringing Hazel to the office, and so much more). Follow me here: [instagram.com/bellportmayorveitch](https://www.instagram.com/bellportmayorveitch)

I already have 540 followers, which I find amazing! Thank you!

Maureen Veitch
Mayor

