



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

THE SCOOTER



Bellport is birthplace of the Scooter, an ice sailing boat that can travel over ice and water holes.

Greetings from Village Hall

It's been a busy winter!

- This newsletter is to update you about some of what has been going on in the Village -- and highlight some of the people making it happen. We'll cover:
- **What We've Accomplished**
- **What We Have Underway**
- **Planning & Upcoming Dates**

Stay in the know! Please attend Board Meetings, which are routinely held on the fourth Monday of each month. (Check the calendar at BellportVillageNY.gov for the full slate of events.) You can watch and listen with the link provided or read the minutes once they are posted.

-- *Maureen Veitch, Mayor*

Read More: Once approved, the minutes can be found at BellportVillageNY.gov

• **What We've Accomplished:** **NEW SOLAR PANELS AT THE BEACH!**

In what might be record time between securing a grant and completing a project, new solar panels have been installed at Ho Hum. The old ones were failing.

Why this is vital: The solar panels power the water pumps for the showers and bathrooms, as well as a water purification system (required by the Department of Health), and the electricity for the refrigerator, freezer and microwave. New panels will support more food options.

Dramatic moment: When the Village DPW boat had to cut through the bay ice to get the materials over.

Thanks go to: Jason Crane and his intrepid crew assisted Eldor Contracting Corp., in installing the new system.

Best News? A grant of \$150,000 from PSE&G made the project possible. Teamwork!



Ice breaker: Our work boat brought the equipment over despite a partly frozen bay



What We've Accomplished, Continued

MARINA PLAN APPROVED BY TRUSTEES IN UNANIMOUS VOTE

At the January 13th board meeting, the trustees voted unanimously to move forward with the plan approved by the Waterfront Commission to build a wooden wave fence just east of the docks that will provide protection from strong wave action and make the marina safer for all.

Community Feedback: After a presentation by Peter Sarich, Project Manager for Bellport Village, Carlos Vargas and Michael Mann from VHB, and numerous comments from residents, the board voted unanimously to approve the plan. The cost of the wave screen is projected at \$500,000, making it the least expensive of the three options.

Major Step Forward: "Planning for this project has been going on for two years, and the initial discussion dates back 20 years, so this vote represents a major step forward," said Mayor Veitch. A 2022 HUD grant of \$2.8 million will cover 75 percent of the project, with the Village paying 25 percent.

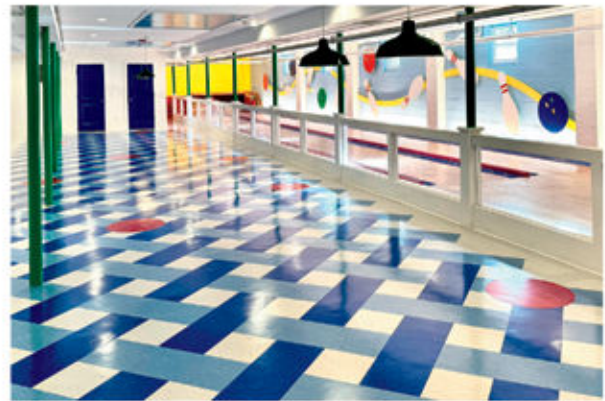
Special Thanks To: Everyone on the Waterfront Commission who worked hard on this and all the residents who gave their input.

Next Steps: An environmental impact study will take place before the design phase of the project begins.



Rendering of the wave fence to the east of the docks

Thank you to all those in the community for your input that helped guide the decision.



BOWLING ALLEY GETS A NEW FLOOR

If you love going to the bowling alley in the basement of the Community Center, you know that since it was refurbished in 2019, the floor had become scuffed beyond repair. A generous grant from the Bellport Village Program Fund has allowed for new floor tiles to be installed that will hold up better overtime.

Why it was needed: The new tiles are better designed to stand up to future wear and tear, since on average about six groups a month use the bowling alley, which has game tables and space for parties.

Appreciation to: Phillip Thomas, renowned interior designer and Bellport resident, who designed and managed the installation of the new tiles in a matter of days. His concept was to bring the joy of the water inside.

Cheerful design: "The floor is meant to be a representation of the Great South Bay, with the two shades of blue as the movement of the water and the red dots as the buoys," Thomas says. "I want your imagination to be set free when you walk into the space. It should be cheerful and energetic, year-round, day or night."



Public Profile

Mary Pontieri

VILLAGE CLERK

Mary came to Bellport one year ago, after working for the State Assembly, and as Patchogue's Village clerk, and as clerk in the Connetquot and Southampton school districts.

What does the Clerk do? The job of the clerk is to manage many of the day-to-day operations at Village Hall. Mary, has helped implement "best practices" and improve our efficiency to better meet the needs of the residents and administrators alike. Got a question? Mary is a great problem solver.

Reach Mary at:
villageclerk@bellportvillageny.gov

● In the Works & Underway

Quality of Life Codes: Trash Cans, Broken Fences & Junk Removal

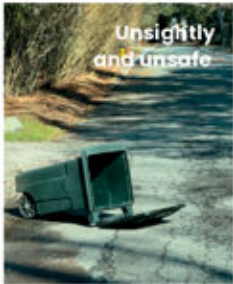
Leaving trash cans out for days (and nights) results in animals creating a mess as they enjoy your leftovers. Well ... No more! These and other "quality of life" codes are enforced in order to keep the village safe and our environment clean and tidy.

What does this mean? If you are in violation of the code that requires you to put your trash out the night before (but *not* earlier) and return your cans to your property, so they won't create a safety hazard, you will receive a ticket.

Garbage Pick up: No matter which schedule you're on, the earliest you should put your cans out is 6:30 p.m. the night before pickup. Please be sure to use "locking" lids.

After pickup: Please bring your cans in or arrange to have them placed back on your property so they don't roll around in the street, creating a hazard.

Recyclable Materials: Please bundle branches, place leaves or grass in brown paper leaf bags and collapse and stack cardboard boxes. Please help keep our village clean!



Yes, cute! However this little guy will leave your street a mess

Mending fences: Please repair any fences that are in need of attention. The "Failure to Maintain" ordinance requires all lawns and yards be kept free of debris, junk or unsightly items. Fences must be in good repair and lawns and driveways free of detritus (this includes old cars and construction materials not in active use.)

The Failure to Maintain ordinance will be enforced. This allows your neighbors and those who love to walk in our beautiful village to enjoy the views, and provides a more aesthetic experience for all. This is the code, and homeowners not in compliance will receive tickets. .

Read the Code Book: Find links to the code book under the About section on the Village website [and linked here.](#)

BELLPORT BY THE NUMBERS

5
Number of boat owners offered slips in the marina this year.

10-12
Average number of years someone has to wait once they put their name on the list for a slip.

232
Number of people on the list for boat slips. Add your name to the list [here!](#)

<https://www.bellportvillageny.gov>



BOAT SAFETY LICENSE REQUIRED FOR ALL AGES

Starting in 2025, all operators of motorized vessels are required by New York State to have a boating safety certificate. This includes personal watercraft such as JetSkis, Wave Runners and the like. Sailboats are not included.

The law has been phasing in over the past three years, but now it includes all boaters of ALL ages.

If you earned a safety certificate before the year 2000, state records don't go that far back, so unless you kept a copy of it, you need to get re-certified.

For a free online Boating Safety Course approved by the state of New York, go to BoatUSA: <https://www.boatus.org/newyork>.

Meet Your Village Board of Trustees



**Steve
Mackin**

Deputy Mayor,
Trustee since 2013

Areas I cover: Department of Public Works, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department (specifically Road Safety)

Reach me at:
SteveMackin@bellportvillageny.gov

Why I love Bellport and serving as a Trustee: Bellport is a place I'm proud to call home. It's the sense of community and charm that I love the most. I am grateful to serve the community. It's a special place with special people, and preserved with passion for history.

You don't know Bellport Until You've ...
... hooped the dock during the sunrise or strolled Ho-Hum for sunsets ... It's magical.



**Nathan
Rohrmeier**

Trustee since
June 2020

Areas I cover: Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, Vouchers

Reach me at:
NathanRohrmeier@bellportvillageny.gov

Why I love Bellport and serving as a Trustee: It's home. I grew up in Bellport, I'm a product of our school system, and came back because I wanted to give my kids the sense of community that I had growing up.

You don't know Bellport until You've ...
... debated someone on whether it's "hoop the dock" or "loop the dock" or "buzz the dock" ... found out The Bellport has a jam session on Thursday nights. ... gotten a parking ticket for leaving your car in front of your house overnight. ... dug a clam out of the Bay bottom with your feet ... peed your pants at the Gateway Haunted House.



Lorraine Kuehn

Trustee since
June 2023

Areas I cover: Communication & Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, Building Department

Reach me at:

LorraineKuehn@bellportvillageny.gov

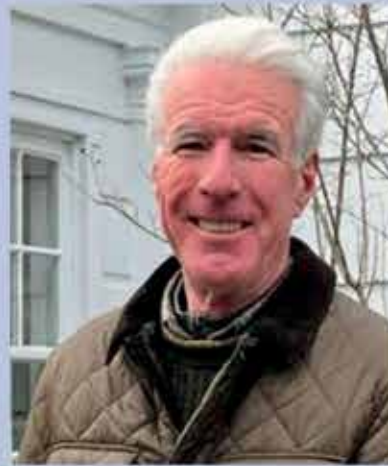
Why I love Bellport and serving as Trustee:

What's not to love about Bellport? I enjoy living in a walkable village. In today's climate-conscious world, everything is accessible on foot.

"

You don't know Bellport Until You've ...

... celebrated Independence Day at "Artist on the Lane." You bring home another piece of local artwork and spend hours walking around the house trying to find a place to hang it.



Michael Young

Trustee since
June 2023

Areas I cover: Zoning Board of Approvals, Architectural Review Board, Beautification Committee, Historic Preservation, Yacht Club & Sailing

Reach me at:

MichaelYoung@bellportvillageny.gov

Why I love Bellport and serving as Trustee:

There is no better way to spend a morning than walking around our village, treasuring its natural beauty and historical charm. I love to hear what people like about the village or dislike about it. We all care so deeply.

You don't know Bellport Until You've ...

... spent half-an-hour arguing about the best shade of dark green for the shutters on Bellport Lane. (The correct answer: Essex green.)

More News from Around the Village



NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT: **BELLPORT VILLAGE PROGRAM FUND**

Mission: The BVPF is a 501c3 dedicated to preservation and beautification of the Village assets and amenities for the benefit of all residents. The BVPF collaborates closely with the Mayor and Village Trustees to identify impactful projects in different ways and locations.

Funding The BVPF raises funds from private donors through annual fundraising events such as the Bellport Bay 5K Race (July 13) and Cocktails by the Bay (Aug.9).

Current Board: Kyle Binnington, Marisa Drew, Michael Foster, Jane Graham, Daniel Korn, Lisa Metcalfe, Jack Moter, Vinita Nair, Adam Roe, Pete Roe, Joanne Specht, Phillip Thomas, Roger Thomas, Cynthia Watson, Mary Worthington.

When Founded: "This is our 15-year anniversary!" says Michael Foster. "BVPF was launched by residents in 2010 who wanted to be able to fund much-needed projects that the Village couldn't include in its normal operating budgets."

Recent Projects: "We have executed over 20 projects in cooperation with the Village totaling over \$750,000 raised from private donors" Foster says. "These include restoration of Mothers Beach, the bowling alley, Biting Back against mosquitoes at Ho Hum and Mothers Beach, new playground equipment, supplying the Village with an industrial beach sweeper to keep it clean of seaweed, installing 1939 Worlds Fair benches in parks, and more."

How Projects Are Selected: "Projects ideas come from Board Members," Foster says, "and we welcome ideas from the entire Bellport Community via our website."

From the Mayor's notebook...

3 quick things:

Shutters for Village Hall: Since the building is on the National Register of Historic places, classic wood shutters painted Essex Green are the right choice. If we add shutters to the front of the building and the windows facing Bell Street (but not on the back) we can bring down the cost from about \$15K to \$10K. Three anonymous donors gave generously to offset part of the cost to purchase the shutters (via designated gifts to the BVPF) . This is a great example of public-private partnership in the Village! We are grateful to the donors!

Outstanding Permits: We found out there are over 600 open permits (some for decades). We offered a 3-month period of amnesty that ended last September during which 265 permits were brought to our attention by residents and 104 of those have been closed. If you have any questions about permits please contact Marylou Bono in the Buildings Department, 6531-286-0327.

The number of new permits issued from June to December went down but revenues increased due to the size of the projects. This year the Village will collect over \$200K in permit fees.

And ... A Note about the Budget: The budget process takes an enormous amount of time and energy by all of the department heads and the Board of Trustees. This is vital work that effects how well the Village runs! This year, we were able to get our financial audit completed much faster than in previous years allowing us to turn our attention to other matters you care about. Thanks go to our Treasurer, Darcia Palmer and the entire team!



Maureen
Veitch

Keep Up with the Mayor!



Follow me on Instagram
for more day-to-day
goings on at Village Hall

[instagram.com/bellportmayorveitch/](https://www.instagram.com/bellportmayorveitch/)

Calendar: Save these Dates

Important Upcoming Dates

For more details visit www.Bellportvillageny.gov

APRIL

- April 5 Bellport Fire Dept. St. Patrick's Day Parade**
- April 7 Resident Kids' Camp sign-ups begin**
- April 19 Easter Crazy Hat Parade**
- April 21 Non-resident Kids' Camp sign-ups begin**

MAY

- May 3 Village Hall Saturday hours begin (9 am - 12 pm)**
- May 10 Marina opens, guard will be on duty**
- May 10 Tennis courts open for the season**
- May 24 Ferry starts running on weekends**
- May 26 Memorial Day, Village Hall closed**

JUNE

- June 7 Voter Registration & Absentee Voting Day**
- June 17 Election Day (Mayor and Trustees)**
- June 19 Village Hall closed for Juneteenth**
- June 21 Bellport Garden Club Tour**
- June 21 Boys & Girls Club Annual Beach Ball**
- June 29 Bellport Fire Dept. Car Show (rain date, July 6th)**
- June 30 Ferry starts running on weekends and weekdays**

JULY

- July 1 Last day to pay Village taxes without penalty**
- July 4 Artists on the Lane**
- July 4 Village Hall closed for Independence Day**
- July 7 Kids' Camp starts (Last day, August 1st)**
- July 10 Bingo Night presented by BVPF 4:30 pm to 7 pm**
- July 13 Bellport Bay 5K Race**
- July 26 Family Night at Mother's Beach, 4 pm to sunset**
- July 26 Bellport Day**
- July 31 Bingo Night presented by BVPF 4:30 pm to 7 pm**

AUGUST

- August 9 BVPF Cocktails by the Bay fundraiser**
- August 23 Sand Castle contest**

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 Labor Day, Village Hall closed**



Photo: Howie Guja

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Village Hall: (631) 286-0327

Village Code: (631) 949-1956

Golf Pro Shop: (631) 286-7206

Golf Starter: (631) 286-4139

Tennis Courts: (631) 776-0859

Ferry Schedule: (631) 286-2628

Dock Master: (631) 286-6093

Kids' Camp: (631) 286-0327



VILLAGE OF BELLPORT
29 BELLPORT LANE
BELLPORT NY 11713
www.bellportvillageny.gov

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DRAMATIC RESCUE OF MAN WHO FELL THROUGH THE ICE OFF MOTHER'S BEACH

When the ice froze the last weekend in January, people enthusiastically brought out the skates, hockey sticks and pucks and decided it was safe. One group was spotted playing pond hockey on the Peat Hole. Shortly after the group moved out onto the Bay, then later that afternoon went in search of better ice off Mother's Beach. But things took an unexpected turn.

One skater headed out onto the ice about 1,000 feet from shore, and fell through the ice into chest-deep water. Despite being able to stand he couldn't manage to pull himself out of the freezing water. Every time he tried to push himself up the ice hole got bigger. Someone tried a rescue by bringing a surfboard out on the ice but the water hole had grown bigger by then. The bystanders called 911.



First Responders were on the scene in minutes

Photo Credit: South Country Ambulance

Within minutes rescuers from South Country Ambulance Special Operations Unit were on the scene and made their way out with a rope safety system and managed to pull the man out of the water. "Our first unit arrived and was advised that there was a subject in the water approximately 1000 feet from the beach," Ambulance Chief Gregory C. Miglino, Jr. told The South Shore Press.

"Our Special Operations unit with ice rescue equipment arrived on scene and deployed our assets and personnel out to the victim in the water. Within 10 minutes of being dispatched, a 65-year-old male was retrieved from the water by our team and a civilian who had come to his aid."

The man was brought to shore using specialized equipment and "brute strength." He was loaded into a Stokes Basket and transferred to an ambulance for transport to Long Island Community Hospital where he was treated for hypothermia.

Joining the rescue was Chief Gregory and Assistant Chief of Operations Brian Gilligan, who pulled the man from the icy water with the help of a civilian, and Lt. Wayne Caldicott. The team was led by Capt. Neil Thomas and Lt. Rob Lepre. Rescuers included responders from Bellport, Hagerman, Brookhaven and Mastic Beach Fire Departments, Mastic Beach Ambulance, Suffolk County Police, and Bellport Village Code.

"This should be a reminder to everyone that all ice is not safe," said Chief Miglino. "It only takes a few minutes for hypothermia to set in and a person to go down."