



SUMMER 2025

[www.bellportvillage.ny.gov](http://www.bellportvillage.ny.gov)

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

# THE SCOOTER



**SUMMER FUN:**  
New solar panels  
will mean expanded  
offerings at the  
snack bar and  
improvements to  
the washrooms.

## Greetings from Village Hall

Welcome to the High Season!

Happening in and around the Village:

- New Landscaping & Shutters
- Supporting the Boys & Girls Club
- Are You in Violation of the Code called "Failure to Maintain?"
- Catching up with the Environment Committee. Name the new EV!
- Meet Your Local Firefighter
- Spotlight on the Garden Club's vital work to keep Bellport "Tree City"
- Darcia Palmer, MVP of the Budget
- Important dates and numbers

**Stay in the know!** Please attend Board Meetings, held on the last Monday of the month. We welcome comments at the start of each meeting.

**Check out [BellportVillageNY.gov](http://BellportVillageNY.gov)** for the full slate of events. You can watch and listen to meetings with the link provided or read the minutes once posted.

— **Maureen Veitch, Mayor**

**The Scooter Team:**

Edited by Lucy Danziger

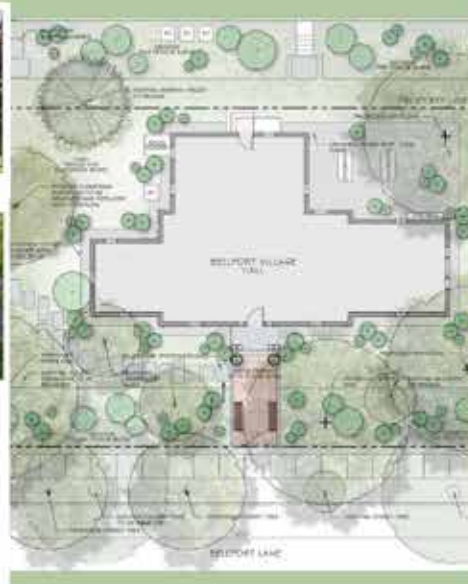
Produced by Christine Novelli

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## NEW LANDSCAPING FOR VILLAGE HALL!

Thanks to generous private donations and the work of Brian Sawyer and his firm, Sawyer Berson, who donated the landscaping design for Village Hall, new plantings are about to be finished, just in time for summer. We could not be more grateful to Brian Sawyer, his associate Alex Pisha and the firm. **The Essex Green Shutters** are being paid for 50/50 by the Village and a gift from three anonymous individuals who gave designated donations via the Bellport Village Program Fund.

**This is an important part of the historic restorations** to the landmarked building that dates back to 1923. Thank you to all who helped make these improvements possible!





## SUMMER 2025

### Looking forward to....



## WHEN YOU BUY TICKETS TO THE BEACH BALL YOU SUPPORT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB !

Getting kids to engage in STEM classes can be challenging, until you teach them how to build their own computers, which they get to take home.

**Enrichment programs all year long:** That's just one example of what goes on every day at the Boys & Girls Club of Bellport, which offers programs for kids ages 5 through 19, beginning at 7 am (until they get picked up for school) and during afternoon hours. The club stays open during school holidays and in the summer, so parents who work can be sure their kids are safe, cared for, and actively learning new skills and having fun.

**On any given afternoon,** you'll find kids learning new skills, such as how to bake a cake, operate a drone, produce new music, or choreograph an original dance. There's also competitive volleyball and basketball being played in the gym. (One club alumni currently plays for the WNBA.)

**Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** The club has been serving young people in the community for 60 years. It was founded in 1965 as the Bellport Area Community Action Committee (BACAC), and became affiliated with the national Boys & Girls Club organization in 1996, nearly 30 years ago!

**Private donations** and grants are the primary sources of funding, says Brian Urkowitz, Head of the Board. Even when grants are not being threatened, the Club must spend first, then show the receipts in order to get reimbursed, a gap that leaves nonprofits vulnerable to temporary shortfalls. Some 217 young people use the club throughout the school year and summer months, a number that he would like to be able to grow, especially among older kids.

**Bringing in More Pre-Teens** and teens in is a goal, says Kim Livingston, Executive Director. "These young people really want to work," she adds. "Many come back to work here. The head of programming came to the club when she was 10, and now runs the entire lineup. "These experiences really change lives."

**The Beach Ball** helps fund about a quarter of the \$2.2 million annual budget, which is why attendance is so vital, Urkowitz says. "Every ticket makes a big difference toward what the club can do for the local community."

"It's not just the child who benefits," adds Livingston. "Every parent who drops their child off here, knows he or she is getting enrichment programming, which makes it possible for them to work. That elevates the economics of the family."



## BELLPORT BY THE NUMBERS

**399**

Total golf memberships

**83**

Village resident memberships

**23**

Junior memberships to date  
(Non-resident juniors must be on a varsity golf team. They are the future!)

**\$80**

Resident rate to tee off during peak hours  
(Friday – Sunday and holidays)

For more pricing, visit  
[bellportgolfclub.com/fees-rates/](http://bellportgolfclub.com/fees-rates/)



Public Profile

## Darcia Palmer

Village Treasurer

Darcia joined the Village in May of 2023, bringing 30 years of experience in government operations and accounting to streamline the financial operations of the Village.

### What does the Treasurer do?

Manages the day-to-day financial operations of the Village, works closely with the mayor and department heads in preparation of the budget.

**She provides monthly financial reports** and ensures compliance with all legal and regulatory financial requirements.

**She works with the external auditors** during the annual financial statement audit.

**Darcia plays a pivotal role** in maintaining the village's financial health, helping to ensure that public funds are used efficiently and responsibly.

**Reach Darcia at:** [villagetreasurer@bellportvillageny.gov](mailto:villagetreasurer@bellportvillageny.gov)



## In the Works: Village Cleanup

### Follow Codes. This is Your Gentle Reminder to Please, Clean Up!

**Old cars that are no longer in working order** (not up to date with their inspection and registration) are not to be parked in driveways.

**Construction materials** such as wood, bricks, cement blocks and other detritus are not allowed to be in view of the street. Covering junk with a tarp does not mitigate the need to have it removed.

**Garbage Pick Up:** No matter which schedule you're on, the earliest you should put cans out is 6:30 p.m. the night before. Please use locking lids and bring cans back in.

**Dilapidated Fences:** Any fences that are in need of repair will also be cited for not adhering to the "failure to maintain" code.

**Violations May Result in a Fine.** If you are in violation of code, you will receive a ticket. Don't be surprised. The Codes exist for a reason: To keep the Village looking its best. Please do clean up!

**If you have questions** please come to Village Hall and ask our Code! If you don't clean up ... we will issue a ticket.



Got Junk? We don't want to see it. Store it out of sight, or get rid of it once and for all.



Mending Fences makes good neighbors. Act like Huck Finn and fix and paint yours, please.



## A VISIT WITH: THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### NEW EV, 1000 YARDS PROGRESS, BACKYARD COMPOSTING!

The Environment Committee has been busy. Here's what they're up to now.



Help name EV: Come up with the winner for a sweet reward: A Carla Marla gift card!

#### WANT TO H THE D? WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW EV!

The Environment Committee secured a \$15,000 grant for the Village to purchase a utility EV, because Bellport has been designated a Clean Energy Community by New York State. The new EV will be used at the dock in the summer months for dock guards to regulate traffic during busy days and evenings, especially when there are concert crowds or other events at the marina.

"We did an audit and discovered that Bellport qualified for a Clean Energy Communities grant," says Marc Rauch, Committee chair. You'll see the red EV making the rounds with its Clean Energy Communities sticker decal on the side. **LET'S NAME IT.** Have an idea? Drop it off at Village Hall by July 4th. The Mayor will choose the winner, who will be treated to a \$50 gift certificate at Carla Marla.

#### 1,000 YARDS PROGRESS

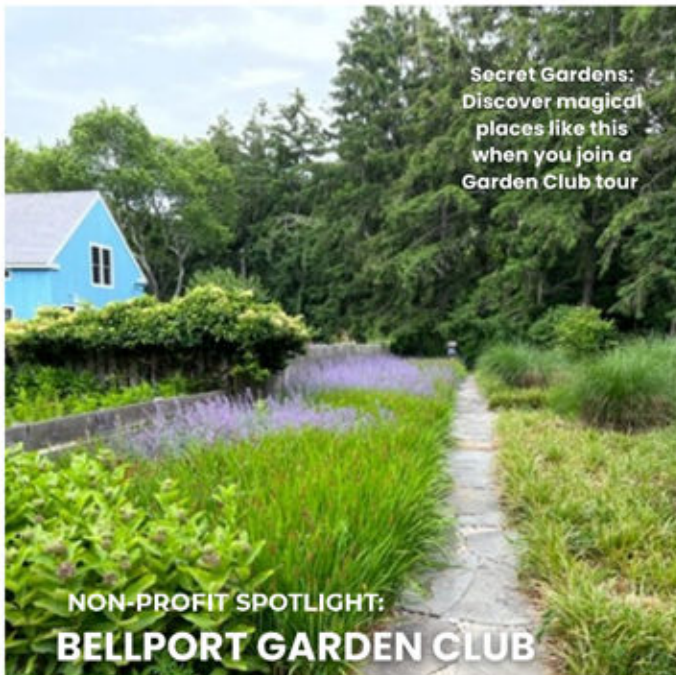
Qualifying for a 1,000 Yards sign isn't as hard as you might think, Rauch says. The signs are popping up around the Village as homeowners plant native trees and shrubs, avoid using harmful chemicals on their lawns, and notify the Village of doing so. To date, 62 residents have posted yard signs, Rauch tells us. This year's goal is to reach 100. "The signs are working, since people ask what they need to do to get one," he says. "Considering many people don't even use lawn fertilizer, it's not hard to qualify!"

#### AND BACKYARD COMPOSTING FOR ALL!

The Environment Committee is working on an exciting new program to revive backyard composting. "The Village mounted a successful backyard composting campaign in the 1990's," Rauch reminds us, and the goal is to bring it back. "If you have a garden and already use your own compost, you're ahead of the game!"



## More News from Around the Village



The **Bellport Garden Club** was founded in the summer of 1926 to celebrate a love of gardening, conserve our natural resources, and preserve the natural beauty of our surroundings.

**Following the devastating 1938 hurricane**, the Club planted 220 trees. Ever since, the members have planted trees with the cooperation of the Village. The Club needs donations to continue! "We have planted just about every tree on Village streets. Our focus is on native trees and plants, to work with the environment, not against it," says Club member for 21 years Kathy Desmond.

**Want to keep Bellport's designation as Tree City?** Support the Club, which plants trees every year. It also works with a local company to save Ash trees around the Village from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive green beetle that kills Ash trees. They've been able to save many of Bellport's trees, some 50 years old!

**The tradition of decorating the Village.** The Club also lovingly plants all the window boxes around the village, and pays to maintain and water them all season. This tradition dates back to 1936. This year Club members will plant the boxes this spring and decorate during the winter holidays to keep the village looking beautiful.

**What else does the Garden Club do?** The Club gives out awards to high school seniors who have shown an initiative on environmental issues. (One recipient started a recycling program at the high school, which didn't have one.) It also offers garden therapy for seniors.

**Take a private garden tour.** The annual tours to beautiful hidden gardens in the area are extremely popular. The next one is on June 21st, and tickets are \$35 on the website.

**To support the Garden Club**, and help them buy trees and maintain the flower boxes, please visit [bellportgardenclub.com](http://bellportgardenclub.com). You can also donate by mailing a check to PO Box 203, Bellport NY 11713.



**TRUNK SHOW:** Measuring the health of a Village Ash tree, Planting window boxes. The Club maintains these all season.



## From the Mayor's Notebook. Three Quick Things:

**1. We've Been Cleaning up!** We are proud of the organizing work we have accomplished over the last two years. Not only did we clean out, we have archived documents, created better storage systems, and digitized deeds, contracts and permits. This makes it easier to run things more smoothly. As they say: Clean space, clear minds!

**2. Village Tech Upgrade... Finally!** Thanks to our local tech genius Michael Chiamonte, a Bellport resident, the Village is getting a much-needed tech update. We are improving all of our technology, including the videos and presentations at meetings, starting with a strategic plan. More improvement to come!

**3. Ho Hum Bathrooms Are Getting an Update.** We are making necessary improvements to the bathrooms and kitchen at the beach! (The number of Water Closets is how Suffolk County Health Department determines our capacity of 300, and we are limited to what's there.)

**The Operative word is Repair!** The facility is in a federally protected Wilderness, so that means keeping the environment as natural and unspoiled as possible. We are allowed to fix what has broken, but not add to the facilities.



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/)



## Bellport, Know Your Neighbor



### Meet Bellport Volunteer Firefighter Nadine DiDio

Nadine DiDio, 68, has been a Bellport firefighter for the past 24 years. Passing the physical part of the test wasn't hard, she said, because she was ready for it. "The hardest part was forceable entry, knocking in a door. You have to wear your full gear and pack and go through a maze that was blackened out, and hang from a ladder and pull yourself back up." She did it all and was a Class A firefighter while she worked at her day job as a nurse at Brookhaven Community hospital. That's where she met her husband, who was a FDNY firefighter. Firefighting has been in her blood. Her grandfather and nephews all have been firefighters, and of course her husband was the Chief at Bellport until he recently retired.

DiDio is one of just a few women who served as a Class A firefighter in Bellport, and she has loved every aspect of it. She recently moved herself to Class B. "I decided to do that because there are younger guys who can fight house fires and run into a burning building." DiDio mostly battles brush fires and stays outside of dwellings. But her real contribution, she says, is that she will do anything and everything necessary to serve the community, whether that means showing up at the Kids Camp or making the sauce for cutlets in the kitchen. "I have no plans to retire," she said. "You have to really love it and have it in your heart. There are no perks! You do it because you love it."



DiDio goes wherever she is needed – visiting kids camp, helping in the stationhouse kitchen, and of course responding to fires – which won her the Chief's Award in 2024. After 24 years, she continues to serve. "You have to really love it and have it in your heart."







**VILLAGE OF BELLPORT**  
29 BELLPORT LANE  
BELLPORT NY 11713  
[www.bellportvillageny.gov](http://www.bellportvillageny.gov)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD A  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 24  
Bellport NY 11713

## Important Summer Dates!

### MAY

May 24 Ferry starts running on weekends  
May 26 Memorial Day, Village Hall closed

### JUNE

June 7 Voter Registration Day for Village Election 12 - 5 pm  
June 7 Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society Cocktail Gala  
June 8 Beach Cleanup Day! Meet at Bellport Dock at 10:45 am  
June 17 Election Day (Mayor & Trustees) Polls open 7 am - 9 pm  
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 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 12 South Country Education Foundation Fundraiser  
July 13 Bellport Bay 5K Race  
July 26 Family Night at Mother's Beach, 4 pm to sunset  
July 26 Bellport Day

### AUGUST

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

### SEPTEMBER

September 1 Labor Day, Village Hall closed



Photo by 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