



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

THE SCOOTER



Greetings from Village Hall!

It's been a great summer. Here are a few things we are reporting on, including two great programs, the Village Kids Camp and the Sailing Foundation. We are thrilled to have a grant to upgrade the Community Center and more updates!

The Scooter is edited by Lucy Danziger with the help of Christine Novelli and the Village Staff. Printing and mailing is by Searles Graphics.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT:

THE SAILING FOUNDATION

The Bellport Sailing Foundation is truly a gem on the South Shore, offering an extraordinary youth sailing program that goes far beyond teaching children sailing skills. Open to the general public, the program welcomes youngsters from communities around Bellport Bay, creating an inclusive environment where every participant can thrive. The Sailing Foundation's Instagram is full of pictures of joyful sailors ages 7 to 17 beaming with pride at their accomplishments.

The sailing lessons, races, and regattas provide a perfect blend of summer adventure and meaningful life skills. The youngest beginners start on a Mercury with an instructor, then graduate to soloing Opti's, and eventually, graduate to 420s, gaining self-reliance, resilience and more skills at every stage.

(Continued on next page.)



FALL 2025

Sailing Program Continued...



"We are so proud of what these sailors have accomplished, both at the racing level and throughout the entire program," says Eric Everitt, Sailing Foundation board member. The top Opti sailor on the Great South Bay Yacht Racing Association is Bellport's own Max Ficazzola, 14, and the top 15 sailors were all from Bellport. Nationally, 5 of our sailors qualified for the US Optimist Team Trials next spring where the US Opti National Team gets selected.

At Nationals this August in Marina Del Rey, California, CC Alamgir, 12, did so well that he was invited to join the US National Development Team. In the 420s, of our 28 sailors, the top 5 ranked on the Bay were all from Bellport.

The most important statistics aren't the race results or rankings, but the great atmosphere of inclusivity, and the confidence the kids gain while on the water. "Sailing is both an individual and a team sport," Everitt says. "We support each other." Bellport Sailing Foundation is a 501(c)3 supported by lessons, donations and fundraising. "We rely on the Yacht Club. Without it, we would not be able to host this level of programming," To get involved or offer support, please contact Eric Everitt at bbsfregistrar@gmail.com. Follow them on Instagram @bellport_sailing.



Please attend the meeting
Thursday September 25th at
6:30 pm at the Country Club.

Country Club Project: Next Steps and Input from YOU, the Community

The Village has been carefully exploring the future of the Bellport Golf Course and Country Club facility, an important and unique community asset. To help guide this process, we engaged outside consultants, Purple Horse, who have done an outstanding job assessing the potential of the campus and outlining possible paths forward.

The full report is on the Village website and can be found here: <https://www.bellportvillageny.gov/assessment-of-bellport-country-club-campus-by-purple-horse/>

The next step is public engagement. We want to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to review the findings, share their thoughts, and help shape the future of this treasured resource.

To that end, the Village will be holding a public session Thursday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Country Club, where the report will be discussed and community feedback will be gathered in a meaningful way. This session will provide the final round of input before the Village makes decisions on how best to optimize the Country Club facility.

We have already begun the process of examining financing options, so that once a path is chosen, we will be prepared to move forward. We encourage all residents to read the consultant's report and take part in the discussion. This is an exciting moment, and your voice is essential as we plan the future of one of our most valuable assets.

Community Updates

BELLPORT BY THE NUMBERS

159

Number of tennis memberships purchased this past season

10,601

Rounds of golf played in June (3,277), July (3,668) and August (3,656)

1,175

Number of Parking Stickers given out at the Dock

16

Roundtrips the ferry made on Labor Day Saturday (they had to refuel that day!)

And the winner is ...

Bellport has a new EV and it has a new name!



Bellport qualified as a Clean Energy Community by NY State (thanks to the work of the Environment Committee) and was awarded a grant of \$15,000, which we used to buy an EV for the dock, to patrol the area and maintain safety at the marina.

So the next question was: What to call it?

A contest to name it was launched in July, and by August we had dozens of entries, many with creative names that showed the brains of the village on display!

A winner was chosen by the Mayor and Village Hall staff.

And the winning name is ... MISTER HOOPER!

Because it can be spotted HOOPING the DOCK ... get it?

The winning entry was from Sheryl Moodt, who received a gift card to Carla Marla's. Runners up also won ice cream, for creative names like: KILOWATT (Kat Cullen), BELLECTRIC (Deb Murphy), WATT'S UP DOCK (Deb Penney), GLO HUM (Gwynne Gauntlett), and VOLTAIRE (Samir Jain).

Watch out for Mister Hooper, and more fun contests to come!

COMMUNITY CENTER IS GETTING AN UPGRADE!

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news for our community: the Village has received a \$187,000 grant that will allow us to refurbish and revitalize this much-loved building. The Community Center is truly the heart of Bellport, serving as a hub where neighbors gather, families connect, and children participate in enriching programs like summer camp and seniors enjoy fitness activities.

The grant, originally awarded in 2018 with the support of State Senator (then our assemblywoman) Monica Martinez, had been delayed after district lines were redrawn. For years, our community worked tirelessly to ensure that these much-needed funds would not be lost. At long last, in April, the grant was restored—and we are excited to move forward with the project.

These funds will be used to repair and refresh the Community Center building, ensuring that it remains a safe, welcoming, and functional space for all. With improvements on the way, the Community Center will be better equipped to host youth programs, community events, and essential gatherings that strengthen the bonds of our village. (During renovations, fitness activities will take place in the Fire House and Village meetings will be held in the basement of the Community Center.)

This is more than an investment in bricks and mortar—it's an investment in the people of Bellport and our surrounding area (since many programs are open to nonresidents as well). The refurbishment will breathe new life into a space that has always brought us together, ensuring it can continue to serve as the vibrant heart of our community for years to come.



Meet Your Village Commissions

It Takes a Village... of Talented, Dedicated,

Bellport Village thrives because of the dedication and hard work of residents who volunteer time and expertise to serve on Village Boards and Committees. Boards such as Zoning, Planning, Architectural Review Board, Historical and Waterfront have legally binding responsibilities. Other commissions advise the Board of Trustees and make recommendations which help them to make thoughtful, informed decisions to preserve the character of the Village while helping plan for the future.



Historic District Preservation Commission

The Historic District Preservation Commission works to preserve the authenticity of the Village's three landmarked houses and six historical districts. This Commission ensures that Bellport's historical character is preserved and protected for future generations.

Chair: James Carson

Vice-Chair: Elena Brodie-Kusa

Members: Michael Mullaney, Roger Thomas, Dan Wakeford



Golf Commission

The Golf Commission assists the Village Board in maintaining and improving the Bellport Golf Course. They make recommendations to ensure the course remains a first-class facility for residents and visitors alike.

Chair: Brit Lawlor

Members: Ronald Krawczyk, Ryan Stanley, Jeff Nagel, Mike Cioffi, Tara Kavanagh, Joseph Dabrowski, Mike Mislin, Kevin Lauretti



Waterfront Management Commission

The Waterfront Management Commission oversees all issues relating to the Village shoreline, including stabilization, protection, and public access. Their work safeguards one of Bellport's most cherished assets — our waterfront.

Co-Chairs: Ted Kamoutsis, Michael Ferrigno.

Members: Neil Koenig, Charlie Flagg, Carl Persak



Tennis Commission

The Tennis Commission advises the Board of Trustees on the operation of the Bellport Tennis Club, ensuring that it continues to provide excellent facilities and programming for players of all levels.

Chair: Paul Warner

Members: John Corral, Ann Cameron, Dawn Meyers, Andy Gordon, Kyle Binnington, Tara Shannon, Katy-Gaul-Stigge (alternate)

Hard-Working, Generous-Minded People

Together, the individuals who serve reflect the best of Bellport: Neighbors giving back to their community, and working to preserve and enhance the Village we all love. On behalf of the administration and the Board of Trustees, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member who has served in the past and who continues to serve today. Their commitment to Bellport ensures that our Village continues to be a vibrant, welcoming, and well-managed community. Here are your helpful (unpaid) dedicated neighbors who give so much to Bellport.



Environment Committee

Bellport's natural setting is one of its greatest treasures. The Environment Committee advises the Board on issues such as keeping our bay and creeks healthy, protecting wildlife habitats, promoting renewable energy, and fostering sustainable practices. It launched **The 1000 Yards Campaign** to encourage residents to help preserve the environment by avoiding harmful chemicals and planting native trees and plants that sustain bees, butterflies and birds.

Chair: Marc Rauch

Members: Howard Read, Johnny Knapp, Jean Damien Lury, Darcy Stevens, Michelle Chiaramonte, Dava Stravinsky



Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee reviews any ethics violations that have been reported to the Village and provides the Board of Trustees with recommendations.

Members: Dennis Desmond, Jay Baris, Sandy Harbison, Abby-Lee Weid, Peter Schulte

Planning Board

Approval of the Planning Board is required for construction and alteration of the buildings and structures in the Business District, the Professional Business District and the Cultural Arts district. The Board regulates subdivisions in all zoning districts. Members serve five-year terms with one term having to be renewed every year.

Chair: Stephen Musolino

Members: Paul Warner, Kim Fortunato, Doug Hoffmann

Zoning Board

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hears applications and use variances on projects that do not meet Village of Bellport Zoning codes. The ZBA can also review, reverse, affirm or modify any order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination made by any administrative official charged with the enforcement of Zoning codes. Board members serve three-year terms, with one board member's term being renewed every year.

Chair: Jim Wood

Members: Judy Harvey, Michael Mizrahi, Michael Cohen, Susan Claxton

Alternates: James McLaren, James Jankowski

Architectural Review Board

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) strives to preserve the character, charm and property values of the Village. All applications for a building permit for the construction, erection or alteration of any building must be reviewed by this Board. There are five members on this Board serving at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Chair: Matthew Boals

Members Phillip Thomas, Kathy Dallin, Ron Risdon

Architects: Michael Morbillo, Ron Villano

More News from Around the Village



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

KIDS CAMP: 33rd SEASON!

Bellport Kids Camp – A Summer to Remember

The Bellport Kids Camp is nothing short of amazing—a program that brings together children from both inside and outside the village to share in a summer full of fun, friendship, and discovery.

One of the most special aspects of the camp is its inclusivity: welcoming residents and non-residents alike, it creates opportunities for kids from all over the area to connect, play, and grow together.

Campers can begin once they've completed first grade, opening the door to summers filled with new experiences. The program's main goal is exposure—introducing children to a wide variety of activities, sports, and environments.

Kids get to try golf, tennis, lacrosse, WIFFLE Ball, kickball, European Handball, and games with a large Parachute. They play on the large field on Bell Street—thanks to a generous partnership with Mary Immaculate Church—as well as down at the Marina, at the tennis courts, and on the golf course. No Bellport summer would be complete without trips to the beach. The campers made frequent trips on the ferry.

Campers collectively took 225 rides to Ho-Hum this summer! Between splashing in the shallows, sandcastle building, and simply enjoying the sun and surf, these trips are a highlight for every camper. “Everyone enjoyed the trips to Ho Hum, as well as to the tennis center and the golf course,” said Bob Crowley, Camp Director.

The camp also provides opportunities to create art, thanks to Art Director Gina Keenan. The Bellport Fire Department gave a fascinating safety demonstration and the campers got to try bowling at the Community Center, and spend time on the playground. The program provides a balance of structured activity and free play that gives campers the chance to develop new skills while developing social skills.

This season, 42 resident campers and 79 non-resident campers participated, supported by 11 staffers. The program raised over \$55,000, ensuring that Bellport Kids Camp remains a thriving and sustainable tradition. For many families, it's the highlight of the summer. For the kids, it's an experience they'll never forget.

From the Mayor's Desk

Recycling at Ho Hum

During the summer, we met with a youngster named Lena Tanaka who wrote to me that she thought we could do a better job of sorting and recycling at Ho Hum. So we added a recycling bin, but because it had an open top, people continued using it for food and other trash. So we are now obtaining a bin that has a small opening for bottles and cans. We thank her for her helpful feedback and engagement in public policy, while still in grade school!

Naming the Marina Parking Lot

The parking lot at the Marina used to be the end of a street called Bellport Avenue. It was abandoned as a public road in the '70s and we want a creative new name for this parking area. We had a naming contest for Ho Hum Beach, the Whale House Point ferry, and another for the EV. A new contest to name the parking lot will launch this fall. Start thinking....

Leaf Blowers

We are considering changing the rules about leaf blowing because we have received a lot of input from residents requesting that the Village launch stricter rules about the noise. If you work with a landscaper please remind them it's not necessary to use their equipment on our streets.

Support Our Local Shops!

This holiday (and all year round) please support the local shops and restaurants. We love Bellport's business district, and we want to continue to have this vibrant community full of wonderful businesses!



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/)

Please come to Board of Trustees meetings or listen in on the video link provided. You can also read the minutes once they are published. The full schedule of events is available at www.bellportvillage.ny.gov

New Village Historian, Buried Treasure

Appreciation for Our Village Historian, Milan Hughston

Bellport is steeped in history, from whaling captains to postwar scientific innovation tied to the Brookhaven Lab. Ensuring that these stories aren't lost to time is now the charge of Village Historian Milan Hughston, who brings his background in archives and cultural leadership to this formalized position.

Though Bellport has long had champions of its past — such as Emily Czaja, who preserved early Village records, or figures like Stephanie Bigelow, Bob Pelletreau, and historian Victor Principe — the formal role of Village Historian is new.

"Mayor Maureen Veitch recognized the need for a dedicated steward, especially as records have piled up in Village Hall that are no longer active government documents but have enduring historical value," Hughston says.

He describes his role as part detective, part organizer, and part advocate. "Every administration produces records, and many just get stored away without labels or context," he explains. "My job is to identify what has enduring value and make sure it isn't lost."

Hughston comes to the role with decades of experience: He served as Chief Librarian and Archivist at MoMA for 17 years, was a librarian at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth for 20 years, and won the Distinguished Service award from the Art Library Society of North America. His passion for Bellport is as enduring as the history he is preserving.



Hughston's Priorities as Village Historian

- **Digitizing records of lasting importance:** Many of Bellport's papers, maps, and records remain tucked away in the Village Hall basement. Hughston is identifying these materials for digitization, with the goal of creating an archive for residents and researchers.
- **Fostering collaboration across institutions:** Hughston sees great potential in uniting the Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society, the Village, the library, local churches, and community organizations.
- **Making history public-facing:** From exhibitions on the postwar development of Bellport to research into the area's many houses of worship, Hughston emphasizes history as something to be experienced and shared.
- **Highlighting overlooked narratives:** Hughston points to records on postwar housing development and the contributions of scientists at Brookhaven Lab as areas that deserve more research and storytelling. Oral histories, he argues, are especially valuable because they preserve lived memory before it disappears.
- **Protecting sacred and historic sites:** Cemeteries such as the Old Burying Ground on Academy Lane and Woodland on Station Road not only record centuries of Bellport life, but also pose challenges for preservation. Hughston supports efforts to document these sites—potentially with technologies like ground-penetrating radar — to ensure they remain respected landmarks.

Looking Forward: Hughston's dream project is a large-scale digitization effort, supported by grant money, that would make Bellport's history fully accessible in searchable digital form. He sees Bellport as a uniquely creative and diverse village, where artists, scientists, and families have all left their mark. Preserving that living, evolving history is at the core of his mission.

"History connects us," he says. "It's not just about the past — it's about understanding the community we are today, and making sure future generations can learn from and build on it." With Hughston as Village Historian, Bellport's records are no longer forgotten stacks of paper in the basement — they are becoming narratives of a larger, shared story.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

MIKE PISANO, TREASURE HUNTER

With a metal detector and local knowledge, Mike Pisano finds historical treasures. You get to keep the bounty!

Mike's passion began at age eight, when his family moved into an old North Shore house with a hidden tunnel behind a large oval wooden door at the back of the basement. "We followed it to an iron grate on a bluff overlooking the beach," he recalls. Locals told him that the tunnels had sheltered people on the Underground Railroad before they could load into boats at night and get rowed across the Sound to Connecticut. From that moment, he was hooked on history.

Rich history beneath our feet. Long Island played a vital role during the Revolution and years after the Battle of Long Island and British occupation, and artifacts still lie scattered across the region. With his detector, Mike has found coins, shoe buckles, candlesticks, and more from the 1700s and 1800s. Local discoveries. At Bellport Village Hall—originally the site of a blacksmith's shop — he unearthed British coins and early settlers' tools, now on display. "Back then," he notes, "people used British, Spanish, and even Portuguese coins. Silver was silver—no one cared whose name was stamped on it."

Curious what lies beneath your lawn? Mike Pisano can help you find and preserve the hidden history of your property. You keep the treasures.

Artifacts from a tavern house: Coins, shoe buckles, a pocketwatch and a handmade axe





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

Fall Dates

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 29th: Last day to submit your Scarecrow for the contest

(Registration has started. Check with Village Hall for details.)



OCTOBER

Oct. 10th: Masquerade Party at the Gateway (tickets are \$125, and that includes a Haunted House VIP tour)

Oct. 25th: Halloween Parade starts at 12 noon at the Firehouse. Winner of Scarecrow competition will be announced.

Oct. 31st: ALL BOATS MUST BE OUT OF SLIPS AT THE MARINA

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Stay tuned for the wreath contest and holiday parade

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

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

THE TEAM: Marylou Bono, Buildings Department Manager, Peter Sarich, Building Inspector, and Peggy Costanzo, who supports the department.

WHAT THEY DO: The Buildings Department ensures the health, safety, and welfare of our community through building and zoning oversight. Marylou guides the permitting process, reviews construction projects, and inspections. Peter makes sure everything is up to code.

WHEN TO GET A PERMIT: Residents planning to do work to their property or business should contact the building department to find out if a building permit is required.

EXTENDED HOURS: The Building Department will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Visitors can meet with staff during two sessions, a morning session from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and an afternoon session from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.