



# Fire Place

## Brookhaven Village Association

Spring/Summer 2008

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.



### **ANNUAL BVA MEETING**

**June 19, 7:30 PM**

**St. James Episcopal Church**



### **Bylaws Committee News**

The bylaws committee has been busy this year going through the Brookhaven Village Assn. bylaws with a fine-tooth comb. Our goal has been to find and rewrite outdated or poorly worded sections, add wording to address questions about membership and meeting rules, and to add a new conflict-of-interest policy. After many meetings and quite a few hours of diligence on the part of the committee, we have drafted a set of proposed changes for you to vote on at the Annual meeting in June. The summary of the proposed changes will be posted to the website ([www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org)) at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting. In addition, hard copies will be available at the Brookhaven Free Library after June 1. We hope you will agree that the proposed changes will help to make our organization stronger than ever, and be assured that a great deal of thought and discussion went into each and every change. Thanks to all the committee members who helped with this gargantuan task.

**Kathleen L. Scheibel,  
Chairperson, Bylaws Committee**

### **Come Out for a Covered Dish Supper at Squassux!**

All residents of Brookhaven Hamlet are invited to join us at Squassux Landing on Friday, June 27th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for a covered dish supper to honor Jon Pokorny's 9 years of service and to kick off the summer season. BYOB, chairs and a covered dish to share. The BVA will provide soda, water and dessert.

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### **Caithness Power Plant Update**

The Caithness Funds Citizen Advisory Committee has finally been formed and we had our first meet in April with meetings to be held monthly to help advise town board on how and where each host community around the power plant wishes to use their percentage of funds for community projects.

We in the Brookhaven area (South Country school district) are 2nd largest percentage at over 40%! We are putting together a wish list of projects and prioritizing which projects have the most value for the community. In closing please feel free to contact BVA by email with your ideas for interesting and worthy community projects.

**Mike Murtha,  
Caithness Committee**

# Squassux Landing-Dockmaster's Report

My second season as dockmaster has arrived. Every slip is occupied, everyone has paid, and a stream of trailered boats heads down Beaver Dam Road each time I drive through. The marina lights work, the water is on, and the grass has already been mowed once, thanks to the efforts of Sean O'Toole and Jeb Barry, respectively. The docks have nearly all been repaired, and due to a mild winter (to the dismay of the Scooter owners), Billy Starke has been charged with replacing extra docks this year to help maintain Squassux' integrity.

I have known that the Squassux Landing site had been a jumping off point for Fire Island beaches and the ocean for probably a century or more, and assumed its present state to have been somewhat stable for over the half century it has served the Hamlet residents. Recently, I spoke with Bob Lyons of Bellport who informed that his father was the first dockmaster of Squassux Landing, some sixty years ago. Mr. Lyons is well, retired to Florida, so I called him recently to learn a thing or two about the legacy of my position as dockmaster.

It began with eight boaters who simply tied off their boats to the Carman's River embankment any place they wanted. Those who wished to could build their own docks. There was no fee at all, and the dockmaster donated his time. Dredging required no permits. Within a few years, the river had a number of sailboat moorings so that larger catboats and sloops would not find themselves hard aground on the bank. And the river depth? He assured me there was little water even then, and everyone got "stuck" most of the time. I said boaters still run aground, but now there are over two hundred of us. "Oh, my!" was his reply.

Squassux rules are simple. Lock the gate, pick up your trash, clean up after your dog, drive slowly, and touch no one else's boat. Be alert to strangers or suspicious activity in the marina. Should any problems arise this season, please call me at 521-4411.

Have a fun and safe season.

**Andy Rubin,  
Dockmaster**

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## Squassux Landing Dredging Update

As we welcome the 2008 boating season, we find ourselves searching for a dredging spoils dump site that won't make the project fiscally prohibitive. We need to call our elected officials and find out why, as voting taxpayers we can't negotiate a reasonable deal to dispose of our dredge spoils, from this small project. We should also let them know that the next election could be their last in public office.

At this point, at \$25 per ton to dispose of spoils (Town of Brookhaven fee) and \$9 – \$10 per yard to truck the spoils, we are talking over \$200,000 in additional money to complete the project and this \$200,000 does not include the price for the actual dredging ! We raised 46k in surcharges in the past years - you do the math. In closing, we have a couple options at best on which we are working; hopefully one of them will work out but they are long shots at best.

**Mike Murtha,  
Chairman Dredging Committee**



## Hamlet Trees Update

Since 2001 the BVA Tree Fund has supported the planting of over 80 trees in our community! This spring, with the help of John Beitel Landscaping, the BVA planted four disease-resistant elms, two red maples, one sugar maple, and two wire-friendly shantung maples. In addition, two dogwood trees were purchased by the BVA and planted by Jason Crane Landscaping at the Brookhaven Fire Department. This beautification project is funded by donations made to the BVA Tree Fund. Your contributions keep this program growing. Thank you for your support!

**Lynn DiClemente Brown,  
BVA Tree Chairperson**

# Thank You, Jon!

After nine years of dedicated service to the community, Jon Pokorny will have completed his eligible term of office on the Board of Management of the Brookhaven Village Association. He leaves not only with our gratitude but with our admiration for the many contributions he has made, not only to the BVA as chairperson of the Land Use Committee, but as a member of the Squassux Committee, the Dredging Committee and the Nomination Committee.

In addition to his involvement in the BVA, Jon is also 2nd Vice President of the Board of Directors of

Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society.

Jon and his wife Diane, along with their daughters Rachel and Hannah are long time residents of Brookhaven. In his spare time, Jon enjoys sailing. We extend our sincere best wishes to Jon on his future endeavors and will always consider him a friend to the BVA and its mission. May the wind be at his back and the seas be tranquil.

**Mary Jane Cullen,  
BVA President**

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## The Rose Cemetery Restoration

The first record of one of Brookhaven hamlet's oldest families appeared on Oct. 12, 1700, when Thomas Rose recorded an earmark for his cattle, indicating that he already had a farm here on Fire Place Neck. He and his descendants would become the largest landowners in the hamlet and continue to live here for the next 150 years.

The first and oldest Rose family cemetery is located along today's Jared's Path in the Post Point Farm development. In a 1933 talk given by then Brookhaven Town Historian Osborne Shaw at the Brookhaven Free Library, Shaw complained that our Revolutionary War veterans Lt. Thomas Rose and Capt. Nathan Rose and their families "lie buried in the shameful and unkept little burying ground . . . a disgrace your Village Improvement Association

should remedy."

In 1980, the Williams and Sack families cleaned up the cemetery and installed a split rail fence around it. However, most of the stones had fallen, and were broken and partially buried. This year, members of the Fire Place History Club have laid out and inventoried the headstones, then hired a professional to repair and erect them. But we now need financial help. With a yard sale last October, we raised \$1,000 for the repairs, but we will need at least an additional \$1,500. Any contribution you can make toward this effort will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks out to the Brookhaven Village Association marked "for Rose Cemetery restoration." Thank you.

**Marty Van Lith,  
BVA Historian**

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** — Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to individual and family residents of Brookhaven Hamlet, as defined in the BVA bylaws. To become a member, complete this form and send it, along with your annual membership fee to:

**BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION • P.O. Box 167, Brookhaven, New York 11719**

Membership Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$15 annual fee \_\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$10 annual fee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other family members at this address: \_\_\_\_\_

List areas of special concern on back • Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BVA Tree Fund contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • Virginia Brown Scholarship contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Quality of Life

It's May. We did our Spring Litter Clean-up last month. Maybe you saw us out there. We were the ones with the neon green shirts on the roadsides picking up trash in our neighborhood. This year we were part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign. The Town of Brookhaven supplied us with shirts, gloves and garbage bags. A big **THANK YOU** to all who came to help. A lot done by not a lot of people. We will be doing it in the fall again. Please join us. One to two hours on one day is all it takes.

Have you noticed the new trees being planted around the hamlet? Many thanks to Lynn Brown for that. Thank you to Lisa Peabody for repainting the 'Welcome to Brookhaven' sign in the triangle at Montauk and South Country. Looks great !

Hope to see you all at the annual meeting in June. Have a great summer.

**John Curiale,**  
Chairman Quality of Life

## Visit Our BVA Web Site !!

[www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org/](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org/)

### BVA BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT:**  
Mary Jane Cullen

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Mike Murtha

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**  
Janet Taylor

**SECRETARY:**  
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John Curiale	Ed Palace	Jon Pokorny
Frank Miller	Lisa Peabody	Michael Rizzo
Sean Pilger	Jeffrey Jensen	Kathleen Scheibel

**DOCKMASTER:**  
Andy Rubin

**HISTORIAN:**  
Marty Van Lith

The BVA Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Post Morrow Annex, 16 Bay Rd. Meetings are open to the public.

## Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the*  
**Brookhaven Village Association**  
P.O. Box 167  
Brookhaven, New York 11719

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