



Fire Place

Brookhaven Village Association

Spring-Summer 2011

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.

Our Bad Neighbor, the Brookhaven Landfill

Growing up along the south shore of semi-rural Brookhaven Town during the 1950s, you could take your garbage to one of the many dump sites scattered across the Town. However, many people, my father included, liked to burn their garbage in a barrel in the backyard. An elderly couple, who lived nearby, charged 50 cents to take people's garbage to the dumps in their pickup truck.

The population of the Town increased rapidly, and by the 1960s, the Town instituted garbage districts for collection.

By 1970, Brookhaven was no longer semi-rural. Waste management had become a problem, with several active landfills throughout the Town and two-dozen "nodes," or drop-off locations.

The Town requested a state authority to prepare a 25-year waste management study. The 1970 NY State report concluded that the use of sanitary landfill sites was the most economical way to go. The report recommended continuing use of the Holtsville and Manorville sites and adding two new ones, by

purchasing an additional 550 acres: "in the northern sector of the Bellport School District, and near Wading River Road in Middle Island."

The report's summary had magnificent pictures of parklands and recreational centers to be developed on the landfill sites after they were completed, including two 240-foot-high pyramids at the Brookhaven site for snow and ski resorts.

The Town Board voted to approve the state report and acquired about 200 acres in Brookhaven hamlet. By 1972, Cell 1 was operational. Problems with odors in the surrounding communities quickly followed, especially at Frank P. Long School and Horizon Village.

By 1980, the "hill" was 150 feet high, the landfill was growing by 1,134 tons a month. Community protests

grew louder. In May 1981, the BVA handed the Town Board a petition signed by 1,100 people asking that the landfill not be expanded. The commissioner made promises that the landfill would not grow higher and would close in a few years. In March 1983, a large leachate plume was discovered migrating southeast toward Brookhaven hamlet.

In the mid 1980s the Town bought more land east of cells 1-4, and, in 1989, developer John McNamara gave the Town another 137 acres, hoping for approval of what became today's Atlantic Point. The landfill site now exceeded 500 acres.

Odors from the landfill were so bad that then-Governor Mario Cuomo dispatched Richard Kessel to investigate and expedite the Town's efforts to mitigate the problem. NYS also passed the landfill closure law, effective in 1990, whereby all unlined landfills were to



Frank P. Long School

Photo: Martin Van Lith

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Brookhaven Village Association

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

7:30 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church

Beaver Dam Road

continued on page 5

Squassux Dockmaster's Report

Spring 2011

This was a much calmer winter for me. With the dredging completed last winter, there were fewer tasks to be done and far fewer phone calls to me about the progress of the project. Now as we approach warmer weather, the slips are beginning to fill once again. All slips are leased for this year already, and I want to remind the boaters that if you plan to **not** use your slip for part or all of the season, please let me know so the BVA may lease the slip to another boater on a temporary basis. Please remember that BVA rules state that no one may sublease their slip to anyone else. Also, the locks have been changed (although the new keys look eerily like last year's, they work fine), the water and electricity are turned on, and the camera system is operational.

One of my tasks I must perform as Dockmaster is that of "enforcer." This is my least favorite part of my job as I have no desire to scold a neighbor for driving too fast or my being on dog patrol, asking someone to clean up after their pooch. I have even mediated between boaters who both claimed ownership to a bowline. While Solomon would have cut it in halves, I would only have had two boaters equally annoyed with me. Each year the Rules pamphlet gets a little longer as "stuff" happens during the previous year that the BVA Board must

address. Two new areas of concern are protecting the ecologically sensitive embankments and banning gear storage on or around the docks.

There are nearly 450 new keys in circulation already, and I wonder how many residents and guests will visit this year to share the beauty of our place. I have heard an interesting quotation about parks where visitors are asked to "...leave no footprints and take only pictures". We are obligated with the same responsibility of passing Squassux into posterity with its nature and beauty intact. Please read the Rules and Regulations Pamphlet which was mailed to all boaters and is posted on the BVA website. Be considerate of our unique place and of everyone who visits. Help out by being proactive. If you see some garbage, remove it. Remind your neighbor to lock the gate for everyone's protection. And if there is a serious problem you observe, please call me at 521-4411 or bring it to the attention of the night watchman. Every resident has the responsibility to help protect the marina by being knowledgeable about the rules, using common sense, and being watchful when enjoying Squassux.

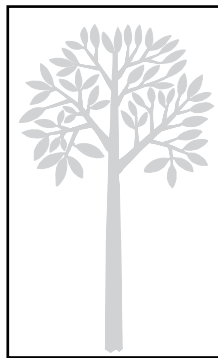
Andy Rubin, Dockmaster



Go Green Trees!

The BVA has planted 165 trees throughout Brookhaven Hamlet over the past ten years, which includes the record breaking yearly planting of 34 trees in 2010. Our tree-planting program is sustained by the generous support of a variety of community members. The Post-Morrow Foundation funds the purchase of trees, John Beitel Landscaping plants the trees free of charge each fall, and Jeffrey Jensen of South Country Arboriculture, along with other volunteers, cares for the trees.

The tree planting committee consists of a dedicated group of individuals, each contributing in a specific task that makes this program a success. I would like to thank Derek Schleede, Gary Brown, Frank Miller, Dave Steinhauer, Debbie Sack, Mary Jane Cullen, Diane Zanazzi, John Beitel and Jeffrey Jensen for their commitment to the natural world. Members of the tree committee perform a variety of duties, which include selecting tree-planting sites, notifying landowners, locating underground utilities, as well as



the purchasing, planting, staking, mulching, fertilizing and watering of trees.

This tree preservation and beautification effort is also supported by monetary donations from the community, which allows us to obtain all the necessary materials associated with planting trees: fertilizer, mulch, wooden tree stakes, wire tree supports, irrigation bags, etc. We thank the community for their continued support of the BVA tree-planting program. An online tree map can be viewed at:

<http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org/treemap/BVATreeMap.htm>

Janet Quirk regularly updates this map, which includes the approximate tree location and the variety of tree planted. And remember, you can always help by watering a tree in your neighborhood, especially during dry spells.

Lynn DiClemente Brown, BVA Tree Chairperson

The Virginia Brown Scholarship Increases in 2011

In 1978 the Brookhaven Village Association began awarding a scholarship to a college bound high school student who resides in the Hamlet. The scholarship is now named after Virginia Brown who died in 1992. Virginia Brown joined the Board of the BVA in 1982. She served on the Board for nearly a decade and was Vice President for several years.

While living in the Hamlet, Ms. Brown was an advocate for protecting our community and fought to protect the open spaces and waterways that we as residents love, cherish and protect to this day. She was an avid learner and a people person.

Beginning this year, the BVA will offer a second scholarship in her name. One \$1,000.00 award and one \$500.00 award will be presented in June at the Bellport High School Award Ceremony. All high school seniors who live in

Brookhaven Hamlet are eligible to apply for the scholarship. To be considered for a scholarship, students submit an essay that tells about themselves, their interests, concerns, and their future educational and career plans along with their high school transcript. Information and applications are available on the BVA web site.

Below we have included a winning essay from 2010 for you to enjoy. As you read the essay, think about what living in the Hamlet means to you.

Finally, this is my last year serving on the Board and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as chair of the scholarship committee the past two years and running the Squassux Fair for many years.

See you around the Hamlet!

Lisa Peabody

The Following Essay was Written by Kelly Palace



The effect a town has on a child is massive. Everything from their neighbors to the colors and scents of the seasons around them leaves an everlasting impact on one's character. Growing up in Brookhaven Hamlet is the ultimate example of this. The Hamlet really gives meaning to the saying, "Home is where the heart is."

Growing up, I was rarely inside. Whether I was at Steve Kelly's farm playing with the sheep, or riding my bike to and from Squassux, or exploring the H.O.G., or even in my own backyard; I was constantly exploring. The nature around me was so intriguing; days were never long enough. No matter how many times I hiked around the neighborhood with my Dad, I always discovered something new and exciting. The Hamlet promised new adventures throughout each season. It also promised beauty. The sights and smells of each season will remain vivid in my memory.

After the masses of birds covered the crisp autumn sky, and the last leaves left the trees barren, winter moved in. The smell of wood burning stoves remains throughout the fall and winter; allowing a smooth transition from my favorite season, to my least favorite. Although winter can be dreadful at times, the nature around here helps to make it enjoyable. Even when you're unable to dig your car out, you're not stranded. I can recall numerous times when I went for walks to Squassux with my parents and spotted Cardinals among the branches of the trees that lined the streets. Everything is so peaceful during the snowfall that you can hear the deer moving around in the woods. One of my favorite parts about the Hamlet is how everyone takes advantage of each season.



It's not uncommon to pass your other neighbors walking and taking in the sights too. The birds and the warmth

return; reminding us that school is almost over and the first boat ride out of Carmen's River is that much closer. Members of the H.O.G. begin to pack out the back field in preparation for the summer season. Summer in the Hamlet is like a dream. Everything from the smell of your freshly cut lawn to the hum of the pestering mosquitoes is enjoyable. As a kid, summer was my favorite season. The Squassux fair provided me with some of the greatest memories I've ever made. The expression on everyone's faces during the eel race and the costumes I wore on the Silly Sail will probably provide entertainment to me for a long time.



I'm so thankful for all the memories I have from this community. I know I can thank all the members of the BVA for preserving this great area and allowing it to remain timeless and everlasting. The spirit of Virginia Brown is set within every member of this community. Her drive to preserve the wildlife and beauty of the Hamlet is what reminds us all how fortunate we are to call Brookhaven Hamlet home. I know you may not be able to personally relate to checking the crab pots at Squassux with Steve Kelly, or running through the trail around the H.O.G. pretending you're Pocahontas, but I know you can agree with me, and Virginia Brown, when I say that Brookhaven is the ideal hometown. And no matter where I end up, I know I can return to the Hamlet and feel the same comfort I've felt my whole life. I'll always have the seasonal images of Carmen's River as well as the scents of each season in my heart.



Editor's Note: We'd love to hear from past winners of the Virginia Brown Scholarship. Please contact us (at BrookhavenVillageAssociation.org) give us an update on what you're doing now and let us know how you used the scholarship award.

Squassux Spring 2011

It is mid-May and another boating season at Squassux Landing is here! Although the weather does not seem to be cooperating, summer is on the way. Most of the docks that were damaged from this past winter's rough weather have been repaired. Any that haven't will be by the time you read this newsletter. Excelsior Security was back on the job as of May 1st. The water

and electric are on. The Squassux Committee met the morning of May 14th and filled in a few potholes that were starting to form. Wishing a sunny and safe boating season to all. Please remember to lock the gate and pick up after your dog.

John Curiale, Squassux Committee



Photo: Chris Marshall



Photo: Joe Connolly

Zoe Connolly who now lives in Glasgow, Scotland, loves returning to Brookhaven for a visit.



Photo: Chris Marshall

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 \$ _____

• Cemetery Fund: \$ _____

Our Bad Neighbor, the Brookhaven Landfill *(continued from page 1)*

be closed. Unfortunately, Brookhaven's leaky liner didn't qualify. In 1991, the Town was forced to install public water in Brookhaven hamlet because the leachate plume was threatening to contaminate our private wells.

The impending 1990 NYS landfill closure law led Long Island towns to form inter-municipal agreements to deal with the waste stream by choosing incineration as the solution to solid waste. The resulting ash was the solution to getting more out of landfill space. The Town's solid waste advisory committee, which had four members from our community, resigned in protest because their recommendations were ignored. The BVA hired attorney Steve Latham to represent us during the so-called ash-for-trash SEQRA hearings; not a single one of our recommendations was accepted.

The ash-for-trash agreements heralded a significant change: The Town no longer saw itself as simply filling its obligation of handling waste – now it was in the business of making huge sums of money from it.

In 1995, a coalition of community groups, including Horizon Village (represented by Keegan and Keegan), South Country and Longwood School districts, BVA and Yaphank Civic Association unsuccessfully fought to stop Cell 5 from being built. Later the Cell 5 permit was

modified allowing it to increase from 1,825 to 2,700 tons a day. In 2002, we repeated the process for cell 6 with the same results.

Last July, the Town again used the landfill as its cash cow, by signing a contract with New York City to accept 400 tons a day of its sewage treatment sludge. This scheme was a disaster for the Town: After the noxious fumes sickened over 100 students at Frank P. Long on March 24, the NYSDEC immediately ended that contract.

By then, a coalition of 29 organizations had formed into an ad hoc group calling itself STS, for Stop The Sludge. Though the sludge has stopped, other issues such as the radioactivity recently revealed at the landfill's neighbor, Long Island Compost, require continued vigilance. So STS has become the Brookhaven Community Coalition, or BCC, and has selected an executive board to act as a Landfill Liaison Committee to meet four times a year with the Town Supervisor. On June 2, BCC hosted a public forum at Bellport High School, where Supervisor Mark Lesko and eight other officials answered questions. Over 300 attended, showing solidarity on the need to resolve the long-time problem of the landfill and reclaim our quality of life.

Marty Van Lith, BVA Historian



Sludge Truck

Photo: Martin Van Lith

More Mutt Mitts Available

This past year visitors to Squassux used all the 500 Mutt Mitts located at the main entrance of the landing! We've placed them at the entrance to remind you that whatever you bring in, you must bring out - and that includes what Rover brings, too. To make it even easier the BVA added another Mutt Mitt station on the west side of the landing. A big thanks to everyone who has made the effort so far. We're aiming for 100% participation from dog owners this year. It's never too late to start! Squassux is a wonderful place to walk with your dog. It will be even more so if everyone remembers to clean up after their dogs, too.

The Squassux Committee



Photo: Kathleen Scheibel

**Please Don't Forget to Clean Up
After Your Dog!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please join us for the Squassux Sunset Salute to Rick Mohlmann, Lisa Peabody and Sean Pilger,

Friday, June 17th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

at Squassux Landing

BVA will provide soda, water and dessert. BYOB, chairs and a covered dish to share. Hope to see you there to say good by and thanks to the outgoing BVA Directors!

Rain date of June 24th

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org/>

BVA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:
Kathleen Scheibel

VICE PRESIDENT:
Frank Miller

SECRETARY:
Rick Mohlmann

TREASURER:
Janet Quirk

DIRECTORS:

John Curiale	Ellen Clyne	Lenny DaConto
John Knapp	Lisa Peabody	Michael Rizzo
Sean Pilger	Jeffrey Jensen	Chris Marshall

DOCKMASTER:
Andy Rubin

HISTORIAN:
Marty Van Lith

FIRE PLACE EDITORS:
Ellen Clyne
Chris Marshall

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



Fire Place

A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association
PO Box 167
Brookhaven, New York 11719

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