



FIRE PLACE

Brookhaven Village Association
Winter 1990

What is the BVA?

The Brookhaven Village Association, or BVA, is the civic group representing the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet -- people who live west of South Haven, east of Bellport and south of Montauk Highway.

The BVA's Board of Management decided to publish this newsletter periodically to keep members up to date and to introduce newcomers to our association.

Dear Neighbor,



The Brookhaven Village Association (BVA) started in 1906 as the Brookhaven Improvement Association, giving prizes for the best-kept premises, making roads that were safe for automobiles, trying to get electricity into the community, and showing a genuine concern for all matters that affect our community.

In those years of gas and candlelight, with the advent of radio still years away, committees were busy buying and planting trees throughout the Hamlet, naming the streets, lobbying for sidewalks, seeing to it that the school building was safe and in good condition, pressuring the Town "Road Commissioner" to keep up with maintenance of the Hamlet's roads, and coordinating community affairs.

Since the 1930's, when the BVA vehemently opposed New York City's attempt to tap into Suffolk

County's underground water supply, we have been concerned with protecting our fresh water supply. In 1948, the BVA successfully opposed a dump that was proposed for the sand pit just off the west part of Beaver Dam Road. The present landfill on Horse Block Road has always been of great concern to us. We have worked with other civic groups in trying to assure the safety of this area. Our water is now being contaminated by leachate coming from a leak in the liner of the landfill. Our landfill committee has been monitoring this situation and exploring possibilities for public water.

Zoning and planning have always been a big part of the BVA's work. The development of Long Island since World War II has meant a large increase in population and development of open land in Brookhaven. We support upzoning and oppose any downzoning or the development of environmentally sensitive land.

The BVA has been in the forefront of civic concerns for 84 years, attracting to its ranks civic-minded individuals who give of their time and selves for the betterment of the community. Wouldn't you like to join and become involved with an organization fighting for our area's concerns?

Please fill out and return the membership form on the back of this newsletter, and be sure to indicate any of your specific concerns.

Jim Fuchs, President, BVA

Why Fire Place?

Until 1871, Brookhaven Hamlet was known as Fire Place -- most likely because of the Indian potter Wesquassux who had a kiln at what is now Squassux Landing. The flames from his kiln would act as a beacon for ships making their precarious way through the Old Inlet in the dark of night, and sailors were very grateful to see the Fire Place.

We have chosen to recall the name Fire Place as the name of this newsletter, so as not to lose touch with our past as we deal with the problems and challenges of the present.

BVA Officers and Directors are:

President -- Jim Fuchs

Vice President -- Virginia Brown

Secretary -- Virginia Weston

Treasurer -- Anita Cohen

Directors -- Jennifer Clement, Jim Haag, Jerry Hastings, Liz Nalewajk, Karen Rowley, Bob Sack, Bill Starke, Marianne Tate and Marty Van Lith.

Immediate Past President -- Malcolm Stewart