



Fire Place

Brookhaven Village Association

Fall 2007

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.

PULESTON FARM PRESERVED



More than 300 years ago, Thomas Rose, Fire Place Neck's first permanent white settler, ran his horse-drawn plow through the newly cleared earth on what is today's Puleston farm, and the parcel has been in constant use as farmland ever since. Now, thanks to the Wellington/Puleston/Clement family's generosity and foresight, it will remain that way forever.

On August 6, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Brian Foley held a press conference to announce that the Town has purchased the development rights to 24.5 acres of the farm under the Town's Farmland Preservation Act, funded through the Clean Water Open Space Bond Act of 2004. This purchase ensures that the land will remain undeveloped, yet still be owned by the Pulestons for use only as farmland.

For the press conference, Supervisor Foley, other Town dignitaries, and members of the Wellington/Puleston/Clement family and their friends gathered on the part of the purchase that is contiguous to land along Burnett Lane that was previously preserved jointly by the Post Morrow Foundation and Brookhaven Town. The purchase also includes land adjacent to the Carmans River and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, complete with one of the most beautiful remaining cow barns in Brookhaven Town. Jen and Pete Clement have raised alpacas on this portion of their farm for the past 18 years.

The farm has been in the Wellington/Puleston/Clement family since Betty Puleston's stepfather, Charles

Oliver Wellington, purchased it in 1924. Mr. Wellington raised registered Jersey cows at his Meadows Farm and built the Brook House in 1935 as an outlet for his dairy products.

On the north side of Beaver Dam Road lie the family's 13 acres and beautiful 19th century red barn that are now being used by the Hamlet Organic Garden (HOG) for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which is also helped out with six acres of the Post Morrow Foundation's portion of the former Meadows Farm acreage. The CSA was started by Betty Puleston and others about 10 years ago and now has a membership of more than 200 families. The Town is currently in contract to buy the development rights to this land as well. However, money from the 2004 Open Space Bond Act has been depleted, so the actual sale and preservation of this land will depend on the passage of the Community Preservation Act, which will be on the ballot this November.

Philanthropy is nothing new to this family. They helped build additions to our library, and, in 1974, when the Wertheim Refuge officially began, Betty's mother, Lucille Wellington, donated 160 acres of their farm's salt marsh and wetlands to the Refuge.

Brookhaven Hamlet, probably the most beautiful semi-rural and historic hamlet in all of Long Island, is fortunate to have such special people as the Pulestons for our neighbors.

**Marty Van Lith,
BVA Historian**



Caithness Update

In spring of 2007 the Brookhaven Town Board adopted a resolution to form a citizen advisory committee, to advise town council members on how and what to spend the 5 million dollars in the community development fund provided by the Caithness power plant project. We sent a letter to the office of councilwoman Connie Kepert to request a seat on the advisory committee. We are waiting for a decision.

**Mike Murtha,
Caithness Committee**

New Committee Formed: Recycling in the Hamlet

Community members Karen Rowley and Jen Clement will be joined by BVA directors Sean Pilger, Mike Rizzo and John Curiale in the formation of a new committee. We will be working with citizens of the Hamlet, and town government, to develop realistic projects to increase recycling activity and decrease landfill waste.

Anyone interested in joining the effort should call Sean at 286-7068.

**Sean Pilger, Chairman,
Recycling Committee**

Squassux Landing Dredging Update

As we move into fall 2007 we are looking at a November start date for the dredging project at Squassux Landing. Efforts are ongoing to procure estimates from companies we feel can perform the project with efficiency and concern for quality, while having the expertise in past experience to complete a job of this size in conjunction with DEC specifications.

When the work begins this winter, the main parking

area and boat ramp will be closed to create a dredge spoil area for approximately 5 months. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that might occur. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work to get to where we are today.

**Mike Murtha,
Chairman Dredging Committee**

Autumn in the Hamlet

Autumn is a special time of year to enjoy the natural beauty of Brookhaven Hamlet. Air conditioners are turned off and windows are wide open. The air feels crisp and refreshing. Orange, yellow and gold chrysanthemums have replaced the pink, purple, white and red impatiens and geraniums. And of course, our roadside and backyard trees are cloaked in shades of gold, bronze, rust and red. We are surrounded by wildlife – deer, many species of birds, turtles, geese and even wild turkeys. I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season and all that the Hamlet offers this time of year.

If you are interested in fall activities that will allow you to appreciate the season, consider joining us on October 20th at 2:00 as we meet at the Brookhaven Library for a presentation by Marty Van Lith, about our cemeteries and at 3 PM, weather permitting, we are going to walk down Library Lane to visit one of the cemeteries. Additional ideas can be garnered by visiting the Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge web site, www.FriendsofWertheim.org, where you can obtain information on bird walks, canoe trips on the Carmans River, family nature walks, and a children's art workshop. Other web sites you might be interested in: Post-Morrow Foundation at www.postmorrow.org; Friends of Fire Island at www.ffins.org and history of Brookhaven Hamlet at www.prometheusli.com.

Many of us are out and about, walking, biking, running, rollerblading, skateboarding, playing with dogs, or raking leaves. The neighborhood children are waiting at bus stops, walking back and forth to school and out playing with friends. Please remember that we are sharing our roadways

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with pedestrians, bicyclists and wildlife, so please use caution as you drive through our neighborhoods.

I would like to use this first newsletter since I have been elected president of the Brookhaven Village Association to introduce myself to those in the community that do not know me. My husband Brian and I have lived in Brookhaven Hamlet for 20 years. We feel blessed to have brought up our three children in this great community. It is a wonderful place to raise a family. They all attended Brookhaven Elementary School and graduated from Bellport High School. I am honored to serve our community as president of the BVA and I look forward to working together with the BVA Board members, including our newly elected directors Jeffrey Jensen and Kathleen Scheibel, as well as residents of Brookhaven Hamlet to keep this a safe, clean, friendly community.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any BVA Board member or attend our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 PM at the Post-Morrow Annex, 16 Bay Road. I can be personally reached at BVA11719NY@aol.com. Anyone interested in reviewing the BVA's Certificate of Incorporation and current By-Laws may access both documents at the Brookhaven Library. A BVA committee is in the process of reviewing our By-Laws, and a vote to amend them will take place at the BVA Annual Meeting in June 2008. As always, we invite all Hamlet residents to consider joining the BVA. For more information on the BVA, please visit our website, www.brookhavenvillageassociation.com.

**Mary Jane Cullen,
BVA President**

Fall 2007

Quality of Life

Here we are and it's time again for the fall litter clean-up. It's hard to believe that six months have gone by since the spring clean-up. Where did the summer go?

We met on Saturday, October 13th, behind the Brookhaven fire department, thanks to those who turned out! We will meet Sunday the 21st at 10:00 AM, at the Brookhaven elementary school. It only takes about an hour and a half just one of the days to make a big difference. **See you there.**

**John Curiale,
Chairman Quality of Life**

Newly Formed Committee: Bylaws Committee

A bylaws committee has been formed to review the BVA bylaws, which were reviewed a year ago, but have not been amended since 1999. The bylaws outline specific procedures for the Association's functioning, help the Trustees conduct business in an orderly manner, and provide further definition to the original Articles of Incorporation, that were written in 1944. The bylaws are available for viewing at the Brookhaven Free Library, at the Post Morrow Annex, and on the BVA website.

The bylaws committee consists of the following people: Dave Steinhauer, Janet Taylor, Michael Rizzo, Frank Miller, Mary Jane Cullen, and Kathleen Scheibel, Chair.

**Kathleen Scheibel,
Bylaws Committee**

Tree Planting Update

This fall the BVA Tree Committee will be busy maintaining our sixty-seven plantings. Jeff Jensen will begin structured pruning on trees to ensure strong growth and desirable form. Gary Brown and Dave Steinhauer will be removing tree supports from last year's plantings. Mary Jane Cullen, Debbie Sack, Derek Schleede, and Diane Zanazzi will be watering periodically. In addition, John Beitel's crew will be

properly planting and mulching new trees within Brookhaven hamlet. We are grateful to the BVA Tree Committee and to those who contribute to the BVA Tree Fund. Your support helps keep this beautification program firmly planted in the community.

**Lynn DeClemente Brown,
BVA Tree Chairperson
BVAtrees@aol.com**

SQUASSUX LANDING-DOCKMASTER'S REPORT

It may be autumn already, but the number of boats in the marina has not dropped much. The amount remains fairly constant at nearly 200. Many fishermen are visiting Moriches Inlet or venturing offshore in the hopes of finding keepers during the Fall Run. Weekenders are hoping for a few more beach days and rumor has it that there are fewer mosquitoes at Old Inlet. I have noticed that many Squassux sailors are enjoying the northerly breezes and can reach down the river to the bay. Of course there is still the fight to return upwind. Without the sultry heat and green flies, sailing must now be a more enjoyable experience.

The marina has faired well this year. There were a few minor electrical problems and a couple of water leaks, but these were easily corrected with the help of Jeb Barry and Sean O'Toole. Some docks also required repair and Billy Starke remedied these problems quickly. Theft and vandalism have not been an issue either. I am pleased to notice that the gate is usually locked during weekdays when traffic is light and someone could create mischief without being observed directly. Please remember to lock the gate after you as you enter and leave Squassux. The cameras and new recorder are working with thanks to Sean O'Toole and Chris Carrera who donated their time to set it up properly. This technology will help protect all the boats in the marina.

With the flies and mosquitoes gone, Squassux is a pastoral place for a stroll. Rather than drive around the

facility, I have been enjoying strolling up and down the canals on foot. I notice many others doing the same. Boaters have been responsible in taking their trash with them and maintaining the property. My main concern are the dogs that frequently run loose. I have often received complaints from boaters who have stepped in dog piles. If you have a dog, please observe City Rules and pick up after your pet so everyone can fully enjoy Squassux Landing.

Any boater who has acquired or is seriously considering trading up to a different craft, please let me know ASAP. We need to be sure the new boat will fit in your slip by draft, beam, and length. There are very few large slips so be aware of your new vessel's dimensions. Squassux Landing was designed when a typical twenty-footer had a narrow beam. Newer craft, although not any longer, tend to be very wide, and this year I needed to move over a dozen boats to accommodate this problem. Also, with nearly fifty people on the waiting list for next year, new or larger slips will be hard to come by.

It was a pleasure to have met so many boaters at Squassux in my new position as dock master and I have enjoyed the experience. If you have any concerns that I may help you with, please contact me at 521-4411.

**Andy Rubin,
Dock Master**



Thank You!

John Beitel and Crew
for your efforts in
beautifying the hamlet.

Jason Crane Landscaping
for maintaining the triangle at Montauk
Highway and South Country Road.



NEW! & Improved **BVA Web Site !!**

Please check out the great work our **Treasurer,**
Janet Quirk has done on the
New and improved web site:

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

If you would like to be notified by email
of Hamlet happenings, please send an email to the
following address(found on the web site as well):

BVAMail@brookhavenvillageassociation.org

BVA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:
Mary Jane Cullen

VICE PRESIDENT:
Mike Murtha

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:
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SECRETARY:
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Lisa Peabody
Jeffrey Jensen

Jon Pokorny
Michael Rizzo
Kathleen Scheibel

DOCK MASTER:
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.

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

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