



Fire Place

Brookhaven Village Association

Spring 2010

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.

The Red Barn

The Red Barn is no more. In January, the barn that had been center for creativity in Brookhaven Hamlet burned to the ground. "I remember so many activities at the barn over the years."

Jennifer Puleston Clement said. "There were dyeing and felting workshops, basket-making, HOG canning sessions, music jamming, and media events. At one time local artist David Ebner used it as a woodworking shop." And Jen's mother Betty and father Dennis stored a lifetime of treasures in that barn.

"If there is anything you want to keep, you have to share it", Betty Puleston was quoted as saying. Betty shared the barn with potters, weavers and actors. There were looms, potters' wheels and a stage area that had a working curtain. Along with the grass skirts and straw hats that Betty and Dennis brought back from their honeymoon, there were drawings by Gaston Lachaise. These were drawings on cloth that Gaston used to design

the sculpture "Standing Woman" that is in the sculpture garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Lachaise was married to Jen Puleston's great-great aunt.

(Incidentally, the straw hats and grass skirts survived the fire. They were found in an old trunk.)



Betty Wellington married Dennis Puleston in 1939. It was Betty's family that owned the property that the barn was on and the land that is now the Hamlet Organic Garden. Through Betty's and her family's generosity, large areas of land in the hamlet will remain forever undeveloped, to preserve the character of Brookhaven.

Betty was a tremendous supporter of the arts. I remember the barn as the home of the Pumpkin Patch Players, a theatre group of neighbor kids who studied, rehearsed and performed plays, music and improvisations. Debbie Mayo, an actor and SUNY Stony Brook faculty member, started the group. "It was as if Betty said, 'I have this magical barn. Would you like to play there?'" she recalled.

Debbie would gather the troupe together and gently fashion a marvelous experience for actor and audience alike. Everyone who sat on the boxes and makeshift chairs knew how special it was and how lucky our kids were to be part of magical Brookhaven Hamlet lore. Betty asked the kids to perform at her birthday party every year. She would rock with laughter and her smiles would soften all the lines on her face. Yes, the Red Barn may be gone but the memories will endure.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Brookhaven Village Association
Wednesday, June 16, 2010

7:30 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church
Beaver Dam Road

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Going Solar in Brookhaven Hamlet

It happens at least once a week. A car backs up, stops in front of our house and the driver rolls down the window for a closer look. Sometimes it's a cyclist who circles back, puts on the brakes and comes to a halt in the middle of the road. Or I spot someone with a stroller or a dog on a leash, their walk interrupted, standing in front of our house squinting up at the garage roof. There are always questions, beginning with, "Are those solar panels? What are they for? Do they work?"

Yes, they are solar panels. Twenty seven SunPower 225 watt panels to be exact. They are solar photovoltaic (pv) panels which produce electricity. The system is designed to provide the average annual kilowatt-hours we use and (previously) purchased from LIPA. Solar photovoltaic panels work while the sun is shining, which means they generate more electricity on sunny days and less when it's overcast. On some days we produce many more kilowatt hours than we consume. When this occurs, the excess electricity is returned to LIPA through a net metering system. This means that the meter spins in reverse!

Excess kilowatt hours are stored as a credit to be redeemed during future billing cycles. The system is designed to negate our LIPA bill over the course of a year.

In addition to the net metering system, LIPA offers considerable rebates which reduce the cost of a system up front. The Clean Power Estimator located on their web site (www.lipower.org) enables customers to calculate how much carbon dioxide they will stop emitting and how much money they can save with a pv system. Another good resource is Renewable Energy Long Island, or RELI, a non-profit organization promoting clean, sustainable energy use and generation for Long Island (www.renewableenergylongisland.org). They also offer a calculator to determine the size and cost of a solar system for electricity or hot water for homes and businesses. In addition, they have a list of installation contractors and contact information.

The Town of Brookhaven has just made it easier for homeowners to install solar panels by eliminating the need for a building permit for flat or flush mounted systems. However, homeowners in historic districts are still required to apply to the Historic District Advisory Committee (HDAC) and receive architectural approval (Brookhaven hamlet is designated as a town historical district). Residents can contact the HDAC at 451-6924 for further information. Systems can be installed on a house or garage or as a ground installation. Your

contractor will determine which system works best at your location.

This is a great time to invest in solar energy for your house or business. A PV system reduces your consumption of fossil fuels, helps the environment, lowers your bills and saves money. There are also state and federal tax credits which help reduce the cost. With the LIPA and tax incentives, the panels will pay for themselves in about 7 years. Since they are designed to last for at least 25 years, installation is a very good investment.

Our panels began working the day they were installed and the meter indicates the kilowatts produced each day as well as the total amount to date. They have been operating for seven months, and it looks as our net electric bill for the first full year will be very close to zero. We might even end up selling a little excess back to LIPA, but best of all, we can track the amount of carbon dioxide we're saving and know we're scaling back our carbon footprint.

Hopefully this answers a few questions about going solar. I hope that we'll be seeing more solar panels as we walk around the neighborhood. In the meantime, my husband I will continue to answer questions when we see that car or cyclist or person stopped in the middle of our street.



Ellen Clyne

Plume Update

The consulting engineers for the Town of Brookhaven are reviewing the latest samples taken from the monitoring wells surrounding the landfill and those in the path of the plume. The results will be discussed when the Beaver Dam Creek Water Quality committee meets next month, and recommendations will be made. Several members of the BVA remain active on the committee and will provide updates as they become available.

Mary Jane Cullen, President

Electric Boat Being Built in the Hamlet

The Carmans River Maritime Center (CRMC), located at the boat yard on Newey Lane, was started in 2002. The mission of the Center is to operate an educational facility for the building, restoration and repair of wooden boats and to sustain maritime skills and traditions associated with Brookhaven Hamlet and Great South Bay. We have recently entered into a joint project with the Webb Institute of Glen Cove to design and build an electric boat.

The Webb Institute is one of the premier Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Colleges in the world. Three juniors from Webb have taken on the project and with our ideas for an electric powered excursion boat, the students will do the research and



Picture of the type of electric boat being built at CRMC.

design to meet our needs. Our first meeting with the students was in April, and this design process will continue through the school year. A project of this type is a part of the school curriculum and required for graduation from Webb.

The Maritime Center plans to expand its educational programs to include excursions on the water. Day trips will provide an opportunity for Long Islanders to explore and learn about our river, its

history and its wildlife. An electric-powered boat will provide a unique and environmentally friendly platform for these programs.

Steve Gould, President, CRMC

Squassux Landing – My Point of View

I was a 12-year-old tomboy living a stone's throw from Squassux the last time the canals were dredged. The "big" canal was made wider and longer, and the "little" canal was created bite by bite from land where we used to play explorer and would come home covered in ticks and poison ivy.

Not much changes, and in the case of Squassux Landing, I see that as a good thing. Aside from more dock space and the addition of lights and water, the Squassux you see today is little changed from the beautiful half-tamed place that was given to the community by the Post family in 1945. Today, as then, a walk around the river loop will reveal great blue herons and kingfishers, muskrats and snapping turtles, egrets and osprey, not to mention the unseen hordes of fish and eels, crabs, spiders and insects that complete the chain of life in which this place remains a vital link. Depending on the season and the time of day the sun glints off the river and the verdant marshland beyond. The colors are always changing. It is, as Heraclitus said, "never the same river twice."



Squassux Landing in the early part of the 20th century.

In my lifetime I have swum, sailed, skated, waded, fished, crabbed, canoed and rowed upon and from the waters that lap so eagerly at Squassux' shore. I love the way the spartina grass curves down like bangs across the dark brown brow of the banks; the way the tide slips away to reveal the rich black mud and then steals back in to flood the marsh. I love the swallows swooping down at dusk, and the sight of a bright red canoe slipping along the far shore with barely a ripple.

This landing is the crown jewel on the treasure that is our hamlet. Think what you may about the recent dredging project and the pace at which it is or isn't getting done, the goal has been from the start to preserve this great gift of ours. There is a very fine line between "improvement" and preservation, and I congratulate the Village Association for falling on the right side of that line, and for being good stewards of this, our best treasure, and a gift for generations to come.

Kathleen L. Scheibel, Lifelong Brookhaven Resident

Squassux Spring 2010

It's May 1st as I write this. We're still not ready to put boats in but it won't be much longer. The dock repairs are almost done; the parking lot will be filled, graded and rolled. We have new cameras and a security company will be there through the night.

The dredging project is done. Wow! After all these years I never thought it would ever happen. Thank you Mike Murtha and Mary Jane Cullen ! They put a lot of time and energy into this and got it done. As a special

request to help prevent erosion, could those folks who have dock slips along the river, please park cars on the "infield" side of the road and not on the river side. By the time you read this Squassux will be alive with a new season under way

I can't wait.

John Curiale, Chairman Squassux Committee

The dredging project has been completed and by the time this letter is published, the Landing gates should be open again to our community. Many poles and docks were disrupted over the winter from the ice damage and

dredging excavation and some boats may have difficulty fitting into their intended slips. Let me know if any docks or poles seem more wobbly than usual as they may be positioned in less muck now. Billy and Walt are doing a good job and should be done on time when the gates open

The gate locks will be re-keyed soon and new keys have been sent to everyone. Many boaters often bring last year's key to the marina, so I would suggest deep-sinking the old ones. Also, now that the dirt roads will be graded and material added to elevate them, please travel slowly over them. This is mainly for everyone's safety and also to preserve the condition of our roads over time. It is in all of our interests to preserve Squassux so we may all enjoy it now and for posterity. The BVA Board will post a 5 MPH vehicle speed limit which must be followed for the sake of children, other boaters, animals, and property. Please obey this common-sense rule.

I am sad to report that Jeurgen, an old friend to many of us, has decided not to return to his guard duties. I enjoyed working with him and wish him well. The BVA has a security company in place to provide us with protection this season.

As security is a mutual concern, all of us should pitch in to make Squassux a secure and safe place to boat. If anything looks "fishy", report it to the night guard, call me, or if, in your judgment, there is an emergency, dial 911. One of the best things all of us can do for security is to lock the gate behind us, especially during the weekdays when there is little traffic. To deter theft, leave nothing valuable in your boats, and if you have a small engine that could be stolen easily, buy a chain and lock for it.

There were engine losses last year and already this year, an engine was stolen from a workboat at the Landing.

Two other problems mitigate the enjoyment of Squassux. First, please take all your trash out as we have no garbage facilities. Secondly, pick up after your dog. Plastic "Doggy Bags" are located on the bench adjacent to the launching ramp. Remind those walking their dogs to do this. We all would enjoy an dog excrement free Landing.

One last item: All the dock slips are fully rented again this year. Should you have a slip and decide against putting your boat in the water for any reason for all or a portion of the summer, please let me know so the BVA can reuse the slip for the season. Remember that boaters are not permitted to authorize anyone else to use their dock space. The dock master's phone # is 521-4411.

Andy Rubin, Dock Master





Thoughts from some of the Pumpkin Patch Players:

Natalie Thompson: Freeing the barn of its original duties was the greatest gift the Puleston family could have given the Brookhaven community. The barn nurtured creative endeavors whether visual, theatrical, or musical—providing both the content and the space to present it, and I will be eternally grateful for its existence. (Natalie interviewed Betty Puleston and George Stoney in 2002. Her research from a planned book of memories and photographs greatly enhanced this piece.)

Katie Loizides Feulner: I loved all the plays and improvisations we did, using the artifacts in the barn. Being in Betty Puleston's world was such fun and being on that stage was a great outlet for me. Kim Esp and I founded "Squash", an offshoot of the Pumpkin Patch Players.

Kim Esp: I bet I could tell a story about every inch of that place and every piece of memorabilia in it. After hearing the buzz that went around through notes, e-mails and conversations I had with old friends, I realized that the sentiment of the Barn reached much farther than my own heartfelt memories. And for that, I feel incredibly grateful.

Andrew Loizides: It was strange, for a few days afterwards I had this feeling that someone had died. I've said this to almost everyone I've talked to about it: in a way, a lot of us grew up there. So much of what was there is irreplaceable. The barn was unique, it was ours. To a certain extent, I'm sure everyone who ever spent time there felt that way.

Gregg Giannotti: The barn was one of the few places I spent time in that had its own personality; it was alive just like we were. We could have put on shows at other venues but it wouldn't have been nearly as special - it was part of the show just as much as anything else if not more. I always felt that during a performance the barn was smiling proudly along with the parents in the audience."

A note from the Brookhaven Library:
Red Barn memories are being collected at the Brookhaven Free Library. Please bring your essays, poems, photos, drawings or remembrances to the circulation desk. There is a plan to compile and make them available to all. For more information call the library at 286-1923.

Angela Giannotti

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: \$ _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Meeting: Wednesday, June 16th, 7:30 PM, St James Episcopal Church, Beaver Dam Rd.

Guest Speakers: Dave Sieglinger, Rob Winthrop: "Renewable & Cost Reducing Energy Options for Squassux"

Slate proposed by the board:

President: Kathleen Scheibel to replace Mary Jane Cullen, who terms out;

Vice President: Frank Miller to replace Mike Murtha, who terms out;

Secretary: Rick Mohlmann

New Directors: Chris Marshall & John Knapp, to replace director positions vacated by Kathleen Scheibel and Frank Miller. Third term for John Curiale; Second Term for Jeff Jensen.

"Squassux Sunset Salute" to Mary Jane Cullen & Mike Murtha, Friday, June 25th, 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Squassux Landing. Covered Dish Supper. BYOB, chairs and a covered dish to share. BVA will provide soda, water and dessert.

There will be a vote on changes to the bylaws, please see our website for the changes under "What's New"

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

BVA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:

Mary Jane Cullen

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mike Murtha

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Janet Taylor

SECRETARY:

Rick Mohlmann

TREASURER:

Janet Quirk

DIRECTORS:

John Curiale

Frank Miller

Sean Pilger

Ellen Clyne

Lisa Peabody

Jeffrey Jensen

Lenny DaConto

Michael Rizzo

Kathleen Scheibel

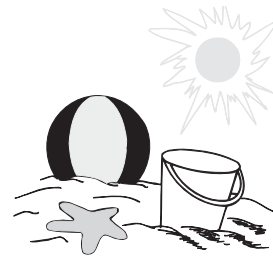
DOCKMASTER:

Andy Rubin

HISTORIAN:

Marty Van Lith

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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