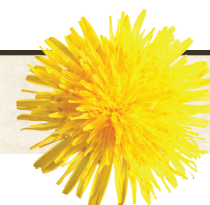


A Wonderful Life



If you have lived in a place for a certain number of years you get to know some people. A recent couple I have met is Bob and Gloria Brown who have been living at 8 Chapel Ave for 70 years! Upon initially meeting them I was impressed by their shared legacy in the Hamlet having lived full and enriched lives and adored by many of the residents here. They also have a really cool painted mural by artist Gavin Brack on their kitchen wall of what Chapel Ave looked like when they first built their house.



Gloria and Bob met at Brookhaven Laboratory where they each worked in the late 1940s after they had both been discharged from the United States Navy. During their time in the Navy Bob spent most of his time on a ship in the Pacific and participated in the invasion of Okinawa. Gloria spent her Navy days in the Waves, stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. It should be noted that Gloria earned her undergraduate degree from Adelphi University and her graduate degree from Columbia University, both in education...pretty unique for a woman in the 1940s!

Bob and Gloria married in October 1949 and initially rented a cottage in Mastic Beach. In 1950, they agreed to purchase the property at 8 Chapel Avenue, Brookhaven from Dem and Ethel Nelson, who owned and farmed most of the land on Chapel Avenue. Gloria and Bob moved into their newly constructed house in early 1951, the very first home constructed on Chapel Avenue. The first person born on Chapel Ave was their son, Steven, in 1952 (things moved fast for the new couple!). Their second child, Peter, was born in 1954. In 1957, Gloria and Bob had an addition constructed to the house, currently the home's kitchen

and one-car garage.

Gloria became a homemaker after her first son was born while Bob continued to work in the Meteorology Department at Brookhaven Lab. His career at Brookhaven National Laboratory continued for a total of 43 years until his retirement at the age of 67.

Through the direction of Dem Nelson, Bob maintained a large garden for many years in the backyard. Eventually, the garden was replaced with an open lawn for Steven, Peter and many of their neighborhood friends to play ball. Over the years the neighborhood kids outgrew the backyard and many, many hours of ball games were played behind the "new" Brookhaven Elementary School. The kids from Chapel Avenue very often would cut through the Nursery (now Brook Nursery Drive) behind their house and jump the fence to get to the schoolyard. When the Brown Boys heard the family Navy Bell ringing, they knew it was time to go home for dinner.

For several years during the 1950s and 1960s, Bob volunteered as a fireman with the Brookhaven Fire Department and with the Brookhaven Boy Scout Troop, while Gloria volunteered with the Brookhaven Girl Scouts. At the same time, Bob was commuting to Hofstra University at night to attain his undergraduate degree in physics.

In the mid-1960s, after the Brookhaven Troop was discontinued, Bob became Scoutmaster of Troop 28 in Bellport. During this time, both of his sons attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Steven and Peter were also awarded community citizenship plaques by the Brookhaven Fire Department for their many years of service, raising and lowering the American Flag at the Hamlet's Triangle Memorial Park.

In the early 1970s, Bob assisted with other volunteers in re-establishing a Boy Scout Troop (Troop 4) in Brookhaven Hamlet. Later in the 1970s, Bob was awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America, the highest accreditation presented to an Adult Scout. He continued to be active and supportive of the Troop for the remaining years of his life.

Steven and Peter each attended Alfred University receiving their BS degrees in accounting. Steven was a senior financial executive at The University of Rochester for 15+ years, retiring at a young age to become an entrepreneur selling collectibles on-line and through his renovated barn. Peter spent his entire career as a financial executive at Foot Locker, Inc, formerly the Woolworth Corporation.

Steven married the former Donna Scalia of Mt Morris, NY in 1974 and resides in Spencerport, NY. Peter married the late Jean Fallon of Babylon in 1982 and resides in Huntington, NY.



Bob was an avid baseball player, from the time he was the catcher on his High School baseball team until his retirement at age 91 from the Long Island Senior

Softball league. During this time, he played ball on the Brookhaven Fire Department team, was a hall of famer on his Brookhaven Lab "Phobars" team with over 40 years of tenure, and finally played on several Long Island Senior softball teams.

During his lifetime Bob also had many interests and hobbies such as repairing watches and clocks, learning to play the guitar and piano, making jewelry from polished stones, fishing in the Great South Bay on his Steigercraft boat, and earning his private pilot's license.

Gloria spent approximately 45 years volunteering in various capacities at the Brookhaven Memorial Hospital. One of her responsibilities was overseeing the operation of the Hospital's Gift Shop.

Bob also spent 30 years volunteering at the Hospital transporting senior citizens from their cars to the front entrance on the Hospital's Jitney. Bob also spent many hours with other Hamlet volunteers helping to maintain and improve the community's various cemeteries.

Bob passed away on 9/26/2020 at age 94 of natural causes, after a short illness. Besides their two sons and daughters-in-law, Gloria and Bob have a legacy of 5 grandchildren, each of whom is married, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Carlton Stewart



REMEMBERING BOB BROWN

**Please join Boy
Scout Troop 4,
family, friends &
neighbors Memorial
Day for a tree
dedication and
memorial for Bob.**

*IMMEDIATLY FOLLOWING
THE PARADE IN FIRE PLACE
PARK.*

*IF THE PARADE IS
CANCELLED, SERVICE AT
11 AM.*

It Is The Small Good That Leads To The Greater

The small, good deeds of so many and a stately pine gave the BVA an opportunity to begin a new holiday tradition in the Hamlet this past December with the *Put A Little Love in Your Community* event. With the Town's generous planting of a new pine tree in Fire Place Park, the BVA Quality of Life Committee planned to decorate the community tree with ornaments made by residents. From there we spring-boarded successful food drives for the Mary Immaculate Food Pantry and LightHouse Mission, a toy drive for LightHouse and a holiday card drive creating and collecting hundreds of cards for the 222 residents of Bellhaven Nursing Home. This tree represents the true meaning of the holiday season and the beauty of our united, generous community which rippled throughout several communities making many spirits brighter in a very dark year.

None of the above could be accomplished without the community pitching together with all of our small good leading to this greater one.

The Quality of Life Committee and the BVA Board wish to thank Commissioner Ed Morris of the Town of Brookhaven Parks Department, his crews and Parks employee Lucy Murphy for all the work that went into revitalizing Fire Place Park. The department donated two new trees including a red maple in memory of long-time resident Mr. Bob Brown whose contributions to the Hamlet were numerous and invaluable. The tree in his honor is dedicated by the Hamlet's Scout Troop 4. Commissioner Morris worked with our knowledgeable and experienced BHF Planting sub-committee members Lynn Brown and Deb Love in designating the most beneficial planting sites so not to compete with or be crowded by older plantings and have ample room for the root system to spread with consideration of the complicated water table below. The trees are thriving in the critical first months of planting. That success is attributed to a Hamlet son, Boy Scout Troop 4 Leader and care-taker Lex Mallon's weekly watering trips to the Park.

Gratitude to all the creative and enthusiastic school children, Dr. Raymond and Michelle Procida of Brookhaven Elementary for partnering with the BVA in delivering holiday cards to Bellhaven Nursing Home residents. The new card program bridges generations together with smiles in a time where those were limited. We couldn't stop with the holidays. The compassionate kids and their crayons worked to make Valentine's Day and Spring more joyful for our elderly in isolation. Together the BVA and school will continue this program with Bellhaven for years to come.

Thank you Mike Vierney and BHFDP for their support and rolling out the classic trucks. Mike

reminded me that "we are all on the same team" in our singular mission working to build and brighten our community. And what a team! Special thanks to Johnny Knapp whose sound system got BVA Board members movin' and groovin' as we collected a literal ton of donations and decorated the tree. Thank you to Jeff Jensen of South Country Arboriculture for his tree expertise and the ladder that got us to the top of our game that day.

None of this means a thing without our community who came out in droves with bags and boxes filled with food and toys and stacks of cards. You turned out with hearts brimming for the most vulnerable in this critical time. The impact of your generosity is astounding and the unity shown inspiring. Your naturally made, creatively crafted decorations were so unique and spectacular. The BVA looks forward to seeing the community tree adorned with your ageless joy again this holiday season. Keep those spirits bright knowing that come December we will be together building on this Hamlet tradition with everyone's help.

It is all of our small good that leads to the greater.

Julia Villacara

Quality of Life Committee Chair



Photo credit: Joe Maddalone

Spring 2021 Dockmaster Report

The marina will be open as of April 15th. The docks will have been repaired or replaced, the electricity has been upgraded, and the water service work is complete.

Over 35 new resident boaters have joined Squassux, spurred by people's desire to find recreation for their families during the Covid-19 age. I also noticed that many new boaters purchased smaller boats, in part so that they may more easily access the inlet across the bay.

With this new influx of boaters, I am hopeful every new slip assignment will work out. The slip widths vary, even from year to year, and any new dock has a new footprint to some measure. Also, the beams of all boats differ from each manufacturer and age. Often, slips need to be exchanged to accommodate all boaters. Overall, slips seem to become narrower as the fleet over time grows in length and breadth. Therefore, if your boat does not fit into your assigned dock, please place your boat into a nearby slip and contact me until I can resolve the problem.

And if you have any dock damage, please call me immediately at 631-521-4411.

Another issue is theft and liability. Though not required, boat insurance is a logical measure to safeguard your boat from theft and fire and to protect you from liability if anyone aboard your boat suffers an injury. It is not very expensive. The boat owner or operator is responsible for the health and welfare of every soul aboard. The BVA also does not reimburse boaters for theft. We had a serious theft this past fall where five small engines, a gas tank, and a few rod

and reels were taken. Squassux does have some theft countermeasures and has not been robbed in many years. But there are many ways onto the property, including incursions by water in the dead of night.

There are three remedies to help secure the marina:

1. Lock the gate, coming and going at all times.
2. Leave nothing of value on board or in plain sight.
3. If you use a small clamped motor that can be easily carried, purchase a good marine lock or invest in some countermeasure as a deterrent.

Another point of discussion deals with foul weather. If a storm is predicted, safeguard your boat and dock by adding scope, or extra length to your lines. Also, check your lines that they are well tied and that the lines are in good condition. After the blow, visit your boat to check for excess water in the hull, and to be sure the boat is not hung up by its rails on the edge of the walkway. Do not attempt to tie the boat tightly in such a way that it seems the boat could not hit the dock. This never works given the small docks, boats next to you, and the tides. Use marine bumpers to prevent hull scuffing. Finally, if you sail, properly lash or remove exposed sails and canvas.

Enjoy the boating season, be familiar with your craft, and be aware of guests onboard.

Andy Rubin
BVA Dockmaster
631-521-4411

Ashfill - NOT!

What a year we've had! To add to the exhaustive list of "things going on" we have had something unique happening in Brookhaven Town as well: The ongoing debate whether to build a new solid waste facility (SWF) next to the current one has been answered: With a great sigh of relief the answer is "no."

A PRIMER ABOUT HOW OUR SOLID WASTE IS MANAGED:

Not everyone knows this but our trash does not go directly into the landfill. Every since the passing of the Long Island Landfill Law in 1989 the trash you and I

and everyone else on Brookhaven Town (and a several other municipalities) put on the street twice a week is taken to a facility in Hempstead where it is incinerated and the resulting ash is returned to the Brookhaven Landfill to be buried there forever. This will all end December 2024 when the Landfill is expected to reach its capacity.

ENTER THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

It takes a lot of planning to build new facilities so NYS mandated that the Town must seek consultation

continued on page 6

through a committee comprised of residents to review and weigh the advantages against the disadvantages of several scenarios that were put forth such as a new “ashfill,” or various shipping options, with special attention to the impacts and costs that would be endured by the 500,000 residents of the Town. Supervisor Ed Romaine organized a professionally diverse group of citizens who were granted full access to information to fulfill this task. Brookhaven Hamlet resident Greg Miglino was selected to serve as Chairman of this team. He described it thus: “Six of the ten members came from organizations that serve communities surrounding the landfill and the last four members were professionals from a multitude of disciplines. I believe that each member at one point or another made valuable contributions during the process leading up to our recommendation. In my estimation, the most important contribution made by all was the willingness to work collaboratively as well as everyone’s ability to keep an open mind during the process. I realize this seems like common sense, but that is not always the case when you have committees.”

Those serving on the board of the Brookhaven Village Association (BVA) are very concerned about the outcome of all of this so we asked another Hamlet resident serving on the Ad Hoc Committee, Tom Williams, to join a few of our virtual monthly meetings to keep us informed. He, and others, spent hours upon hours investigating both how the Town handles the trash flow today and also what it may look like in the near future. He explained to us how being on an island such as ours puts serious limitations on what can be done with our trash. He also agreed with us that continuing the landfill site in our community was simply asking too much after ~50 years of continuous sacrifice already.

By February 2021, After many months of work, the Committee finished its report and sent it to Supervisor Ed Romaine. It can be found at the Brookhaven Town Website.

The recommendations made by the committee were reviewed by the supervisor and the town board. Ultimately, Romaine said, the town will not support an ashfill. “The town wants to take a step back from the garbage business,” he mentioned in a recent Advance news article, noting that they do not regulate garbage at multi-family housing or commercial and industrial sites. “We are not going to build an ashfill, for a lot of different reasons, but the major reason is financial.”

For those of us watching the debate closely over the last couple of years the decision not to build a new “ashfill” is a huge relief. Many local residents have fought for decades to keep the current landfill from overstaying its welcome with the primary complaints of environmental damage, serious health concerns, and quality-of-life issues.

TRASH IN THE FUTURE...

An important participant in all of this is a local organization entitled the Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group (BLARG). They have adroitly administered head-strong pressure on Town Officials and gathered local support to spearhead the grassroots struggle against building the new ashfill focusing on the injustices felt by the communities living close to the site. Their voice and reasoning helped to galvanize a united front against the idea of another 15+ years of more dumping within a few miles (or less) of where we live.

I asked Greg Miglino and Tom Williams about the next steps in this ongoing fight. Mr. Miglino responded, “It is important for our community to remain vigilant as projects are proposed locally. Government is like water or electricity; it takes the path of least resistance when faced with obstacles. As a very small community, it is easy for government entities at all levels to push us around and not worry about the ramifications of doing so. Currently there are a couple of projects proposed in the area of the landfill that are concerning. If moved forward I fear that they will cause this area to become the “Garbage Capital of Long Island”. We must not allow this to happen. Despite the community making great strides towards preserving and protecting the natural gifts our Hamlet has to offer, we are not done. The closing of the landfill in 2024, although an important step, should not be viewed as anything more than a chapter in a book that has yet to be finished. If we want to maintain the tranquility and environmentally friendly atmosphere of Brookhaven, then we will all need to work together moving forward.”

Tom Williams added “I think that one of the essential and important findings of the Committee is that we need to understand and face up to the problems of solid waste disposal on our island. People take it for granted that their garbage will be picked up each week and then they are finished with it. You cannot just ‘throw things away’. There is no ‘away’ anymore; away is the ocean, the sensitive groundwater discharge areas, the air which we breathe, and the very community where we live that has suffered for years under the yoke of garbage and trash being dumped in their backyard.

To be sure, the only responsible way forward is to think and act hard on the idea of “reduce, recycle or reuse.” How this is done is a debate we should all participate in. We owe it to future generations and we owe it to ourselves. The reality is that we must work toward “zero waste,” which, as Tom Williams describes it “seems to us now to be far out of reach, but we must work toward that end.”

Carlton Stewart

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Hamlet residents have been incredibly generous in their financial support of the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation. Through your generosity we have restored the historic cemeteries, planted trees, spruced up Fire Place Park, funded scholarships to college-bound students and stayed active in environmental projects that protect our community and ecosystems. Thank you to the following generous donors who contributed to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation this past year.

Jane Abell	David N. Ebner	Jasmine Lee	Nicky & James Rothschild
Kent Adee	Gary Schneider & John Erdman	Pam & Tom Lerner	Debbie Love & Robert Sack
John K & Barbara A Antos	Wayde Binder & Horacio Fabiano	Linda Link	Michael & Lynn Scheibel
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Heidi & Rocco DeVito	Bernice Larsen	Barry Rockwell	Gary & Diane Zanazzi

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Please consider donating to one of our funds dedicated to projects in the hamlet. Donations to these funds are tax deductible. To donate, please complete this form and send it with your check to:

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation, PO Box 387, Brookhaven, NY 11719



Common, Surf, and White-winged Scoters (left to right)

Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund \$ _____

BVA Tree Fund \$ _____

Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Hamlet Historic Fund \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Checks must be made out to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFUNDATION.ORG

Fire Place: Celebrating 31 Years of Community Communication and Action



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 zoning 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 plover *Wauguanus* who had a kiln at what is now Squassas Landing. The fumes 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 Weizen
Treasurer -- Anita Cohen
Directors -- Jennifer Clement, Jim Haug, Jerry Hastings, Liz Nalewajk, Karen Rowley, Bob Sack, Bill Sarkis, Marianne Tuse and Marty Van Lith.
Immediate Past President -- Malcolm Stewart

In the winter of 1990, before the internet, email and social media (yes, Virginia, there was such a time), the Brookhaven Village Association Board had no other way of communicating directly with all Hamlet residents about specific issues that were important to recognizing and preserving the purity of our home outside of meetings. Threats to our community, wildlife and landscape were rapidly evolving and "There was a need to fight for the community but the challenge was keeping everyone informed" said former BVA Board member Marty Van Lith in an interview for the second edition of *Ambling Around Brookhaven*. "I realized we needed a newsletter."

At that time, Anita Cohen served as BVA Treasurer. With her vast experience in publishing and as contributing writer and editor of the Brookhaven Lab's newsletter, Anita set out to create the BVA's bulletin. Anita wrote and designed it on the home computer she shared with her husband, Marty. They took it to a print shop for copies. The double-sided, one page flyer arrived in the mailboxes of residents beginning three

decades of informing the community of issues vital to the progress and preservation of our delicate Hamlet.

For six and a half years, Anita published the communication as editor. The newsletter spurred on concern and vocalized the struggle to protect the Hamlet in battles such as the Landfill, creating and preserving open spaces and refuges, zoning, sustaining infrastructures, maintaining our history and landmarks and fighting the implementation of unnecessary modernizations. It is fitting that this Spring edition of the newsletter addresses the closure - we hope- of the Landfill, a consistent topic of grave concern throughout the Fire Place's thirty-one years and an exhausting, monolithic fight taken on by dozens of Board members over a 50 year span. Dog poop is a close second in frequent newsletter topics - so for the love of daffodils, please clean up!

Anita passed the baton to a new editor, Lori Hastings, in 1996. Fire Place's look improved moving to heavier stock and higher quality photos. The advancements continued under several ingenious editors. However the Fire Place has changed in appearance over the years, one current flows through each edition in its three decade history; the sense of dedication and passion to preserve and celebrate this simple and sublimely beautiful Hamlet and provide a strong voice for its residents. The Fire Place has been a bonding agent for this community informing, galvanizing and uniting us in the love and conservation of our home. We thank all our board members throughout for creating, contributing and growing this newsletter and, in effect, building our community in strength and purpose.

The first Fire Place is available on the BVA website along with a newsletter archive going back to 2007.

Julia Villacara



Photo by Mike Busch



Photo by Julia Villacara



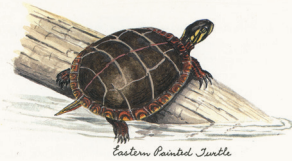
Photo by Julia Villacara



Photo by Julia Villacara



Photo by Julia Villacara



BVA Membership Application

Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to 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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

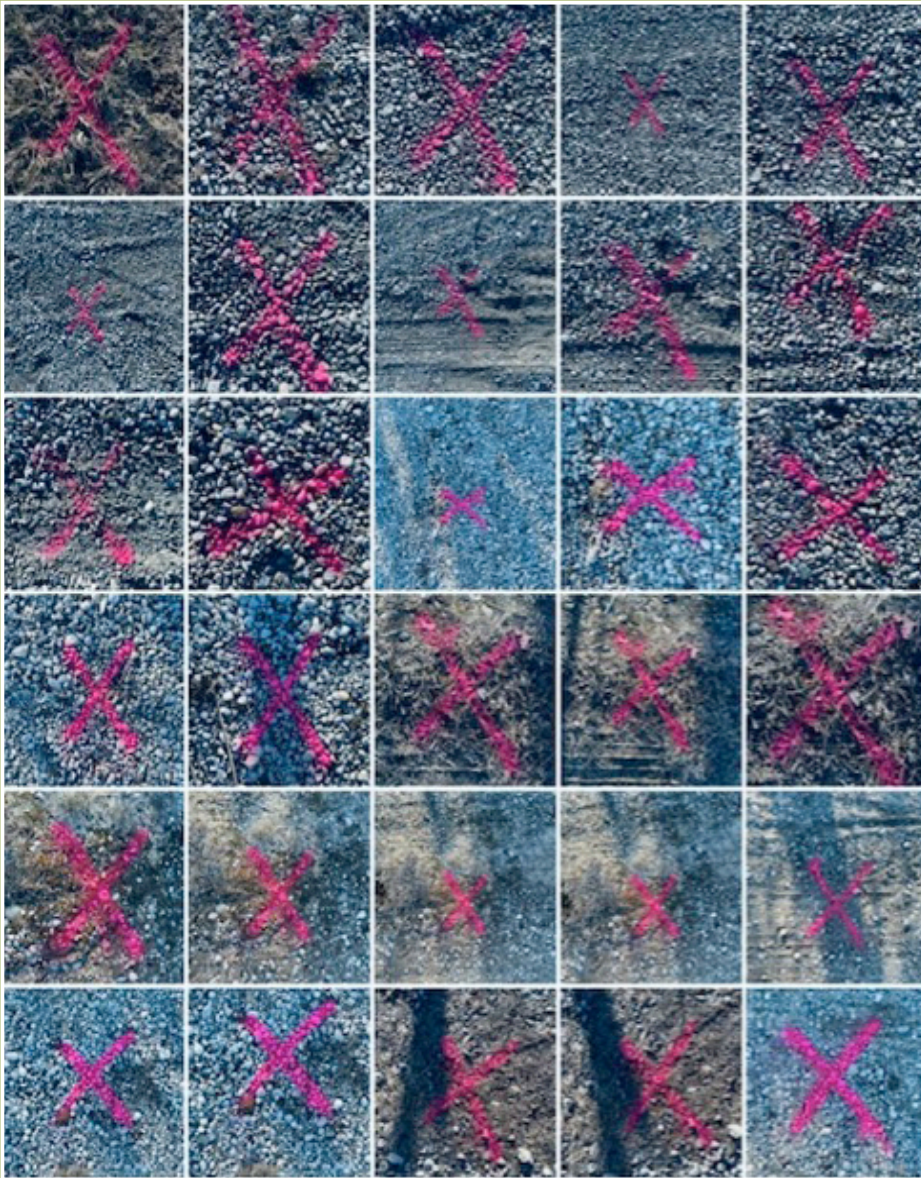
Checks for Membership should be made out to the Brookhaven Village Association

Member Fee (\$25 annually): \$ _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG

SquassuX Marks the Spot

If you've spent any time strolling Squassux recently you may have noticed the survey markings on the ground accompanied by stakes. Resident Thaddeus O'Neil had a creative concept gazing at the pink hieroglyphics and explored it with a collage of photos.



THAD O'NEIL

The collage of X's are composed of all the individual x's marked out by the survey in the boat yard and thus represents an abstract of the boat yard itself.

The facing image is one of several more prominent markings that to my eye gesture toward a symbol of a boat like something Klee or Basquiat would have painted or a pointer (pointing to the "X" that marks the spot - in this case the constellation of x's that make up Squassux).

*Thank you, Thad,
for your innovative,
appreciative vision.*

We welcome our local talent submissions at: newsletterbva@gmail.com



Photo by Mike Busch



Photo by Mike Busch



Photo by Mike Busch



Photo by Mike Busch



Photo by Mike Busch

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FIRE PLACE EDITORS
Carlton Stewart Julia Villacara Kevin Glynn

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.

WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG



Fire Place

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

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