

Eastern Painted Turtle

Illustration by  
Dennis Puleston

# Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Fall 2020

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944



## President's Message



photo by: Carly Ciervo

Wow. What a year 2020 has been so far. For many of us, it's undoubtedly been tough. For others, maybe not so much. We'll get back to a time and place where we don't have to question where we were going, who we were with, how we socialize, shop, celebrate, or even mourn. We just need to hang on.

It's times like these however when opportunities to do the right the thing comes along that can quickly bring a smile on a stranger's face, a little happiness to a distant neighbor, or appreciation to someone who may need it at that point in time.

As your new BVA president, it's my goal to drive this message across our BVA committees comprised of board members, staff, and community residents. There's so much good in what we do as your community civic association and I feel strongly about the timing, need, and community volunteers to help make it happen.

At our annual sunset salute, we congratulated both John Knapp and Deb Lovesack for their acts of volunteerism, tenure, and service as board members for a combined 28 years. As true veterans, they may be gone from the board, but have vowed to remain active

members on our quality of life, beautification, and land-use committees.

At the onset of the pandemic, the board agreed to make monetary donations to local community charities to help those in need. We're now in the early stages of planning how we can increase our engagement within and outside our community to deliver value to children, families, and the community we call our home. Stay tuned, there's lots to come and ways in which you can participate!

For many of us able to appreciate Squassux, you've seen positive changes taking place on the grounds of the marina. As always, we'll continue to do our part as best we can and greatly appreciate the volunteer of hands when needed.

Thank you all for doing your part as a BVA member. The board and I are honored to represent you and our community. Be safe!

Respectfully,  
**Chris Ciervo**  
BVA President





# The Squassux Chairman's Report



Photo by Mike Busch

Hello All,

I hope everyone has been well and enjoyed the boating season. Considering the pandemic restrictions, it was great to see Squassux accomplish opening by May 1st this year. The Brookhaven Village Association took all necessary steps to make this happen in a timely fashion while still ensuring we followed state-mandated guidelines. Further, since boating was one of the few recreational options available in the midst of the pandemic, the marina was immediately filled to its capacity upon opening.

This season, the Brookhaven Village Association has made quite a few substantial improvements at the marina. To begin, fourteen compromised boat docks had been replaced and upgraded with stronger deck planking and support systems. Significant repairs were also made on over twenty other dock slips, plus a new light post and 2 energy-saving LED lights were installed at the gate entrance, as the old light pole had been knocked down inadvertently. New security hours have also been put in place for the convenience of the boaters,

which are all 7 days a week from 2 pm-10 pm.

Moreover, in March of this year, the final leg of the electrical system was completed on the West canal. Installed were Seven H-frames, each with two GFI outlets in weatherproof boxes. Three new LED energy-saving, dark sky compliant, gooseneck lights were installed, one located on the west side of west canal, and two on the east side of west canal. This project marks the completion of a three-year's full upgrade of the electrical system at Squassux. The new system includes 300 amp electrical service with all main electrical branches installed in underground conduit. All piping locations are also marked on the marina survey, as to locate and access for any future needs.

As for the continuing road maintenance this season, 140 yards of concrete aggregate were delivered and spread throughout marina roadways. This helps maintain a secure and stable roadway and slow down erosion at basin perimeters. Lastly, in late September the final stretch of the completely updated water system was installed on both sides of west canal, which includes all new hose bibs and PVC water lines installed throughout. The new system will be easier to maintain and virtually trouble-free for the distant future.

As demonstrated, the BVA will take every effort to continue to maintain the beauty, safety, and functionality of Squassux Landing for all members in the years to come.

Enjoy the rest of the boating season!

**Christopher Bland**  
*Squassux Chairman*

## Virginia Brown Scholarship Awards

The VB Scholarship Committee had the pleasure this year of reading excellent essays. Usually, the committee awards 2 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 and \$1,000. The year, seeing as 2020 has been an outstanding year in many ways, the committee decided to add a third award of \$1000. The winner of the \$2,000 scholarship, Audrey Barry, is attending SUNY Binghamton, Watson School of Engineering majoring in Biomedical Engineering. One \$1,000 scholarship award was granted to David Bellante attending SUNY Binghamton and the other \$1,000 winner is Luca Scharpf who is attending Baruch College majoring in Real Estate Law.

The \$2,000 winning essay is included in this newsletter. We hope everyone enjoys it as much as the committee enjoyed selecting it.

**Janet Quirk**  
*Virginia Brown Scholarship Committee Chairperson*

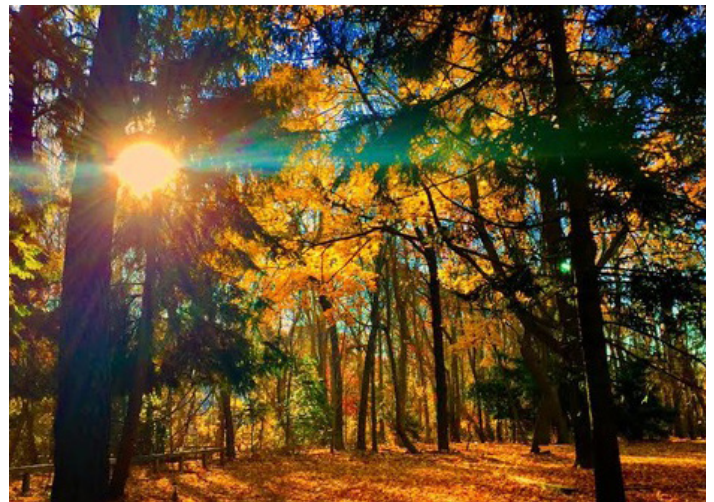


Photo by Julia Villacara



# Audrey Barry, 2020 Virginia Brown Scholarship Essay

Ever since I was little I have loved creating. From making sidewalk chalk art to home-made birthday cards, the idea of making something real out of nothing has always seemed so cool to me. I always knew that art was going to be something I would keep with me for my life, but I realize now that I can attribute my love for it to the place where I grew up: my home.

Growing up in Brookhaven Hamlet provided me not only with experiences and friendships (and beautiful sunsets!), but also a developed appreciation for life. When I was younger, home to me was just that- where my family was, where I slept and where I ate breakfast in the mornings. I don't think I realized how lucky I was to be able to ride bikes around the community with my sister and play under the big tree in my backyard until it was dark. In a lot of places this is not a reality for children, which makes me saddened but even more grateful for the charming, historic area that I was raised in.

I currently live on a "dead end" road, but the nature that surrounds me is anything but dead. Sometimes it's green and lush and beautiful, and then six months later it's crisp and striking. Being surrounded by the open land preserved by the Post-Morrow Foundation allows us to enjoy nature almost untouched by industry and development, which is scarily becoming more of a luxury than a standard as we progress. Walking the quiet trails and sitting at the boardwalk by the creek almost transports me back in time, and it reminds me that equally as important to creation is preservation.

One of my favorite clubs that I have been involved with is the Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ) club at my school. It was there that I learned two things: Stop & Shop has the best bottle recycling machines, and we make a lot of plastic waste. I didn't really think that sorting through bottles after school would be something

that I would like doing, but the people there made it so much better. Nothing could compare to the sense of accomplishment that we felt after sorting through twelve bags of bottles and cans (and other assorted garbage). Actually, I learned one more thing from the club— while the amount of pollution we face may be big, any act of helping the environment does make a difference, not only physically but also community-wise. Each bottle sorting or community clean up day I went to had a lot of work to be done, but a lot of enthusiastic people too. It was seeing those people that cared so much that made me really feel like what I was doing was worth it and that what we were doing mattered. Thanks to my school, I feel a sense of responsibility now to protect the integrity of our environment.

I am sad that my time as a senior in high school is coming to an end, albeit in an unusual circumstance; but I am also happy and looking forward to what the future holds. I am attending Binghamton University this fall and am planning to major in Biomedical Engineering. I hope that in my time in college I will meet new people and learn more things than I can remember!

While I am so excited to immerse myself in a new stage of life, I think a part of me will always want to find my way back home. I hope that I will come back to new faces and growth, but also the familiar trails and hidden places that I have grown to love. Home to me now is not just one house, but our whole community. In memory of Virginia Brown and our families' generations, we should protect the life it has to offer as if it was our own home— because it is.



"Mott Lane" 2019. Acrylic on wood. Above is a personal painting that I did over the summer of the view from the very end of Mott Lane. It was one of the most beautiful, serene places I have ever been. I just loved the scene so much that I thought it would be appropriate to include, Audrey Barry.



Thank you,  
**Audrey Barry**

# It Is The Small Good That Leads To The Greater



As the Covid 19 pandemic ravaged the U.S in the spring, for many of our neighbors yet another crisis was born; food security and a lack of it in many of our neighbor's households.

Kathryn Strickland, Feeding America's chief network officer, told the Patch.com

"Our members are reporting those they're serving have never sought food assistance before. People who formerly gave to food banks are now seeking assistance." Long Island Cares The Harry Chapin Food Bank reported a 20% increase in food insecurity on Long Island and a new client demand up 72.4% from March to May 2020.

Veterans, seniors, the disabled and families were unable to access food in stores or through pantries and charities that were already stressed by the overwhelming need. People throughout the county were going without food for many reasons; illnesses, lack of transportation, stay at home orders, loss of income, food shortages in the stores, hours-long lines at pantries and food ultimately running out. Areas without pantries and inconsistency in supply and days/hours of availability were also factors. Houses of worship, schools and other social service organizations shuttered created food insecurity for those that depend on those programs as well.

A group of grassroots organizers and community members saw this critical problem and designed an effective solution for how people in need could request food and receive it within a rapid response time and

zero contact delivery. In late April, Minerva Perez, Director of OLA of the East End, and hamlet resident and Stony Brook University Associate Professor Dr. Abena Asare created an online Change.org petition calling for the creation of a county-wide emergency hotline and the resources to deliver food supplies to housebound residents. "It became clear to us that food access was the forefront issue," said our neighbor Dr. Asare "And the people doing the excellent work of trying to provide food were also extended and stretched. We felt everyone in our area should have basic access to lifesaving food at this time." The initiative "sought the coordinating power of the county executive's office to prevent suffering and unnecessary loss of life."

Within a week, the coalition's petition gained over 5,000 Suffolk resident's signatures and the attention of County Executive Steve Bellone's office.

Heeding the resident's unified call for a response and incorporating the initiative's proposed solutions for contact and delivery, the County Executive's office launched "Suffolk Cares" food crisis network through Suffolk's existing 311 on June 9th, 2020. Those in need call 311 Mon-Fri 9am - 430p, they are assessed for eligibility and several day's worth of non-perishable food supply is delivered to their homes within 24-30 hours with zero contact. The county runs the program through 8 of Suffolk's 10 towns, which are given a supply of boxes from Long Island Cares. Vanessa Baird-Streeter, Suffolk's deputy county executive for community recovery, told Newsday "Our 311 operators are armed with information about food banks and pantries, delivery services, pop-up food distributions but for people who do not have access to transportation" or are homebound "and have limited financial resources, how do they access food? We help fill a particular hole in the process as it pertains to food insecurity and lack of transportation."

Dr. Asare asked "We've been talking about helping each other, being strong and unified during this time. But what does that actually look like?" For the countless individuals and families who have been helped by the hotline and delivery service, this is what it looks like.

As my father always told me, "It is the small good that leads to the greater" and that's what Dr. Asare, the grassroots organizations and fellow residents who made this call to action have accomplished for hundreds in need, providing an urgent response to a food crisis within our county and setting a model for other counties that will go beyond the pandemic.

*We want to hear about our community members' inspiring deeds. If you have a story or know of a neighbor's small good leading to the greater, please let us know at: [newsletterbva@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterbva@gmail.com)*

**Julia Villacara**



# Fall 2020 Dockmaster Report



Photo by Mike Busch

The 2020 boating year started strangely, and no one really knew back in April if we would even have a season. I also wondered how many boaters would actually come in, and if we could even rent out all the slips. Anyway, as it turned out, everyone in Squassux needed to recreate outside of their homes and we had an extremely busy season in spite of Covid-19.

The season is winding down, and this is the time to begin planning the endgame.

First of all, our security services end on November 1st. That leaves two weeks of having no guards in the booth. Fortunately, there have been no reported thefts this year. In fact, there have been very few reported thefts for many years. Nevertheless, it is advisable to be sure anything valuable is removed from your boat, or at least carefully secured.

Next, we are ceasing operations on November 15th, the usual day. This date is non-negotiable. Please do not call me on November 16th to request more time. The answer will be no. Make arrangements as soon as possible to remove your boat, arrange winter storage, or repair your trailer to be sure you get out of the water. The canals must be emptied of boats to make way for the winter installation of the ice-eaters.

Water services will cease working very close the November 15th, and earlier perhaps depending upon the weather forecasts. As for lights, they will be shut off most likely by December 1st. Also, the gate lock will be changed after we close for the season.

There are two new BVA Board protocols that must be followed this fall due to potential insurance liabilities:

1. There cannot be anymore in water winter storage arrangements, and
2. No boats may operate from river slips to extend the season after November 15th for any reason.

Please also remember that power washing boat bottoms at Squassux is forbidden at any time. In addition, there is no winter boat or trailer storage at Squassux.

For the future, I can think of a few important points to make:

1. If you are a new resident Squassux boater, please call me over the winter to have your boat added to our waiting list. All slips are assigned in date order for fairness.
2. If you are planning on changing your boat, smaller or larger, please call me immediately so I can work to secure a slip for you. There is a shortage of larger slips, so moving up in size may not result in a guaranteed slip.
3. If there is a structural weakness or any sort of damage to your dock, PLEASE call me IMMEDIATELY. The BVA Board wants no chance of injury, and if you wait, the dockbuilder may not be able to effect a repair after a certain time that varies from year to year.
4. If you wish your boat to be moved for any reason, I must know as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of a change.
5. Please remember that it is my job to be sure that 100% of Squassux docks are filled each year. For that to happen, I have the unenviable task of sometimes reassigning slips of a boater who may have been in that particular slip for years. This is sometimes a thankless part of my job, but necessary.

I hope everyone has a healthy and safe year until we all meet again in 2021.



**Andy Rubin**  
*BVA Dockmaster*  
631-521-4411

# Updates on Landfill

Many of us may not know that our local Brookhaven Landfill is set to close in a few years after the last pile of burnt trash is finally piled up. Well, that was the plan as decided by Brookhaven Town officials after years of our residents struggling to push back against a slew of significant issues such as serious health concerns for the staff and students of the Frank P. Long school, the stain of having giant hills of garbage standing over our community, the empty promise of a "25 year landfill" being over 45 years old, and the occasional stench of rotting trash wafting through our backyards,

But, just recently, the Town has decided it is not done using our community as a dumping ground. Supervisor Ed Romaine has proposed that a new ash fill would fit just fine next to the old ones. In so doing the Town is obligated to seek approval from the DEC and also must let citizens speak at forthcoming scoping hearings about the topic. Staff from the Town has invited an Ad Hoc group of selected individuals (see them listed in the letter) to be part of the discussion meeting publicly that started on October 1st via Zoom.

A separate group of activated residents has formed a coalition calling themselves the "Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group" to explore and unite what they would like to be communicated to the Ad Hoc committee and to town officials. In so doing, they drafted and distributed a letter to convey the message they would like to be heard during these discussions. This letter is presented below for your reading. Part of the coalition's strategy is to organize a "call-in campaign" where Town officials are either called or emailed to garner attention to resident's and the coalition's united message and remind those contacted that residents affected care how this serious problem gets resolved.

If you are interested in more about this topic that affects you and all your neighbors and/or how you can help create the community you want, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BrookhavenLandfillAction/> and take part in the on-going discussion.

**Carlton Stewart**

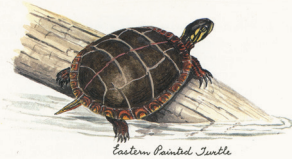
9/17/2020

Dear Adrienne Esposito, Greg Miglino, Kevin Gershowitz, Linda Petersen, Mayor Raymond Fell, Tom Williams, Clyde Parker, James Vaz, James Heil and Frank Roethel,

We are a coalition that has come together to support a sustainable and just solution to the Town's waste crisis. We represent a number of different organizations and live in various affected hamlets and villages throughout Brookhaven and beyond.

We urge that you join us in our call for the town supervisor to review and expand the membership of the committee, to publish the meeting dates for the ad hoc committee, and to share the process by which the public can participate in these crucial discussions. Any viable plan must be developed with the meaningful participation of the impacted communities. Meaningful participation requires communication while decisions are being made, not merely after the fact. Any plan that does not include the leadership of the most-impacted communities will not be appropriate or just.

1) **We are concerned** that the newly formed ad hoc committee does not include a representative from north Bellport, the community most proximate to and most impacted by the existing Brookhaven Landfill.



## *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 (\$15 annually):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG)**

# Updates on Landfill

2) **We are concerned** that the town of Brookhaven has not yet published a detailed closure and remediation plan for the existing Brookhaven Landfill. We do not have the specific date, timeline, or process by which the existing landfill will close. Nor has the town of Brookhaven presented a viable containment and long-term remediation plan for the existing landfill. It is imperative that we deal with the existing landfill before forging ahead to pursue a second waste deposit site in the same community.

3) **We are concerned** that the town of Brookhaven is considering a proposal to create a new landfill, ie. "ashfill" under the title of "Regional Recovery and Recycling Facility." We do not believe there has been a timely, robust, and dedicated effort to develop viable and sustainable alternative plans to address Long Island's waste crisis. This new landfill "solution" does little to address Long Island's waste crisis and passes on the problem, unaltered and in entirety, to the next generations of Long Islanders.

4) **We are concerned** that the site of this new landfill "solution" continues to concentrate the economic, environmental and social harms of the region's waste problem in the same community that has shouldered the burden of the Brookhaven Landfill for the past 5 decades. The town of Brookhaven must straightforwardly address how questions of equity and justice are foregrounded or ignored in their proposed plan.

We invite you to meet with this coalition to discuss the above concerns. We believe that gathering together will be productive and necessary as we work together to address Long Island's waste future.

Sincerely,

Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group  
 Lisa M. Sevimli  
 Peter R La Corte Jr.  
 Sydney A. Eguizabal  
 Dr. Abena Asare  
 Raanan Schul  
 Maya Schindler  
 Christine M.A. Marzano  
 Ryan Madden, Sustainability Organizer, Long Island Progressive Coalition  
 Michael S. Brady, Attorney  
 Monique Fitzgerald  
 Mariana Debbe, Cooperation Long Island  
 Lauren La Magna, LMSW, Public Affairs Manager, Planned Parenthood  
 Hudson Peconic Dennis Nix  
 William Ferraro, 2019 Democratic Candidate for Brookhaven Town Supervisor  
 Tali Hinkis Lapidus  
 Benjamin Martin  
 Dr. Katherine Johnston  
 Dr. Justin Johnston  
 Laura McKellar, RN  
 Elmer Flores, Group Leader, NY02 Indivisible  
 Ezeder Tzorginda, coordinator, Four Directions Mutual Aid  
 Lorraine Brown  
 Alissa Fishbane  
 Nicole Grennan, Community Organizer, ERASE Racism  
 Andrea Cote  
 Donna and Andrew Clarke



## 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)*

<b>Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund</b>	\$ _____
<b>BVA Tree Fund</b>	\$ _____
<b>Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund</b>	\$ _____
<b>Hamlet Historic Fund</b>	\$ _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks must be made out to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFOUNDATION.ORG)**



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Andy Rubin

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Marty Van Lith

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Carlton Stewart    Julia Villacara    Kevin Glynn

The BVA is holding virtual meetings until further notice. All are welcome to join.  
Please check our website for meeting information.

[WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG)

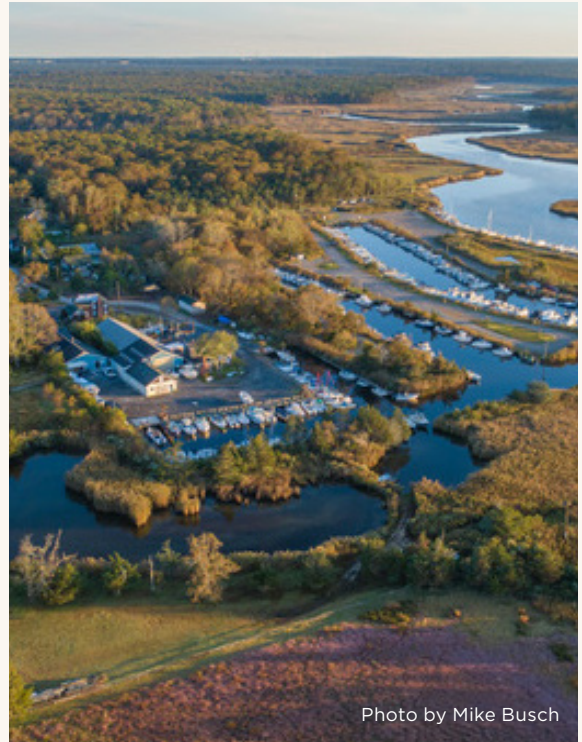


Photo by Mike Busch

# Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the*  
**Brookhaven Village Association**

PO Box 167

Brookhaven, New York 11719

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