

Illustration by  
Dennis Puleston

# Fire Place

## BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

### Fall 2024

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

## President's Message

Dear Brookhaven Hamlet Community,

Some may know me from the H.O.G Farm or as the lady "with all the dogs" dragged along our roads. I am a proud daughter of the hamlet born, bred, returned, and, one day-not too soon- my ashes will be dropped on the hamlet trees, trails and the brook that has cradled my soul throughout my life (the BVA will warn you of the date as to avoid any barbecuing mishaps). My parents met here as next door neighbors; I owe my existence to this place. This hamlet is the very fiber of my being.

For the last five years, I've worked along with the passionate residents on the BVA Board of Directors learning from our employees and presidents John Knapp, Chris Ciervo and Vice President Lenny DaConto. For the last four years, I chaired the Quality of Life Committee. The committee and I have created community building events and environmental initiatives. We've spoken out for our community on safety measures, improving our roads and open spaces. We've advocated for residents' health and environment with Town and County issues. We've provided informational discussions on important topics such as the Landfill. We've beautified our hamlet and worked to preserve our natural beauties. We've protected and maintained our hamlet's historic cemeteries. We've increased communication with our community through emails and Instagram relaying pertinent information raising awareness and strengthening our bonds. I made the vow when I first joined the BVA board to keep the hamlet safe, clean and provide your children and grandchildren with the same secure, neighborly community and sense of belonging I had growing up here. This is my vision turned into accomplishments.

As president, the Board and I have been focused on numerous items such as publicizing our meeting minutes on our website to further engage our community and

provide transparency to the operations of your BVA. Squassux marina has been our primary objective as we transitioned a new Dockmaster. BVA employees Treasurer Janet Quirk and Dock Manager Andy Lovito both stepped in and up on the Dockmaster role working together. We've had a smooth season in which Andy filled all the slips, our data is current and all boats were in the correctly assigned slips. Our non-motor vessel racks are at capacity with a third rack added. The marina is 100% on target with projected income. With a gate maintenance contract

in place, we foresee less malfunctions and less spent on service calls creating space in our budget to add more security cameras. We've also cemented standard operating procedures leading to an organized, comprehensive marina management.

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much." I am grateful for the BVA's employees, Janet and Andy. They have been with the BVA

for decades; Andy as a volunteer board member, Squassux Chair and then as an employee managing marina facilities. Janet as our BVA Bible and Treasurer breaking all records of stay. The Board and I are grateful for their dedication to your BVA and our community, their experience and all the improvements they've added. I am thankful for the guidance of former BVA directors and officers and their continued service to our community. I am thankful to all engaged community members who voice their concerns and share their thoughts. I am equally grateful working alongside our current board of officers and directors. Each volunteer with their own experience, skills and perspectives at the table to problem solve, create and work for our community. I'm excited for all we will accomplish together for you; the launch of 1,000 More Yards in the spring, our annual Holiday Cheer event, our Easter Egg Hunt and the 80th Anniversary of Squassux Landing. Partnering with our local mission aligned organizations



Photo credit: Lynda Wagner

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# President's Message Continued

bringing you community discussions, projects and initiatives. We continue to operate and maintain the "gem" of the hamlet, Squassux Landing, making it inclusive for all hamlet residents with the addition of the kayak, canoe and paddle board racks.

A few years ago, the Board began the process of working with an environmental consulting company to preserve Squassux Landing from rapid erosion. At first, it was just Arthur's Creek but, as sea levels are projected to rise over the next 25 years, we must bulkhead the entire river side. This is our Board's challenge as we navigate the permitting process, create sustainable solutions and afford the proposed conservation projects.

We're calling on our community to help preserve our gem. This December, your BVA annual fundraising drive will take place through our Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation fund. We are adding the Squassux Shoreline Preservation Fund for this project. Please consider a small donation by mail or online through the [brookhavenhamletfoundation.org](http://brookhavenhamletfoundation.org) website. I also hope you will renew - or begin - your BVA membership continuing our vision of strengthening the hamlet now and for generations to come.

Whether you've lived here for fifty years or five minutes, we're all equally invested in this hamlet and its community.

Whether you invest financially with your BVA, pick up litter or offer a smile to neighbors and visitors alike along the hamlet roads - we're all doing our part. That is the legacy of this hamlet and all those who came before us and who will come after. My father raised me with the belief "It is the small good that leads to the greater." That is exactly what your BVA will continue to accomplish together with our inspiring and engaged community. Thank you for your continuing support of this mission, our Board and this honor to serve my cherished home as a BVA officer.

Our spring newsletter did not go out before President Chris Ciervo's term ended in June. Chris is an exceptional leader who allowed us to reach for the brass rings. When he became president, Chris and I aligned in our vision of becoming a beacon for the entire community returning to the original BVA mission founded 119 years ago. Chris steered the Board towards becoming that light and encouraged us all to create and build. On behalf of myself and the Board, it has been a great privilege to learn from and work with you, Ciervo Gold. Thank you and your family for your service to our community. Please enjoy Chris' last President's report from Spring of 2024.

May the four winds take you safely home,  
**Julia Villacara**  
*BVA President*

# Former President's Message

Dear Brookhaven Hamlet Community,

Ah spring! Its arrival brings not just a change in weather but also a renewed spirit of hope and new beginnings. Moreover, spring fosters a sense of connection, as our community and others around us come together to celebrate traditions such as Easter, Passover, or various cultural celebrations, reinforcing family and neighborly bonds and creating memories. In essence, spring is not just a season; it is a celebration of life, growth, and the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

During my tenure as BVA President, it's been my mission to enforce the value of community by serving as a catalyst for connection, collaboration and newer possibilities. This would not be possible without the dedicated and continued support from your BVA board members, staff and persons like you, helping to lead the way that ultimately fosters a greater sense of belonging and participation. From community engagements including neighborhood clean-ups, holiday cheer, tree plantings and family events, we've realized greater opportunities and accomplishments while building a stronger sense of ownership, meaningful connections and participation among neighbors and friends. Communicating and disseminating important information about local issues and concerns, developments,

and opportunities, continues to help keep us all informed and engaged while advocating interests and concerns to local authorities and stakeholders in order to ensure our community needs are heard and addressed. Although there will always be more we can do, I believe your BVA, with your support, is in a great position to continue to strengthen its role in reinforcing the value of our community by actively participating in shaping the place we call home.

As my tenure draws to a close, I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished together and strengthened in knowing our community is in very capable hands. The incoming BVA team is comprised of individuals who are deeply invested and possess the continued vision and determination to lead us toward an even brighter future of possibilities. While my time as President may be coming to an end, my commitment to this community will remain strong and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside the board and within the community in whatever capacity I can.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your BVA President.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Chris Ciervo



# Fall 2024 Dockmaster Report

As the season winds down, the planning for the closure of Squassux begins. Operations of the basin will end as of November 15th. The water will be shut down, along with the lights, and electricity. Boats have to be removed to make way for the ice-eaters. As far as the next boating season is concerned, all of the following must be included to lease your slip: a signed and filled-out invoice with up-to-date information such as phone numbers, e-mail, and your address, your current boat registration, and payment. **All of the aforementioned items must be included in order to rent a slip.** These documents are requested each year and required by the BVA Board. Residents must check that their name and Brookhaven residence is correct on their submitted documents. If you do not receive an invoice, or reside at a second home, contact me so I know your intentions concerning a slip for 2025.

In regard to a non-resident, the BVA community has first rights for slips. Once the slips are assigned to satisfy resident requests, usually by early April, I can begin placing non-residents.

Some important points to remember:

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 to change 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 to prevent any injury or the chance of it, if you wait, the dockbuilder may not be able to 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 keep in mind that it is my job to be sure that 100% of Squassux docks are filled each year. In order for that to happen, I sometimes have to reassign the slip of a boater who may have been in that particular slip for years. This is an unfortunate part of my job, but necessary to accommodate the maximum number of residents.

I hope everyone has a healthy and safe year until we meet again in 2025. If you have a concern, please contact me @ 631.521.4411. I will certainly do my best to offer information to help you.

Respectfully,  
**Andy Lovito**  
*BVA Dockmaster*

Photo credit: Lynda Wagner





# Squassux Committee Chair Report

As the 2024 boating season comes to an end, I would like to thank the community for your cooperation, understanding, and assistance this season.

There have been quite a few changes, as many of you may be aware. Our dock builder, Walter Martens has retired. After two years of serving as our dockmaster, Ulli Petri resigned.. Thankfully, Andy Lovito stepped up to take over the dockmaster position. Chris Bland relinquished his position as chairperson of the Squassux Committee to become the Vice President of the BVA.

Each year we explore avenues to improve the Squassux marina. In 2024, many improvements have been put into place. We installed seven new dark-compliant lights. Four were placed on the riverside, and three were placed on the west canal. We have been working with our new "local" dock builder, Intra-Coastal Contracting, in which we

have upgraded twenty-seven docks. Additionally, more non-motorized racks for canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards to the already existing racks have been added.

In the future, the committee would like to place more security cameras in designated areas of the marina, and we will be working on an erosion project on Arthurs Creek, all the while maintaining the beauty and integrity of the nature that is Squassux Landing Marina.

Finally, I would like to thank Chris Bland for his many years of hard work and guidance as Chairperson of the committee and wish him luck as Vice President of the BVA.

Respectfully,  
**Andrew Komosinski**  
*Chairperson, Squassux Committee*



Photo Credit Lynda Wagner



# Challenge Leads to Change

By Kristin Kirk Murphy

The Brookhaven Free Library holds so much more than books for us who live here. Many residents have grown up in that building back when it was smaller, feeling like it was someone's house we were borrowing books from. Some of us have enjoyed children's programs as kids, or we participated through the eyes of our own children. Whether we checked out books or settled in a chair and read in the main room, the library has always been a comforting place for anyone to go.

It's hard to imagine our community without the little library. We would need to go back in time to the year my grandma was born. 1912 was a very big year for Brookhaven Hamlet. Much of this is due to the 20,000 suffrage supporters who marched through New York City. Parades like this united women from different social and economic backgrounds in order to champion a powerful cause like women's suffrage. This event inspired women of Brookhaven and South Haven Hamlets to meet at the South Country Road home of Helen Child to listen to Ruth Litt, a popular suffragette from East Patchogue and New York City. Ruth was an innovator and community builder. The topics discussed led to the decision to form a library club that would meet the needs of residents both young and old. This provided a way for the women of the area to exact positive change in their community whilst they were waiting for the power of the vote.

The Fire Place Literary Club was founded by a group of women from Brookhaven Hamlet on May 18, 1912. The 27 founding members began collecting books and using the two-story schoolhouse as their library, where the present Brookhaven Elementary School annex is. Charter members acquired 242



Illustration By Raymond Perry

books through donations from private libraries. By July of the same year, there were between 400-500 books available. The growing volumes of books and the need for a larger meeting space caused the library to be temporarily moved to the residence of Mr. Malcolm Fraser and then to the home of Mrs. Florence Gwynne. In 1926, Mr. and Mrs. James Post offered to donate a plot of land and a building for the future library to have the permanent home where it is today at 273 Beaver Dam Road. The literary club held its first meeting in the new building on June 3, 1926. The Brookhaven Free Library was incorporated in 1929 where it would be open to all residents in the hamlet. 1930 began the transferral of governance to New York State and the Brookhaven Free Library Association was formed.

Brookhaven Free Library celebrated its centennial year in 2012; the centennial of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was in 2020. As it is now 2024, time can march on without much notice of the history of some special places, and causes can be forgotten. But we shouldn't let that happen. Not only did suffragettes create the Fire Place Literary Club, but this was the impetus behind what we consider to be a community comfort and necessity today; something we can easily take for granted. These women were the forward-thinkers of our society. While challenging men to allow their political voices, suffragettes also sought empowerment through projects that fed the mind and heart, forging a wide path that led to creative and intellectual independence. We owe so much to them.



Illustration By Barry Rockwell





Photo Credit Lynda Wagner



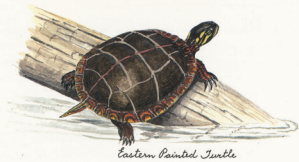
Photo Credit Julianna Kirk



Photo Credit Suzanne Bellocchio



Photo Credit Lynda Wagner



## ***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](http://WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG)**



# 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Squassux Shoreline Preservation Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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)**



Photo Credit Julia Villacara

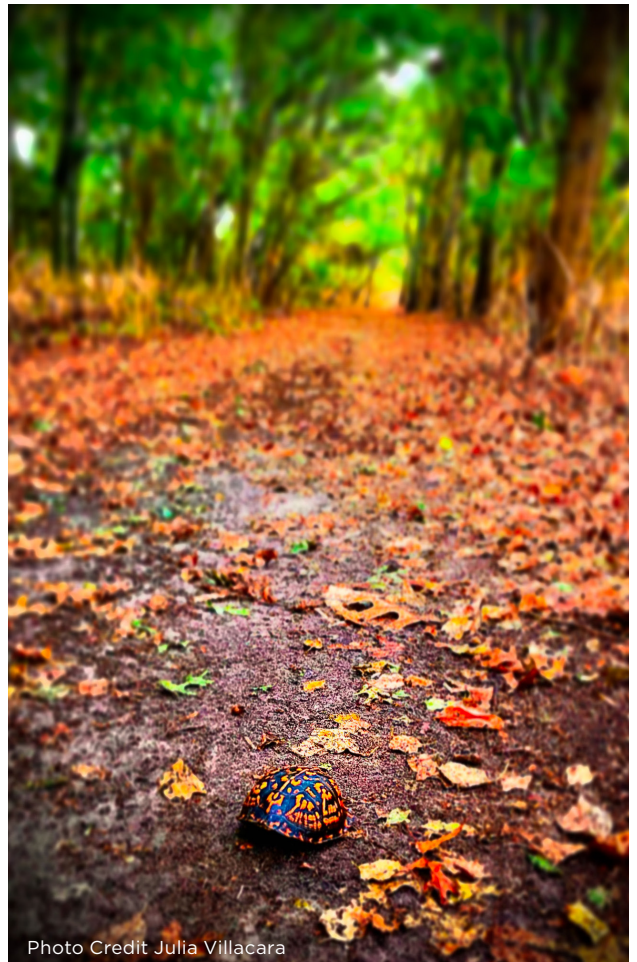


Photo Credit Julia Villacara



# Virginia Brown Scholarship Awards

The Virginia Brown Scholarship Committee had the pleasure this year of reading several essays. The committee awarded 3 scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 and two \$1,000 at our annual meeting in June. The winner of the \$3,000 scholarship, Brynn Johnsen, is attending Messiah College, majoring in Health Sciences/ Sports Medicine. The winners of the \$1,000 scholarships were Connor Murphy and Lealand Stewart. Connor is attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in Chemical Engineering. Lealand is attending UC Davis, majoring in History. Brynne's essay is included in this newsletter and we hope everyone enjoys it as much as the committee.

- Janet Quirk

Virginia Brown Scholarship Committee Chairperson

**Brynn Johnsen**

**Virginia Brown Scholarship Essay April 2024**

*Many people have stumbled upon Brookhaven Hamlet while looking for an escape from the cramped cities, in search of a community to offer peace and serenity. This pristine location is every child's dream, it is a place where my curiosity led me down hidden trails and my imagination was allowed to grow each time I stepped into nature. I am fortunate to have been born and raised in this unique environment that many would call a "hidden gem."*

*Thinking back, I have to attribute my love for learning to the environment I grew up in, Brookhaven Hamlet. As a young child, my earliest memories of learning come from my mom pushing me in the jogger through the beautiful hamlet. Whatever the weather was, my mom never passed up an opportunity to run. Whether I was bundled up in blankets in the frigid winter while smelling wood stoves or in my bathing suit in the summer while the warm breeze hit my skin. I always took jogger runs as an opportunity to learn. I would ask her "What's that sound? It sounds like a very quick hammer right?" as the woodpeckers drummed the trees. "What are the squirrels doing with the acorns?" as they gathered them in the middle of the street, preparing for the winter or "Where does honey come from?" as we passed the Scheibel's honey stand made from the beehives in their backyard. Each day I went home learning something new, and passing it on to my family at the dinner table. As I got older and learned how to ride my bike, I would bike to Brookhaven Elementary School each day. I continued to be inquisitive and before my day started at school, I already had a stockpile of facts to share with my classmates. My best one was when there was a snapping turtle in my backyard laying eggs so I was late to school. My mom sent this video to my teacher and she showed the whole class. They were so amazed. It was like a live National Geographic clip.*

*As I have gotten older, the Carmans River and the Great South Bay became my classroom in the summer. Here, I enjoyed bird watching (hoping the Bald Eagle would leave his nest on the west side of the canal), while my Grandfather preached the*

*importance of being a steward of the land and protecting our greatest resources. On the bay, I also learned everything about boating. Once I became a skilled driver, I learned how to rescue and tow other boats to shore safely. This required knowledge of how to tie various knots and strategically place the lines on each boat. This is something that I learned in the boaters safety course offered at the Brookhaven Free Library, which I took at the age of 10, absorbing every bit of information like a sponge.*

*As I enter later years in school where my daily learning takes place in the classroom, I engage in a wide range of AP classes such as Environmental, Government, English, Math and Science. One of my most memorable, hands-on learning experiences in AP Environmental was testing the water quality at the Beaver Dam Creek and seeing the different levels of oxygen, nitrates, pH, chlorine, alkalinity etc... which caused the fish kill. As we researched the levels we noticed the harm that fertilizers have on our local waterways and found that everything ends up in the bay through runoff. Through these classes and my upbringing, I see how our daily decisions affect our future generations and our direct community. My mother always says... 'You learn something new every day'. The hamlet makes this statement easy to prove true and the education I gained at Bellport High School has helped me to gain a greater understanding of the ecosystem in my backyard.*

*If I wasn't raised in Brookhaven Hamlet, I would struggle to understand the importance of community. When I look at my neighbors, I think of them as family. Only in the Hamlet can you call neighbors because your goat tried to eat a fish hook and they will help you remove it, or your boat is sinking in the middle of the night and they lend a hand without being bothered. Firsthand, I see how community members come together to protect our land and precious resources. I am grateful that Virginia Brown fought to protect our open spaces and waterways. If it wasn't for Virginia Brown, my upbringing in the hamlet would be much different. Similar to Virginia Brown, Jen Puelston helped protect land from being built on. Farmer Sean built the H.O.G into an agricultural community through the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for the entire hamlet to enjoy. It is evident that a community needs to come together to protect our environment.*



*As a child when kids my age were at camps, I volunteered at the H.O.G farm, getting dirt under my nails from digging potatoes, or cuts from peeling garlic. As the only young child there during the summer, volunteering grew my ability to communicate with others, specifically adults. One day while planting seeds I made conversation with the older gentleman next to me. He said, "What we have here is very special. I didn't grow up with a CSA but it is an amazing thing."*

*At that age, it never dawned on me that other places were different from this magical hamlet. I thought everyone lived in communities similar to mine but I was mistaken. As I experience new places and take part in the Outdoor Club at school and people are shocked when they see a deer, I can appreciate what the gentleman told me that day. He was right. I am very lucky to be able to walk to the H.O.G farm out my backdoor.*

*Jen Puelston is who I truly owe for instilling the life lesson of giving back and caring for others, whether it is animals, plants or people. As a young child, each time Jen found an injured animal she would call our house phone to come down and experience firsthand what it feels like to care for something other than yourself. One rescue by the name of 'Princess' was a baby opossum who was birthed following the mother being struck by a car. Jen called us up and asked to collect crickets for her to eat. It became our challenge to drop off breakfast for the opossum while biking to school.*

*When the pandemic hit in 2020 and learning became virtual, many kids turned to video games and technology. I took this shutdown as an opportunity to spend more time in the great outdoors. As an outlet, my family turned to the natural beauty surrounding us. As technology took over the world, my younger brother and I restored a skiff. We fiberglassed the holes so we wouldn't sink, gave it a fresh coat of paint, found a used engine, and searched for names to paint on the side of the hull. The one that stuck best was our hometown, "The Hamlet". With our desire to be on it before and after online school, we needed a place to dock it. As no slips were open in Squassux where our parents' boat is kept, we turned to our environmental mentors, Jen and Pete. Without hesitation, they walked us through their backyard to their pond and showed us the gate we could bike through to access the boat. We were so grateful to have somewhere to keep it and our parents were more excited because they didn't have to wake up before sunrise to trailer it for us. Some days when the tide was low "The Hamlet" was beached on mud. My brother and I would play rock paper scissors to decide whose turn it was to get out and push it through the mud as the other used the paddle to steer us. When there was enough water for the engine to trim down, we would pull each other onto the boat and begin our day on the bay. In the spring, I volunteered for the BVA by taking out the ice eaters which keep the water moving so it doesn't freeze and ruin the docks. Each time I go it is a subtle reminder about the tight-knit community we have in the Hamlet. Everyone interacting and cooperating with each other in such a positive fashion reminded me of just how friendly and unique the Hamlet is.*

*Spending time with my grandfather and father's generation during this removal was special because I got to see how traditions and responsibility have been handed down. Boating on the Great South Bay and Carmans River taught me the necessity of hard work. It taught me that things won't be given to me and I need to work hard for what I have. It also taught me to appreciate my surroundings and how fortunate I am to call Brookhaven Hamlet my home.*

*Similar to Virginia Brown, I have served on the Board of Education for the South Country School District as the cx-officio (student liaison) for the past three years. Had I not grown up in Brookhaven Hamlet and not had the opportunities to volunteer and interact with adults I wouldn't have taken on this role. I also have served as Student Council President for the past three years, in hopes to make the community a better place. In this position, I organized food drives, community cleanups, clothing drives, school events and met with administration about concerns and what is going on in our school.*

*Not every lesson is learned in the classroom. Some of my greatest lessons have come from Brookhaven Hamlet. My upbringing in the Hamlet taught me problem-solving, a love for nature, the importance of curiosity and hardwork. Post-pandemic, as I began sports again and things were returning back to normal, I suffered an injury. As I began rehab with our Athletic Trainer, I became very intrigued with how the body works. My interest was evident and she offered me a spot as an athletic training student. This was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Throughout my time as a student trainer, I learned how to tape athletes, assisted in rehabs and learned about various treatment methods. I was able to provide over 1,500 hours to my school as a student trainer. My eagerness to learn that developed at a young age in Brookhaven Hamlet has stuck with me as I find my career interests. Although I won't be healing opossums, I will go to college and study Sports Medicine while pursuing my passion of helping others. I will take these lessons learned from the Hamlet to allow me to contribute to society and help other people. I want to give back to a profession that helped me so much when I was hurt which is what led me to want to become a sports medicine professional.*

*As I go to college and I am asked, "What's your hometown like?" I can describe the Hamlet as "breathtaking, unique or beautiful" but there is really no way to describe Brookhaven Hamlet. It must be experienced with the five senses. When I return to the Hamlet to show friends where my adventures as a kid took place or start a family in the place that has shaped me into who I am, I am confident that it will be exactly how I remember it as a result of Virginia Brown's dedication to protect our community and the long line of committed, curious and nature-loving people like myself as well as my neighbors who have become family.*



# Sunset Salute - Chris Ciervo

## A Legacy of Community Leadership: Chris Ciervo's Journey with the BVA

In the heart of our beloved hamlet, few individuals have left as lasting an impact as Chris Ciervo, former president of the Brookhaven Village Association (BVA). From his serendipitous discovery of our community to his years of dedicated service, Chris's story is one of commitment, growth, and community spirit.



all residents, not just boaters, including engagement with town issues, holiday events, and the revival of the Squassux Fair.

Chris's professional background in technology proved invaluable in modernizing Squassux Landing operations and implementing camera systems, gate controls, and ramp improvements. His efforts, supported by a strong committee, significantly enhanced the marina's functionality and security.

## Roots and Arrival

Chris's journey began in North Babylon, with summers spent on a horse farm near Lancaster. However, it was a fortuitous right turn onto Beaver Dam Road that led Chris and his wife Cami to their true home. Captivated by the area's natural beauty, historical charm, and access to the south shore, the Ciervos knew they had found something special.

## Family Life in the Hamlet

For the Ciervos, the hamlet became more than just a place to live—it became the backdrop for cherished family memories. Their children grew up surrounded by nature's playground, from hikes on what is now Jared's Path to sunset-watching at Bay Road. Chris's involvement in the community deepened as he coached soccer for both his children, fostering connections that would last a lifetime.

## The BVA Years

Chris's involvement with the BVA began with a friend's invitation (Frank Miller) to fill a vacant board position. What was intended to be a one-year stint evolved into a journey of increasing responsibility and impact. Over the years, Chris served as a Director, Secretary, and ultimately, President of the association.

During his tenure, Chris played a crucial role in shifting the BVA's focus from primarily Squassux Landing to broader community concerns. He guided initiatives that mattered to

## A Legacy of Community Spirit

As Chris reflects on his time with the BVA, he emphasizes the collaborative spirit that defined his tenure. "Together, we've fostered a vibrant community spirit, organized engaging events, and tackled challenges head-on," he notes. "It has been an honor to work alongside such passionate and dedicated members of our civic association."

Chris's leadership has left an indelible mark on our community, balancing tradition with progress and always keeping the interests of all residents at heart. As he steps down from his role, Chris leaves behind a stronger, more united community, ready to face future challenges and opportunities.

In his parting words, Chris expresses gratitude and optimism: "The BVA's commitment and enthusiasm have truly made a difference, and I am excited to see how our collective efforts will continue to shape our neighborhood in the years to come. Thank you for your trust, support, and the memories we've created together—I look forward to seeing all the great things that lie ahead!"



Photo Credit Lynda Wagner

As we bid farewell to Chris Ciervo as BVA president, we not only celebrate his achievements but also look forward to building upon the strong foundation he has helped establish. His legacy serves as an inspiration for continued community engagement and collaborative spirit in our beloved hamlet.



# 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, funded scholarships to college-bound students, stayed active in environmental projects that protect our community and ecosystems and will begin preserving the shoreline of Squassux. Thank you to the following generous donors who contributed to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation this past year. We are grateful for your support strengthening our hamlet now and for generations to come.*

Kent Adee  
Isabelle Aussourd  
Sandra Bianco  
Judith Bird  
Bove Family  
Nelson & MaryBeth Briggs  
Peter Brown  
Craig Cain  
Peter & Jennifer Clement  
Mary Jane & Brian Cullen  
Constance Dayton  
Nick & Lillian De Paolo  
Giovanna LaFace & Farrell Decker  
Gary Schneider & John Erdman  
Shirley & Joseph Fetten  
Fire Place Realty  
Mary & Joseph Flaherty  
Lynne Maher & Michael Fried  
Laurie & Morton Friedman  
Michael Gaffney  
Irene Gallo  
Stephen Gatz  
Taryn & Kevin Glynn  
Richard & Eileen Green  
Trish Hall  
Mary Hamilton Hawkes  
Ann Cameron & Rich Herrmann  
Kathleen & Kris Holmberg  
Jessica Adams & Chad Johnson  
Kevin & Julianna Kirk  
John & Marie Knapp  
George & Margaret Koch  
Marge & Barbara Lapham  
Margaret Larom  
Linda Link  
Margie K. Ludewig  
Jeffrey & Susan Masem  
Sarah & Bobby McCain  
Chris (Phillip) McCollum



Christopher McLoughlin  
Melissa Mirabelli  
Rick Mohlmann  
Ron Moore  
Harry Mosoff  
Eugene Nifenecker  
Magdalene O'Keefe  
Ed & Liz Palace  
Mark & Teresa Platt  
Kathleen Ponze  
Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.  
Carol Tucher & Pete Puleston  
Martin & Janet Quirk  
Deg Rasmussen  
David Rey  
Marlene & Bent Ritland  
Cathy & Tom Rolston  
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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  
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BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

# Holiday CHEER

HAMLET COMMUNITY CÉLÉBRATION

TREE DECORATING PARTY | CARD & ORNAMENT CRAFTS | MUSIC  
SEASONAL TREATS & REFRESHMENTS  
TEEN TOY DRIVE FOR LIGHTHOUSE MISSION  
FOOD DRIVE FOR MARY IMMACULATE PANTRY  
USED BEDDING & TOWELS COLLECTED FOR BROOKHAVEN ANIMAL SHELTER

Saturday, December 14 2024  
3 - 5pm  
Fire Place Park  
Raindate December 15

# Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the*

Brookhaven Village Association

PO Box 167

Brookhaven, New York 11719

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