

Illustration by
Dennis Puleston

Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fall 2019

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

President's Report



photo by: John Knapp

The BVA would like to welcome Steven Young, JoAnn Stephani and Julia Villacara who were elected to the board at our Annual Meeting, last June 19th. Lenny Daconto rejoined the board to fill in as vice president until June 2020.

Our Annual Meeting was well attended, highlighted by our guest speaker, Dick Richardson. He is a noted authority on the purple martin, a mosquito-eating bird, which we were successful in attracting to our marina this past summer. They have since migrated, and we hope for their return next Spring.

Local residents have come to our monthly meetings with their concerns. New York State Senator Monica Martinez has taken an interest in our community, sending representatives to our last 6 monthly meetings. The constant noise of small aircraft was discussed at our Sept. 11 meeting. 20 residents were in attendance along with Brookhaven town attorney James Kevins. He stated that Town officials will meet with FAA representatives to discuss the use of Town-owned Calabro Airport. I will invite him to our next meeting to present a progress report. Another concern was the stagnant water present at the end of Beaver Dam Road at the Carmans River. BVA board members have met

with councilman Mike Loguercio several times since this project was completed in August 2017. Work has finally started to correct the elevations for the proper flow of water. The Town is funding the improvements. Ed Morris, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, has been very helpful and attentive to our concerns throughout this process.

Please contact the Town with any comments you may have on these or other issues.

Our 2019 fund drive will be coming later this year. Money raised is put into the Hamlet Historic Fund, the Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund, the Tree Fund, and the Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund. The BVA also contributes to over 20 local community organizations.

Lastly, our 2020 annual boaters' meeting is scheduled for January 15th, at the St. James Church Annex. We look forward to seeing you there.

Not a BVA member? An application is provided inside. Support your hamlet volunteers.

John Knapp
BVA President

The Squassux Chairman's Report

Hello All,

This has been one of the most beautiful summers for boating in recent memory, which has made my first season as Squassux Chairman very gratifying to say the least. Working together with the BVA we will continue to maintain Squassux landing as one of the most beautiful, friendly, and functional marinas on all of Long Island. I take a lot of pride in this position and fulfilling my duty as a volunteer to the Hamlet.

In early spring we installed 13 new electrical stations along the west side of the center canal. We also installed a dark sky compliant lights and converted the halogen lights at the west end of center canal to energy-efficient LED's.



photo by: Julia Villacara

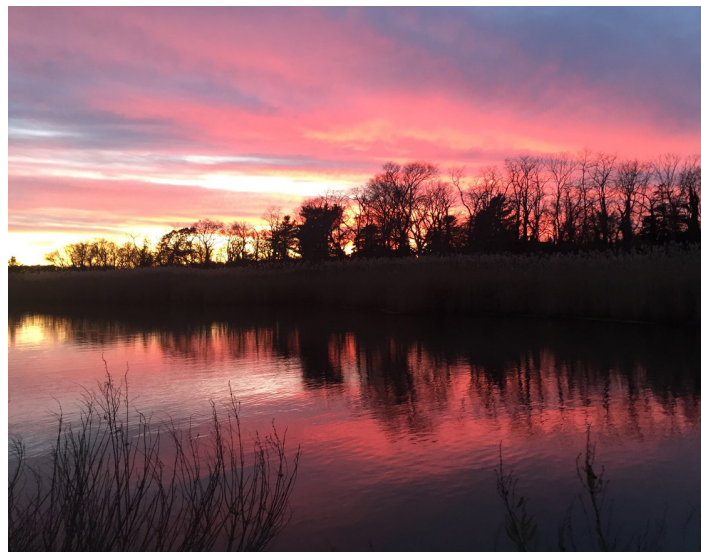


photo by: Julia Villacara

This fall we will install 10 new electrical stations on the east side of the west canal and will remove the outdated and inefficient existing electrical system. The new electric will also help ensure the ICE EATERS stay functional throughout the winter and will help save us from costly dock damage due to ice.

Also if you have any concerns, feel free to joins us at our monthly BVA meeting, which is the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 located at the Post Morrow Annex on Bay road.

Enjoy the rest of the boating season...

Christopher Bland
Squassux Chairman

Virginia Brown Scholarship Awards



photo by: Julia Villacara

The VB Scholarship Committee had the pleasure this year of reading through an excellent group of essays. Each year the committee awards 2 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 and \$1,000. The winner of the \$2,000 scholarship, Chiara Scharpf, plans on attending Stony Brook University majoring in Sustainability Studies- her essay is located below and on the BVA website. The \$1,000 scholarship award was granted to Grace Minikel who plans on attending Adelphi University majoring in Nursing- her essay can be found on the BVA website. We hope everyone enjoys reading them as much as the committee enjoyed selecting them.

Janet Quirk
Virginia Brown Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Chiara Scharf, 2018 Virginia Brown Scholarship Essay

I have often found myself wondering about the person I would be if my parents had decided not to move to Brookhaven. Every time I do, I am awed by the difference of motivation, awareness, and passions that I would have if it were not for the location and school that I have grown up in and the people I have grown up with.

Because of my passions, I have grown confident in the work that I do. Being the president of Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ) has given me the opportunity to work with fellow classmates and others to establish a greener school and community. When I first joined the club as a Freshman, I had no idea that it would one day become, "Chiara's green thumb club." In the first two

years, I was the minion of the upperclassmen, and spending Saturdays sorting through bags of recycled bottles, which at times appeared to have a much higher leftover breakfast and lunch content, became one of my favorite new hobbies. Since then, through lots of encouragement to increase student involvement, the club has grown from four participating members to about sixteen. What in the past would take us nine hours to sort through and deposit now takes us a little over four hours, and I am so very grateful for all of the help and time of our members, as well as the help and guidance of Mr. Thomas B. Williams and the Post-Morrow Foundation. Although spending your weekend sorting through recyclables or picking up garbage around our community may not sound as fantastic to everyone at first, a new appreciation for the environment is developed as we recognize how resilient it can be.

This past summer I was able to give back to my summer home at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp on the east end of Long Island as an environmental science instructor in the ECO department. Because some campers were in a completely new environment, they were hesitant to participate in the group and isolated themselves.

By the second day, the same kids were asking more questions than I had been asked by any other group throughout the entire summer. The kids would talk of what they would be changing in their routines and their aspirations of becoming environmental scientists. It was so rewarding to see them grow just in a week, from wanting nothing but to go home, to crying into my shoulder not wanting to leave.

Sharing my passions through teaching future generations and working with others has motivated me to continue my education focusing on the interaction of humans and the environment, as well as its relationship with the economy to come up with permanent, sustainable practices of everyday life to

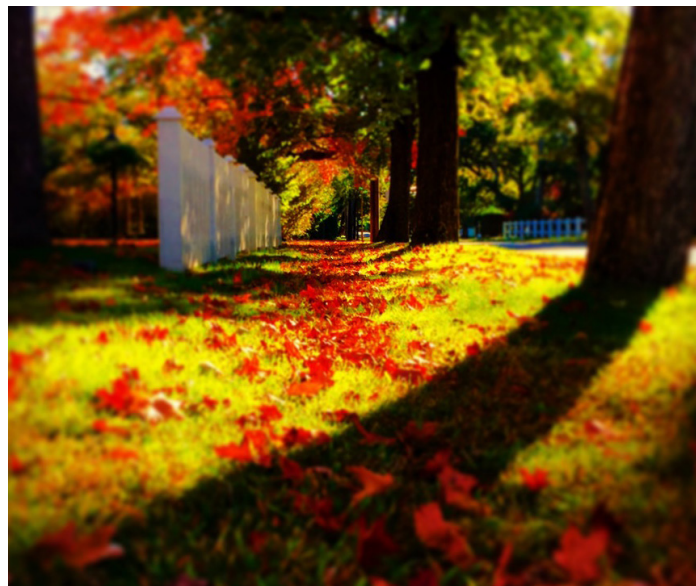


photo by: Julia Villacara

reduce humankind's detrimental impact on the planet. Since the eighth grade I have dreamed about working in the UN. Growing up in and being exposed to such a great amount of diversity in all aspects of my life has been a significant factor in the development of my goal. With the increased destruction of our environment and the continuity and growth of discrimination, my want to work on the forefront of such issues has never been as prominently established. Simultaneously, I will

be minoring in French and Spanish, and will be taking any opportunity to learn as many languages I can. In recognizing the power of the United States' global influence, I want to be able to contribute to the development of sustainable practices in the country, and emphasize that whether one believes in global climate change or not, we are part of the environment of which we are helping. My ultimate goal is to work specifically with impoverished coastal communities and find ways to sustainably develop their economies and deal with the plastic epidemic that destroys the oceans and coastlines. As I go on to a new environment at Stony Brook University, I look forward to continuing my education, growth, and its application to my future.

Purple Martins in the Community



photo by: Bill Thomson_flickr.com

In late 2018 Jake D'Esposito was deciding on his Eagle Scout Project. He wanted to do something that involved serving the community and that is environmentally oriented.

Mike Scheibel, a long-time hamlet resident, a former Senior Wildlife Biologist for NYSDEC specializing in waterfowl and endangered species, and recently retired from The Nature Conservancy at the Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island, introduced Jake to the Purple Martins, a very interesting and beneficial bird. Their main diet is insects such as mosquitoes, flies, moths, and dragonflies.

In April 2019, Jake successfully attracted the birds to our community. He equipped our spring and summer guests with housing at Squassux Landing and helped reduce the mosquito population with an all natural solution.

How did you come to know about these birds?

Mr. Scheibel introduced me to the Purple Martins and gave me some information on these amazing birds. After meeting Mr. Scheibel for the first time, I knew I wanted to move ahead in trying to get a Purple Martin colony into Squassux Landing.

Mr. Scheibel helped me get in touch with his friend Mr. Richardson, who I call "The Purple Martin Expert."

What did you learn?

I visited Mr. Richardson to observe his colonies and get some insight on how to start one of our own. I became a member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association and read a lot on these peculiar birds. I learned about their nesting habits, how to attract them, what they prefer, what are their predators, timing for erecting and dismantling the colony, nesting

placement, managing the settlement, their migration, how to identify them, what they ate and their needs from humans. In other words, I researched and learned anything I could learn about these birds. The more I read about them, the more interested I became. There are some facts about them that amazed me. For example, they will not create their nests in the wild and they are counting on human landlords for housing. Also, they come to New York by a specific date, that is why I had to have the colony up before April 15th. They also return to South America by an exact date as well.

How did you build the nesting ground?

After I got approval to proceed at the marina from the BVA, I met Mr. Scheibel and Mr. Richardson at Squassux. We used their expertise to decide where



photo courtesy of: commons.wikimedia.org

the best placement of the colony would be. Over two weekends my team and I put in a pole and hung specially drilled and vented hard plastic gourds for their housing. We placed pine needles in the gourds and operated a songbird box with

the birds' call from dusk to dawn to attract the Martins.

What was your reaction to the birds' arrival?

I did not think we were going to get Purple Martins this year. I was told that it was very hard to get a colony established in the first season. I was so excited when I saw them at the housing. They are very curious birds.

One early evening, I took a ride with my mom to Squassux to check on the colony and did not see any. The Purple Martins heard us though. They came out of their gourds and observed what we were doing. We were watching them, and they were watching us. Some flew around and returned to their nest, others just watched from the perch or from their gourd's window.

I am looking forward to the spring. I can set the colony back up and have these amazing creatures come back to Squassux. I am so thankful to the Brookhaven Village Association for trusting me and letting my team and myself create and manage the Purple Martin Colony at Squassux Landing.

Julia Villacara

Returning to the Hamlet

There are a variety of reasons why people like living in Brookhaven. This series features residents who recently returned to the hamlet to start a business or who decided to stay here and pursue a career. If you have a similar story to share, or would like to recommend someone for this series, please contact us through the website.



photo by: Jennifer Rocco

The Papandrea family moved from Queens to Brookhaven Hamlet in 1982. Jaime is an alumnus of the South Country School District graduating from Bellport H.S. in 2000. She attended both Johnson & Whales University and the University of Maryland College Park before returning to New York. Jaime earned her Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Library Science Degree from St. John's University. She

has an Advanced Professional Certificate in Public Library Administration from LIU C.W. Post as well.

Jaime always gravitated towards customer service and hospitality-related jobs but didn't have a clear professional goal. After earning her bachelor's degree she wasn't sure what was next. She was working as manager/server at Collins and Main in Sayville and, while loving many aspects of the job, she saw that the hours and schedule was not what she wanted for the long term. She received a flyer about a graduate open house at the St. John's Oakdale campus. Jaime took a chance and checked it out. Shortly thereafter, she enrolled. She quickly discovered that librarianship is a perfect fit for her combining so many of her interests and strengths. As the Library Director, Jaime learns every single day and she engages with our community. She interacts with people of all ages in various ways. Jaime is enthusiastic and adamant that nothing could be better suited for her..

What do you remember most about growing up in the Hamlet?

For me, the Library has always been at the forefront of my childhood memories. It was always a place to feel welcome, a place to go, a place to get help, a place with

something for everyone. As a child, it was the first place I could go on my own, it provided me with my first job at 16 and it afforded a strong connection to my community. I always felt safe and benefited tremendously from the interactions and the access I found at BFL.

What changes in the Hamlet have you seen?

Changing over from well water and the development of Post Point Farm were two big changes that happened during my childhood. While I have seen the same changes we all have in terms of development, I also feel that so many things haven't changed - which is a wonderful thing! Through my work at the Library I have learned a great deal in the past 11 years about Brookhaven's history and its residents. This work has clearly demonstrated to me that so many of the important qualities of this unique area remain unchanged.

What brought you back to Brookhaven?

The Library. In 2007 I enrolled in the Master's program at SJU, without the specific intention of working in a public library, let alone Brookhaven Free Library. Once I began my coursework, I knew this was the path for me and I was eager to gain professional experience. Fortuitously, a full-time position in the BFL Children's Department opened in January 2008. I was thrilled to get the job and, once working, immediately knew that public librarianship was my calling and BFL was the place for me!

What do you feel is the Library's role in the Community?

Sometimes when people speak about institutions or public libraries, they set them apart from the community; they make them separate entities that exist and operate outside of all of the other traditional components of the community. I feel that this is something that is truly different about BFL. We are a part of the community just as much as any other neighbor. We aren't just an institution but a living, breathing member of the community. So I see our role as an active one, one that must adjust based on the needs of our friends and neighbors but at the same time must have a constant thread to rely on. We are a place for so many people to feel welcomed, to be greeted with a smile and addressed by name, to get help, to play, to learn, to enjoy and to meet their neighbors. While the physical items or technology at the Library may change, the basic principles of our service and our role in the community have not, nor will ever change.

Fall 2019 Dockmaster Report

Another boating season is soon to come to a close. With that, there are several items each boater should be aware of.

First, please make arrangements to remove your boat by the November 15th deadline. We must make way for the ice-eaters by clearing the main and west canals. If you chose to remain in the water, your boat must be moved to the river. This option is only for residents. Once the gate key is changed, boaters will have to park on the road and walk in. Any boat in the water beyond January 1st, 2020 will be charged for winter storage. Please remember that if you choose this option, there are no guard services, electricity, or water.

As always, no boats may be stored on Squassux grounds under any circumstances. Please remember the launching ramp will be locked and unavailable after the ice-eaters are installed. New keys will not be mailed until on or about the opening of April 2020.

The fall is a time for beautiful crisp weather, but there is also the possibility of hurricanes and nor'easters. These weather systems produce strong winds and extreme tides. During and after these storms, many board members, Andy Lovito, and myself patrol the marina looking for boats or docks the may be in jeopardy. A major problem is that with higher than normal tides, many dock lines are snubbed too tightly. This creates a situation whereby the boat's buoyancy

creates an upward force that can uproot the dock itself, causing expensive damage to the structure. Also, the boat's cleats and hull may be strained or broken. In general, these mooring lines should be relaxed enough to accommodate any extremes of tides. Often boaters try to tie the lines tightly to avoid their vessel from rubbing against mooring poles or 4x4s on the dock. Instead, loosen the lines and rely upon the use of bumpers to prevent hull damage, especially between boats.

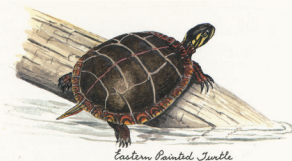


photo by: Julia Villacara

If a storm is forecast, a boater wishes to remain in the water, and slips are empty, you may relocate your boat if you call the dockmaster with your intentions. Also, prepare for a storm, and visit the boat during the blow in case there is an unfurled sail, or an improperly set line. Do not forget to use spring lines to limit the boat's fore and aft travel. They also can keep a boat from going under a dock which can sink it when the tide rises.

Lastly, buy new lines after they fray, and buy oversized OD ropes for strength. These cost a few dollars more, but are significantly stronger and last longer. Just one more item. Check your bilge pump to be sure the battery has juice, that the pump functions, and is not blocked by seaweed or leaves. These suggestions will help to keep your boat floating and safe. Have an enjoyable winter, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring.

Andy Rubin
BVA Dockmaster



Eastern Painted Turtle

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

DEC Holds Town Accountable for Landfill

The DEC hosted an availability session at the Medford Fire District Headquarters on October 10th. On display were informative posters and pamphlets describing the efforts the DEC has taken to ensure the Brookhaven Landfill is properly managed by the Town.

Community members had a chance to speak to DEC project managers and other DEC experts on air quality and solid waste management. I and several members of our local community had a chance to air out grievances and concerns about the Landfill; how many believe it adversely affects our quality of life and how it may impact our health. The discussions were enlightening, lively, and educational. Adrienne Esposto, director of the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, expanded on alternative ideas to air monitoring that other industrial facilities have developed using technology to communicate real-time data back to the facility managers so that they can react more quickly when something goes wrong.

Several community members expressed great frustration with getting actionable help when it comes to the health concerns of their loved ones. They believe the odors and associated gases are at least partially to blame for a variety of illnesses that has been experienced by them and their children and other loved ones. The ongoing plight of Frank P. Long Intermediate School was repeatedly brought up. However, as it was pointed out, the DEC has only the authority to follow its mandate of environmental conservation. The ongoing discussions were civil, on-topic and it was agreed by everyone that more open communication between the the DEC, the South Country school district, and Suffolk

County Board of Health would be helpful in addressing these concerns.

To be fair, the Town and the DEC are not asleep at the wheel. Several programs and protocols are in place to help reduce the odors that might escape the Landfill. Millions of dollars in infrastructure investments in recent years have had new pumps and wells installed to collect and control the release of Leachate (the liquid/gas mixture released by the natural chemical breakdown of the "fill"). Of course this is not enough. Most recently a consent order and a mandated Corrective Action Plan was issued by the DEC to Brookhaven Town. The town is required to evaluate odor-producing conditions and take aggressive corrective measures that will prevent odors in the future, enhance community air monitoring, further improve landfill gas collection, and invest \$150,000 in an Environmental Benefit Project. The odor also included a \$178,000 suspended penalty, payable to the DEC if the town does not fulfill the terms of the enforcement action.

The brightest ray of sunshine to come from this meeting was the statement by the Regional Director of the DEC on Long Island, Carrie Meek Gallagher, that the Landfill will close in 4 to 5 years when the last "cell" has been filled. Stay tuned.

As always, the squeaky wheel gets the grease so if you smell something say something by calling the dedicated **Odor Hotline at (631) 444-0380**.

The DEC has also established a Brookhaven Air Quality Improvement webpage for citizens to learn more about ongoing activities at the Brookhaven Landfill. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/111038.html>

Carlton Stewart

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.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFOUNDATION.ORG

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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



photo by: Julia Villacara

Fire Place

A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association

PO Box 167

Brookhaven, New York 11719

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