

Illustration by
Dennis Puleston

Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Spring 2023

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

President's Message



Photo Credit Ron Kinsella

It was the first full weekend of spring and the weather forecasters were predicting a washout for Saturday but a brighter, more pleasant day on Sunday. Saturday's prediction hit its mark without fail and happily gave way to clear, blue skies and warmer spring-like temperatures Sunday morning.

The front yard looked a little greener in the morning sun as I took notice of the small patches of weeds reaching up between the bricks of our front walkway. Leaves and small twigs scattered about the yard would need to be picked up as I switched to a more cheerful welcoming flag outside our front door. The strategically positioned snowblower in the garage stood at the ready but winter's kindness never called for it to turn its blades. It was time to say goodbye to the daily reminder and get into the shed. The warmer prediction for the day would surely end with a bicycle ride which meant having to dig them out from the back of the shed and rearrange much of what was inside to make room. Boom! My day was now planned in the blink of an eye as I took my first sip of morning coffee.

Exhausted but satisfied with the day's activities, I eagerly filled the flattened bicycle tires from their winter's rest and Cami and I set out to explore the pleasures of our hamlet. Our journey was not short on hellos and friendly greetings to neighbors and friends out and about enjoying the same. Traversing the neighborhood by bike is one of my favorite things to do as it allows me to take in the sight and sounds of all that is awakening as well as reminders of what still needs to be done.

Topping the list for the BVA includes our biannual community cleanup slated for April 22nd, kicking off at 10:00 a.m. at the library. Please join us and give a hand to pick up along our neighborhood roadways. Our planting committee is busy scouting about to locate space for new trees and native plantings, so if you know of an area in need of some environmentally friendly love, give us a call.

Thanks to the voices from Julia Villacara and the rest of the quality of life committee, potholes are getting filled and Fire Place Park is looking mighty serene with the help of the town's park and highway departments. The Squassux committee is keen to get the work to repair and replace dockage at the marina under way as we welcome the installation of a new automatic gate and kayak launch for the upcoming season. So much more to do and share as we look forward to the weeks and months ahead. We'll keep up our pace to keep the email communications flowing so be sure to drop us a line if there's something you need to share with the BVA.

So, finish that cup of coffee and get out there. Every day is a blessing and gift to be part of the spring awakening happening all around us while enjoying the home we call Brookhaven Hamlet.

Chris Ciervo,
BVA President



Fence installers preparing the ground sensor for the new automatic gate.

Spring 2023 Dockmaster Report

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help remove the Ice Eaters. It's Squassux Landing's yearly necessary evil and many hands helped accomplish this task easier and faster than anticipated.

We are excited to announce that Squassex Landing's brand-new gate is almost complete. BVA members will soon receive their own individualized code to access the gate as keys will no longer be used to enter the Marina.

With Boating season here, remember now is the perfect time to clean and prepare your boat for the upcoming season. Please make sure your vessel's bilge pump is working properly. It is important to periodically check the function of the float switch, which can get crusty or corroded over time. It is also important to check your vessel every time after it rains. Bad weather or heavy rains can cause the boat to fill with water even if the bilge or drains are doing well. Water can enter a boat through various sources and not only does this unwanted water possibly include debris, seawater, and rainwater, but it can easily sink a boat if not tended to.

This is your friendly reminder that the driving speed on land in the marina is 5 miles an hour. Also, the marina is a no wake zone. This is to prevent vessel damage and other unforeseen incidentals. To maneuver your vessel safely and effectively it is important to be aware of the wake that your boat leaves behind as it cuts through the water at different speeds. The larger and heavier the boat, the larger the wake. Maintain the ability to steer sufficiently and watch out for kayaks and paddleboards.

If everyone is respectful and vigilant this season will be the best yet. Please contact me, Ulli Petri preferably by text at 631-819-4151 with any inquiries. I am looking forward to spending another great boating season with all of you!

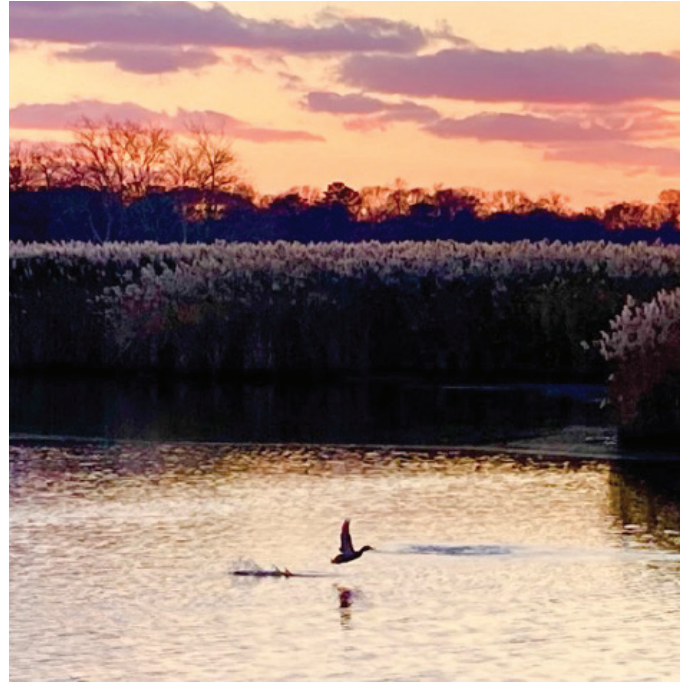


Photo Credit Kris Holmberg

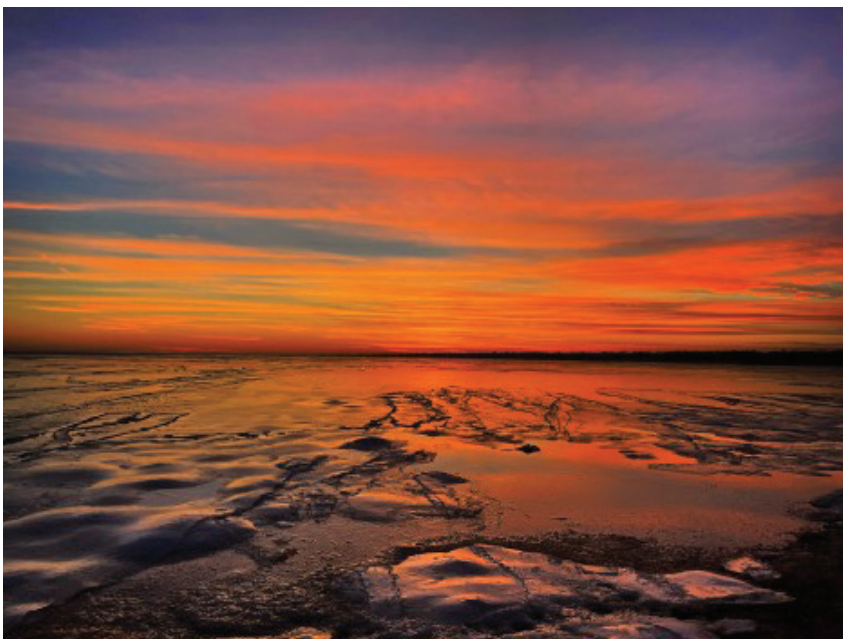


Photo Credit Julia Villacara



Photo Credit Julia Villacara



TIPS TO MOVE YOUR HOUSEHOLD TOWARDS LOW WASTE

HOW TO CREATE A LOW WASTE HOUSEHOLD?



REFUSE
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
ROT

REFUSE

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS LIKE UTENSILS, STRAWS, PAPER TOWELS, COFFEE CUPS, LIDS & PLASTIC BOTTLES THESE CONTRIBUTE TO THE GARBAGE AND POLLUTION PLAGUING OUR PLANET



REDUCE

- REPLACE PAPER TOWELS WITH WASHABLE MICROFIBER CLOTHS
- BUY SECONDHAND ITEMS
- SHOP OUR LOCAL FARMERS
- BUY IN BULK TO REDUCE PACKAGING WASTE
- USE YOUR OWN REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE & COFFEE CONTAINERS WHEN ON THE GO
- GO MEATLESS MONDAY- GOING MEATLESS ONCE A WEEK SAVES 133 GALLONS OF WATER, REDUCES YOUR WEEKLY GROCERY BILL BY APPROX \$23 & YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT BY 8 LBS



REUSE

- DON'T TRASH - DONATE SNEAKERS @GOTSNEAKERS.COM, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & FURNITURE
- REPURPOSE GLASS, PLASTIC & CARDBOARD
- RE-USE GIFT BAGS, WRAPPING & TISSUE PAPER
- CARRY PLASTIC TAKEOUT CONTAINERS WHEN DINING OUT FOR DOGGY BAGS



RECYCLE

- WET CARDBOARD CANT BE USED - KEEP IT DRY FOR RECYCLING
- BUY FOOD IN PLASTICS WITH ONLY #1, #2 OR #5 ON THE BOTTOM
- BUY USED OR REFURBISHED ELECTRONICS WHEN POSSIBLE
- RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS, BATTERIES & INK TONER CARTRIDGES



ROT

- COLLECT FOOD SCRAPS IN A BIN
- DEPOSIT IN YOUR YARD, GARDEN, OUTDOOR PLANTS OR BRING TO OUR LOCAL FARMS & GARDENS WITH COMPOST PROGRAMS LIKE H.O.G FARM
- COFFEE GRINDS & EGG SHELLS PROTECT ROSE BUSHES FROM SNAILS
- SOAK BANANA PEELS IN WATER & POUR THE WATER INTO INDOOR HOUSEPLANTS FOR NOURISHMENT



BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

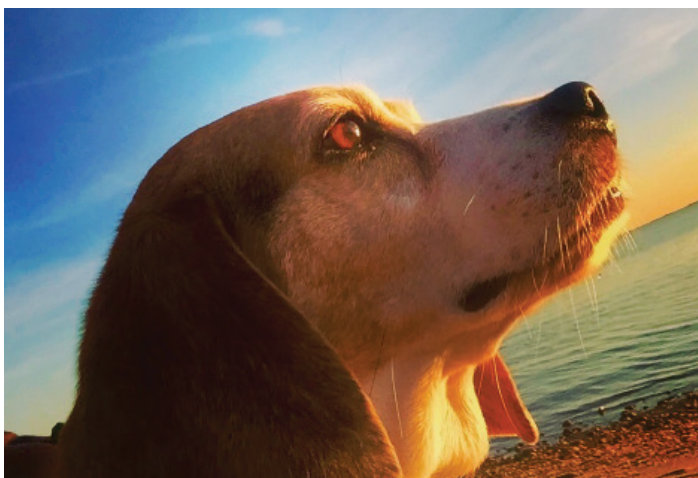
Our Hamlet Ambassadors

It was a beautiful early spring morning nine years ago when the Universe and perhaps the Brookhaven Hamlet itself both said, "You're having a terrible time. Here's something extraordinary." And it was just that when this magical dog found me walking down Edgar Avenue. This scrawny, curious Beagle launched himself off a lawn next to the meadow. With a visible smile, he ran after my greyhounds and I down to the bay. All along I imagined his voice, an excited Joe Pesci voice repeating, "Hi. Hi. Hi!"

I shouted, "Go home!" I tried so hard to shake this dog. I tried not to look at him. I tried to pawn him off to Bay Road neighbors sleepily emerging with garbage bags in tow. Hound Town was closed with all I could handle. I had just returned to the hamlet, my hometown, a few weeks before. I was caring for my infirmed father, settling his affairs while also caring for my mother, her pets, and my two dogs. But how could my heart not melt at the sight of this happy little thing - all 16lbs of magic with a tail wag that could power a PSEG grid.

I took him back to the house he came from holding hope he belonged there. Four Edgar neighbors came out to the street including the homeowner. They said this skinny dog just appeared the day before. "Came up from the marsh. We call him 'Bones,'" they said. No tags, no collar and no one could keep him. The neighbors kindly fed and watered him but with pets of their own they decided they would take him to a rescue that day.

I called my mother to pick up my greyhounds. I didn't want this Beagle to follow us risking getting hit on what was becoming a busy Friday morning with school buses and garbage trucks rolling throughout the streets. My mother showed up in her little, lemon Subaru. She opened her car door. Instantaneously, this tiny hobo instinctively hopped up on her lap, kissed her and sauntered over to the passenger seat where he took her co-pilot seat like he'd always belonged there. My



mother in her raspy voice said, "Your name is Freddy the Freeloader and you're coming with me." It was love. They drove off together becoming inseparable for four years.

After searching for an owner, it was confirmed Freddy was a stray. A hunting dog left behind who survived the winter on his own - if you don't count the parasites he was hosting. This magical dog became my mother's constant companion. He became our soul dog, our utmost joy; a distraction from loss, grief and a reason to keep going. He was a source of love and laughter for my father and mother in their final months and years, myself, and anyone who ever met Freddy.

Freddy became home to me as I permanently moved my life from Brooklyn back here to the hamlet. With his smile and big personality, he introduced me to so many new friends; people I would never have met otherwise. For this he received the nickname "The Mayor." Many people knew his story before they knew me or my own. We'd hear from strange cars passing by, "Hey, Freddy!" as we walked around town. He was the Beagle Boss of Brookhaven. Dogs make the hamlet go round. They are our ambassadors. They keep us social, active and give us a reason to get out, be present, take a few moments and really immerse ourselves in the wealth of beauty we have here.

After my mother passed, Freddy underwent some physical setbacks with spinal disk and knee surgeries along with extensive rehab. The epic outings we once enjoyed became minimal. I missed walking him around town with his puffed out chest and proud strut turned adorable waddle that made so many onlookers grin. Freddy was a gift from our hamlet in so many ways but introducing me to now longtime friends was his true purpose. Freddy passed away in late December free once again to run in the hamlet.

"How do you know so many people?" Knowing it doesn't have much to do with me, I answer bluntly "Dogs." We are a dog loving community blessed with our superb Post-Morrow trails, zen meadows, sublime farmland, peaceful streets and incredible marina. It's a perfect place to get out with your fur pal, chat with friends and make new ones along the way.

Looking to find your own ambassador? Local rescue organizations like New York Safe Haven, Last Chance Animal Rescue and the Town of Brookhaven Animal Shelter are readily available to help you find your own gift from the Universe in a rescue.

With Freddy gone, many memories are lost but he and I never forget those that showed us both such kindness, warmth and friendship along the way. Thank you.

- Julia Villacara

So Long, Pals

Community boards can be a strange brew; a concoction of diverse personalities, skill sets and backgrounds all united for a common purpose and passion. If you're lucky, there's a perfect mix of thoughtful, smart, resourceful and fun do-ers who inspire one another and all see each other's points of view clearly without creating an echo chamber, or, conversely, a contentious environment. This Board has ALL that in large part due to Christine Schaeffer and Carlton Stewart.

Four years ago, Chris invited me to a board meeting. No clue what the BVA did. Two hours later, I was a director. It's been my utmost pleasure and privilege to have joined this Board while Chris and Carlton were directors. Each with their tips on how to navigate and their genuine generosity of spirit, soul and time. Each is always there to help do anything including cleaning up all things gag inducing behind the Wertheim fence at the end of Beaver Dam. On the Quality of Life Committee, Chris and Carlton are the first to say "I'll be there" for all the community-building initiatives we've executed. While we've

enjoyed a lot of fun together, these two have also truly worked their hamlet hineys off for the BVA despite both having very little time busy with their children and running their own successful businesses.

You can count on Chris and Carlton to always offer intelligent, thoughtful perspectives with ease, comfort and humor - even when we disagree. The Board is not happy to see these two term-out after nine incredible years doing so much but rest assured, we will be trying to lure them back. It is with full hearts that each of us thanks Chris and Carlton for jobs beyond well-done. Your outlooks, ideas, mindful insights and selflessness will be missed but have also inspired us all to pick up the reins. Enjoy some time to yourselves (*she says as she sadly looks in their windows begging them to come back).

Come applaud our fantastic and extremely humble Directors Chris and Carlton as we send them off into the sunset with a salute at the BVA Annual Meeting June 21st.

- Julia Villacara



Post-Morrow South Loop in All Seasons Photos by Kris Holmberg

Interview with Carlton Stewart

As my tenure on the board comes to a close, I realize how happy I am to have been an active part of this small community of ours in such a meaningful way. It's been a great way to meet and get to know my neighbors and to feel like I am helping to make improvements on a local level.

As it is stated in our charter, the main focus of the BVA has always been the marina, which has had very active stewardship thanks to an exceptionally dedicated handful of committee members. Thanks to them, we have seen major dock improvements, security, lighting, plumbing and electrical upgrades, a new boat ramp, a kayak rack, and now a new electronic gate! The road surface is well maintained and the ice-eaters have been used successfully for years to help prolong the life-span of the boat slips. All of this has been done while also keeping the costs down for boat residents.

It's been fun to be part of our quality-of-life sub-committee: Thanks to its dedicated leadership we have been able to maintain and grow our relationships with other local groups such as CEED, the Brookhaven Free Library, St. James Episcopal Church, and the Post-Morrow Foundation. Here, we believe in improving everyone's quality of life by helping to host events that we believe our residents appreciate and enjoy such as

food drives, community clean-ups, holiday events, and our version of a block-party: the Sunset Salute down at the marina.

One of my favorite things to do was to write for the Newsletter. Twice a year a handful of us would choose topics and write articles we hoped would interest our readers. I must applaud my compatriots for their excellent articles, photo selections and editing. Honestly, it is loads of fun.



The commitment of our members is strong: During the Covid lock-down we could no longer meet in person as we normally do on the second Wednesday of every month. So what did we do? We met via Zoom like so many others! We (meaning, I) would routinely struggle past technical issues and still get things done.

In fact, the most meaningful part of being on the BVA is working beside the many dedicated neighbors who work continuously to help with needed focus and care to make sure we all get to enjoy living in the best Hamlet on Long Island.

It's encouraging to see the new members of the board come in and embrace their place in the group: a fresh shot of energy and intelligence that keeps it all going.

Cheers, Carlton



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

Interview with Christine Schaeffer

Our beloved Trustee, Christine Schaeffer, was born and raised in Brookhaven Hamlet. Her family moved onto Chapel Avenue in 1970 when it was only a dirt road. Reaching into her childhood memory bank, Christine recalls, "There was a horse pasture and an old water pump on the land nearby. There was so much to do and we always had such a fun time hanging around close to home!"

Across the street, she played near the Leskowitz Duck Farm before the land was purchased by Friends of Wertheim and made into a National Wildlife Refuge. It was rambling and easy to run though, so Christine and her friends used to do all kinds of exploring, and enjoyed the freedom of letting their legs dangle while sitting by the shack near the water. To grow up in Brookhaven brings you into a special club. Her recollections conjured similar memories for myself. I've been here since I was 4 years old and also have fond memories of playing at the Duck Farm grounds, as well as getting in trouble for running along the roof of a barn.



Schaeffer raised her family in Brookhaven Hamlet not far from her childhood home, and has remained in her current home for 25 years. As a highly involved and warm-hearted woman, it is no surprise that Christine was approached to join the Brookhaven Village Association. Schaeffer served on various committees, spreading her time and expertise constantly. Reflecting on her nine years of service, "It

has been nothing but a wonderful experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and engaging with people at our events."

Even though her BVA term is up, Schaeffer will keep busy as the owner and broker of Eileen Green Realty. She also serves as the recording secretary of the Post-Morrow Foundation, and is a supporter of CEED and the Boys and Girls Club. Christine values her commitment to this community. "I have learned that together as a group, with the vast different sets of knowledge, there isn't a lot that can't get done. My hope is that I can serve the Hamlet for as long as I am able."

- Kristin Kirk-Murphy



Photo Credit Susanne Bellocchio

Holidays in the Hamlet

The BVA's holiday events are taking off with our third annual Holiday Cheer (see you December 9th for our fourth!) and our first annual Egg Hunt on April 8th. We want to thank every helping hand on our board, our employees, community partners at BFL, CEED and H.O.G. Farm and all our incredible volunteers. Thanks to all our donors who support our efforts through the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation and your BVA membership fees to beautify, build and strengthen our community and do good with our food drives benefiting Mary Immaculate Food Pantry, toy drive for LightHouse Mission and supply drives for Brookhaven Animal Shelter. It is with your generous support that we can create so many smiles inside and beyond the hamlet.

- Julia Villacara
Quality of Life Committee Chair



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.

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Kent Adee	Genevieve & Daniel Freedberg	Julie & Dennis O'Neil	Matthew Sherman
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John Dietz Day



Brookhaven Hamlet is lucky to have so many celebrated, community-minded people. John Dietz is among the admired, and has been selected by the Town of Brookhaven to have a day in his honor. **John Dietz Day** was made official on December 15, 2022! John has always stood out in his own particular way thanks to his selfless variety of contributions to this area. Local resident, Marty Van Lith glows, "John has also led walking tours of our hamlet's historic district, physically worked to restore more than a dozen historic cemeteries and printed brochures about them, created our Revolutionary War Memorial, and gave presentations on subjects ranging from the artists who lived here to the history of Washington Lodge." Furthermore, the website he created has been the result of researching our hamlet's history over the course of 20 years, including in-depth genealogies of those who lived here over the course of more than three centuries, all recorded on thousands of pages at Brookhaven SouthHaven.org. John Dietz' intellectual guidance and enthusiasm to preserve precious historical and cultural information for posterity reflects his higher calling to serve. And now we get to salute him.



- Kristin Kirk-Murphy

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

JOIN THE BROOKHAVEN FIRE DEPT.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

APPLY TODAY

CALL (631) 286-0282



SCAN ME



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www.Brookhavenfd.com

Volunteers needed

BEAUTIFYING AND
PRESERVING OUR HAMLET

The BVA is looking for a few green thumbs and history buffs to join our subcommittees. A little of your time can make a big impact.

PLANTINGS

Gardening enthusiasts wanted to beautify the hamlet with trees and native planting projects.

CEMETERY CLUB

Volunteers needed to ensure our pockets of history are preserved for generations.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT YOUR BVA AT

BVAMAIL@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 \$ _____

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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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

BROOKHAVEN
VILLAGE
ASSOCIATION

**JUNE
21
2023
6PM**

POST-MORROW FOUNDATION
16 BAY ROAD

**ANNUAL MEETING
AND
SUNSET SALUTE
HONORING DIRECTORS
CHRISTINE SCHAEFFER
CARLTON STEWART AND
VICE PRESIDENT
LENNY DACONTO**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Fire Place

A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association

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