



Eastern Painted Jurtle Illustration by Dennis Puleston

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

### **President's Message**



Photo credit: Susanne Bellocchio

Welcome spring 2022 and to the many hamlet community residents eager and looking forward to the longer, warmer days of sunshine, renewal and awakening. For me, this time of the is marked by earlier mornings awakened by songbirds, longer walks with the dog and days that seemingly fill up with things to do.

As I look around pondering what to write for this publication, I'm reminded of the collective good that surrounds me - the walking trails of Post Morrow or riverwalk along Beaver Dam creek; a moment or two respite on a natural bluestone seat in the preserve along Edgar Avenue or closing out the day overlooking the protected wetlands at Squassux Landing and catching a glimpse of osprey, eagles, purple martins while the sun sets overlooking the great south bay. Ours is a community strengthened by natural surroundings and the collective spirit of doing what's naturally good for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. A special shout out to the individuals and organizations beautifying and caring after our neighborhood streets, protected lands, historic properties and waterways. For those with passion and foresight in seeing the wrong or what could be better, taking the stand to be heard and doing something about it. And to the many working and volunteering their time to educate, entertain, rescue and protect our kids, community and those less fortunate, I applaud you as does your Brookhaven Village Association. We're here to help in any way we can. And you can too! Join one of our committees and be part of the process in helping to do what's good - because you can.

I'd like to close with a special farewell to Andy Rubin, our dockmaster at Squassux Landing. Andy, thank you for the years of service in helping to preserve and protect the marina and all that it represents to boaters and members of our community. Please take care of yourself and be sure to stop by to visit.

Lastly, the BVA is very happy to welcome Ulli Petri, to the position of Dockmaster. A longtime local resident, Ulli has been a familiar face and volunteer at the marina for years. I'm sure I speak for everyone by saying, Welcome Ulli!

> Respectfully, **Chris Ciervo** *BVA President*



creations to celebrate their arrival all season

## Holidays in the Hamlet



Thanks to all our partners, volunteers, donors and guests in making our second holiday celebration extra sweet and creative. You helped make special memories for our own families and those in our vulnerable communities. Thanks to all our incredible partners; Brookhaven Free Library's Miss Rita and Kai Hatcher, CEED's Sally Wellinger and volunteers, Troop 4's Lex Mallon, Angel Slawinski and all the enthusiastic scouts. Can't forget Jim's Deli and Sweet Moments for the hot coco and truly delicious treats - my waistline still hasn't forgotten! Huge applause to Brookhaven Elementary School students and art teacher Gianna Maccarino for the hundreds of holiday cards we delivered to the residents of Bellhaven Nursing.

Special thanks to Jeff and Caleb Jensen, Max and Harry Yablon, Janet Quirk, Andy Lovito, Andy Rubin and Johnny Knapp. Deep gratitude for all in our generous community who once again shared in the true meaning of the season with your donated food and toys going to Mary Immaculate Food Pantry and Lighthouse Mission. Thank you for all your creative tree ornaments that really raised the bar this year. A log cabin, people!

See you all back at Fire Place Park the second weekend in December for another round of holiday cheer.

- Julia Villacara Quality of Life Committee Chair

### Have You Seen the Signs?



Local custom sign-maker Ted Anderson created this vibrant, wood Brookhaven Hamlet sign now on Montauk and South Country. The sign was installed by our Board member Chris Bland in July and paid for by the Hamlet Historic Fund. Thanks to Lisa Konnerth and her students for the hand-painted sign that warmly welcomed visitors and residents home to the Hamlet for many years in that spot.



Town of Brookhaven's Cary Palmer worked with the BVA's request to craft a composite Fire Place Park sign matching our existing Historic District signage. The sign acknowledges the park's historic name and honors former ToB Councilman Don Zimmer who secured the Town owned land for our community. Cary and Chris Devine installed the sign in the park this past December.

#### -Julia Villacara

### **Dockmaster Andy Rubin Casts Off**

Almost fifteen years ago Andy Rubin walked into a BVA meeting. Then a resident in the hamlet he thought he might want to join the civic association or at least find out what it was all about. At that meeting BVA President Janet Taylor happened to ask if anyone might be interested in helping cover dockmaster duties for Jerry Damm who was enjoying the life of a snowbird.

Andy Rubin raised his hand.

He did not know then he'd begin over a decade of dedicated service to the BVA, the Squassux Landing Marina and to our boating community composed of residents and non-residents.

Over the years, Andy has been the face and, really, the phone voice of the BVA. He's helped all our boaters find slips at the marina. He handles the requests, gets the gate and ramp keys out, manages the boater waitlists and assisted with the improvements the marina has made. "At first, it gave me something to do while I was teaching, then while I was retired. And again during the pandemic it was a reason to get out of the house. I've really enjoyed doing the job and found my purpose in it." Andy has loved providing for the community and getting to know residents over the years. And working in such a gorgeous environment ain't too shabby either. Over the years, Andy made invaluable contributions to the marina. "Andy proposed the first purchase and installation of the ice-eaters to help abate freezing ice damage to the docks in the canals", offered former BVA President John Knapp. Andy saved the marina over \$20K in expenses to repair and replace winter damaged docks with the ice-eaters ensuring those docks were safe and ready to go for the new season. Another monumental improvement for the marina and perhaps humankind; moving the waitlist, which was written on a pizza box when Andy first began, on up to a Word doc.

"It's always been a hands on job and I was always there to help." Andy prides himself on being available to the needs of the community. In emergency situations when the Coast Guard or police needed his help locating missing boaters, Andy made sure he answered every call no matter the hour. To that he adds "Text messaging has been a godsend!" I think we can all agree on that and together wish Andy a safe and sweet voyage as he casts off for new waters. We are grateful for your dedicated service. Cheers, Andy Rubin!

- Julia Villacara



# **BVA Membership Application**

Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to residents of Brookhaven Hamlet as defined in the BVA bylaws. To become a member, complete this form and send it along with your annual membership fee to

### Brookhaven Village Association, P.O. Box 167, Brookhaven, New York 11719

Name: .	
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Address:

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

Phone:

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

Member Fee (\$25 annually):

\$

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG

### Starting a Business in Brookhaven



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.

We have all witnessed the distinct fleet of silver trucks with the green and white "South Country Arboriculture, Inc." logo posted on the sides. Recently, we were able to sit down with the amazing folks who own and operate this Hamlet-based business.

#### Jeffrey and Christine Jensen own and operate

South Country Arboriculture, Inc. Arboriculture is the cultivation and management of trees, shrubs, and vines within the landscape. This includes the study of how woody plants grow and respond to cultural practices and the pruning, removal, applying fertilizer, treating to control insects and diseases, cabling and bracing, and treating cavities. It is both an art and a science, combining physical skills and modern technology to utilize scientifically based methods to care for woody plants.

#### **Getting started**

Jeff and Christine both grew up in Brookhaven Hamlet; Jeff on Bay Lane and Christine on Bond Lane. Jeff moved to the big city of Bellport at the age of 5 and started mowing lawns and gardening at age 11.

He eventually found his way back to the Hamlet to live and start South Country Arboriculture, Inc.

Both Christine and Jeff are graduates of Bellport High School. Christine enjoyed the music program and running track. She recalled many of the excellent teachers in the High School, including Mr. Hogan and Coach Williams. When asked what stood out from their experiences at Bellport High School, Jeff responded, "My wife" which Christine reciprocated. Jeff shared that his focus was earning money, but recalled his High School advisor- Joan Curtis. Ms. Curtis saw Jeff's interest in landscaping and helped Jeff pursue a degree in Plant Sciences at SUNY Cobleskill. Jeff credits Ms. Curtis with helping him make his passion his profession.

Christine attended the University of DE majoring in Foreign Languages & Literature.

Upon returning from college, Jeff worked for various Landscape and Tree Care companies, advancing his way up from Landscape Project Manager to Certified Arborist and later joined the BVA. Christine worked at the Library, It's Only Natural and later became a Research & Litigation Coordinator for an Insurance Adjuster. They decided to marry in 2003 and started their business in 2008. The Jensens were thrilled to provide much needed services to properties of their longtime neighbors, friends and the local community.



Photo credit - Julia Villacara

#### Up in the trees

While Jeff reports there have been no sightings of cookie-making elves in the trees, he did share a wild story about a ride he once gave to a racoon. While high up in his aerial lift pruning a tree, a racoon climbed out of a cavity and jumped into the bucket of his lift. Jeff and the racoon rode the lift down to the ground where the racoon exited without a word or noise of thanks.

### **Favorite part of the Hamlet**

With its historic feel, preserved lands and quiet open spaces, the Hamlet is a place where you can decompress. The Jensens and their 3 children enjoy the hiking trails and proximity to the water. Squassux provides the opportunity for them to hop on their boat for quick getaways. The Hamlet provides a great opportunity to network with people that know and trust you in a close knit community.

#### **Newey Lane Project**

Jeff has offered to provide the BVA with professional guidance in woodlot management. Starting with the West side of Squassux Landing, we are looking to install native trees, shrubs and grasses, and to combat invasive trees and vines along a portion of Newey Lane.

The Jensens learned from owning their own business that people genuinely love their trees and greenery as much as they do. They are thankful for being able to live and thrive in such a beautiful area.

- Kevin Glynn



Photo by Julianna Kirk

### Spring 2022 Dockmaster's Report

Dear Squassux Boaters:

This is to be my last article in the Newsletter. After about 15 years of being the dockmaster at Squassux Landing, I have decided it was time to use my time for different endeavors. I will still be boating further east, but expect to haunt the Bellport Bay area from time to time. I am keeping my little blue Eastern skiff for the time being, but have an eye open for something a bit larger.

I began boating from Goulds marina in 1973 and loved going to the old Bellport beach club at that time. Later, I thought the Old Inlet dock was perfect, save for the mosquitos. It was a private slice of heaven to have a pristine ocean beach to myself for as far as I could see east and west. I squirreled away my sick time from work to take many great days off to have a picnic, or a few beers during the week when the beach was empty. I still try to get out during weekdays for that reason.

I have enjoyed my work at Squassux, and always

thought the property was something special. I have seen a lot of wildlife and liked the weather shifts there. I especially found solace in the winter, when I felt I had the entire place to myself. It was a special and private encounter.

The boaters were always cooperative and warm to me. I was always amused that some residents must have thought I lived in the shack. I did try my best to listen to everyone's needs and felt a satisfaction when I solved a problem that made boating for a family more enjoyable. I always rented out every slip yearly for the BVA Board, who always supported me in my work. For a retired person, it was a great pursuit. Of course, there were a few challenging incidents, and a couple of doozies, but mostly it was fun.

Squassux Landing is a treasure for the community, and I am glad at how many residents emerged to offer their time, effort, and ideas to sustain the marina as the wonderful and unique place it is. I will miss it.

- Andy Rubin, Dockmaster

## **Ramping Up For the 2022 Season**



Ramp shell waiting for concrete.





Ramp demolition



Ramp Install, Spring '22



John Knapp & Steve Young's super powers? Powerwashing.



Thanks to our community and Board volunteers at the ice-eater removal, a.k.a Muck 'n Yuck Party.

### What The Heck Is An Anaerobic Digester?

Many of us who care deeply about our environmental health have been paying attention to many of the wonderful ideas that have been slowly evolving and taking shape into new and innovative solutions to our energy, waste and environmental health problems we have here on Long Island. For instance, I'm a big fan of the fact that there will soon be wind turbines off the shore producing enough electricity to effectively offset our collective dependency on fossil fuels. What a wonderful way to step toward renewable energy and I applaud all of those who champion the endeavor. Another interesting innovation that I learned was being put together is something called the Anaerobic Digester that will essentially remove tons of food waste from the wastestream and essentialy turn it into fertilizer and fuel. A recent press release states "When it is fully operating, the facility is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tons annually, produce 2.0 MW of electricity and approximately 1.9 million diesel gallons equivalent of compressed natural gas." Adrienne Esposito of the CCE (Citizens Campaign for the Environment) had a part to play in getting the idea off the ground. I told her that I wanted to write an article on the subject for our newsletter in order to inform our readers about it. She immediately wrote back to me with this informative description:

Long Island is on the verge of a solid waste crisis. The Brookhaven Landfill is scheduled to close in 2024 and the Babylon ash fill will close in 2027. What will we do with the 425,000 tons of ash produced each year by Long Island's four waste-to-energy facilities, of which 350,000 tons per year is disposed of at the Brookhaven Landfill? As of today...we do not know. Some of the ash will certainly end up being transported off the island to out-of-state landfills, but what we need are more long-term solutions. The best solutions will certainly start with reducing our waste to begin with.

One important change we need to make is to consider our food waste a resource and not a waste product. New York generates an estimated 4 million tons of excess food annually, which makes up 18% of the state's municipal solid waste going to landfills and waste to energy facilities. To help address food waste, CCE and others worked to pass the Food Donation and Food Scrap Recycling Act in 2019. This law requires large generators of food waste to donate their excess edible food to food banks and then recycle their food scraps. For this to be a success, we will need large compost facilities and anaerobic digesters that can properly manage food waste.

The good news is that Long Island will soon be home to a state-of-the-art food waste to energy facility in Yaphank. American Organic Energy's project, which plans to break ground this year, will prevent 180,000 tons of food waste generated on Long Island, as well as 30,000 tons of fats, oils, and grease and 10,000 tons of grass clippings from going to landfills. The facility will be accepting food scraps from educational institutions, hospitals, restaurants, and other large generators and breaking it down using microbes in an enclosed, odorcontrolled system. The result will be valuable compost and fertilizer that will be sold to Scott's Miracle Grow along with the generation of local clean energy.

This state-of-the-art anaerobic digestion process will capture the air emissions including methane and other gasses within a closed system and convert them into renewable energy. Some of that energy will be used to run daily operations at the facility and the extra will be sold to LIPA and used to power thousands of homes. Food that used to go to landfills and Covanta facilities to be incinerated, will be turned into compost that will help to power our local grid and aid in our transition off fossil fuels.

This project was conceived as part of negotiations between the owners of Long Island Compost and the community. In the past, odors, dust and noise were a significant concern. The BVA was part of the team who had many long and stressful meetings with the owners requesting upgrades and changes to the facility. This new facility will house about 70%-80% of the composting materials inside a negative air pressure building, meaning that odors, noise and dust concerns should be immensely reduced. Long Island Compost also hired a consultant to do an air study to understand why odors were affecting some communities and not others. The study results allowed the company to relocate standing compost materials to an area on their property that would help to mitigate odor impacts and reduce community impacts. It took nearly a decade of negotiations with community members, environmental stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and policy makers to get this project approved, but now we are on the verge of a massive shift in the way we manage our food waste.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 20th, and production should begin late 2023.

#### - Carlton Stewart



**BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** 

## Helping Hands in the Hamlet



My grandmother did not drive. We walked. At first, in a carriage, stroller and then guided by her hand all over this hamlet. On our walks to the old Arnold store on Montauk, Jim's Deli for a treat, to the nursery for tomatoes or to the end of Locust to play on the trampoline, my grandmother always had a free hand to pick up litter.

Magnolia can't wait to start cleaning at our Spring Community Cleanup 4/23/22

Looking around then and now, my

grandmother was not the only one who did this. That's one of the many reasons that makes this hamlet Brookheaven; the altruistic care our residents put into our collective home.

Over the decades, an astonishing number of residents have used their own resources to beautify areas with plantings and their own labor. Families and friends out edging sidewalks along South Country and the park, removing graffiti, planting and pruning trees in our public spaces, emptying garbage bins and cleaning up our open spaces and streets all year long selflessly volunteering their money, time and energy to do so. These are people who just get it done. People who don't need the recognition or the praise or do it for the FaceBook posts but people invested in the same goal of preserving and beautifying our precious gift. Sometimes there's even a clever name for a group of neighbors that adopt an area like the Parkettes who cleaned Fire Place Park for many years.

Each with our helping hand makes a difference and, without realizing it, sets the example for the next generation.

-In loving memory of our courageous and compassionate neighbor Teresa Platt who graciously always lent a hand to the community.

- Julia Villacara



Rising daylilies along South Country Road planted by residents

# **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

	Dennis Puleston Envionmental Fund BVA Tree Fund	\$ \$	
Common, Swof, and White-winged Scoters (left to right)	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			

### **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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Photo credit: Chris McCollum



Photo credit: Susanne Bellocchio



Photo credit : Susanne Bellocchio

Photo credit - Julia Villacara

Thanks to our contributing community members whose photos of our familiar surroundings and nature allows us to appreciate life through a different lens. If you'd like to contribute, please send to <u>newsletterbva@gmail.com</u>



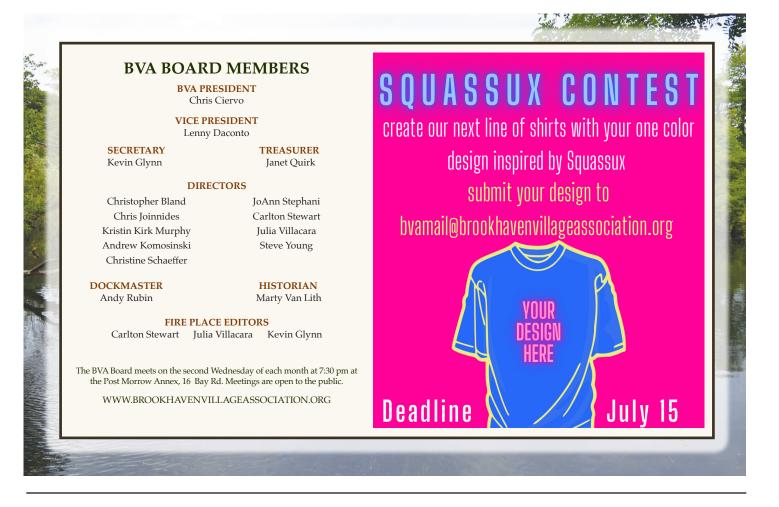
Photo credit: Julianna Kirk



Photo credit - Julia Villacara



Photo credit : Julianna Kirk



# **Fire Place**

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



### Resident Brookhaven, NY 11719

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