

Illustration by
Dennis Puleston

Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fall 2022

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

President's Message



At the BVA's request, the Town of Brookhaven Parks Department replaced the footbridge in Fire Place Park over the summer. The floorboards are sturdier and the railings wider without losing our Park's rural charm. The bridge is spectacular and ready for all our Hamlet children to explore.

Greetings to one and all. Hard to believe we're turning the page on yet another summer season to welcome in the cooler, festive days of fall and winter.

Since our Spring Newsletter, DEC permits for Squassux have been secured and, thanks to the support of our members, a new boat launch ramp was completed just in time for boating season – thank you Greg Isacksen Construction. The BVA welcomed two new board members to the team, Dave Anderson and Anthony Griffin, as well as a new Dockmaster, Ulli Petri, who without hesitation, jumped into his new role fitting boats into slips, saving a few from sinking, and keeping an orderly peace of boating members throughout the season. A shout out to Andy Lovito for his unwavering passion in keeping the marina docks safe, grounds manicured, and roads passable. Chris Bland and the Squassux Committee led the charge in constructing two new kayak racks and we're looking forward to dropping a floating ramp nearby for the upcoming 2023 season. A couple of additional networked security cameras were added and by the time this newsletter goes to print, the decision on the installation and timing of a new automatic gate into

the marina will be made (hooray!). Fingers are crossed for a mild winter and fewer dock repairs so we can finally address the shoreline erosion occurring along the south loop between the center canal and Carman's River.

Outside the marina, our Quality of Life, Land Use and are engaging more often at raising the flag when town issues arise or when the voice of our community needs to be heard. Hats off to Julia Villacara, BVA board and community volunteers for stepping up and not being shy about matters impacting our community, environment, resources, and neighbors. Email communications, holiday drives and fundraisers, this very newsletter, coordination with Post-Morrow Foundation, CEED, St. James Church, Brookhaven Library, and South Country School District have all reached new and exciting heights and I am grateful for such dedication and commitment from the entire BVA Board and community volunteers. Let's keep it going!

Enjoy the cooler, festive days of fall and winter and thank you for doing your part for all that is good for our hamlet.

Chris Ciervo,
BVA President



Photo by Lynda Wagner

Beaverdam Road & Bridge Reboot

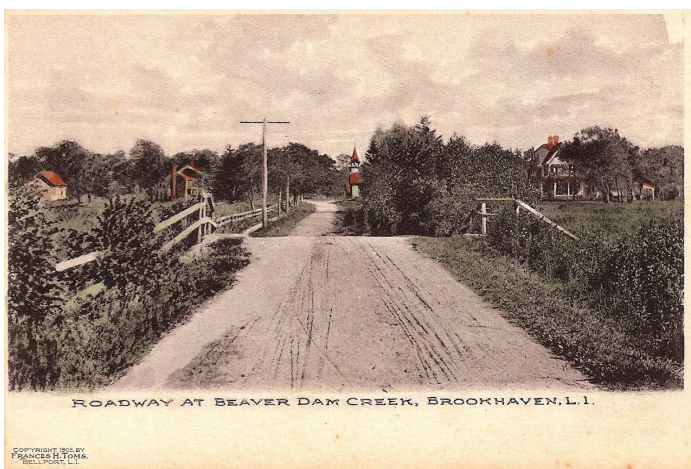
Photos provided by BVA Historian - Marty Van Lith



Beaver Dam Road Bridge Circa 1890s

So, if you were like me, I was a little dismayed when I saw that the Town suddenly closed Beaverdam Roads between South Country Roads and Bay Roads back in September. The Town didn't put up any signs, or send out any notices, previous to the project's beginning; it was just sprung on us one September day. I don't mean to sound like a jaded tax-payer but the next thought I had was "Great, the Town of Brookhaven strikes again - thanks-no thanks." Of course, no one likes to reroute themselves to get where they need to go, but for sure, at most it was a minor inconvenience.

I get it: That part of the roads has been suffering in two ways: The shoulders were a bit beaten up and after a decent rainstorm, both sides of the bridge would get flooded terribly. Despite the lack of communication and my knee-jerk condemnation of the Town's administration methods, the Highway Department crew did an excellent job in irrigating rain water away from the roads, as well as resurfacing the bridge and the shoulder of the roads. Yet to be seen is how well the vegetation grows back; Everyone that I talked to was immediately concerned



Beaver Dam Road & Bridge 1905 Frances H. Toms

about the fate of the daffodils the Love-Sacks have planted for decades along the roads there. They, and thoughtful neighbors, have already replanted close to 300 bulbs and are aiming to plant more later in the season. Hopefully, they will delight us this coming spring as they always do.

Just when we were about to publish this edition of the newsletter, the Town's Highway Department came sweeping in again and began resurfacing a large portion of Beaverdam and Bay Roads. What have we done to deserve this? All jokes aside, we thank the Town of Brookhaven for revamping our roads that many of us use everyday. A well maintained Hamlet is a happy Hamlet.

All of this got some of us thinking about the history of our roads here. To be sure, the roadway and Beaverbrook bridge has been renovated many times since 1735, when it was first constructed. While there is a lot of history to dive into, we thought it best to guide the newsletter readers here for more in-depth information: <https://brookhavensouthaven.org/history-volume-contents/> brought to us by the diligent work of the now-retired Brookhaven Historical Club and now maintained by the Post Morrow Foundation. Special thanks to John Dietz and Marty Van Lith for their contributions here.

Carlton Stewart



Beaver Dam Road Construction Sign By Ron Kinsella

Fall 2022 Dockmaster Report

As this boating season winds down, I'd like to express my deep thanks to both the Board members and residents of the Brookhaven Hamlet for making me feel so welcomed taking on the role of Dockmaster at Squassex Marina. A chance to get fresh air while spending time with friends and family is why there are few activities that measure up to boating.

This season, residents were eager to get back to their normal routines as a surge in boating demands emerged after the pandemic. As the new dockmaster, it was a challenge as many first-time boaters emerged, to navigate their demands along with tending to our long-time loyal boaters and dockers. I appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience during this process.

Squassex Marina's dock reservations fill up quickly. A safe speed is required for adequate and effective maneuvering to prevent damage. Please use this as a friendly reminder that as a boater, it's important to understand and be conscious 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. Make sure you maintain the ability to steer sufficiently. Also note, that the driving speed in the marina is 5 miles an hour which will be closely monitored by us and security cameras.

Boat owners who are renting dock space, please be sure to remove your vessels by November 15, 2022. For any questions, please contact Ulli Petri preferably by text at 631-819-4151.

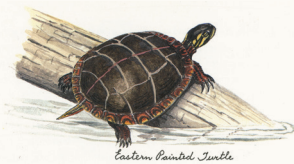
Ulli Petri
BVA Dockmaster



Photo by Lynda Wagner



Photo by 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

Squassux Fair: Mayhem Marina



Photo credit: Susann Gude

On October 8th, the BVA hosted the reboot of the epic Squassux Fair. Well - shiver my timbers - it was a jolly good time! New and long-time residents and young families all came down to Squassux Marina to enjoy our community, celebrate our unity and enthusiastically embrace a day of fun for arrrgh- all. While Noah's Arc and Cass House played some kickin' sets, all the wee seadogs kept busy with games and activities and had a blast on a treasure hunt. Well, the adults had fun on the hunt too.

It was a great day for neighbors to meet, old friends to reunite and new friends to gather. The turn out was surprisingly incredible as was the amount of good cheer among you pirates and scallywags. Thank you for indulging so heartily in our pirate theme. It is also with full hearts the Board and I thank you for supporting our merchandise and raffle sales. The backing of all our BVA members, our residents, our community partners, volunteers and our small businesses made this day possible.

Thanks to our small businesses Good Merch, It's Only Natural, Lashes & Co., Red Barn, Salt of the Earth Yoga, The Store Front, Summer Salt and TOLA for their generous donations of raffle prizes. Thanks to Jackie Subhash for going door-to-door essentially begging for these donations. Thanks to the Gateway Playhouse, Mr. Lal at M&K Liquor and Danny and Warren Smith

of Swiftway for their big-hearted donations. And thank you to our community members who created basket prizes. The creativity was off the charts!

Gratitude to our community partners at Bellport High School, Blue Point Brewery, Brookhaven Free Library, CEED, H.O.G and Post-Morrow Foundation for all their support and assistance. It holds truer than ever that we are only as good as those around us.



Photo credit: Susann Gude

I am grateful to all our community members who volunteered on the Fair committee and those who showed up to help out. Your experience, creative ideas and great energy getting this Fair off the ground was just beyond. It was not an easy endeavor for sure but you all made it fun and exciting. Thanks to Lauren Adamkiewicz, Cami Ciervo, Anne Garrett, Taryn Glynn, Gosia Griffin, Leslie Healy, Jeff Johnsen, Jeff Lundwall, Thad O'Neal, Lauren Napoli, Liz and Matt Palace, Sean Pilger, Flo and Skip Pope, Jackie Subhash, Karin and Lealand Wagner, Andy Lovito, Janet Quirk, Rachel, Harley and Ulli Petri and all our BVA Board Directors who definitely got a work out setting up and breaking down this event.

Many thanks to the students and Hamlet kids who helped throughout the fair. They lent tremendous hands with innovation and ownership. Commendable group of civically engaged kids that I'm happy to say are our future.

And thanks to all of you who came out and enjoyed our day. It is with your support of the BVA's community building events and programs that we are able to invest in and strengthen this, our beautiful community. Proof that "not all treasure is silver and gold, mate."

I can not believe I'm writing this but... Ready for early September when the Fair returns with a new theme?

In the meantime, see you all down at Fire Place Park on December 10th 3-5pm for the BVA's annual Holiday event as we gather together to decorate our community tree, enjoy live music, holiday activities and share in the joy and meaning of the season with a food and toy drive.

Ahoy!
Julia Villacara
Quality of Life Committee Chair



Photo credit: Jackie Subhash



Photo credit: Susann Gude



Photo credit: Susann Gude



Photo credit: Susann Gude



Photo credit: Susann Gude



Photo credit: Susann Gude



Photo credit: Susann Gude

Virginia Brown Scholarship Awards

The VB Scholarship Committee had the pleasure this year of reading excellent essays. The committee awarded 2 scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 and \$2,000 at our annual meeting in June. The winner of the \$3,000 scholarship, Jacob Repper, is attending University of Massachusetts, Amherst, majoring in Journalism. The winner of the \$2,000 scholarship, Curren Johnsen, is attending Lehigh College, majoring in Special Education and Business.

The winning essays are included in this newsletter and we hope everyone enjoys reading them as much as the committee enjoyed selecting them.

Janet Quirk

Virginia Brown Scholarship Committee Chairperson



Winners Jacob Repper and Curren Johnsen accepted their scholarship awards at the BVA Annual Meeting in June.

Jacob Repper, 2022 Virginia Brown Scholarship Essay

Somewhere on Long Island between the boisterous streets of New York City and the swanky estates of the Hamptons lies a hidden oasis of natural beauty. A beauty so pure that it can only be experienced in person; It is a playground for my everlasting adventures and a blank canvas for my wild imagination. This pristine landscape that I gratefully call home is no other than Brookhaven Hamlet.

Over my seventeen years of living in Brookhaven Hamlet, I've discovered the things that make me the happiest here. I've explored the vast marshlands that overlook the bay, bird-watched for bald eagles in the neighboring forests, and fished the shorelines for some of the northeast's biggest, most iconic striped bass. While I can't say I've never lost a fishing lure due to my impatient knot-tying or had some close calls while haphazardly tree climbing, I've realized a day in the hamlet is nothing but a blessing.

At an early age, my love for the outdoors came from my appreciation for animals and my desire to protect their environment. However, my true appreciation for The Hamlet most notably took shape in the spring of 2020. During this time, the global pandemic of the Coronavirus forced people all over the world to shut down, quarantine, and suppress a human's natural instinct to explore. However, while uncertainty about the virus ran rampant through the bulk of the American population, I turned off the television and opened myself up to a good kind of contagiousness: the great outdoors.

During this time I saw an opportunity to kickstart my own business. After making a quick call to a couple of buddies, I decided to form a landscaping business with two of my friends. Right away the three of us anxiously

sat down to establish the foundation for our business. I subsequently began printing flyers and putting them in every mailbox in town. Sure enough, the phones started ringing, and away we went.

When it was all said and done with the coming of winter, I realized I learned a lot more than just how to spread mulch or plant flowers over the past year. Landscaping taught me how to work hard, the value of attention to detail, and the importance of creating something that radiates positivity and success. Perhaps that was the most important thing I realized because it is applicable in all facets of life.

While I don't intend on my future indefinitely revolving around shovels and lawnmowers, I do seek to take my lessons learned to college where I will be studying journalism at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Here, I intend on exploring my true passion in life, this being sports broadcasting. I've always had a knack for storytelling and an interest in sports which has led me to my major. The sportscasting world is filled with nuance and the need for a star and I believe my skills and passion for sports broadcasting at the University of Massachusetts will one day elevate me to a new playing field.

However, no matter what cities the cameras and gleaming lights will take me to, I can be assured that when I return, Brookhaven Hamlet's beauty will be preserved by the next generation of entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and tree climbers just like me.

Jacob Repper

Curren Johnsen, 2022 Virginia Brown Scholarship Essay

Proud is what I am to call Brookhaven Hamlet, home. With an amazing community, beautiful surroundings, many different opportunities, family, lifelong friends, and education all at my fingertips, I will always be proud to be able to say Brookhaven Hamlet is my home. I will further my education and athletic career next year attending Lehigh University, a private division one institution located in Bethlehem Pennsylvania. It is my intention to major in education or business and will take several courses my freshman year towards my decision. At Lehigh I will meet a great number of people, I can assure myself that the question, "where are you from?" will be a common question asked to me, proudly I will say "Brookhaven Hamlet, Long Island". They most likely will ask where and what that is, the answers I can give them are endless, but to me,

Brookhaven Hamlet, Long Island is a small community located on the south shore waters of mid eastern long Island, where I grew up fishing, surfing, boating, biking, playing lacrosse, helping my neighbors, establishing friendships, spending family time, and gaining knowledge on not just the things around me but also about myself.

My lessons learned here in the Hamlet are ones that will be with me for a lifetime. I can still remember the crisp spring air electrifying and clearing my brain as I sat in the stroller motored by my mom behind as she ran the comforting and calming roads of this beautiful town. On those runs I asked questions as I observed the surrounding nature. Now whether my mom knew the answer, or didn't I always seemed to be amazed by the new things I learned about the hamlet. I remember being strolled down Beaver Dam Road passing a small white cement block coming from the ground and asking, "hey mom, what's that?". Shortened of breath due to the high speed 7 mile run she was wrapping up she answered the question in intervals. "Well. ..

when I was a kid... many people here in Brookhaven ... they rode horses... to get on the horse". In the middle of her explaining what this thing was, she stopped, turned around and walked back to it. Catching her breath, she picked up where she left off, "to get onto the horse people would use this as a step stool". She unbuckled me from the stroller, and I remember my naive youth brain imaging a muscular brown horse in front of me as I stepped up onto the horse mount yelling "this town aint big enough for the both of us". I am grateful for that moment, learning something small but so interesting to me because it was a part of this town for such a long time.

Covid-19 affected many people in tremendous ways. People's lives changed in front of their eyes, and they were forced to find new outlets or hobbies to clear their minds. In March of 2020, schools and sports shut down in hopes to stop the spread of the deadly virus. Without my sport, and without school I had to find something healthy for my brain because the virus was affecting

my mental state in negative ways, as it was taking many of my activities out of my life so suddenly. Being a Brookhaven Hamlet community member, I was a short distance from the Great South Bay, a body of water where come early/mid-April, striped bass begin their migration to the Atlantic ocean. So, I decided to grow my love for fishing while in quarantine and spend days on end on the salted waters with my siblings and closest buddies. I can still smell the salt murky early morning waters as I walked to the boat with a cup of coffee in one hand and my fishing pole in the other, geared up with a life vest and tackle bag tightly hugging my back. Most days I fished until I was hungry or ran out of daylight. Being on the waters allowed me to think positively and share memories with my friends that I will never forget. While I lost out on my sophomore lacrosse season and much of my sophomore academics, I gained a great deal of knowledge just by the conversations held between me and my best friends. Someone I spent most of my time fishing with was Sammy Trowbridge (another kid Hamlet raised), his dad, a

well-respected fisherman of Long Island waters, conversed hours on end with me teaching Sammy and I the ins and outs of fishing for all different species of fish. I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity of fishing during that quarantine and my accessibility to nearby water made it all possible. The breach inlet across from us has brought more fish and clean water to the bay. Living in the hamlet through that time of quarantine was a blessing because of all the outlets I was surrounded by.

As I get older and join my dad to help the BVA do the ice eaters each year I am reminded of how close this community is. So many friends join at Squassux to make a difficult chore easy. My family has a special link to the Carmans river as my grandmother (my dad's mom) is a Carman and has lineage to the person this river was named of.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity, family and friends I have been surrounded by here in this town, as they have taught me lessons, created memories, and established relationships that will last a lifetime. I will also never take for granted the protected lands that surround my home on Old Stump Rd. During my time spent at Lehigh I am eager to be able to answer the question of "where are you from", because as a community member of Brookhaven Hamlet I am proud to call this place home. And for years after college, I will seek ways to give back to this town through community service and more. Proud is what I am to call Brookhaven Hamlet, home.

Curren Johnsen

Hugo and the Impossible Thing



Renée Felice-Smith and Chris Gabriel enjoy a reading of their book to our local children over the summer.

Local authors, Rénee Felice - Smith and Chris Gabriel shared a new children's book about their dog this past summer to Hamlet residents. "Hugo and the Impossible Thing" introduced us all to "Hugo," the dog with the unsinkable spirit, and a cast of supportive animals who helped him to get to the end of the forest where he dared to go. The animals were willing to help Hugo through many obstacles like thorny bushes, raging rivers, and daring cliffs by using their individual talents and strengths. Together, they helped Hugo to the sweeter and calmer place Hugo sought. The themes of friendship, unyielding encouragement, and love filled every page and every illustration. The lesson in Hugo's story is that embracing something that is truly difficult, even impossible and scary, can lead to a beautiful destination.

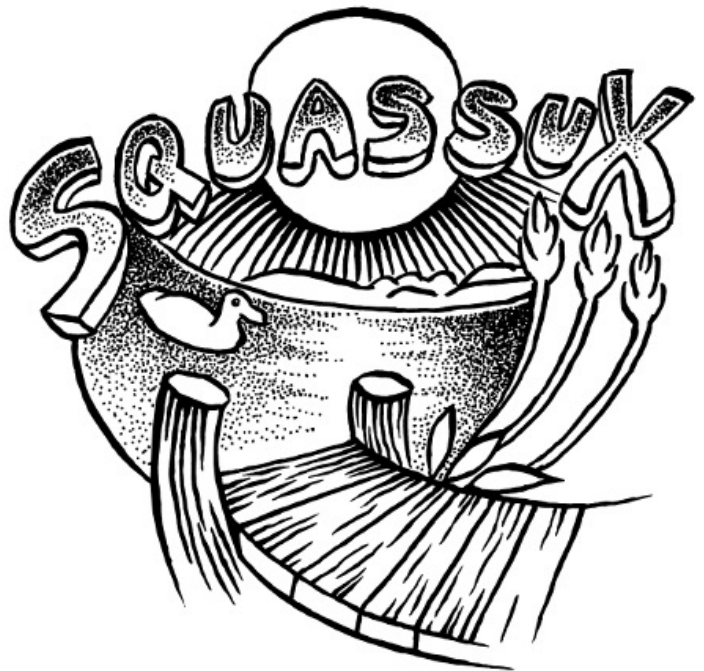


Gabriel and Felice-Smith share Hugo's illustrated journey with the Hamlet's engaged crowd.

The book was inspired by the authors' personal struggles with their beloved Hugo who suffered from a serious illness that led to a brain tumor. Hugo lost his ability to walk for ten months. In order to help Hugo survive, Rénee and Chris sought help from a team of loving healers including specialized veterinarians and animal physical therapists. The plan was to remove the tumor and assist Hugo in his journey back to a normal life. Hugo's tenacious personality and the love that Rénee and Chris had for him made them realize that their experience could be translated into a story for children. They understood that without the incessant desire to challenge what is perceived to be impossible, how would anyone know what can be achieved?

No matter your age or your troubles, anyone who has survived challenging, even insurmountable odds can relate to the satisfaction that can come from self-determination and the loving support from friends and family. And like Hugo, we must rise to challenge the idea of "impossible." We should be curious enough and brave enough to try.

Kristin Kirk Murphy



Our new merchandise designed by Hamlet son Tom Gordon.

NEW 2022
SQUASSUX MERCH

Those happy, sunny
Squassux days never
have to end with
Tom Gordon's design.

Order for the holidays at
bvamail@brookhavenvillage
association.org



Front Design: Brookhaven Hamlet
11719

Back Design: Squassux by Tom
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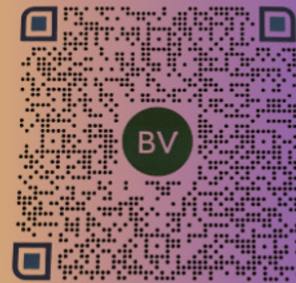
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(RAINDATE DECEMBER 11)
3-5P
FIRE PLACE PARK
BROOKHAVEN HAMLET

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 newsletterbva@gmail.com



Photo by Julianna Kirk

Around Town this Summer



An interactive performance art piece added new life to the Post-Morrow Foundation Homestead trails and boardwalk this August. Curated and organized by Good Morning Bellport's Fabian Bernal, the event was a huge success with over 300 in attendance. Some explored our gift of preserved open space along the Beaver Dam Creek for the first time. And many of us drew new inspiration from our precious natural beauty.



Thank you to H.O.G Farm crew, Sean Pilger and Lauren Napoli for keeping our summer busy with community building events and concerts. It was a summer to remember!

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.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFUNDATION.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.

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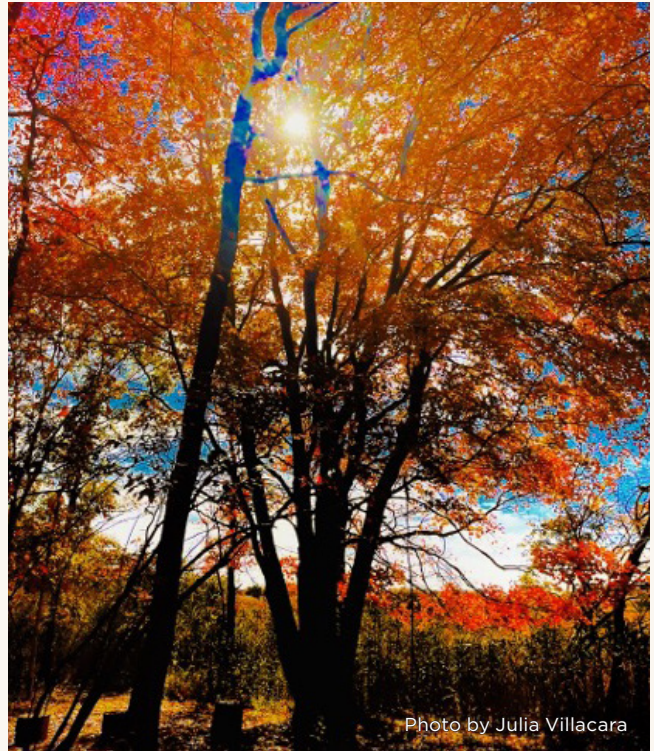


Photo by Julia Villacara

Fire Place

A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association

PO Box 167

Brookhaven, New York 11719

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