



Illustration by  
Dennis Puleston

# Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Spring 2016

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

## 110 Years Old and Still Going Strong

Brookhaven Hamlet, whose original name was Fire Place from the latter part of the 1600s until 1871, was the first Anglo settlement on the south shore of Brookhaven Town. In 1678, Samuel Dayton had a homestead approximately where today's Washington Lodge is along South Country Road. Thomas Rose, whose well-kept

from the minutes of the Brookhaven Village Improvement Society, today's BVA. At that time, there were only about 100 families living in what was then locally called Brookhaven Village – roughly the triangle created by South Country, Beaver Dam and Old Stump Roads and their side streets. So, with oil lamps for light and stoves for heat, the residents of our "village" banded together to form the Brookhaven Improvement Society to deal with the issues du jour.

The name "Improvement Society" came from the desire to give prizes to the best-kept premises, but this turned out to be the least of its endeavors. After beginning with the acquisition of private property to extend Beaver Dam Road to the Carmans River and having a community dock and gazebo built there, the Society turned its efforts to buying and planting trees throughout the Hamlet, naming the streets, seeing to it that the school building was safe and in good condition, establishing a fire department and ambulance

company, pressuring the Town to keep up with maintenance of the Hamlet's roads, and coordinating community affairs.

Although farming and fishing were still the primary industries here in the hamlet, as elsewhere on Long Island, the 1881 arrival of the Montauk branch of the Long Island Rail Road to the brand-new Brookhaven Depot brought with it a new generation of part-time residents from New York City. Some, like James Post, a founding BVA member and three-time president, had

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Marty Van Lith

family cemetery is on Jared's Path, registered his cattle's earmarks with the Town in 1700. Another oldie but goodie from the early part of the last century is the Brookhaven Village Association, or BVA. This year the BVA turns 110 years old and, best I can tell, has the unique distinction of being the oldest active civic association in Brookhaven Town. Happy birthday BVA!

Turning back the clock to the BVA's founding in 1906, it's not hard to imagine what life was like in Brookhaven Hamlet during the early part of the 20th century, thanks to the vivid descriptions in a number of diaries, especially that of shipbuilder Sam Newewy's niece, Irma Newewy, and

# Tax Deductible Contributions through the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

There's good news on the horizon for the community residents and friends of the Brookhaven Village Association – charitable contributions and donations are now tax deductible! That's right, you can continue to support projects in the hamlet and get a tax deduction for your donations.

The BVA Finance Committee established a non-profit organization called the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation, Inc. The new foundation (BHF) has received 501(c)3 status with New York State and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Foundation will operate as a separate organization in conjunction with the BVA. The 501(c)3 status enables the BHF to accept tax deductible donations to our 4 designated funds:

- The Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund
- The Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund
- The Hamlet Historic Fund
- The Tree Fund

All tax deductible contributions must be made out to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation, Inc. Residents and members of the BVA have the option to contribute to 1 or more of the 4 funds listed above.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, there are a few new rules we'll need to follow, but rest assured, the BVA will continue with the same charitable purposes of putting contributions to good use in the community and to worthy causes.

Additional benefits as a 501(c)3 nonprofit are:

- greater credibility with the public and other charitable entities
- ability to apply for grants on federal, state and local levels
- discounted postage rates and special mailing privileges for advertisements and public service announcements.

Hamlet residents have been incredibly generous in their financial support of the BVA. Through your generosity we have restored the historic cemeteries, planted trees, spruced up Fireplace Park, funded scholarships to college bound students and stayed active in environmental projects that protect our community and ecosystems.

There will be no change to the Brookhaven Village Association mission to aid in the preservation of natural beauties and safeguarding the interests of the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet. With your continued support, the new nonprofit status will help the BVA continue our mission and enhance the quality of life in the hamlet.

**Chris Ciervo**  
Chairman  
Finance Committee

## The story of our Brookhaven Town Landfill as a public nuisance, potential health hazard and a political hot-potato.

I have been representing the BVA as a member of a group called the Brookhaven Landfill Liaison Committee that includes Adrienne Esposito of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), the Brookhaven Community Coalition (BCC), and several local residents and workers. The BCC met several times with senior Brookhaven Town administrative staff including Supervisor Ed Romaine, former Councilwoman Constance Kepert, the operating staff of the landfill and the New York State DEC regional director. Our goal is to communicate the concerns that residents have regarding Town regulations and operating procedures at the landfill. When necessary, the BCC challenges the Town on the goings-on at the Brookhaven landfill. The BVA has been active in this fight for a long time. We continue to pressure our elected officials to safe

guard our quality of life and protect our ecosystems.

Many of the residents of Brookhaven town probably don't know that the landfill was originally designed to be retired back in 1995 with promises of parks and recreation areas - yes, a ski slope - installed on top. That didn't happen. The Town discovered that the landfill could become a steady producer of income by taking in outside garbage (it's actually burned garbage: ash) and charging a fee that amounts to about thirty million dollars a year. Good for the town but potentially bad for anyone who might be effected by the resultant air and water pollution.

*(continued on page 3)*

To be fair, the Town has made and continues to make serious efforts to combat the pollution problems by installing nine-foot thick liners and patching leaks, installing abundant well systems to collect fouled leached rainwater and gases, and designing operating protocols that are supposed to minimize the amount of contaminants that get released into the environment. If it all worked as they hoped you wouldn't be reading this article. The beast has gotten too big.

One adverse impact of the landfill is the spread of foul odors over the hamlet and surrounding areas. Recently, several folks in our group took air samples when the odor outside was particularly bad. The samples were taken to a credentialed testing lab and now we are in discussions with the DEC to determine what the results actually mean. With the help of the CCC we will examine the results and determine what can be done to protect residents and reduce the release of landfill odors into the community.

Our Brookhaven Hamlet is defined by its natural environment. We, as the people of this land, must help protect it...to preserve what we share...to help protect each other. There is no escaping the fact that there is a huge landfill just north of us. However, we don't have to accept the stinky consequences of Town policies. We

implore our neighbors to say something when you smell something! Without a clamor from us, from the people who call the hamlet home, then no one will see a reason to change a thing. Here is how to make your own stink:

- Call the DEC odor complaint line at 444-0830 and leave a voice message when you smell odors emanating from the landfill.
- A Facebook page (Brookhaven Landfill Community Watch ...aka <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1030132500381295>) has been created so that real time complaints can be logged in a way that we can ensure you are actually heard. They are sent to DEC daily. Be sure to log in every time you have something you want to say to those landfill folks.
- Take a community Health Impact survey [www.surveymonkey.com/r/brookhavenlandfill](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/brookhavenlandfill) It take 10 minutes. The questions are designed to help us gain a better understanding of the possible health risks posed by the landfill to people who live, go to school, and work in our area.
- Join us in our meetings (e-mail me to learn more <carltonstewart@hotmail.com>) to add a voice, to add your intelligence, to add your camaraderie.

**Carlton Stewart**  
Director, BVA  
Representative, LLC

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#### 110 Years Old... (continued from page 1)

deep roots here in Brookhaven but lived and worked in NYC. Not surprisingly, many who made Brookhaven their home were artists, like the BVA's first two presidents, Fredrick Kost and Malcolm Fraser. Tom Morrow Sr., third BVA president, was an Irish immigrant who was a superintendent of the varnish works of the John W. Masury plant in Brooklyn. Our postmaster Jacob Reeve was treasurer, while schoolteacher and principal Jessie Johnson was secretary for the first 15 years.

The Brookhaven Improvement Society reincorporated and changed its name to BVA in 1945 when James Post's heirs, his three daughters, deeded the Squassux Landing property to the Village Association. In succeeding years, the BVA became primarily known for its management and development of Squassux as a rustic, traditional boat landing for the residents of the Hamlet. However, the BVA is also our main community watchdog, monitoring zoning and development issues, water and air quality; awarding scholarships to our kids; preserving our history; and pursuing general quality of life issues such as litter cleanup.

We've enjoyed such a long and coherent history largely because the residents of "Brookhaven Village" have long recognized the unique character of this place and have worked as a community to define and preserve it. Over the past 110 years, the scope of BVA activity has widened considerably as we learned how to deal



A boat moored at Squassux Landing  
- Marty Van Lith

with zoning issues so as not to be ravaged by the thoughtless development that characterizes so much of Long Island. The impact of the landfill on our northern border has been the cause of great concern and

angst for the BVA and our community for more than 30 years, with odors, litter and leachate contaminating Beaver Dam Creek and Carmans River. The current BVA has a Landfill Committee that meets regularly with Town officials. The Town has promised us that the landfill will close in ten years. We'll see.

Please join us at the BVA's annual meeting on June 15th where you can hear the latest community updates, meet the BVA board and join your neighbors in supporting this fine volunteer organization.

**Marty Van Lith**  
BVA Historian

# Squassux Chairman Report

As the warmer weather edges closer, the thought of boating and Squassux comes to mind. The docks survived a long winter thanks to our ice-eaters. Many docks however, are in need of repair or replacement due to age and the elements. Hopefully, most of the structural issues will be rectified by May 1st. We've widened the roadway along the center canal to allow parking farthest from the embankment. Cars will not be permitted to park on any of the grassy areas near the embankment due to erosion concerns. During the early spring 80 yards of R.C.A. stone was put down in our continued effort to improve the roadways and parking. Please keep in mind, the speed limit should be adhered to, for everyone's safety. A camera system is being installed to monitor the premises and to motivate all members to lock the gate. We will be using a new security company which will start Memorial Day weekend. The horsefly traps will be installed when the warmer summer weather begins. I believe the traps made a difference in decreasing the amount of flies in the immediate area, and should continue to further decrease the remaining population each year. My wish for the summer of 2016 is for everyone to enjoy the wonderful, natural beauty of Squassux.

**Andy Lovito**  
Chairman  
Squassux Committee

## Brookhaven Free Library Community Service Project.



From right to left: Brandon Sanchez, Ethan Kerr-Smith, Jillian Kerr-Smith and Cameron Kerr-Smith. Teens from BFL teamed up with John Knapp of the BVA to make No Parking signs. The signs are installed along the banks of canals at Squassux. This will help prevent erosion caused when vehicles park along the water's edge. Thanks to the teens and Young Adult Librarian, Jennifer Rocco, for donating their time and talent.

# Dockmaster's Report

Squassux Landing is now open again for the 2016 boating season. It is a unique cooperative, and works best when everyone down there appreciates what a gift it is. As such, try your best to respect and preserve it. It also has to be safe for all the boaters and families using it. If anything seems wrong with your dock, please let me know immediately so no one is hurt. You can also contribute to safety by keeping your car and boat speed at 5 mph. Residents and pets are always walking around and kids often jump out of cars, eager to get to a boat. Another initiative at Squassux is the parking. In an attempt to preserve the shorelines and cut back on erosion, the Board requests that everyone park on the inside of all roads, and off the grass at all times. Signs will be posted to show the way. I will also ask everyone to lock the gate for the sake of security. All boaters have sizeable investments in their vessels, and no one wants our security compromised because someone else is in a rush or feels the rules do not apply to him or her. So,

PLEASE, take the time to always lock the gate behind you. One last major "pet peeve" at Squassux comes from many boaters who complain to me about dog walkers who believe it is an acceptable practice to allow their pets to defecate and then walk away. We supply plastic dog mitts, and dog walkers are encouraged to use them.

I am looking forward to the new year at the marina, and I hope everyone has a fun and safe time. Remember to always put life vests on children and for the sake of everyone, operate your boat safely. One last thing is to look into boat insurance if you do not already have it in place. As a rider to a homeowner's policy, it can be surprisingly inexpensive and gives peace of mind. Have a happy boating season and please call me at 521-4411 if you have any safety concerns.

**Andy Rubin**  
Dockmaster

An Invitation to Hamlet Residents & BVA Members

# Celebrate 110 Years of the BVA

Join us for Drinks and Snacks at the  
**ANNUAL SUNSET SALUTE**

**SQUASSUX LANDING**

Sunday, June 26, 2016 • 5:00 – 7:00 pm

This event is *free* and open to all residents of Brookhaven Hamlet and members of the Brookhaven Village Association.

**NOTE: Please RSVP to [brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://brookhavenvillageassociation.org) to reserve a space at the party!**



**Brookhaven Village Association  
Mugs and Bags available**

\$15 / tote bag

\$10 / 15oz mug

*Illustration by Dennis Puleston*



BVA board at last year's Sunset Salute -Marty Van Lith

## ***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):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider donating to one of our funds dedicated to projects in the hamlet. Donations to these funds are tax deductible. *Checks must be made out to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation*

**Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BVA Tree Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Hamlet Historic Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visit our website at: [www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org)

**BVA BOARD MEMBERS**

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**DOCKMASTER**  
Andy Rubin

**HISTORIAN**  
Marty Van Lith

**FIRE PLACE EDITORS**  
Ellen Clyne Chris Marshall

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.

Visit our website at: [www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org)

*Hamlet Historic District Walking Tour*

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29**  
**10 AM - 12:30 PM.**

Start and end at the Brookhaven Free Library.  
Led by Marty Van Lith, BVA Historian  
*Sponsored by the Fireplace History Club*



**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

**Brookhaven Village Association • Open to the Community**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2016 • 7:30 PM**

St. James Episcopal Church Hall 260 Beaver Dam Rd. Brookhaven Hamlet

*...With a Presentation about Mosquito Control*

**Fire Place**

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

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