FARMINGVILLE, NY - Brookhaven Town Clerk Pamela Betheil and the Town Council will host the 2009 Founder’s Day Celebration at the Town Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 from 5 - 6:30 pm. This year will mark the 354th anniversary of the Town of Brookhaven.

At the event, residents will be able to view two locally significant historical documents: the original deed for the Town dated April 14, 1655 and the original Dongan Patent, dated December 27, 1686. In addition, the Longwood Historic Support Team and the staff of the William Floyd Estate will give a presentation at the event. The Honor Guard from the Brigade of the American Revolution Long Island Company Third New York 1775 will also be part of the ceremony.

The Dongan Patent is the historic and legal document that provided the foundation for Brookhaven Town government. The patent gives the Trustees full power to sell or dispose of the proprietary lands of the Town. This Trustee form of government predates the establishment of the State of New York, and the United States of America.

The Patent provided for the election of the Clerk and other officials, as well as establishing a Town Seal and authority to raise taxes. In addition, the Dongan Patent is used to this day to resolve many legal questions involving preservation of natural resources and our underground water supply, as well as the free and common usage of our waterways.