

1980 – 1990

- The *Great Gold Rush* of 1980 created long lines of people selling their gold possessions to certain dealers and stores to the tune of \$800 an ounce.
- The Patchogue – Medford Library opened February 1, 1980, at its new location in the former Grant store on East Main Street.
- On Friday, June 12, 1980, the new Fire Island National Seashore terminal on the Patchogue River was inaugurated.
- The 90 student Briarcliffe Secretarial School celebrated its grand opening on September 21, 1981 in the former Library building on Lake Street.
- A fire, March 3, 1982, heavily damaged the Emanuel Lutheran Church on East Main Street.
- A late season blizzard dropped 12 inches of snow in our area on April 6, 1982.
- On February 18, 1983 the new United Artist Triplex Theater on Sunrise Highway opened.
- The new Sixth District Court building on West Main Street was nearing completion in August, 1983.
- The group of buildings on the west side of South Ocean Avenue, just north of the railroad tracks, were used for a practice burn by the Patchogue Fire Department in February 1984. The area was cleared for the construction of a new office building.
- Hurricane *Gloria* hit Long Island on Friday, September 27, 1985, causing \$100 million in damage on the island and leaving 185,000 homes without electricity for several days. Brookhaven Town suffered \$4 million in damage.
- September 7, 1985, a large fire at the SGL Marina on the Patchogue River destroyed a large boat-house and 21 boats. 250 firefighters battled the blaze.
- Lace Mill Associates sold the Lace Mill property to George Samerjohn in October 1985.
- The RKO Plaza Theater on East Main Street closed in March, 1986.
- Brookhaven Town moved several offices from South Ocean Avenue to a new location on Route 112 in Medford in October 1986, followed by the Town Board and the Supervisor's office in February, 1988.
- In May, 1988 the \$34 million project to widen and bridge Sunrise Highway in the Patchogue area was started.
- On Sunday, August 6, 1989 a fire set by an arsonist caused \$600,000 damage in the River Avenue School .
- In August, 1989 ground was broken for the Breslin Building on West Main Street.