



The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

Published Monthly by: A.P.P.L.E. Seed, Inc. Average People Promoting a Loving Environment PO Box 411 Brookfield, MA 01506
 Funded in part by The Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the Brookfield Community Club



BREWER REMEMBERS OUR HEROES

As you watch the parades and commemorating speeches this Memorial Day, remember why you are there, remember with honor those who have died in our country's defense. For whether a war is popular or unpopular, the sacrifice is the same for the more than one million men and women who died in service of this nation in the wars and conflicts since 1775. It is imperative that we remember the true meaning of this momentous day. Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is a day to honor the many men and women who have proudly served our country and sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Our nation's first president once said "The willingness with which our younger people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation." It is with this belief, this American sentiment, that men and women continue to enlist in the armed forces and proudly serve our country, knowing the dangers that lie ahead, but nevertheless fulfilling their patriotic duties. It is with this same sentiment that we as civilians must honor and respect the lives that have been lost protecting us, and we must also protect those who have safely returned to us.

I am proud and honored to have been appointed to serve on the Special Committee to Study the Effects of War on Returning Veterans. The Commission has been tasked with studying the mental health effects of war on those who return from active duty. Throughout our history, servicemen and women who have bravely served our country have returned to daily life suffering from mental and emotional consequences due to the trauma of war. It is our patriotic duty to welcome our soldier's home by providing them with the highest quality of benefits that they need and deserve, including mental health services. These men and

(Continued on page 2)

The Community Preservation Act What it means for Brookfield

by Rudy Heller

A new regulation sized ball field at Lewis Field. A nature trail along the 148 Causeway. An elevator in the Town Hall. Preserve scenic spots and open space. Affordable housing... on *our* terms.

This is a short list of the things that people in Brookfield have mentioned that they'd like to see. But we always end up with an even shorter answer: "No money!"

But there *is* money. By participating in the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Trust Fund, we can get some serious money. Of the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, 133 are already getting theirs. Meanwhile Brookfield is missing out.

And worse, we, the residents of Brookfield, have been paying into the CPA Trust Fund for eight years while getting NOTHING in return. Here's what's happening: Since the year 2000, every time

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Water Quality Report - Page 14

CONTENTS

3. Annual Chicken BBQ; Diverse Artists Festival; VBS in West Brookfield
4. Library News
5. Folding Corner; Lewis Field Update
6. Digital Reads
7. Police Patrol
8. Fin, Fur, & Feathers
9. From the Pastor's Desk
11. Summer Concerts On the Common
12. Battle of the Bands
13. Brookfield Senior Citizens; Church Services
14. **BROOKFIELD WATER QUALITY REPORT**
17. Volunteer Departments in Brookfield
18. Staff; Brookfield Soccer Sign-ups
19. Kids' Corner
20. Carmella's Receives Award

(Continued from page 1) Community Preservation

anybody does any kind of a real estate transaction (buying or selling or transferring or refinancing), a \$20 fee is paid to the Registry of Deeds. Those \$20 go to the State CPA Trust Fund. Think of the thousands of transactions that take place every year in the Commonwealth. The 133 towns that have adopted the Act are all getting some of that money. And we have not received a penny of it. Ouch!

So what are we to do?

We need to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Under CPA, each household will pay 1.5% of their real estate tax into the local CPA Fund. The money the town raises is the basis of an annual guaranteed payment of matching funds from the state's CPA trust fund.

We're not talking huge amounts of money per household. The average home in Brookfield is assessed at around \$250,000. At 1.5% without exemptions, that would mean \$48 a year per home. If we choose to exempt the first \$100,000, each house would pay around \$29 a year.

Hmmm. \$29 a year to the local CPA Fund. Same as a couple of pizzas. Or a couple of weeks worth of cups of coffee bought at a convenience store.

Multiply \$29 times 1200 homes in Brookfield: you get around \$35,000 dollars. We really have 1500 homes in Brookfield. Another exemption that we can adopt is that people making less than a certain amount will be exempted from paying into the local CPA fund. That's why I multiplied times 1200, and not times the 1500 homes Brookfield presently has. There's a lot of flexibility and we, the voters, make the rules at Town Meeting and in ballot questions. Nothing is imposed on us. If we want the CPA to be at 1% one year, we can vote to do that. And likewise, if we have a specific project in mind, and we want to raise it to 3% one year, we can do that too, with a Town Meeting vote. The Community Preservation Act says that for every dollar we put in locally, the State Trust Fund will match us *up to* dollar for dollar. So if we raise \$35 thousand dollars, the state could kick in \$35,000. Wow! Where does the State get those 35k? From the \$20 we've been paying into the Registry of Deeds for every real estate transaction.

The real estate market is slower now, so the terms are not as generous as they were in previous years when the market was hot. But we all know that real estate is a cyclical market so it will get hot again. For example, this year the Fund has not been receiving as many \$20 transaction fees as in previous years so the matching funds are now around 65¢ per dollar. In our example, instead of 35k, the state would give us close to \$23,000. Not bad for a \$29 investment.

One last thing I want to tell you about the Community Preservation Act and what

(Continued from page 1) Brewer Remembers

women left their families, left the homes they grew up in, missed the births of their children and their youngest son's first day of school, and they were not there when their daughters got married or their fathers passed away. They were overseas, defending our freedoms so that we will never have to miss these events in our own lives. They take care of us and we must band together to return this favor.

In my position as the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I am well aware of the financial constraints of today's economy and in an ideal world, the federal government would take care of all of the veterans, but they do not. The Veterans Administration budget is under-funded. Long after their home coming, many veterans suffer terrible physical and mental trauma that only professional care can help mitigate.

I visited the opening of the women's housing section at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home and met a female veteran of the Vietnam War. She looked me in the eyes and said "for the first time since I returned from Vietnam 40 years ago, I feel at home." I was so touched by this sentiment and have never been more proud to be from a state that cares so greatly for its veterans. We are lucky that these wonderful men and women returned home safely and we owe them the respect and dignity of a comfortable life.

Unfortunately, many of these men and women lost their comrades on the battlefield and it is for that reason that we wave our American flags, lay flowers on gravestones and most importantly, provide support for the families of our fallen heroes. The empty seat at the dinner table, the smaller gathering on Thanksgiving, and the voice of a loved one heard only as a distant memory in one's mind are constant reminders that they are gone. Robert Ingersoll once said, "They died for liberty - they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, and the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or of storm, each in the windowless Place of Rest. Earth may run red with other wars - they are at peace. In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict, they found the serenity of death. I have one sentiment for soldiers living and dead: cheers for the living; tears for the dead." God bless our soldiers in combat and pray for their safety. Never forget those who did not return to us and honor them appropriately, for today is their day to live again in the hearts of all Americans.

(Continued from page 2) Community Preservation
 should adopt it in Brookfield. Neither the Fund nor the State have any say in how we spend the money. Only WE, the residents of Brookfield, can decide how to spend those \$50,000+ we accumulated in the first year. Every penny spent has to have the approval of the Town Meeting. You get to decide whether we use it for open space, or the ball field, or the nature trail, or the elevator, or affordable housing. Or whatever else you think is necessary. Or we can save it till it grows more to tackle a larger Project

I hope you will consider supporting the CPA for Brookfield. It is a great way to leverage our money and get some things done that we all want for our community. The name says it all: Community Preservation Act.

Annual Chicken Barbecue

Chief Peter Martell

The Brookfield Fire Battalion is holding its annual Fathers Day Chicken Barbecue on Sunday June 15. Serving is from 12 noon to 1:30. For a ten dollar donation you get a barbecued half chicken, baked potato, salad, roll, and a slice of apple pie. All meals are packed to go, but there will be some seating at the station.

For tickets see any Brookfield Firefighter, stop by the station, or call 508-867-7306.

Green Path Garden Supply

Organic Potting Soils and Fertilizers

Plant Lights, Seedling Heat Mats,

House Plants, Seeds

Gift Certificate Cards



10 - 6 M-F 10 - 5 Sat. 11 - 5 Sun.

508 867-5202 877 867-5202

68 South Maple Street (Route 9)

GreenPathGardenSupply.com

kandi@greenpathgardensupply.com

Calling all Artists

The Brookfield Cultural Council
 Presents
Diverse Artists Group Festival

August 2, 2008, on the Common
 11:00a.m.

Visual Artists:

Painters, Writers, Photographers, Crafters

Performing Artists:

*Musicians, Bands, Singers, Dancers,
 Actors, Multi-media Presentations*

Entertainers:

Clowns, Jugglers, Face painters, Etc...

**Come and show off your work,
 meet people and
 have a good time**

Email: Gary Blanchard at
irismusica@hughes.net

For registration/scheduling

**Vacation Bible School at First
 Congregational Church of
 West Brookfield**

The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield will hold a dynamic Vacation Bible School from July 28th to August 1. Come join us at "Avalanche Ranch" where we'll corral the bible and have a great time!

What are Your Goals?

Vacation Home? College Savings?
 Early Retirement?

"It's your life, it should be your plan"

Pine Tree Financial LLC
 Brookfield, MA 01506
 Tel: (508) 340-4073
pinetreefinancial@charter.net

William B. Pishys

Independent/Personalized Financial Planning/Asset Management



26 WEST MAIN STREET BROOKFIELD, MA 01506
 PHONE 508.867.4120 FAX: 508.867.9646

WWW.AIPARTS.BIZ

Suspension Service
 Dyno Jet Dyno
 Boring
 Parting

Helmets & Apparel
 Crankshaft Service
 Full Repairs
 Case Repairs

