



The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

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Average People Promoting a Loving Environment.

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Brookfield Resident Named Massachusetts Professor of the Year



WPI Faculty Member, Jeanine Plummer, named Massachusetts Professor of the Year, and is the third WPI Professor to receive the National Honor in six years.

For the second year in a row, a faculty

member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has been named Professor of the Year for Massachusetts by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Jeanine D. Plummer of Brookfield, Mass., associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the university's Environmental Engineering Program, is being recognized as one of the nation's most outstanding undergraduate instructors. The CASE U.S. Professors of the Year program, one of the most prestigious awards for college professors, is jointly sponsored by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Plummer is the third WPI professor to receive this honor in the past six years. Last year, Robert L. Norton, Milton Prince Higgins II Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was named the Massachusetts Professor of the Year. In 2002, Judith Miller, then professor of biology and biotechnology at WPI, received the same distinction.

"WPI's faculty are truly outstanding in their commitment to not only educating their students, but also in challenging them to use their knowledge and skills to solve some of the world's most important problems," said John Orr, WPI provost and senior vice president. "Jeanine Plummer has demonstrated a remarkable passion for teaching and mentoring students since she came to WPI. It is particularly fitting that her remarkable efforts are in environmental engineering. She and her students are literally engineering a better future for the planet and its people, and her skill and leadership in working with students is outstanding. WPI is delighted that CASE is recognizing her with this prestigious national honor."

2009 Brookfield Community Club Grant Awards

The Brookfield Community Club is pleased to announce the following awards:

◆ Brookfield Fire Battalion	\$700
◆ TJHS Library	\$500
◆ Merrick Public Library	\$600
◆ Brookfield Elementary School	\$700
◆ The Brookfield Fund	\$500
◆ Board of Selectmen	\$357
◆ Council on Aging	\$525
◆ A.P.P.L.E. Seed	\$1500
◆ Brookfield Congregational Church	\$400
◆ Community Club Grants	
a.) Senior Award	\$300
b.) Needy Christmas	\$500

These awards were all made possible with the help of the entire community at our Annual Apple Country Fair. We look forward to our next fair, as planning begins in January, and we continue the thirty year tradition.

We also thank the Merrick Public Library and its volunteers, Quaboag Valley Real Estate, the Hayden Lodge Masons, North Brookfield Savings Bank and Country Bank for Savings, Ed Williams, Chuck and Mudd, and the hillboys for their work on the 2008 Fair, and we look forward to your continued participation in the 2009 Fair.

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Brookfield Open Space/Master Plan Update

Your Open Space/Master Plan Committee has been hard at work over the past year. With the assistance of Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission, our charge is to research all aspects of the town (Public Services and Infrastructure, Housing, Economic Development, Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Transportation, Land Use) in order to develop goals and action steps to guide public officials. Public input through surveys, public hearings and interviews is key to determining what the townspeople want for the town. This is the first in a series of articles presenting highlights of our research so far. In future articles, we will present results from the survey taken in July and August 2008, the Open Space Hearing held October 29 and the Economic Development and Housing Hearing held December 10.

We welcome comments from anyone in town either by coming to one of our meetings (posted at the Town Hall), via email (masterplancommittee@gmail.com) or writing to the OS/MP Committee, c/o The Selectmen's Office at 6 Central St., Brookfield, MA 01506.

SWOT Public Forum Held Oct 15, 2008

A total of 11 people participated in the visioning session. The audience worked as a collective group to develop a list of Brookfield's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Below, are what the group considered to be Brookfield's greatest strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Top Three Strengths:

- ◆ History, landscape/community character and maintenance of small town character
- ◆ Natural/open space and protect land
- ◆ Geographically accessible

Top Three Weaknesses:

- ◆ Little volunteerism and participation at public meetings; lack of coordination among local government boards and departments, as well as media communication
- ◆ Lack of commerce and professional services; not a sustainable community
- ◆ High taxes

Top Three Opportunities:

- ◆ Ecotourism and marketing of historical sites in town; become a sustainable community
- ◆ Improve water, sewer and transportation infrastructure and the Town Hall facility
- ◆ Obtain federal, state and private funds for infrastructure improvements and coordinate media communication more effectively

Top Three Threats:

- ◆ Uncontrolled development and Chapter 40B housing not in character with town

- ◆ Deterioration of rivers, lakes, aquifer recharge areas and historic sites, as well a loss in rural character
- ◆ Loss of local aid to Town and increased tax rate with a loss of services

Additional Observations:

A number of the items were identified as "top priorities" to the residents in attendance. These included:

- ◆ Creation of a youth organization to keep younger residents in town
- ◆ Creation of new jobs
- ◆ Rising energy costs and the loss of residents due to those and commuting costs
- ◆ Younger resident participation in government functions and activities

Overall, based on the responses and repeated points at the forum, the largest concern is that citizens want to preserve the rural character of Brookfield and its associated amenities (town history and historic sites and the natural and open space environment).

Rail Trails

Friday, Jan 9, 11am, **Craig Della Penna** is coming to explore rail-trails in the Brookfields. It would be great if we could get a core group of people to start creating the hiking and biking trails that we all want so much.

Friday morning may be difficult for people to make. But even if you can be present, if you indicate your interest in this idea, you will be included in anything that develops out of this meeting. We also need any suggestions, information you already have on existing trails or trails in development in the area. The idea is to plan to connect to other trails so we have a bike-pedestrian network. Craig and others have been working for some time to develop a statewide network that also connects to other states. Doesn't that sound grand!

The interest in creating hiking and biking trails is very high among many Brookfield residents. If you are interested, please contact **Sarah** at (508) 867-8494.

NOTICE:

WINTER PARKING BAN FOR ALL PUBLIC WAYS IN THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

**From now to April 15, 2009 during
the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.**

Your Food Pantry Needs Donations

The hours for the food bank are every Wed. and Sat. from 9:30 AM to 11:00AM. Donations from the community our most welcome at that time.

Thank you for your continued generous donations!!

**From the Brookfield Times 1892,
Address of Selectman W. F.
Hayden to the Quaboag Historical
Society.**

With accompanying notes by Bob Wilder

The old stage Tavern or Hotel stood on the ground now covered by the residence of Mr. H.D. Fales, (large, white Victorian house directly across Route #9 from the Common, still standing today, 2008) where it stood it had done excellent service for many years on the stage line running from Boston to Albany. On the 18th of May 1863 it was discovered to be on fire but too late to save it from burning down. It was to undergo repairs, the timbers to be used in moving it back, were on the grounds and it was to have a new front added but it looked very much at the time, as if someone did not favor this plan.

To a looker on at this fire, it was amusing to notice the masterly inactivity of the firemen, the Herculean effort they made not to do anything to retard the flame. May 2nd, 2 weeks earlier, the woodshed adjacent to the Tavern was set on fire.

The summer following, 1864, a spacious, roomy convenient Hotel was built on this site. This also was burned and was felt to be a great loss to the village.

(NOTES): From R. Wilder from subsequent news articles: A Hotel, which still stands on an adjacent site was built within a few years (1867) and still stands as the "Brookfield Inn".

The old town "pound" that was used to hold the replacement horses for the Stages as well as vagrant animals at large was located directly behind the prior mentioned "Fale's" house.

Further, quoting Wm. Fletcher PhD. From his pamphlet "Oliver Crosby House 1797." (the present 2008 home of the Kermit Eatons on Route #9 west.) The house was occupied on its west side by the Chapins (1863-1936)/ George Chapin and wife Jane were very well known and popular citizens of the town; the marriage of the Crosby scion to an IRISH girl was no doubt talked about. For many years he and Jane ran the "Brookfield House", later known as the "Brookfield Inn" and now the "1771 house". The date of 1771 is said to be an invention on Jane's part since little if any of the building of an older tavern had survived the fires. She supposedly used to say, "They (town buildings) all have dates, we might as well call this 1771."

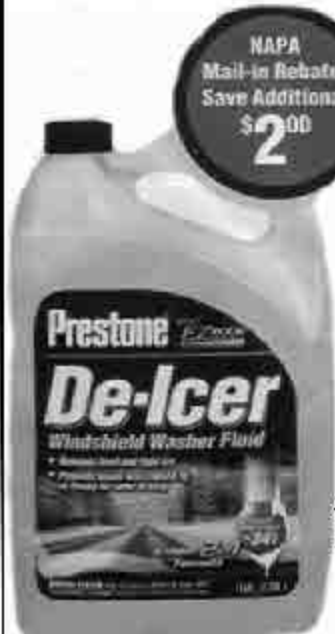
**The Brookfield Council on Aging
Presents:**


The Brookfield Council on Aging will present information of special interest to elders in our community, Tuesday, January 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall of the Brookfield Town Hall.

- ◆ The Brookfield Police Department is co-sponsoring a presentation by the District Attorney's Office for Worcester County on Identity Theft.
- ◆ Outreach coordinator, Barbara Harrington will be on hand to accept recommendations for new events to take place in the Banquet Hall.
- ◆ A member of the AARP will be available to recommend where to go for your tax questions.

We will have free entertainment (Brookfield's own Kitchen Musicians), and refreshments will be served. For more information, please call **John Wild** at (508) 867-4123.

The Brookfield Citizen is available on line at www.brookfieldcitizen.com in .PDF format. There are archived issues also available at the site.





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