



The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

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Average People Promoting a Loving Environment.

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Winter Safety Tips

Chief Peter Martell

With winter approaching, your Brookfield Fire Department wanted to take some time to go over some cold weather tips. If you heat with oil, it's a good idea to have your system reviewed periodically by a licensed oil burner technician.

If you heat with wood, whether it's by using a woodstove or fireplace, have you had your chimney cleaned recently? When you clean out the ashes, please don't put them in a combustible container (paper bag, box, etc). Please use a metal container and keep that container away from other combustible materials. Make sure the ashes are completely out and cold before dumping them.

If you use space heaters, make sure that any extension cords are rated for the heater and that any cords are placed where won't be traveled over. Make sure that space heaters are clear of any combustible materials and never use a space heater to dry clothes.

Hopefully you have changed the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, but be sure to test them monthly.

If you use a live Christmas tree, make sure to check and maintain the water in the base. And lastly, be careful when installing outside decorations - safe use of ladders and keeping ladders away from power lines.

For more information check out our website, www.brookfieldfd.com, links page, go to the Mass fire Academy, and then to Quick Links.

Brookfield Garden Club to have Christmas Tree Decorating Party and Cookie Swap

Our final meeting of 2009 on Sunday, December 6th will be at the home of the Pease's in Oakholm. At her home, three trees will be decorated. One is a special tree decorated by her daughter. Club members will decorate the remaining two trees. As part of our tree decorating party, the club will also be having a "cookie swap". Each member who comes is to bring one to two dozen cookies, a recipe and container. Cookie tasting and swap will follow the tree decorating.

The Brookfield Garden Club met at Karen Ertel's home in October to work on bylaws for the club which will be voted on at the January meeting. Our November trip to Tower Hill "Holly Days" included a tour of the Orangerie by Dr. Trexler.

Cards to Vets

XEROX IS DOING SOMETHING COOL

If you go to this web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com <http://www.letsaythanks.com/Home1280.html> you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

How **amazing** it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! It is FREE and it only takes a second.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our soldiers over there need to know we are behind them.

This takes just 10 seconds and it's a wonderful way to say thank you. Please take the time to send your card and to pass it on for others to do. We can never say enough thank you's.

Thanks for taking to time to support our military!

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the Town Hall, Banquet Room. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Contact the Town Clerk with questions regarding absentee ballots.

Voter Registration: The last day and time to register to vote the SPECIAL STATE ELECTION for Senator is December 30, 2009. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for this purpose.

SPECIAL STATE ELECTION: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Town Hall, Banquet Room. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Contact the Town Clerk with questions regarding absentee ballots.

NOTICE

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

The Selectmen voted on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 to reinstate the winter parking ban for all public ways in the Town from November 15, 2009 to April 1, 2010 during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. As in the past, once the Winter Parking Ban is in effect, there will be no parking on the streets, whether or not snow is predicted and anyone in violation of parking on the street will receive a citation of \$15.00 for the first offense.

Lila M. Farrar • Music teacher

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LOCAL FILM "CIRCUIT" WINS BEST PICTURE AWARD

Indie Drama, partially shot in Brookfield, picks up top prize at RI film festival

Circuit, an independent film shot partially in Brookfield, MA, was awarded Best Picture honors at the 2009 Rhode Island International Horror Film Festival. The award was announced October 29th.

"Our inclusion in the RIHFF, along with a Best Picture win, is a true honor and something I will always deeply appreciate," says Andrew Landauro, writer/director of the film.

Ben Woodard, co-writer of Circuit and Brookfield native, hopes this win is a sign of things to come. "What a great way to begin our film festival journey," he says, referring to the fact that the film's screening at the RIHFF was only its second at a national film festival. "We're very happy for the win and hope that it helps open doors to other festivals."

The RIHFF, which took place October 22-25 in Providence, RI, is a sidebar of the world-renowned Rhode Island International Film Festival. This year, 37 films were selected for screening from a pool of over 250 entries.

"Without question, this was a strong year for entries and quality genre films," says George T. Marshall, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Landauro adds, "The movie making process is so grueling and so stressful that to receive such recognition makes the whole experience so very, very special." The production of Circuit took over five years to complete, and included multiple fundraising functions, from art auctions to dance parties.

Circuit is a conceptual feature film that explores the human senses. As stories evolve, mysterious and compelling forces emerge, uniting emotions and thoughts. Threading through love, desire, paranoia, memory, time, and space, Circuit is moving, funny, and at times unsettling. It was produced with the association of Central Productions, a regional production support organization and registered 501(c)3 nonprofit.

For more information on Circuit, the RIHFF, and Central Productions, visit the following:

Circuit: <http://www.whatisacircuit.com>

RIHFF: http://www.film-festival.org/Horror_WINNERS09

Central

Productions: <http://www.centralproductions.org/>

Submitted by Ben Woodard



Library News

Brenda Metterville



"When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully -- the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you.

The public library is a great equalizer." --

Keith Richards, Rolling Stones Guitarist



UPCOMING and Ongoing Winter events:

Wednesdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Computer Club, Senior Citizens/Adults only.

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. Pre-School Story Hour with Sharon Champoux, sponsored by the Community Partnership for Children.

Fridays, 11:30 a.m. Pre-School Music with Ms. Coro. Sponsored by the Jeppson Fund for Brookfield, Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Fridays, 3:00 p.m. Home Delivery Service. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Local author Ellie Blaisdell Kraner will be present before and after Ms. Coro on Friday, December 4, beginning at 11:15 with her children's book *The Birthday Gift*. Ellie is pastor of the Brookfield Congregational Church.

Please be generous in your donations to Brookfield's local food pantry. The Library collects nonperishable food and paper goods, etc.. Local members of the Rainbow Girls accept can tab donations. The Friends accept book donations.

Cat's Meows: Friends of the Library's Banister Memorial Hall and the Cemetery Commission's Cemetery Gate are available for \$20.00 each during regular library hours.

Making Hay: Tales from Oakholm, a Farm in Massachusetts by John Jeppson.

Available at the library and Tip Top Country Store now! \$29.40 Make checks payable to: Tide Pool Press.

Banister Book Group: Tuesday, January 5 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris. *Holidays on Ice* is a collection of six stories including the hilarious "SantaLand Diaries," Sedaris's chronicle of his time working as an elf at Macy's, covering everything from the preliminary group lectures ("You are not a dancer. If you were a real dancer you wouldn't be here. You're an elf and you're going to wear panties like an elf.") to the perils of inter-elf flirtation. Along the way, he paints a funny and sad portrait of the way the countless parents who pass through SantaLand are too busy creating an experience to really pay attention to their children. In a sly way, it carries a holiday message all its own. Read it aloud to the adults after the kids have gone to bed. --Ali Davis

Holiday schedule: The library hours for Christmas week: Closed Thursday, December 24

Year's Eve, December 31, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Closed Friday, January 1. Open Saturday, January 2 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For updates be sure to check: merrickpubliclibrary.blogspot.com

Or e-mail: brookfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Tel.: 508 867 6339 Fax: 508 867 2981

All faxing, photocopies, printing is free.

Library Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday & Friday 11:00 to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday, 508 867 6339. Ask a librarian: brookfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Hello Gardeners!

Edna Schron

If you're intending to buy a cut Christmas tree for the holiday, here are some pointers. First of all, try to buy a freshly cut tree. The way to test for this is to tug at a few needles. If they pull off easily from the branch, the tree has been cut for some length of time, and it won't last as long indoors as a fresh tree. If you cut it yourself or see it cut, then of course you're all set. Before you set up the tree at home, cut off an inch or two of the base of the trunk to expose fresh cells that are efficient at drawing water up into the tree. When you set the tree up, make sure the bottom of the stem is in a couple of inches of water and keep adding more water as it's needed. This will keep the tree fresher longer.

By the way, if you love live greenery for the holidays but don't have the space for a large Christmas tree, try decorating a Norfolk Island pine, which has the shape and needlelike foliage of pine trees, and yet is small enough to fit into most rooms without crowding. Best of all it's a houseplant you will have year after year.

Gifts for the gardener in your life? Well, there are some wonderful gifts on every gardener's list.... Schlumbergera bridgesii is the botanical name for the Christmas cactus which come in a nice variety of colors such as cerise, salmon, pink and violet. A terrarium, orchid, poinsettia or an amaryllis bulb to force this winter all make super gifts. If your gardening friend has a special love, there are books on every specialty from roses to cacti to herbs to trees to orchids and the list is absolutely endless. Every gardener has a library of favorites that need to be added to!!

The Norfolk Island pine which is known botanically as *Araucaria heterophylla* is native to the South Pacific. There on the tiny island of Norfolk Island they grow as tall as 200 feet with trunks ten feet in diameter. Here in the northern hemisphere there is no worry you'll have to cut a hole in your roof for such growth!! They grow about 3 to 6 inches yearly under normal household conditions. They need to be repotted every three years. Use African violet soil when you repot and feed them every three or four months. They appreciate moist soil and tolerate temperatures from 45 to 85 degrees. Put a string of lights and some tiny red bows on yours at Christmas and it is a lovely little Christmas tree!!

Happy Gardening!!

