



The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

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Average People Promoting a Loving Environment.

PO Box 411 Brookfield, MA 01506

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An Open Letter to the Residents and Voters of the Town of Brookfield

Linda M. Lincoln

I'm writing to let you know of an upcoming special event in the history of the Town of Brookfield. I have asked the Board of Selectmen to take the second step toward making the position of Town Clerk an appointed position. The first step was taken at my request, that is, the question was placed on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in May/June 2009 and it passed.

The second step is to have the question: "Shall the Town of Brookfield vote to have its elected Town Clerk become an appointed Town Clerk of the Town?" placed on a ballot to be available the same day as the Special Election for State Senator. This date is Tuesday, January 19, 2010 and the polls will be open at the Town Hall from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

The Selectmen have given their approval and this question will be placed on the Jan. 19th ballot. I am asking your support of this question; please vote YES. The responsibilities of the position of Town Clerk have become more complicated and varied, needing a person with certain qualifications and talents. Once the position is appointed, the Selectmen would have to advertise and interview applicants and they would choose the person most qualified. I believe that this would be better for the Town than continuing with the election process which is a popular vote.

I plan on retiring in May of 2010 after 22 years of service to the community as your Town Clerk. To aid in continuity and to prevent a break in service to you, I have told the Selectmen that I will stay on until they have chosen my replacement.

Over the years you have all been so great to me and very supportive and I want to thank you all very much. I will certainly miss seeing you all on a daily basis but I have great confidence that the Selectmen will choose someone who will serve you in a quality manner for a good many years.

Thank you, Linda M. Lincoln, Town Clerk

Community Club Grant Awards

The Brookfield Community Club is pleased to announce the award of the following grants:

Brookfield Elementary School	Bournedale Trans	\$ 700
Council on Aging	Wii System	\$ 240
Merrick Library	Children's Program	\$1000
A.P.P.L.E. Seed, Inc.	Brookfield Citizen	\$2000
TJHS Library	Book Display Rack	\$ 400
Brookfield Fire Dept.	Gear Storage Unit	\$ 700
Elementary School Art Dept.	Mats and Frames	\$ 350
Community Club	Senior Award	\$ 300
Community Club	Needy Christmas	\$ 500
Community Club	ACF Dinner	\$ 300

The Brookfield Community Club wishes to thank the friends and residents of Brookfield who continue to support us in this project that not only provides us with the grant monies to be redistributed throughout the town, but also provides support throughout the town and surrounding communities for churches and other organizations.

Late Tax Bill Mailing

Emergency legislation enacted to relieve a backlog in the Department of Revenue has allowed us to issue the 3rd. Quarter Actual Tax Bills one month late. They will be issued in January 2010 with payment and any abatement applications due within 30 days from bill issue.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Peter Martell

This month we would like to focus on how we respond to ice rescues and some of the equipment that we use for those types of calls. We would like to start by saying that even though there is ice on a pond and certain areas may appear to be safe, that may not be the case for the entire body of water. Without going into specifics on how water freezes, it is very important to remember that depth, vegetation, springs and/or current, and underwater rock formations have a dramatic effect on whether a certain area of ice is deemed safe or not.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have responded to alarms for vehicles through the ice and in the water. Through training, we have been taught that it takes a minimum of 2 inches of solid ice for walking, 4 inches for fishing, and over 12 inches for vehicles. A frequent problem is that when people go out on to the ice to measure its "depth", they don't take measurements in multiple places in order to record possible differences. It is also frequently misunderstood that if people believe that one body of water is safe, then all bodies of water in the area are safe, and that is 100% not true.

For example, Quaboag/North Pond is approximately 8-10' deep at it's maximum and its underwater characteristics usually make for a very solid type of ice that is normally safe for recreational use. On

the other hand, South Pond is spring fed, has depths of over 80', and has areas running/open water, so this pond is extremely dangerous for recreational use and accidents are frequent.

Here at the Fire Department we will never comment as to whether ice conditions are safe or not, so remember, the only absolute in ice safety is to stay off it! With that being said, accidents do happen, and when we respond, specialized tools are needed. For instance, when responding, first-out apparatus will be Squad 1 and the ambulance. At capacity, Squad 1 will carry a maximum 6 firefighters in which two will be outfitted with special cold water "Gumby" suits which are extremely buoyant and designed to withstand the cold temperatures of the water. Once at the scene, the firefighters will be tethered to ropes for safety and an ice water sled called the Rescue Alive will also be put into service. An ice rescue mission calls for a large number of personnel and are almost always very time-consuming.

We have one more safety tip. During the summer months, people on the water are always advised to wear a life jacket or personal flotation device while boating, swimming, jet skiing, fishing, etc. Well snowmobiling, skating, and ice fishing are no different, you're still on the water and if an accident does occur it is potentially more dangerous than in the summer, so please dress accordingly and wear your life jackets, it could just save your life.

Lila M. Farrar • Music teacher

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Public Hearing Brookfield CDBG Grant Application

On Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 7:15 P.M. in the Library of the Brookfield Elementary School, 36 Central Street, Brookfield, MA, the Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the Town's proposed application under the FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Town intends to submit an application for up to \$800,000. The purpose of the hearing is to seek public comment on the Town's plans. All interested persons are invited to attend and are encouraged to provide input on the proposed grant application. For information about the meeting, please call the Administrative Assistant at (508) 867-2930 x10.

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Library News

Brenda Metterville

"Books open your mind, broaden your mind, and strengthen you as nothing else can."

William Feather.

Start the new year fresh and return your overdue library materials!

Weather reminder: If the Tantasqua Regional School system is closed, the public library is also closed. Two hour delays cancels pre-school story time.

Friends of the Library will meet Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. Donations for the May Silent Auction are now being accepted. This fundraiser assists in paying for many of the great programs presented at the library.

Time to make the Apple Country Fair quilt! We begin cutting, sewing and assembling the quilt the last week of January. Join us in this community project for a great community event!

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.. January 6 through February 24, 2010: Adult Yoga with Ann Ramsey, Make up snow days will be scheduled in March, \$40 fee per person, for this eight-week session. Funded in part by the Friends of the Library.

Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. beginning January 7 through February 25, 2010. Kid's Yoga! with Ann Ramsey, free. Sponsored by a Jeppson Grant for Bookfield, Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Students (ages 11 to 16) are invited to sign up for the American Red Cross babysitting course with Linda Freeman. This six-hour course will take place Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Students must complete the six hours to receive their certificate. There is a \$20.00 fee per student (regularly \$40.00), the Friends of the Library will pay the other half of the fee. Pizza will be served both nights. Call the library for more information.

Ongoing events:

Wednesdays, at 11:30 a.m. Story time with Ms. Sharon Champoux. Sponsored by the Community Partnership for Children.

Wednesdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. adult computer time. Learn how to use e-mail, word documents and cruise around the Internet.

Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Music and story time with Ms. Renee Coro.

Fridays, Home Deliveries sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Please call the library for more information.

Banister Book Discussion:

Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Holidays on ice* by David Sedaris.

Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Fair and Tender Ladies* by Lee Smith.

If you haven't discovered Lee Smith yet, this is the book to start with. The story is told in the unique



born around the turn of the century in a small cabin in the southern Appalachians. If you have spent any time in this part of the country, Ivy's letters will bring their beauty back into fresh focus. Her letters also reflect the poverty and difficulty of life in the back woods. Ivy rebels against this way of life and grows up with the hope of making something of herself. This book though, is far from a Cinderella story. Ivy is far too human.

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *The Fate of Katherine Carr* by Thomas Cook.

Tuesday, March 30, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Promise Not to Tell* by Jennifer McMahon.

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer

CLOSED Friday, January 1; Saturday, January 2 & Saturday, January 16.

REGULAR HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday & Friday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Ask a Librarian: brookfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Tel: 508 867 6339

Fax: 508 867 2981 (free to receive and send)

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Council on Aging

Barbara Clancy

The Council on Aging will not meet on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

The Council on Aging invites participants to Tai Chi on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. If interested in attending please call **Barbara Clancy** at 508 867 6043.

Turkey Dinner at First Congregational of West Brookfield

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St. will host a delicious turkey dinner on Saturday, January 30th, at 6 P.M. Turkey with all the trimmings including scrumptious homemade pie will be served. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Reservations are strongly encouraged for the dining room and mandatory for take out orders. Call the church at 508-867-7078 to make yours!

December Book Trivia Answer

The Barber of Seville.

