



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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Christmas 2011 Birth of a New Tradition

This is GREAT "people power" advice as shared by Doris Bowen...great thoughts for Holiday gift giving...really something to think about...

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW!

(Continued on page 5)



Luminaries for the Common & Mall

By: Kathleen Wild

This Christmas, for the first time, **520 luminaries** will go around the Common & Mall on Christmas Eve. If you get a chance be sure to stop by and see the beautiful effect this will give. This is how it will work on Christmas Eve:

1PM - a group gathers at Peter Masuzzo's driveway to get bags, put in sand and candle and set up around the areas. Depending on the number of people, this should take about 1 ½ hours.

4:30PM - another group gathers with lighters to light all the luminaries. Also about an hour depending on number of people lighting. (Bring your own lighter)

This will be a great addition to the Common & Mall for this special evening and I hope that we can get the needed volunteers to make it happen as easily as possible. In case of rain, we will gather on Christmas day at the same time and place.

If anyone would be interested in folding down the tops of some of the bags beforehand let me know at 508-867-4123 or jkwild@verizon.net, and I will get the bags to you for you to do at your leisure. They can be taken to Peter's house for storage until Christmas Eve.



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Library News

By: Brenda Metterville

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather. John Ruskin

Thursday, **December 1**, 3:30 p.m. Friends of the Library meeting. The Friends will sponsor Christmas gift baskets raffle for the month of December, the drawings will be held Friday, December 16. The Friends have Cat's Meows of the library available for purchase at \$20.00. We also have the Cemetery Gate available for purchase.

Monday, **December 12**, 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting.

Tuesday, **January 3**, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. After hearing all the great reviews from a local book group, this book about Frank Lloyd Wright is a must read for the library book group! "I admire this novel, adore this novel, for so many reasons: The intelligence and lyricism of the prose. The attention to period detail. The epic proportions of this most fascinating love story. Mamah Cheney has been in my head and heart and soul since reading this book; I doubt she'll ever leave."-Elizabeth Berg

Ongoing programs:

Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Music Time with Ms. Renee Coro. All ages welcome to attend, no sign-up necessary, free snacks and juice served. This program is funded by the Jeppson Memorial Fund for Brookfield, Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Adult computer time.

Fridays at 3:00 p.m. Home Delivery service is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The Library is still a drop-off location for:

Ecumenical Food Pantry, please be generous during the holiday season, we have many in need!

Brookfield Police Department—old cell phones
 Brookfield Elementary School—Campbell labels for points, ink cartridges
 Rainbow Girls—Can tabs
 Lions Club—old eyeglasses and hearing aids

HOLIDAY HOURS: Closed Friday, December 23 and Saturday, December 24 for Christmas. Closed Saturday, December 31 for New Year's Eve!

REGULAR HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 p.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

Merrickpubliclibrary.org

merrickpubliclibrary.blogspot.com Keep up to date with us online!

Tel: 508 867 6339 Fax: 508 867 2981 (free to receive and send)

Happy Hanukkah



Calendar of Church Services

St. Mary's Catholic Church Lincoln Street, Brookfield	9:00 am. Sunday
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Main Street, West Brookfield 867-6469 (both above listed churches)	7:30/10:30 am. Sunday
Quaboag Valley Baptist Church 867-5920	175 Fiskdale Road 1st Service 8:30 a.m. Family Ministries 10:00 a.m. 2nd Service 11:15 a.m. Sunday
Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church 867-5145	Upper River St. 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Children's Religious Education	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Brookfield Congregational Church 867-6262	Common St. 10:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
First Congregational Church Of West Brookfield UCC 867-7078	36 N. Main St. West Brookfield 10:00 a. m. Sunday
Sunday School and Youth Group available	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 108 New Braintree Road 774-289-6068	North Brookfield 10:00 a.m. Sunday



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8 Central St.

Brookfield, MA 01506

508-867-0460

Monday - Friday 8 - 8

Saturday 9 - 5 • Sunday 11 - 5

1% of sales to local non-profits.**Folding Corner**

By: Phil Peirce

When I'm at a loss for words, and my mind is as dry and empty as a dry well, I usually go to someone who was much better at observations of life in general. One of my favorites is Will Rogers, one of the greatest political sages this country has ever known. So, I thank Will for these tidbits.

- ◇ Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
 - ◇ Never miss a good chance to shut up.
 - ◇ Always drink upstream from the herd.
 - ◇ Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.
 - ◇ After eating a an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.
- And his observations about growing older:
- ◇ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
 - ◇ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
 - ◇ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.
 - ◇ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.
 - ◇ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
 - ◇ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.
 - ◇ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it's such a nice change from being young.
 - ◇ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.
 - ◇ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
 - ◇ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.

The deadline for the January Citizen is December 14 and the Folding will be scheduled for December 28. I hope you all have joyful and satisfying Christmas season.

For Sale

Used 5 kW generator in working order. Best offer. Call Phil at 508-867-9553.

