



The Brookfield Citizen

Community Identity Through Communication

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Average People Promoting a Loving Environment

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Brookfield Historical Commission announces

Preservation Award to Mr. Robert W. Wilder

The Brookfield Historical Commission has elected to establish an annual award to promote and reward those people, companies or organizations that preserve and secure the historical style and significance of their building, landscape or cultural resources through preservation, renovation, or period sensitive new construction.

This year's award goes to Robert W. Wilder for his tireless efforts in the research and documentation of Brookfield's historical and cultural resources. Bob has for over 30 years worked to locate and identify historically important sites and interpret their significance, documenting his findings for the greater good.

His generosity and time in helping others find their family roots has engendered the young to take up the challenge and to know the excitement and joy of finding the missing link. Bob's enthusiasm for a story well told has for years enlightened us, brought back memories and encouraged us all to preserve the values of the past.

We salute and sincerely thank him for his lifelong effort and dedication in research and documentation of Brookfield's unique cultural past.

The Preservation Award will be presented on Brookfield Heritage Day, Saturday, May 17, at a 5:30 PM at the Congregational Church. The ceremony will also include a presentation of the "Hamilton Family of Brookfield" given by Dan Hamilton.

A traditional Coffee Time with home-made refreshments will be served.

An encampment by the Massachusetts 15 Infantry, starting at 9:30 AM on the Brookfield Common, will start the day and mark National Historic Preservation Month. The day's encampment, award and event are made possible through funding from the Brookfield Community Club and the Brookfield Cultural Council.

Watch your local papers for a complete schedule of day-long events for May 17, and remember, the night before the Friends of the Town Hall is doing a

benefit for the renovation of the Town Hall another major preservation project in town.

Additional press information: historicbrkfld@aol.com

In Memory of Veterans of All Wars Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 26, 2014

Memorial Day calls upon a united nation to appropriately mark the last resting place of our sons and daughters who saw service while following the flag in times of war.

Fellow citizens, Comrades of any military organization, and all departments and organizations of the Town of Brookfield are earnestly invited to join us in a proper observance of this day.

Order of March:

Brookfield Elementary School, Start 10 A.M.

Brookfield Cemetery, assembly 10:30 A.M.

Town Common, Memorial Square, assembly 11:30 A.M.

Dismissal 12 noon.

In the event of rain, assembly will be at the Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium.

If you have any questions, or would like to be in the parade line-up, please contact Bill Simpson, Parade Marshal, (508) 867-9233 or e-mail BrookfieldGallery@gmail.com or any Brookfield Cultural Council member.

CONTENTS

2. Library news; Brookfield Garden Club
3. Folding Corner
4. Arts
5. A Look Back
6. Fin Fur and Feathers; Asparagus Festival
7. Highway Highlights
8. Council on Aging; Water System Flushing
9. Make This at Home;
10. Mutual Aid; Summer Reading Program
11. Letter to the Editor; Citizen Staff
12. Community meeting
13. Clean Sweep; Town Hall Fundraiser
14. Gardening in New England; Composting Workshop

Library News

By: Brenda Metterville

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." Dr. Seuss

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY—The May Silent Auction is here! Come in and bid on your favorite item! We want to thank past contributors for their ongoing support including Margaret Boland, Roger LeFleur, Paul Kent, Reta Warman, Barbara Steadman, Lois Best, Mary Sawyer, Bay Path Spirits, Brookfield Motors, Sheena's Salon, and many others. This fundraiser supports the summer reading program.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM—Peggy's Summer Read-Aloud Program, Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. beginning June 5th, Peggy will read Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet* series, beginning with *Hatchet!* She will continue with *Brian's Winter* and *The River* until Thursday, August 21st.

MUSEUM PASSES AVAILABLE—Museum discount passes to the Worcester Art Museum, Ecotarium, and the Holyoke Children's Museum. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

LAWYER FOR A NIGHT—Tuesday, May 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This free program is scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month and organized by James Hoffey, Counselor at Law. Brookfield residents seeking civil legal advice or having questions on specific situations are welcome to attend.

BANISTER BOOK GROUP:

• Tuesday, May 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m. *Sweet Tooth* by Ian McEwan. "A tightly crafted, exquisitely executed page-turner—a post-modern hall of mirrors asking savvy questions about identity (with an unreliable narrator and a Martin Amis cameo), all concealed in the immersive trappings of a Victorian novel complete with a marriage plot. There's such rich pleasure and vulnerability in McEwan's storytelling, such style and heart in his well-honed sentences." —*USA Today*

• Tuesday, June 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m. *Blue Asylum* by Kate Hepinstall. "What sets *Blue Asylum* apart is Hepinstall's luscious prose and the tension within each character that keeps the reader maddeningly off balance...Hepinstall makes inspired use of the Civil War as a means to explore notions of freedom, courage and, especially, opposing principals that both prevent and create change. Battle scenes, glimpsed briefly in Ambrose's excruciating flashbacks, deliver knockout punches of quiet horror all the more affecting for their subtlety." —*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

FOR CHILDREN:

• Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Pre-School Music Time with Ms. Coro. No age limits, no sign-up and free snack included in this free program! Funded by Jeppson Memorial Grant for Brookfield, Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

LEGO CLUB, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. of each month. Thursday, May 1 and Thursday, May 15.

FOR ADULTS:

- Anytime. The Council on Aging has provided a wireless laptop computer (this computer will print to our wireless printer) for senior citizens of our community to use anytime.
- Fridays at 3:00 p.m. Home Delivery and Pick-up of Library materials for anyone housebound. Materials available include: DVDs, books (fiction and non-fiction), magazines, VHS videos, books on CD. This free service may be long or short term. This service is sponsored by the Friends of the Library—call for more information.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: Saturday, May 24 for the Memorial Day Weekend.

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

2 Lincoln Street, Brookfield, MA 01506

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)



BROOKFIELD GARDEN CLUB'S Annual Plant Sale

The Brookfield Garden Club will be holding its annual Plant Sale at the Gazebo on the Brookfield Common from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, May 24.

You will be able to find many perennials donated from member gardens to freshen up your own flower beds this Spring. As usual, there will be hanging baskets, herbs, and potted perennials from local nurseries also. Come and join us by becoming a new member. See our Scrapbook of photos, club programs and events. You may want to buy one of our hypertufa pots made by our members. Hope to see you all there!

We will also have a booth at the Asparagus Festival in West Brookfield on May 17th. Members, don't forget to sign up to help out those days.

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

By: Philip Peirce



Last month, if you took the time to absorb my rantings, through the use of quoting another far more capable of doing a rant, you got the message: Vote. Perhaps you would suppose that small-town politics aren't really important, in the grander scheme of things, but I disagree. That kind of thinking gets your community in a state where personal agendas monopolize the elected folk, and benefits to the majority of the caring town residents is minimal to non-existent. There have been a few times in my memory that exactly those conditions have taken place. If you can remember some as well, all the more reason to vote this time, and every other time there is an opportunity.

Voting, of course, requires a little homework. You have to get to know who these folk are, and what it is they stand for. In contested races in our community, this newsletter publishes profiles of candidates who submit such for our use. This year, candidates for the only contested position had submitted flyers to be inserted in these pages. The other local papers Spencer New Leader and Quaboag Current also participate in getting the word out. A Candidates Night is usually arranged for a face to face meeting with folk, and you can see who they are, and how they handle themselves. Public Access, Channel 13, lets you tune in to the Candidate's Night, and to other meetings where these candidates may have been present.

All in all, it does not require an inordinate amount of time, and it ensures that you become a bona fide citizen of Brookfield with a hand in the democratic process of our elections. That familiar adage, "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people..." shows you where you fit in. Between our elections and our Annual Town Meetings, we here, in Brookfield, are participating in democracy at its basic best. At the Town Meeting, you have direct input into the suggested amounts for the Annual Budget, by voting for or against the proposals, understanding that whatever monies are voted to spend, will eventually be funded in part by your Real Estate taxes. For that reason alone it would behoove you to at least attend the Town Meeting, but more importantly, to be an active participant and vote as required to further your wishes regarding how the money is spent.

Now, I had no intention of writing these words here when I sat down to do my duty, but whatever nonsense I was about to write, dried up as I dug into the premise that everyone who can should be a part of the process: VOTE.





As You Like It
By William Shakespeare
May 2 - May 18

One of Shakespeare's best-known and most beloved comedies, "As You Like It" chronicles the fate of Rosalind, who, fearing persecution from the court of her uncle, runs off to the Forest of Arden.

Will Rosalind find love and security with Orlando, who likewise has been banished to the forest to avoid the machinations of his brother, Oliver?

Rosalind's disguise brings trouble when she draws the affection of the shepherdess Phebe, but it is Orlando who seeks her hand in marriage. Will he get his wish?

Life, love, death and the power of reunion are all examined in "As You Like It," which bequeathed the immortal soliloquy that reads in part, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

Under the direction of Stageloft's own Shakespearean guru, Ed Cornely, this staging is sure to be more than "merely" another play.

Visit www.stageloft.com for more information.

THE CENTER AT EAGLE HILL

May 9-11 Little Shop of Horrors

A skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon the plant grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding his growing appetite, finally revealing himself to be an alien creature poised for global domination!

May 22 Circus Incognitus

With his numerous talents and years of experience, Jamie Adkins continues to seek new ways to develop his artistry. In this most recent creation, Jamie shows his audiences, in his own unique way, the full range of his talents, and creates an artistic event that springs from his own, quirky inner world.

Movie of the Month: Duck Soup (1933)
Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00pm

directed by Leo McCarey

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Weekly Times.

A Look back



May 4, 1882

The business prospect for the coming season is very promising for Brookfield. The Big shop will run to an extent never before realized, while Mr. Butterworth's factory will do a proportionate amount of work, considerably in advance of any

season previous. Other business concerns will also feel the boom and add their quota to the rest.

The general sentiment seems to be, concerning the matter of street lamps, either to increase the number now in being three to one, or let them severally alone for a year or two yet, and devote all to the sidewalks. The fact is, as the lamps now are placed they are nothing but a nuisance instead of a benefit. They are so far apart as to make the space between each doubly dark, and blinded by the light of one light they can see nothing while traversing the long interval to the next. Lamps should be not more than ten rods apart to do justice to the end desired. The Prudential Committee had better let the street lamp business take care of itself a while longer yet, and gives the walks the money that otherwise would go to the lamps.

The work of publishing the list of marriages as found recorded in our Town records, is commenced this week, and gives those for the first 30 years following the year 1718, which date appears to be the earliest record of marriages extant. There should be by rights, full 50 years more records back of that, commencing with the first settlement in 1660. The copy of the record from which the list herein given were taken, was so mutilated and effaced that the names and dates were made out with considerable difficulty, but from 1750 and after, the records are much plainer and thus the chances of mistake much less. If there are any records of marriages previous to 1718 in existence we should be pleased to publish them.

The Brookfield Village District has become a thing of life and now the village folks will be watching for the result of their action, and the appearance of some activity in the line of work which they voted \$900. The sum provided for the improvement of walks, maintenance of street lamps, etc., is regarded in various lights by different citizens in this village. Some thought it too much, while others had rather have it raised then cut down, while a few perhaps would have been best pleased had there been none. At best, it is safe to say that \$900 is none too much, if quite enough for a good beginning even of the work that is waiting to be done in the way of repairing and laying new sidewalks, yet it probably is a good policy not, (as one who favored reducing this amount by \$100, said,) to antagonize those who were somewhat opposed to a large expenditure, too much, even if the majority could will it, by raising such a sum to begin with as would cause them to too loudly murmur. Doubtless ere the year passes and this class see just how far the amount appropriated will

go, and how much there still remains to do, and at the same time finding the benefit in realizing the improvement of progress already made will much more readily vote for a larger sum even, at the next annual meeting. Once get the stone of improvement to rolling and there will be less and less desire to stop it and the little there is will find the task impossible. The expenditures of the amount provided are in the hands of the three gentlemen of undoubted integrity, and their actions will meet the approval of the citizens undoubtedly.

The Road Commissioners have begun their work of repairing the roads, and are pushing it right along.

Work has commenced on the bank wall along the west side of Horace May's grounds, facing the street.

What was the Lamb place on High Street, is receiving a new coat of paint. Mr. L. Henshaw is doing the work.

There is a great demand for help here now, and will be for some time to come. The question is, "Where will they all live?"

Owners of dogs are reminded that May 1, (the date on which all specimens of the canine race are taxed,) has just passed and if their dogs are not already entered they should be at once, at the Clerk's office.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Brookfield Savings Bank, held at the office of the Treasurer, May 1: - President, H. D. Fales; Vice Presidents, E. L. Bates, Hammond Brown, George W. Johnson, Washington Tufts, and George S. Duell; Board of Trustees, C. O. Brewster, H. V. Crosby, P. S. Doane, H. W. Hamilton, Levi Davis, and H. L. Butterworth; Treasurer, H. P. Gerald; Board of Investment, H. V. Crosby, George S. Duell, and Washington Tufts.

May 11, 1882

OPERATIONS on our walks should now be the order of the day. We are waiting patiently for a chance to tread upon some of that \$900, Messrs. Prudential Committee.

Post 38 has assured our citizens of an able and appropriate memorial address for the 30th, by the promise of Hon. Theodore C. Bates of Worcester as their speaker. It might be well to vary the usual services in some manner so as to awaken perhaps the seeming dying interest in the real object of the day in the interest of turning it into a mere holiday for pleasure.

The painters are now at work on Mr. Emmons Twichell's residence.

This cold wet storm is said to be good for grass. A cold wet May fills the barns full of hay.

Mr. J. W. Brigham has just started a new milk route. Four cents is his present price per quart.

Henshaw & Son, have closed their meat market, recently started under Gerald's block. The field is once more clear again to Mr. Barnes, as Clark's market in Tyler's block was closed several weeks ago.

As the High School, has no class ready for graduation, there will be no graduating exercises this year. Three years ago the course of study was enlarged

Fin Fur and Feathers

By John O'Leary, Jr.

Tick Talk



Not many years ago a tick carried disease bloomed in Ontario, Canada around a town called Powasson. This disease has spread far enough that it has showed up in Maine, NH, Vermont, and multiple cases in NY. This disease can be transmitted to you in as little as ten minutes after you are bitten. Compare this to the 24 to 36 hours that Lyme disease takes. There is no anti-biotic that is known to touch this disease, bed rest and fluids to keep the patient hydrated are the total treatment plan. Figures show you have a one in ten chance of having the disease kill you. If you survive it will likely be with severe neurological consequences. Use the DEET, Permethrin, and Permanone, as directed. Tuck pant cuffs into socks, shirt sleeves into gloves, and a light scarf treated with the proper chemical to keep them off of your upper body. The disease is carried by Deer and Black Legged ticks, so a thorough exam when you come indoors could be a life saver.

THERE, You have been warned.

Time was when we didn't know what a tick was. A nervous twitch on uncle Elmer's face, the increment of time the second hand made on the hall clock, a ball that didn't get batted square, heck anything but an insect. Especially an insect that made you ill.

Originally, and probably accurately, people going south for the winter were blamed for transporting ticks back to New England with them on their return. The darn things will ride you, a pet, or the vehicles head liner or carpeting, and so we gradually got them. At first running the dogs in the southern New England states and having them come home with ticks that were almost dime sized a few days after a run there were treated by putting Vaseline on them so that they would pull their heads out and could be disposed of. Other methods involving burning cigarettes and hot metal touched to them provided some relief, as well as just getting your fingers up to their head and pinch, squeeze, and pull worked most of the time.

Thankfully now we have the chemicals to keep all of the ticks at bay so let's just use them on ourselves and our pets and take whatever precautions seem prudent to keep all concerned safe.

Turkey calls are simple units, right? A doubled over blade of grass, a soda straw held just so, A box made of wood with a wooden cover that gave off sound when dragged over the side[s] of the box, or a piece of slate with a pencil sized hard wood striker pressed lightly against it's grain. Heck You can make a pretty good yelp with a fork on a dinner plate, and draw a pained expression from the bride at the same time, especially if you have company over for the meal.

Lately they have gone all high tech with magnetic, and water proof lids on the boxes, slate calls replaced

(Continued on page 13)

Asparagus Festival West Brookfield Common Saturday, May 17

This town is tuning up its garden forks and sprucing up its lovely centerpiece and welcome mat - the common - and we hope you'll come to the party on Saturday, May 17.

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the much-loved and eagerly anticipated Asparagus and Flower Asparagus Festival will welcome visitors from across New England and beyond to spend the day enjoying this splendid ode to Spring and tribute to the slender, tender, stalk of green it's named for.

One hundred juried vendors of things earthy, artistic and artisanal will provide food for the senses and for thought - here's history, gastronomy and the pleasure of your company, all of you, as you meet and greet the thousands of friends of Diederick Leertouwer. In fact, perhaps you'll meet the man who, tradition informs us, brought asparagus to America in 1794, right here in small, scenic and altogether remarkable West Brookfield.

Diederick, The Dutch envoy to Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the 1780s-90s missed his homeland favorite, so he ordered that some asparagus roots be brought here on the next ship. The rest is truly history - he shared his crop with Dwight Foster, his friend and neighbor, who was doubtless in need of a spring tonic - he'd helped his father write the Massachusetts

(Continued on page 11)

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