



Town Appeal

February, 2019

What's Happening in Brookfield and A Request!

Winter and cold weather are officially here but that's not stopping businesses and organizations from offering some great events.

Some highlights from our **Calendar of Events** include:

*The annual **Teddy Bear (or your favorite stuffed animal)***

***Sleepover** and **Learning to Play the Harmonica** class at the Library.*

*Seminars offered by Parks and Rec to help you **Organize and Let Go Composting Classes** at the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA)*

*A Free **Brookfield Community Skate** at the Danbury Ice Arena*

***A Family Valentine's Day Party** at the YMCA.*

*This month's newsletter has articles on the **new Zoning Regulations** effective as of December 21st of last year, an opening of a new restaurant, **Taco-Bachi** and the many of the **FREE** services offered by the **Brookfield Library**.*

***Can you help us out?** Our goal is to support local businesses and organizations in Brookfield. Help us spread the word! Do you find this newsletter informative? Do you know of other people who might agree? If so, please forward our newsletter over to them and ask them to sign up to receive their own copy. We really appreciate your help!*

Tara and Monica





The Brookfield Library

Libraries are for Everyone

Libraries are for everyone and we at TownAppeal challenge you to run, not walk to the Brookfield Library to take advantage of their offerings.

First, let's start with the notion that traditional books are out of vogue and it's now all about e-books and audiobooks.

"Not so" says Yvonne Cech, the Brookfield Library's Director. "When e-books/electronic books were introduced, we saw a decrease of only 10% in the number of residents checking out traditional books."

However, the library does also offer e-books and e-audiobooks through two services, Hoopla and Overdrive, so that patrons can download them electronically to their devices. "It's a very popular service," said Yvonne.

Below are some of the other amenities offered by the library and ALL are free!

- In addition to offering DVD's, the library also shows movies and they supply the popcorn too!
- Sewing and embroidery machines are available and the library offers classes to teach you how to use them. For example, over the holidays there was a large attendance at the Embroidery machines with students making fleece scarf and embroidered snowflakes. Another creative idea was a T-Shirt quilt for graduates. (** These machines are available for public use during library hours but you should call a day in advance so that the machine can be set up.)
- Mobile hotspots- Going somewhere that doesn't have internet service? Borrow a mobile hotspot and bring wireless internet service with you.
- VCR to DVD conversion - You just need to supply the blank DVD – the service is free. (Don't you wish you knew that before you paid hundreds of dollars for that gift last December?)
- Have a document you need to have notarized? Come to the library and visit our Notary Public
- 3D printing- Jennifer Doyon, the Information Technology/Teen Librarian, can help turn your ideas into reality.
- Classes, classes, classes! Some of the more popular programs include jewelry making, calligraphy, computer skills, and book clubs.
- A Home Delivery Program which caters to anyone who cannot get to the library.
- The "One Town-One Read" series was launched last summer and concluded with a visit from the authors of "My Dear Hamilton" and a grand prize of tickets to the Broadway showing of "Hamilton"
- New in the Spring, the library will have rotating art exhibits showcasing showcase local artists' work in the newly refreshed community room.

Of special note are Childrens' programs which are one of the library's most popular offerings. They have between 800 to 1100 participants on a monthly basis. Some favorites are "Fun and Friends" which involves play time, story time and then a craft (usually STEM or STEM-based). They have also had several nature and animal programs. "We were at capacity, 162 people, the last time the llamas visited." explained Dawn Cioffi, Library Administrative Assistant. This Saturday, they are once again hosting the "Teddy Bear Sleepover" (see details under events)

Although libraries are for everyone, there is one population that the Brookfield Library is having trouble serving - Teenagers. "We have a strong partnership with the school system." explained Cech. "In the fall, we visited all of the freshman classes at the high school to make sure that all of the students had a library card. We have such extensive databases; students can do online research through the Connecticut Library system".

Also, they extended their hours during BHS mid-term exams and brought in tutors, therapy dogs and even pizza to help students study. Despite these efforts, the number of Brookfield teens involved in library programs is significantly less than in neighboring towns because there just isn't space to accommodate programs for teens specific needs.

So how can you help our library thrive? The staff is always looking for volunteers to help with programs, patrons and class offerings. Have a skill you would like to share? Teach residents through the library. Have old books lying around? Donate them to the library to be sold at the Book Sale in July. Want to participate in offering services discussed in this article? Even one or two hours will help make a difference. Contact Yvonne Cech, Library Director ycech@brookfieldlibrary.org or call 203-775-6241.

And most of all, consider supporting the library's biggest challenge: finding new space. The current building is insufficient for 21st Century Library services. There is a committee which continues to investigate possibilities since voters objected to the cost of a plan to expand the library's footprint at a cost of \$14.7 million in a referendum last February. Consider joining! Contact the library director for information.

Bring your favorite stuffed animal and come to our festival of teddy bear activities. There will be games, crafts, stories and more. The stuffed animals will stay at the library overnight! What kind of mischief will they get into? Find out Saturday morning! Stuffed Animal Pick-Up will be Saturday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. Registration is Required!



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN / BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Did you know that as part of the New School Project design there will be facilities added to serve the community? An upgraded generator and shower/locker will be included to support use as a community shelter.

The Board continued its discussion of the New School Project's progress and is pleased to report that a referendum date was set for March 5th at the recent town meeting. The Board would like to reiterate that the building's final design work will not begin unless this project is approved at referendum. However, Tecton's updated presentation (see link below) conferred information about and several solutions to many questions regarding important spaces in the new building (e.g., the gym).

As part of its communication plan, Board Members and the Superintendent continue to meet with stakeholders in small group presentations and encourage all residents to attend if they'd like to discuss this project further.

In addition, the project's website (www.newschoolproject.brookfieldps.org) has been further updated with a more user-friendly FAQ section. This section includes every question submitted to the Board with subsequent responses. It is continually updated. The Board was also presented with drafts of a detailed mailer that, once finalized, will be sent to all Brookfield households.

View the presentation given by Tecton on 1/15/19

<https://docs.google.com/viewer...>



After nearly two years of researching, writing and re-writing, Brookfield has completely revised the town's zoning regulations.

There have been additions and some updates to the regulations, which were originally written in the 1950s, but this is the first time they have been completely overhauled.

The Zoning Regulations Rewrite Ad-Hoc Committee and the consulting firm of MILONE & MACBROOM spent about two years revising the regulations, which were previously contradictory and confusing. "We just really cleaned the regulations up and made them more user-friendly for the public and developers," said Francis Lollie, Brookfield's Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The updates will help to expedite the zoning process, which will save people time and money. For example, some variances, that were required to be approved by a commission can now be approved by Lollie on the same day.

While most of the zoning regulations remain the same, some important changes went into effect as of 12/21/18.

For example:

- Breweries and distilleries are now allowed in town.
- Commercial properties may install illuminated signs to advertise their businesses
- Restrictions enacted regarding roosters and chickens. Property size requirements for homeowners with roosters (4 acres for 1 rooster – 1 additional acre for each additional rooster.
- Some private properties have been re-zoned so that variances will no longer be required, for example adding a shed.

Several enhancements have also been made to the Town Center district. Drive-throughs have been approved and Laurel Hill Rd. has been re-zoned to be part of town center which allows them to receive more funding for commercial development.

Link to the new regulations are here:
<https://www.brookfieldct.gov/land-use/pages/zoning-regulations>

If you have questions, contact the zoning office at (203) 775-7316.

\$\$ Coupons, Promotions and Deals in Brookfield \$\$

We've got some great deals and coupons available for the month of February. Check out deals from Unlimited Signs, Designs and Graphics (50% off Blueprint copies, scanning and printing), \$5 off your next order from Doordash, discounts from Urban Street Pizza, Jesters, TownAppeal and more!

Visit <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-deals/>



Kudos to the Brookfield Basketball Association for hosting a fundraiser for one of their own...Maddie O'Farrell, a 7th grader who has been playing basketball in Brookfield for years. Maddie has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment. To help soften the financial burden for this beautiful girl and her family, the BBA recently hosted a BHS basketball game and raffled off prizes. They are still accepting donations via Paypal at Brookfieldbbapresident@gmail.com.

Do you know of any businesses that are helping our community and should be nominated for Kudos Korner? Let us know at admin@townappeal.com.



"La Panza Llena y Corazon Contento!!" It means "We bring you peace and harmony to your stomach..." The idea is that food is the cure for all this madness.

The Adame Family from Chihuahuas Deli (also in Brookfield) plans to do just that by expanding their local presence to include a Mexican restaurant, Taco-Bachi.

Taco-Bachi opened last week at 849 Federal Rd, the former location of Ayde's Deli. Jose Adame describes their new eatery as a food truck without the wheels. The menu includes standards such as Burritos, Torta and Carnitas; there is also a taco bar where customers can "build their own dream tacos" as well as a

children's menu. What makes Taco-Bachi unique is that all the food is fresh and homemade using recipes passed down from both Jose's and Isaura's, his wife, grandmothers.

Krysto, Jose's son and primary owner of Taco-Bachi, hopes that one day the restaurant will expand to include table and chairs. Until then, the family recipes will keep their grandmother's legacy alive.



Lots of stuff in your home? Feel like it's time to let go? Letting go can be a challenge! Discover the benefits of owning less. Learn why we acquire things and how we can shop differently. Professional Organizer Kerri Columbo of Cornerstone Organizing will inspire you to rethink your shopping trips, organize your belongings and begin the process of letting go! You'll exit class inspired to identify and let go of your unneeded belongings, and to organize the rest. Kerri has appeared as the Organizing Expert on TLC's Hoarding and is a recommended Organizer with Hartford Hospital's esteemed Institute of Living Anxiety Disorders Center.

Day: Tuesday Time: 7- 8:30pm

Dates: 2/26 (1 week)

Place: Town Hall Room 135 Fee: \$25.00

Brookfield Senior Center



A place where things are happening!

Valentine's Events at the Center

Friday, February 8 at noon. Pizza and cupcakes! Join us for lunch to celebrate love and happiness with your friends. Please sign up by Tuesday, February 5.

Friday, February 8 at 1 p.m. Birds of Prey (rescheduled from November). The Connecticut Audubon Society will be with us to present the fascinating Birds of Prey Program. Join us as we encounter raptors and their handlers. We will learn about their natural history and discover the unique physical, behavioral and predatory adaptations of these magnificent birds. Please sign up.

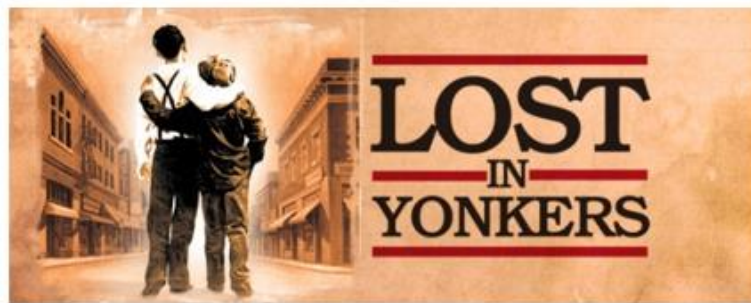
Wednesday, February 13 at 1 p.m. Crafting with Candlewood. Our friends from Candlewood Valley Health and Rehab Center will be with us for Valentine's crafting fun with painted tiles. *Please sign up and join us!*

AARP FREE Tax Preparation Assistance

Beginning Friday, February 1, Tax-Aide counselors will assist you with income tax preparation at the Senior Center. Assistance is free for low- and middle-income taxpayers. Sign up is required. If married, both spouses **MUST be present. Be **SURE** to bring the following:**

- Last year's federal income tax forms.
- Photo ID.
- All tax forms received, including W-2, 1099, Social Security, Access Health CT Exchange 1095 Statement (if applicable).
- Documentation for all itemized deductions, including medical, taxes, interest & charitable contributions.
- Personal check if you wish to have your refund directly deposited or payment made directly.

Call the Senior Center (203-775-5308) to schedule an appointment.



Directed by Dana O'Neal
produced by Lou Okell & Rebecca Pokorski
STARRING:
Bella - Rigby Wilkins
Grandma - Pat Covino
Jay - Nico Apicella
Arty - Dylan Fischetti
Louie - Michael Reilly
Eddie - David Chervis
Gert - Lynn Nissenbaum

By America's great comic playwright, this memory play is set in Yonkers in 1942. Bella is thirty-five years old, mentally challenged, and living at home with her mother, stern Grandma Kurnitz. As the play opens, ne'er-do-well son Eddie deposits his two young sons on the old lady's doorstep. Eddie is financially strapped and taking to the road as a salesman. The boys are left to contend with Grandma, with Bella and her secret romance, and with Louie, her brother, a small-time hoodlum in a strange new world called Yonkers.

LOST IN YONKERS by Neil Simon, directed by Dana O'Neal opens on Friday night, March 1 with performances Fri. and Sat. nights at 8pm and Sun. at 2pm through March 16. A free preview performance for area senior citizens will be held on Thurs., Feb.28 at 8PM. Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$20 for students.

The Brookfield Theatre
184 Whisconier Rd.
(203)775-0023

On the



Calendar...

Tom O'Brien's Magic Show

February 15, 2019

Looking for a fun way to spend some time with your children on a day off from school? Join us for a Comedy Magic by Tom O'Brien. Tom has delighted children in our after-school workshops and summer camps. The performance is appropriate for ages 3-10 and will be held in the Brookfield High School Auditorium.

This event is free with no pre-registration required. More information can be found *here*.

Brookfield Arts Commission Exhibit- James Mazza

Come to Brookfield Town Hall to view the works of James Mazza which will be hanging through the end of February. James Mazza is a professional artist from Danbury and has been using oil paints to bring life to landscapes and still lifes for over 37 years. He works with a variety of subjects from daily life. He studied at the Art Students League in Manhattan. Mazza also apprenticed with Edward DeVoe for 12 years. During that time he had the opportunity to paint on the grounds of West Point in New York. Mazza's work has been shown at the Society of Creative Arts in Newtown (SCAN), the Mark Twain Library in Danbury, the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, and Richter Art Association in Danbury, as well as Art & Frame in Danbury. For more information, click [here](#).

Doughnuts with Dads

February 2nd from 9:30 to 10:00

Dads, Uncles, Grandpas and any other significant male figures are invited to bring their children to the library's Community Room to enjoy doughnuts and stories with Mrs. Proudfoot! For more information click *here*.

Free Composting Class

February 20th from 6:00 to 7:00

Learn how to compost in your backyard. This class will cover the basic practices of composting including how to build a pile or use a composter. What goes in your pile and what should stay out.

Composters are available to purchase for \$25 (Retail \$100)

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority For more information, click [here](#).

Brookfield Community Skate at Danbury Ice Arena

Join us with your friends and neighbors for some ice skating at Danbury Ice Arena. We have rented out one of the rinks for Brookfield residents. Skate rentals are included for those who need them, but please bring your own if you have a pair. Bring your bicycle helmet from home as well for protection. Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event but you must pre-register, as there is a limited number of people we can accommodate. Plan on getting to the Arena around 11am so you have time to lace up your skates and enjoy the full time on the ice.

Sunday, Feb 2nd from 11:10am - 12:40pm

Fee: FREE

For more information, click [**here**](#)

The Parent Support Network of Brookfield

February 06, 2019 from 7:00 to 8:30

Parents Helping Parents. The Parent Support Network of Brookfield is a program of The Youth Mental Health Project, sponsored by Brookfield Cares. The Network is a family-driven, parent-led Network that will provide parents who are concerned about their child's mental health and well-being with the opportunity to give and receive valuable peer connection. Trained parent volunteer Facilitators will run regular, in-person, FREE, CONFIDENTIAL meetings for parents in the community. For more information and location contact brookfieldpsn@ymhproject.org

Harmonica Workshops for Grades 4 - 12 at the Brookfield Library on February 7th.

Have you ever wanted to really learn to play the harmonica? In this workshop, local musician Steve Clark will take the group through an introductory harmonica lesson. You can expect to learn the design of the instrument, basic playing techniques, and a song you can use to impress family and friends. There is no need to own a harmonica. Each participant will be given a professional-level instrument just for attending the class! **Pre-Registration is Required.**

Family Valentine's Day Party

Feb 08, 2019 Fri at 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the YMCA with your family making crafts, playing a game, enjoying a sweet treat and listening to a story. Please register all children. Ages 2 - 10 years.

Looking for more local events? Check out our Events Calendar at
<https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>

You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter by visiting
<https://townappeal.com/brookfield/newsletter>. We will never share your email with anyone!

Interested in becoming a sponsor or advertising on TownAppeal.com or our monthly newsletter? In January we had over 1,000 unique page views on our website and our rates are very affordable. Contact us at admin@townappeal.com

Looking for a business in Brookfield? Check Out Our Website -

TownAppeal.com!

Town Appeal.com was created to provide a free and complete business directory where neighbors can recommend their favorite local businesses and events. Our searchable database includes town organizations, non-profits as well as parks and open space. Town Appeal also features deals from local businesses, a calendar of events, and helpful links. Our monthly newsletter features a Spotlight on several town businesses, deals from our local businesses, and upcoming events in town.

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