



Town Appeal

March, 2019

What's Happening in Brookfield and A Request!

A 19th Century proverb states that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". Let's hope it's true because we are looking forward to Spring!

Some highlights from our [Calendar of Events](#) include:

- The Historical Society's will hold its annual **Ice Out Raffle** and **the Juried High School Student Art Exhibit** will be held at the Brookfield Craft Center.
- Starting March 1st "**Lost in Yonkers**" will be at the Brookfield Theatre.
- There will be a **Family Concert** at the Library and **Greenway Ecology Walk** sponsored by Brookfield Parks and Rec.
- We'll even tell you where to purchase **Girl Scout Cookies**.
- On March 5th, don't forget to vote on the **New School Project!**

This month's newsletter features **The Giving Garden** and **The Food Pantry**. We'll also update you about a new business coming into town, the extension of the **Stillwater Greenway Trail**, Funding of Phase 3 of the **Brookfield Streetscape** and **interest free loans** to eligible homeowners.

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 to them and ask them to sign up to receive their own copy.*

*We really appreciate your help!
Tara and Monica*





Come On Out and Get Dirty!

Back in 2010, a business associate remarked to Donna Katsuranis that he noticed all the food drives in town centered on canned foods. He said it was unfortunate that fresh produce was not available in the Food Pantry. Further discussion ensued and Donna, an Interfaith Minister and Master Gardener, became the "consultant" on a new project to grow produce for the Brookfield Food Pantry. After enlisting the help of her brother John Tomascak, owner of Polytec Electric, and forming an alliance with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Danbury, The Giving Garden was established.

There were challenges along the way. The town allows them to use a parcel of land located on Eriksen Farm but Donna's husband, Terry, found a well *downhill* on the property which would make irrigating the garden difficult. Some ingenuity and a lot of elbow grease followed and he installed a submersible pump which transports the water *uphill* so that volunteers can fill buckets of water at the garden.

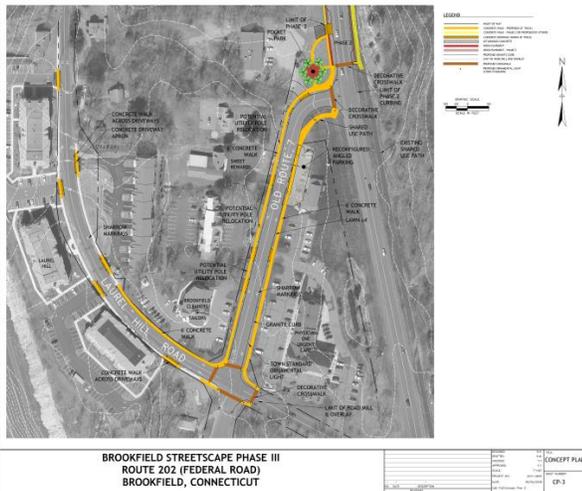
Kiwanis and Agriventure Agway gave money for the garden's initial expenses, including soil amendment, seeds, plants and the all-important fencing to keep out unwanted deer and other critters. John borrowed farming equipment from several friends to prepare the soil and by June 2010, the Giving Garden was born. Over the years, the garden grew to 50' X 65' and many volunteers have helped along the way. Mentors are on-site every evening from Sunday – Thursday to guide volunteers. In addition to providing food for those less fortunate, the garden is also intended to serve as a hands-on educational tool. "We have volunteers with no previous gardening experience join us and they come away feeling satisfied and with some knowledge about Organic Gardening. You can go to the store and buy some tomatoes but it's never the same", explained Donna. "I call it Dirt Therapy. It's not a coincidence that both gardening and prayer involved getting on one's knees."

The garden is entirely organic. Donna uses her "Magical Witches Brew" (aged manure, finished compost, last year's leaves and alfalfa pellets) to naturally increase the nutrient content in the soil. They use newspapers and mulch hay as a barrier to the growth of weeds. There are still some "critter" challenges, such as the Tomato Horn Worm, but every year they managed to grow a bounty of vegetables including tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, eggplant, summer squash, zucchini, cabbage, scallions, beets, green and red peppers, potatoes and assorted beans. By the end of last season, the group had donated between 800 and 1,000 pounds of vegetables and herbs to the Brookfield Pantry, the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen in Danbury and other local food pantries. It takes the help of many volunteers as well as major donations from the Kiwanis Club of Danbury and an annual donation of compost by the New Milford Farms to make this all happen.

Interested in getting some "Dirt Therapy"? Approximately 30 – 50 volunteers are needed on May 18th for Planting Day as well as throughout the summer for maintenance and harvesting. If you are interested, please contact Donna at dreamgardener@earthlink.net or on the Garden's Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/GivingGardenCT/>.

We've Got What You Are Looking For!

In a few weeks, it will be the start of Prom and Wedding season. Do you need some alterations? Brookfield has a new seamstress, Dianne Endsley, in town and she specializes in Proms, Wedding and wardrobe attire. Check her out at <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/business/dianne-endsley/?search=tailor>



This Phase will connect Phase 2 which will extend the sidewalk and other amenities to Laurel Hill Road via Old Route 7. To qualify for the grant, the town must contribute 20% of the cost. At a special town meeting, residents unanimously approved the \$260,000 match. The total cost is estimated at \$1.32 million.

The town has bid the design engineering contract and will select the winning bidder in March. Construction will commence as soon as CT DOT approves the plan which should be either in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021. In addition, Phase 3 will add at least 1 bus shelter, a pedestrian crosswalk to the Still River Greenway Trail, upgrade driveways on Old Route 7 and Laurel Hill Roads, and add a "pocket park" on state-owned property at 756 Federal Rd. The \$3.5 million first phase, completed in 2017, added sidewalks, parking, crosswalks and other amenities to the intersection of Federal and Station roads. Beginning this summer, the second phase will extend the streetscape from the first phase down Federal Road to the Still River Greenway. "With each Phase, we increase the beauty, attractiveness and property values in our Town Center District", said Greg Dembowski, Project Manager.

Update on Brookfield Town Center

Phase 3 Brookfield has been awarded a \$1.06 million LoTCIP state grant to build Phase III of the Streetscape in the Town Center District.



What's New in the Town of Brookfield?

After months of negotiations, Brookfield has been selected as the new world headquarters for Branson Ultrasonics. The Fortune 500 company, a subsidiary of Emerson, makes precision custom welding machines for any number of components, applying a range of techniques from lasers to vibration welding that can precisely join parts through heating and friction.

Through the Connecticut Innovations business assistance fund, the state has approved Branson Ultrasonics for \$1.4 million in sales tax exemptions for purchases supporting the move to Berkshire Corporate Park. The headquarters will total more than 140,000 square feet of space with plans to employ 220 people at its new site. It is estimated that the development will eventually generate 1.2 million annually in new taxes. Branson Ultrasonics would join the semiconductor equipment maker Photronics as the largest manufacturing company within the town's borders.

Home Improvement Interest Free Loans will be available to eligible low- moderate income homeowners. The town will begin taking applications for its \$400,000 Small Cities grant to help with local housing rehabilitation such as health and safety improvements. Applications are on a first come first serve basis up to August 1, 2019. For further information, please contact Lisa Low, (203) 888-5624 or Steve Dunn at (203) 775-7301.

On April 4, 2019 there will be a Special Town Meeting at 6:30 to consider and vote upon extending the Still River Greenway Trail. The more than \$207,000 grant from the state's Community Connectivity Program will allow the town to extend the trail by 2,500 feet, connecting the greenway to an existing 25-car parking lot at the firehouse on Pocono Road. The path will go around the soccer field near Town Hall, past the gazebo, next to the soccer field by the police station and connect to the greenway. Construction is expected to begin in the fall.



Brookfield Food Pantry

It's Tuesday morning and the Food Pantry in Brookfield is open for business. Volunteers spent the day Monday sorting out donations and getting ready for some of the more than 45 households that will arrive the next morning needing help to fill their pantries and refrigerators for the coming week. "These are your neighbors" said Susan Ludwig, Food Pantry Coordinator.

And it's also your neighbors in Brookfield that are helping to supply the donations. "We have had the Lions Club donate funds and ShopRite has a bin in their store where customers can purchase and donate items that will be delivered to the Food Pantry on a weekly basis." There are many local and non-profit organizations that hold food drives, especially around the holidays. "People have been very generous" explained Susan.

But there is always a need for more donations. How can you help?

One way is as easy as clicking a few buttons. "We've had a lot of success with our Amazon Wish List button. People donate through Amazon and the items are shipped directly to us".

Their current Wish List can be found [here](#). (It's on top of their Facebook page as well) During business hours the pantry accepts donations directly in their drop boxes located in Town Hall as well as in the Senior Center. Items needed include food, toiletries and even fresh produce. (See our story on the Giving Garden). Also welcome are grocery store gift cards and financial donations. Checks should be made payable to Brookfield Social Services Emergency Fund with a notation made to "Food Pantry." Do you have some extra time to spare and want to help out at the Pantry? Do you want to schedule a Food Drive? Please contact Susan at BrookfieldFoodPantry@gmail.com or call her at 203-775-7312.

Additional details about the Food Pantry can be found here: On their website: <https://www.brookfieldct.gov/social-services/pages/brookfield-food-pantry> and on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BrookfieldCTFoodPantry/>



Kudos to the Brookfield Town Center for Business group for collecting a hatchback full of donations for the Brookfield Food Pantry at the Tree Lighting Event.

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.

Platform to Employment: A Pathway To Opportunity For The Long-Term Unemployed

Date: 03/20/2019

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00

Join Janet M. Brady, Employment Specialist with The WorkPlace, to learn about Platform to Employment® (P2E), a free, five week program to help long term unemployed residents find work.

Since its inception, P2E has helped over 1,000 of Connecticut's long-term unemployed residents find work. The program empowers individuals, fosters self-sufficiency and focuses on performance improvements with measurable outcomes. Over 40% of this graduating class has already found employment.

P2E begins with a five-week preparatory program that helps participants confront barriers to employment through coaching, skills assessments, career readiness workshops and programs to rebuild confidence and focus. These graduates have acquired new job search skills and will now receive assistance in finding employment. P2E covers the cost of wages during a trial period where employers can evaluate if a candidate is a good fit for an open position. The trial period is a proactive step toward meeting the hiring needs of Connecticut employers by providing risk-free access to skilled, motivated workers.

Please [register](#) to learn more about this program.



(Picture by Lena Seerosh, a 9th grader at Brookfield High School)

Artists on the Rise

The Brookfield Craft Center presents its fourth annual Juried High School Student Art Exhibition, showcasing artworks by students from six local high schools. The exhibition opens March 9 with a reception and awards ceremony to be held in the Lynn Tandler Bignell Gallery from 5 to 8 p.m. The show will run from March 9 to March 31.

More than 70 students will display their work in a wide-range of media including ceramics, painting, photography, and more. The show is a juried event and awards will be given across media and for best-in-show. Artists are invited to participate by their schools, but specific art classes and programs were not required for consideration. A jury of noted community members, artists, and educators evaluate all the submissions and finalists in making the awards.

"We are excited to host this exhibition of young talent and impressive artists from our local schools," said Executive Director Howard Lasser. "An important part of our mission is to engage more of our local community, and our youth programs are an essential piece of our future. We are honored to recognize these young artists and are excited about the response from our schools and amazed by the quality of the work submitted. I hope everyone comes out to see our local students are creating."

For more information, visit . <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>

Brookfield Senior Center



A place where things are happening!

AARP FREE Tax Preparation Assistance

Tax-aide counselors are available at the Center on Friday mornings to assist you with income tax preparation. 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.

Computer Classes

Learn the Basics of Microsoft Excel. Excel is far more than just a spreadsheet for business, with many uses around the home that will help organize your life. We will begin a three-week session on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:30 p.m. Each class lasts one hour. *Please sign up at the front desk if you are interested.*

Technology Assistance. Do you need help with your new Kindle? Can't download pictures from your smartphone? Don't know how to text your grandchildren? Ruthie will be with us on Mondays in March to help with all of this and more! Please sign up at the front desk for a 20-minute appointment.



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., February 28 at 8PM. Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$20 for students. For more information, click, <http://brookfieldtheatre.org/>
The Brookfield Theatre
184 Whisconier Rd.
(203)775-0023

Our 2019 Season of Shows

March 1-16, 2019 - "Lost In Yonkers" by NEIL SIMON, directed by Dana O'Neal

April 26-May 11 - "Perfect Arrangement" by TOPHER PAYNE, directed by Terry Sagedy

May 17-19 - Spotlight Program's "Annie Jr." music by CHARLES STROUSE, lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN, book by THOMAS MEEHAN, directed by Purvi Dudhedia

June 28-July 20 - "The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas" by CAROL HALL, LARRY L. KING, PETER MASTERSON, directed by Craig David Rosen

Sept. 13-28 - "Macbeth" by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, directed by Jane Farnol

Nov. 1-23 - Green Day's "American Idiot" music by GREEN DAY, lyrics by BILLY JOE ARMSTRONG, book by BILLY JOE ARMSTRONG & MICHAEL MAYER, directed by Beth Bonnabeau

On the



Calendar...

Family Concert with Al deCant and Jill Kubeck

March 16, 2019 Join Al deCant and Jill Kubeck, the girl with the rainbow colored hair, for a fun filled interactive Family Concert that will be sure to please children of all ages. Al's original comic and soulful songs are enjoyed as much by adults as they are by children. Al and Jill will be sharing some newly written and recorded songs that will get you up off your feet and singing along! Fun for the entire family!

More information can be found at <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>

Referendum (Vote) on New School Project **March 5, 2019**

The New School Project Referendum will be Tuesday, March 5, from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. District 1 voters vote at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School; and District 2 voters vote at Brookfield High School. For more information visit <http://www.newschoolproject.brookfieldps.org>

Bus Trip to NYC Museums **March 7, 2019**

Explore NYC museums on your own or with friends. The bus will drop you off at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 5th Avenue. From there, you can go to any museum you wish. The Guggenheim Museum, The Whitney, the Frick Collection and many others are all open.

Bus Departure will be at 8:30am from the Washington Art Association and at 9:15 from the Brookfield Craft Center.

For more information, visit <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>.

Still River Greenway Ecology Walk **March 30, 2019**

Explore the diverse habitats right along the Still River Greenway with Jim Arrigoni, conservation biologist at the CT Audubon Society. Natural history of birds, other animals, trees and other plants will be pointed out on this gentle 1.5-mile walk. Bring binoculars, if you have them, and a sense of adventure for sure! For more info on the CT Audubon Society, including the newest sanctuary in Sherman, please visit www.ctaudubon.org. This program is limited to 15 people. Registration required.

For more information visit <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>

The Parent Support Network of Brookfield **March 4, 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

Summer Camp Registration at the YMCA **Beginning March 1st**

When school's out, it's time for kids to relax, decompress, and have fun with friends. Summertime at the Y focuses on the three key areas that inspire healthy youth development: achievement, relationships and belonging.

Indoors and out, Archery to Arts, Crafts to Cannonballs, Sports to Swimming... at Regional YMCA day camps your kids will have an amazing experience, all in a safe, inclusive, nurturing environment. Whatever you're seeking, you are certain to find the right camp for you and your family. For more information visit

<https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>

Come get your favorite Girl Scout cookies before it's too late!

Troop 50037 will be outside of Wesco at 270 Federal Rd.

on March 9th from 10:00 to 12:00.

Looking for more local events? Check out our Events Calendar at

<https://townappeal.com/brookfield/town-events/>



Congratulations! **Portobello Restaurant & Pizza** is the most recommended pizza place on TownAppeal.com! Thanks to our community for all your recommendations!

Spring begins March 20th and we will say goodbye to boots and gloves! To celebrate, TownAppeal is inviting you to support your favorite nail salon in Brookfield. To recommend your fave simply click [here](#). You must become a neighbor to recommend a business, please click [here](#) to become a neighbor.

TownAppeal will announce the most recommended Nail Salon on 4/1 on our Home Page and Social Media Accounts

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 TownAppel.com or our monthly newsletter? In February we had over 1,100 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 - <https://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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Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 533 Brookfield, CT 06804

Contact us at Admin@TownAppeal.com

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

We've got some great deals and coupons available for the month of March. Check out deals from YMCA, Traveling Chic Boutique, \$5 off your next order from Doordash, discounts from Urban Street Pizza, Jesters, TownAppeal and more!

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