



TownAppeal.com

September 2020



Image by artist Danny Carrozza, 14. He will be a BHS freshman this year.

Brookfield Arts Commission hosted the 4th Annual Brookfield Creates...Sidewalk Chalk Art in August on the sidewalks of Town Hall. See more artwork in this Newsletter.

This month TownAppeal welcomes **Newbury Gelato** to Brookfield!

On behalf of TownAppeal, we would like to offer our thoughts and prayers to Susan Murphy and family on the passing of Brookfield's former Selectman, Jerome "Jerry" Murphy after a brief illness on August 21, 2020.

Jerry, a true patriot, served his country for 31 years in the U.S. Navy. Upon retirement from the military, he and Susan moved to Brookfield where he continued his life of service. He was elected First Selectman from 2003-2007. He stayed active with participation on the Candlewood Lake Authority, Brookfield Inland Wetlands Commission, Brookfield Lions Club and Brookfield VFW. He was an active member of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic Church.

Jerry was an exceptional person who loved Brookfield and worked to make the town what is today.

Tara and Monica



Do you have a question or suggestion? Let us know! You can send us an email by clicking [here](#).

In this edition of our newsletter, we will give you the highlights of some of the many events happening locally and neighboring towns. For a complete listing, please visit

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

Sign up for our new Blog and receive an email when we post a new article or our weekly **"What's Happening in Our Area"** post. Visit <https://townappeal.com/brookfield/blog/>



TownAppeal is thrilled to welcome Newbury Gelato to Brookfield!

The Tropeano family has launched a new business. Bruno and his wife Anna live in Brookfield and raised their children here, so it was no surprise that they

would open their gelato shop in town. The store is named after the parish of Newbury – history buffs may recall that was the name of our town prior to being renamed Brookfield.

The family used to spend summer in Italy and said, "It's nice to bring our heritage back to the states".

The enterprise is truly a family affair. In addition to parents Bruno and Anna, daughters Sabrina and Filomena, and son Bruno all share in the daily operations. But it is the younger Bruno who is the expert. Bruno brings his experience in the gelato industry for the last 15 years to the business. Returning to his roots in Brookfield, he makes the gelato including the base from scratch in store. He also co-wrote a published gelato recipe book and may have made more batches of gelato than anyone else in the country today!

Most of us have enjoyed gelato, but what makes it different than ice cream? For one, gelato has less fat than ice cream. Also explained Bruno, "The machine churns more slowly and therefore less air is added to the final product".

Newbury Gelato also serves espresso and other Italian beverages. But gelato is the main focus and is incorporated in their specialties which include Affogato - espresso with gelato; and a Gelato Panini – brioche bread with gelato in the middle and toasted. All products are natural and freshly made on the premises, with no artificial ingredients or colors.

Grand opening is scheduled for mid-September.

Newbury Gelato
317 Federal Rd.
<https://newburygelato.com/>

Gelato Menu		Drink Menu		
Treat Dish	3.73	Hot Coffee	Sm. 1.86	Lg. 2.79
Small Dish	4.43	Espresso per Shot	1.36	
Medium Dish	5.36	Americano	2.33	
Large Dish	6.05	Macchiato	Sm. 2.33	Lg. 3.26
Create-a-Pint	8.99	Cappuccino	Sm. 2.80	Lg. 4.19
Waffle Cone	1.16	Latte	Sm. 2.80	Lg. 4.19
Gelato Panini	5.12	Mocha	Sm. 3.26	Lg. 4.66
Affogato	3.03	DCL	Sm. 3.26	Lg. 4.66
Shake	5.59	Drinking Chocolate	Sm. 2.33	Lg. 3.26
Cookie	1.86	Chai Latte	Sm. 2.80	Lg. 4.19
		Hot Tea	2.33	
		San Pellegrino	1.86	
		Spring Water	1.50	
		Alternative Milk	.70	
		Add Flavor Shot	.47	

STRACCIATELLA GELATO	CARAMEL SEA SALT GELATO
HAZELNUT GELATO	RIPE MANGO SOBRETTO
MASCARONE BULGICHO CARAMEL GELATO	PURE LIME SOBRETTO
MOUSE CHOCOLATE GELATO	FLORIDA CITRUS SOBRETTO
AMARENA GELATO	STRAWBERRY BALSAMIC SOBRETTO
CAKE BATTER GELATO	DAIRY CHOCOLATE NOIR SOBRETTO
TOASTED COCONUT GELATO	MADAGASCAR VANILLA BEAN GELATO
ESPRESSO CHIP GELATO	COOKIE DOUGH GELATO
PEANUT BUTTER CUP GELATO	WILD BERRY CHERRY GELATO
	STRANGE COOKIES & CREAM GELATO

BROOKFIELD NEWS

Code RED

If you didn't receive calls from the town during the recent storm and aftermath, you may need to update your CODE RED status. You can sign up online:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF94F1044878>

The Town of Brookfield also has a monthly newsletter that will give you great information. During an emergency, it's sent more frequently with helpful information. You can sign up online at

<https://www.brookfieldct.gov/subscribe>.

Attention! Brookfield residents in the Whisconier/Thomsen Farm/High Ridge area should be on the alert for a thief that has been stealing shoes and other household items from area porches and lawns. These crimes have been attributed to a local family, although no real proof has been submitted.

Who are the culprits? All indications are it's the fox family that lives in the area. A local resident reported on Facebook "I just saw this at the corner of Thomsen Farm and Sulky (where the fox den is). All different shoes from work boots to kids crocs so I assume these are the stolen goods! "

Exactly why this fox felt compelled to build such an expansive assemblage remains unclear, but it's certainly not alone. Similar stories have been reported in [Germany](#), where more than 100 shoes were found and Kyoto, Japan. (Hence the term sly fox?) According to the [Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country](#), foxes are attracted to objects with strong odors, from dog toys to balls, gardening gloves, worn shoes and even buried carcasses.

To protect against meddling foxes, [wildlife protection](#) groups and gardening/lifestyle blogs recommend installing fencing around gardens, feeding pets inside and covering chicken coops. Those hoping to save their shoes from would-be shoe swipers should adhere to a similar strategy: namely, keeping fancy footwear safely indoors. In the meantime, if you or someone you love has been missing a shoe in recent days, check out the shoe line! (or check out this [video](#) on our YouTube channel). If found, know that you have a great story for the Thanksgiving Day table conversation this year!



The Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State will be **sending out applications for absentee ballots to all eligible (active, registered) voters on a rolling basis between Tuesday September 8th and Friday September 11th**. Voters can check their registration status at myvote.ct.gov/lookup. All voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot for the 2020 election by checking the COVID-19 excuse on the application. Although absentee ballot applications will be mailed to every eligible voter, they are also available in English and Spanish at myvote.ct.gov/absentee.



2020

Although applications will be mailed to voters after Labor Day, **voters should be aware that the absentee ballots themselves cannot be distributed prior to October 2nd, by Connecticut law. The small amount of time between October 2nd and November 3rd makes it imperative that voters return their applications and their ballots as soon as possible.** Returning the applications and the ballots early will make it easier for the town clerks to do the work that is necessary to process all of the applications and the ballots. Connecticut law only allows the counting of ballots that have arrived by the close of polls, 8:00pm on Election Day November 3rd, so returning ballots early and not relying on the post office are the best way for voters to ensure that their votes are counted and their voices heard. "If you choose to vote by absentee ballot, please return your application as soon as you can to relieve the burden on the local election officials who process them," said Secretary Merrill. "By law, the ballots themselves cannot be mailed out before October 2nd, so please return them as soon as possible as well, as they must be received by 8:00pm on Election Day. And use the secure ballot drop boxes in your town to ensure that they are received on time!"

For more information please visit:

https://www.brookfieldct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhliif341/f/news/secretary_merrill_outlines_process_and_timelines_for_november_general_election.pdf

If you need information on how to register to vote or to check your voter registration status please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Registration-Information>

Fall Events in Connecticut

(Details and event websites can be found on our [Events page](#) or [Blog](#))

Corn Maze: "Thank You Our Heroes" August 29 - November 1

Lyman Orchards

Theme: "Thank You Our Heroes," an appreciation for our Frontline Workers.

The iconic Statue of Liberty, a symbol that unites all Americans, is adorned with a giant Heart, the symbol The Corn Maze is four acres, and there is a total of one mile of paths and hundreds of decision points.

Times: Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m.-6 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. & holidays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Last entry of the day is 5:30 p.m.

Valley Shakespeare Festival presents "Cyrano" In The Park LIVE! September 3 - 6

Valley Shakespeare Festival is presenting a live performance of *Cyrano*, for a four night run. Join us in the park for a socially distanced but live performance. Run Time: 75 minutes, no intermission

Bring a sweater, as it will get cold on the Riverwalk during this time of year.

Cyrano de Bergerac is a master of swordplay and wordplay, but a "magnificent Mount Everest of a nose" blocks his path to true love.

Location: Veteran's Memorial Park 38 Canal St. Shelton, CT 06484

Times: 7 p.m. **Admission:** Free, with a suggested \$10 donation.

Ellsworth Farm Corn Maze September 4 - November 25

Ellsworth Hill Orchard & Berry Farm

A 3.5 acre corn field designed into a gigantic and intricate maze. [Vintage Lionel interactive Train Display!](#) Interact with some of the first and largest Standard gauge Trains made in the early 1900s. Many O gauge trains made from the 1930's to the 1950's on the display.

Location: Ellsworth Hill Orchard & Berry Farm 461 Cornwall Bridge Rd. Route 4 Sharon, CT 06069

Times: Daily, weather permitting 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$7, children \$5. Adults \$7 Children Adults \$7 Children \$5

Comedy Night at Priam Vineyards September 4

Enjoy a safe, socially distant, outdoor comedy show. The show will take place on the spacious patio area. There will also be a tented area to accommodate safe distancing while seated, as well as the vineyard lawn. Come early and take advantage of Food Truck to enjoy dinner before the show. First glass of wine is included with the ticket.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of laughing and drinking, featuring some of the funniest and most talented comics from all over.

Tonights show features Orlando Baxter, Drew Dunn, and Ryan Brauth.

Location: Priam Vineyards 11 Shailor Hill Rd. Colchester, CT 06415

Times: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. **Admission:** \$30.

Goodspeed by the River August 20 - September 6

The concerts are held on the Goodspeed lawn overlooking the scenic Connecticut River and feature songs, stories and plenty of live music. Pack a picnic basket and lawn chairs and bring the family for a safe, fun and enjoyable evening.

Tickets are only available by calling the Box Office, (860) 873-8668, Monday through Thursday, 10-5 p.m.

An exclusive dinner and concert package is available which includes a two-course meal and reserved table seating on the Gelston House lawn for \$49 per person.

Location: Goodspeed Musicals 6 Main St. East Haddam, CT 06423

Times: Thu.-Sun. at 6 p.m., weather permitting. **Admission:** \$25.

Evening Norwalk Islands Cruises Thursdays from September 10 – 24 at 6:00

[The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk](#)

Enjoy a relaxing happy-hour cruise out to along the Norwalk Islands. Maritime Aquarium educators will be onboard to point out sights and answer questions about Long Island Sound's marine life but there's no formal program. Advance reservations and masks required.

Tickets can only be purchased online below or call our Reservations Department at (203) 852-0700

Location: The Maritime Aquarium 10 North Water St., Norwalk, CT 06854

Times: Thursdays, Sept. 10, 17 & 24, at 6 p.m.

Admission: \$31.50

Simsbury Fly-In, Car Show and Food Truck Festival August 15 - September 27

Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are revising this year's planned Simsbury Fly-In, Car Show, and Food Truck Festival. On September 26-27, we will sponsor an exciting Food Truck Festival. You can sample a wide variety of great things to eat, at reasonable cost, in a safe outdoor environment. All food truck service will be on a drive-by basis. Menus will be distributed, orders will be taken, and food delivered while you remain in your vehicle. Once you receive your order, you are free to exit the airport property, or to park and remain while you eat. You are welcome to bring blankets or folding chairs to set up near your vehicle. Feel free to stay and watch airplanes come and go.

Location: Simsbury Airport 94 Wolcott Rd. Simsbury, CT 06070

Times: Four days: Aug. 15-16 and Sept. 26-27 **Admission:** Free admission.

Celebrate New Hartford: Open Farm Day September 19

Visit the farms of New Hartford for a behind-the-scenes glimpse into life on the farm through demonstrations, tours and activities.

The event offers an opportunity to visit farms, wineries and orchards for demonstrations, tours and activities. Participating farms include: Garden Farm - Burgoyne Heights, Burdick Road Orchards - Connecticut Valley Winery Gresczyk Farm, Hayward Farm, Jerram Winery, Lottaroc Farm, McCarthy Farm, Millstream Farm Montessori School, and Taylor Farm.

Times: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

Silly Jokes and Screaming Goats with Sam Morril September 25

[The Farm at Carter Hill](#)

Enjoy a safe, socially distant, outdoor comedy show at The Farm At Carter Hill. Come early to grab your seats, eat your dinner, and enjoy some beverages before the show. Each ticket includes show, seating, and 18 oz beer from the new Screaming Goats Tap Room.

Seating starts one hour before show (various table and seating options provided, or bring your own chair or blanket).

Tonight's show features Sam Morril: Morril is one of the fastest-rising stand-up comics and one of the best joke writers in the scene today; Mike Recine, Ryan Brauth.

Location: Farm At Carter Hill 86 East Hampton Rd. Marlborough, CT 06447

Times: 7 p.m.-9 p.m. **Admission:** \$30.

Contact: (954) 729-6282

Annual Fall Harvest Festival September 27

[Madison Beach Hotel](#)

Enjoy a beautiful fall day on the beach! Featuring local, live acoustic music, fall menu, beer tasting and local artisans. Food and beverage available for sale. Confirmed artisans include Courtney Jay (mosaics, resin art), Seaside Sea Glass Jewelry, and Betsy's Beads.

Location: Madison Beach Hotel 94 West Wharf Rd. Madison, CT 06443

Times: Noon-4 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

Contact: (203) 245-1404

Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Art Trail June 5 - September 29

The Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will be displaying 36 life-sized bronze sculptures created by artist Seward Johnson in a walkable and bikeable art trail throughout the bucolic town of Simsbury. Each work is designed to be interactive, so selfie-taking is encouraged. Bring the family and make a day of it by shopping along quaint Hopmeadow Street and dining at one of Simsbury's renowned restaurants.

Location: Downtown, 933 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury, CT 06070

Times: Dawn to dusk. **Admission:** Free. **Contact:** (860) 651-7307

2020 Tour des Farms July 1 - September 30

Bike, ride, and roll at your own pace. Connecticut Tours des Farms has gone statewide. The event includes eight regional routes, each featuring 5-10 amazing farms throughout the state.

Resources for your summer long experience:

- Printable Tour des Farms Passport
- Register online between July 1 and September 30.
- Start anytime. End anytime. Set your own pace.

Location: Main Street ,Statewide, CT 06103 **Admission:** Free.

Art Collective in Stamford Downtown July 10 - September 30

Each year Stamford Downtown hosts a distinguished outdoor sculpture exhibit designed to attract both local and regional audiences. This years exhibit, *Art Collective*, will include a collection of 34 sculptures on loan from six regional. Download the Otocast App for exhibit map, audio tour and artist narratives.

Location: Stamford Downtown, 5 Landmark Square, Stamford, CT 06901

Rail-Bike Adventures August 1 - October 23

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat

Pedal a Rail-Bike for a round trip adventure over easy terrain with stunning scenery along the Connecticut River all while enjoying the stunning New England summer weather.

Two seat bike: accommodates two people, \$50.

Four seat bike: accommodates two, three, or four people, \$95.

COSTS ARE PER BIKE, THERE ARE NO PER PERSON FEES

Riders should be capable of bicycling recumbently for 30 minutes at low exertion and at least one rider per Rail Bike must be 18.

Essex Steam Train and River Boat 1 Railroad Ave. Essex, CT 06426 **Times:** Fri.-Sun. only, times vary.

Elephant's Trunk Country Flea Market March 29 - December 13

Since 1976, treasure hunters, antique collections, farmers, foodies, up-cycler, deal seekers and entrepreneurs of all kinds flocked to the well-known flea market.

490 Danbury Rd. New Milford, CT 06776

Times: Sun. only, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

"The Fair That John Built"

February 1 - December 19

Danbury Museum

This special exhibit focuses on 1946-1981 and John W Leahy's innovations, additions, and creations. The story will be told with photographs, many that have not been seen in decades, some that have never been seen. Volunteer and museum friend Elaine Lagarto (who runs The Great Danbury State Fair page) is uniquely qualified to guest curate this photographic exploration.

Location:

The Danbury Museum 43 Main St. Danbury, CT 06810

Times: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

**** (Details and event websites can be found on our [Events page](#) or [Blog](#))****

Additional Artwork Creations from the 4th Annual Brookfield Creates...Sidewalk Chalk Art





Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the BVFC must cancel its Annual Kids Day event scheduled for September. However, one event will continue - the food drive. Every year, we Stuff-A-Firetruck for Brookfield Social Services' Food Pantry. Through the generosity of our town residents and visitors to Kids Day, we are able to bring at least 2 pickup truck loads of food to stock their shelves. **We will hold our Stuff-A-Firetruck Food Drive Event on Saturday September 12, 2020 from 10:00 - 2:00 at our firehouse at 92 Pocono Road. On behalf of the food pantry, we will accept non-perishable goods (listed below), monetary donations, or gift cards to local grocery stores.**

- Things needed:
- Cleaning supplies (Toilet, multi purpose cleaners, sponges)
 - Paper Products (Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tissues)
 - Individual Bottled water
 - Dishwasher (not dishwashing) detergent
 - Toothpaste, Tooth brushes (adult only)
 - Ramen Noodles (kids love them)
 - Ketchup
 - Mayonnaise
 - Caffeinated Coffee
 - Cereal (preferably non-squared like Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Special K)

- Dried Beans and Peas (Green, Yellow, etc.)
- Individual packets of Oatmeal
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Hams (i.e.: SPAM)
- Gluten Free Products are a nice to have (i.e.: Almond or Rice Milk, baked goods)
- Individual packets of applesauce (no jars)
- Loaves of bread (white, multigrain)
- Soups – any kind



The Brookfield Library

The Brookfield Library is pleased to announce the launch of Brainfuse JobNow – a versatile online service designed to support every step of the job search process. JobNow features live online coaches who, among other things, assist in resume/cover letter preparation, and help patrons prepare for job interviews

JobNow provides live online assistance, powerful tools, and other resources for job-seekers. It features the following services:
Live Interview Coaching: Patrons can brush up on interview techniques or get live online interview practice from trained job coaches. Job coaches and patrons communicate via live chat in our online classroom. In addition to live interview coaching, patrons enjoy 24/7 access to interview tips and career resources.

Resume Lab: Patrons can submit their resumes any time through the JobNow Resume Lab and a job coach will send it back within 24 hours with detailed feedback and suggestions for improvement. Users are also able to download resume templates, or browse resources for producing better resumes.

Career Resources: Patrons enjoy 24/7 access to a carefully-selected library of job resources. In addition, Brainfuse job coaches help users strategically target jobs best suited to their interests and qualifications.

Adult Learning Center: The Adult Learning Center provides foundational, career-enhancing skills to job seekers. In addition, the Adult Learning Center offers test preparation (including the GED and the USCIS citizenship test) and a unique academic skills center featuring live, online tutors.

You will need your Brookfield Library card number to log in. If you don't have a library card, you can apply for one on [this page](#).

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

For Residents of the HRRRA Region

Brookfield High School- 45 Long Meadow Hill Road
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020 9am - 2pm

It's easy, load your car with all your unwanted chemicals and paint and we will empty it for you, no need to get out of your car. For DIRECTIONS to the event go to: www.hrra.org



What to Bring

- Paints
- Stains and Varnishes
- Paint Thinners & Strippers
- Wood Preservatives
- Resins, Rosins & Adhesives
- Polishes for Furniture, Floor & Metal
- Cleaners for Rug & Upholstery
- Cleaners for Oven, Toilet Bowl & Drain
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Pesticides, Herbicides, Insecticides (including Lawn Care Products)
- Flea Powder
- Moth Balls
- Spot Removers
- Dry Cleaning Solvents
- Lighter Fluids
- Septic Tank Degreasers
- Engine Degreasers
- Waste Fluids (Kerosene, Gasoline)
- Carburetor Cleaners, Brake Fluids
- Transmission Fluids, Car Waxes
- Full or Partially Full Aerosol Cans
- Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue
- Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets
- Hobby Supplies
- Rechargeable (Ni-Cd) Batteries
- Camera Batteries
- Mercury Thermostats, Thermometers

What NOT to Bring

- Electronics, Computers, VCR's
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Motor Oil & Antifreeze
- Auto Batteries & Tires
- Propane Tanks
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Household Batteries
- Smoke Detectors
- Ammunition
- Fireworks
- Explosives
- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Wastes
- PCB Capacitors
- Radioactive Materials
- Unknown Gases
- Controlled Substances
- Pathological Material

**Note, not all local recycling centers will accept material. For more information on disposal options, visit www.hrra.org

Event is facilitated by the Hazardous Resources Recovery Authority www.hrra.org email: info@hrra.org 203.775.4539

- No smoking on site.
- Label or mark any gas containers you wish to keep.
- You must be a resident of an HRRRA member town.
- Remember to please **remain in your vehicle at all times.**

Virtual Meetings THE Parent Support NETWORK™

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS in Brookfield, CT

Join us for free, confidential, and informal monthly meetings

For parents* concerned about their kids who struggle with anxiety, depression and/or emotional dysregulation.**

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETING DATES FALL 2020:

Munday, September 14th
 Wednesday, October 7th
 Monday, November 2nd

TIME: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Register at: <http://www.supportgroupscentral.com/ynhp>

For more info: brookfield@ynhpproject.org

Please feel free to share meeting information!

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

* In some parents it is hard to describe any adult emotion, including sadness, anxiety, depression, frustration, or stress. parents of a young person between ages 10-18.

**ANY CHILD CAN STRUGGLE WITH EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AT ANY TIME. YOUR CHILD DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE A DIAGNOSIS IN ORDER FOR YOU TO REGISTER FOR THE NETWORK.



A PARTNER OF THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT



Brookfield Theatre is offering "Virtual Thursdays" - a series of virtual theatre experiences livestreamed every Thursday at 7:30pm on our web site <https://brookfieldtheatre.org>. The series includes pre-recorded and live staged readings, and Studio B open stage via Zoom. Studio B is open to anyone who would like to participate.

COMING UP

Thurs. 9/3—Crossed Swords

a new original play directed by Elizabeth Young—details to come

Thurs. 9/10—Studio B—The stage is yours! Scenes, songs, monologues, and poems. Live or pre-recorded. Sign up by 9/6.

Thurs. 9/17—to be announced.

Thurs. 9/24-9/26—The Skin of Our Teeth by Thornton Wilder, directed by **Terry Sagedy**—details to come

More projects are in the works including a "Curbside Cabaret"! Please watch for emails or Facebook announcements.

Did you miss any of the previous Virtual Thursday shows?

Watch them on Brookfield Theatre's YouTube channel: [HERE](#)



Advice for Living Kerri Colombo

September 2020

Back to School...

Back to school means back to (some) reality in our household. Teachers were announced and the anticipation and excitement has brought different energy. Quiet consideration by one child, excited phone calls to friends by the other. Family decisions have been made about school, and we're all

experiencing lots of emotions. This isn't the average school year.

Since most school age students are spending at least 3 days a week learning at home this fall, it will be helpful to consider a few things about the environment to set them up for success.

Students need a space to have video calls during synchronous learning. If you can, choose a space with an electrical outlet to plug in their device. You may need an extension cord or power strip. Remember they are video calls, so a good location is where a plain wall or the corner of the wall is right behind the student. This helps maintain family privacy so people aren't on video in the background. Also, consider what sounds can be heard in the space you choose for video calls.

Students need a space to do their paperwork. If you have a designated desk or horizontal workspace, that's perfect for paperwork they will do. Have them set it up with some of the necessities- pencils, pens, erasers, ruler etc. If they use a space that is multi-purpose (ex: dining table, kitchen island etc.), make a deal about when it must be cleared off for other uses.

Students learn everywhere. Homeschoolers often say the floor, cushy chair or outside is often the learning space of choice. You can create a small container of portable desk necessities, like pencils, pens, eraser, ruler etc., to use wherever the student does their work.

You can always try something and modify it later if it isn't working. Adjust your approach to suit your family needs. Set realistic expectations for your kids and yourself, and demonstrate grace. Flexibility is fun!

Do you have a question about how to simplify your life? Are you unsure how to start downsizing for a move, or organizing part of your home? Email your question to: AskKerri@gmail.com. Perhaps you will see your question answered here in this column!

Kerri Colombo, Motivator, Speaker, Simplifier, Organizer, Author

Kerri Colombo is passionate about motivating people to simplify life by reducing clutter and creating streamlined organization systems that support your lifestyle & free up time & energy to do what you love. Kerri works Virtually with private organizing clients, is a speaker, author and educator. She became the Expert Organizer on the national TV series, TLC's Hoarding: Buried Alive and has appeared on Better Connecticut and FOX Connecticut News. She is also the recommended Organizer by Hartford Hospital's esteemed [Institute of Living: Anxiety Disorders Center](#). For more information, to schedule a private Virtual Organizing appointment or future public speaking engagement, please visit www.CornerstoneOrganizing.org.



On the Calendar

Come Join these Free Discussions with Candlewood Valley Health and Rehab.

September 17th - Free Hospice Expert Discussion at 1:00

September 23rd - Home Care Seminar at 1:30

October 1st - Benefits of Acupuncture at 1:30

To sign up and receive the Zoom link, please contact Melissa Marici at mmarici@Candlewoodvalley.com or call (860)355-0971.

Looking for more details about the above events or more local events? Check out our Events Calendar at

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

Did you know that 87% of people looking for a service or a product search on-line? Advertise your business and get found on Townappeal.com

We have over 7,000 monthly page views on our website and Facebook page. Our advertising rates are very affordable. Please contact us at admin@townappeal.com for more information.

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.

Please consider subscribing to our newsletter and recommending businesses or events to your friends and neighbors by visiting <https://www.townappeal.com> or following us on [Facebook](#)

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