



# NEWS

*A newsletter to inform, celebrate, promote and contribute to the community of Brookfield.*



Sharing a Market Day moment

## At the Old Town Hall, It's About Food, Fun and Celebrating Our Community

Another epic summer at Brookfield's Old Town Hall. Twice a week - sometimes thrice - our community gathered to share local foods, fun, stories, music, and the joy of each other's company. We began the summer with our traditional potluck supper, with Kit Cage and Dorcas Cage Wright recounting their early days in Brookfield for a new twist on *amuse bouche*. Then there was a spectacular cheese-tasting with Brookfield fromager Allison Hooper, a much-anticipated tea tasting hosted by John McConnell, and a lip-smacking ice cream-making demo presented by Chef Lee Duberman. Our gatherings also included

three farmers' markets by the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative. At the August market, our Silent Auction was a huge success!

As the trees began to turn color in earnest, we gathered in late September for "Souper Supper," our first-ever shared fundraiser with the Randolph Area Food Shelf (RAFS). With the support of local restaurants, we offered steaming pots of soups, fresh-baked breads, home-made desserts and local apple cider, served up in beautiful handcrafted pottery bowls from Stephanie Tyler at Third Branch Pottery. Another new event this fall was our Harvest Dinner, hosted by Clotilde Hryshko in early November, which featured a delectable dinner from local bounty.

*continued on page 2*



Hard to wait your turn at the pot luck supper





Everyone loves the marionettes!

*Continued from page 1*

The summer included six evenings devoted to music. In July, jazz pianist Michael Arnowitz and his trio returned for a spectacular jazz concert. In August, Big Hat No Cattle brought us foot-stompin' Texas swing, and in September, the Silk City Barbershop Chorus received a standing ovation! Each month, local composer Erik Nielsen led lively discussions about symphonic, jazz and chamber music appreciation.

The Old Town Hall also featured other art forms and local history. Vermont poet Sherry Olson led a poetry writing workshop, and large and appreciative audiences turned out for cartoonist Ed Koren, and later for "extempo," a night of extemporaneous story-telling. The next evening, the Brookfield Library partnered with the Vermont Humanities Council to explore an important chapter in Vermont's political history. And one week later, the Bird Museum of Vermont helped us ponder questions about "Passenger Pigeons One Hundred Years Gone". In September, author Reeve Lindbergh spoke movingly about her life and read excerpts from her work. Our last entry in the culture column was the art of dried flower arranging, hosted by Lynn Lipkvich.

Three times this summer the Old Town Hall offered programs of community service. In June, Randolph Union High School gathered a panel of local experts, along with the acclaimed documentary, "The Hungry Heart," exploring issues of drug abuse in Vermont. In July, we welcomed the Vermont Land Trust to discuss land conservation, and in September there was a local discussion on energy conservation.

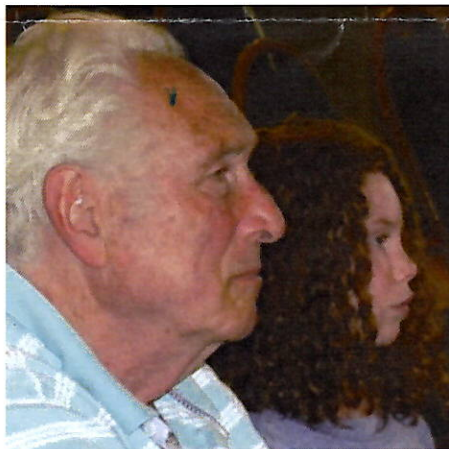
On a much lighter note were our programs for family-friendly fun. This year

VINS returned in July with the live-animal program, "Hop, Slither and Flap." Two weeks later our beloved No Strings Marionette Company returned, and finally, on a beautiful mid-September Sunday, we hosted our All-Ages Spelling Bee. Indeed, spelling can be fun!

Our annual attendance continues to grow and pull from a variety of communities and the continued sponsorship of local businesses helps make it all possible. (See our list of business sponsors elsewhere in this newsletter.) We are especially grateful to the Frankenburg Agency of Randolph serving as our cornerstone sponsor once again. But most of all, we cherish the enthusiasm that you bring to the Brookfield Old Town Hall. See you again next summer!



Foot-stompin' music like the old days



A night to remember

#### Funds Raised Oct. 2013 - Oct. 2014

* \$10,459	Individual Contributions
* \$5,375	Business Sponsorships
* \$2,500	Foundation Grants
* \$2,283	Events
* \$500	Rental of Hall
* \$1,065	Silent Auction
* \$3,075	Fundraising Dinner
* <b>\$25,257</b>	<b>Total</b>

### Town Hall Available for Rent!

In case you haven't heard, the Brookfield Old Town Hall is available for your wedding, family reunion, party, meeting, memorial service, etc. Now that we have water, bathrooms and a fully-equipped kitchen, we can host your event for up to 150 people. At this time, only the main floor of the building is available for rent. With its charm, and the expansive views of Sunset Lake, the Old Town Hall is a gorgeous event venue.

Rental rates are determined on a yearly basis by the Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Trustees. Currently, Brookfield residents are able to rent the hall at a 50% discount off the regular rate in recognition of the Brookfield taxpayers' contribution to the installation of the bathroom facilities in 2011.

To learn more about this opportunity or to tour the facility to see how it could work for your event, please call Perry Kacik at 276-2143 or Jon Binhammer at 276-3260.

### PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S OLD TOWN HALL!

You can be sure that your tax-deductible donation will make a difference.

Checks of any amount can be made out to

"Brookfield Community Partnership" and sent to:

Brookfield Community Partnership  
P.O. Box 452  
Brookfield, VT 05036





Caution: Men at work

## Save the Outhouse! (Well, Maybe Not Exactly)

A long-term historic preservation project is, let's face it, *long-term* and *historic*. But a lot has been done in the last twelve months. It's fun to look back at our progress since we dug the well . . .

Last fall, stalwart volunteers cleaned up and leveled the dirt floor in the basement. They prepared for the cement mixer this spring and *viola* – we gained lots of usable basement space, including a spot for the pressure tank. Now we could run the plumbing lines from the well into the building, so it was time to think about . . .

Sinks! Stuart and Margaret Osha donated a wonderful commercial-quality 3-bay kitchen sink and a gas range, so we also ordered bathroom sinks and a hot water heater. To complement the range we ordered kitchen cabinets and a range hood. ("It's nicer than what we have at home," several people have confided.) As the weather continued to warm, we turned our attention to . . .

The lobby! With the community potluck supper less than two months away, we tore out the dropped ceiling, tackled electrical, sheetrock and plastering issues, and prepped and painted the new ceiling and lobby floor. Oh – and we added wonderful lighting, touched up a lot of the painting,

and found some lovely lobby furnishings. Thank you to our many volunteers and some very nimble contractors. But there were still some serious . . .

Landscaping issues! Al Wilker and Vance Smith rode their equipment into town, then sculpted and seeded the front and side yards. But what about expanding the parking area across the road? They did that, too. And finally, they installed the granite slab that now sits majestically in front of the well-head, awaiting our Old Town Hall Historic Marker. In the meantime . . .

Because we received notification of a \$19,000 matching grant in January 2014 from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, we have begun to tackle the project that has long worried young and old alike: how can we keep the historic outhouse from falling into the pond? Never fear! With scaffolding perched on the pond side of the building, Phase One of the exterior renovation work meant that the entire pond side of the Old Town Hall got a make-over. Actually, a *restoration*. Clapboard replacement, outhouse up-lift, and *paint*. (And no, we're *not* restoring the outhouses themselves.) But there's still more . . .

The restoration grant allows us to continue around the building with clapboard restoration and window repair – but only if

we raise the money for the matching grant. All of this work brings us that much closer to the last remaining question on many people's minds: when do we finish painting the outside of the Old Town Hall? This may be a work in progress, but a lot of progress has been made as we revitalize and preserve the historic character of this cherished building. Thanks to your generous donations and volunteer efforts, we are getting close to that long-awaited exterior paint job.



Down in the basement . . .



An October wedding



Billi Gosh

Brookfield Community Partnership  
P.O. Box 452  
Brookfield, VT  
05036



Abi 250

Curtis and Ed Koren  
P.O. Box 464  
Brookfield, VT 05036



**Great Appreciation to Our 2014 Sponsors:**

- Frankenburg Agency of Randolph - Lead Sponsor
- Northfield Savings Bank
- Lake Sunapee Bank
- Century 21 Mill Stone Agency, Randolph
- Gillespie Fuels, Randolph
- Compucount, Randolph
- Catamount Kitchens & Design, Randolph
- Day Funeral Home, Randolph

**Thank you to the Merchants, Farms, Artisans and Neighbors Who Supported a Specific 2014 Event:**

- Ariel's Restaurant, Brookfield
- Betsy Hale, Brookfield
- Black Krim Tavern, Randolph
- Brookfield Bees
- Camp Merrishko, Brookfield
- Chef's Market, Randolph
- Ed Koren, Brookfield
- Fat Toad Farm, Brookfield
- Field Stone Farm, Northfield
- Green Mountain Girls, Northfield
- Jeff Tracy, Brookfield
- Jill Wheatley, Brookfield
- L.H. Stowell & Son, Brookfield
- Liberty Orchard, Brookfield
- Marsha Hammond, Brookfield
- Mindy Jeffreys, Brookfield

- One Main Tap and Grill, Randolph
- Pagoda Pond Gardens, Braintree
- Patty Becker, Brookfield
- Randolph Depot
- Reeve Lindbergh, St. Johnsbury
- Ruth Goodale, Brookfield
- Silk City Barbershop Chorus, Manchester, CT
- Spotted Dog Farm, Brookfield
- Spruce Lane Farm, Brookfield
- Tamara Wight, Brookfield
- The Lyons Den, Randolph
- Third Branch Pottery, Randolph
- Three-Bean Café, Randolph
- Turkey Hill Farm, Randolph Center
- Twin Ponds Farm, Brookfield
- Vermont Creamery, Websterville
- Vermont Liberty Tea Co., Waterbury
- Willy B's & Three Stallion Inn, Randolph

**Thank You for Ongoing Publicity Support:**

- Bodenweber Design, Peacham
- Rule Signs, Randolph

**Thank you to all of the painters, workers and helpers involved in restoring the Old Town Hall, and to the volunteers helping with our events.**



**Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Directors**

- Ted Elzey, *Chair*
- Jon Binhammer, *Vice Chair*
- Denise Holmes, *Secretary*
- Dan Childs, *Treasurer*
- Billi Gosh
- Elinor Gray
- Perry Kacik
- Curtis Koren
- Ed Koren
- Steve Reid

**Fundraising Committee**

- Billi Gosh, *Chair*
- Jon Binhammer
- Denise Holmes

**Events Committee**

- Shelby Girard
- Elinor Gray
- Betsy Hale
- Denise Holmes
- Clotilde Hryshko
- Linda Kelly
- Eric Nielsen

**Rental Committee**

- Jon Binhammer
- Perry Kacik