



NEWS

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

Did We See You at the Old Town Hall This Year?

From June through October the Old Town Hall was lit up many nights with some exciting new programs and some old favorites, back by popular demand. As in the past, most of the events were free of charge.

Each year the season begins with the Community Potluck Supper, where we are happy to see our neighbors again, after being in hibernation all winter. It is a joyous and delicious time.

As usual, many food events were offered throughout the season, including a wine and cheese tasting, a chocolate tasting, a community taco dinner, the annual Souper Supper with the Randolph Area Food Shelf, the annual Harvest Dinner, featuring the bounty and culinary talents of Camp Merrishko, and the family Halloween party and potluck supper.



Wine and Cheese Tasting by Lincoln Peak Vineyard and Grafton Cheese

The wide variety of programs provided something of interest for almost everyone. If you crave exercise, there were morning stretch-and-tone classes and yoga classes twice a week all summer long.

If culture is your thing there was a classical guitar concert by Chris Schoelen, a talk by author

Lindsay Stoddard, and a concert by Trio Sephardi.

For the scientific-minded, there were three stargazing sessions with Donald Cameron, an emerald ash borer presentation, and a tour of the night sky in an indoor planetarium, provided by the Fairbanks Museum.

Children enjoyed a hands-on workshop about electricity, a puppet show about an astronaut, and a night of decon/reconstruction, when they took stuff apart and turned it into something new.

A brand new event this year was the very popular Oktoberfest. Over 150 people of all ages voraciously consumed bratwurst, strudels and local beer. Inseldudler, an oompah band from Burlington, provided music for festival goers, who wanted to dance. Some revelers even wore dirndls and lederhosen. If you couldn't make it to this rollicking event, don't despair. It will return next October.



Oktoberfest featured the Inseldudler Oompah Band

Paint Job Finished Finally!

It may have taken five years, but now every inch of the exterior of the Old Town Hall has been primed and painted in gleaming white. The project started five years ago, when we undertook the restoration of the old out-house, which was attached to the exterior wall on the pond side of the building. That entire wall was restored with clapboard replacement and paint in 2014.

Three years later the front wall of the OTH was painted, which made photo ops for wedding guests much more attractive. More importantly it spruced up the look of the main road running through our small village.

What was left to be painted were the two very large side walls – all four stories! That huge project was undertaken this year. It took many weeks, using tall ladders and a large lift, to finish the job. Now we have a completely painted, well-maintained building, where we hold all our community events. Our historic Old Town Hall looks beautiful.

Of course, all this work cost money. Due to a generous donation from Dee Montie and Murray Evans, we were able to hire the painters, and the work continued throughout the summer.

Dee and Murray had lived in Brookfield for several decades. Upon moving to a retirement community in Pennsylvania this year, they wanted to do something to express their deep affection for the Brookfield community and their appreciation for the many happy memories they will

Funds Raised Oct. 18- Oct. 2019

\$8,425	Bus. Sponsorships
\$6,250	Grants
\$26,912	Ind. Contributions
\$5,760	Events
\$350	Rental of Hall
\$1,222	Silent Auction
\$48,919	Total



Dee Montie and Murray Evans receive a BCP Certificate of Appreciation from Billi Gosh

always have of their time here.

In August, Dee and Murray visited Brookfield and the community thanked them, during a pizza dinner in their honor at the Old Town Hall. They were presented with a framed award which read, "Certificate of Appreciation presented to Dee Montie and Murray Evans in appreciation of your generous donation to the Brookfield Community Partnership toward the completion of the exterior painting of the Old Town Hall". A copy of their award hangs in the foyer of the Old Town Hall.

We will always remember Dee and Murray.



Community Tacos Dinner



Freshly painted Old Town Hall

Tribute to A Friend

On September 12, 2019 Paul Bruhn died at the age of 72. Paul was executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, since 1980. He had a great passion for his preservation work and the people in Vermont communities, who work hard to save and use their historic places, who value and support their village centers.

When the founders of the BCP purchased the Old Town Hall in 2002, Paul was a trusted advisor to those folks who had taken that huge leap of faith. Without Paul's encouragement and support from the very beginning the Old Town Hall would not exist today, as a community center.

Soon after the purchase of the building, the Preservation Trust awarded BCP a grant of \$50,000 to begin work on restoring the building's unstable foundation. Paul helped secure other larger grants from the federal government and from the state of Vermont.

For years Paul advised BCP about strategies for fundraising and recommended funding sources. He loved our Old Town Hall restoration project, and he was proud to see the dilapidated, abandoned building turn into the vibrant community center that it is today. He was amazed at all that has been accomplished by volunteers in our small community of 1,200 people!

Thank you, Paul, our good friend.



Learning how electricity works in a hands-on workshop for kids



Fua Nascimento teaches kids the Afro-Brazilian martial art Capoeira, combining dance, acrobatics, music and meditation.

This Is What You Had to Say

"My husband and I were married at the Old Town Hall, so it is particularly wonderful for us to now bring our children there to enjoy everything from puppet shows to community dances. In a time of increasingly fractured communities and loneliness, I am grateful that Brookfield has a place where people of all ages can gather and enjoy meals, dancing, stories, and so much more. The Old Town Hall is, for us, becoming more and more the heart of our community." Josey Hastings

"I would like to make a old town hall J.R. committee... I would like a couple events planned by us every year... Well, please keep your mind open! Greatest hopes and dreams for a "yes"." Lacey Girard, age 8

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It was yet another great summer season at the Brookfield Old Town Hall! Our all-volunteer Events Committee pulled out all the stops and had us learning, dancing, laughing, tasting, exercising, doing yoga, and enjoying interesting performances for all ages. Our very first Oktoberfest was a blockbuster day of fun and cultural celebration.

Now that winter is almost here, I hope you are able to look back on the summer events and, like

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO BROOKFIELD'S OLD TOWN HALL!

If you have never supported the BCP before, please consider starting with a donation today. Every dollar you give goes toward our community events, and maintaining our beloved Old Town Hall - today, tomorrow and into the future.

BCP now uses Give Lively to accept donations online! Check out the link to our Annual Appeal Donation site. Now you can make one donation or set up monthly donations. For information go to: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/brookfield-community-partnership-inc/annual-appeal-for-the-brookfield-community-partnership>.

me, support the fact that we have an impressive community center right here in Brookfield. In fact, we get calls from community leaders all over Vermont asking us how we've been able to resurrect our beautiful building, bring it back to life, and build a sense of real community around it. They admire what we have accomplished, and want to replicate it for their own towns.

We're happy to give them all the advice they need, but when we boil it down, it really is about people like you who come to events and support our work through your generous annual donations. That is how we have



Finger "painting" on the misty window panes

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created a community center that is the envy of many Vermont communities. They want to tap into our formula and make their communities stronger and more vibrant.

The national and international news of the day makes me want to turn off the noise, but life in Brookfield is a good antidote. In this topsy-turvy world, at least we

can rely on events at the Old Town Hall to lift our spirits, create some joy, bring us together with our neighbors, and build a community we can all be proud of.

I hope you are able to give generously this year, because we want to continue investing in our outstanding Brookfield asset, the Old Town Hall.

Thank you on behalf of the Brookfield Community Partnership.
Ted Elzey, President



BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Thank you to this year's generous event sponsors!

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The Lamson Howell Foundation
VCF Spark! Grant

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Special thanks to Mary Raskevitz at Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty for laying out this newsletter.