



NEWS

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



Ted Elzey, Jon Lipkovich, and Dan Childs prepare for the pouring of a concrete slab in the basement.

Construction Domino Theory

JON BINHAMMER

It always happens – whenever you renovate, move furniture, or rearrange things in your home, you trigger a sort of “domino effect.” You simply cannot make a simple change – it requires a veritable cascade of alterations and rearrangements. It turns out the same is true for the Old Town Hall. When the Board of the Brookfield Community Partnership contemplated the installation of composting toilets, we soon realized that we would be losing storage space for chairs and tables. In response, Chairman Ted Elzey came up with a brilliant idea to put tables on “sleds” with runners under the stage. Of course that meant the supports for the stage had to be reinforced, as we quickly found out that they consisted of too few two-by-fours. Do you see what I mean? One project turned into two, and then blossomed into many others. Thus began the year of construction at the Brookfield Old Town Hall.

Construction on the composting toilets began late last fall, when the cement truck arrived to pour the slab for the composter in the basement. Volunteers Dan Childs and Jon Lipkovich honchoed this effort, and soon we had a smooth, clean floor in the basement, and just in time, as the composter arrived and had to fit through the doors and be assembled in the space. The few visitors who ventured down to the basement just stared at the big black plastic box, and, wondering how it worked, were met with shrugs. It was early in the process,

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After All That Construction, There Was More Work to Do...

DENISE HOLMES

Starting in late April, Betsy Hale and I became *obsessed* with Painting, Phase One, which included the Old Town Hall’s kitchen/pantry, bathrooms, entryway and lobby – *plus* several feet of the walls into the actual Hall. As often happens, “paint prep” was way more involved than we anticipated. We made frequent trips to the True Colors Home Decorating store in Montpelier to consult with Kath Natzke, which led to a flurry of paint chips, and then (I kid you not) to on-line articles about color trends in New England in 1900. Our efforts culminated in meeting with Meg Campbell from the Vermont Preservation Trust, who was extremely thoughtful.

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Marcia Hammond and Denise Holmes paint the lobby at the Old Town Hall.



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and none of us had any experience with these systems.

We knew the system needed to be vented, though, and an unused chimney was the perfect place for a vent. But how would we get PVC pipe down into three stories of chimney? Well, someone had heard that the Randolph Fire Department was looking for opportunities to train with their new ladder truck, and after a couple of phone calls, we had a vent down the chimney!

Work soon moved up to the main floor, as now we had to connect the big plastic box to some toilets. Volunteers who were more comfortable with deconstruction than the exactitude of rebuilding were recruited by Ted Elzey to tear out the plaster and lathe walls while the builder-types framed the bathroom walls. We quickly realized that it made sense to do the same in the kitchen, even though we weren't planning on installing cabinets or appliances until sometime in the future. So the dust flew! Then the stairway became a target for our destruction because it shared a wall with the kitchen. More dust! Luckily for the weary volunteers, we stopped after the stairway.

All hands were on deck to help hang sheetrock after the electrician installed light fixtures and switches. Sometimes cutting the sheet rock to fit was a puzzle-lover's challenge! We were smart to hire out the taping and mudding of the seams, as they turned out beautifully. Finally we were ready for paint and floor coverings; then, at last, the connection of the toilets to the big black composter.

Now we have two functioning bathrooms, table storage and we're well prepared to construct a convenient kitchen in the near future—all because of the toilet project. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped with this grass-roots construction project! Great work!

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With color choices *finally* decided, there was the question of flooring, and Kath Natzke once again served as our beacon. Soon, boxes of floor tiles were delivered to the Old Town Hall, and Buzz Holmes was recruited to lay the tile squares in both new bathrooms and the kitchen/pantry.

Flooring and painting became concurrent projects. We began to recruit our volunteer painters, rejoicing at their enthusiasm, expertise—and equipment. This was when "paint prep" moved into "anxiety phase." Would our new sheetrock walls—and our old plaster/wallpaper walls—be prepped in time to paint? Would the chilly weather allow Chuck Ferris to finish taping and mudding? Would Kevin Dunwoody be able to save the fragile plaster once the wallpaper was stripped off? Our Potluck Supper date had already been publicized and *June 9th loomed*. Could we possibly be ready in time?

Thankfully, the painting volunteers rallied like champions over two weekends. Then, with the Potluck Supper only a week away, we brought in close to twenty volunteers for a final paint-and-clean-up push. Not quite everything was picture perfect on June 9th, but the renovations made one heck of a great impression as sixty townspeople inspected their "new" Old Town Hall.

Betsy and I want to thank all of the painters, cleaners and other volunteers for all of the time and talent they shared with us. We can't wait for Spring...

Plan to Join the Spring 2013 Painting Party!

Spring 2013 will bring Painting, Phase Two, at which time we hope to finish painting the interior of the Old Town Hall. Plan to be part of the paint crew! If you have painting experience, especially in restoring and refinishing old walls, let us hear from you! Send us your email address and/or phone number and we'll add you to our list. Betsy Hale bhale@sover.net or Denise Holmes dhvermont@gmail.com.

FUNDS RAISED IN 2011-12

- * \$6,010: Individual Contributions
- * \$ 500: Business Contributions
- * \$ 800: Private Rentals
- * \$4,195: Events
- * \$2,875: Business Sponsorships
- * **\$14,380: Total**

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
www.brookfieldvt.org

Brookfield Community Partnership Board of Directors

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A Busy Summer at the Old Town Hall

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Did you see the summer calendar for the Old Town Hall? It was packed! In addition to the Potluck Supper in early June, six nights of ballroom dancing, and three Farmers' Markets, we brought back a number of old favorites: Pie and Poetry (3rd annual!), the second annual Poetry Slam, and Jennifer Steckler calling a square dance for the third summer at the Old Town Hall.

Family Fun, Musical Ventures and Food Family programming was particularly engaging, beginning with the very popular movie *Up*, followed by the No Strings Marionettes with Barbara Paulsen and Dan Baginski, storyteller Annie Hawkins, and wrapping up with the rollicking film, *The Goonies* (and some terrific ice cream treats).

Our ventures into the world of music did not stop with dancing. Audiences also gathered to hear the music ensemble *Scrag Mountain Music* and musical duo *The Kind Buds*.

It came to pass that food adventures played a big part in the summer schedule, as well, complementing our three farmers' markets. We inaugurated a series of events that we called *Edible Treats*. At "Cheese Night," cheesemonger Leslie Polubinski led over fifty cheese lovers through a tasting of eight delicious cheeses from around Vermont and around the world, each cheese



Farmers' Market (top) & movie audience for *Up* (above).

paired with delicacies from local producers. For our second evening, "Wild Edibles," Annie McCleary brought together close to thirty adventurers wanting to know more about the edibles our fields and forests have to offer. The series concluded with "There's More to Tea than Teabags," enticing fifty tea drinkers to a tasting hosted by John McConnell of Waterbury's Vermont Liberty Tea Company.

Summer events extended well into October: first an enthusiastic town-wide spelling bee with leveled contests (and yes,

adults competed as well, but not against the youngsters); then a discussion of Vermont issues with Congressman Peter Welch; and finally a Haunted House just before Halloween.

Thank you to our sponsors

What made this year so special was the extensive support we received from local businesses, so that we could bring this outstanding program to our community with only minimal admission fees for some of our music venues and everything else free of charge. Elsewhere in this newsletter we enumerate and thank our event sponsors and others who contributed so generously to our summer programs. As you see these merchants, growers and artisans throughout the year, we hope that you make it a point to give them a hearty "thank you."

Here's what folks are saying – all longtime residents, active volunteers and regular donors...

RICHARD AND BETSY HALE

It all began with the loft at Brookfield School, which gave the library so much more space, then the work to improve the playground there, now the wide range of events at the Old Town Hall over the past few years, and last year the work at Hippo Park... It has been fun to work along side our neighbors from all across Brookfield, especially this year when many of us undertook the major prepping and painting of the entry, kitchen, lobby and bathrooms inside the OTH. The volunteerism is impressive and we are happy to contribute both dollars and work hours. Our hope is that more and more folks become involved and realize what a wonderful resource we have in ourselves and in the Old Town Hall.

RON AND LINNEA LAPERLE
(lifelong Brookfield residents)

As small children we can recall our families attending dances, graduations and town meetings at the Old Town Hall. Since the BCP acquired the building we have spent a lot of time working on various restoration projects and organizing fund raisers. We have attended many of the events and enjoyed meeting our neighbors and making new friends, social networking the old fashion way, face to face, and in person. (Priceless)

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WHO SUPPORTS THE OLD TOWN HALL?

This year we are proud to present a growing list of businesses and artisans who sponsored events in 2012 or who, in other ways, supported the Old Town Hall. Our great appreciation to all of the following:

For Sponsoring One or More 2012 Summer Events, Our Hearty Thanks to . . .

Frankenburg Agency, Randolph
Northfield Savings Bank
Randolph National Bank
Gillespie Fuels, Randolph
CENTURY 21 The Mill Stone Agency, Randolph
Magee Office Products, Randolph
Compucount, Randolph
Chimney Savers, Randolph
Catamount Kitchens & Design, Randolph
Day Funeral Home, Randolph
ERA Home Town Realty, Randolph
Kinney Pike Insurance, Randolph

For Ongoing Support to Our Renovations or Publicity, We Want to Thank . . .

Beacon Press, Randolph
Bodenweber Design, Peacham
Central Supplies, Randolph
Rule Signs, Randolph
True Colors Home Decorating, Montpelier

Thank You to the Merchants, Farms and Artisans Who Supported Specific 2012 Events

All Together Farm, Randolph Center
Ariel's Restaurant, Brookfield
Black Krim Restaurant, Randolph
Blue Moon Boutique, Randolph
Brookfield Bed & Breakfast, Brookfield
Brookfield Bees, Brookfield
Brookfield Public Library, Brookfield
Bud and Bella's Bookshop, Randolph

Camp Merrishko, Brookfield
Capitol Copy, Montpelier
Chadwick's Steak House & Pub, Randolph
Chandler Center for the Arts, Randolph
Chef's Market, Randolph
Daisy Meadows, Williamstown
Dandelion Acres, Bethel
Fat Toad Farm, Brookfield
Fresh Tracks Farm, Montpelier
Gene Parent, Brookfield
Green Mountain Girls, Northfield
Green Trails Inn, Brookfield
Hunger Mountain Coop, Montpelier
Jeff Tracy, Hardwood Cutting Boards, Brookfield
Kimball Public Library, Randolph
Lazy Lady Farm, Westfield
Leslie Polubinski, South Royalton
L.H. Stowell and Son, Brookfield
Main Street Bakery, Randolph
Montague Golf Club, Randolph
Patrick's Place, Randolph
Ridge Meadows Farm, Randolph Center
Rivendell Books, Montpelier
Ruth Goodale, Brookfield
Shaw's Supermarket, Randolph
Spotted Dog Farm, Brookfield
Spruce Lane Farm, Brookfield
Strafford Organic Creamery, Strafford
Stray Cat Jewelry, Brookfield
Sweet Retreats, Brookfield
Turkey Hill Farm, Randolph Center
Twin Pond Retreat, Brookfield
Valley Bowl, Randolph
Vermont Liberty Tea Co., Waterbury
Wisdom of the Herbs School, Montpelier

And a special thank you to...

National Life of Vermont, Montpelier who contributed generously to the printing costs of this newsletter

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GG AND MELANIE LAROCQUE
(lifelong Brookfield residents)

We would like to see the Old Town Hall restored so that future generations can enjoy what we had when we were younger. The Town meetings were held there. We had our Wedding Reception there, held my parents' wedding anniversary there (Dan and Viola Chase). We enjoyed the Saturday night dances. We'd like to see the next generation do the same.

WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!!

Contact us at 276-3020

Tell us the projects
you would like to work on.

