



# The Banister Bulletin



*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." – Edith Sitwell*



## Merrick Public Library

2 Lincoln Street  
P.O. Box 528  
Brookfield, MA 01506

### CONTACT

Tel: 508-867-6339  
Fax: 508-867-2981  
brookfieldlibrary@gmail.com

### HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday  
1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday & Monday  
Closed

### FREE SERVICES

- Wi-Fi
- Computers
- Printing
- Copying
- Scanning
- Faxing
- Notary Public
- Home Delivery (for those Housebound)

*\*Please be aware that the public computers and photocopier are shut down 15 minutes before closing time.\**

### RESOURCES

**Library Website:**  
merrickpubliclibrary.org

**Library Catalog:**  
brookfield.cwmars.org

**Library Facebook:**  
@Brookfield Merrick Public Library

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Library hours for the week of Christmas are as follows:

- Tuesday, December 23rd: Open 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Open 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: CLOSED
- Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>: CLOSED
- Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>: Open 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



## MUSIC & MOVEMENT with Julie

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

Join Julie for songs kids know and love. Stretch, move, sing, and dance – all while developing early literacy skills through music and rhythm! This program is free and no registration is required. Recommended for children ages 0 – 5.



## CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has been suspended until further notice due to a lack of participants. Chess boards continue to be available for public use at the library.



## BANISTER BOOK GROUP

This book discussion group meets at the Library Annex at 18 Common St., on the last Wednesday of every month, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Copies of the current book are available for checkout at the library. New members always welcome!

### January 7th: *Someday* by Jackie French Koller

Fourteen-year-old Celie Wheeler's family has lived in Enfield for generations, but now their community is threatened to be claimed by eminent domain to build the Quabbin Reservoir. For Celie the reservoir's coming has always been far into the future—until now. The secure and happy home she's always known will soon vanish. Based on true events.



## LOCAL HISTORY: "BROOKFIELD DAY"

**The Brookfield Times - August 10, 1923**

Aug. 22 – The Big Day. Brookfield Residents and those of towns within a radius of twenty miles as well, are looking forward to Wednesday, Aug. 22, for the big Brookfield day celebration which means an event that seems due to eclipse the big affair of last year. The program is rapidly taking form and by next week will be complete. The great event will be started at ten in the morning and from then until one at night there will be a continuous program of entertainment. The parade will get under way at eleven and traverse the principal streets. It will be a much more elaborate spectacle than any before in Brookfield as a greater number of decorated cars and floats will be in the column. The parade is arousing interest in all the surrounding towns and each is sure to be represented not only in the decorated section but in the division for cars representing towns or societies for which a cash prize of \$100 will be the award. [TBC...]

## BROOKFIELD COUNCIL ON AGING

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

held at the Brookfield Congregational Church

#### MONDAYS

- Functional Fitness from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### TUESDAYS

- Chair Yoga from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Coffee Hour from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

- Walking Group at 8:30 a.m.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

held at the Brookfield Congregational Church

#### Blood Pressure/Glucose Screening

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### Foot Clinic

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$10 fee)

**\*CURRENTLY FULL\***

**Not Accepting New Clients**

**CONTACT: Email** [seniors@brookfieldma.us](mailto:seniors@brookfieldma.us) | **Phone** 508-867-2930 ext. 23 (Patty King)



## FRIENDS OF BROOKFIELD

### Luminaries: A Christmas Eve Tradition That Shines Bright

Since 2002, the town of Brookfield has celebrated Christmas Eve with the warm glow of luminaries lighting up the Town Common and Route 9, and this year, the tradition continues. As the holiday approaches, preparations are underway to bring the soft glow of 1,700 luminaries back to the center of our town.

The tradition began when two residents who moved to Brookfield from Pennsylvania brought the idea with them. A neighbor admired the lights and asked to have some on his property the following year, and from there it grew into a town-wide celebration. Luminaries have a long history, originally used in Mexico to guide people to Midnight Mass using sand-filled bags and candles. The practice eventually made its way to New Mexico and spread across the U.S., finding a special place here in Brookfield.

**What to Expect:** On Christmas Eve at 2:00 p.m., volunteers will begin placing and lighting the luminaries along the set route. By dusk, around 4:00 p.m., the town begins to glow as candles flicker and carols ring out from the Brookfield Congregational Church. Many pause along River Street and Route 9 to enjoy the peaceful, beautiful scene. \*In the event of inclement weather on Christmas Eve, the luminary display may be postponed and held on New Year's Eve instead, a tradition that has been followed in some years.\*

**A New Chapter for the Tradition:** Starting this year, The Friends of Brookfield will be taking the lead on organizing the luminary display. We're grateful to the Brookfield Luminaries Committee for their years of dedication, and we look forward to continuing this beautiful tradition with the same community spirit and care.

**Bring the Tradition Home:** Luminary kits will be available for purchase at the Merrick Public Library, six bags and candles for \$5. Proceeds help support the event. The luminaries are also generously funded by the Brookfield Cultural Council, the Friends of the Library, and local donors.

**Get Involved:** Interested in volunteering? Great! Everyone is welcome! We will be looking for folks to help with the following: folding bags beforehand, filling bags with sand on the day of, and lighting candles on the day of. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Shelby Hill at [friendsofbrookfield01506@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrookfield01506@gmail.com)

Would you like some for your own home? Great! They're for sale at the Merrick Public Library or you can contact Shelby Hill at the email address above. They are \$5 for six candles and bags.

Join neighbors in making this Christmas Eve in Brookfield peaceful, bright, and memorable!