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Article published Apr 16, 2008

### Caroline Town Talk: Brooktondale gears up for book sale

The peepers are singing every night, and Sunday afternoon the patrons at Brookton's Market were wearing sweaters instead of coats. This morning, I wandered out to the garden and harvested fresh chives for my scrambled eggs. There is hope.

This coming weekend you'll be able to find mystery, romance, art and science fiction, all in the same room — at the Brooktondale Community Center's annual book sale. Books can be donated right up to the time of the sale, which runs from 7-9 p.m. Friday and continues, complete with snack bar, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, and finishing from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. with the bag sale Sunday. Help sorting books and running the sale is always welcome. Give me a call if you have some spare time.

Summer camp applications will be available during the sale, for those planning ahead. Camp applications are also available at the post office, the town hall and in the new “out” box by the rear side door of the “Old Fire Hall.”

### Playground volunteers

\* Volunteers are needed this weekend to help dismantle a playground and move it to the Community Center. Thanks to a generous donation from Cornell, we have the opportunity to expand our preschooler play options. Call Jeremy at 539-9933 if you can help.

\* The Caroline elementary school is getting a fantastic new playground, but they need help. If you're fit and available on May 10 to help build, contact Chuck at 227-8006 or Jeremy at 539-9933. We need to keep the workers fed, so those with sandwich-making skills are also welcome, and donations of food, including baked goodies for snacks, would be much appreciated. Call Amy Martin at 539-1173 if you can help supply or prepare food. With the construction going on, the playground will be closed to ensure the safety of children.

### Lightbulb giveaway

On Saturday, Energy Independent Caroline will pass out reusable cloth bags, more than 1,000 of them sewn by local volunteers, stuffed with a compact florescent light bulb and information on how to save energy to Caroline households. Tonight at 5 p.m. there will be a bag stuffing session at the Old Fire Hall, 522 Valley Road in Brooktondale. Your help would be appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to go door to door to help pass out the filled bags. Give Dominic a call at 539-7335 if you can help.

### CD release

Local folk musician Phil Shapiro and his music partner Carrie Shore will celebrate the release of their second CD, “The ‘You've Played Where?’ Tour: Live album,” at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25 at the Brooktondale Community Center. Everyone is welcome to join friends and neighbors for this free concert, thanks to a grant from the arts council, preceded by a 6 p.m. dish-to-pass dinner. Phil and Carrie have had audience members from toddlers to seniors dancing in the aisles at previous center shows. There is always plenty to eat at a dish to pass, so come even if you don't have time to cook.

## Food pantry

During the next two weeks donations of food or money to the Caroline Food Pantry also count toward our participation in the Feinstein challenge. An increase in local support results in an increase in our share of Alan Feinstein's \$1 million annual donation to help fight hunger nationwide.

Most of the pantries in Tompkins County are also participating, so if you're reading this in another town, your local pantry would appreciate the help. Like all local and nationwide pantries, Caroline has been especially busy lately. We fed 302 people during our last distribution, 45 percent more than this time last year. The food pantry garden is starting up again this year, and volunteer labor and donations of seeds and plants are greatly appreciated. Give me a call if you can help with any pantry project.

## Happenings

\* Saturday, April 26 at the Slaterville Springs Fire Hall, St. Thomas Episcopal Church will present its annual rummage sale. This is your opportunity to look for bargains in tools, kitchenware, clothing and, occasionally, antiques.

\* Sunday, April 27, support the Brooktondale Fire Department and enjoy a pancake breakfast at the new fire hall.

\* A Beautiful Caroline has scheduled May 3 as cleanup day. Meet at the Brooktondale Community Center, then help cleanup a local roadside. Prizes will be awarded for those bringing back the most trash. On June 28, when the weather is, hopefully, hot, A Beautiful Caroline will sponsor a creek cleanup. Meet at the community center with your bathing suit and personal floatation device (the PFD is optional, the bathing suit is not) and prepare to get wet.

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