



Babbler

The Babbler Works! – The Babbler’s last edition reported a trashcan lid lost from Weybridge. A nice soul put it next to the Weybridge mailbox. Thanks to this good neighbor!

The Babbler Doesn’t Work! – We screwed up; we got our Marys mixed up. We told you Mary wanted folks to know she is a notary and willing to help residents. We then gave her the wrong surname. Thank you, Mary Francis, for being willing to help your neighbors. Residents can contact her by emailing mpf49@comcast.net (at least we got that much right!).

Another Offer for Residents - Did you know Massachusetts forbids the disposal of Styrofoam in landfills? Many places get around this law by burning the Styrofoam pieces at high temperatures, but it’s much better for the environment to reuse Styrofoam instead of making more of it. A local startup company, ReFoamIt LLC, is recycling Styrofoam for reuse as new car bumpers and construction moldings among other things. On a trial basis, we’re willing to collect your Styrofoam for transport to ReFoamIt. Please make arrangements by contacting Lynne (ljanbergs@yahoo.com) or Barbara (bsherman@opengeospatial.org). They’ll tell you where to bring your Styrofoam. You’ll be asked to make sure it’s well secured at the drop off. We don’t want it blowing all over Indian Brook! You will also have to remove all tape, string, metal, food particles and so on before your drop-off. Thanks.



Recycling – Presently, we do not recycle because it would double our trash cost. If anyone has ideas about how to do this without breaking the bank, we’d love to hear your ideas because we’d love to make Indian Brook more green. Right now the only choice is to go to the Recycling Center on Rte 135 in Westborough.

Recycling 2 - Best Buy stores accept most consumer electronics, including televisions and monitors (up to 32”), computers, laptops, notebook computers, small electronics, VCRs, DVD players, and phones, as well as accessories like keyboards, mice and remotes for recycling. A \$10 recycling fee per unit is charged for items with screens (e.g., televisions, laptop computers, monitors). However, you instantly receive a \$10 Best Buy Gift Card in exchange for the recycling fee.

Spring Arrives! – The peepers are out! We’d like to pass on a few gentle reminders:

- If kids are coming home from college; and your two parking spaces are already taken; think about renting a space from neighbors who routinely use one of their deeded spaces.
- Enjoy washing your car? You can do it at IB until 30 May. But please make sure to clean up; our neighbors don’t appreciate tracking suds through their homes. Please note that the town of Hopkinton imposes a water ban beginning 30 May. The faucets on the outside of our buildings connect to *Town water* and are subject to this water ban. [The sprinklers run off our own wells and are exempt.]
- Car repairs are not allowed on the property.
- Indian Brook does not allow oil changes due to environmental concerns.
- Please remove winter essentials like snow shovels, snow boots, scrapers, bags and barrels of ice melt from front porches. This spruces up the appearance of Indian Brook as a whole
- As temperatures warm up, please make sure that your trash is in a barrel with a lid. Food smells attract all sorts of birds and animals (domestic and wild); let’s avoid the mess and the danger.

Marathon Reminder – On Monday, much of the downtown area will be shut down for the Boston Marathon. Buses run from parking lots on this side of town. Police from as far away as Springfield will be directing traffic. Getting to Rte 495 is easy. Using Elm St. to get to Rte 135 heading to Westborough is easy. Anything else, plan to wait until 2 pm. The good news, however, is that the town spruces up the downtown area, and the streets where buses run once the race is over.

Check out March's Boston magazine – The (10 March) annual issue of Boston Magazine's Best Places to Live 2009 has just been released and Hopkinton has made the list. According to the article, Hopkinton was grouped into the "The Teflon Ten" - ten towns that are perceived, according to statistical analysis, to be primed for take off once the market starts making its way back up again. These ten towns supposedly have not dropped in value like other towns have. To paraphrase the introduction "Sometimes steady as you go is good enough. When things turn-around, these ten will move up quickly." There's also a nice paragraph about each town. It is hopeful news for those of us concerned about how much and how quickly we might recover.

The following table is drawn from data provided by the Warren Group, publisher of Banker and Tradesman. We reprint their median single-family home prices for Hopkinton here:

	2008	2007	One-year change	2005	2008 change from 2005 market peak	1998	Ten-year change
Houses	\$557,750	\$585,000	-4.66%	\$560,000	-0.40%	\$290,000	92.33%
Condos	\$357,000	\$313,000	14.06%	\$329,950	8.20%	\$180,000	98.33%

The condo numbers look odd because more new (expensive) condos are selling than existing units.

Real Estate – There are currently no Indian Brook units listed on the MLS.

Week-End Fun, Upcoming Events Close to Home - *The Grafton Flea Market opened on 5 April. Come join the fun on Rte. 140. Acres of bargains; hundreds of dealers; thousands of items. Information can be had at <http://www.graftonflea.com/index.htm>*

Artisan's Day is Sunday, 19 April from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. 30+ local Artisans and Crafts people will be at Weston Nurseries. Demonstrations; crafts for sale. A perfect place in the early Spring, just weeks before Mother's Day. <http://www.westonnurseries.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&eventID=42>

Hand-Me-Down All Over Town is Saturday, 9 May from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. At Hopkinton Middle School, this is a community-wide event to swap toys, books, DVDs, children's clothing, maternity clothing, baby gear, and more. All items in great condition; recycling at its best. Fill a bag for \$10; with a donation, \$5!

<http://www.hptaonline.com/hopswap.html>

Stuck Truck – We have a picture from back in December ->

How Did the Snowfighters Do? - We tried a new company this year, Groundskeeper of Ashland. We'd like to get your feedback on whether this was a positive experience. Please log in to the www.indianbrookcondos.com website and take the poll.



Board of Trustees	Alison Sholock, Brian Lachapelle, Debra Foley, Florence O'Donnell, Lily Zhan, Roland Janbergs, Scott Cellupica
	Next Board meeting will 6:45 PM, 22 April, at 8 Weybridge
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Babblers	Website: www.indianbrookcondos.com