



April 2017



GOODBYE AND HAPPY RETIREMENT to Anita Barney who has done an outstanding job as our Town of Brookfield's Library Director for the past 14 years. We welcome Yvonne Cech who was Croton-on-Hudson's Library Director.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 23 - 29 is National Volunteer Week, a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week in the U.S. was first established via Presidential Proclamation. We thank our Brookfield volunteers who generously participate in town government on boards and commissions, supporting our youth

and adult sports activities, working with local non-profits, religious institutions and our volunteer firemen. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent, please contact the First Selectman's office at 203-775-7301.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled on Monday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Brookfield Town Hall. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet on the Town's [website](#) using the Video on Demand link. The meeting is live streamed and posted the following day on the home page in Video on Demand.

SELECTMEN "MEET AND GREET"

Meet the Selectmen Coffee is scheduled on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Jestors Coffee located at 331 Federal Road. Please feel free to stop by with any questions or to let us know what's on your mind.

BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2017-2018 BUDGET

The Board of Finance Public Hearing for FY 2017/2018 Town and School Operating and Capital Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 133 at Town Hall. This hearing is the final opportunity for residents to express their opinions to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will finalize the budget the week following the Public Hearing, then present the budget at the Annual Town Meeting on May 2. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Town Clerk's office and the town [website](#).

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FY 2017-2018 BUDGET REFERENDUM

Our Annual Town Meeting for FY 2017/2018 Town and School Operating and Capital Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Brookfield High School Auditorium. The Board of Finance's final budget recommendation will be reviewed. The date of the

Budget Referendum is recommended for Tuesday, May 16 and will be set at the Annual Town Meeting.

For more news, announcements and activities, please sign up for Brookfield Matters on the Town's [website](#).

Steve Dunn
First Selectman
Brookfield, CT

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Tax Collector News

Intent to Lien Notices

Real Estate Intent to Lien Notices will be sent out in April for taxes that are still outstanding for the 7-1-2016 and 1-1-2017 billing due dates.

July 2017 Billing

If your Real Estate taxes are escrowed, the bank should request your Real Estate bill. If you change banks or pay off your mortgage, please contact the office to let us know where the bill should be sent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 203-775-7304 or to email us at tax@brookfieldct.gov.

Tax Assessor News

Town Elderly Tax Relief Benefit requirements for the 2016 GRAND LIST (2017/2018 tax bills) are as follows:

1. An applicant or their spouse was 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2016.
2. A person has resided and paid real estate taxes on their residence located in Brookfield for a period of five years immediately prior to application for tax credit. Applicants must be current on their tax payments.
3. The net assessment of an applicant's property shall not exceed the median assessment of \$236,860 for the current 2016 Grand List year.
4. A property must be the legal residence of an applicant and occupied by the applicant more than 183 days of each calendar year.
5. Applicant income must not exceed \$49,280 unmarried and \$60,060 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS Form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If an applicant is not filing an income tax return, copies of all income statements for 2016 must be submitted with an application.
6. Applicant must be the record owner of a property as of October 1, 2016.
7. Applications must be filed between February 1 and May 15 annually.

Town Additional Veteran Exemption requirements for the 2017 GRAND LIST (2018/2019 tax bills) are as follows:

1. Must have form DD214 Discharge filed with the Town Clerk's Office by September 30 of the Grand List year in which a veteran is applying.
2. Veteran must have served during an eligible war period and have been Honorably Discharged.
3. Income must not exceed \$52,700 unmarried and \$58,900 married for the calendar year 2016. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income.
4. Filing period is from February 1 to September 30.

State Elderly Tax Relief Benefit and State Additional Veteran Exemption requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must be the owners and legal residents of Real Property as of October 1 of the filing year. Elderly Tax Relief applicants or their spouse had to be age 65 as of December 31, 2016. There is no age limit for the State Additional Veteran Exemption.
2. Income cannot exceed \$35,200 unmarried and \$42,900 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If an applicant is not filing an income tax return, copies of all income statements for 2016 must be submitted with an application.

National Library Week is April 9-15: Libraries Transform! Visit The Brookfield Library all week for special events and activities.

Retirement Reception for Anita Barney

The Brookfield Library Board and Friends of the Brookfield Library invite you to a reception in honor of Anita Barney on her retirement after 14 years of service to the community.

Please join us on Sunday, April 23, from 2 - 5 p.m. in the Library Community Room to say goodbye to Anita. Fellowship and food all afternoon and live music by The DoCaLin Trio, with presentations at 3 p.m. Registration for this event is strongly encouraged:

<https://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/events/reception-retiring-library-director/>.

Parking is available in the library lot, at The Brookfield Theater for the Arts, and at St. Paul's Church (use the path at the back of the library's parking lot).

Author Event: Michael Zacchea

Ragged Edge: A US Marine's Account of Leading the Iraqi Army Fifth Battalion

Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m.

Brookfield resident and author Michael Zacchea will be at The Brookfield Library to discuss his book, *The Ragged Edge: A US Marine's Account of Leading the Iraqi Army Fifth Battalion*. Michael is a decorated veteran who served in multiple operations in several countries. His philanthropic efforts include helping to create a non-profit organization of military advisers to help Iraqi interpreters immigrate to the U.S., founding the UConn Entrepreneur Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, and founding the CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce. He is also the chair of the Brookfield Democratic Town Committee. Copies of Michael's book will be available for sale and signing. Please register for this free program at <https://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/events/adult-program/>.

Hooked on Llamas, Thursday, April 13, 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

For age three and up. This family program provides plenty of hands-on interactions with a real live llama! There will be time for questions and answers. Children may pet the llama and touch their fiber products. No registration is required.

Programs and Events

Information and registration details for programs for adults (computer classes, concerts, book groups, and both ongoing and special programs):

<http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/adult-events-calendar/>.

Programs for Teens: <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/teen-events-calendar/>.

Programs for Kids: <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/teen-events-calendar/> and <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/kids-events-calendar/storytimes-calendar/>.

The Parks & Recreation Office moved in October 2016 to 162 Whisconier Road. Come visit us during our regular office hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Like us on [Facebook](#) for up to date information on programs, events and cancellations.

18th Annual Flashlight Egg Hunt

Friday, April 7

Just for students in grades 3 - 5! The hunt will be held on the grounds of Town Hall at 8 p.m. sharp and will last approximately 20 minutes. All participants must bring their own flashlights. Bags will be provided for collecting. Cost is \$1 per student, payable on the evening of the hunt in the lobby of the Town Hall. Please be sure to arrive by 7:45 p.m. Pre-registration is appreciated by calling Parks & Rec at (203) 775-7310.

21st Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8

Join the Parks & Rec on the grounds of Town Hall on Saturday, April 8. Additional features include a jellybean counting contest and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Bags will be provided for egg collecting. Cost is \$1 per child, payable on the day of the hunt in the lobby of Town Hall. Rain date is Sunday, April 9. Please be sure to arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time for your child's age group. Pre-registration is appreciated by calling Parks & Rec. at (203) 775-7310.

Age Divisions:

Under 3 at noon

3- 4 year olds at 12:15 p.m.

5 - 6 year olds at 12:30 p.m.

7 - 8 year olds at 12:45 p.m.

Train for a 5K

Are you interested in running a 5K road race (3.1 miles)? Are you a walker who would like to try running? Are you a runner interested in improving your times? Come join Cassie Dunn in a group setting for a series of training runs at the Brookfield High School track. We will train together on Saturdays, then each participant will be given an individualized workout schedule to follow during the week. Each week you will be given new workouts as you progress. Come dressed in layers to run and bring a water bottle. This program will prepare you for the Mother's Day 5K on Sunday, May 14. (Race registration is included in the fee.)



All fitness levels are welcome! Come try a great sport, get fit and make some new friends! Cassie, former BHS cross-country and track coach, is a certified Road Runners Club of America Coach; NASM certified personal trainer, functional training specialist, Pilates and Spinning instructor.

Dates: Saturday, April 8 - Sunday, May 14

Time: 8-9 a.m.

Place: Brookfield High School Track

Fee: \$70

Public Works News

A draft of the updated Town of Brookfield Stormwater Management Plan that will cover the updated permit to be issued by the CT DEEP in July of 2017 -- in addition to the 2016 Stormwater Annual Report -- has been posted to the Town [website](#) for review and comments. Comments can be sent to publicworks@brookfieldct.gov.

Health Department News

The Brookfield Department of Public health invites you to participate in National Public health Week, April 3 - 9.

Get Involved Today - Public health is Everyone's Business!

Join us in celebrating National Public Health Week 2017 and become part of a growing movement to create the healthiest nation in one generation. We're celebrating the power of prevention, advocating for healthy and fair policies, sharing strategies for successful partnerships and championing the role of a strong public health system.

- Join [Generation Public Health](#), a movement to create the healthiest nation in one generation.
- Help the American Public Health Association take 1 billion steps by participating in the jointly sponsored National Walking Day along our beautiful Walking Trail. Join Fellow citizens beginning at 1 p.m. on April 5 in the parking lot adjacent to the Brookfield Police Station.
- FREE PEDOMETERS TO EARLY PARTICIPANTS!
- [Follow us on Twitter](#). And join us for the #NPHWChat on April 5.
- Become an advocate for public health.
- Show your support for public health and prevention
- Take one small step each day for a healthier life.
- Join your community to celebrate National Public Health Week, all year long.

Brookfield Police Department News

The Brookfield Police Department hosts car seat fitting clinics on the first and third Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon by appointment. Please call 203-740-4192 or email carseats@brookfieldct.gov to schedule your appointment. Our next car seat fitting date is on April 19, and Brookfield residency is not required. You can learn more about the program and access the form to complete and bring to your appointment by [clicking here](#).



Thank you to all of those who made our second Coffee with a Cop event on March 18 a success! It was great to have the opportunity to meet and speak with many residents.

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to receive news and information from the Department.

Economic Development News

**Gurski Homestead Master Plan Committee
Calling all Brookfield Residents!**



Brookfield residents have a chance to help create a Master Plan for the Town-owned Gurski Homestead property. The property consists of 18 acres located on 26 Obtuse Hill Road with a barn, two houses, a cemetery and a few small out buildings. The Gurski Homestead Ad Hoc Committee is working with consultants Fitzgerald & Halliday to create a Master Plan for the future use of the property for town residents to enjoy. A community survey has been created to collect resident's thoughts and ideas to help steer the development plan. The survey can be found [here](#).

All residents are invited to an Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration at the Gurski Homestead on April 22 from 1- 3 p.m. The event will include a guided tour, planting of trees and flowers, chickens, free trees and more.

Stay up to date on social media and "like or follow" us on [Facebook](#).

Brookfield Arts Commission



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!

**The 9th Annual
Brookfield Film Festival**

March 31 - April 2, 2017

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 1 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 2 at 3 pm

**Brookfield Senior Center
100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT**

An exciting program of award winning short films from
some of the most prestigious industry competitions.

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

To make reservations, email bacreservations@gmail.com
Or call 203 -740-2034 (Vicki Henninger)



Admission - \$15 (suggested donation)
Includes complimentary glass of wine

Brought to you by the
Brookfield Arts Commission and
the Friends of the Arts of Brookfield, Inc.
in cooperation with the Brookfield Senior Center

For more information, please visit our website: brookfieldartscommission.org

This is an adult program. Anyone under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Commission on Aging

**VETERANS INFORMATION SEMINAR
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

**Brookfield Commission on Aging Presents:
A Seminar on Veterans Benefits and Information from Local, State and Federal Governments**

Saturday, April 29 from 1-3 p.m.
Brookfield Senior Center
100 Pocono Road
Brookfield, CT

Panel Participants:

Lt Col Michael Zacchea, USMC (Ret)
Director, UCONN Entrepreneur Bootcamp for Veterans
Moderator

Mr. Jose Crego
Counselor
Danbury Vet Center

Chief Robin Montgomery
Brookfield Police Dept (Ret)

Please RSVP by April 21
coaging@brookfieldct.gov

Veterans News



Letter from Italy, 1944 is a story for all soldiers in all wars who cope with PTSD. This is a true soldier's story, told in music. Set against the heroic background of the elite 10th Mountain Division's epic WWII battles, Grammy-nominated Sarah Meneely-Kyder's lush, varied voice brings to life the true story of a soldier and his family bravely facing PTSD in this timely, semi-staged work. A co-production of the GMChorale and Hartford Chorale, with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the concert features Jack Anthony Pott as the young medic, father and physician - a role he created in the highly praised 2013 premiere of this work. Joseph D'Eugenio, GMChorale Artistic

Director, will lead the two chorales, soloists, and the Hartford Symphony in this riveting production.

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2017
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mortensa Hall, The Bushnell

Please visit this website for full details and tickets: <http://www.hartfordchorale.org/letter-from-italy-1944/>.

Celebrate Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day/Arbor Day
at
Gurski Homestead

26 Obtuse Hill Road, Brookfield, CT
April 22, 2017
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



- **Help plant new trees and a flower garden at the Homestead**
- **FREE trees to take home (first come - first served)**
- **Learn about pollinators and plant a pollinator garden**
- **Prepare a pollinator seed to take home**
- **Check out springtime chickens and baby chicks**
- **Take a hike through Gurski Homestead & Williams Park**
- **Guest speaker to discuss conservation ideas for your home and garden**
- **Give us your ideas about the future of the Homestead**

Please complete the community survey to provide your thoughts on the future use of the Gurski Homestead:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gurski>



**Please join us for public participation
of long range plans for
the Homestead at 3:00 p.m.**



The Brookfield Historical Society will host a talk by author C.D. (Pete) Peterson on Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Brookfield Museum, 165 Whisconier Road (Junction of Routes 25 and 133) in Brookfield Center, CT.

The multi-media program will present an excerpt and visualization from Peterson's work currently in progress, *After the War*. The program will focus on a child's recollections of life during WWII. Black out drills, rationing, separation, fear, patriotism, and much more are among the memories fixed in those who were children during the war.

Peterson, a longtime resident of Brookfield, enlisted in the Navy and was the second youngest naval aviator (President George H.W. Bush was the youngest). He served on the Carrier USS Wasp. He has been active as a past member of the Town's Board of Finance and was VP of Planning and Marketing at Danbury Hospital. His other works include several business books and the History of Danbury Hospital.

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