



April 2018



### **National Volunteer Week**

April 15 - 21 is National Volunteer Week, a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 by Presidential Proclamation. We thank our Brookfield volunteers who generously participate in town government on boards and commissions; support our youth and adult sports activities; work with local non-profits; and our volunteer EMTs and firefighters. We recognize their selfless contributions and the immeasurable impact of their time and energy throughout the year. If you are interested in

volunteering your time and talent, please call the First Selectmen's office at 203-775-7301.

### **Town Budget Process in April**

The Board of Finance will finalize the capital budget during the coming week, then present the budget at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the Brookfield High School Auditorium. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Town Clerk's office and the town [website](#).

### **Board of Selectmen Meeting**

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is Monday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, Meeting Room 133. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet on the town's [website](#).

### **Special Town Meeting**

Prior to the Board of Selectmen Meeting on May 7, a Special Town Meeting is proposed to be scheduled at 6:45 p.m. in Meeting Room 133. The Conservation Commission requested the sale of town property at 18 Junction Road and to use the proceeds toward other conservation projects, particularly the Gurski Homestead property to restore the barn and front farmhouse. The Planning Commission approved a CGS 8-24 Referral request on the sale and the Selectmen held a Public Hearing on February 5 to receive public comment on the sale. The property is not connected to other open space properties owned by the town. The Will of Paul W. Davis had bequeathed this property to the Conservation Commission, which has been managing the property and renting the house. In a review of the land records, there is no encumbrance to the sale of the 2.32 acres and home, which was built approximately in 1962.

### **Land Records**

Following up on our previous announcement, we have closed online access to town land records through the CT Portal. We will not allow online access to town land records through the CT portal while we review how to best redact sensitive information. I want to reassure you that while the original records can't be altered, we will block online access until we've properly redacted them.

### **Selectmen "Meet and Greet"**

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, April 28, from 9 - 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.

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 Assessor

### **Town Elderly Tax Relief Benefit requirements for the 2017 GRAND LIST (2018/2019 tax bills) are as follows:**

1. An applicant or their spouse was 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2017.
2. A person has resided in and paid real estate taxes on their Brookfield residence 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 \$237,090 for the current 2017 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 \$49,420 unmarried and \$60,200 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2017 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 2017 must be submitted with an application
6. Applicant must be the record owner of a property as of October 1, 2017.
7. Applications must be filed between February 1 and May 15 annually.

### **Town Additional Veteran Exemption requirements for the 2018 GRAND LIST (2019/2020 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 2017. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2017 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, 2017. There is no age limit for the State Additional Veteran Exemption.
2. Income cannot exceed \$35,300 unmarried and \$43,000 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2017 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 2017 must be submitted with an application.

## Tax Collector

### **Intent to Lien Notices**

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

### **July 2018 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 sold or no longer have a car, please make sure you give the required documentation to the Assessor's office so that you are not billed erroneously. If you have transferred your registration to a new car you do not need to contact the Assessor.

## Public Works

We would like to start drainage projects for the upcoming paving season but winter weather will not go away. Our machines and crews are being prepped in between snow storms. Longer term weather patterns appear to be changing in a favorable way. Drainage work is being scheduled for early April - if it does not snow before then.

## Brookfield Library

### **Passport to Connecticut Libraries: April 2 - 30**

To celebrate National Library Week during April, over 100 CT libraries are participating in this program, which encourages residents to explore the diversity of Connecticut's public libraries. Pick up your passport and list of participating libraries here at the library, then take your passport along as you visit other libraries. At each visit, show your library card, and library staff will stamp your passport and give you a token gift. Visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport to a participating library by May 7, and you will be entered into a statewide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18+) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18).

### **Tax Law Changes: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017**

Presented by Cliff Ennico, Attorney and Author

Monday, April 2, 7 p.m.

The "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017" contains a number of provisions that dramatically affect small businesses and their owners. Do you need to change the way you do business to get the maximum benefit from these changes? If so, how? These questions and more will be covered in this fast-paced, entertaining program. Please register for this free event.

**Active Aggressor Class with Sgt. Jeffrey Osuch, Brookfield PD**

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.

As much as we would like to say it isn't, Active Aggressor situations are occurring far too frequently in schools, shopping malls, places of employment, churches and on the street. Today, everyone should be asking themselves, "Am I prepared to react to an active aggressor situation, and what will I do?" This class will give you direction on what you should do if confronted with an active shooter event. Class size is limited, and registration is required for this adult class. It is also open to interested teens and older children attending with a parent or guardian.

**Homefront: A Memoir from World War II**

**Presented by Author C. D. Peterson**

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m.

Local author C. D. "Pete" Peterson, accompanied by photos and music from the era, will give a talk on his recently released book, HOME FRONT: A MEMOIR FROM WWII. In his book, Peterson portrays the fear, patriotism, and turbulence of his New England farm family on the home front, and how a return to normal evaded the family's reach.

Visit [www.homefrontmemoir.com](http://www.homefrontmemoir.com) for more information. Please register for this free program.

## Conservation Commission



## **Celebrate Earth Day & Arbor Day**

### **@ Gurski Homestead**

**26 Obtuse Hill Road, Brookfield, CT**

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

**10:30 am to 12:00 noon**

- Help Plant Trees and a Flower Garden at the Homestead
- 20 Free Trees to Take Home (First Come - First Served)
- Learn About Pollinators and Help Plant a Pollinator Garden at the Homestead
- Prepare a Pollinator Seed to Take Home
- Take a Hike Through Gurski Homestead & Williams Park
- Anthony from Shakespeare's Garden will discuss gardening and planting techniques



## Brookfield Police Department

The Department hosts car seat installations and checks on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 8 a.m. - noon. You can schedule your appointment today by calling 203-740-4192 or emailing [carseats@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:carseats@brookfieldct.gov).

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to get the latest news and updates

## Brookfield Historical Society

Monday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. The Brookfield Historical Society will host a presentation on the 143rd Military Police Company, which is part of the Connecticut National Guard. The presentation will focus on the unit's wartime experience during Operation Iraqi Freedom and will be both a lecture and a book signing by author and former Army Master Sergeant Marc Youngquist. This will take place at the Brookfield Museum, located at 165 Whisconier Road.

In his book, Youngquist provides a firsthand narrative of the efforts to recruit, train and prepare an Iraqi Police Force in 2003-2004, and the dangers the soldiers of the 143rd faced as a result. This account provides an eye-opening vision, putting the reader in the thick of the action with this unit's brave men and women.

Admission is free and complimentary refreshments will be offered.

## Brookfield VFW Post

The Brookfield Veterans of Foreign War Post 10201 is calling all area veterans and their families to attend an Open House on Saturday, April 14, starting at 11 a.m. at the Brookfield Museum, located at 165 Whisconier Road.

Joseph Beal, Post Commander, encourages all former service members to bring family members and come out and meet other fellow veterans. This social event is open to all veterans, whether a VFW member or not. "Recognition of our Community's Veterans is essential and the Open House is to express our appreciation." Complimentary refreshments will be available.

## Brookfield Commission on Aging

### **Veterans Seminar**

Saturday, April 28 at 1 p.m.

To be held at Brookfield Senior Center (100 Pocono Road).  
Topics will include local and state benefits, current status of Brookfield VFW and more.

Please register at [coaging@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:coaging@brookfieldct.gov) so we know how many to expect.

## Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women in Service!



# Celebrating the **100th** anniversary of women in service!



**Cut-off date for applicants-  
Sunday, April 22, 2018**

Now accepting applications for all  
CT Women Veterans of all eras;  
At this time, we are honoring only  
WWII Women Veterans.

**Date of Event:  
To Be Determined**

If you are or know of any women who  
served during WWII and would like to be  
recognized for their service, please contact  
Sal Sena Sr. (860) 614- 6188 or [4mermarine69@gmail.com](mailto:4mermarine69@gmail.com)

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Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, P.O. Box 5106, Brookfield, CT 06804

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