



August 2017



#### NEW DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE

Sidewalks and amenities are now being built on Federal Road. The underground work has been completed, and we have moved the first telephone pole on the West side of the street with the other poles to be moved shortly. The new granite curbing will be installed within the next two weeks, then the actual sidewalks will be placed. Please bear with us as we continue to build a whole new downtown. The project is on schedule and under budget. Stop by and see what your new downtown is going to look like. It is going to change dramatically over the next two

months.

#### PHASE II OF THE STREETSCAPE

As we reported last month, Phase II is fully funded with \$865,000 in grants and \$475,000 in town funds. We've hired a firm to do the actual technical plans of Phase II, and will begin meeting with them during early August. We want to get State approval of the plans in time to begin building Phase II in 2018. This is a very aggressive goal, but we are working diligently to meet it.

#### NEW SIGNAGE LAWS FOR THE DOWNTOWN AREA

In reviewing our laws, we felt that the downtown area required new ordinances that control the size and construction of signs that businesses can place. Our goal is to have signs that have a New England style feel. We have passed new laws restricting the size of the signs (smaller), placement (not on sidewalks), and height (lower), with restricted lighting options. We feel that these new ordinances will greatly help in keeping the overall design of the downtown beautiful and attractive to both residents and potential businesses.

#### AD HOC SENIOR TAXES COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen has approved an ad hoc committee to study the current tax credits and deferrals available to senior citizens and recommend changes. Residents who are interested in being appointed to the ad hoc committee may call the First Selectman's office at 203-775-7301.

#### AD HOC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

We will be proposing to the Board of Selectman the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the town's facilities and playing fields. We have a number of projects that

the town may undertake in the coming years -- possible new or upgraded schools, police station changes, a new library and other civic improvements. Any of these projects might impact our current playing fields, so we need to ensure that we don't lose any of them. We need to use our plan of development to determine exactly what may change. If a field is affected, we need to decide how to replace it, and where it fits in a cohesive, overall model that considers all of the possible changes and addresses them. This calls for one master plan that can be used as a detailed template to meet our needs.

#### UPGRADE AT EVERSOURCE FACILITY OFF OF NORTH MOUNTAIN ROAD

Eversource will be upgrading its facilities on Prange Road off of North Mountain Road to meet current and future anticipated needs. This construction will go on throughout the summer. They will also be replacing the high voltage lines that run from this facility starting later in the summer.

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting is scheduled on Monday, August 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookfield Town Hall. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet at [www.brookfieldct.gov](http://www.brookfieldct.gov) using the Board Meetings link. The meeting is live streamed and posted the following day on the home page in Board Meetings link.

#### SELECTMEN "MEET AND GREET"

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, August 26, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A, 156 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 Collector

The last day to pay taxes is August 1, 2017. You can pay in the office or on-line; if you have mailed your payment it must have a U.S. Postal Service postmark. Any payments received after August 1 will be considered delinquent. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from the tax or penalty. There is a \$20 service charge for all returned checks.

Visit the Town of Brookfield website at [www.brookfieldct.gov](http://www.brookfieldct.gov) to pay online by credit card or Echeck. There is a fee for this service. You may also view your tax bills online.

Payments can also be taken by phone using your credit card or echeck. Fees apply for these transactions as well. The number for the automated system is 1-877-271-5230.

Payments made by electronic checks from your bank account are sometimes delayed. The money will be removed from your account for processing, but the bank may not get the check in the mail as you have requested. If the payment is received after the grace period, the Tax Collector must look at the postmark to determine if the payment is to be considered on time. If there is no postmark then the Tax Collector must consider the payment as late. CT State Statute 12-146 clearly states, "No tax or installment therefor shall be construed to be delinquent under the provision of this section if the envelope containing the amount due as such tax is payable, bears a postmark showing a date within the time allowed by state statute for the payment of such tax or installment". The law does not refer to check dates or banking records so U.S. Postmark is the only legal writing tax collectors can accept. If you need to make payment this way, please give the bank plenty of time for processing. Also, make sure the tax bill information is clearly written on the check so that we credit the correct account.

A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed if you wish to receive a receipt. Taxes are payable at Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road or by mail addressed to TAX COLLECTOR, P.O. BOX 508, BROOKFIELD, CT 06804-0508.

### **Delinquent Taxes**

If you are delinquent and need a release for the Department of Motor Vehicles, you will need to pay all your taxes. Releases generally take 24-48 hours to be processed through the DMV website.

If you have any questions, please call 203-775-7304.

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To sign up for an email reminder, please go to the Tax Collector's website page at

## Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office held our Annual Top Dog Contest on July 21. We had so many adorable entries. The "TOP DOG" voted for was "OSCAR".

Many thanks to all the sponsors that helped make this event happen: Brookfield Animal Hospital, Waggin Train, A Paw Print and Magic Touch Grooming.

See you all next year!

## Public Works

Our regional and annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday September 23. The location will be the Pettibone School, 2 Picket District Road in New Milford. Collection will start at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. This is a free event for Brookfield residents.

## Economic Development

### **Brookfield Town Center Streetscape**

All but four of the 28 new catch basins and associated storm drain piping have been set. A new Frontier Communication pole has been set at the Superior Service corner, and one pole was taken down at 825 Federal Road. Five new Eversource poles have been delivered and are sitting on the ground near The Hearth Restaurant, where they will be set in a couple weeks, probably during the evening hours. About 700 linear feet of granite curbing gets delivered the first week of August. We'll soon start installing curbing and the sidewalk at Webster Bank, proceeding north. Brookfield Police are doing a great job managing traffic flow and providing safe access to vehicles wanting to park.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Greg Dembowski at 203-733-7209.

## Park & Rec

There is still time to register for a wide array of summer camp programs. Registration is convenient; simply call us at 203-775-7310 and you may register over the phone when paying by credit card. Our Program Guide is available [online](#).

Our annual Concerts in the Park series continues on Friday nights in August from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Town Hall Bandstand. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to enjoy free, live music at this family-friendly venue. Check out a complete schedule of [artists and dates](#). We have one more outdoor movie to enjoy this summer. More details available [here](#).

Beach passes for the season are now half-price and are available for purchase at the Parks and Recreation Office, 162 Whisconier Road. You pay \$47.50 for a family pass, which allows you to enjoy the Town Beach for the rest of our summer season. Daily passes continue to be available at the gate for Brookfield residents for \$7 per person per day. Brookfield residents age 65 and over are admitted for free at the gate and should show their driver's license as proof of age and residency.

"Anyday" tickets to Lake Compounce are still available at deeply discounted prices. Tickets are \$29 for either adult or junior tickets - that's more than a \$19 savings on the price of an adult ticket at the gate. Tickets are available for purchase through August 25 during our regular office hours.

Did you know that Brookfield Parks and Recreation is on Facebook? "Like us" to receive timely updates on events and cancellations by clicking [here](#).

## Brookfield Police Department



We continue to host car seat fittings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8 a.m to noon by appointment. Please call 203-740-4192 or email [carseats@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:carseats@brookfieldct.gov) to schedule your appointment. Our next car seat fitting date is on August 2, 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](#).

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

## Brookfield CARES



Hope and Support groups meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at 103 Mill Plain Road, Danbury.

# C.A.R.E.S. Hope & Support Group

Meetings every Monday

7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

**New Location:**

C.A.R.E.S. Office

103 Mill Plain Rd

Danbury, CT 06811

Staff can be reached day or night by calling: 855-406-0246

Receive information and resources about everything from how to enhance family communication to community health concerns by subscribing to our [newsletter](#).

We want to hear from you! Brookfield Cares is always open to suggestions, so email us at [info@brookfield-cares.org](mailto:info@brookfield-cares.org) or [submit](#) an idea or suggestion.

Anonymously drop off your prescription and non-prescription medications 24/7 in the drop box located in the Brookfield Police Department's Lobby.

## Historical Society



**BROOKFIELD MUSEUM  
HOSTS  
LECTURE AND BOOKSIGNING  
ON THE  
INCREDIBLE KOREAN WAR HORSE "RECKLESS"  
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, AT 7:30 P.M.**

At 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 7, at the Brookfield Museum, located at the intersection of Routes 25 and 133 in Brookfield Center, author Janet Barrett will present a lecture and book signing on her work, *They Called Her Reckless — A True Story of War, Love And One Extraordinary Horse*. The book centers on the Marines of the Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon during the Korean War. They acquired a small pony to haul ammunition up the steep hills to the front lines.

What they got however was a real-life hero. Reckless, the courageous and indomitable warhorse stood with her buddies for two years during the war, saving lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who knew her.

Barrett's experiences as a horsewoman gave her a particular appreciation for the tight bond that developed between Reckless and her fellow Marines. She has been fascinated by horses all her life, and for 25 years almost obsessively rode, owned, and cared for them. The author's first book was *On The Fence: A Parent's Handbook of Horseback Riding* (Wiley Publishing). She has also written about health, sports, and education, for a host of specialty publications, first as a staff writer and later through her own company, Janet Barrett Communications. In addition, she has written for TV, radio, and the public relations field. Raised in New York, she graduated from Indiana University with an B.S. in Communications, and now lives with her husband in Connecticut.