



December 2017



Happy Holidays and Thank You from First Selectman Steve Dunn

All of us at Town Hall wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season! I want to thank the residents of Brookfield for electing Sue Slater and me for another two years, and we welcome Selectman-elect Harry Shaker in continuing Brookfield's progress! The Board of Selectmen and Town and Board newly elected officials will be sworn into office at a ceremony on Sunday, December 3 at 1 p.m. at Center Elementary School. Congratulations to the following newly elected officials:

Town Clerk: Andrea DiStephan

Board of Selectmen: Steve Dunn, Sue Slater, Harry Shaker

Board of Finance: Ricky Ramos, Daniel Devorsetz, Eileen Koch, Lisa Erman, Glenn Rooney

Board of Education: Debbie Brooks, Rosa Fernandes, Jen Laden, Joy Greenstein

Board of Assessment Appeals: Julie Kerton, Julie Blick, Gerard Friedrich

Planning Commission: Bruce MacDonald, Paul Barba, Linda Taylor

Zoning Commission: Chris Barnes, Tony Fernandes, Erik Kukk

Zoning Board of Appeals: Joe Fuccillo, Louise Trojanowski-Marconi, Juliana Zack

2017 United Way of Western Connecticut's Hometown Hero for the Town of Brookfield - Julie Osborne Blick

Every community has unsung heroes, people who distinguish themselves by giving back through philanthropy or volunteering, who make a significant difference and do whatever is needed. Brookfield resident Julie Osborne Blick has been chosen as the *2017 Hometown Hero* as a result of her volunteering and commitment to our town. Julie is an active member of the Conservation Commission, which oversees the care of the town-owned Open Space properties; she assists the commission with its annual FarmFest activities at the Gurski Homestead. She has been a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals and was recently elected to a four-year term. Julie previously volunteered with the Girl Scouts as a leader and member of the service unit. Julie works full time for the town of New Fairfield as Assistant Tax Assessor. She is married to husband Rob, with whom she has two children, Rose, a graduate of the University of Vermont and Kenny, a senior in high school. Julie loves to be outdoors, enjoying her hobbies of beekeeping, hiking and the company of her dog, cats, rabbits and chickens.

Board of Selectmen Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting is on Monday, December 4, at Brookfield Town Hall, Meeting Room 133. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet on the Town's [website](#).

Selectmen "Meet and Greet"

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. There will be no "Meet and Greet" on the fourth Saturday in December due to the holidays. We will be back on schedule for Saturday, January 27, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Dunkin Donuts, located at 270 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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Town Clerk

It is with great honor that I'd like to introduce myself to the community. My family and I decided to call Brookfield home 12 years ago. I was born and raised in New York, graduating from Queens College, and worked at New York University in the Real Estate division before staying home with my children. I volunteered in the community through the MOMS Club, Center School, Huckleberry Hill Elementary School, Girl Scouts, and the Brookfield Soccer Club. Currently, I volunteer with NewArts. When I returned to work part-time, I worked at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School as a lunch and recess monitor and Keyboarding instructor for several years before spending two years in the Town School Office as the Human Resources Coordinator. I am now honored to have the privilege to serve the community as Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk's office is a busy and exciting office staffed with a friendly, knowledgeable, and professional staff. As the custodians of all public documents submitted to the Town Clerk, our Assistant Town Clerks, Mary Ellen Demers and Michelle DiBella along with Robin Prunty take pride in the services the office provides. I feel very fortunate to join the team.

I encourage you visit us at Town Hall.

Regards,
Andrea DiStephan
Town Clerk

Tax Collector

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes for the Grand List of 2016 is due January 1, 2018. Bills were mailed in June. If you purchased property after June and did not receive the bill, please contact our office for a copy. Your bill can also be found online at www.brookfieldct.gov.

If a different bank will be paying the installment or if you will be paying the installment instead of a bank, please call (203-775-7304) or email us at

tax@brookfieldct.gov with the new information.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills

These bills are for new or replacement vehicles registered after October 1, 2016 and before August 1, 2017. The bills will be mailed in December and will be due January 1, 2018.

Payments

Payments must be received or U.S. postmarked no later than February 1, 2018 to avoid an interest penalty. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.

Credit Cards and echecks: For your convenience your credit /debit cards and echecks can be made ONLINE at www.brookfieldct.gov. Please note that there are fees to use this service.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Economic & Community Development

The commercial space along Station Road within Brookfield Village is almost complete. New tenants will be setting up shop in the near future.



Public Works

The Department of Public Works is geared up and ready to go for the snow season. Until it snows, we are very busy keeping our drainage system in good working condition and removing potentially dangerous trees and limbs from the town right of way.

Social Services

The Medicare Saving Program (MSP) has been cut as a result of the approved State budget for 2018. The MSP is a very important program that helps low-income seniors have a little extra in their pocket each month. It pays for their Medicare Part B premiums and automatically enrolls them in the Federal "Extra Help" Program, which helps pay for their Medicare D prescription drug premiums and co-pays. For very low-income participants, it also offers secondary coverage for Medicare. The new budget decreases qualifying income limits, making many ineligible. Many on the program will be receiving a letter from the Department of Social Services (DSS). For most, the extra help with Medicare prescription plans and drugs will remain until the end of 2018, but people who also receive help with medical costs and Part B premiums may

lose those benefits. Please wait to hear from the DSS about your specific situation before calling Brookfield Social Services.

CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). We continue taking applications for CEAP for those who heat their homes with oil or other deliverable fuels, and new applicants who use any source of heat. Qualifying income is no more than \$34,366.28 for an individual and \$44,940.52 for a couple. Asset limits are \$12,000 for renters and \$15,000 for homeowners. Please make an appointment and bring the following:

1. current income information - this includes: Social Security (can use bank statement deposit), employment (one month's worth of pay stubs), unemployment (claim form from the DOL) and self-employment (you will need to have a 2016 tax return and current ledger of self-employment income)
2. current bank statements from all bank accounts
3. an electric bill (even if you don't heat with electricity).

You will also need to know the names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers of all persons that live in your home, whether or not they are immediate family members.

If you have any questions concerning what to bring or to set up an appointment for assistance, please call the Social Services office at 203-775-7312.

Brookfield Fire Marshal

The Brookfield Fire Marshal's office would like to remind all residents that each home needs to be labeled with the street number. Numbers should be three inches high and made of a durable and clearly visible material. The number should be placed above, on, or at the side of the proper door of each building, so that the number can be seen plainly from the street line. Whenever a building is set more than 75 feet from the street line, the number shall be placed near the walk, drive way or common entrance to such building and upon a gate post, fence, post or other appropriate place so as to be discernible easily from the street line. This will allow the Fire Department and Police to find your home in an emergency.

Brookfield Library

Battleship USS Connecticut, One of the Great White Fleet Monday, December 4, 7 p.m.

Military Historian Mark Albertson returns to The Brookfield Library to talk about the history of the Battleship USS Connecticut, commissioned in 1906, was considered the most advanced ship in the U.S. Navy at that time, and was one of the Great White Fleet that traveled 46,729 miles around the world. He will describe the experiences of those on board and the more than 30 ports they visited. The USS Connecticut also served as the flagship during the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown Colony. During World War I, The USS Connecticut served as a vessel to train more than 1,000 sailors, and transported troops and supplies to the war front.

Hour of Code December 4 & 6, 5 p.m.

Join us for this year's Hour of Code! Millions of people across the world will be participating in this annual event to help expand computer science education while having fun. You will learn to create your own programs using Scratch.

The program is designed for those going into grades 4-8. The library has a limited number of laptops, but you are welcome to bring your own. No software required, just the ability to connect to our wireless network. Please note that each will have different activities, so feel free to come to both!

Movie Matinees: Free Showings, Popcorn & Soda!

Saturday, December 9 at 1 p.m.

Wind River: Written and directed by Taylor Sheridan and starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen. A veteran tracker with the Fish and Wildlife Service helps to investigate the murder of a young Native American woman, and uses the case as a means of seeking redemption for an earlier act of irresponsibility which ended in tragedy. Rated R for strong violence, a rape, disturbing images.

Saturday, December 30 at 1 p.m.

Victoria and Abdul: Based on the book by Shrabani Basu and directed by Stephen Frears; starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal. Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim. Rated PG-13.

For additional events and information, please go to our [website](#) and look at all of our [event calendars](#).

Brookfield Police Department

We will host our third annual Stuff-A-Cruiser toy drive to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Raymour and Flanigan parking lot (14 Candlewood Lake Road). Please take a few minutes to visit us at the Stuff-A-Cruiser drive with a new, unwrapped toy. While there, enjoy fresh coffee from Candlewood Coffee and cookies from the Chick-fil-A cow. Also, kids can speak with officers and tour the Brookfield Police Department's and Brookfield Fire Department Candlewood Company's vehicles. Visit the Department's [Facebook page](#) to learn more.



BROOKFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

3rd Annual Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive



For

Connecticut Children's Medical Center



December 9th
10:00am - 4:00pm

**Connecticut
Children's
MEDICAL CENTER**

Please bring your **NEW/UNWRAPPED** gift to:

Raymour and Flanigan Plaza
#14 Candlewood Lake Road

Gift Ideas/Suggestions

- Lego and Duplo Kits (all sizes and types)
- Uno Cards/Playing cards
- Infant Rattles
- Board Books
- Action Figures
- Hero Play (boys & girls)
- Barbie Dolls
- Baby Dolls
- My little pony sets
- Matchbox Cars
- Crayola Crayons (small sets)
- Washable markers, color markers, thin line markers, color pencils and pens
- Velvet art kits
- Coloring books
- Activity books
- Character toys/game (Paw Patrol, Disney Princess, Star Wars, Thomas and Friends)

Cash donation will also be accepted in lieu of gifts

Check us out on Facebook for more gift ideas: Brookfield Police Department

Raymour & Flanigan
FURNITURE | MATTRESSES



Follow us on @Brookfield_PD



LIKE us on Brookfield Police Department

Health Department

December is a time for celebrating the holidays, but is also a time for reflection upon the health and safety of you and your loved ones. Folks are traveling, partying, exchanging gifts, putting up festive holiday decorations. The Brookfield Health Department reminds you that each of these happy activities are not without risk.

For those who travel, especially those who may be driving long distances, fatigue may be a factor in their safety. Stay awake, stay alert and take frequent breaks or pull over and rest. Impaired driving puts everyone at risk. It is better to arrive late than not at all. Also, excess celebration at holiday parties may endanger not only you but your loved ones as well. Choose a designated driver or use a rental driver if the temptation to over-imbibing at that holiday party ensues.

The holiday season of decorating and gift-giving also means a rise in fire risk or injury from dangerous toys. Make sure all electrical decorations are URL-listed and used in a safe manner. Secure your fireplaces with fire screens and remove all ashes only after they are completely out. A significant risk to your health and safety may also arise from space heaters. Not only can they produce fires but defective ones may produce carbon monoxide: a colorless, odorless gas which may be highly toxic. Generators should NEVER be used indoors or in a closed space such as a garage or breezeway.

Be alert to dangerous toys as well, including those which pose a choking hazard to young children. Remember, a child's windpipe is only the diameter of his or her index

finger. Other toys such as those that shoot missiles, no matter how soft the missile, may be dangerous in close quarters or to the unprotected eye.

Lastly, December is a good time to think about healthy resolutions for 2018. Don't postpone that physical exam, mammogram, or colonoscopy. As its own holiday gift, the Brookfield Health Department will be offering free Radon kits to those who have not taken advantage of the offer in the past. If you have previously obtained a free kit, give someone else a chance to test their own homes for Radon, the second most common cause of lung cancer. Test kits will not be available to those who took them in the past and failed to use them.

Brookfield Conservation Commission

The Brookfield Conservation Commission would like to remind residents that Connecticut now has simple standards for recycling in all towns in Connecticut. Please go to www.recyclect.com and you can see exactly what you can recycle through the Recycle Wizard.

Historical Society



Brookfield Historical Society Hosts Traditional Christmas Open House

Barbara Golde, Exhibit Director for the Brookfield Historical Society, holds up a vintage Howdy Doody Puppet, one of the many classic dolls, toys and other items reminiscent of Christmases gone by that will be on display at the Brookfield Museum's 7th annual Traditional Christmas Open House. The event will take place Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10 from 11 a.m - 4 p.m.

Santa will be stopping by with his helpers bearing complimentary treats for the kids. The sight of operating model trains in a winter display will entertain children of all ages, while the sound of antique music boxes will fill the air with well-known Christmas musical classics. A holiday scavenger hunt for the children is among the planned activities. Boy and Girl mannequins from Macy's New York store front, displayed in the 1940s, will be on exhibit, as well as antique toys dating back from the turn of the century to the 1950s, and old-time Christmas decorations will bring back memories of holidays past.

et everyone into the spirit of the season.

It's all free and attendees will be treated to complimentary homemade Christmas cookies and assorted pastries, as well as hot chocolate and cider. In addition, some hand-crafted items will be on sale from our gift shop, The Brookfield Museum is located at 165 Whisconier Road (junction of Routes 25 and 133) in Brookfield Center. This event is must see visit for adults and children that is guaranteed to get everyone into the spirit of the season.

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