

# BROOKFIELD SPOTLIGHT



## Message from your First Selectman

January 2020

WELCOME 2020! At the close of another year, we gratefully pause to wish you a healthy and happy New Year!

### **Town saves \$276,000 in Interest Expense**

The town went to market and issued new bonds to replace \$3.6 million in existing bonds, taking advantage of lower interest rates. The town will save \$276,000 after expenses over the life of the bonds, which were issued with the same maturity dates as the original bonds. There was very strong interest in the bonds, with eight underwriters bidding on the issuance. The town's strong financial position and balance sheet enabled us to obtain a much lower interest rate.

### **Supermarket in the Town Center**

The principals of this project presented to the town's development services team this past week. They propose a mixed-use project, with a 10,000-square-foot supermarket and additional retail on the first floor, and market-rate apartments on the second and third floors. It will be located next to the Still River Greenway and will include a parking lot dedicated to municipal use with 36 parking spaces as currently planned.

**Steve Dunn**  
First Selectman



## Mark Your Calendar

### **Coffee with the Selectmen**

Saturday, January 25, from 9 - 10:30 a.m.  
at Chick-fil-A, 156 Federal Road. We encourage you to stop by with any questions or concerns.

### **Boy Scout Troop 5 Christmas Tree Pickup Fundraiser**

The Troop is again doing its Christmas Tree Pickup service fundraiser, collecting



## Important Alerts

### **Assessor**

If you are 65 or older as of December 31, 2019 or are a veteran who served during wartime, you may be eligible for a state and/or town tax benefit. If you are already receiving benefits, paperwork will be mailed to you the beginning of February. Please remember that when applying, we will need a copy of your tax return and proof of all your income, including Social

trees on Saturday, January 4 and Saturday, January 11. Please visit their [website](#) for the on-line form to automatically add your request to their list. You will receive a reminder email on the Thursday evening before your scheduled Saturday pickup. If you have any questions or need to change a requested pickup date, email [tree@brookfieldtroop5.org](mailto:tree@brookfieldtroop5.org). Thank you for your support!



## Library

Start the year off learning something new at the Library! Enjoy an interesting *Beatles* '68 program, or learn about the 2020 Census from a bureau specialist. There are many wonderful activities offered this month at the Library for everyone! New children's story times begin, and there are many winter-themed activities to keep all ages busy: book clubs, writing groups, matinees and movies, Mah Jong, and adult coloring. Come visit our beautiful Art Gallery, which will feature the exquisite quilts of Judy Ross of Avon, CT. Judy will hold a reception on January 12 at 3 p.m. And don't forget about the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Teddy Bear Sleepover on January 31! Please visit our [website](#) for details on all of our other offerings.



## Parks & Rec

Happy New Year! The Winter 2020 Program Guide is available on our [website](#), featuring a variety of ways to keep your New Year's resolutions and all members of the family active this winter. Registration is ongoing for all of our Youth Basketball Leagues. Full details on our programs for grades 1 through 12 are available [here](#).

New basketball programs have been added for ages 2-3 and 3-5, starting in

Security. The town [website](#) will be updated when we receive the guidelines for the 2019 grand list. Please contact the Assessor's office on or after February 1 for details.

## Center School Ad-Hoc Committee

The Ad-Hoc Committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in August to determine the best use for Center School when it's vacated in 2022, after the new school is completed.

The committee will begin by requesting information from a number of groups, clubs and organizations in town to identify and prioritize their space needs. The committee will send the survey to the chairs of all Brookfield boards and commission the first week of January. It should take less than 10 minutes to complete it, and groups will have 10 days to respond.

*Please watch for the survey.*

The survey will help the committee make an informed recommendation on the future use of the school to the Board of Selectmen. The committee thanks you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chairman Bob Zinser at [razinser@yahoo.com](mailto:razinser@yahoo.com)

## Public Works

The DPW is in full snow mode. Please be safe and take care near the plows, keeping in mind that just because you see the truck does not mean the driver sees you -- especially now that the days are short and the sun is low in the sky. When you see a plow truck coming, please back away from the road as far as possible. Snow and ice is thrown at high speeds and in large volumes that can cause great damage and injury. Do not let your children play in the snow banks along the edge of the road. It can be deadly.

January. Full details and registration available [here](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#) to receive timely updates on program information, upcoming events, weather-related cancellations and more.

### 5th Annual Brookfield Police Department Toy Drive

Brookfield Police delivered over 2,000 toys to Yale New Haven Hospital for the Holidays! See the [News Channel 12](#) story on the delivery of the toys!

### Tax Collector

Taxes are due January 1 for second installment of real estate and personal property. The motor vehicle supplemental bills are also due January 1. The last day to pay without penalty is February 3, 2020. Please see the Legal Notice for specific details on the town [website](#).

### Town Clerk

The deadline for enrolled party members to transfer from one party to the other for the April 28, 2020 Presidential Primary is January 28. Further information is on the town [website](#).



## Schools

### New School Project

Since September, Dr. John Barile has facilitated multiple meetings with Tecton Architects to discuss the new school, designed to meet the needs of our students and instructional programs. This collaboration includes elementary classroom, special education, pupil personnel services, specialist, health/PE/athletics and Visual & Performing Arts teachers; designated teacher leaders; media specialists; administration; nurses; and maintenance staff.

The Board of Education and Municipal Building Committee have held three, well-attended public forums on the Design Development Process. Topics included enrollment projections, energy efficiency, security, school start times, traffic, project budget and the possible development of Nabby Road for ball fields.

## Strategic Planning

The Board of Education has held two retreats (August 21 & October 23) where it collaborated with the administration to review an updated report from Dr. Barile about accomplishing the majority of District Goals, and to discuss the vision for the Profile of the Brookfield Public Schools Graduate. An update to the 4 C's of our 21st Century Skills includes **students becoming:**

- Critical & Creative Thinkers
- Communicators
- Collaborators
- Changemakers

The board and administration look forward to engaging the public in revitalizing the Strategic Plan and the vision of the Profile of the Graduate beginning in the spring of 2020.

## Stay in the know!



### **Town Boards and Commissions**

Visit our website regularly for updates and schedule of upcoming meetings.

[Visit our website](#)

### **Town Events and Activities**

Follow town department social media pages for all that is going on around town!

[Click to Connect](#)