

BROOKFIELD SPOTLIGHT



Message from your First Selectman

May 2020

Please know I am thinking of all you during this challenging time. We have been updating you regularly on Spotlight and will continue communicating through a number of sources. Town Hall is closed to the public, but you can find a list of town department telephone numbers [here](#). Please see my Update #22 for maintaining social distancing, information on upcoming board meetings and access to Town Hall resources in Announcements [here](#).

These are the important links to keep up to date on the Coronavirus:

[State of Connecticut's Coronavirus Information](#)

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[Small Business Owners who need assistance in paying workers whose hours have been cut](#)

Town Budget Update

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on April 6 about Gov. Lamont's Executive Order 7I, paragraph 13, which prohibits annual town meeting and referenda for budget adoption. The order directs Selectmen to authorize and direct the Board of Finance to formulate and adopt the town budget for fiscal year 2020 - 21. And in accordance with Executive Order 7C, Selectmen authorized and directed the finance board to adopt the budget on or before June 4, 2020, then set the mill rate.

The finance board plans to meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for the next few weeks to discuss the town budget following the Board of Selectmen mandate in accordance with the governor's executive order. Call-in information and Zoom dial-in for participation will be provided on the town website.

I want to clear up some confusion about the Governor's Executive Order, which **mandates** the Board of Finance to adopt a budget and set a mill rate. We have no option. Ideally, both boards prefer a traditional town meeting and referendum, but the executive order specifically directs us to set a budget and mill rate for next year by June 4, 2020.

Steve Dunn
First Selectman

United States Census 2020

Please look out for the Census 2020 official 10-minute questionnaire that should be completed by every household. You should have received the questionnaire in the mail, and you can respond online at my2020census.gov using the barcode printed on the front of the questionnaire. If you are unable to respond online, complete and mail back your questionnaire. Your response is important to our community to help meet critical needs such as roads, parks, and hospitals. Your answers are completely confidential. By law, the Census Bureau is required to protect your information. If you need help completing your questionnaire, please call toll-free 1-844-330-2020.



Important Alerts

Town Info Line (203) 775 - 3700

Town of Brookfield Info Line will help you while town buildings are closed to the public. Call with any questions about town services and we will guide you to the right resource.

For up-to-date information on how to get local groceries, check out the Grocery Chart [here](#).

This chart is revised several times per week according to the most recent grocery info available.

A list of resources available for Brookfield Residents affected by COVID-19 is available [here](#).

This list is continually being updated.

CodeRed Resident Notification System

We have established a new system that alerts residents via phone, text or email about important town issues, starting with the Coronavirus. This is an opt-in system; you can register by phone or by going to the town website and clicking on the CodeRED logo on the bottom of the

home page. **To opt in via phone, text the keyword brookfieldct to 99411** and it will prompt you on how to sign up. You can choose how you wish to be notified and can opt out at any time. A number of residents have registered, but we encourage you to if you have not. CodeRED is **not** the Emergency Reverse 911 system used by the Police Department; you will continue to receive notifications from that system.



Gov. Lamont encourages residents to sign up for the state's CT Alert notification system

Sign up for CTAlert, the state's emergency alert system, which provides text message notifications to **users**. **To subscribe, text the keyword COVIDCT to 888-777.**

If you have general questions that are not answered on the website, call 211 to reach a hotline available 24/7, with multilingual assistance and TDD/TTY access. The hotline is for people that have general questions related to COVID-19 – **not** for those experiencing symptoms. If you experience symptoms, you should contact your medical provider.

The American Red Cross – Coping and Self-Care in Stressful Times

The American Red Cross has some helpful information for community members, the workforce, and responders. Their disaster mental health professionals created a video for coping during stressful times, as well as Flyers for families supporting the front line and disaster distress helpline.

Brookfield Recovers Together

Thank you to all who have already donated to Brookfield Recovers. Your donations were put to work instantly purchasing food that is distributed weekly to Brookfield residents who are having a difficult time. The town food pantry received 10,089 pounds of food since April 2 -- 70% was purchased online, using Brookfield Recovers funding, through the Connecticut Food Bank, Amazon, Walmart, Target and the Dollar Store. The remaining 30% was generously donated by the community using the pantry's Amazon Wish List. Many of our friends and neighbors have been severely affected financially by the COVID-19 virus -- our mission is to continue providing them with nutritional basics until they are back on their feet. In addition to our weekly food pantry distribution, we have delivered nutritional food to those quarantined at home. Thank you, Brookfield, for responding to your neighbors' needs!

Brookfield Recovers COVID-19 Donation

More about Brookfield Recovers Fund:

"Brookfield Recovers" is a special fund created to assist residents impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. Brookfield is an extremely generous town, so it's not surprising that we've been overwhelmed with inquiries from residents about "how can we help?" This is how you can help Brookfield residents. Donations will be administered by the town's Department of Social Services with 100% of all contributions directly benefiting residents in need.

Funds are being used to purchase items to resupply our food pantry and to assist clients impacted with basic needs to help them stay in their homes. Your gift will have a measurable and immediate impact on friends and neighbors. Please consider a donation to **Brookfield Recovers**.

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

You can donate electronically via our [website](#).

You may also send a donation via check, payable to:

Town of Brookfield

(note **Brookfield Recovers** on the memo line)

Brookfield Social Services

100 Pocono Road

Brookfield CT 06804

Housatonic Regional Recycling Authority (HRRA) Poster Contest

The annual Recycling Billboard Contest is facilitated by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, the regional governmental solid waste and recycling authority for Brookfield. More than 2,000 students in grades K-12 from all 11 HRRA member towns participated this year, with 49 regional winners, including 10 from Brookfield. First, second and third place winners were chosen from every grade, in addition to a number of honorable mentions.

This year's theme was about recycling glass separate from the mixed recycling stream. Students were asked to research and understand the importance of recycling glass, and why collecting it separately is more sustainable than mixing it with other items. They used that knowledge to create a recycling billboard ad.

Student	School	Grade	Place
Alvina Bilal	Whisconier Middle School	7	1st Place
Kayleigh Clarkson	Center Elementary School	K	1st Place
Jenna D'Orazio	Brookfield High School	11	1st Place
Rachel Egge	Huckleberry Hill Elementary	3	1st Place
Anna Lin	Brookfield High School	9	2nd Place
Bailey Mahoney	Brookfield High School	10	1st Place
Cristiano Pereira	Whisconier Middle School	5	1st Place
Payton Shevlin	Brookfield High School	9	2nd Place
Winnie Zheng	Huckleberry Hill Elementary	4	2nd Place

National Volunteer Month

April 19 - 25 was National Volunteer week, when we celebrate the work that volunteers do year-round. Thank you to all Brookfield volunteers who have done extraordinary things throughout all of April (AND BEYOND). *"National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities".*



Important Alerts

Assessor

If you have completed your tax relief applications for elderly or veterans, please call the office at 203-775-7302. The deadline is May 15.

If you have a permit that is complete and you need an inspection due to a closing to finalize the real estate taxes call and ask for Tammie.

Income and expense forms were mailed on April 1. Please fill them out completely and mail them to the Assessor's office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call and ask for Jane.

Still River Greenway

As reported in April Spotlight, there were too many people using the Greenway to practice safe physical distancing, so we have closed it until further notice. We encourage you, in small family groups, to hike Gurski Farm, Happy Landings, Burr Farm and the Brookfield Open Spaces

Public Works

Our Residential Yard Refuse Disposal opened on April 4 and will be open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. until the fall, with the exception of select holiday weekends. The center is located behind the firehouse on Pocono Road.

Information on town [website](#).

We plan to resume our paving program this May. A list of roads and restoration methods can be found on the town [website](#) as well under the Department of Public Works Section.

Tax Collector

The town will be offering a Deferment Program for qualified applicants. Keep checking the Tax Collector's page for [updates](#).

Town Clerk

Gov. Lamont, once again, postponed the Presidential Preference Primary until



What's Happening at the Brookfield Library – See [Flyer](#)

Staff available **Monday through Friday,**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. You can reach us by phone, e-mail (info@brookfieldlibrary.org) or on Facebook.

All overdue fines will be waived while we are closed. Library cards now available online!

Tax forms available outside. We are still accepting book donations.

NEW! Featured Resources

We have innovative ways for you to stay connected and get answers to your important questions.

Find answers for many of your questions, and links to other [websites](#) for:

- Home delivery of groceries
- Services for seniors
- Mental health services
- First Selectman's Office
- Brookfield Social Services
- Brookfield Health Department

Check our website weekly to see new features and resources and see how we are adapting to continue to serve you.



Parks & Rec

We may not be able to offer any programs in person at this time, but we can offer them virtually! Please see details on the [attachment](#) featuring several programs for different ages. Registration may be completed by phone when paying with a credit card. Please call Parks & Recreation at (203) 775-7311, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Summer at the Brookfield Town Park Beach

We have not released information on our summer programs for 2020 because we're waiting for updated guidance in May. This should allow us to make sound decisions based on the most current information available from the CDC and the State of Connecticut, in cooperation with our local Health Department. Please be sure to check our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page Brookfield, Connecticut Parks & Recreation for timely updates in the coming weeks

New Pocket Park Sculpture

The Brookfield Arts Commission has the opportunity to install a sculpture at the site of a new pocket park opposite the entrance to the Greenway on Federal Road. We invite you to share with us your ideas, thoughts and inspiration that encompasses a welcoming town for everyone, a town that is rich in history, the arts, nature, and provides a wonderful quality of life. Please email your thoughts before May 6 to BrookfieldArtsCommissionCT@gmail.com.



BROOKFIELD, CT - FEDERAL ROAD POCKET PARK SCULPTURE



SEEKING ALL ART LOVERS & INTERESTED RESIDENTS:

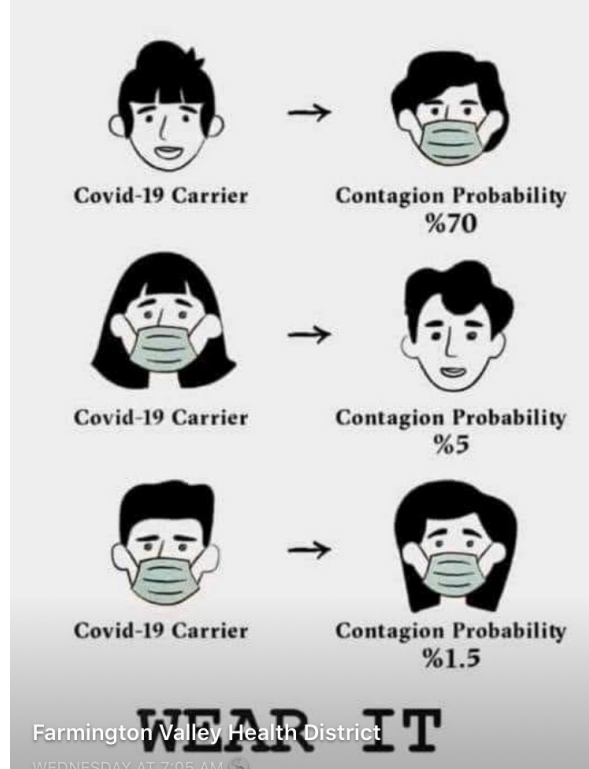
Health Department

Brookfield has seen a relative leveling off of reported cases of Coronavirus infection over the past five days. Regrettably, we have lost three members of the community to this disease and our hearts and prayers go out to those families who have lost loved ones.

RATIONALE FOR FACE COVERINGS

For more information, go to the Connecticut [Website](#) or call 211.

In addition, to keep up with the national scene, you can visit the CDC [website](#). Please continue to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering (mouth and nose) while in public, as now mandated by the State of Connecticut.



Schools

For a second year in a row, Brookfield High School is nationally ranked by US News & World Report! The magazine's Best High Schools rankings, which include data on more than 24,000 public high schools nationwide, ranks Brookfield 1,519. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. Brookfield has steadily improved its state ranking, moving up from 38 in 2019 to 31 this year. Congratulations BHS!

The district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition to distance learning has been extremely positive. Dr. Barile thanked the community, Board, administration, teachers, and staff for all their efforts at the April Board of Education meeting. Dr. Ruby has sought feedback from BHS students about how they are adjusting to distance learning, via video interviews. The students were positive and complementary to their teachers and provided great feedback to share with faculty and staff. All of the principals continue to seek feedback from faculty and families regarding enhancement opportunities for the Distance Learning Plan.

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](#)