

BROOKFIELD SPOTLIGHT



Message from your First Selectman

September 2020

Rules for Voting in November – Press Release

Secretary Merrill Outlines Process and Timeline for November General Election.

Town Hall Hours

The Board of Selectmen will be further discussing reopening without appointments. We are open to the public by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to keep our employees safe.

For state resources and information on COVID-19, visit the state's [website](#).

COVID-19 Local Long-Term Recovery Committee

The Board of Selectmen appointed committee members in August, as suggested by FEMA and the State of CT, to identify and address unmet needs among residents, businesses, private nonprofit organizations, the school system and local government resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The committee will make recommendations to the board for how to address those needs with existing resources, or to advocate for additional assistance from the State or federal government, or the private sector. You can email the committee at LTC@brookfieldct.gov or by phone at 203-775-7317.

Code RED

If you didn't receive calls from the town during the recent storm and aftermath, you may need to update your CODE RED status. You can sign up on the town [website](#). If you don't have internet access, ask a friend or family member to help you so that you can get the necessary information in an emergency.

Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-05)

Due to the current public health emergency, the office of Representative Hayes will be converting all live meetings to conference calls and rescheduling event appearances and Casework on Your Corners (COYC) through the end of September, including the COYC at Town Hall on September 18. Her office is available by phone at 860-223-8412 and is continuing casework services. Contact information for her office and information regarding COVID-19 is available on <https://hayes.house.gov/> and the Congresswoman's social media pages. Please don't hesitate to contact her office with any questions or concerns.

Steve Dunn
First Selectman



Mark Your Calendar

**Please join the
VFW and Knights of
Columbus to**

Farmers Market
The Farmers Market is open
every Friday from 3 - 6 p.m.

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting**
7 p.m. Tuesday,

**Remember the 75th
Anniversary of WWII's
End & the 19th
Anniversary of 9/11**

Saturday, September 12 at
10 a.m. at the Town Hall
Veterans Memorial, 100
Pocono Road. See Flyer on
town [Website](#) for the
Program and Events.

behind Town Hall. See town
website for vendor
information. Shoppers need
to wear masks and the
vendors are all physically
distanced.

September 8
View the meeting on
YouTube or connect by
phone to participate in public
comment. Meeting
information can be found on
the agenda on the town
website.



Important Alerts

Town Clerk

Absentee Ballots for the November 3 Election become available on October 2 Due to the increased number of absentee ballot applications we have received, we may be delayed in answering your questions via phone; please visit the Town Clerk's [webpage](#) for answers to common questions. To help raise awareness, please share this information with your neighbors.

Assessor

If you are a veteran and never submitted a DD-214, please submit it to the Town Clerk by September 30 for exemptions on your taxes for next year. If you already submitted it, you do not need to again.

If you are totally disabled or blind and never submitted an application to the Assessor's Office, please submit one by October 1. If you have submitted one, you do not need to again.

If you have a retrofitted vehicle (maximum of 2), every year on or before October 1 you must complete a new application. If this is the first year you own the vehicle, you need to attach a copy of the bill of sale for the car and for the retrofitting. All applications are on our website.

If you would like to appeal your car taxes, the Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on September 26 from 9 - 11 a.m. in Room 133 in Town Hall. Please see the application and directions on our website to be sure you bring all the necessary documentation

Health Department

During the month of August, Brookfield, as well as Danbury and several surrounding towns, has seen a disturbing trend up in COVID-19 positive cases. For the first time since June, our seven-day moving average has exceeded 10. Fortunately, our positivity rate for testing has remained low. Brookfield has not experienced a loss of life to this disease since May. We encourage all residents with any symptoms to be tested. The more residents tested, the better the knowledge we would have of community spread. Fortunately, most of the spread has been within a family and not a neighborhood. Testing is available at the Community Health Center in Danbury on Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., and at Urgent Care Centers locally. If an individual is symptomatic, we encourage you to seek advice from your healthcare provider.

In the interim we urge all residents to:

1. Always wear face coverings in public (bandanas and goggles are not protective and may actually do harm.) Governor's Executive Order.
2. Maintain safe distancing of 6 feet outside and 13 to 15 feet while running.
3. Avoid direct contact with other individuals through sports, while dining or shopping.
4. Wash your hands frequently, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
5. If you have to cough or sneeze, do so into a tissue which can be immediately discarded, or into your sleeve, at the elbow.

6. If you have a medical exemption for not wearing a face covering from your healthcare provider, you must carry documentation with you, also per the Governor's Executive Order. If you **do** have an exemption, you should stay home and stay safe, as you are at increased risk of being infected.
7. Avoid large crowds and especially parties, because if you do become infected, it becomes impossible to trace the source of your infection.
8. Finally, if contacted by one of our highly dedicated contact tracers, **please** cooperate fully. Contact tracing is a vital tool in stopping the spread of the virus.

Public Works

The DPW turned its full attention to cleanup after Tropical Storm Isaias. We have collected over 3,000 cubic yards of debris and removed numerous damaged trees and limbs. Cleanup is expected to continue through September.



Town Clerk

Congratulations to Brookfield's 2020 Top Dog Pebbles T!

Prizes generously donated by our sponsors

BROOKFIELD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Magic Touch Cat & Dog Grooming
Dana Parma & Carrie Parma-Collier

A Paw Print
Grooming Salon
Holistic Pet Supplies
Professional Groomers & More...
888-888-8888

melaniefanning PHOTOGRAPHY

THOMASTON FEED
BECAUSE YOUR PETS DESERVE THE BEST



Library

So much to look forward to in September at the library!

Kids have their last chance to make a Back-to-School Button on September 3 from 2 - 7 p.m. They can make a pin to wear so their teacher can see a smiling face without a mask. There will also be a Special Kindergarten Storytime on September 1, some outdoor Storytimes, and a Zoom cooking class. The library will also be unveiling a portable Storywalk made possible by a grant from the Brookfield Education Foundation.

For teens, there will be Mindfulness sessions, postcard packs, a Story Chat, and personalized reading lists.

Adults can take a Zoom class on Modern Calligraphy. In addition, our virtual book clubs have been very popular. Check them out.

Contact-less curbside pick-up of library materials continues with expanded hours.
Look for details on our [website](#) about our opening and relevant protocols soon!



Parks & Rec

We're at work reinventing our fall programs and special events. Be sure to check our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) throughout September for updates.



Economic Development Office

Branson's \$49 million new global HQ located in Brookfield's Berkshire Industrial Park is on schedule for occupancy in January 2021. Their parent company, Emerson, said it is very impressed with Brookfield's business environment and wanted a location that would help maintain employees' commute and allow them to retain existing talent. These pictures show construction status and an artist's rendition of the completed project.



Water Pollution Control Authority

The Brookfield WPCA (Sewer Commission) manages the flow of wastewater from the commercial sections of Brookfield and from about 15 condo and apartment complexes. The systems include backup generators, both stationary and portable, that were able to maintain environmental integrity during the August 4 storm, and subsequent power outages for up to 8 days at some pump stations. We are pleased to report there was nothing to report to CT DEEP (no spills or backups). The WPCA was even able to provide backup power to the police station when its generator failed.

We are planning to provide sewers for the Candlewood peninsula, the Pocono/Dean Road and Brookfield Market areas. These projects were delayed because we were unable to hold required public hearings due to Covid-19. See these projects and the activity of the WPCA on [website](#).



Schools

Update on School Reopening

Dr. Barile reported the administration has been solidifying health/wellness and operational protocols including masks, washing hands, sanitizer placement, desk shields, and physical distancing – all based on input from the state and the local health department. Ventilation

systems have been rehabilitated and repaired in all buildings and classrooms. Watch his [update](#). The administration has been revising instructional practices and curriculum, and planning for onboarding of new staff and training teachers in use of PPE. In the synchronous learning model, teachers will engage students participating remotely, and will call on them concurrent to students in the classroom. Teachers will use Zoom break-out rooms for group work and can monitor these small groups as well as students doing independent work. Dr. Barile also reported the CIAC is meeting with the Department of Public Health regarding fall sports but has not made final decision.

Please see the link to the district FAQ below:

[Frequently Asked Questions 2020 Reopening Plan](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions from BOE Meeting 8-19-20](#)

New School Naming Subcommittee

The board voted unanimously to form a naming committee for the [new school](#). Based on policy guidelines, it must be composed of 2-3 board members, 2-3 residents, 1 teacher and 1 administrator from both CES and HHES, and a PTO representative from each of those schools. The board, represented by Debbie Brooks and Michael Murphy, will talk to residents in September and October and bring a recommendation to the board by November.

New School Update

Please see link for BOE Chair's update on the [new school project](#) and the presentation from Tecton Architects to the Municipal Building Committee: [Designs Refinements 8-18-20](#).

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](#)