



Selectmen Meet and Greet:

We had our first "Meet the Selectmen" on Saturday, January 30 from 9:00am to 10:30am. The Selectmen Meet and Greets are on the last Saturday of each month in the Selectmen's Conference Room at Town Hall. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, February 27 from 9:00am to 10:30am. Please feel free to stop by with any questions you may have or to let us know what's on your mind.

Joseph R. Loughlin: Please join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Joe Loughlin's family; Joe passed away at the age of 95 on January 24. He was well known for his community service, having served on the Board of Finance and the Commission on Aging as well as being involved in many other community organizations.

Town Budget Process: The Town's budget process for 2016 - 2017 is underway. The First Selectman will review and evaluate department head requests in early February. In mid-February, the Board of Selectmen will begin their deliberations on the First Selectman's recommended budget. The Board of Education will make their presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room 133. The Board of Selectmen will submit its budget recommendations at the end of February to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will then review the budget throughout the month of March. Please refer to the Town [website](#) during February and March for specific meeting dates and times.

Selectmen's Meeting: The regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, March 7 at 7:30pm in Room 133 at Town Hall. You may view the attachments to the Meeting Packet on the Town's [website](#) using the Video on Demand Link. The meeting will be live streamed on the Town's [website](#) and posted the following day on the home page in Video on Demand.

Steve Dunn
First Selectman
Brookfield, CT

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Tax Collector's News

TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE

**LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Payment must be RECEIVED or U.S. POSTMARKED by February 1, 2016 for the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes. If taxes are unpaid by that date, the interest penalty in February will be 3% with a \$2 minimum. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.

You can make payments online at our website, www.brookfieldct.gov. Go to the Departments link, choose Tax Collector and click on link "Pay Taxes/Tax Inquiry". Follow the prompts to make your payment. Please note there are fees for this service. Payments accepted online are credit cards and echeck. To pay in the office, cash or check only, our collection hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-4pm and Thursday 8-6pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 203-775-7304 or to email us at tax@brookfieldct.gov.

Tax Assessor News

ELDERLY BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2015 GRAND LIST 2016/2017 TAX BILL

TOWN-ELDERLY

1. Such person or spouse is 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the prior year.
2. Such person has resided and paid real estate taxes on their residence located in Brookfield for a period of five years immediately prior to application for tax credit. Applicant must be current on their tax payments.
3. The net assessment of such property shall not exceed the median assessment of \$240,180 for the current 2015 Grand List year.
4. Property must be the legal residence of such person, occupied more than 183 days of each calendar year.
5. Income must not exceed \$49,280 for unmarried people and \$60,060 for married people. "Income" is defined as total income from 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If not filing income tax, copies of all statements.
6. Applicant must be record owner of property as of October 1st.
7. Applications must be filed between Feb 1st and May 15th annually.
Note: May 15th falls on a Sunday this year, therefore all applications must be in the Assessor's Office by Friday May 13th, 2016

TOWN-VETERANS

1. Must have DD214 filed with the Town Clerk's Office by September 30th of the Grand List year in which you are applying.
2. Must have served during an eligible war period and have been Honorably Discharged.
3. Income must not exceed \$52,700 for unmarried people and \$58,900 for married people. "Income" is defined as total income from 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income.
4. Filing period is from February 1st to September 30th.

STATE ELDERLY AND STATE VETERANS

1. Owner of Real Property as of October 1st of filing year, legal residence and age 65 as of December 31st of the prior year.
2. Income cannot exceed \$35,200 for unmarried people and \$42,900 for married people. "Income" is defined as total income from 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If not filing income tax, copies of all statements are required.

Public Works News

Updated road ratings have been posted to the town [website](#). Our paving budget and schedule are being prepared. When the town budget is approved the road paving list will be updated.

Land Use News

The Zoning Commission public hearing for 763-777 Federal Road, The Renaissance Affordable Housing Project, is continued to February 11, 2016. The Inland Wetlands public hearing for this project is continued to February 8, 2016.

Brookfield Conservation Commission

The Brookfield Conservation Commission is working in conjunction with the CT State Historic Preservation Office to preserve the buildings at the Gurski Homestead on Obtuse Hill Road. The Gurski Homestead Committee, which oversaw the property from 2004 - 2012, received several grants with easement restrictions from CT State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This means that work must be done to preserve the structures and all work must meet the guidelines of SHPO. During the past few weeks, the drainage for the property, particularly the front farmhouse, has been corrected, thanks to the help of the Brookfield Public Works. Work over the next few months will include working on a master plan for the property, and holding public meetings or a survey to get public comment.

Town Clerk's News

A Primary of the Republican Party will be held on March 1, 2016, for the election of members of the Town Committee. The hours of voting at the Primary will be from 6:00am to 8:00pm and the location of the polls will be as follows:

<u>VOTING DISTRICT</u>		<u>LOCATION OF VOTING PLACE</u>
1	Candlewood Lake Road	Huckleberry Hill School
2	Brookfield High School Long Meadow Hill Road	

Absentee Ballots will be available after February 9, 2016 and will be counted at the Brookfield Town Hall.

Social Services News

CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) benefits have been announced for this heating season. Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) benefits are also available this year for higher income households. Here are the maximum income guidelines for these programs:

Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual income:	\$33,132	\$43,327	\$53,521	\$63,716	\$73,910	\$84,105

Households with liquid assets exceeding \$15,000 for homeowners, and \$12,000 for all other households may still be eligible for energy assistance benefits if the annual gross income, combined with the amount of liquid assets over the limit, is within the income guidelines. Benefits are determined using current annual income for all adults in the household. Benefits are higher for lower income households. This program is designed to assist with heating expenses and will not usually cover all heating costs for the season. Call Brookfield Social Services now for an appointment if you heat with oil or propane.

Park & Rec News

The Winter 2016 Program Guide is online and features programs, trips and special events for the months of January through March. For more information, please click [here](#).

Health Department News

Brookfield residents have expressed concerns about the newest threat to their overall health. There has been much publicity in recent weeks surrounding the so-called Zika virus outbreak in South America. With the upcoming Olympics in Brazil this summer, the issue is of increasing concern. Fortunately, we here in the north are in the midst of our winter, when mosquitoes, the carrier of the virus, are non-existent. Symptoms of the disease include fever, rash, joint pain and redness of the eyes. The illness is usually mild and lasts from a few days to a week. Pregnant women are singled out, not because of more intense illness, but because of the possible connection between birth defects such as microcephaly (small head size) and the disease. The Centers for Disease Control is advising pregnant women to postpone travelling to 28 countries and territories where mosquitoes are transmitting the virus. Twenty-five are in Latin America and the Caribbean. The other three are Cape Verde off the coast of Africa and Samoa and American Samoa in Polynesia. Cases of microcephaly and other neurologic birth defects have followed recent Zika outbreaks in French Polynesia, according to World Health Organization.

So far, Zika is not considered endemic in the United States and there is little cause for worry. The only cases reported here involve people who have recently visited areas subject to the CDC's travel warning. The CDC expects that mosquitoes will eventually transmit the virus in the United States. The mosquito involved, however, is not the same type which transmits Lyme disease. However, the CDC has said that it anticipates smaller outbreaks than those seen in Latin America, given less densely populated urban areas, greater use of air conditioning, and more widespread mosquito control measures in the United States. Questions can always be directed to the Health Department at (203) 775-7315.

Library News

Adult Programs at The Brookfield Library. Please register for these programs at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/adult-events-calendar>.

An Informational Session: The 12 Month YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program
Thursday, February 4 at 7:00pm.

Art Deco Card Printmaking with Carol Solinger
Thursday, February 11, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

Beginner's Knitting
Saturday, February 13, 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Parlons Francais! Let's Speak French!
Tuesday, February 16, 2:00 - 3:30pm / Thursday, February 25, 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Color Your World
Thursday, February 25, 2:00 - 4:00pm. and 6:30 - 8:30pm.

AARP Safe Driver Class
Saturday, February 27, 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Parlons Francais: French Film Series: Manon de Sources
Sunday, February 28, 1:00pm.

Book Discussions. New members always welcome!
Nonfiction: *The Sixth Distinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert
Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30pm.

Brookfield Reads, Daytime and Evening Edition: *Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George (fiction)
Tuesday, February 16 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm.

Book 'Em Mystery Discussion: *Land of Shadows* by Rachel Howzell Hall
Monday, February 29 at 12:30pm.

Jeff McGill Jazz Group Concert
Sunday, February 21, 3:00pm.

Oscar Film Series: Free showings, popcorn & soda.
Bridge of Spies: Saturday, February 13, at 2:00pm. Rated PG-13
Steve Jobs: Saturday, February 20, at 2:00pm. Rated R
Spotlight: Saturday, February 27, at 2:30pm. Rated R

Computer Classes. Register for these classes at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/computer-classes-calendar>

Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint Series
February 8, 10, & 22 at 3:00pm OR 6:30pm.

Build Your Own Website with WordPress Series
February 24, 29, March 2, 7, 9 at 3:00pm OR 6:30pm.

Teen Programs. <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/teen-events-calendar>

Children's Program registration: <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/kids-events-calendar>. Registration for the Winter 2016 Storytime Session will open on December 14.

Brookfield CARES

WE DARE TO TALK

DO YOU AND YOUR KIDS DARE TO LISTEN?



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF HILARIOUS, HONEST,
POWERFULLY REVEALING TALK WITH

KEVIN BREEL

WRITER • COMEDIAN • MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE
AUTHOR OF *BOY MEETS DEPRESSION*

Wednesday February 10 • 7:00 PM

Live at Brookfield High School

SPONSORED BY BROOKFIELD CARES

FUNDED BY THE DEX SMENYAK FOUNDATION AND THE BROOKFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

