



February 2018



Town Budget Process in February

The Town's budget process for 2018 - 2019 begins when I review and evaluate department requests in early February. The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will hold a joint meeting to listen to the Board of Education's proposed 2018 - 2019 Budget on Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. at the Brookfield High School Media Center. In mid-February, the Board of Selectmen will begin deliberating the First Selectman's recommended budget.

Board of Selectmen Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is Monday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, Meeting Room 133. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet on the town's [website](#).

BOS Public Hearings

Prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 5, two public hearings have been scheduled at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room 133.

- 1) Town Property at 18 Junction Road - the Conservation Commission has requested permission to sell town property and a single-family home at 18 Junction Road, with proceeds to be used toward other conservation projects; in particular, the Gurski Homestead property to restore the barn and the front farmhouse.
- 2) Chapter 168 Parking Ordinance - proposed amendment in Section 168-3 for the Restriction that will not apply to all-night parking in the Town Center District parking spaces.

Please visit the town [website](#) in the legal notice section for further information on both Public Hearings.

Veteran News - American Legion Post 202 in Newtown

Membership continues to grow in The American Legion Post 202 in Newtown, which also covers Brookfield. Please see the attached [flyer](#) listing all the dates of their upcoming meetings. For more information on their upcoming events and

programs, you can [email](#) them and like/follow them on their [Facebook page](#). There is also an established Ladies Auxiliary, an additional way to serve our community and country by being involved in the Legion.

Selectmen "Meet and Greet"

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, February 24, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Hi-Way Market Deli, 616 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

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ON SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR NEW MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT

Notice and warning is hereby given to all duly qualified electors of the Town of Brookfield, Connecticut and any other persons qualified to vote upon the items set forth below that a referendum will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. to vote on the resolution contained in Item 1 of the call of the Special Town Meeting held on January 8, 2018, which resolution will be placed on the ballot label as the following question:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD APPROPRIATE \$14,775,000 TO FUND THE COSTS OF THE new Municipal Public Library Project AND AUTHORIZE BONDS, NOTES AND/OR TEMPORARY NOTES OF THE TOWN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,775,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?"

District 1 voters shall vote at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School and District 2 voters shall vote at Brookfield High School.

All persons not electors but qualified to vote pursuant to the property tax assessment provisions of Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall vote at the Brookfield High School.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Copies of the full text of the proposed resolution and the minutes of the Special Town Meeting held January 8, 2018 are on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

Absentee Ballot Applications are available in the Town Clerk's office and available to download on the Town Clerk's [website](#). Absentee Ballots will be available on February 8, 2017

Tax Collector

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Payment must be received or U.S. postmarked on or before February 1, 2018 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 Tax Collector's page under the Government tab. Click on the "View or Pay Tax Bills" button. Follow the prompts to make your payment. Please note there are fees for this service. Payments accepted online are credit cards and echeck.

Tax Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

Instructions to File an Appeal

1. Obtain an appeal form along with a copy of the property record card from the Assessor's Office or [online](#).
2. Complete the appeal form thoroughly and please print clearly. Complete a separate application for each property being appealed.
3. Complete the appeal form from information on the property record card and/or the Vision Government Solutions property data website (<http://gis.vgsi.com/brookfieldct/Search.aspx>). Please be sure to provide your (or your agent's) email address and/or daytime telephone number where you can be reached in case of questions concerning your appeal application or cancellation due to inclement weather.
4. Please state a reason for appeal. Please note, "high taxes" or "over assessed" are not acceptable reasons for appealing your property valuation. You must be specific and provide evidence that the valuation of your property is inaccurate. (See below "Preparing for Your Hearing" for examples).
5. Please sign and date the appeal form to be submitted.
6. Make a copy of the application for yourself and bring it with you to your hearing. Return the completed and signed original appeal application form with the property record card attached to the Assessor's Office by February 20, 2018. All appeal forms must be returned to and physically arrive in the Assessor's Office by February 20, 2018 (Superior Court ruling CV07-4008134S). Hand Deliver or mail to: Board of Assessment Appeals, c/o Assessor's Office, 100 Pocono Road, P.O. Box 5106, Brookfield, CT 06804-5106.
NO FACSIMILE OR ELECTRONICALLY SCANNED COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED (No faxes, photocopies, electronic scans or emailed electronic scans).

Notice of Hearing

1. The clerk for the Board of Assessors will notify you by mail on or before March 1st indicating the date, time and place of your scheduled hearing.
2. All hearings and decisions will be conducted during the month of March.

Preparing for Hearing

Evidence to support your claim plays an integral part in supporting your requested value. For example, this may include such items as:

- o Photographs showing property damage or disrepair;
- o Contractor cost estimates for repair or replacement;
- o Data pertaining to comparable sales;
- o Appraisals as of October 1, 2016;
- o Broker's price opinions;

o Surveys or any other data to support your requested value.

Please note: Bring copies of exhibits to submit during your hearing that substantiate your appeal. Note, any submissions in conjunction with your appeal are subject to Freedom of Information statutes and may not be returned.

What to Expect at Your Hearing

Please arrive at least five minutes early; the room number will be noted in your letter.

Each appeal hearing is allotted a limited time, so be prepared to explain your appeal succinctly and completely within that time.

Members of the Brookfield Board of Assessment Appeals will hear your appeal. You will be sworn in and sign a statement saying your testimony and statements made in conjunction with this appeal are true.

You will present your clear, strong, compelling evidence and exhibits to the board member(s) and discuss your claims. The board members may ask you questions during this process and will document your appeal. Evidence and exhibits are scrutinized for accuracy and applicability.

Economic & Community Development



Have you seen the new banners hanging on the lamp posts in the Town Center? There are five different versions decorating the streetscape for pedestrians and motorists to enjoy while traveling through. Four banners represent iconic images of Brookfield, including the windmill at Happy Landings, the Still River Greenway, the Brookfield Historical Museum and the Brookfield Craft Center. The fifth version is seasonal; a snowflake collage is currently on display.

Brookfield artist Mark Eckstein volunteered his time to design the banners. The Town of Brookfield thanks Mark for his artistic talent and contribution to the evolving Town Center streetscape. He's currently designing a spring/summer version reflecting the lake communities of Brookfield.

Public Works

The Department of Public Works has completed its Road Ratings for 2018. The new ratings have been published on the Town [website](#). We use the ratings along with other data to select our road paving projects for the coming paving season. In the coming months and prior to the paving season we will begin to update our road paving list and post that information on the [website](#) as well.

Still River Greenway

Why the Still River Greenway is not maintained during the winter months.

The Greenway provides recreational runners and walkers an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors without worrying about vehicular traffic. A few community members have asked why the Town decided not to plow or remove snow and ice from its almost 2-mile length. The Still River Greenway was designed and built with the intention that it would not be plowed, sanded or salted in the winter. When this was discussed at length during the trail's development, residents clearly expressed a desire to see the trail to be available for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. They also made clear they did not want the expense to allocate additional manpower to clear the trail of snow or ice.

Plowing and de-icing also would create long term wear and tear on the trail, which was not designed to absorb the weight of trucks to plow and salt. That would cause stress and damage the pavement and more than 1,000 feet of wooden bridges. The Still River Greenway meanders through natural habitat and crosses many other tributaries and sensitive wetland areas, so using de-icing chemicals (sodium chloride, calcium chloride, etc.) could adversely affect the adjacent river and various sensitive habitats.

The trail-side features that so many users enjoy (benches, information signs, wood fences, etc.) were placed close to the trail, since plowing was never anticipated. Pushing heavy snow and ice against these features would lead to premature wear and cause damage.

The Town continually strives to reduce cost and increase efficiency when using de-icing chemicals to minimize adverse impacts to the natural environment. Applying these chemicals along the two-mile trail corridor may be inconsistent with our goals in this regard.

The Grounds Department may keep some sections clear at different times during the Winter months primarily for maintenance purposes (maintaining property lines and various tree work). We receive frequent comments about the excellent surface condition of Still River Greenway and wish to maintain that standard of excellence.

Brookfield Library

The referendum for the New Library Project is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27. Please be sure to vote, either in person, or by absentee ballot. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available at Town Hall starting February 8. For more information about the New Library Project, contact Library Director Yvonne Cech at ycech@brookfieldlibrary.org or (203) 775-6241.

Afternoons at The Arbor Concert Series: CARNABY ST.

Sunday, February 24, 3 - 4:15 p.m.

Featuring music from the British Invasion along with various American artists, CARNABY ST. breathes new life into the songs that are fondly remembered as the cornerstones for popular music's favorite era: The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Moody Blues, The Who, The Bee Gees to Simon and Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, The Monkees and One-hit-Wonders of the time. CARNABY ST. features Chris Roselle - Guitar & Vocals; Pete Bremy - Bass Guitar & Vocals; Dino DiMartino - Drums & Vocals. The concert will take place in the Community Room at the library.

Income Planning for Retirement

Thursday, February 8 at 7 p.m.

Retirement can be a very rewarding time, but preparing for financial security can be quite challenging. During the workshop you will learn how to calculate what your needs will be, how to maximize your Social Security to improve cash flow, and what is an acceptable rate of draw down on retirement savings. Please register for this free program by calling the library at 203-775-6241. It is being presented by Michael Alimo of USA Financial & Tax Services, LLC.

Machine Embroidery Class

Wednesday, February 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

We will be embroidering a project of your choice on the library's embroidery machines. This could be a t-shirt, towel, napkins or placemats. You can choose from one of our many embroidery patterns. This program is free; you just need to bring what you would like to embroider on. Please register [online](#), or by calling the library at 203-775-6241.

Facebook 1: The Starter Kit

Thursday, February 8 at 3 p.m.

Facebook is the most popular social networking website in the world, with over 1

billion active users. It's a great way to stay in touch with family and friends. In this course, you will learn all about Facebook, become a member of this free website and post messages and photos online. After this course, you will be able to continue making friends and using Facebook on your own. Please register [online](#), or by calling the library at 203-775-6241.

Oscar Film Series: Free showings, popcorn & soda!

Loving Vincent: Sunday, February 4 at 1 p.m.

Directed by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman, this feature-length painted animation--the first film of its kind--explores the life and unusual death of Vincent Van Gogh via depictions of his artworks. Rated PG-13, 95 minutes. Nominated for the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film.

Wonder: Saturday, February 17 at 1 p.m. Based on the New York Times bestseller by R.J. Palacio; starring Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, and Owen Wilson, this film tells the inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time. Rated PG, 113 minutes. Nominated for the Oscar for Best Achievement in Makeup and Hairstyling.

Roman J. Israel, Esq.: Saturday, February 24 at 1 p.m. Written and directed by Dan Gilroy and starring Denzel Washington as a driven, idealistic defense attorney whose life is upended when a turbulent series of events challenge the activism that has defined his career. Rated PG-13, 122 minutes. Nominated for the Oscar for Best Actor--Denzel Washington.

Health Department

How can American Heart Month make a difference?

February is National Heart Month. We can use this month to raise awareness about heart disease and how people can prevent it - both at home and in the community.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease. The good news is that heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions. Communities, health professionals and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier choices.

The Brookfield Health Department is proud to participate. Locally, over 30 deaths per 10,000 population occur prematurely every year. You can make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. Controlling and preventing risk factors is also important for people who already have heart

disease.

To lower your risk:

- Watch your weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

Finally, you can make a difference in your community. Learn CPR and how to use an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) through the many organizations in Brookfield offering training in these subjects.

Brookfield Police Department

The Department hosts car seat installations and checks on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 8 a.m. - noon. You can schedule your appointment today by calling 203-740-4192 or emailing carseats@brookfieldct.gov.

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to get the latest news and updates

American Legion

American Legion Post 202, Newtown

Newtown Senior Center, 14 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook

2018 meetings are planned for

Wednesday, February 7th, 7pm

Wednesday, March 7th, 7pm

Wednesday, April 4th, 7pm

Wednesday, May 2nd, 7pm

Wednesday, June 6th, 7pm

* Wednesday, July 11th, 7pm

* subject to cancellation

Wednesday, August 1st, 7pm

Members of the US Armed Forces who are currently on active duty or served at least ONE DAY, during the following conflicts are eligible:

World War II December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946

Korean War June 25, 1950 – Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam War February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

Lebanon/Grenada August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984

Panama December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990

Gulf War /War on Terrorism August 2, 1990 to present day

You do not have to have served overseas.

Please bring your DD-214 or other proof of military service. Membership is \$35/year.

For more information please email us at americanlegionnewtown@gmail.com

Membership for Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion available for family members.

Come learn about upcoming events and programs!



