



January 2016

## **WELCOME 2016!**



### **Selectmen Meet and Greet**

We will be having our first "Meet the Selectmen" on the last Saturday of each month at the Selectman's Conference Room at Town Hall from 9:00am to 10:30am starting on Saturday, January 30. Please feel free to stop by with any questions you may have or to let us know what's on your mind.

### **The Renaissance Building Application for 763-777**

#### **Federal Road**

The Inland Wetlands Commission has planned a Site Walk on Saturday, January 9 at 9:30am the proposed Renaissance location at 763-777 Federal Road. Commission Members and the public may attend the site walk. The entire group should stay together. Please do not discuss the site or ask questions during the Site Walk. The Inland Wetlands Commission is also holding a continued Public Hearing on The Renaissance on January 11 at 7:15pm at Town Hall.

The Zoning Commission will hold a continued Public Hearing on the Renaissance on January 14 at 8pm at Town Hall.

#### **Cell Tower**

One of my updates at the January 4 Board of Selectmen Meeting is letting residents know about a Public Informational Meeting that Homeland Towers LLC is having on Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room 133 regarding their proposed Telecommunications Tower on municipal property behind the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department. Homeland Towers LLC has filed technical information for a proposal for the construction of a tower behind the firehouse that is capable of supporting antennas of multiple wireless telecommunication providers including the Town emergency service providers. This process started a few years ago, and the Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing on 1/6/14 on the proposed cell tower and lease and residents voted to approve the Option and Ground Lease Agreement at a Special Town Meeting on 2/3/14.

#### **Transparency and Accountability**

At the next Board of Selectmen's meeting I will be informing the Selectmen and

public on a change I am making for the way approvals for reimbursements incurred by the First Selectman are approved. At the current time, the Controller of the town approves the First Selectman's expenses. This is a conflict of interest as the Controller works for the First Selectman. For any expenses incurred by the First Selectman, I will ask that those expense invoices be forwarded to the town treasurer for review and approval. This will eliminate any potential conflict of interest.

On the issue of Travel outside the area or that is not in the budget, I will also inform the Selectmen and public that these be pre-approved by the Board of Selectman and that clear and understandable reasons be presented to the board as to why the expense is justified.

### **Town Budget Process in the month of January**

The town's budget process will be underway shortly with town departments and agencies submitting their budget requests.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe New Year!

Steve Dunn  
First Selectman  
Brookfield, CT

SELECTMEN'S MEETING: The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on February 1, at 7:30pm in Meeting 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.

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## [Tax Collector's News](#)

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Payment must be RECEIVED or U.S. POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 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](http://www.brookfieldct.gov). Go to Departments, choose Tax Collector and click on link "Pay Taxes/Tax Inquiry". Follow the prompts to make your payment by credit card or e-check. Please note that there is a fee for this service.

To pay in the office, our collection hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am-4:00pm and Thursday 8:00am - 6:00pm. Payments methods accepted are cash and checks only.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 203-775-7304 or to email us at [tax@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:tax@brookfieldct.gov).

### **Delinquent Taxes**

Delinquent Motor Vehicle and Personal Property Tax bills from the 2012 Grand List and older are currently with TaxServ. They are a collection agency. If you receive a letter please contact them for payment options. The toll free number is 1-866-497-2427.

## Public Works News

The Brookfield Residential Yard Refuse Disposal Center will be open for Christmas Tree disposal only on Saturday, January 2nd and 9th, 2016 from 8:30am to 4:00pm. A permit is not required to drop off your tree. The Center is located just south of the town hall and behind the fire station on Pocono Road.

## 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.

## Library News

### **Digital and Downloadable!**

As you unwrap your new tablets, smartphones, Kindles, and other devices, don't forget that the library offers streaming movies, music, TV shows, and audiobooks with hoopla; downloadable ebooks and audiobooks from OverDrive, and complete digital magazines from Zinio. All these services are free to you with your current card from The Brookfield Library. And we have a class to help you learn to use them:

Digital Downloads 101

Saturday, January 16 OR Wednesday, January 20 OR Thursday January 21  
at 3:00pm.

Come learn about all of the free digital download services our library provides! You will learn about OverDrive audiobooks and eBooks, Zinio magazines, and hoopla streaming movies and music. All of these services can be accessed from your desktop computer or mobile device (iPad, iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire, etc.). Registration for this free program is appreciated.

### **Parlons Francais! We Speak French!**

Monday, January 4. 2:00 - 3:30pm in the Community Room

Tuesday, January 12. 6:30 - 8:00pm upstairs in the library

Whether you're just learning French or are an advanced speaker, you're welcome to join these informal meetings to learn, practice, and improve your French language skills. Please register for these free events.

### **Beginning Knitting Class for Adults**

Saturday, January 9. 10:00am - 12:00pm.

This beginning knitting class will be taught by members of the Candlewood Valley Knitting Guild. There is no charge for the class, but registration is limited for this small workshop. The guild will supply all materials. Registration is required.

### **TEDx Brookfield Salon: "*Passion in Three Parts: Defining, Pivoting, Applying*"**

With Wendy Youngblood

Friday, January 15. 7:00 - 8:30pm.

Our twist on New Year's resolutions: we invite the community to think broadly and deeply about their own aspirations. We'll show three TED talks: See how to recognize the beauty around you. Hear what one man did when his zest for life waned. And chart a challenge for yourself this year. Come celebrate 2016 as the

*Year of the Possible*. Please register for this free event.

**Poached: The Movie:** Sunday, January 31, at 3:00pm.

*Poached* reveals the bizarre underworld of illegal bird egg collecting. The library, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Bent of the River Audubon are pleased to sponsor a showing of the SXSW 2015 Nominee and Winner of the International Wildlife Film Festival. You can watch the trailer at [poachedmovie.com](http://poachedmovie.com). Please register for this free film online or by calling the library at 203-775-6241.

**Color Your World: Adult (18+) Coloring Events**

Thursday, January 28. 2:00 - 4:00pm & 6:30 - 8:30pm.

Come and join us for a stress-releasing afternoon or evening of coloring. We provide coloring books, pencils, markers, and light refreshments. Please register for this free event.

**Diabetes Prevention Program: Information Session**

Tuesday, January 12, 3:00pm or Thursday, February 4, 7:00pm.

Sponsored by the Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut. Registration information: [regionalymca.org](http://regionalymca.org).

**Book Discussions**

Join us - we love new members! Copies of books are available at the Checkout Desk.

**Brookfield Reads, Daytime Edition**

*The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* by Nadia Hashimi

Tuesday, January 19. 1:00pm.

**Brookfield Reads, Evening Edition**

*Girl at War* by Sara Novic (Discussion to be led by Pam Perlman)

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00pm.

**Book 'Em Mystery Discussion**

*By the Time You Read This* by Giles Blunt

Monday, January 25, 12:30pm.

**Nonfiction Book Group**

*Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back* by Janice P. Nimura:

Tuesday, January 5, 6:30pm.

Next discussion: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert: Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30pm.

**Intermediate Excel 2014**

Class dates: January 6, 11, 13, 25, and 27

In this five-part, hands on series we will be taking our Intro to Excel class to the

next level. In this intermediate course, you will learn about:

- Applying graphics and pictures, Macros, , Creating Absolute references, Locking and protecting data
- Organizing data (e.g. sorting, filtering), Working with Vlookup, Creating Pivot tables, Splitting the view window, and more!

There is a \$10.00 fee for the class book. Requires basic experience with Excel. Introductory topics such as starting Excel, entering data, and inserting formulas will not be covered. Space is limited. Registration and payment MUST be received by January 4 at 5:00pm. Pay via PayPal or at the Checkout Desk. Register for the first session to be signed up for all five.

**Movie Matinees: Free showings, popcorn & soda.**

*The Walk*: Saturday, January 9 at 2:00pm.

Rated PG, 123 minutes.

**Parlons francais: French film series:** *Jean de Florette*: Sunday, January 10, at 1:00pm. In French with English subtitles. Rated PG, 2 hours.

*The Martian*: Saturday, January 23 at 2:00pm. Rated PG-13, 141 minutes.

**"Brazil: South America's Giant" with David Roberts**

Thursday, January 21 at 7:00pm.:

Photographer and world traveler David Roberts returns to the library to share photographs and experiences from a recent trip to Brazil. Registration is appreciated for this free program.

**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**





# **BROOKFIELD CARES**

Promoting social and emotional wellness in our community.

[brookfield-cares.org](http://brookfield-cares.org)

## **BROOKFIELD CARES**

### Hope and Support Group

Meetings every Monday

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Brookfield Senior Center  
100 Pocono Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

This is a weekly gathering for parents, grandparents, guardians, relatives and others with children or loved ones affected by substance use and abuse or other at-risk behaviors.

This is a forum to share experiences and information.

Facilitated by an experienced Drug & Alcohol Counselor, meetings are every Monday at the Senior Center.

Funded by a generous grant from the  
Brookfield Education Foundation.

For more information, email: [info@brookfield-cares.org](mailto:info@brookfield-cares.org)

*\*There is NO charge for this group.*

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**BROOKFIELD CARES • P.O. Box 5156 • Brookfield CT 06804**

**[brookfield-cares.org](http://brookfield-cares.org)**

