



July 2017



THE NEW DOWNTOWN IS IN CONSTRUCTION

After many years, the new streetscape is actually being built. Our contractor has been onsite for approximately two weeks and is currently redoing the drainage and placing conduit under the road from the west side of Federal Road to the east side of Federal Road. This is part of the plan to eliminate all of the telephone poles on the east side of Federal Road south of the intersection. During the construction, you may see one lane of traffic on Federal Road. Please bear with us as we make your downtown become a reality.

PHASE TWO OF THE STREETScape

While this is repeating something we discussed last month, Phase II is fully funded through a town funding of \$475,000 and a TAP grant of \$865,000. This means that two thirds of Phase II is paid for in grants. We have already started the design phase and have received bids for this work.

ZONING MORATORIUM ON LOW INCOME HOUSING

As many of you already know, developers, using the 8-30-G State law, can come into any town and build any type of housing they want by ignoring every local zoning law (except for health and safety laws). As long as a developer agrees to set aside 30% of the housing units for lower income residents they could conceivably build a twenty-story apartment building in Brookfield. We have already successfully stopped the development of a six-story building in the downtown but need to regain control of development in Brookfield. The moratorium we have applied for will give us that control back. It will give us a four-year moratorium on developers using 8-30-G to circumvent our zoning laws. We expect the State to give us a decision on our application within the next 40 days.

ZONING RE-WRITE

We are about half way through the process of re-writing all of our zoning laws. This has been a long overdue project that will benefit both our residents and developers by providing simpler and more easily understood zoning laws and allow for a faster, less expensive process that will keep Brookfield growing.

EXTENDING THE STILL RIVER GREENWAY

We are about to apply for a grant to extend the Greenway through the Town Hall property and up to the parking lot we built last year between Town Hall and the Center Fire House. This new addition will allow residents access to much needed parking and provide a safe, paved walk through the Town Hall property. This would be a great addition to our Greenway, which has proven immensely popular.

MUNICIPAL PARKING IN THE TOWN CENTER

Right now, as we build our new streetscape, we find that we will only have 27 parking spaces on Federal Road for visitors. While parking is adequate right now, we believe that everyone agrees that in order to attract the shoppers we need to support the new businesses we hope to attract, easy, quick parking is essential.

Residents will not want to drive around the downtown to find a parking space. We need to address this need for additional parking now and will be working on this in the coming months and presenting a plan to the Town to address this issue.

REMEDIATING CONTAMINATION IN THE TOWN CENTER

We have received a grant and will be awarding a contract in the next few days to do an analysis of 20 Station Road, which is a known site of contamination. This contract will give us a full picture of what needs to be done to remediate the property. The current building on the site is in a serious state of disrepair and a comprehensive plan to understand what the contamination is, how to remediate it, and how much it would cost is needed before any work can actually be done on this property. This is important because 20 Station Road is very close to Federal Road and is directly across from some of the new development that is being built.

This work is being done at no cost to the Town.

TOWN FINANCES

As required by the State since 2015, we have recently transitioned to what is called the Uniform Chart of Accounts as did the schools. The schools have transitioned onto the Town's accounting system and starting July 1, we will be on a common platform and have the same accounts for both schools and Town. This will greatly enhance our ability to manage our finances and give better and more understandable reporting to the Town.

At the same time, while the Town has been closing our books on a monthly basis, we are assisting and have agreed with the schools that they will do the same for their books. We have agreed, together, to do a monthly reconciliation between the Town and the schools books, catching any differences and clearing them up immediately. We have already started this reconciliation process and it is working well. This will greatly enhance our ability to close our books at the end of the year and eliminate the lack of clarity we have sometimes experienced in the past.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD'S NEW WEBSITE

The Town is launching a new look of our website. The Go-Live date is July 1. The

website includes many state-of-the-art features for both visitors and Town staff.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting is scheduled on Monday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Brookfield Town Hall. You may view the attachments to the meeting packet on the Town's website using the [Video on Demand](#) link. The meeting is live streamed and posted the following day on the home page in [Video on Demand](#).

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Prior to the July 10 Board of Selectmen Meeting, the BOS scheduled a Special Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 133 to discuss and act upon a resolution authorizing a total appropriation of \$1,340,000 to fund the costs of Phase II of the Town Center Streetscape Project. This phase consists of the design, acquisition, construction and installation of streetscape improvements in the Town Center, including, but not limited to, bicycle paths, sidewalks, benches, lighting, signage and relocation of utility lines, if necessary. The Town would issue General Obligations bonds or notes in the amount of \$475,000 (matching grant) to finance a portion of the appropriation, to be funded from proceeds of one or more grants under the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant. The Notice of Special Town Meeting and Resolution is available on the [Town's website](#).

SELECTMEN "MEET AND GREET"

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, July 29 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Dunkin Donuts, 270 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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Household Hazardous Waste Day

Household Hazardous Waste

For Residents of: Bethel - Bridgewater - Brookfield - Danbury - Kent - New Fairfield
New Milford - Newtown - Redding - Ridgefield - Sherman

Saturday, July 29, 2017 9:00am - 2:00pm

Brookfield High School Parking Lot



What to Bring

- Paints
- Stains and Varnishes
- Paint Thinners & Strippers
- Wood Preservatives
- Resins, Rosins & Adhesives
- Polishes for Furniture, Floor & Metal
- Cleaners for Rug & Upholstery
- Cleaners for Oven, Toilet Bowl & Drain
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Pesticides, Herbicides, Insecticides
(including Lawn Care Products)
- Flea Powder
- Moth Balls
- Spot Removers
- Dry Cleaning Solvents
- Lighter Fluids
- Septic Tank Degreasers
- Engine Degreasers
- Waste Fuels (Kerosene, Gasoline)
- Carburetor Cleaners, Brake Fluids
- Transmission Fluids, Car Waxes
- Full or Partially Full Aerosol Cans
- Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue
- Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets
- Hobby Supplies
- Rechargeable (Ni-Cd) Batteries
- Camera Batteries
- Thermostats, Thermometers

What NOT to Bring

- Electronics, Computers, VCR's
(Recycle at town Drop off Center)
- Empty Aerosol Cans (put in garbage)
- Household Batteries (put in garbage)
- PCB Capacitors
- Smoke Detectors
- Auto Batteries & Tires
- Motor Oil & Antifreeze
(Recycle at Town Drop Off Center)
- Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
(Call the Police Department)
- Radioactive Materials
- Unknown Gases
- Controlled Substances
- Pathological Material
- Pharmaceutical or Medical Wastes

Need More Information?
Call your Town or HRRRA
203-775-4539
or email info@hrra.org



Tax bills have gone out, payable no later than August 1, 2017. If you are no longer in possession of your vehicle for any reason, make sure to bring in a plate receipt and proof as to what happened to your vehicle (bill of sale, junk receipt, donation letter, etc.) prior to paying your bill.

If you closed your business in town, please stop in our office with a letter of dissolution from the state and a copy of your release of trade name certificate from the Town Clerk. If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's office 203-775-7302.

Social Services News

NEW MEDICARE CARDS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is launching an initiative to protect seniors from Medicare fraud. This initiative will remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. This will not only fight against identity theft, but also protect tax dollars because it will control the illegal use of Medicare benefits. The new cards will use randomly assigned numbers called Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs). The new cards are scheduled to be mailed beginning in April 2018, continuing until the April 2019 deadline. CMS is kicking off a multi-faceted outreach campaign to help providers get ready for the new cards. There will be a 21-month transition period in which providers will be able to use both the old Medicare cards and the new. For more information, please [click here](#).

Public Works News

The Department of Public Works has three major ongoing projects this spring. We are completing the roof replacement for the Town Hall, which started last fall but was stopped three quarters of the way through due to the fall/winter weather. The project is now scheduled for completion in July. We are in the middle of the vehicular fuel tank removal and replacement project at the Town Garage. We removed two 10,000 gallon underground fuel tanks which will be replaced by two 10,000-gallon above-ground tanks. The above-ground tanks will prove to be much safer for the environment, which is a concern considering the proximity to the Still River. We are also moving full speed ahead with our Pavement Management Program.

Economic Development News

Brookfield Town Center Streetscape Groundbreaking

On June 29, the Town of Brookfield celebrated the groundbreaking of the streetscape construction within the Town Center. CT Commissioner of Department of Transportation, James Redeker, was in attendance and spoke highly of the

development project for residents and businesses in Brookfield. Steve Dunn and State Representative Steve Harding thanked property owners and area businesses for their support and partnership with the Town. This project has been anticipated for many years and has been a high priority in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. This revitalization of Brookfield will be enjoyed for years to come.



Construction on the Town Center District Streetscape has started and will continue through October. Brookfield Police are providing traffic control. Residents are asked to drive extra carefully through the Town Center area during this period. Work now includes resetting and adding storm drains, resetting utility valve gates and installing two underground utility crossings under Federal Road. In about two weeks, we'll begin installing granite curbing at Webster Bank, and on average, about 150 feet per day of curbing will be added over the next seven weeks.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Greg Dembowski at 203-733-7209.

Library News

Please go to the Library's website and complete the survey to offer your ideas for the library's future! <https://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/>

Reminder: The Library is closed on Sunday, July 2, Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4 for the July 4th holiday.

Brand New Program for Adults - Socrates Café! Socrates Cafes are gatherings around the world where people from different backgrounds get together to exchange thoughtful ideas and experiences while embracing the central theme of

"Socratizing," the idea that we learn more when we question with others. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, July 17 from 7-8:30 p.m., with meetings on the third Monday of each month.

The Socrates Cafe will be led by facilitator Loretta Donovan, who has twenty-eight years of experience as a facilitator, and has taught inquiry-based facilitation at Columbia University. [Click here](#) to learn more or to register.

Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail! Those who attend this program will be treated to a modern-day adventure. In March 2015, Sam Ducharme set out on a 2,180 mile, 14-state backpacking trip from Springer Mountain, GA to Mt. Katahdin, ME. Come join him as he takes you through the trail towns, over the mountaintops and through the back country. The images and stories will leave you with a renewed awe of the beauty of our country and its people. For info and to register for this program [click here](#).

Cutting the Cord: How to End the High Cost of Cable TV and Phone Service

Get solid information on how to cut costs for these services.

Date: 07/06/2017 Time: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. [Register here](#)

Goza Latin Jazz Concert

Date: 07/16/2017, Time: 4 - 5:15 p.m.

For Teens

Teen Tie-Dye

Please bring a white t-shirt (or other item) to dye

Date: 07/10/2017, Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Grades 6-12. Registration is required. [Click here](#)

Escape Room!!!

This time you will escape the Castle. Join us for a new game based on the popular 'locked room mystery' phenomenon sweeping the country. Work in a team to solve the challenging puzzles and riddles before time runs out. Come prepared to think on your feet.

Date: 07/22/2017, Time: 9 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. [Sign up to Escape the Castle!](#)
Grades 6-12. Registration Required. 10 spaces available per session. Please register for one session only.

For Kids:

Be sure to sign up for our SUMMER READING PROGRAM!! [Sign up here](#)

Adult Events Calendar: [Click here](#)

Teen Events: [Click here](#)

Events for kids: [Click here](#)

Tax Collector News

The first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the Grand List of 2016 is due and payable as of July 1, 2017. All motor vehicle taxes are also due. If you believe your motor vehicle bill is incorrect, please contact the Assessor's Office at 203-775-7302.

Taxes not paid by August 1, 2017 will become delinquent and interest will be charged from the due date of July 1, 2017 at the rate of 1-1/2% per month - minimum interest charged is \$2.00. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from the tax or the penalty. There is a \$20.00 service charge for all returned checks.

Visit the Town of Brookfield website www.brookfieldct.gov to pay online by either Credit Card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express are accepted) or ECheck. A convenience fee is charged for this service. You may also view your tax bills online at www.brookfieldct.gov.

A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed if you wish to receive a receipt. Taxes are payable at Brookfield Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road or by mail addressed to TAX COLLECTOR, P.O. BOX 508, BROOKFIELD, CT 06804-0508.

Payments made by electronic checks from your bank account are sometimes delayed. The money will be removed from the account for processing but the bank may not get the check in the mail as you have requested. If the payment is received after the grace period, the Tax Collector must look at the post mark to determine if the payment is to be considered on time. If there is no post mark, the Tax Collector must consider the payment as late. CT State Statute 12-146 clearly states, "No tax or installment therefor shall be construed to be delinquent under the provision of this section if the envelope containing the amount due as such tax is payable, bears a postmark showing a date within the time allowed by state statute for the payment of such tax or installment". The law does not refer to check dates or banking records so US Postmark is the only legal writing Tax Collectors can accept. If you need to make payment this way, please give the bank plenty of time for processing. Also make sure the tax bill information is clearly written on the check so that we credit the correct account.

If you have any questions, please call 203-775-7304.

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please note: Town Hall will be closed July 3 & 4 in observance of Independence Day.

To sign up for an email reminder please go to the Tax Collector's website page at

Brookfield Police Department News



The Department hosts car seat fittings on the first and third Wednesday of every month. The next date to schedule appointments is on Wednesday, July 5. Please call 203-740-4192 or email carseats@brookfieldct.gov to make an appointment.

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to receive news and information from the Department.

Brookfield CARES



Hope and Support groups meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at 103 Mill Plain Road, Danbury.

C.A.R.E.S. Hope & Support Group

Meetings every Monday
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

New Location:

C.A.R.E.S. Office
103 Mill Plain Rd
Danbury, CT 06811

Staff can be reached day or night by calling: 855-406-0246

Receive information and resources about everything from how to enhance family communication to community health concerns by subscribing to our [newsletter](#).

We want to hear from you! Brookfield Cares is always open to suggestions, so email us at info@brookfield-cares.org or [submit](#) an idea or suggestion.

Anonymously drop off your prescription and non-prescription medications 24/7 in the drop box located in the Brookfield Police Department's Lobby.

Brookfield Museum Hosts Lecture on the WWII Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Forerunner Of Today's CIA Monday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m.



Robert Pursell of Brookfield, a retired engineer and research writer, will give a multi-media presentation on the WWII Office of Strategic Services (OSS). The program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 10, in the Brookfield Historical Society Museum, at 165 Whisconier Road (Intersection of Routes 25 and 133) in Brookfield Center.

Pursell will focus on the origins of the OSS and its use during the war to gather enemy intelligence, infiltrate their agents into enemy strongholds, organize resistance and interrupt and destroy vital enemy operations. He will discuss the experience of former Brookfield resident John Breen, who graduated from the first class of OSS agents and served the OSS in Burma during the war.

Pursell also will explain how the OSS eventually morphed into the current day Central Intelligence Agency.

Brookfield Historical Society Hosts Patriotic Summer Concert Saturday, July 22, 7 p.m.



The Brookfield Historical Society will present its fourth annual Summer Concert in

the Formal Garden behind the Brookfield Museum, Saturday, July 22, at 7:00 p.m. The Museum is located at 165 Whisconier Road at the intersection of Routes 25 and 133 in Brookfield Center. The concert will feature the music of singer Billy Michael and female vocalists Arianna Carlo, Anna Bishop and Maddy Oldham appearing as the Patriettes. The program will be a mixture of traditional patriotic songs and popular favorites.

Admission is free to this fun filled event. The program is tailored for family members of all ages.

*All Attendees are
Encouraged to Bring Lawn Chairs*

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