



Recently the Town has been in the news regarding some issues, many of them not good. I have released statements (see attached statements for more detail) on these issues. Let me state this first and very directly; we are going to take the steps needed to get our financial statements right, work to restore our general fund balance (which is critical to retaining our ability to borrow at the lowest rates) and work hard to eliminate the possibility of fraud or malfeasance occurring. We are taking a multi-pronged approach on this by asking the Board of Selectmen to appoint, and the Board of Finance to approve, funding the hiring of specialists to investigate the town's books with a goal of understanding exactly why we have a large difference in our fund balance and how to prevent this in the future. At the same time we will be working with our consultant, BlumShapiro, to formulate new policies and operating procedures that will help ensure that the town never gets into this situation again. One of BlumShapiro's recommendations that we are moving forward on, even before seeing their final report due at the

end of March, is proposing in the new budget the hiring of a purchasing agent that will work for both the town and the school system. This individual will be charged with ensuring that every penny the town spends is spent wisely and economically. We believe this new purchasing agent will allow us to eliminate waste, cut costs and identify and establish relationships with vendors that will provide high quality products and services at substantial savings. With a combined town and school budget of over \$60 million, it is time to bring in an expert to help the town manage what it buys.

March is also budget month and we will be formally presenting the Board of Selectmen budget to the Board of Finance on March 3. The Board of Selectmen has already had meetings with every department head to understand their needs and to make the tough decisions on what to recommend to the Board of Finance. Given the issues that have been occurring, it has been a particularly difficult process, but we will have a final budget that we believe the town will want to approve as we move forward in making Brookfield the best town in Connecticut. As promised, we held a joint meeting between the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education to allow the Board of Education to make a full presentation of their budget. I firmly believe that the more information that is shared and discussed, the better our budgets will be in meeting our needs. I sent a budget on the February 17 to the Board of Finance that I termed as a draft for two reasons. One is the issue with our general fund and the possible actions the town might take to address the general fund could have a very significant effect on the overall budget. The second is that, for the first time I am aware of, this draft budget has been sent to the Board of Finance with every request of every department included in it. While we will not be able to implement every single request for funding, I think it is important for the Board of Finance to see the total picture of what each department is asking for, and when they meet with each of the Departments, they will have a fuller understanding of the town's needs and the Board of Finance will be able to make more informed decisions on what projects to move forward on, having had all of that information beforehand. We are going to have to make some very hard decisions in the coming weeks and I am confident that we will make the right ones as town leaders.

**Selectmen Meet and Greet:** "Meet the Selectmen" will be held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is March 26 from 9:00am to 10:30am at O'Donovan's Market located at 273 Whisconier Road. We plan on choosing different locations in Town for the Meet and Greet each month. Please feel free to stop by with any questions you may have or to let us know what's on your mind.

**8th Annual Brookfield Film Festival:** The Brookfield Arts Commission is hosting their 8th Annual Brookfield Film Festival on April 8-10 at the Brookfield Senior Center. Please see the flyer attached to note the times of the showings. To make reservations, email Ann Amorossi at [ann.amorossi@gmail.com](mailto:ann.amorossi@gmail.com) or call 1-919-977-3327.

**Energy Efficiency Achievements:** Our Energy Ad-Hoc Committee members have been working hard to help the Town attain Energy Efficiency Achievements. Energy Committee members recently presented a Silver Plaque award to the First Selectman's office as one of the Clean Energy Communities. Please see the flyer attached noting the Silver level accomplishments. While the Town's Energy Committee is actively seeking to improve the level of the Town's clean energy, they are also seeking additional members on their committee. Please contact the First Selectman's office for further information.

Steve Dunn  
First Selectman  
Brookfield, CT

#### Selectmen's Meeting

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on March 7 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.



OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN  
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 19, 2016

Contact: First Selectman's Office 203-775-7301

**RE: BROOKFIELD FUND BALANCE**

Upon taking office, I was informed that there was a concern with our general fund and that it was possible we did not actually have the fund balance that the town has been reporting. The total difference reported to me was approximately \$3.3 million. We began an intensive review into the possible causes of this fund balance difference and have found the following:

From the period that was reviewed, from approximately 2003 to 2012, there were a number of projects that town meetings had approved to be paid for by bonding once the projects were completed. It appears that this bonding did not actually take place or less was actually bonded than was approved. This accounts for approximately \$1.8 million of the total. Without a full investigative audit, we are unable at this time to determine what caused the remainder of this deficit.

After an intensive 8 week review of the available documentation with both our financial advisor and our bond counsel, bond counsel has agreed that it was, at that time, the town's intention to bond. Therefore, bond counsel has approved and agreed that we can bond \$1.8 million of the total \$3.3 million.

Reviewing this further, we have three options to correct this deficit. First, we can take the funds out of the general fund and report the fund balance correctly. Second, we could ask the town residents to approve a special assessment to be paid with next year's taxes. Third, we can bond the \$1.8 million and take the remainder from the general fund. In order to protect the town's credit rating and ability to finance in the future at favorable rates, our current plan is to go to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, obtain their approvals, and then do the bonding that was intended originally. For the remaining balance, we will be reflecting this in our reporting of our actual fund balance.

I notified our auditors of this issue once it was confirmed to me by our research and we will be re-stating our year end 2015 financials. Our town remains well capitalized and we plan to continue to build our fund balance in the coming years to maintain a general fund balance that is appropriate to maintain our Triple A rating.

The town has taken further steps to prevent this type of issue in the future by hiring an outside consultant last year to review our internal controls and procedures. Once that report is finalized (we expect to receive it in the next two weeks), I expect there will be a number of recommendations to change and strengthen our internal control procedures and establishing new policies to prevent any issues of this type in the future. Additionally, in order to be more transparent to our town and providing residents with more tools to understand the town's budget and financials, the consultant is assisting us to move both the town and the school system to a common charter of accounts and at the same time, moving the school system to the same accounting system the town uses. This action will simplify our accounting, allow us to close our books and provide reporting to the town that is accurate and timely.

P (203) 775-7301 • F (203) 775-5316

SDUNN@BROOKFIELDCT.GOV • WWW.BROOKFIELDCT.GOV





OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN  
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 19, 2016

Contact: First Selectman's Office 203-775-7301

**RE: FORMER FIRST SELECTMAN'S LETTER TO THE FBI**

For the past several days I have received numerous calls from concerned citizens inquiring about "alleged corruption" in Town government. After I was elected to the position of First Selectman, and just before taking office, I was provided with a copy of a letter prior First Selectman William Tinsley sent to the Public Corruption Task Force of the New Haven Regional Office of the FBI. In this letter, Mr. Tinsley reported that "while serving in office as First Selectman, I have observed the difficulty that Brookfield's relatively new Town Controller has faced in reconciling the assets in a number of municipal accounts – pension trust, capital projects, and utility operations to name just the few. The reconciliation difficulty is almost always caught by missing documentation. The problem of missing documentation is so pervasive that it takes on the appearance of planned malfeasance".

After discussing this with the Town's Chief of Police, who was unaware of the letter, he offered to use his contacts at the FBI to have them review this matter. I have spoken with the FBI upon taking office and have come to learn that they do not intend to conduct an FBI investigation into the "missing documentation" to which Mr. Tinsley has referred. I have reported our prior First Selectman's concerns to our local police department and have been advised that the allegations are too general in nature and do not present law enforcement officials with cause to investigate his concerns further at this time. Both the FBI and our local police department have both indicated that if we find any further evidence, they would review it.

Since I took office late last year, I have learned that in several cases retiree pension benefits had been calculated incorrectly and am pleased to report that our Human Resources Manager discovered a number of miscalculations that were made prior to her employment with the Town. She took prompt corrective action to ensure these benefits were properly recalculated and overpayments recouped by the Town. I fully expect that, like any business, we may from time to time discover other mistakes that may have been made in the past but I believe we have the right process in place in our Human Resources Department to discover those mistakes and to ensure that new errors do not reoccur.

As long as I have the good fortune to serve as the Town's First Selectman, I assure the public that my highest priority will be to ensure that the public's resources are used wisely and that the public trust is maintained.

To the extent that anyone has any specific allegations of misallocation of public resources, I urge you to bring such specific concerns to my attention and I assure that they will be promptly investigated and when appropriate corrective action will be undertaken.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENTS

# Earning Energy Efficiency Points

### ENERGY REDUCTION PROGRAM PROGRESS LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT:



#### CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY BRONZE LEVEL

- Pledged to the Clean Energy Community Program
- Committed to make a 20% energy reduction by 2018 and to get 20% of the municipal energy from renewable resources by 2018



#### CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY SILVER LEVEL

- Established Energy Task Force
- Engaged in Community Awareness of energy programs
- Earned a Bright Idea Grant
- Established a EPA Portfolio Manager Account complete with one full year of usage data.
- 10% of the households have participated in energy savings programs
- 10% of the businesses have completed an energy saving project
- Completed 17% of the renewable energy commitment



#### CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY GOLD LEVEL

- Completed 100% Benchmarking of Municipal and Board of Education buildings in EPA Portfolio Manager
- Redeemed first Bright Idea Grant for energy saving project
- Completed outreach campaign for residential and/or business community
- Achieved 20% Residential Program Participation
- Achieved 15% Commercial/SBEA Participation

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Tax Collector's News

**Tax Information 2015 - Tax Report**

If you need your 2015 Tax Payment information go to this [link](#) for instructions.

**Real Estate Bill**

If your Real Estate taxes are escrowed, the bank should request your Real Estate bill.

If you change banks or pay off your mortgage, please contact the office to let us know where your Real Estate bill should be sent.

Roberta Q. Sinatra, Tax Collector  
203-775-7304  
[rsinatra@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:rsinatra@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

We are making preparations for our upcoming paving and drainage improvement season. Check the town [website](#) for an updated paving list and new road ratings.

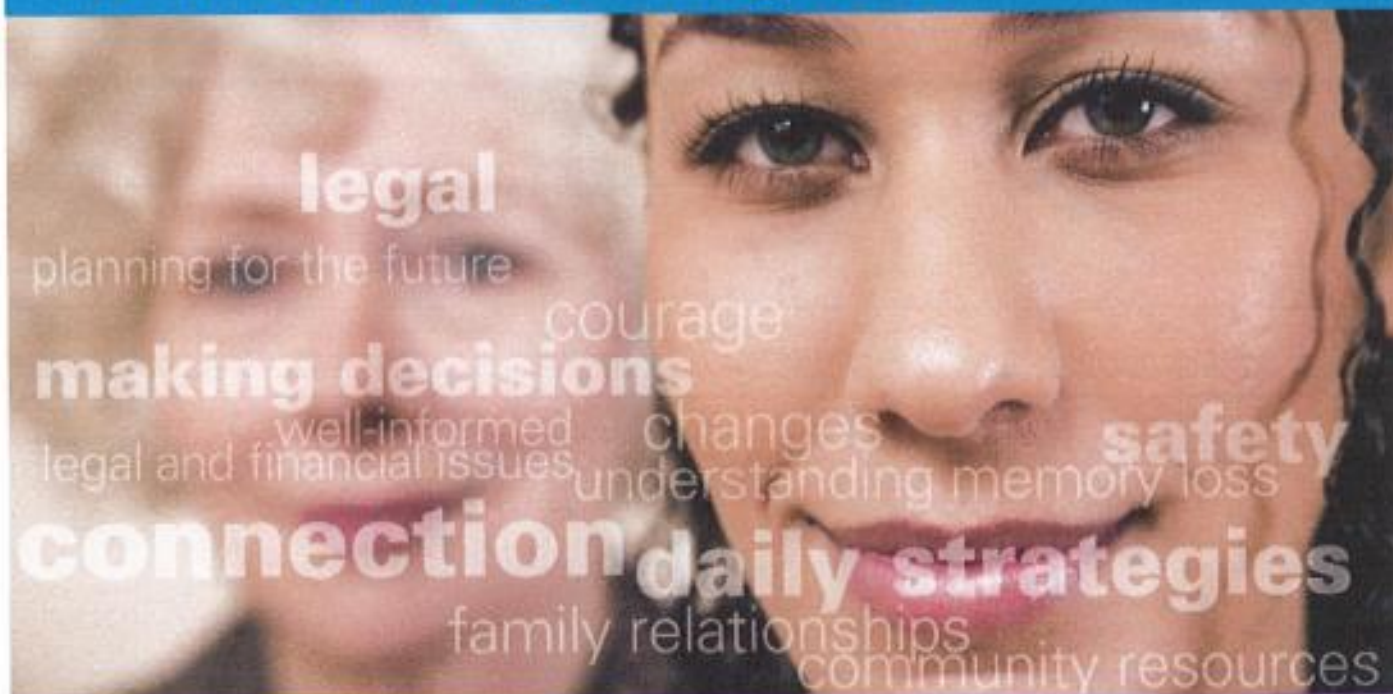
This spring we will also break ground on the long awaited Meadowbrook Manor Flood Relief project that will protect the neighborhood up to a 100 year rainstorm event.

## Senior Center News

alzheimer's  association

# living with alzheimer's

## for middle-stage caregivers



### a middle stage education program by the alzheimer's association

In the middle stage of Alzheimer's disease, those who were care partners now become hands-on caregivers. Join us for this 3-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's.

Date: Wednesdays: March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

1pm to 3pm

Location: Brookfield Senior Center  
100 Pocono Road  
Brookfield CT 06804  
Presenter: Tina Hogan, Northwestern Regional Coordinator

RSVP: Brookfield Senior Center 203.775.5308 or email: [dar4alz@gmail.com](mailto:dar4alz@gmail.com)

200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489   alvarez@vt   860.828.2828 tel/   860.571.8611 fax   800.272.3900 24/7 Helpline

## Library News

Please subscribe to the library's newsletter for complete details about our programs and services. Go to [www.brookfieldlibrary.org](http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org), click on "Get Email Updates" on the right, enter your email address, and pick the categories you're interested in.

The Kerry Boys will present a concert of Irish music on Sunday, March 20, at 3:00pm. Admission is free, and refreshments will follow the concert.

Adult program details and registration: <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/adult-events-calendar>. Programs include Parlons Francais, our French Discussion Group, What's Cooking? Winter Whole Grain Salads, Color Your World: Adult Coloring, Hatch an Idea and Rule the Roost: From Chicks to Omelettes: Raising Backyard Chickens with Nancy Grasso, The Great Danbury State Fair with Local Author Andrea Zimmerman, and three different Book Discussions (The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey by Rinker Buck, Circling The Sun by Paula McLain, and The Royal Wulff Murders by Keith McCafferty)

Computer Classes. Register at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/computer-classes-calendar>. Classes include Express Excel (learn to create a sample budget and medical expenses workbook) and Intro to Windows 10.

Teen Programs. Register at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/teen-events-calendar>. Programs include Makers Club for Ages 6-12, Random Fandom - Gaming for Grades 6-12, and Throwback Thursday for Grades 6-12, along with Teen Movie Night - *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2*.

Kids Programs: Details and registration at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/kids-events-calendar>. Information about the spring storytime session is now open at <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/kids-events-calendar/storytimes-calendar>. Programs: Read to Baci the Therapy Dog, Write On! Journaling Session, Science Explorers for Age 4 - Grade 2, Kid's Afternoon @ the Movies: *The Peanuts Movie*, Lego Club for Grades K-5, Bridge Science for Grades 3-5, Kid's Improv Club for Grades 2-5, and Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library Scavenger Hunt! for Grades 3-5.

## Park & Rec News

### 17th Annual Flashlight Egg Hunt: Friday, March 18.

Just for students in grades 3 - 5! The hunt will be held on the grounds of Town Hall at 8:00pm sharp, and will last approximately 20 minutes. All participants must bring their own flashlights. Bags will be provided for collecting. Call the Parks & Recreation Office to pre-register. Cost is \$1.00 per student. Pay on the evening of the hunt in front of the Town Hall.

### 20th Annual Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 19.

Join the Parks & Recreation Department on the grounds of Town Hall on Saturday, March 19. Additional features include a jellybean counting contest and a special appearance by a well-known bunny. Bags will be provided for egg collecting. Call the Parks & Rec. Office to pre-register.

Cost is \$1.00 per child. Pay on the day of the hunt in the lobby of Town Hall. Rain date is Sunday, March 20.



Age Divisions:  
Under 3            at 12:00pm  
3- 4 year olds at 12:15pm  
5 - 6 year olds at 12:30pm  
7 - 8 year olds at 12:45pm

## Health Department News

Substances such as Uranium and Radon are naturally occurring in some of the groundwater in Connecticut. This is particularly true in some areas of Brookfield, where the underlying bedrock consists of what has been called "younger granite." These substances may leach into well water and may be harmful to humans if consumed in significant quantities. Much of Brookfield's water is derived from private wells. The remainder is supplied commercially, particularly by the Aquarion Water Company, from wells which are tested frequently for the presence of these substances and regulated by the State.

However, there is no such regulation of private wells. It is up to the individual homeowner to determine the safety and integrity of his/her own water quality. The Brookfield Health Director, under State Statute, has established a policy wherein all newly drilled wells, or deepened or hydrofractured existing wells, must be tested for the presence of Uranium and Arsenic before receiving approval for use. Uranium is a radionuclide, i.e. radioactive to a minor degree, and may harm the kidneys if consumed in large quantities and over long periods of time (25 years, by some estimates). Radon is the second leading cause of Lung Cancer accounting for about 20% of such cancers.

The Brookfield Health Department therefore encourages each homeowner on a private well to periodically test his or her well water for Uranium and Radon at least once every three years. If Uranium is present in significant quantities, then a relatively inexpensive unit can be installed for reducing the quantity of Uranium in the drinking or cooking water. More information concerning Uranium or Radon testing can be obtained from the Health Department staff at (203) 755-7315 or on our [website](#).

## Brookfield Arts Commission



**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!**

# **THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BROOKFIELD FILM FESTIVAL**

**APRIL 8-10, 2016**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8 AT 7:30PM**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9 AT 7:30PM**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AT 3 PM**

**BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER  
100 POCONO ROAD, BROOKFIELD, CT**

**AN EXCITING PROGRAM OF AWARD WINNING SHORT FILMS FROM SOME OF THE  
MOST PRESTIGIOUS INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS  
MUSIC, WINE AND HORS D'OEUVRES**

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, EMAIL [ANN.AMOROSSIGMAIL.COM](mailto:ANN.AMOROSSIGMAIL.COM)  
OR 1 919-977-3327**

**ADMISSION - \$15 (SUGGESTED DONATION)**

**BROOKFIELD**

**INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE**





BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE BROOKFIELD ARTS COMMISSION  
AND THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS OF BROOKFIELD, INC. IN  
COOPERATION WITH THE BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER

THIS IS AN ADULT PROGRAM, ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 17 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

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