



March 2017



#### 9th ANNUAL BROOKFIELD FILM FESTIVAL

The Brookfield Arts Commission is hosting their 9th Annual Brookfield Film Festival from March 31 - April 2 at the Brookfield Senior Center. Please see the [flyer](#) for further information. To make reservations, email [bacreservations@gmail.com](mailto:bacreservations@gmail.com).

#### STREAMLINING THE INSPECTION PROCESS

Our Building team has created a telephone number you can call to get the inspection schedule. You can now call 203-775-7325 after 4pm the day before your inspection. You just listen for

your address and we give you a one hour inspection window that we will be there. This has been working very well for everyone and has eliminated up to 10 to 20 phone calls a day from property owners trying to find information on their inspection times. Shortly, we plan on putting information on the town website showing inspection schedules. Doing this saves time and money for both the property owners and the town.

#### DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOUR CORNERS

If you have driven by the Four Corners, you can see the Brookfield Village Development going up. The first two buildings are scheduled to be completed by fall of this year. We welcome Brookfield Village to our town and look forward to working with them.

#### REFERENDUM ON STREETScape

We recently held a referendum to fund Phase I of the Streetscape in the Four Corners. We are pleased to announce that it was approved by an almost 2 to 1 margin. This project, which is funded almost 60% with grants, will bring sidewalks, streetlamps and other amenities to start our beautiful new downtown district. In turn we hope that this investment will bring great developers who will continue to enhance our downtown with quality building that meets our town's desire to have a New England style town center. That in turn will generate more tax revenues for the town as we continue to improve Brookfield.

#### ZONING MORATORIUM

We are hiring a lawyer who is an expert to guide us through the process of applying for a moratorium on the 8-30 G housing that allows developers to ignore virtually all of our zoning laws and build any housing they want, as long as it complies with the State's 8-30-G law. Brookfield supports and wants a wide variety of housing types with rent ranges to make it affordable for all. However, we do not support having virtually no control over

what gets built. This moratorium will block the ability of developers from using 8-30-G to override our zoning for a period of four years.

## ZONING REWRITE

We have hired the firm of Milone and McBroome to assist the town in a complete update and re-writing of all of our zoning laws. We have already held planning meetings with them. This firm has done high quality work for the town in the past and they know our town very well. Over the next few months we will be holding public meetings to get your input on what changes might be needed to our laws. Please do come out and share your thoughts.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

The next regular Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, at 7:30 pm 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.

## BOS PUBLIC HEARING - 2017 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Prior to the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Monday, March 6, the Selectmen have scheduled a Public Hearing from 7:00 - 7:30 pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain resident's views on the Town's community development and housing needs and to review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities. These projects could be part of the Town's Application for a grant amount of \$400,000 under the housing rehabilitation category for interest free - deferred payment home improvement loans for qualified low and moderate income residents. The hearing will also review and discuss the Town's prior Small Cities projects including any currently open or underway.

## SELECTMEN "MEET AND GREET"

Meet the Selectmen events are held on the last Saturday of each month. Our next Meet and Greet is Saturday, March 25, from 9:00 am - 10:30 am at Layla's Bakery located at 316 Federal Road. Please feel free to stop by with any questions you may have, or to let us know what's on your mind.

## TOWN BUDGET PROCESS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

The Town's budget process for 2017 - 2018 is underway. The First Selectman reviewed and evaluated department head requests in early February. In mid-February, the Board of Selectmen began their deliberations on the First Selectman's recommended budget. The First Selectman's budget message and budget proposal can be viewed on the Town's [website](#) under News & Announcements. The Board of Selectmen will finalize their budget to forward to the Board of Finance the first week of March.

Steve Dunn  
First Selectman  
Brookfield, CT

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## Library News

### Goodbye and Hello

After fourteen years, Library Director Anita Barney is retiring on March 31. Yvonne Cech will be the new Library Director. Please see the April library and town newsletters for information about receptions to say hello and good-bye.

### Book Launch Party with Dr. Chris Kukk

Please join us to celebrate the launch of *The Compassionate Achiever: How Helping Others Fuels Success* with Dr. Chris Kukk on Monday, March 6, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Community Room of The Brookfield Library. Chris will speak about the link between compassion & success. Beginning at 7:00 pm, Chris will talk about the book and will answer questions. A book signing will follow, with books available for purchase through Barnes & Noble (cash and credit cards only, please). A portion of the book sales will be donated to The Friends of The Brookfield Library. This event is open to the public, and registration is required. Thanks to Dr. Kukk, The Brookfield Library has created a Compassion Collection. A limited number of books in the collection will be available for checkout with a current Connecticut library card. Please click [here](#) to register.

### Now Accepting Books for Annual Book Sale

The Friends of The Brookfield Library are now accepting donations of gently-used books, DVDs, audiobooks on CD, and music CDs for adults, teens, and kids. Please leave your

donations in the bin to the right of the library doors. A donation receipt is available during library hours at the Checkout Desk. Dates for the summer sale will be announced in March. Please donate or recycle outdated travel, medical, and computer books elsewhere.

## Programs and Events

Information and registration details for programs for adults (computer classes, concerts, book groups, and both ongoing and special programs):

<http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/adult-events-calendar/>.

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

Programs for Kids: <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/teen-events-calendar/> and <http://www.brookfieldlibrary.org/event-calendars/kids-events-calendar/storytimes-calendar/>.

## Tax Collector News

**Tax Information 2016 - Tax Report:** If you need your 2016 Tax Payment information go to this link: [http://www.brookfieldct.gov/Pages/BrookfieldCT\\_Tax/index](http://www.brookfieldct.gov/Pages/BrookfieldCT_Tax/index).

Click on the View or Pay Tax Bills button. Click on For All Online Payments and Payment History. Enter your last name and first initial. (NO punctuation) or you may change the "search by" to whatever you wish. Next click on IRS Payment Records for Year 2016 and then click on Search.

This will bring up the payment records for 2016. Place a check mark in the IRS box located on the right side above the payment information on the blue/green bar and then click on View IRS. This will show the amount of the payment and the date the payment was made. You can print out this information for your records.

## 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.

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).

## Tax Assessor News

**Town Elderly Tax Relief Benefit requirements for the 2016 GRAND LIST (2017/2018 tax bills) are as follows:**

1. An applicant or their spouse was 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2016.

2. A 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. Applicants must be current on their tax payments.
3. The net assessment of an applicant's property shall not exceed the median assessment of \$236,860 for the current 2016 Grand List year.
4. A property must be the legal residence of an applicant and occupied by the applicant more than 183 days of each calendar year.
5. Applicant income must not exceed \$49,280 unmarried and \$60,060 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS Form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If an applicant is not filing an income tax return, copies of all income statements for 2016 must be submitted with an application.
6. Applicant must be the record owner of a property as of October 1, 2016.
7. Applications must be filed between Feb 1st and May 15th annually.

**Town Additional Veteran Exemption requirements for the 2017 GRAND LIST (2018/2019 tax bills) are as follows:**

1. Must have form DD214 Discharge filed with the Town Clerk's Office by September 30th of the Grand List year in which a veteran is applying.
2. Veteran must have served during an eligible war period and have been Honorably Discharged.
3. Income must not exceed \$52,700 unmarried and \$58,900 married for the calendar year 2016. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income.
4. Filing period is from February 1 to September 30.

**State Elderly Tax Relief Benefit and State Additional Veteran Exemption requirements are as follows:**

1. Applicants must be the owners and legal residents of Real Property as of October 1st of the filing year. Elderly Tax Relief applicants or their spouse had to be age 65 as of December 31, 2016. There is no age limit for the State Additional Veteran Exemption.
2. Income cannot exceed \$35,200 unmarried and \$42,900 married. "Income" is defined as total income from the 2016 IRS form 1040 PLUS Social Security and tax exempt income. If an applicant is not filing an income tax return, copies of all income statements for 2016 must be submitted with an application.

Rebuilding Together of Litchfield County (and surrounding towns) rehabilitates the homes of our older residents with limited resources who are living in unsafe and sub-standard conditions. Skilled and lay volunteers work with the homeowners to complete necessary repairs to keep the homeowners safe and comfortable. Once a year Rebuilding Together hosts a Re-Build Day, a large-scale event to repair about 25 homes in Litchfield County and the surrounding area. This year the Annual Rebuild Day will be held on on April 29th. They will need lots of volunteers, so whether or not you are a professional builder, carpenter, plumber, electrician, etc., you are needed! It is also a lot of fun! Volunteers will meet at 7:45 am at Education w/o Walls, 64 Railroad Street, New Milford, for coffee, juice and doughnuts. No need to sign up beforehand - just show up! You will then be assigned a team captain and a home to repair - it's that simple! For questions, call Ceia Webb, 860-350-2290 or email to: [ceiawebb@rebuildinglitchfieldcounty.org](mailto:ceiawebb@rebuildinglitchfieldcounty.org).

## Parks & Rec News

### **Simplify Life with Kids**

Overwhelmed with the volume of stuff in your home? Have kid's toys, coats and sports equipment taken over? Wish you could get rid of it all and start fresh? Professional Organizer Kerri Colombo of Cornerstone Organizing will inspire you to make changes in your home to simplify your everyday living and free up time to do more of what you love. You will leave class with actionable change strategies and be motivated to move forward. Kerri is passionate about guiding others on this journey. She has appeared as the Organizing Expert on TLC's Hoarding and is a recommended Organizer with Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living Anxiety Disorders Center.

Day: Wednesday

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Date: 3/8 (1 wk)

Fee: \$25.00

Place: Town Hall Meeting Room

### **Spring on the Amalfi Coast?**

Well, if you can't have that, perhaps you can enjoy some of these authentic Southern Italian specialties on your deck (once the snow melts, of course) and pretend you are there. Springtime offers new choices for fresh vegetable dishes, although this class goes beyond vegetables (but is still vegetarian) to include a traditional pizza rustica (a ricotta-based pie), peach gelato, and a few other surprises. Each class is hands-on as students prepare the recipes, which are then enjoyed at the end of class each week. Buon appetito!

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Dates: 3/2 - 3/23 (4 wks)

Fee: \$82.00

Instructor: Ann Salinger

Place: BHS Culinary Arts Room #204

### **Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show - Thursday, March 16**

The Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation's largest and longest-running horticultural event, and features stunning displays by the world's premier floral and landscape designers. The 2017 Show celebrates the wonders of Holland; from windmills and wooden shoes, cheeses to bicycles, to canals and vibrant flower fields. There will be time for lunch on your own at the Convention Center or at Reading Market next door. Leave from Brookfield Town Hall at 7:40 am and travel with a tour director by coach bus. Arrive back in Brookfield at approximately 9:30 pm. Fee is \$99.00 per person.



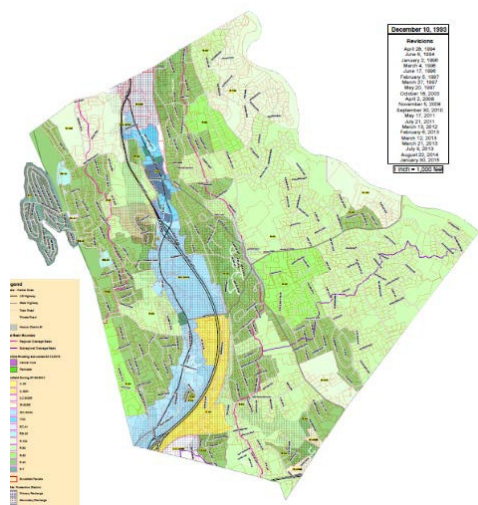
## Public Works News

As winter winds down, the DPW is making preparation for the removal of our two 10,000 gallon underground vehicular fuel tanks at the town garage that have reached the end of their useful life. They will be replaced with two 10,000 gallon above ground double walled steel tanks. The tentative start date of this project is March 13, 2017.

## Economic Development News

### Zoning Regulation Rewrite

The Zoning Regulation Rewrite Ad Hoc Committee, including representatives of the Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commissions, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Land Use Department Staff was formed to revise the Brookfield Zoning Regulations, which govern the types of land uses and buildings permitted, and should reflect the community's land use goals-from protecting residential neighborhoods to promoting beneficial economic development in areas like the Federal Road corridor. The Town has contracted with Milone & MacBroom, Inc. to conduct the technical work relating to the zoning overhaul. Feel free to contact Betsy Paynter, Economic & Community Development manager with any questions. 203-775-5235 or [bpaynter@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:bpaynter@brookfieldct.gov).



Stay up to date on social media and "like or follow" us on [Facebook](#).

## Health Department News

March is National Nutrition Month, during which we support healthy eating habits. There are several helpful web sites available for advice on healthy eating, such as [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org), sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics or [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Each provides sound advice on choosing the right foods, daily exercise and improving your health. If you are at risk for Diabetes, prevention programs such as those sponsored by your local YMCA may be of significant benefit.

Sound nutrition can prevent heart disease, Diabetes and even Dental issues. It can prolong one's life by decades. Make your March special this year and pledge to incorporate sound nutritious foods into your daily routine, while eliminating excess fats and sugars from your

breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## Brookfield Police Department News

Due to the success of our first event, we are hosting our second Coffee with a Cop on Saturday, March 18 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at Bagelman (14 Candlewood Lake Road). Enjoy a cup of coffee while getting to know your officers. A cup of coffee can be a common bond to build relationships with officers sworn to protect you and your community, and can give our officers greater insight into the needs and concerns of their community.



The Brookfield Police Department hosts car seat fitting clinics on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 8:00 am to noon by appointment. Please call 203-740-4192 or email [carseats@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:carseats@brookfieldct.gov) to schedule your appointment. Our next car seat fitting date is on March 15th, and Brookfield residency is not required. You can learn more about the program and access the form to complete and bring to your appointment by [clicking here.](#)

## Town of Brookfield - Housing Rehabilitation Program



# Housing Rehabilitation Program

## 0% Interest Loans

### A Small Cities Grant - Town of Brookfield



Does your roof or plumbing leak? Does your heating system leave you cold? The Housing Rehabilitation Loan program can help you make these repairs with **no out of pocket expenses**.

The **Town of Brookfield** is now accepting applications for its Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. Sponsored by HUD (Housing and Urban Development) and the Town of Brookfield, the program provides **INTEREST FREE - DEFERRED PAYMENT HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS** to qualified low and moderate income residents. The loans are not due and payable until the home is sold.

Examples of eligible repairs are: roof and window replacement, lead paint removal, electrical & heating system upgrades, code corrections, failed septic systems and handicap accessibility.

Eligible applicants must 1) be up to date on property taxes; 2) have 10% equity in the home; and 3) be low or moderate income by HUD standards.

#### **THE PROGRAM REQUIRES NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES.**

For further information or an application please contact Lisa Low & Associates, Small Cities Consultants for the Town of Brookfield, 203-888-5624 or [lisalowassociates@comcast.net](mailto:lisalowassociates@comcast.net).

The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Fair Housing Employer. Section 3, Women's and Minority Businesses are encouraged to apply.

On Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM, the Brookfield Museum and Historical Society will host a PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Raymond Sullivan, Director of Public Health for the Town of Brookfield. The presentation will cover two famous patriots who made significant contributions leading to the success of the War of Independence in the early stages of the American Revolution. Sullivan will highlight the significant actions of both John Adams and Dr. Joseph Warren in rallying the colonists towards armed revolt.



Sullivan, a retired cancer surgeon, is an ardent student of New England History. He is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and has taught New England history at the Waterbury Campus of the University of Connecticut. He has published "Contentment: A Novel Of New England Birth". His second work "Softness and Sensibility: A Biography of Abigail "Nabby" Adams Smith America's First Princess" is currently being edited. Following the presentation, complimentary refreshments will be available. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. The Museum is located at the intersection of Routes 25 and 133 in Brookfield Center. For more information on this and other public programs being offered by the Brookfield Historical Society log onto [www.brookfieldcthistory.org](http://www.brookfieldcthistory.org) .

Brookfield Arts Commission



**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!**

# **THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BROOKFIELD FILM FESTIVAL**

**MARCH 31–APRIL 2, 2017**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31 AT 7:30PM**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1 AT 7:30PM**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2 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 [BACRESERVATIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BACRESERVATIONS@GMAIL.COM)  
OR 203-740-2034 (VICKI HENNINGER)

ADMISSION - \$15 (SUGGESTED DONATION)

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





# **BROOKFIELD CARES**

**Promoting social and emotional wellness in our community.**

Brookfield Cares and the C.A.R.E.S. Group host weekly hope and support group meetings every Monday night from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Brookfield Senior Center.

## **BROOKFIELD CARES**

### **Hope and Support Group**

Meetings every Monday

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Brookfield Senior Center

100 Pocono Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

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

We want to hear from you! Brookfield Cares is always open to suggestions from you. Feel free to send us an email at [info@brookfield-cares.org](mailto:info@brookfield-cares.org) or click [here](#) to 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.

*Newsletter header photography by Joe Dolen. Copyright 2012.*