

## From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

### Burn it with a Permit!

**Fire Marshal**  
860-779-3411  
option 9  
69 South Main St.  
PO BOX 356

Please remember to contact your local Fire Marshal's office for a Burn Permit, before burning your residential brush. Brush is defined as shrubs, vegetation, or prunings with maximum diameters, as stated on the Burn Permit. Please be aware of weather conditions, fire danger levels, and air quality alerts. Never leave a fire unattended. A copy of the Application and Permit for Open Burning of Brush on Residential Property is available on our town website, on the Fire Marshal's webpage.



Questions about Burn Permits? Call the Fire Marshal's office at 860-779-3411, ext. 32.

**Remember, it is safety first when dealing with fire!**

## Mortlake Fire Company Annual Chicken Barbeque

**When:** Sunday, July 26, 2015

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM - Take Out Only

**Where:** Mortlake Fire Station, 12 Canterbury Road, Brooklyn

**Cost:** \$9 - Dinner (1/2 BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Roll, Ice Cream cup)  
\$6 - 1/2 BBQ Chicken Only & bag of potato chips

**Ticket Sales to begin in early July!**

**If you are interested in joining please call 860-774-0296 or go to [www.mortlakefire.com](http://www.mortlakefire.com)**



## Brooklyn Town Library

**Library**  
860-774-0649  
10 Canterbury Rd  
PO BOX 357

**Hours:** Monday: 2pm-7pm • Tuesday: 11am-5pm • Wednesday: 2pm-7pm • Thursday: 2pm-5pm • Friday: 2pm-5pm • Saturday: 11am-5pm

We have been very busy getting ready for the Library Summer Reading Game! The game and registration began on June 29<sup>th</sup> and the game will end on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Children of all ages are invited to participate; younger children may count the minutes that they have been read to.

If you like to read eBooks or listen to audiobooks, check out OverDrive and OneClick on our website ([www.brooklyntownlibrary.org](http://www.brooklyntownlibrary.org))! They are databases with free eBooks and audiobooks that Brooklyn residents, with their Brooklyn Town Library card barcode number, can borrow for free on their devices, after setting up their online accounts. Look under Online Recourses, Access From Home on the home page and click on the OverDrive logo. When entering your barcode number, do not include any spaces.

As always, anyone with a valid Connecticut hometown library card is welcome to use our collection of books and rotating DVD/audiobook collections. If there is an item that we do not own, we will try to borrow it from another CT library for you through Inter-Library Loan. This is a free service and the books are delivered on a CT State Library van system and may take up to 2 weeks to arrive.

We have 3 public internet access computers, with a printer (\$0.15 for black & white; \$0.40 for color per page). The staff will copy (\$0.25 per page and \$0.10 per page for school work) and fax (\$1.00 per page, not including the cover sheet).

We hope you have an enjoyable and productive summer! The librarians always enjoy serving our patrons, young and old. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

# Brooklyn Newsletter

Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

July - September 2015; Issue 1



### What building do you need?

Department phone numbers start with 860-779-3411, followed by the option number.

#### 4 Wolf Den Rd

Brooklyn, CT 06234

Selectman's Office - option 2

Town Clerk - option 4

Registrar of Voters - option 4

Tax Office - option 5

Assessor's Office - option 6

#### 69 South Main St.

Brooklyn, CT 06234

Parks and Recreation - option 7

Financial Department - option 8

Building Official - option 9

Fire Marshall - option 9

Land Use Department - option 9

#### Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday:

8:00am - 5:00pm

Thursdays: 8:00am - 6:00pm

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: Closed

#### Highway Department, option 3

95 Rukstela Rd

**Hours:** Monday - Thursday:

7:00am - 4:00pm

Friday: 7:00am - 11:00am

#### Town Offices Will be Closed On:

September 7: Labor Day

## From the Desk of the First Selectman

Welcome to the Brooklyn Newsletter! We will release our newsletter quarterly in effort to keep our residents informed.

### What's Happening

I am pleased to say our budget was passed for the 2015-16 fiscal year with a zero percent increase. Tax bills will be mailed for July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not receive your bill in the mail, you are still responsible to pay so please call our Tax Collector's office for assistance.

Riverside Park is completed! Stop by for a stroll on one of the passive walking trails, launch your canoe into the Quinebaug or bring some friends for a volleyball game.

In July, Gorman Road will be paved. Please expect some delays in your daily travels and we appreciate your patience and awareness to keep you and our workers safe.

In the next year, we will be looking at replacing guardrails around Town and drainage issues. We realize these are safety concerns and will be making every effort to keep our roadways safe.

We have begun rewriting our Planning & Zoning regulations. There will be a time for public involvement. Stay tuned to get involved.

There are several boards and commissions with vacancies and we need your help! Please see the complete list in this newsletter to see where you can volunteer and get involved. An updated list can be found on our website with instructions on how to apply at

[www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org).

Summer is a great time in Brooklyn! Come take a ride down our beautiful by-ways, stop for a hike or canoe ride in one of our parks or a relaxing picnic by the river. See you soon!

*Rick Ives, First Selectman*

## *From the Land Use Office:*

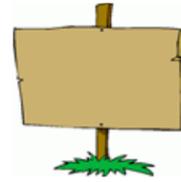
### **Land Use Office**

860-779-3411  
option 9  
69 South Main St.  
PO BOX 356

Are you planning property improvements this summer such as a new shed, pool, or building addition? Please contact the Land Use Office for information on how to apply for a Zoning Permit. Depending on the location of your project, you may also need a Wetlands Permit. The Land Use Administrator can help you with both at (860) 779-3411 ext. 14.

**Signs:** Businesses are reminded that all exterior business signs (including temporary signs) require a Sign Permit. Requirements vary by zone. Signs must be located on private property. Signage in windows cannot exceed 30% of the window surface.

You may view the Brooklyn Zoning Regulations concerning signs online at <http://www.brooklynct.org/land-use-department>. Click on "Zoning Regulations" and scroll to Article 10 Signs.



## *Land Use News*

### **State and Town Cooperate to Protect Farmland from Development**

In April, Brooklyn citizens voted to acquire the development rights to 50 acres on Barrett Hill Road. The property is notable for its abundant natural resources. It is adjacent to existing preserved land and has fertile farmland soils, a significant wetland complex, wildlife corridors, and a scenic vista. The State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture will pay 75% of the cost of an Agricultural Conservation Easement that ensures that the property can never be developed. The Town of Brooklyn will fund the remaining 25% using the Open Space Acquisition Fund.

### **Village Center District Revised**

In March, the Brooklyn Planning and Zoning Commission voted to revise the Zoning Regulations for the Village Center District which includes the Town Green National Register Historic District and adjacent properties near the intersections of Routes 6, 169, and 205. The Town of Brooklyn was the first town in Connecticut to adopt a Village Center District. The commission rewrote the regulations to streamline the process for homeowners and businesses in the district that need to make minor changes to their property. It will also make it easier for businesses to relocate to the Village Center District while maintaining important design standards.

## *Transfer Station*

### **Transfer Station**

860-779-1105  
77 Rukstela Rd  
Hours:  
Friday: 10am-5pm  
Saturday: 8am-5pm

Is your spring cleaning finished and now you don't know where to get rid of your unwanted belongings? Here is a list of some the items that are accepted at the transfer station: tires, propane tanks, refrigerators/freezers (doors must be removed), couches, chairs, mattresses, boxsprings, metals (ex. scrap, wire, fencing, washers, and dryers), brush, leaves, paint (oil and latex paints can be collected, please see Transfer Station Attendant before going), and electronic waste. Please visit the Transfer Station's website or call them for more information and prices.

**Municipal Solid Waste:** This is household garbage and should be placed in Green Town of Brooklyn bags and disposed of in the compactor. Bag cost is \$10.00 per roll of five 33 gallon bags, \$7.00 per roll of five 17 gallon bags, or purchased individually for \$2.00 each.

**Bulky Waste:** Any debris such as construction, demolition, or land clearing waste. This should be weighed at the scale hose and disposed of in bulky waste containers at \$0.10 per pound.



## *Here's what's happening at the Brooklyn Teen Center...*



Our first field trip was a success to Nomads in South Windsor. Our members enjoyed laser tag, rock climbing, mini golf, and tea cups. Our second field trip was equally as successful with a trip to Soarin' Indoors, a High & Low Rope course with zip lines. We also held our first dance on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> complete with a DJ. Our teens enjoyed pizza, dancing and hanging out with friends. A good time was had by all! Our end of the year BBQ and field day was a huge hit. Parents joined their children for an afternoon of burgers, salad, beverages, and plenty of fun! Our new Teen Center sign was unveiled for parents and members to see, with our First Selectman and Parks & Rec Director in attendance. Congrats to Ronald Strauss III for winning the name our teen center contest. His "phrase," A World of Possibilities, is proudly in view on our new sign, banner, and letterhead!

Things to look forward to for the 2015-16 school year: Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be accepting registrations for the Teen Center for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>!!!! Now your 6<sup>th</sup> grader can join us for afternoons of homework time, computer access, pool, ping pong, gaming, cooking, and more! Community service opportunities are available throughout the year. New also this coming year; we are going to be open on Staff Development Days! Registration forms and policy/permission forms will be available for the next school year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Parks & Recreation office or online at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org). We will also be taking registrations at the Teen Center after we reopen for the 2015-16 school year on September 2nd.

We will be holding an Open House on July 25<sup>th</sup>, for any parent and student who would like to see our facility and ask any questions they may have about our program. Hours and more details for our Open House will be posted on the town website or available by calling the Parks & Recreation office. You can also send an email to: [l.lindia@brooklynct.org](mailto:l.lindia@brooklynct.org) or [j.lohbusch@brooklynct.org](mailto:j.lohbusch@brooklynct.org) for more information. We are looking forward to our second year with some familiar faces and new members! Come see what we are all about.....it's a World of Possibilities!

Lisa Lindia – Teen Center Coordinator

**Brooklyn Teen Center**  
Brooklyn Community Center  
31 Tiffany St  
Lower Level

## *Commission Vacancies*

Want to be more involved in the Town, but not sure how to go about it? Have you considered being a part of a commission? Right now there are vacancies in many of the Town's Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, please fill out the Boards and Commissions Questionnaire and return to: Rick Ives, First Selectman, Brooklyn Town Hall, 4 Wolf Den Rd, PO Box 356, Brooklyn, CT 06234. To obtain the questionnaire, visit our website or the Town Hall.

### **Agriculture Commission**

Vacancy for 1 alternate member

### **Conservation**

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### **Emergency Management/Homeland Security**

Vacancies for 2 regular members and

Vacancy for 1 alternate member

### **Housing Authority**

Vacancies for 2 regular members

### **Regulations Hearing Officer**

Vacancy for 2 members

### **Inland Wetlands**

Vacancy for 1 regular member and

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### **Planning & Zoning**

Vacancy for 1 regular member and

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### **Resource Recovery**

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Vacancies for 3 alternate members



## Parks & Recreation Summer Update

### Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411  
option 7  
Fax: 860-779-9372  
69 South Main St.  
PO BOX 356

Summer programs are up and running! We remind residents that although school is out, our Summer Day Camp program is held at the Brooklyn Schools. Please be aware of the children and staff in the school areas and as always, please be mindful of cars and buses entering and exiting the parking lots. Summer Day Camp runs from June 29<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>. Our campers enjoy the many different aspects of camp; including sports days, special guests such as Campardy and Safety Day, Arts & Crafts, and field trip days. Our Reading Room program is made available in cooperation with the Brooklyn Library, who has so generously helped out for many years.

Our summer lineup has Summer Slam Basketball Clinic, Sunrise Fitness, Summer Boot Camp, and two upcoming baseball game bus trips. Before and After School Recreation registration will begin in August. Look for more information on programs for the 2015 fall season in our Fall/Winter brochure coming your way in late July or early August. Please see our Teen Center update in this newsletter and online at our town website.

**Save the date!** Spooky Nights 2015 will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. See details in the Fall/Winter Brochure!!

You can check out all our department's news, program or trip info, and special events online and listed in our bi-annual brochures, mailed to all Brooklyn households.

We hope you all have a safe and fun-filled summer!



## Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee



The Town of Brooklyn Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee is working hard to ensure that the Town is prepared for any potential hazard. This past month we brought to the Brooklyn Ag Days a Department of Public Health Mobile Field Hospital to serve as a respite station during the event. Throughout the weekend, we had cots and air conditioning available to anyone who may have needed a break from heat or was in need of medical assistance. It was staffed with personal from Mortlake Fire Department, the Medical Reserve Corp, Department of Public Health, and Department of Corrections Officers. This is but one of many examples of what we are doing in Town to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any and all hazards that could affect our residents.

### As the summer is upon us, here are a few helpful tips to be prepared for the summer weather:

- With weather that can change rapidly, it is important to be aware of potentially hazardous weather. One way is to download an app for your smart-phone that will alert you to bad weather as it approaches. FEMA just launched its own app that will forward weather alerts to your phone. The Red Cross also provides similar apps for your smart-phone as does WFSB and NBC 30 News.
- Stay hydrated. It is incredibly important to drink enough water especially as the temperatures rise in the summer.
- Talk to your family, neighbors, and friends. When a disaster strikes is not the time to start having a conversation about what you will do in a disaster. Create a disaster plan and prepare an emergency kit. [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) is a great place to start.

If any of this sounds interesting to you and you would like to get involved, please check out our website at [www.brooklynct.org/emergency-management-homeland-security](http://www.brooklynct.org/emergency-management-homeland-security), follow us on Twitter at @BrooklynCT\_EMHS or contact us at [bemhs@brooklynct.org](mailto:bemhs@brooklynct.org).

## From the Office of the Building Inspector

### Building Permits are required for the following list of projects:

#### Building Official

860-779-3411  
option 9  
69 South Main St.  
PO BOX 356

#### Hours of the official:

Monday: 8am-5pm  
Thursday: 5pm-6pm

#### Hours of the office:

Monday, Tuesday, and  
Wednesday: 8am-5pm  
Thursday: 8am-6pm

1. New Home Construction
2. Additions to house (In-Law Apartments, bedrooms, bathrooms, den, dining room, kitchens, family rooms, sunrooms, etc.)
3. Garages
4. Barns
5. New decks and replacement decks attached to a dwelling
6. Porch
7. Handicap ramps
8. Installation of In-Ground Swimming Pools (Removal of and filling in with gravel)
9. Above Ground Swimming Pools
10. Basement Renovation
11. Attic Renovation
12. One-story detached accessory structures used as storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses greater than 200 square feet
13. Interior remodel/renovation
14. Removal of a structure
15. General renovations
16. Roof repair
17. Siding
18. Replacement windows
19. Fireplace insert installation
20. Woodstove/Pellet Stove installation
21. New Chimney, chimney repair
22. Installation of propane line
23. Generators – Transfer Switches
24. Central Air Conditioning
25. Replacement of hot water heater
26. Replacement of heating system (boiler)
27. Electric Service Repair (upgrading amps, new meter, new wiring, etc)
28. Upgrading plumbing
29. Temporary housing due to fire (trailer)
30. Oil tank replacement
31. Outdoor wood burning furnace
32. Demolition of a structure
33. Cell tower installation, adding antennas, etc.
34. Fences over 6 feet high
35. Retaining walls over 3 feet in height measured from finished grade at the bottom of the wall to finished grade at the top of the wall



**If you are unsure whether your project requires a building permit, please call the building department at 860-779-3411, extension 12 and speak with the office assistant.**

## Brooklyn Fair

August 27-30

The Brooklyn Fair is held annually in August. It is one of the oldest, continuous, agricultural fairs in Connecticut. The fairgrounds are located a half mile south of the intersection of Rt. 6 and Rt. 169.

The fair offers a variety of entertainment for the whole family. There is a beauty pageant, farm boy's night out, and live music along with numerous agricultural competitions. There are also rides, a circus, and a pedal tractor pull for the kids.

To learn more about the fair visit [www.brooklynfair.org](http://www.brooklynfair.org).

## Northeast CT Farmers Market

Now Open in Brooklyn!  
Wednesdays 4pm to 6pm  
June through October  
Ocean State Plaza Parking Lot

Our farm members grow and produce what they sell, so you know you getting locally grown, fresh food for you and your family. We hope that you visit us at one of our markets to enjoy the freshest fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese and other farm products around! Visit our website [www.nectfarmersmarket.org](http://www.nectfarmersmarket.org) for all locations and to learn more about our markets.

## News From the Tax Collector's Office

### Tax Collector

860-779-3411

Option 5

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 253

### It's July and you know what that means! Taxes are due!

Real estate, personal property, motor vehicles, sewer, and fire taxes are all due this month. You can pay your bills three different ways:

- You can mail in a check to PO Box 253, Brooklyn, CT 06234
- You can pay online with a credit card (2.50% fees for a credit or debit, \$3.95 fee for a Visa Debit Card ONLY, and \$2.00 for an electronic check).
- You can also come into the office and pay in person with check, cash, or card (fees still apply if you pay in the office).



### The due dates for this year's taxes are:

July 1<sup>st</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

January 1<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>

April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Sewer Usage Bills** issued this year will be on **green paper**, so as not to be confused with the Fire District Tax Bills that are printed on yellow paper.



If you have not received a tax bill for an item that you owned as of October 1, 2014, please call the Tax Office to find out what is due.

### Motor Vehicles

Have you sold or gotten rid of your vehicle? If so, you might be eligible for an adjustment! Please bring in one of the below mentioned forms to the Assessor's Office to see if you are eligible! Please note that the following forms of proof must specifically identify the vehicle in question by make, year, and vehicle identification number.

Following forms of proof are acceptable:

- Plate receipt from the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Statement from insurance company telling us when and *why* the insurance was cancelled.
- Statement from junk dealer, car dealership, etc. showing when they purchased the vehicle.
- Copy of larceny report stating the car was stolen and never recovered.
- Copy of your original validated registration from the state in which you now reside.
- Copy of the bill of sale, dated and signed by seller and buyer.



**Please Note: Unregistered motor vehicles are still taxable under Connecticut State Law and must be declared as personal property.**

### Tax Bills are now Online!

Whether you need information for income taxes or to see what you owe, you can now view your tax bills online. Here is how:

- Go to [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org)
- Staying on the home page, scroll down until you see three yellow buttons. 
- Click on "Online Payments." It will bring you to a link, click on the link.
- You will be brought to the search page. Type in your last name space first initial (ex. John Doe would type in Doe J).
- You will be able to see your tax bills, date(s) of payment, and how much you paid to the Town of Brooklyn during a calendar year. You can also print out your tax bills for your records.

## News from the Assessor's Office

### Assessor

860-779-3411

Option 6

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

The Renter's Program continues until October 1, 2015. You or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older **or** over 18 years old and totally disabled through Social Security. Applicants must submit their SSA 1099 from Social Security and proof of any other income, Federal Income Tax form, if you were required to file, rent receipt for the entire year, and information from Eversource (CL&P). **All information must be for the 2014 year.** Please call 860-779-3411 option 6 for an appointment.

On September 1, 2015, we will begin to accept applications for PA 490, Open Space, Farm Land & Forest Land. Applications are available on our website at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org). Because our town is currently being reevaluated, the application period is extended until December 31, 2015.

Personal Property forms will be mailed by September 30, 2015 and are due November 2, 2015.

The Additional Veteran's Program continues until October 1, 2015. You must provide all income for **2014**, including a Federal Income Tax, form if you were required to file.

Honorable Discharge for new Veterans to Brooklyn must be filed with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2015. The **original DD214** must be presented to the Town Clerk.

Tyler Technologies continues to work on our town wide revaluation. All property owners will be notified by mail in the Fall of their new assessments for the 2015 Grand List, which will be reflected in the July 2016 tax bills.

As always, we welcome any questions or comments. You may contact us at 860-779-3411 option 6. Check out our website at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org).



Regards,

Kathleen M. Thornton CCMail

Maryann E. Szela Asst. Assessor

## News from the Town Clerk's Office

Election season is upon us!

Have you registered to vote?

Will you need an absentee ballot?

Come visit our office!

### Town Clerk

860-779-3411

Option 4

Fax: 860-774-5732

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

Are you permanently disabled, but wish to vote? You might be eligible for Permanent Absentee Ballot Status. An absentee ballot application must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office with a note from your doctor stating that you have a permanent disability that prevents you from voting. Once received, you will automatically be mailed an absentee ballot for every election.

### Dog License Month was June!

Did you remember to renew your dog license in June? If not, stop in to our office with proof of your dog's up-to-date rabies vaccination and avoid accumulating late fees.

You can also print and mail the application from the Town Clerk's page on our website!

