

**BROOKLYN, CT**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Geographical Center of Windham County
<b>AREA:</b>	29 Square Miles
<b>MILES OF ROAD:</b>	60
<b>INCORPORATED:</b>	1786
<b>GOVERNMENT:</b>	Town Meeting Board of Selectmen Board of Finance
<b>POPULATION:</b>	8,280

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# HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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Brooklyn was once part of the lands claimed by the Mohegan Chief, Uncas. The land, deeded in 1680 to Captain James Fitch, was sold to the first local settlers in 1703. It was settled as part of the Town of Canterbury and Pomfret with the Northeastern third having separate existence as the manorial estate of Mortlake.

Mortlake had been purchased in 1686 as a refuge for Puritans who were forced out of England with the Stuart restoration. It was not part of any town and hence neither collected taxes nor provided services to the tenants residing within its bounds.

The civil disobedience of the inhabitants of Mortlake, along with the difficulty of other residents in attending church or town meeting in Canterbury or Pomfret, led to several attempts to settle a minister, form a church and set up a separate society. Petitions were sent to General Assembly and by 1734, permission was granted to form a society and build a church. Mortlake was finally included in the new society in 1752 and the community grew and prospered.

By 1770 the Meeting House was in need of replacement and the large white church, still standing on the green, was built. One of the owners of Mortlake, Godfrey Malbone, so opposed this construction that he undertook to build and support the first Episcopal Church in the area as an alternative to paying a substantial portion of the cost of the new Meeting House.

Brooklyn was a center of revolutionary activity both before and during the War of Independence. Israel Putnam, married to the widow of the first local minister, owner of the Gen. Wolfe Tavern, and veteran of the French and Indian War, who had served in Roger's Rangers and under both General Wolfe and Lord Amherst, was a key figure in the early stage of the

# HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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revolution. Putnam was in overall command at the battle of Bunker Hill and was unanimously chosen as the first Major General in the Continental Army.

The Town of Brooklyn was incorporated in 1786 and in 1819 became the county seat. The large homes, the jail, the courthouse, now used as the town hall, all reflect this period of prominence which continued through part of the nineteenth century. The Agricultural Association was formed about 1820 and continues to attract visitors with the annual fair.

Eastern Connecticut was very much involved in the Civil War and the Town of Brooklyn was no exception. A glance at the local monument will show that local men served in most of the famous battles. Local mills provided clothing and the records of churches and organizations list substantial contributions in man power. Although Brooklyn has been primarily an agricultural community, the many streams provided power for a number of small mills. Eventually areas like West Wauregan and East Brooklyn were built around substantial textile mills. For a time, the center of Brooklyn supported a bank (now the library) and a newspaper, as well as several stores.

In more recent times, Brooklyn has developed into two distinct areas. The central and western parts have continued along a residential and rural path, whereas the eastern sector has become predominantly commercial.

The rural colonial beauty of Brooklyn Center has been preserved in spite of the fact that the Town is one of the fastest growing community's in Windham County. Many of the old churches and homes have been restored. The old Court House has been internally renovated to provide town office facilities, but the colonial exterior was left unchanged.

# HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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Planning and Zoning were adapted early to preserve and guide the character and development of the Town. The result has been an attractive residential center in rural surroundings at a density level, which can be supported by the environment. Farming had ceased to be a major factor in the community. A school and recreation complex is centrally located. The former town garage is well screened by trees so as not to disturb the residential surrounding and additional recreational facilities are provided on adjacent property.

Brooklyn's Economic Development Commission continues to work on several projects to promote growth in key areas of the Town's economic front. Brooklyn has joined with Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Corridor (ECEC). This is a competitive incentive program to benefit business that expand, or relocate into the industrial development areas of the participating Town's along our Interstate 395 corridor.

The northeast Connecticut Visitors District has been relocated to the Citizen's Bank building in the center of Brooklyn. This location will be a key launching place for travel, writers and tourists to start their exploration of our quiet corner.

Several initiatives are being looked into to enhance the South Main Street business district in East Brooklyn. Our 'welcome' signs at the Brooklyn Center roads have received much praise. Economic Development Commission members individually are looking at specific programs to enhance our town's presence and friendly atmosphere. The amount of time that the Town receives from the variety of commission and board volunteer members enforces our belief that our citizens 'feel good about Brooklyn.'

Brooklyn has purchased 32 acres of river frontage along the Quinebaug River. Together with two lots already owned by the

## HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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Town and the transfer of a lot from the CT DOT, we now own 3550 feet of river frontage. Working with landscape design, UCONN will generate a plan that will encompass activities and passive recreation for this area.

Located in the center of Windham County, proud of its heritage and its preservation but progressive in its outlook, Brooklyn intends to continue to be a vital element in Eastern Connecticut.

# TOWN OFFICIALS

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## **Board of Selectmen**

Richard Ives – First Selectman  
Robert Kelleher, Joseph Voccio

## **Selectman's Office**

Richard Ives – First Selectman  
Melissa Bradley – Administrative Assistant

## **Finance Department**

Sherry Holmes – Finance Director  
Sherri Soucy – Executive Assistant

## **Building Office**

John Berard – Building Official  
Audrey Cross-Lussier – Building/Planning Assistant

## **Land Use/Planning & Zoning Office**

Jana Butts Roberson –  
Martha Fraenkel -

## **Town Clerk's Office**

Leona Mainville – Town Clerk  
Katherine Bisson – Assistant Town Clerk

## **Revenue Collector's Office**

Jocelyne Ruffo – Revenue Collector  
April Lamothe – Assistant Revenue Collector

## **Assessor's Office**

Kathleen Thornton – Assessor  
Maryann Szela – Assistant Assessor

## **Recreation Office**

Matthew 'Bucky' Lohbusch – Director  
JoAnn Lohbusch – Assistant



# TOWN OFFICIALS

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## **Board of Finance**

Gene Michael Deary – Chairperson

## **Board of Education**

Mae Ellen Lyons – Chairperson

## **Board of Assessment Appeals**

Cassandra Leach – Chairperson

## **Judge of Probate**

Leah Schad

## **Town Counsel**

Suisman Shapiro

## **Animal Control Officer**

Dianne Collette – NECCOG

## **Fire Marshal**

Doug Kramer

## **Tree Warden**

Richard Regis

## **Road Foreman**

Thomas Rukstela

## **Agent for Elderly**

Tamsen Harris

## **Water Pollution Control Authority**

David Fuss – Chairperson

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Carlene Kelleher – Chairperson

# TOWN OFFICIALS

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## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Dan Ross – Chairperson

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Peter Considine – Chairperson

## **Parks & Recreation Commission**

Michael Gaudreau – Chairperson

## **Inland Wetland Commission**

Real Gallant – Chairperson

## **Economic Development Commission**

Lyn Lacharite – Chairperson

## **Justices of the Peace**

Andrew Dionne, Marie Dusseault, Keith Ellis, Roger Engle,  
David Fuss, Richard Ives, Henry Jeffs, Robert Kelleher,  
Virginia Jo Moses, Lauren Rossi, Elizabeth Stillman, Carolyn  
Teed-Ives, Jane Walker

## **Town Office Hours**

Town Hall & Clifford B. Green Memorial Center Offices

Monday – Wednesday 8:00am-5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am-6:00pm

Friday CLOSED

## **Town Highway Department**

Monday – Friday 7:00am-3:00pm

Summer Hours M-TH 6:00am-4:00pm

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

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **First Selectman's Report**

The Town Government completed another year in good financial and physical condition. The audit firm of O'Connell, Pace & Company found no reportable material weakness in the way that we 'manage' your money. Our general fund unreserved balance was \$1,701,695 at year end June 30, 2015.

Our short term bond anticipation notes increased from \$4,565,000 to \$5,290,000.

The Town did transfer funds from our reserves to balance the budget. The tax collection rate in 2015 was 98.3%, of which 99.8% was collected. The Town Clerk's office saw a decrease in fees, but no increase/decrease in conveyance tax. The building permit fees increased as well as the planning and zoning fees.

Our pension fund has a 76% funded ratio, which is good considering the current market conditions.

Housing stats for single family dwellings decreased from 17 fiscal year end June 30, 2014 to 8 fiscal year end June 30, 2015. Our Town is a choice place for professionals to relocate to while maintaining employment in Providence, Boston, Worcester and surrounding cities.

The strength of town government is measured by its staff, citizen volunteers and customer satisfaction. Our offices are staffed with professionals who are customer friendly as they answer questions, assist our taxpayers and fulfill their myriad of duties. Together the Town employees and Town citizens make Brooklyn a better place to live.

Richard Ives, First Selectman

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **Veterans**

Brooklyn held the annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25, 2015. A ceremony was held at the Tatnic Hill Bridge honoring soldiers, sailors and marines lost at sea. A parade followed in the center of Town with observances made by the Parade Marshal, Firing Squad, Clergy and various attendees ending with a final observance at the South Cemetery honoring all veterans of war. Students, Samantha McLaughlin and Allison Levesque recited respected poems “Cover them over with beautiful flowers” and Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

VFW Post 2650 in Danielson, CT and AMVETS Post 47 participated in our Town’s annual Veterans Day Memorial as well as the Color Guard coordinated by Rodney Bissonnette. The remembrance ceremony was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015 at the monuments for the II World War, Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The Town appreciates the support of VFW, AMVETS and those who dedicated their time to these ceremonies and to the help received from the Fire Departments and our Resident Troopers.

## **Building Official**

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, three hundred seventy (370) building permits were issued valued at \$6,141,900. Sixteen (16) permits were renewed and seventeen (17) were new homes. Total receipts to the Town were \$59,905 in permit fees. There were also sixteen (16) apartment inspections done with receipts equaling \$240. The office hours of the Building

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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Official, John A. Berard, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

## **Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk's office records and maintains all land record transactions for all property owners in the Town of Brooklyn. This office recorded approximately 1581 land records in 2015 and maintains over 570 volumes of land records. The office has an electronic search system available to the public for researching land transactions. In addition, all land records are available online at [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com). Survey and subdivision maps are also filed in the office and are now available electronically for printing. Forty-two maps were recorded and reproduced in 2015. Over 2,477 maps are on file. A total of \$215,000 in fees were collected with 57% of the total having been submitted to the State of Connecticut.

In addition, the Town Clerk is the Registrar of Vital Statistics on behalf of the State Health Department. In 2015, 47 births, 85 marriages and 90 deaths were recorded and certified copies were sent to the State. Any resident requiring a certified copy of a vital record can request a copy for \$20 from the office.

Dog licenses are also available from the Town Clerk. Yearly registration is due during the month of June and all dogs must be registered when they become six (6) months old. All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies and the certificate showing the expiration date must be presented to the Town Clerk when licensing. Fees are as follows: \$19.00 per dog or \$8.00 per dog that is spayed or neutered.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection provides the Town Clerk's office

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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with a licensing system for obtaining hunting and fishing licenses. Residents also have the option to purchase their licenses online at [www.ctwildlifelicense.com](http://www.ctwildlifelicense.com).

Notary application forms to become a Notary Public are available in the office. A Notary Public is required by State Statute to record his/her commission in their Town of residence with the Town Clerk. Notary Public services are available for a fee of \$5.00.

The office provides voter applications throughout the year and accepts new voter registration on behalf of the Registrar of Voters. This office also processes absentee ballot requests and is responsible for the preparation of election material for all elections and primaries.

Leona A. Mainville, MMC

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer's mission is to help provide the best quality services that are available in an efficient, cost-effective way for the town of Brooklyn residents and tax payers. To work together with all departments of the Town in a spirit of cooperation and trust and keep moving forward developing constructive solutions to help better the Town.

The Treasurer's responsibility is to receive, deposit, invest and disburse all Town funds.

The Treasurer has the authority to invest and reinvest in securities legal for investment of trust funds under the State Statutes.

The Treasurer, by State Statute, has custody of, and disburses

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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all funds belonging to the Town and deposits these funds in banks and trust companies in which the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer are in agreement.

The interest earned on investments for the budget year 2014/2015, ending on June 30, 2015 totaled \$17,788.

Sherry Holmes  
Treasurer

## **Revenue Collector**

The Revenue Collector's Office bills, collects, processes and safeguards the Town's tax receipts and Water Pollution Control fees. The office maintains balanced records of all accounts.

The Town of Brooklyn collects real estate and personal property taxes quarterly and are due July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, January 1<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>. East Brooklyn Fire District taxes are due once a year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Motor vehicle taxes are due once a year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sewer usage taxes are due twice a year on July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Bills are mailed each year in July. If for any reason a resident does not receive a tax bill for property that they own, they should contact the revenue office as soon as possible. Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from paying late charges. Sewer use fees are billed at the request of the WPCA upon passage of their annual budget.

Current collections this year on the October 1, 2013 Grand list totaled \$13,141,741.26. This includes collection of real estate, personal property, motor vehicle, sewer and fire district taxes due. Collections resulted as follows:

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Type of Tax Bill	Amount Collected	Percent Collected
Real Estate	\$11,020,896.16	98.97%
Personal Property	\$442,935.84	97.72%
Motor Vehicle	\$1,320,263.96	98.41%
Sewer Usage	\$305,512.58	91.34%
East Brooklyn Fire District	\$52,132.72	98.00%

## How Your Tax Bill is Computed

Grand Levy: The total amount of money that must be raised by the property tax to meet Town expenses during the ensuing year.

Grand List: An official listing of the assessed value of all taxable property in Town. Compiled each October 1<sup>st</sup> by the Assessor.

Tax Rate: Grand Levy divided by the grand list; usually expressed in terms of ‘mills’.

Mill: One thousandth of a dollar (.001)

The taxpayer’s bill is determined by multiplying the net assessed value of taxable property by the tax rate. Example: If net value is \$10,000 and the tax rate is 29.29 mills, then the taxpayer’s bill is \$292.90.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please do not hesitate to call the office at 860-779-3411, option 4.

Jocelyne Ruffo – Revenue Collector

April Lamothe – Assistant Revenue Collector



# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## Assessor

October 1, 2013 Taxable Grand List

Real Estate	\$ 477,739,230
Personal Property	\$ 19,322,307
Motor Vehicles	\$ 52,638,048
Total	\$ 549,699,585

The total grand list represented an overall increase of 3.30% increase from the October 1, 2012 Grand List.

### Tax Relief Programs/Exemptions Filing Date

Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Homeowners

Program\* February 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>

Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Renters

Program\* April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>

Veterans Exemption (DD214) Before October 1<sup>st</sup>

Additional Veterans\* Before October 1<sup>st</sup>

\*Income based

Property field cards are available online at [www.vgsi.com](http://www.vgsi.com)

Assessor maps are available online at [www.neccog.org](http://www.neccog.org)

Both sites can be accessed from the assessor's webpage at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org)

If you have any questions regarding the Grand List or any of the tax relief programs, please call the Assessor's Office at (860) 779-3411 Option #6 or visit the assessor's webpage at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org)

Kathleen M. Thornton, CCMA II  
Assessor

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **Board of Assessment Appeals**

The Board of Assessment Appeals members (3) are elected positions for a two-year term. The Board is a review board to hear appeals of assessment for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. The Board meets twice a year in the months of September and March.

In September 2014, the Board met to hear and act on appeals for motor vehicles. There were 4 motor vehicle appeals. In March 2015, the Board heard and acted on 6 property appeals.

We would like to remind taxpayers of the State Statute, Section 12-112 that no appeal shall be heard by the Board, except at the dates set by the Board. A legal notice is filed for the September hearing. A petition needs to be filed by February 20th for the March hearing. The petition can be accessed on the Assessor's page of the Town's web site, [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org), or by contacting the Assessor's office.

The Board wishes to extend our thanks for everyone's cooperation and understanding of our decisions during this past year.

Cassandra Leach, Chairperson  
Diane Wimmer, Member  
Robert Simons, Member

## **Registrars of Voters**

### **Annual Canvass and Voting History:**

The annual canvass of voters was conducted from February throughout April 2015 according to Connecticut General Statutes. The certification of canvass completion was sent to the SOTS on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – signed by M. Niejadlik and L.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Rossi. The canvass of electors was completed by the Registrars using the National Change of Address System which is a product that most town registrars used within Connecticut that is available from the U.S. Postal Service. The purpose of executing the canvass is to update existing voter records as well as to purge voter records for those voters who have moved out of the town and/or state.

## **Mandated Voter Enrollment Sessions:**

The Registrars held a state mandated (Sec. 9-17) enrollment sessions at the Woodstock Academy in March and Killingly High School in April. More than 30 Brooklyn students were enrolled as new voters; around 20 students enrolled online by using our Registrar Laptops and the balance registering by written application forms.

The registrars held several day-long enrollment sessions throughout the year to permit eligible residents to register as voters prior to the November elections. The Sec. of State increased the number of enrollment sessions in an effort to ensure all voters had ample opportunity to enroll as a qualified voter.

In addition, during the day of the November x<sup>th</sup> election, the Registrars conducted a 'Election Day Registration - EDR' process at the Registrar's Office which also attracted another xx new voters to register and vote in the November I Election process.

## **Required Training:**

Attended a meeting with our legislators and representatives in May at the State Capitol /Legislative Office building to

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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discuss new laws being proposed by the Sec. of State for election law enhancements.

The registrars attended (2) state-wide Registrars Conventions – in April and in September, as an on-going effort to comply with Sec. of State Continuing Education requirements. State Law (Sec 9-192b) requires each registrar to obtain at least 10 hours of instruction for elections training processes per year.

The registrars maintained active memberships and participated in both the State ROVAC Association and the Windham County ROVAC Association meetings.

The registrars facilitated and implemented successful training sessions prior to the November elections for poll workers in order to ensure an accurate and uneventful election process.

## **There were no town-wide referendums this year**

### **August 12th – Primary Elections for State, District, and Municipal Offices**

There was a Primary Election for Republican Candidates for various offices.

There were 968 registered Republican voters on the official check list; a reduction of 170 voters from the previous year.

There were 2 Absentee Ballots accepted by the Town Clerk.

There were 158 voters that actually voted

The percentage of voter turnout was 16.33%

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **November 4th – State-Wide Government Election**

There were 4804 registered voters on the official check list; a reduction of 170 voters from the previous year.

There were 73 Absentee Ballots accepted by the Town Clerk.

There were 2368 voters that actually voted

The percentage of voter turnout was 50.81%

Respectfully Submitted by  
Registrars of Voters  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

## **Recreation Commission**

Parks & Recreation Commission Members:

Michael Gaudreau, Chairperson	Cliff Soucy
Lauren Rossi, Vice Chairperson	Chris Toney
Stephen Danna	Steven Phillips
Kim Conroy, liaison	Scott Allen
John DonFrancisco, liaison	
Secretary: Christine Boyle	

This fiscal year the department's programming once again included annual events and seasonal programming. The Before School Program (for grades K-4<sup>th</sup>) and After School Program (for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>) were offered for both full-time and part-time options. Both programs are near or at capacity throughout the year. New this year was a Full Day Recreation Program. This was offered from 8am-4pm on days when school as not in session, but staff had development days. This was open to K-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

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The Brooklyn TEEN Center opened its doors in the fall of 2014. This Center offers after school and Saturday hours, with a variety of activities such as homework help with computer lab, game room with foosball, ping pong and more. A TEEN Center coordinator was hired, and staff to assist her throughout the week. A dance, a parents and members' BBQ to end the year and other special activities were enjoyed by the members throughout the school year. It is offered both on a year membership or month by month basis.

A name the center contest was held and a TEEN Center member won with his catchy phrase; A World of Possibilities, which has become the motto of our center.

The Summer Day Camp Program – 2014 was attended by approximately 150 children during the six-week program. Campers participated in camp activities and various camp trips. Favorite camp trips to Breezy Park Waterslides, Canobie Lake Amusement Park and a trip to the zoo were included in this year's trips. Self Defense Demos, Campardy, Wingmaster and others brought their shows and programs to camp again this season. Family Day at Camp was well attended and Safety Day in cooperation with the resident troopers, Troop D and the local fire departments was once again a huge success. Our Fun in the Sun program for preschoolers offered a half day program for Pre-K children ages 3-4.

The holiday season programs offer an opportunity to bring our residents together through our annual events such as Letters to Santa, Toys for Giving Toy Drive and our Holiday Lighting Contest. Our Toy Drive was again a success thanks to the generosity of our local businesses and residents. The program continues to see a yearly increase in families requesting assistance, and the department is always fortunate to have many residents and businesses step forward to fill those

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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needs. Many Brooklyn children sent Letters to Santa with return letters sent to all those who included a return address. Our Spooky Nights event, held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds during one weekend in October was a sell out again this year. Attendants enjoyed a hay wagon ride through haunted scenes, including actors portraying scary characters, a “haunted house” located in the Better Living Building and a bonfire area with family friendly activities. Our Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended, and the annual Breakfast with the Bunny which included a breakfast cooked and served by the Danielson Lions Club went well. With the help of our commission members, children enjoyed a visit with the Bunny, treats to take home as well as our annual egg hunt.

The Summer Slam Basketball Clinic was popular and was held at the Brooklyn Middle School gym. This program is available to Summer Day Campers as well as all other interested area youths. Our fitness programs, such as Cardio Dance Fit, Susan’s Complete Fitness, Sunrise Fitness and more are always popular. Our Running Club has continued to be popular and is offered as a Winter Warriors program during the colder months. Horseback Riding Lessons has become a popular program with both Lil Buckaroos and Young Equestrians program offered. Baton Twirling was added, and our Twirlers marched in the Memorial Day parade in May. Adult Open Gym was well attended, and ran from November through February at the Middle School Gym.

Our trips are offered in both the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Brochures. This year many people took advantage of the opportunity to join the department on the trips offered. Trips included the annual trips to the Boston Red Sox, New York City and Bruins game. A trip to Boston for a day of exploring on your own was once again popular this year. Many folks enjoyed the trip to Salem’s Haunted Happenings

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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in October and the trip to the Bronx zoo in the spring. All the department's trips, programs and events are in our semi-annual brochures, mailed to all Brooklyn households in August and January. Information can also be accessed on the town website. Flyer updates are handed out in the Brooklyn Schools to all students and the flyer is also located on the Middle School's website, thanks to the help of Mr. Lessig, a teacher at the school. Many registration forms are now available online, for the resident's convenience.

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains our town parks in Brooklyn. Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park continues to be a popular facility used by leagues and individuals throughout the year. This park offers a playscape, picnic tables, walking track, trails, and playing fields. Many take advantage of the park's lighted basketball courts. The softball field is utilized by the local little league teams, and is now used as a "home" field for the Brooklyn school's softball team. The concession stand and restrooms are open during scheduled events. The Brooklyn School Cross Country Team once again enjoyed a season of competing and practicing on the department's well-maintained trails. The playing fields are aerated and seeded each season, to keep them at optimal condition. South Street Park offers a playscape, picnic tables and basketball courts, and is located at the corner of South Street and South Main Street. The Parks & Recreation Departments Maintenance employee maintains these parks, many walking trails, the town monuments and many other town owned areas. The Riverside Park was ready for Little League play and the facility was dedicated in a ceremony attended by residents, town and state officials to Maury Bowen, former first selectman. Now known as the Maury Bowen complex at Riverside Park, new signage has been added to this developing park. A canoe launch and passive walking trails along the river, which are being enhanced under



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the guidance of the Conservation Commission, are also available. Davis Park now has an 18-hole Disc Golf Course. The course was open for play, while additional work and signage was still being worked on. A kiosk is to be added and hole signage to the course.

The Recreation Department's & Commission's goal is to continue to improve the current facilities and programs and to expand when the need arises. Parks and recreation programming helps to maintain the quality of life our residents deserve. We will work in cooperation with our town leaders, our school officials and various town departments, boards and commissions, to achieve the commission and department's goals. Brooklyn is fortunate to have many residents who share a vision for the future of the department, and continue to offer their support. The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Department have worked successfully for many years to improve and adapt to the changes happening in Brooklyn. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead, in our continuing dedication to serve the residents of Brooklyn.

Matthew "Bucky" Lohbusch,  
Parks & Recreation Director

## Economic Development Commission

**Signage:** The Brooklyn EDC took responsibility for the repair of Brooklyn Welcome signs which had been vandalized on Route 6. Doug Gagnon was hired to complete the repairs.

**CERC Seminar:** The EDC hosted a seminar on June 2, 2015. Invited were PZC, Land Use Offices, Selectmen and Finance people from Brooklyn and surrounding towns. Discussed

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during the seminar was the Planned Commercial Zone Fiscal Analysis Conceptual Development Study. Strengths and weaknesses of the region were discussed. The primary weakness in the Town of Brooklyn is the lack of a full or part-time economic development coordinator.

**Map of Town of Brooklyn:** A project has been initiated to revise the map of Brooklyn which is out of print. Leona Mainville is working with Matt Holmes adding roads and working on advertisements.

**Business Recognition:** Plaques were presented to the following businesses in Brooklyn: Premier Chevrolet, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, The Barber Shop, Steven's Mortgages, and International Parts. Pictures of the ribbon cutting and plaque presentation were published in the *Turnpike Buyer*.

Robert Simons  
Chairperson

## Conservation Commission

### Activities\Projects\Grants

Charlotte Merrill joined the Commission in January as a regular member. In March, Diane Wimmer was re-elected as Chair. Jeannine Noel was elected as Vice Chair. Treasurer duties remain shared by the Chairs. The Commission continues to function within budget.

Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Waste Water Association conducted a Source Water Protection Workshop which was attended by Commission members. The Source Water Protection Program is a joint project with the USDA and the National Rural Water Association. The purpose is to

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protect potential aquifers. The Town would incur no costs to participate in this program. A Sub-Committee was formed made up of members of the Conservation Commission and other town commissions. Several meetings were held. Source water threats were evaluated and a protection plan was formulated. The final plan and educational outreach component will be completed in early 2016.

The Riverside Park canoe launch was featured in the Quinebaug Paddle Guide which can be found on the Commission's page of the town's website. The Trail Guide map is also located on the website.

Commission members cleaned up Riverside Park, the corner of Greenway Drive and the Conservation Easement on Day Street in April. Several bags of trash were collected. The Commission continues to work on the trails in Brooklyn in conjunction with other town agencies. The Carroll Randall trail was cleared. The nature trail at Riverside Park was harrowed per the maintenance schedule and border trees were removed.

The Commission purchased a banner to use at events such as Family Fun Day and Clean Up events. At Family Fun Day, members of the Commission distributed 140 sunflower seeds in cowpots. The remaining seeds and other materials were given to the Teen Center and the Garden Club at the Brooklyn Middle School. The Commission also participated in the Spooky Nights Event in October. Michael Oatley and Harry Adams constructed two pumpkin towers using recycled jugs and real pumpkins some of which were created by the Teen Center, Garden Club and after school program. Commission members volunteered at the weekend event.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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The Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest was completed. Eighteen tee boxes were installed as well as the baskets, the kiosk and a bench. The course is enjoyed by residents.

Brooklyn Conservation Commission members continue to attend the Windham County Conservation Consortium meetings. The Consortium was created to link the conservation commissions in Windham County in order to share information and experiences. The Consortium meets twice a year and continues to educate members on conservation issues.

### Development Reviews

As a non-regulatory land use commission, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission conducts development site plan reviews and forwards recommendations to the other regulatory land use commissions, Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning. These recommendations are based on review of our natural resource inventory mapping and the potential for impacts from site plan proposals. For subdivisions of three or more parcels, Subdivision Regulations stipulate Open Space donations (quit claim or conservation easement) either to the Town of Brooklyn or other not-for-profit land preservation trust or a fee in-lieu of the property donation.

During the year of 2015, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed two subdivision plans and recommended Fee-in-Lieu and a Deed Restriction in Perpetuity, respectively. The Commission also recommended the appropriation of \$37,250.00 from the Brooklyn Land Acquisition Fund (Open Space Fund) for the acquisition of development rights to farmland in regards to the Barrett Hill Farm.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## Training

During 2015, local conservation and land use educational training events and webinars were attended by Brooklyn Conservation Commission members. These are essential in developing the skills necessary to protecting open space and the environment for future Brooklyn residents. Below is a list of training events/workshops/webinars/podcasts, dates and attendance as members of the Brooklyn Conservation Commission.

<b>Training/Workshop Name</b>	<b>BCC Member Attended</b>
Natural Resources Conference at UCONN - March	Bev Thornton; Jeannine Noel
WCCC Meeting - New State Waste Management Program	Jeannine Noel, Bev Thornton
CACIWC Conference - November	Bev Thornton
QVCC - Conservation Topics	Charlotte Merrill

Sincerely,

/s/Jeannine Noel

Jeannine Noel

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

# SERVICES

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## Brooklyn Library Association

The first independent Brooklyn Library Association was founded in 1775. The present Association was organized in 1893. In 1913, a group of citizens purchased the building presently housing the library and donated it to the Association. The library continues to be governed by an independent association and its executive committee. The day-to-day operation is the responsibility of Librarian, Catherine Tucker.

The library is open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm to 7:00pm, Tuesdays and Saturdays 11:00am to 5:00pm and Thursdays and Fridays 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Any Brooklyn resident may obtain a first library card and renew that card free of charge. The contact email for the library is [brooklyntownlibrary4@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklyntownlibrary4@yahoo.com)

The library offers popular reading from the bestseller list, an extensive mystery collection, a growing juvenile collection, and access to online services. Three computers for Internet access, an Awe computer for children's literacy and a printer are also available for public use. Patrons may also check out a Kill A Watt Kit to monitor home energy.

The library also offers a wide variety of online services on its website, <http://www.brooklyntownlibrary.org/>. From this website, you can access Tumblebooks which has animated, talking picture books and real-alongs for children. Using Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser, you may access Consumer Reports Online with our Brooklyn Town Library card. The library also has a subscription to Universal Classes which offers over 500 free online classes

## SERVICES

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to Brooklyn residents on a wide variety of topics from Adobe Photoshop to Autism Spectrum Disorders for Teachers to Fundraising 101. Patrons may enroll in up to 5 classes at one time. A library visit is necessary for the Brooklyn resident to initiate an account for these classes then class work may be done on a home computer with internet access. The web browser Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome is necessary to access both Consumer Reports and Universal Classes. We have Overdrive to allow patrons with Kindles, HD Kindles, Nooks, Tablets, iPads, iPhones, iPods and Android devices to access to 1,500 ebooks. For Brooklyn residents only, the library has purchased the new online Zinio magazine collection and ArtistWorks which is online music lessons for many instruments with video instruction by performers recognized in their specialties. Lessons range from beginner to intermediate and some instruments have lessons in more than one genre.

By using the barcode on their Brooklyn Library card, patrons may access BookFlix, an online storybook video resource for toddlers through Grade 3. The Brooklyn Library also subscribes to OneClickdigital eAudiobooks. Brooklyn town Library card holders may access via the library website to downloadable audiobooks for their computers, MP3 players and Ipods. The Brooklyn Library is a member of the Connecticut Library Network, which enables patrons to search the holdings of other libraries throughout the state and also borrow materials from many public libraries in Connecticut. Patrons may submit requests for interlibrary loans online through the ReQuest system, or visit or call the library with the author and title information. When the requested items are received at the library, patrons are notified that their library materials are ready to be picked up. The Connecticut Library Network

## SERVICES

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also provides patrons with access to the state's online database at <http://www.iconn.org>. There is a link to this service on the library website.

Discounted and free passes to the following local museums are available at the library:

Mystic Seaport	Mashantucket Pequot Museum
Mystic Aquarium	Roger Williams Park Zoo
CTs Old State House	DEEP No Child Left Inside Day Pass
CT Science Center	Wadsworth Atheneum Art Pass
Old Sturbridge Village	

The library is very active in promoting reading for children of all ages. Each year the library provides a Reading Room at the Brooklyn Summer Recreation Camp. Library staff provides reading activities, book and games for all children who attend. The Brooklyn Library also offers a summer reading game for children who do not attend summer recreation. The library sponsors a book discussion group that meets regularly at the Creamery Brook Village Community Room. Book titles and date of upcoming discussions are posted on the library website. Everyone is welcome to attend these discussions.

The Friends of the Brooklyn Library continue to contribute in many ways to the library's program. Meeting times and locations are posted on the library website. The Friends hold a Fall Plant and Bake Sale each year on the Saturday after Labor Day. They also offer a selection of historic Brooklyn buildings by Cat's Meow. Pieces in the services include Friendship valley, the Isreal Putnam Statue, the Town Pump, the Unitarian Church, Old Trinity, the Brooklyn Library, Mortlake Firehouse, and the Copper Beech Tree. Recently added pieces are Cat's Meow, Christmas ornaments of the library and Mortlake



# SERVICES

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Firehouse. These may be purchased at the library. The Friends also had a once-a-month table at the Farmer's Market in Brooklyn where they sold baked goods and library tote bags. Proceeds from Friends' projects support library programs that include, but are not limited to, funds for Library Passes and the Book Discussion Group.

## Animal Services

Animal services are provided to the Town of Brooklyn through the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments Regional Animal Services Program. The Animal Services Program (begun in August 2004) currently serves the Towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Hampton, Killingly, Pomfret, Sterling, Voluntown and Woodstock. The towns of Hampton and Voluntown were added in 2012 and Chaplin in 2014. The program has launched a Facebook page to aid in placing animals and helping in their care. Our program is available 24/7/365. We always have an ACO on duty. Please call 860-774-1253 for lost dogs, adoption questions, complaints and other issues regarding domestic animals (for wild animal issues, please call 860-424-3333, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Unit).

<b>Brooklyn 2015</b>	
Impound (Dog)	39
Impound (Cat)	25
Redeemed	24
Sold As Pet (Dog)	18
Sold As Pet (Cat)	7

## SERVICES

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Total Complaints	75
Animal Bites	5

Since the Animal Services Program began, more than 4,000 animals have been either adopted or returned to their owner. No animal has been put down due to lack of space or because the breed is deemed to be undesirable. The numbers associated with “euthanasia” are the result of an animal having a behavioral issue making not suitable for adoption or a disease issue where our consulting veterinarian determines that this action is warranted.

### **Please Remember!**

**Connecticut Law requires you to annually license your dog's during the month of June.**

Contact the Town Clerk for details.

### **Brooklyn Resource Recovery Commission**

The BRRC completed its twentieth year of operation of the transfer station and curbside recycling, electronic waste and disposal of waste paint. We also keep the brush and leaf collection up to State DEEP standards. We monitor water quality and have continued to pass all tests by DEEP.

The model airplane club is still going strong and extends an invitation to anyone who wishes to join or just come and watch.

We have put television monitors in to support surveillance of all areas and discourage trespassing when the dump is closes.

Hours of operation are Friday's 10am – 4pm and Saturdays 8am - 4pm with extended hours in the Spring and Summer.

# SERVICES

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## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

The Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners is responsible for establishing policies of the Town's Government related to public safety and emergency medical services as required by ordinance and state statutes. It is also responsible for overseeing the activities of the independent volunteer fire departments as they relate to the public and the Town's Government. Current members are Chairman Peter Considine, First Selectman Richard Ives, Stephen Breen, Felix Ramos, Patrick Gauthier, Jeffrey Otto, and James Soler.

The Board reviews each department's budget request and updates a capital expenditures plan for equipment replacement, both of which are presented to the Board of Finance for approval and incorporation as necessary into the Selectmen's and capital budgets for taxpayer approval. The board has recently decided to extend expected useful life of most types of fire apparatus from twenty to twenty-five years, reflecting Brooklyn's quality of apparatus, maintenance provided and duty cycles anticipated.

## **Volunteer Fire Companies**

Brooklyn's volunteer fire companies operate out of three fire stations to provide emergency services to the Town. The East Brooklyn Company operates out of a station owned by the Brooklyn Fire District that is located on South Main Street. The Mortlake Company operates out of its main station on Canterbury Road in Brooklyn Center and also out of a station located on Wauregan Road, near the Plainfield town line. Each Company is a non-profit corporation responsible for its own operations. The Town supplies funds to cover operating expenses, and worker's compensation insurance as well as capital funds for major apparatus and equipment purchases for

## SERVICES

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each company. The Town also supplies capital funds for the periodic replacement of smaller capital equipment such as radios, pagers and personal protective equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus.

Both fire companies conduct fund raising events during the year to supplement the funds provided by the Town. The proceeds from these events lower the cost of public fire protection to residents of Brooklyn and enable the fire companies to purchase supplies and equipment beyond the bare minimums. The fire companies appreciate your support of these worthwhile fund raising endeavors.

The fire companies are also active in soliciting and obtaining grant funds from the state and federal government and from private sources. The East Brooklyn Fire Department was successful in obtaining a FEMA grant that paid for a mobile breathing air compressor and storage unit. The Mortlake Fire Company has been the recipient of several grants that have provided an Attack Tanker Fire Truck, a Rescue Truck, a HazMat Decontamination Trailer, a Regional Trench and Collapse Rescue Team and an Environmental Contamination Response Trailer and Equipment as well as numerous smaller equipment items. Unfortunately, state and federal grants for these purposes are increasingly categorical and are not as available as they have been in past years.

The level of training and performance certification required to Brooklyn's volunteer firefighters are identical to those required of full time paid firefighters. Our volunteers participate and instruct in local and regional training programs. Members are active participants and hold leadership positions in several associations and organizations that are influential in determining regional and state wide policies in the public safety area. The fire companies are

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proud of the achievements of their members and feel that attaining these high standards demonstrates to the taxpayers the seriousness of their efforts.

In addition to responding to alarms of fire, each fire company provides first response service to medical emergencies occurring within their respective areas. Early intervention by trained medical responders coupled with rapid transportation to a primary care hospital has shown an improvement in the outcome of critical medical emergencies. Each of the fire companies responds with semi-automatic defibrillators and other state-of-the-art lifesaving equipment. This technology for monitoring and restoring correct cardiac rhythm had improved the chances of survival in certain coronary disorders. The Town participates in the Regional Paramedic Intercept program. This effort allows a paramedic, trained to higher levels than local EMTs, to respond to the scene of an emergency or to intercept the ambulance en route to the hospital. The paramedic can administer drugs and perform other procedures under the direction of the Emergency Room physician.

The response of the federal and state governments to the threat of terrorist activities has brought new training and organizational responsibilities to our fire companies and town government. Mortlake operates a regional hazardous materials personnel decontamination unit. Mortlake has also organized and hosted a major regional drill at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds involving many Eastern Connecticut emergency response agencies. These training activities are aimed at sharpening skills in multiple disciplines and in improving coordination and communications between agencies that might not work together regularly. The potential to respond to multiple hazard events requires that our fire companies develop a broader

## SERVICES

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range of skills and capabilities than have theretofore been required.

The Town of Brooklyn is fortunate to have an effective supply of volunteer firefighters and mutual aid responders from adjacent communities to handle emergencies that occur at any time, day or night. These firefighters give their time unselfishly to help others and provide an alternative to the high cost of having to employ emergency responders. However, as the time demands of modern family life increase, it becomes more difficult for each company to retain and recruit new members. One consequence of this situation is that the Mortlake Fire Company now employs one paid ambulance crew, twelve hours a day, seven days a week and will soon expand the paid manning to eighteen hours a day. The cost of the paid crew is largely covered by receipts from state-regulated ambulance billing.

The skills learned as well as experience and satisfaction received in serving the Town as a volunteer fire fighter or ambulance technician are beneficial, rewarding and saves money for the Town. Each fire company welcomes the opportunity to explain the responsibilities and rewards of membership. If you think you might be able to serve in one of Brooklyn's fire companies, please contact any firefighter or the Selectman's office.

### **Ambulance Service**

The Mortlake Fire Company provides ambulance service for the Town of Brooklyn. They operate a volunteer ambulance service and maintain a staff of over 30 Connecticut certified Emergency Medical Responders. In addition to responding to emergencies, ambulance volunteers train on a monthly basis and also participate in State of Connecticut mandated training

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to maintain their certification. Other training activities such as a defibrillator, mass casualty, helicopter familiarity and other specialized training are available for members. Increasing call volume (1042 responses during 2015) has placed pressure on the volunteer responders that is beyond their capacity. Following regional trends, starting on January 1, 2007, volunteer response was supplemented with a paid daytime crew.

The ambulance service is operated on a user payment system. All residents who utilize the service bill their respective insurance companies to provide payment for the service. Experience to date has shown that third party payers contribute most of the funds required to operate the service.

The ambulance service is part of a mutual aid network that allows access to neighboring ambulances, or, if needed, other resources such as medical helicopters. A regional paramedic program has been established at Day Kimball Hospital and is partially supported, in proportion to their use of the service, by the towns that operate out of the hospital. This service is dispatched through Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications located in East Killingly and is available for any life-threatening emergency. The paramedic responds from the hospital and usually intercepts with the ambulance en route to the hospital. Operating under the medical control of the Hospital's Emergency Physician the paramedic is able to administer drugs and provide a wider range of interventions than are EMT's.

Serving as an ambulance volunteer is very rewarding way to develop valuable skills while contributing to the community. Interested residents are encouraged to discuss participating in this worthwhile activity with members of the Mortlake Fire

## SERVICES

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Company. Volunteers who are available during the daytime are particularly needed.

### **Day Kimball HealthCare**

Over the course of the past year, the entire team at Day Kimball Home care has worked harder than ever to meet the challenges of increased regulations and decreased reimbursement, while operating as a department of a hospital system that faces its own challenges. Shorter hospital stays, along with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, have increased the acuity of the patients we care for, while ongoing Medicare cuts and stagnant Medicaid rates have left us challenged to cover the growing expenses of providing care. Guided by our mission to provide the residents of Northeastern Connecticut with the highest quality in-home care possible, we thoughtfully examined our operations and programs to develop a strategy to best meet the home health care needs of our communities while achieving the sustainability necessary to secure a future for our Homecare and Hospice programs.

Since initiating a strategic plan to increase operational efficiencies and grow the number of acute care patients serviced by our skilled nursing and therapy teams, I am pleased to share that our Homecare and Hospice programs are growing stronger every day. Working closely with our sister agency, Day Kimball Homemakers, we have been able to successfully transition some patients previously served by Homecare to Personal Care Serviced, thereby increasing our capacity to accept more acute care referrals while growing the number of clients served by Homemakers. As a trusted provider for our referrals sources, we continue to be the agency of choice for many local facilities, and have also seen



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an increase in the number of referrals we receive from out of state hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.

For many years, Day Kimball Homecare has appreciated the support Brooklyn has provided and the value placed on the services we bring into the home of your residents. During the course of fiscal year 2014-2015, we provided a total of 5208 visits to Brooklyn residents, and for this fiscal year to date, we are well on our way to meeting or even exceeding the number of visits we made last year.

On behalf of myself and our entire team of nurses, therapists, home health aides, volunteer, and office personnel, please accept our sincere gratitude for the ongoing support Brooklyn has shown for Day Kimball Homecare and the programs we provide. Although the past year has been a difficult one, our challenges have made us stronger, and our progress has reinforced our commitment to caring for the residents of Northeastern Connecticut for many more years.

Renee M. Smith, RN, MSN  
Executive Director, Day Kimball Homecare  
860-928-0422 Extension 6406  
[rmsmith@daykimball.org](mailto:rmsmith@daykimball.org)

# SERVICES

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## **Northeast District Department of Health**

I am honored to serve northeastern Connecticut towns as your Director of Health. NDDH was the fourth health district established in Connecticut and has long enjoyed an excellent reputation on federal, state and local levels. The good work of NDDH is recognized well beyond the borders of the northeast because of the accomplishments of its experienced staff and the strong working relationships with many public health partners. I continue to be inspired by the sense of connectedness in the Quiet Corner.

Fiscal year 2015 was a busy year for public health. The Ebola epidemic in Africa brought home the message that we do indeed live in a very small world. NDDH worked with local healthcare, school and first responders to review and improve our prevention activities. In addition to an Ebola Awareness Forum for the general public, we hosted a Rabies Forum for healthcare, social services and government officials. All of this work helps to build strong coordinated services across the region.

We continue to provide community education and outreach events addressing topics such as obesity and chronic disease prevention, asthma self-management and control, tick-borne disease and lead poisoning prevention. New this year is a focus on fall prevention – falls are a leading cause of injury and death among both young and old. New public health partners include the Putnam Business Association and the Empty Spaces Art Project. These two groups helped to organize CPR classed and ultimately increase the number of people who can take action to help save lives.

NDDH is a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. We have managed to implement cost-cutting measures without

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sacrificing services. Our ability to function as a true regional entity for the past 42 years has afforded our constituency access to countless public health services at the lowest per capita rate in the State.

I am grateful to our Board of Directors, staff, medical Advisor Dr. Murray Buttner, Town Officials, community partners and all residents of Northeast Connecticut who strive to make this a healthy, happy community.

Susan Starkey, MS, RD, MPH

# SERVICES

<b>Subsurface Sewage Disposal</b>	
As-Built	21
B100	70
Plan Review- New	7
Plan Review-Repair	12
Plan review-Revised	5
Plan Review-Subdivision	1
Permit to Construct	19
Permit to Construct-Comm	0
Permit to Repair	2
Sieve Analysis	4
Soil Test	10
Soil Test – Additional	6
Soil Repair	12
Tank or Sewer Line	4
Water Treatment Permit	3
Property Document Search	152
<b>Portable Water</b>	
Well Permit	30
Well Cap	17
Other Water Services	8
<b>Food Service Sanitation</b>	
Restaurant Inspections	90
Restaurant Re-inspection	0
Restaurant Plan Review	1
Temporary Food Event	105
<b>Health Inspections</b>	
Campgrounds	1
Daycare	2
Group Homes	5
Hair Salons	5
Hotel/Motel	1
Medical	0
Nail Salon	1
Pool Inspections	0
<b>Complaints</b>	
Animal or Animal Waste	1
Bed Bugs	2
Food Service	1
Garbage	2

Heat/Water	5
Housing	7
Lead Complaint	0
Insects, Vermin (excluding bed bugs)	3
Mold	3
Odor	1
Other	2
Septic	4
Water Supply	0
<b>Other Health Services</b>	
High Blood Lead Level	1
Lead Poisoning Services	13
Rabies Prevention Services	1
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
<b>Environmental Services 2015</b>	<b>640</b>
<b>Reportable Communicable Diseases 2014</b>	
Campylobacteriosis	1
Chlamydia	17
Gonorrhea	0
Hepatitis C	7
Legionellosis	0
Lyme Disease	8
Salmonellosis	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>NDDH Oral Health Screening &amp; Educational Program</b>	
Total Seen	NA
Number with Caries	NA
Number with other dental care needs	NA

# SERVICES

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## NDDH District Wide Services

- **Community Health Education** covering a broad range of topics that prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health
- **Qualified Food Operator & Food Awareness Safety Training**
- **Emergency Planning, Preparedness & Response**
- **Flu Immunizations**

## Grants (Federal, State & Private Funds):

- **State of CT – Department of Public Health (DPH) – State Per Capita Allocation** – for support of local and district departments of health
- **State of CT DPH Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant** – for environmental and policy strategies to decrease chronic disease.
- **CT DPH Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program**– for lead poisoning surveillance, environmental investigation and case management
- **CT DPH/Connecticut Children’s Medical Center** – for *Easy Breathing* Asthma Grant to provide physician training and improve medical management of asthma
- **Connecticut Children’s Medical Center & Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHN)** – An extension of the “Easy Breathing” asthma grant to bring Easy Breathing training, consultation and recruitment activities to targeted physician practices and enrolled members of the Community Health Network
- **State of CT DPH/Bureau of Community Health/Environmental Protection Agency - “Breathing New Life in Asthma Management”**  
Putting on Airs In-Home Asthma Trigger Assessment Program

## SERVICES

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- **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors**  
– NDDH's HealthQuest Northeast Connecticut Initiative was selected as a national ACHIEVE community to reduce obesity through policy, systems and environmental changes that support increased physical activity and better nutrition
- **National Association of County & City Health Officials** – Funding for the Northeast CT Medical Reserve Corps to build voluntary medical and ancillary care capacity
- **Foundation of the National Institutes of Health with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute**  
- funding to promote *The Heart Truth*®, campaign through *Follow the Fifty: Models of Heart Health*, a women's heart health initiative of NDDH and HealthQuest Northeast CT partners

# FINANCIAL

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut (the "Town") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation

## FINANCIAL

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and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the USA.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA, which consisted of inquires of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responded to our inquires, the basic



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financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements and supplementary schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not required part of the financial statements.

The combining fund financial statements and supplementary schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 30, 2016 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to

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describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integrate part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Town's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

O'CONNELL, PACE, & COMPANY, P.C.  
Certified Public Accountants

# FINANCIAL

## Expenditures

<b>General Government</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Board Finance	33,867	32,724	1,143
Board of Selectmen	29,888	29,391	496
Engineering	24,773	24,773	0
Administration	216,935	216,870	65
Treasurer	8,291	8,291	0
Revenue Collector	93,238	89,981	3,257
Assessor	126,567	125,666	901
Board of Assessment	400	265	135
Recording	118,101	117,609	492
Elections	30,195	28,078	2,117
Legal	23,057	22,938	119
Probate	8,880	8,864	17
Town Hall	50,570	50,570	0
Central Supplies	72,522	72,522	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>837,282</b>	<b>828,539</b>	<b>8,743</b>

<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Canine Control	24,609	24,609	0
Patrol Services	261,928	261,928	0
Fire Marshal	55,554	55,554	0
Fire Facilities	489,747	486,676	3,071
Emergency Communications	35,148	34,858	290
Homeland Security	4,000	3,746	254
<b>Total</b>	<b>870,986</b>	<b>867,371</b>	<b>3,614</b>

# FINANCIAL

<b>Public Works</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Roads & Drainage	516,131	516,131	0
Maintenance & Equipment	108,551	108,551	0
Snow Removal	94,134	94,134	0
Garage Maintenance	28,533	28,534	0
Resource Recovery	206,031	205,806	225
Building Official	67,012	67,012	0
<b>Total</b>	1,020,391	1,020,167	225

<b>Human Services</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Health	77,199	77,198	1
Cemeteries	5,000	5,000	0
<b>Total</b>	82,199	82,198	1

<b>Civic &amp; Cultural</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Library	129,464	129,464	0
Transit District	13,535	13,535	0
Special Programs	7,000	3,688	3,312
Recreation	295,283	295,283	0
Park Maintenance	105,119	103,499	1,621
Community Center	25,455	25,455	0
Clifford B. Green Bldg	30,364	30,364	0
<b>Total</b>	606,221	301,288	4,932

## FINANCIAL

<b>Development &amp; Planning</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Planning & Zoning	13,627	11,607	2,017
Zoning Board of Appeal	781	781	0
Agriculture Commission	2,100	1,561	539
Conservation Commission	2,700	1,721	979
Inland/Wetland Commission	6,220	2,076	4,144
Land Use Admin/Planner	90,391	90,391	0
Economic Development Commission	4,500	2,124	2,376
Open Space	8,203	8,203	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,519</b>	<b>118,463</b>	<b>10,056</b>

<b>Sundry</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Contingency	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits	522,177	489,089	33,088
Municipal Insurance	118,889	124,540	(5,650)
Long Term Debt Service	475,956	475,956	0
Short Term Debt Service	894,929	894,929	0
Capital Equipment	277,250	277,250	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,289,201</b>	<b>2,261,764</b>	<b>27,437</b>

<b>Total Government</b>	5,834,798	5,779,791	55,007
<b>Total Board of Education</b>	17,030,324	16,807,715	222,609
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	22,865,122	22,587,506	277,616
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures – Budgetary Basis</b>	250,991	(877,564)	(1,128,555)

# TOWN OFFICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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		Option
First Selectman's Office	860-779-3411	# 2
Financial Department	860-779-3411	# 8
Town Clerk	860-779-3411	# 4
Assessor	860-779-3411	# 6
Tax Collector	860-779-3411	# 5
Recreation	860-779-3411	# 7
Land Use Administrator	860-779-3411	# 9
Water Pollution Control Authority	860-779-3411	# 8
Fire Marshal	860-779-3411	# 9
Building Official	860-779-3411	# 9
Director of Highway Department	860-779-3411	# 3
Animal Control Officer	860-774-1253	
Landfill Attendant	860-779-1105	
Housing Authority	860-779-3339	
Resident Trooper	860-779-9008	

## Other Frequently Requested Numbers

UConn Extension Center	860-774-9600
Quinebaug Valley Senior Center	860-774-1243
NE District Department of Health	860-774-7350
Brooklyn Fair Grounds	860-779-0012
Brooklyn Post Office	860-774-4449
Brooklyn Library	860-774-0649
Judge of Probate	860-928-4844
NE Children's Probate Court	860-928-4833
Casella Waste – Recycling	888-485-1469
NE CT Council of Government	860-774-1253
Mortlake Fire Department	860-774-2032
East Brooklyn Fire Department	860-774-1192
First Student Bus Garage	860-779-1256
Troop D – non-emergencies	860-779-4900

**EMERGENCIES      911**

# SCHOOL & HISTORICAL SITES

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## School Officials & Telephone Numbers

### Brooklyn Schools

Louise Berry, Superintendent	860-774-9153
Alan Yanku, Middle School Principal	860-774-9153
Frances Rotella, Elementary Principal	860-774-7577

Killingly High School	860-779-6620
Woodstock Academy	860-928-6575
H.H. Ellis Tech	860-774-8511

## Historical Sites

Old Trinity Church – Located on Church Street, Built in 1771 by Col. Godfrey Malbone, a Tory, after a disagreement with Brooklyn Church.

Old Court House – Located in Brooklyn Center, Presently the Brooklyn Town Hall, Built when Brooklyn became the County Seat in 1820.

Old Unitarian Church – Located in Brooklyn Center, Built as Congregational Church in 1771, Isreal Putnam was Sexton after completion of Church.

Isreal Putnam Monument – Located in Brooklyn Center, At his burial place.

## CHURCH SERVICES

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### Federated Church of Christ

Sundays.....10:00am

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

### Our Lady of LaSalette Church

Sundays.....8:00am & 11:00am

(Roman Catholic)

### Trinity-Episcopal Church

Sundays.....10:00am

Wednesdays.....Bible Study 7pm

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

### Old Trinity Church

July & August.....5:00pm & All Saints Day.....11:00am

### Unitarian Universalist Society

April-December @ Brooklyn Green Rte 6&169.....10:30am

Jan-April @ Brooklyn Community Center.....10:30am

(Semi-monthly Sunday)

Facebook: Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

### Community Bible Chapel

Sundays.....11:00am

Wednesdays.....7:00pm

Family Bible Hour and Sunday School



# EDUCATION

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## **BROOKLYN SCHOOLS**

Superintendent's Annual Report  
2014-2015

### SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Louise Berry, Superintendent, 860-774-9153  
Alan Yanku, Middle School Principal, 860-774-9153  
Frances Rotella, Elementary Principal, 860-774-7577

The school system is governed by a six-member Board of Education through a committee structure and when appropriate involves members of the school staff and the community. Board members serve on a variety of committees such as: Budget, Curriculum, Negotiations, High School and Policy. The Board of Education also has representatives on the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees and EASTCONN Regional Education Center.

### 2014 – 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair – Mae Lyons  
Vice Chair – Robert Rossi  
Secretary – John Don Francisco

#### Members

Sheila Johnson  
James Kelley  
Amy Majek

# EDUCATION

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

This annual report to the Brooklyn Board of Education and the Brooklyn community provides a review of the operation of The Brooklyn School for 2014-2015. The Board of Education budget for the 2014 – 2015 school year was \$17,029,324 which was a 2.3% increase over the prior year. Below is a breakdown by category.

Object	Account	2014-2015 Budget
100	Salaries	\$7,300,512
200	Employee Benefits	\$2,427,756
300	Purchased Services	\$315,950
400	Purchased Property	\$152,500
500	Services	\$6,084,337
600	Supplies & Materials	\$651,269
700	Property	\$42,000
800	Dues and Fees	\$55,000
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$17,029,324</b>

### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT – Pre K – Grade 12

The Brooklyn School district is comprised of 2 schools, Brooklyn Elementary, which also houses the Louise S. Berry Early Childhood Center, and the Brooklyn Middle School. During 2014-2015 the Brooklyn Schools provided an educational program for students in grades Pre-K to Grade 8. As Brooklyn does not have a high school, it sends its students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 to Killingly High School in Danielson and Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, our

## EDUCATION

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designated high schools. Under our freedom of choice policy, some students selected other high schools.

The number of students enrolled on October 1, 2014 at the Elementary School was 536 and 373 students were enrolled at the Middle School. The number of high school students as listed on the October 2014 Enrollment Report was 302, we also had students attending the following; Ellis Technical School 56 students, the Vocational Agriculture Program at Killingly High School 11 students and 9 students attended Quinebaug Middle College.

Thus, the total number of Brooklyn students in grades PK through 12 during the fall of 2014 was 1,287.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

During the 2014 – 2015 school year the Brooklyn Elementary School began to offer a full day Kindergarten program and began the year with 68 students enrolled. As the students from this program continue their education we are confident we will see educational improvements as a result and are grateful to the community for their support of this endeavor.

The school system also began to use a new tool called School Messenger. This system allows messages from the district to be sent automatically to parents and guardians via telephone, text or email.

Also, the 2014-2015 school year was the first official year for the students to test with the state mandated Smarter Balance testing.

# EDUCATION

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## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### Honors Recognition

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Honors Recognition Night was held on May 21, 2015. Not only were students inducted into the Gwladys M. Dorman Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, but those students who had maintained high honors or honors for three marking periods were also recognized.

The Gwladys M. Dorman Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1966, with the first induction ceremony held the same year. The Chapter was named for Mrs. Gwladys M. Dorman, who was a highly respected 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at The Brooklyn School.

Members of the National Junior Honor Society during the 2014-2015 school year were:

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## **Present Members:**

Ashleigh Angle  
Brianna Bradley  
Noelle Ciccarelli  
Skyler Cummings  
Natalie Dionne  
Katie Humphreys  
Hannah Ives  
Taylor Jax

Hallie Lalumiere  
Allison Levesque  
Olivia Majek  
Zoe Manfredi  
Regan Stuyniski  
Matthew Tiffany  
Madalin Wilcox

## **Inductees:**

### **Grade 8**

Irene Askitis  
Devin Chenail  
Isabella Garbutt

Makenzie Metivier  
Emma Strandson

### **Grade 7**

Alyssa Arends  
Emily Arters  
Mackenzie Barrows  
Issac Bean  
Russell Beausoleil  
Stephanie Bellows  
Dylan Bonneau  
Alexia Bourbeau  
Lexie Brunet  
Panagiotis Chrisovechotis  
Makenzie Czmyr  
Rebecca DiBenedetto  
Caroline Frost  
Anthony Girard  
Riley Hardacker  
Zada Jones

Carissa Kelley  
Haili Korsu  
Jacob Longe  
Jacob Nurse  
Alexander Orbegozo  
Michael Page  
Nadia Ponciano  
Isabella Precourt  
Alexandra Purcell  
Natalia Real  
Morgan Schmidt  
Thomas Sherman  
Linda St. Laurent  
Benjamin Torre  
Emma Turner

# EDUCATION

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## Graduation

On June 18, 2015 at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduation Ceremonies at The Brooklyn School, students received their diplomas from members of the Board of Education. Twenty members of the eighth grade class were recognized as members of the National Junior Honor Society.

In addition, a number of students were presented awards for academic achievement, leadership qualities, service to others and/or athletic ability. Many of these awards were sponsored by generous residents and businesses.

## Class Officers

President:	Garrett Downs
Vice President:	Vishal Cherian
Secretary:	Angelise Martin
Treasurer:	John Sullivan

## Teacher of the Year

Lisa McCormack was selected as Teacher of the Year. Mrs. McCormack has been a member of the staff of the Brooklyn Middle School since 2005. The Brooklyn School has a long history of outstanding and dedicated teachers. Listed below are Brooklyn staff members who have received this honor since the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program began in 1985:

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Mary T. Fatsi	Grade 1	1985-1986
Jim Schaffer	Grade 8	1986-1987
Sharon Loughlin	Grade 6	1987-1988
Kathryn Stellitano	Library	1988-1989
Pamela Gagnon	Elem. Math	1989-1990
Mary Beth Sweet	Grade 8 History	1990-1991
Paul Berthiaume	Grade 7&8 French	1991-1992
Jane Krecedlo	Grade 7 Social Studies	1992-1993
Dianne Socquet	Grade 6	1993-1994
Judith Ternowchek	Grade 3	1994-1995
Lynne Goodfellow	Elem. Language Arts	1995-1996
James Bejma	Grade 8 Science	1996-1997
Christine Ferreira	Grade 5-8 Art	1997-1998
Mary Martin	Elem. Remedial Reading	1998-1999
Kathi Dumaine-Savage	Grade 5	1999-2000
Kevin Collins	Speech Therapy	2000-2001
Carol Randall	Elem. Special Education	2001-2002
Patricia O'Rourke	Elem. Music	2002-2003
Robin Joly	Grade 5	2003-2004
Jeffrey Kelleher	Middle School Instrumental Music	2004-2005
Marla Rufo-Pellegrino	Grade 1	2005-2006
Cristine Waldron	Grade 5	2006-2007
Glen Lessig	Computer Technology	2007-2008
Kathleen Green	Grade 6	2008-2009
David Partyka	Social Worker	2009-2010
Diane Wimmer	Grade 5	2010-2011
Sara Guimont	Grade 4	2011-2012
Gena Laplante	M.S. Remedial Reading	2012-2013
Denise Nault	Grade 4	2013-2014
Lisa McCormack	Grade 5	2014-2015

# EDUCATION

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## PTO

Our sincere thanks for the leadership and efforts of these officers, as well as those who have worked to make The Brooklyn School PTO a valuable part of the school program. Through the hard work of many parents, and specifically the dedication and efforts of the officers and committee chairpersons, we have a number of programs which have become major events at The Brooklyn School. The PTO continues to support projects at the school through its various fundraising activities. We are indebted to the leadership of this organization for their on-going support and their many hours of service to the Brooklyn School.

### Appreciation

In closing, I would like to recognize the staff at The Brooklyn School for their dedication and commitment to students and this system; teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and administrators, as well as the many volunteers who have worked together on behalf of the school and its students. For this, I am grateful and encouraged by their desire to work toward the goal of an effective and efficient school system making the needs of students their top priority.

The members of the Board of Education have been generous with their time, interested in education and devoted to the cause of seeking the best possible education for the students in Brooklyn.

Although in today's society, people are uneasy about the problems in and the direction of public education, and I am aware that there are differing opinions about and expectations of staff members at The Brooklyn School, please be informed



## EDUCATION

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that our students continue to receive honors, awards and recognition for their academic and extracurricular achievements. Staff at our designated high schools comment favorably on the performance of many Brooklyn students; parents share with us their satisfaction with our programs; and state program compliance consultants comment favorably on our curricular offerings and compliance with state and federal mandates.

Therefore, with the continuing support and assistance of parents and community members, The Brooklyn School will continue its tradition of a strong and caring educational institution.