

Brooklyn Newsletter

Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

April - June 2018; Issue 12



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

Brooklyn Town Library

10 Canterbury Rd 860-774-0649

Monday and Wednesday: 2-7pm

Tuesday and Saturday: 11am-5pm

Thursday and Friday: 2-5pm

Town Offices Will be Closed On:

May 28: Memorial Day

June 19: Furlough Day

June 22: Transfer Station Furlough

Furlough Days

Please note that the Brooklyn Town Offices, Highway Department, and the Teen Center will be **closed on Monday, June 18, 2018**, with the cooperation of the employees, due to State budget issues. The Transfer Station will be **closed on Friday, June 22, 2018**.

Important Note

Save the Date for Earth Day

Join us on Saturday, April 21st, 2018 Beginning at 9am
Community Center, 31 Tiffany St. Brooklyn

The Town of Brooklyn, in conjunction with the Last Green Valley, will be holding a Town wide event in honor of Earth Day on **Saturday, April 21st at 9am**. Gloves, trash pickers, trash bags, trash tracker, and snacks will be provided. Routes and parks around Town will be mapped out and assigned to volunteers. Garbage will later be picked up by the Town and disposed of at the transfer station.

Connecticut State Police will also be participating in a Drug Take-Back Day. This will take place at the Community Center from 9am-12pm. This will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal free of charge and anonymous, no questions asked.

Check our website for further information and details at www.brooklynct.org. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Melissa Bradley m.bradley@brooklynct.org.

ACT LOCALLY AND MAKE AN IMPACT GLOBALLY



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News from the Town Clerk's Office

ELECTIONS

Town Clerk
860-779-3411
Option 4
Fax: 860-774-5732
4 Wolf Den Rd
PO BOX 356



This is a State Election year so voting for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, State Representative, Judge of Probate, and Registrars of Voters will take place on November 6, 2018. Primary day (if held) will be August 14, 2018 this year. You must be enrolled in a major party to vote in the Primary. If you would like to switch your party affiliation from one major party to another (Democrat to Republican or Republican to Democrat), the deadline is May 14, 2018 to be able to vote in the primary. You can make the switch with the Town Clerk, the Registrars, by mail, or online through the Connecticut Secretary of State's website.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT

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, primary and referendum.

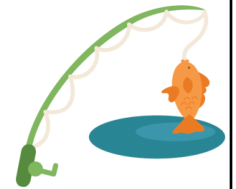
DOG LICENSES



June is dog license month! Connecticut State statute requires that all dogs over six months old be licensed in your town. Proof of up-to-date rabies vaccinations—with the expiration date—is required with all licenses. Fees are as follows: \$19.00 per dog or \$8.00 per dog that is spayed/neutered. You must bring proof from your vet that your dog has been spayed/neutered. All dog licenses expire on June 30th and there is a \$1.00 per month late fee after that date.

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES

Hunting & Fishing seasons are here! Licenses and permits can be purchased in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. After hours, you can purchase directly through the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website (as long as you have already been issued a Conservation ID #). Remember, if you're over age 65, your license is free!



Please Note: Effective March 9, 2018 a Trout and Salmon Stamp is now required for anyone (age 16 or older, including seniors age 65+) who would like to do one of the following:

- 1) **Keep** any trout or salmon anywhere in CT (except from places stocked by groups other than the state of CT; like a hunting or fishing club).
- 2) **Fish** in any of these places: Trout Management Area, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, and/or Broodstock Salmon Areas.

Memorial Day Parade & Family Fun Day

The parade kicks off on Monday, May 28 at 9am from the Brooklyn Fairgrounds to the center of Town, ending back at the Fairgrounds. Immediately following the Parade, Brooklyn Family Fun Day will be held at the Fairgrounds. Hamburgers, hotdogs and ice cream will be served and there will be fun activities for the whole family! Please contact Parks & Recreation for more information on Brooklyn Family Fun Day at (860) 779-3411 ext. 7. If your Organization would like to participate in the Parade, please contact the First Selectman's Office at (860) 779-3411 ext. 16.



News from the Assessor's Office

Please visit our website at www.brooklynct.org for any forms that may pertain to you.

Assessor

860-779-3411

Option 6

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

✿ If you no longer own a vehicle from the October 1, 2017 Grand List and have cancelled the registration, please provide any 2 proofs to the Assessor's office (plate receipt/bill of sale/insurance cancellation stating why the insurance was removed/copy of out of state registration), so we may adjust your July 2018 bill.



✿ **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** We are accepting applications until Monday October 1st, 2018. **Armed Service Members: Connecticut Resident in Military Service or Exemption for Federal Soldiers & Sailors Civil Relief Act forms are available on our website and must be filed with the Assessor by December 31, 2018.**

✿ **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** We are accepting applications until **Tuesday May 15th, 2018.** To be eligible for this tax credit:

✿ You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2017 or over 18 and permanently disabled per Social Security.

✿ You must be a permanent resident of Connecticut. You must own the property or hold tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicant liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2017. The property Must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).

✿ Your 2017 income cannot exceed \$43,000 if you are married or \$35,300 if unmarried.

You must provide the Assessor with a copy of you SSA1099 for 2017.

Please call the Assessor's Office at 860-779-3411 option 6 for an appointment to apply.



✿ **2017 ANNUAL INCOME and EXPENSE REPORTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 2018:** All individuals and businesses who have received the form should complete and return the form to the Assessor's Office. All properties which are rented or leased, including commercial, retail, industrial and residential properties except 'such property used for residential purposes, containing not more than six dwelling units and in which the owner resides' **must** complete the form. If a property is partially rented and partially owner-occupied the report **must** be filed.

✿ **RENTER REBATE APPLICATIONS:** We will begin accepting applications Monday April 2nd, 2018 until October 1st, 2018. You or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older **or** over 18 and totally disabled through Social Security. **Applicants must submit their SSA1099 from Social Security for 2017 and proof of any other income, Federal Income Tax Return if you were required to file, rent receipt for the entire year and information from Eversource (CL&P).** All information must be for 2017. Income cannot exceed \$43,000 for married or \$35,300 for single.



Please call for an appointment 860-779-3411 option 6.

If you have questions or need help, you may contact the Assessor's Office at 860-779-3411 option 6.

Regards, Kathleen M. Thornton CCMA II & Maryann E. Szela, Assistant Assessor.

News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's April and you know what that means! April showers and May flowers are here! Along with taxes!

Tax Collector

860-779-3411

Option 5

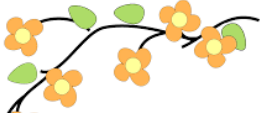
Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 253

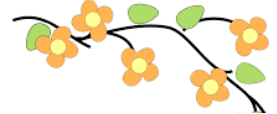
The fourth installment for real estate and personal property taxes are due this month. You can pay your bills three different ways:

- ✿ 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/debit card, \$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:

April 1st – May 1st



Withholding DMV Clearance for Personal Check, E-check, or Debit Card Payments:



As of March 1, 2018, the Tax Office will be withholding DMV clearance from those taxpayers who pay with a personal check or e-check for 10 days while the check clears. If a DMV clearance is needed on the day of payment, the payment must be paid with cash, credit card, bank check, or money order.

Do you need to know what you paid in taxes last year for income taxes? You can visit the office for a printout or you can now print out your tax information online!



Tax Bills are now Online!

- Go to 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.



Commission Vacancies: Want to be involved in the Town? Right now there are vacancies in many of the Town's Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a Board/Commission, please fill out the Boards and Commissions Questionnaire at <https://brooklynct.seamlessdocs.com/f/0f6mrp> OR at the First Selectman's Office.

Agriculture Commission

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Conservation

Vacancies for 3 regular members

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Emergency Management/

Homeland Security

Vacancies for 3 regular members

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Economic Development

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Ethics

Vacancy for 1 regular member

Fire Commissioners

Vacancy for 1 regular member

Housing Authority

Vacancies for 1 regular member

Inland Wetlands

Vacancies for 2 regular members

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Planning & Zoning

Vacancies for 2 regular members

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Regulations Hearing Officer

Vacancies for 2 members

Resource Recovery

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Zoning Board of Appeals

Vacancy for 1 regular member

Vacancies for 2 alternate members



Town of Brooklyn Prescription Discount Card

Q: How does the card work?

A: Just present the FREE card to your pharmacist the next time you have a new prescription or need to refill one. One card covers your entire family. The card does not cost you or the Town anything!

Q: Where can I use the card?

A: The prescription card can be used at most pharmacies in Connecticut, including Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Stop & Shop, Big Y, and Wal-Mart.

Q: What does the card cover?

A: All prescription medications are covered, at a discount rate. Savings are also available on Vision, Lasik, and Hearing services.



Q: Can I use the card if my prescriptions are already covered by insurance?

A: No. This care is intended to be used if you do not have insurance or if something is not covered by your current program. It can not be used to discount prescription co-payments or deductible charges.

Please contact the Town Hall, ProAct at 1-877-776-2285, or visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com for more information.

From the Office of the Building Inspector

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:

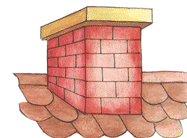
Monday, Tuesday, and

Wednesday: 8am-5pm

Thursday: 8am-6pm

Spring has sprung!! Please be advised that the following require a building permit:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| ✿ Additions | ✿ In-ground and above ground swimming pools | ✿ Strip and re-roof roof repair |
| ✿ Garages and barns | ✿ Basement renovations | ✿ New chimney |
| ✿ Decks - new and replacement | ✿ Attic renovations | ✿ Chimney repair |
| ✿ Porches | ✿ Storage sheds greater than 200 square feet | ✿ Chimney liners |
| ✿ Handicap ramps | ✿ Interior remodel | ✿ Central air conditioning |
| ✿ Replacement windows | ✿ Exterior remodel | ✿ Electric service repairs/upgrade |
| ✿ Siding | ✿ Gas line installation | ✿ AC/heat pumps |
| | | ✿ Dismantle/removal of existing structure |



✿ **Expiration of Permits:** Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within 180 days after its issuance. If project is incomplete after 180 days, the applicant must renew the permit.

✿ **Town Ordinance 8-2 Withholding Approval of a Building Application When Taxes are Delinquent:**

a. Pursuant to the authority of Public Act 95-320, it will be the policy of the Town to withhold approval of building applications when taxes are delinquent for the property for which an application is made.

b. Waiver. In the event that a taxpayer seeking an application is contesting the underlying tax assessment, or in cases of unusual hardship, the Board of Selectmen may waive the denial of approval set forth in this section.

(Ord. No. 95-1 State Statute 1)

✿ Inspections are required by the Building Official, John Berard. Please contact the office at 860-779-3411, ext. 12 to set up an inspection date.

As always, we welcome any questions or comments. You may contact us at 860-779-3411, option 9.

Warmest Regards,

John Berard, Building Official and Audrey Cross-Lussier, Building Office Assistant

What's happening at the TEEN Center this spring?

Brooklyn Teen Center

860-412-0060

Brooklyn Community Center

31 Tiffany St

Lower Level

We have been busy with events and activities all spring. Our members and staff help out at the annual Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt and will also be at the Memorial Day – Family Fun Day event. Rock painting and “growing” rock candy were a big hit earlier this spring. We are always looking for new and exciting activities for our members, with an opportunity to learn something new at the same time.



Our “TEEN” Summer Day Camp began registration on March 20th. The forms are online, at our office, or available at the Center for current members. Weekly trips and activities are planned for the six-week program, including Six Flags, Paw Sox, Sonny’s Place and more. We are looking forward to Kickerball, an exciting outdoor activity that comes to our camp this summer. **Camp registration ends on June 14th.** Camp is scheduled to begin June 25th.

We are offering Guest Passes this spring. This program began in February and runs through June. Students in grades 5th, 6th, and 7th grade can request a pass and visit our Center for an afternoon. Bus permission slips are included with the paperwork, so your student can ride the school bus to the center that day. Come check out all the fun and amazing things our program has to offer. This is also a great opportunity to see the Center before Camp begins. Registration for next year will begin in late June, so visit this spring and then be ready for registration for next school year!



We are always working hard to find alternative funding options for our Center. With the never-tiring help of Lisa Lindia, our coordinator, we apply for and receive grants and additional funding from a variety of sources. We are committed to offering a quality program for our youth, while keeping the cost reasonable for our members. If you are a business or organization who would like to make a donation or have a grant that you think we would qualify for, to assist in our Center’s efforts to continue to offer this program, please contact our coordinator at l.lindia@brooklynct.org or call our Department at 860-779-3411, opt. 7.



Library

860-774-0649

10 Canterbury Rd

PO BOX 357

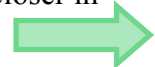
Brooklyn Town Library

Brooklyn Town Library’s Random Acts of Kindness Winter Game for PreK -4th grade children was held between March 5th - April 2nd. The older children colored quilt squares for a Kindness Quilt and all children participated by writing and mailing postcards to very ill children to cheer them up.



The Library is once again participating in the Passports to CT Libraries program from April 2 - 30. People can stop at the Library starting on April 2nd to receive a Passport. There are Passports for children as well as adults. Everyone will receive a list of participating CT libraries as well. People visit as many libraries on the list as they can to get their passports stamped by a librarian from that library or visit at least 5 libraries stamped to be eligible to have their names sent to a compilation library to pull for a \$150 gift card for an adult or a \$100 gift card for a child for the most libraries visited and a second drawing that includes names of anyone that visited at least 5 libraries. Last year, one visiting child from the western part of CT had a small list of questions that she asked at each Library and recorded the answers in a notebook. It was interesting for us to hear the answers to the questions asked at other libraries.

The Library will be getting ready for the Summer Reading Game. As the registration date gets closer in June the Library will have more information on its webpage brooklyntownlibrary.org.



Parks & Recreation Spring Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Welcome Spring! Now that the weather has started to warm up, we are thinking about enjoying all our warm weather outdoor activities. Brooklyn Parks & Recreation Department has playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, trails and more to help with that endeavor. Looking for a family activity that all can enjoy? Check out our Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest. Want to get active and stay in shape? We have fitness programs to fit your needs. Susan offers Complete Fitness until the end of the school year, held at the Elementary School. Christina offers outdoor programming such as Spring Running Club & Beginners Super Series plus a list of later season classes too.



Camp registration began in March. Take advantage of the Early Bird Registration and register your child for six weeks of fun and excitement before May 17th. We have two options; Summer Day Camp for kids in grades K-6th or TEEN Camp for grades 6th – 8th. (entering each grade) Weekly field trips, in house programs and lots of camp fun and games are all part of the camp experience! Check it out online or in our Spring/Summer Brochure. **All registration including Late Registration and Non-resident ends June 14th.**

We hope you plan on joining us on Memorial Day with family and friends at the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade and Family Fun Day. Held on Monday May 28th, the annual Family Fun Day event has become an annual tradition for our residents. Following the parade, meet us at Brooklyn Fairgrounds for an afternoon of family fun with demonstrations, face painting, information booths, moon bounces and more. Our volunteers work tireless all day grilling up food, serving up ice cream and working the booths. Look for our Brooklyn Baton Twirlers, marching in the parade!



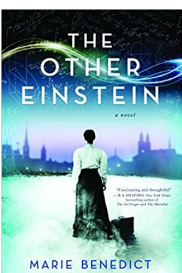
Don't forget that registration is ongoing for all our spring and summer programs. Wine Glass Painting with Karen looks to be a popular addition this May, and our always popular Pitching Clinic in April, Summer Slam Basketball Clinic in July and Karen's craft classes are available for area children. Check out all the programs in our brochure or online.



The Parks & Recreation Department is committed to finding ways to continue to bring you and your family affordable programming and facilities that offer something for everyone. We thank our residents and our local businesses for your continued support. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the quality services you deserve!

Don't forget to check out the TEEN Center's Spring Update. If you have a 5th, 6th or 7th grader, you can have them visit the TEEN Center this spring for one afternoon to see what we have to offer. Guest Passes are available, read more about it in the TEEN's Update and online on the TEEN's webpage at the Town's website.

Check out all our trips, programs and events online at www.brooklynct.org. And like us on Facebook at Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation!



(Brooklyn Library cont.) The Library is part of The Quiet Corner Reads organization which is made up of 20 libraries in CT's northeast corner. Visit www.quietcornerreads.org for information on book discussions for *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. **On Wednesday, June 20th**, Marie will be our visiting author at the Quiet Corner Reads finale held at the **Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock at 7pm**. We encourage people to arrive early for light refreshments. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at any Quiet Corner Reads Library. Books will be available for purchase at the event, or you may bring your own copy of the book for Marie Benedict to sign.

Spotlight on Boards and Commissions

This issue:

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission



ABOUT BROOKLYN'S INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION (IWWC)

What is the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission?

The Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission is a Town Commission that has been working to protect wet places since 1974. For almost 50 years, the State of Connecticut has required that each Town protect its wetlands and watercourses (ponds, swamps, streams, and rivers) from pollution and damage.

Why protect wetlands and watercourses?

Watercourses provide us with a source of water for drinking, fishing, boating, and swimming. Wetlands provide habitat for animals and plants and contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals that are found nowhere else. Both of these contribute to groundwater that we drink. If we fail to care for our water resources, we harm our natural plant and animal communities and ultimately, ourselves.



What do I have to do to follow the law and protect wetlands, streams and ponds?

When you plan an activity that involves construction, land clearing and grading, digging, bringing in fill or removing it, contact the IWWC staff, Martha Fraenkel at 860-779-3411, to find out if you need a permit from the Commission. The IWWC requires review of your project if you are planning to work within 175 feet of a watercourses (such as a stream or pond) or 125 feet of a wetlands.

How do I know if there are wetlands on my property?

Some places in Town have wetlands mapped, but many do not. Please inquire with our staff to find out whether there are wetlands on your property.

Who is on the Commission?

The Board of Selectman appoints members to the Commission and the Commission elects its officers annually.

When does the Commission meet?

The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM at 69 South Main Street. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

JOIN US!

The Commission is always looking for new members. If you want to protect our water resources and would be interested in volunteering your time for this worthy cause, please contact the First Selectman's Office.

The Brooklyn IW&WC
Jeff Arends, Chair

Public Works

860-779-3411

option 3

Fax: 860-779-0806

95 Rukstela Rd

PO BOX 356

Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 7am-4pm

Friday: 7am-11am

From your Public Works Department

It was a hard end to the winter season and the crews are out cleaning up leftover debris. As some of you probably have noticed, the sweeper is out of hibernation and starting to do its job. Please use caution when you see our crew and equipment on the roads working. If you have any questions or concerns about the roads in front of your property please contact us or the Selectman's office.

