

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

April - June 2016; Issue 4

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 30: Memorial Day



Memorial Day Parade & Family Fun Day

Monday May 30, 2016, 9:00am



MEMORIAL DAY

The parade kicks off 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 Brooklyn Parks &

Recreation for more information at (860) 779-3411, option 7.

If your Organization would like to participate in the Parade, please contact the First Selectman's Office at (860) 779-3411.

Save the Date for Earth Day

The Town of Brooklyn will be holding a Town

wide event in honor of Earth Day on Saturday,

April 23rd. Check our website for upcoming

details. At this time, we are looking for

individuals, families, groups, organizations, or

anyone who wants to get involved. Please contact the First Selectman's

Office at 860-779-3411x16, email m.bradley@brooklynct.org, or visit

the website to volunteer no later than April 14th.

ACT LOCALLY AND MAKE AN IMPACT GLOBALLY



Important Election Dates

April 26th: Presidential Preference Primary Key dates:



April 5th - absentee ballots become available this day

April 21st - deadline for mail in registrations to vote in primary

April 25th - deadline to issue absentee ballots for primary

April 25th - deadline to register in person to vote in primary

Voting is held at the Brooklyn Middle School Gymnasium.

Please see the back cover for more information from the Registrars.

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From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

Spring fire safety tips

Fire Marshal

860-779-3411

option 9

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

As spring approaches thoughts turn to cleaning up outside and making repairs around the house and yard. Keeping a few safety thoughts in mind will help keep you fire safe.

INSIDE THE HOME

- Check and clean smoke/carbon detectors
- Check your fire extinguisher's
- Check for damaged or overloaded extension cords
- Prepare for upcoming storms: flashlights, generators, portable radios and batteries, bottled water etc.



OUTSIDE THE HOME



- Clean all debris from around your home, garage, and other outbuildings
- Check your propane grills and other items for leaks or damage
- Check any outdoor electrical outlets or cords for damage from the winter
- Make sure you have extra fuel on hand for your gas/propane appliance's or tools
- Brush piles: Burn them with a permit! Stop by the office to apply.

And the most important.....

Make and talk with your children about a fire drill plan for your home in case of storm emergencies or fire.



As always if you have any questions related to fire safety please do not hesitate to call the Fire Marshall at 860-779-3411 or the fire dispatch at 860-779-7555.

News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's April and you know what that means! The final installment of taxes are due!

Tax Collector

860-779-3411

Option 5

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 253

• On May 5th, the Tax Office will be having a **Tax Sale**. For more information about the tax sale, please visit the Tax Collection page on the Town's website and click on "2016 Tax Sale" under News & Notices.

• **Please note** that the legal notice for when taxes are due will now be published in the Killingly Villager, instead of the Norwich Bulletin.



The fourth installment for real estate and personal property taxes are due this month

(April 1st -May 2nd). 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).

Tax Bills are 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.

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

◆ **REVALUATION:** Our town-wide revaluation has been completed. The values are for 2015 Grand List and will be reflected in the July 2016 tax bills.

◆ **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** We are accepting applications until **Thursday May 12th, 2016**. To be eligible for this tax credit:

- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2015 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, 2015.

The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).

- Your 2015 income cannot exceed \$42,900 if you are married or \$35,200 if unmarried.

- You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA1099 for 2015.

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



◆ **RENTER REBATE APPLICATIONS:** Renter Rebate applications will begin Monday, April 4, 2016.

We will accept applications until **Thursday, September 29, 2016**. To be eligible for this tax credit:

- 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 SSA 1099 from Social Security for 2015 and proof of any other income, Federal Income Tax form if you were required to file, rent receipt for the entire year and information from Eversource (CL&P). All information must be for the 2015 year. Income cannot

exceed \$42,900 for married or \$35,200 for single.

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

◆ **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** We are accepting applications until **Thursday September 29, 2016**.

- **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, 2016.



Due to the difficulties the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles is having with their new software, we ask all taxpayers to review their July 2016 tax bills for accuracy. If you believe you have received a bill in error, please contact us so we may investigate at 860-779-3411 opt 6.

Regards,

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

From the Town Clerk

ELECTIONS

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

Primary day for State, District or Municipal offices (if held) will be August 9, 2016 this year. Although the deadline to switch from one major party to another for the Presidential Primary on April 26th has passed, there is still time to make the switch for the August primary. The deadline is May 6, 2016 and you can make the switch with the Town Clerk, the Registrar, by mail or online.

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 at the polls. Once received, you will automatically be mailed an absentee ballot for every election.



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.

Free Workshop on Septic System Care and Maintenance

On April 12, 2016, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD), in partnership with the Pomfret Conservation Commission, will be hosting a free workshop on Septic System Care and Maintenance. This workshop will take place beginning at 7 PM at the Connecticut Audubon Society Grassland Bird Conservation Center located at 218 Day Road in Pomfret Center.

A well-functioning septic system is as important to your home as the heating system or your water supply. Without proper maintenance, or if the system is used improperly for disposal of items not meant to go in there, the system can fail, requiring costly repairs or replacement. At this workshop, you will learn about common avoidable causes of system failures, what the signs of a system failure are and, if your system is in need of replacement, what funding options are available to help with this cost. The workshop agenda is still being finalized as this article is going to print, but be prepared for a few fun surprises!

A free septic system record keeping file folder will be given to workshop participants that print, complete, and turn in an ECCD Septic System Survey. You can download a copy of this survey by visiting the ECCD website at <http://www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern>, then click on Current Projects, and then the Mashamoquet Septic Upgrades tab. The survey requires no site specific information, but will help us to better understand local opinions regarding septic tank maintenance and upkeep.

Also, at this workshop, you will learn about septic system replacement rebates of \$2,000 available for homeowners in special priority areas along White Brook in Brooklyn, where higher than allowable levels of fecal bacteria were found. Is your home in a priority area? Visit the ECCD website www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern and click on Current Projects followed by the Mashamoquet Septic Upgrades tab.

For more information about this project or the workshop, feel free to contact Jean Pillo at 860-928-4948 ex. 605 or you can email her at Jean.Pillo@ConserveCT.org.

The Mashamoquet Brook Septic Tanks Upgrades project and workshop are being funded in part by an US EPA Clean Water Act Grant through the CT DEEP.

From the Land Use Office:

Land Use Office

860-779-3411

option 9

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Are you planning property improvements this summer such as a new shed, pool, or building addition? Please contact the Land Use Office for information on how to apply for a Zoning Permit. Depending on the location of your project, you may also need a Wetlands Permit. The Zoning Official/Wetlands Agent can help you with both at (860) 779-3411 x31.



Street Numbers: For safety, all street numbers should be visible from the street. Block numbers at least 3 inches in height should be located in a conspicuous place such as on a building, mailbox, or similar object. Failure to identify the street number of the property can lead to delays in an emergency and fines (Town Ordinance 8-5), so please make sure your street number is visible.

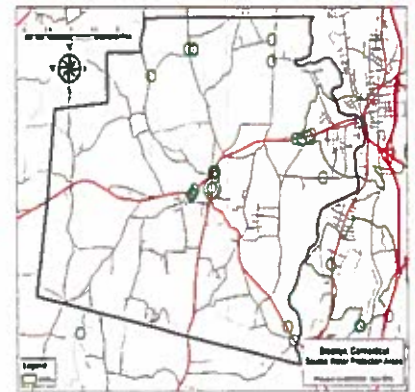
Land Use News

Brooklyn Plans for Groundwater Protection

The Conservation Commission along with town staff and representatives from land use boards recently completed the Brooklyn Source Water Protection Plan. The team, led by Marc Cohen, a specialist in source water protection from the Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association, met over the past year to develop the plan that identifies aquifer areas and includes management tools to protect aquifers that have the potential to supply a public water system. Protection of these areas is critical to insuring there will be adequate clean groundwater sources in the future. The plan and groundwater information flyer are online at: www.brooklynct.org/conservation-commission. Look for the groundwater education booth at Family Fun Day May 30th!

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Exhibit V - Brooklyn Source Water Protection Areas



Donald Francis, Founding Member, Steps Down From PZC

Donald Francis, whose efforts in the early 1970's helped lead to the creation of a Planning and Zoning Commission, stepped down in January 2016. Mr. Francis was the commission's first chairman and he served an astonishing 45 years on the board (32 years as a member and 12 as an *ex officio* member when he was First Selectman). Thank you, Mr. Francis, for the many years of dutiful service reviewing zoning and subdivision proposals, preparing plans of conservation and development, and carefully planning for the future so that subsequent generations may enjoy the beauty and heritage of Brooklyn.

Spring Outdoors!

It's
Happening
in THE
last
green
valley

**SPRING
Outdoors!**

In April and May, the Last Green Valley is hosting a series of outdoor walks including Barrett Hill Farm, a unique property soon to be protected through the cooperative efforts of the landowners, the Town of Brooklyn, and the CT Department of Agriculture.

Check out the flyer online at: <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/spring-outdoors/>

Here's what is happening at the Brooklyn Teen Center...

Brooklyn Teen Center

860-412-0060

Brooklyn Community Center

31 Tiffany St

Lower Level

The Teen Center is having an eventful year so far! We have enjoyed many activities both at the Center and on our scheduled field trips. This winter we traveled to Attleboro, Massachusetts to Battlegroundz to compete in Laser Tag and Nerf games and to Powder Ridge Ski Resort to enjoy a day of tubing and fun in the snow! At the Center, we have taken time to create, play,



and try out new foods! Puzzle month was a challenge for all, as we assembled a 1,000 piece puzzle with our members. March was our trip to Skate Inn, a local favorite requested by the Center's members. The Teen Center members volunteered alongside our department staff at the Bunny Breakfast at the Brooklyn Middle School. After breakfast was made and served by the Danielson Lions Club, family fun activities were enjoyed by many. After breakfast, families enjoyed the Egg Hunt.



In April, we are planning a trip to see the much anticipated Batman vs. Superman - Dawn of Justice movie. **Please note that the Teen Center will be open on April 14th for the half day, but will be closed for April vacation from the 17th-23rd.** In May, Knockerball-Soccer will be visiting us for a day of fun outdoors! It should be a blast, as we surround ourselves with inflatable "balls" and roll, kick, and bump our way thru the afternoon!



It is that time of year again to plan your child's summer vacation! Summer Camp Registration began in March. This year there is a new program: TEEN Summer Camp held at the Teen Center for grades 6th-8th! We are excited to offer new and exciting trips for our veteran campers who are looking for a little change! Early Bird registration for Brooklyn residents began



March 21st and runs to May 19th. Late registration begins May 23rd. And, yes, we accept non-residents to TEEN Camp – register May 2nd – June 16th. The last day to register for Summer Camps is June 16th; but don't wait until the last minute! Take advantage of the early bird registration. TEEN Camp will be held at the TEEN Center and runs from June 27th to August 5th. Forms and more info on TEEN Camp & TEEN Center are online, at the Center or at the Recreation office. TEEN CAMP!!! Hope to see there!

Veterans' Service Contact Person

Did you know the Town of Brooklyn has a Veterans' Service Contact Person (VSCP)? The VSCP is here to help Veterans and Service Members statewide gain access to the support services to which you are entitled. Please contact our VSCP for any questions or concerns you have.



Sherri Vogt
c/o Office of Congresswoman Elizabeth H. Esty
114 West Main Street Suite 206
New Britain, CT 06051
Phone (860) 223-8412
Fax (860) 225-7289
Email sherri.vogt@mail.house.gov



Parks & Recreation Summer Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Greetings from the Brooklyn Parks & Recreation! Spring has arrived and we have been busy with field and trail clean-up after a milder - but windy - winter's end. Our park's maintenance crew has been preparing fields for the spring sport season for soccer, Little League, and the Middle School's baseball and softball seasons. We are happy to say, the Middle School baseball field will be ready to host home games this season! We will once again have the Middle School softball team utilizing the Michael Dragon/Prince Hill Park softball field for home games. The Parks will begin to see much activity between leagues, parents and children visiting the playscapes, and camp activity beginning at the end of June. Our canoe/kayak launch will begin to see increased use as well as our walking trails and Disc Golf course, as the weather warms. It is always a welcome sign of spring, to see area residents enjoying everything the parks have to offer!



Please be aware of both cars and pedestrians in the areas of all our parks and facilities. Our first concern is always safety.

Our Summer Day Camp and our new TEEN Summer Camp began Early Bird Registration for all Brooklyn residents in March and is open until May 19th. Beginning May 23rd, Late Registration will begin. All non-residents can begin registering May 2nd. Camp fees, dates, locations, and activity calendars are available with your registration packet online or available at our office.



We are looking forward to another fun-filled year at Summer Day Camp and the start of a new tradition, TEEN Summer Camp. This new addition is open to grades 6th -8th and will be designed with the older camper in mind. Trips and activities will be planned for this age bracket and camp will utilize the TEEN Center as its home base.

Please remember that the deadline for all camp registration is June 16th.

Don't forget Family Fun Day on Memorial Day (May 30)! Held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds, this annual event has become a tradition for many Brooklyn families. Starting immediately following the parade (which starts at 9am), the event has family friendly entertainment, informational booths, complimentary food, and more! This town sponsored event, open to all Brooklyn residents, is a terrific way to usher in the summer season!



Check out our Spring/Summer brochure for all our spring and summer programs, trips and events!

Or visit our website for more information!

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

Even though it was a relatively mild winter, the crews are out cleaning up leftover debris from the storms we did have. 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.



Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee



The Town of Brooklyn is planning to create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist in the emergency preparedness and response efforts in town. Our hope is to develop a strong and dedicated CERT unit who can assist Town Officials, the Fire Departments, Brooklyn's emergency management team, and other emergency responders in a disaster situation. According to the CERT website (<http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams/>), those who join the teams will be educated in basic disaster response skills. Those skills include, but are not limited to, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organizations, and disaster medical operations. The training takes around 20 hours and is open to anyone who is 18 or older. The training will be offered at the Northeast District Department of Health at 69 South Main St, Brooklyn, CT 06234. There is no cost to anyone who participates. **You must attend all the classes and pass all the course requirements to join the Brooklyn CERT Unit.**

If you have any questions please feel free to call the First Selectman's Office at 860-779-3411 or by email at bemhs@brooklynct.org.

Class Dates and Times
Sat., April 30, 9am-5pm
Thurs., May 12, 6-9pm
Thurs., May 26, 6-9pm
Thurs., June 16, 6-9pm
Thurs., June 30, 6-9pm

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Brooklyn's CERT Unit, please contact Kevin Filchak by April 20th.

Sincerely,
Kevin Filchak

Town of Brooklyn Emergency Management and Homeland Security Director

From the Registrars of Voters

Registrars of Voters

860-779-3411

Option 4

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

Office Hours:

Tuesdays:

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Questions can be referred to the Town Clerk all other times.

Do you want to be a part of the election process? There are opportunities for you to become involved at the polls. The Registrars are looking for a few good civic-minded citizens who would like to become state certified election moderators. Also, there are positions available as poll workers during the elections as well. Please call or email the Registrars at your convenience for further information.

Important Election Dates: April 26th, 2016: Presidential Preference Primary

Voting is held at the Brooklyn Middle School Gymnasium.

Key dates: April 5th - absentee ballots become available this day

April 21st - deadline for mail in registrations to vote in primary

April 25th - deadline to issue absentee ballots for primary

April 25th - deadline to register in person to vote in primary

Please note, that in order to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary, you must be enrolled in that political party: To be eligible to vote in the Republican Presidential Preference Primary, you must be an enrolled Republican. In order to vote in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, you must be an enrolled Democrat. There is a 90 day waiting period to change from one major political party to another major political party. That cutoff date was January 26th. There is no waiting period to change from a minor party or from unaffiliated to a major party, or vice versa. Please call if you have any questions!



Thank you from your Registrars,
Lauren Centracchio and Michael Niejadlik
Registrars@brooklynct.org