

Brooklyn Newsletter

Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

April - June 2017; Issue 8



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:

April 14: Good Friday (Parks and Rec and Highway Department)

May 29: Memorial Day

The Town of Brooklyn welcomes its new resident trooper, TFC Steve Corradi! His contact information is:

Office: Brooklyn Town Hall, 4 Wolf Den Rd.

Phone: 860-779-9008

Voicemail: 860-779-4949 x 2006.

Email: Robert.corradi@ct.gov

Troop D: 860-779-4900

Welcome!



Save the Date for Earth Day

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 29th. 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. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Melissa Bradley at 860-779-3411 ext. 16 or m.bradley@brooklynct.org.



ACT LOCALLY AND MAKE AN IMPACT GLOBALLY

Memorial Day Parade & Family Fun Day



The parade kicks off on Monday, May 29, 2017 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. 33. If your Organization would like to participate in the Parade, please contact the First Selectman's Office at (860) 779-3411 ext. 16.

Inside this Issue

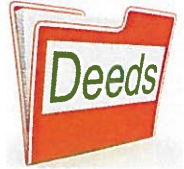
Town Clerk	2	Registrars of Voters	5
Assessor's Office	3	Teen Center	6
Tax Collector	4	Parks and Recreation	7
Building Department	4	Fire Marshall's Office	8

News from the Town Clerk's Office

Ever wonder what goes on in the Town Clerk's Office?

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

The Clerk's office is one of the most-visited offices in the Town Hall. Daily, we see residents, attorneys, title searchers, realtors, builders, genealogists, and visitors looking for various information on our town. You probably know that the Clerk's office holds all the land records in town. But what does that mean? Every day, different types of documents are recorded on the land records for properties in town. This includes deeds, mortgages, liens, releases, maps, and many more. Think of all the properties in town and you can imagine the volume of records that come across our desks! Land records are kept forever and in our vault we have records dating back to 1786. All our land records are open to the public so feel free to stop in and take a look!



Our second largest collection of records is our Vital Records collection. If someone was born, married or died in Brooklyn, a record of the event will be in our vault. If someone lived in Brooklyn at the time they were married or passed away, but the event occurred in another town in CT, we will have a resident copy of that vital record. If your mother was living in Brooklyn at the time of your birth, we'll have that record as well. Certified copies of vital records can be obtained at any time from either the Town Clerk or the Assistant Town Clerk, both of whom are sworn-in Registrars of Vital Statistics appointed by the State.

The busiest month of the year in the Clerk's office is June—Dog License month! Did you know that by state statute, any dog over six months of age must be registered with the Town Clerk? Dog licenses renew every June and we'll process over 400 renewals throughout the month! The process is simple, bring your dog's up-to-date rabies certificate to the Clerk's office (along with a copy of the spay/neuter certificate if that applies), pay the fee, and we'll give you a dog tag. If you find a lost dog that has a Town of Brooklyn tag on its collar, please call us so we can help locate its owner!



Need to register to vote? Can't make it to the polls on election day and need an absentee ballot? The Clerk's office can help you! We have voter cards in our office that you can fill out anytime. We also process all absentee ballots for elections, primaries, and referendums. In last year's Presidential election, we processed almost 250 absentee ballots! If you have a question about any election-related item, chances are the Clerks can answer it for you.



Fishing season starts in April! Get your fishing & hunting licenses and permits in the Clerk's office. Remember, if you're over 65, the licenses are free!



There are many miscellaneous duties the Clerk's office can help you with. If you need a Notary, both the Town Clerk and the Assistant are Notaries Public. Our office records all Trade Name Certificates for those individuals doing business in town. We record copies of liquor permits and index Notary Public registrations. We hold the meeting agendas and minutes for all Boards and Commissions. The Clerk takes the minutes at all town meetings and we maintain the Town Meeting book in our vault. Veteran's Discharges (DD-214s) are indexed and kept in our vault for the Assessor's tax exemption requirements. We also perform bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly administrative and clerical duties.

We hope this helps you, as a resident, understand what goes on in the Clerk's office on any given day.
Please feel free to stop in anytime!

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

- ☞ **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** We are accepting applications until **Monday May 15th, 2017**. To be eligible for this tax credit:
- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2016 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, 2016. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
- Your 2016 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 2016.

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



- ☞ **2016 ANNUAL INCOME and EXPENSE REPORTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 2017:** 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:** Renter Rebate applications will begin Monday April 3rd, 2017. We will accept applications until Thursday September 28th, 2017. 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 2016 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 2016 year. Income cannot exceed \$42,900 for married or \$35,200 for single.



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

- ☞ **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** We are accepting applications until Thursday September 28, 2017.

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, 2017.



AS WE CONTINUE TO CORRECT DISCREPANCIES FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, WE ASK THAT YOU CHECK WITH THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR ANY OUTSTANDING BILLS YOU MAY HAVE. The Tax Office number is 860-779-3411, option 5.



Regards,

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

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

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 2nd

INCOME TAX

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.



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-6pm

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 | • Exterior remodel |
| • Garages | • Basement renovations | • Strip and re-roof roof repair |
| • Barns | • Attic renovations | • Siding |
| • Decks-new and replacement | • Storage sheds greater than 200 square feet | • New chimney |
| • Porches | • Interior remodel | • Chimney repair |
| • Handicap ramps | | • Central air conditioning |
| • Replacement windows | | • Electric service repairs/upgrade |

Inspections are required by the Building Official, John Berard. Please contact the office at 860-779-3411, Extension 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
Audrey Cross-Lussier, Building Office Assistant

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.

November 8, 2016 (Tuesday) – Presidential Election Day.

• The Polls opened at 6:00am and closed at 8:00pm at the Brooklyn Middle School for the 5,523 resident voters desiring to vote in the Presidential Election. We encountered a very enthusiastic group of voters all day and 3,782 residents actually came out to vote that day - a 72.4% turnout.

• Election Day Registration (EDR) was available from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Registrar's Office at the Brooklyn Town Hall. At the end of the day, we had 82 residents come in to register and complete their ballots for the election and were able to vote.



December 6, 2016 (Tuesday) – The Republican Registrar of Voters resigned.

• The Republican Registrar of Voters resigned her position and moved out of state. She had performed her duties for 4 years and had done a great job in serving the community.

February 2017 – A new Republican Registrar of Voters was appointed.

• During the Republican Town Committee Meeting held in January, the members chose to select Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio to take the place of the Republican Registrar of Voters. She assumed her duties and responsibilities in February and is already actively working in that position.

February, March, and April 2017 – Registrars of Voters to undertake the annual Canvass of Voters.

• Beginning in February and lasting until April, the Registrars of Voters will be mailing letters to all residents within the Town of Brooklyn who have not participated in any voting over the last 4 years. Each resident meeting those qualifications will receive a letter asking them to certify if they still live at a Brooklyn address and if they still wish to be listed as a registered voter. Their replies must be received by April or their registration will be de-activated and/or terminated as per state statutes. This process is one of the many ways that the Registrars of Voters manages to keep the active list of voters accurate and up-to-date.



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**

General Information – The Registrars of Voters are looking for residents of Brooklyn who would be interested in becoming a certified Town Elections Moderator. We need at least 2 Democrats and 2 Republican affiliated resident voters to fill these positions in the election process. Anyone interested should contact the Registrars of Voters Office by either leaving a voice-mail message, sending an email, or personally coming into the Registrars Office on any Tuesday between the hours of 1pm to 4pm. Our office phone is: 860-779-3411, ext. 19 or 29 and our email is: registrars@brooklynct.org.



Transfer Station News

Transfer Station

860-779-1105

77 Rukstela Rd

Hours:

Friday: 10am-5pm

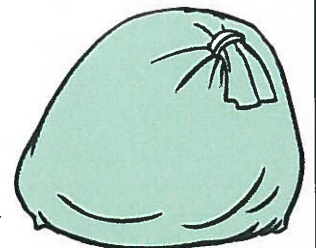
Saturday: 8am-5pm

The prices of the bags for the Transfer Station have changed.

The prices are now:

Bag prices: 13 gallon bags, quantity of 10, \$10 a box.

33 gallon bags, quantity of 5, \$10 a roll or \$2 each



What's happening at the Brooklyn TEEN Center?

Brooklyn Teen Center

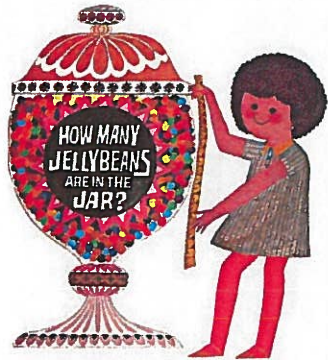
860-412-0060

Brooklyn Community Center

31 Tiffany St

Lower Level

We are always doing something interesting and trying new things over at the TEEN Center! From creating wall art for the season, to baking "allergy free" snacks for everyone to sample, we have something for everyone. With milder weather upon us, we are looking forward to spending some time outdoors with friends.



Things we are looking forward to this spring include Jelly Bean Guesstimate Day on April 21st, Limerick Day and Chocolate Chip Day in May and Win in a Minute Contests! Our staff always has some fun and interesting activity planned for these national days! Please remember we will be closed April 10th – 14th for April Vacation and on May 29th for Memorial Day. However, you can catch our coordinator and some of our participants at the annual Family Fun Day on Memorial Day at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds!

The annual Bunny Breakfast event, held at the Brooklyn Middle School, is always a fun time for our Teens. After helping to design and set up games and activities for the event, our Teens assist throughout the event with running the games and handing out goodies to all. Community involvement is important and we try to foster this idea with our participants.

It looks like June 19th may be the last day of school, based on current snow days. We will update this information on our website and Facebook page as June approaches. Our end of the year Ice Cream Social will be held on June 16th.



We will be hosting TEEN Camp again this summer! Held for 6 weeks beginning June 26th, this camp is a great place for 6th – 9th graders to spend time with peers in a safe environment while enjoying field trips, in house activities and camp fun. Trips this year will include Six Flags, Water Country, Monster Golf and more.

As we have in the past, we are fortunate to be the recipients of grant money which helps us to continue to offer a quality program to our local Teens, who deserve a place to be with friends while staying safe and supervised. Without the continued support of our local residents and the generosity of those organizations and businesses whose grants we receive, we could not continue to offer this program. We are excited to have nearly completed another school year, and are looking forward to our summer camp program.

Hope to see you all there!

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 it's 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.



Parks & Recreation Spring Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Spring is in the air!!! With good weather upon us, we are all thinking about getting outdoors. Brooklyn Parks & Recreation Department has playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, trails and more to get you outside with family and friends. Check out our Disc Golf Course for fun outdoor activity the whole family can join in on.



Already a Disc Golf enthusiast? Join us this June for our first ever Disc Golf Tournament. Proceeds will benefit the

Jim Boyle Campership Program, which provides financial aid to families with the cost of Summer Day Camp and our TEEN program. More information about the tournament will be available on our website, with details such as format and registration information.

Looking to get in shape for bathing suit season?? Check out the variety of spring and summer fitness classes we have to offer. Outdoor activities include Running Club, Beginner's Only Series, Boot Camp and more!



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 18th. We have two options; Summer Day Camp for kids in grades K-6th or TEEN Camp for grades 6th – 9th. (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.

Looking for some family fun? Plan on enjoying Memorial Day with family and friends at the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade and Family Fun Day. Held on Memorial Day, the annual Family Fun Day event has become a tradition for many local residents. Following the parade, we meet in the Brooklyn Fairgrounds for an afternoon of family fun with demonstrations, face painting, information booths, moon bounces and more. Our volunteers work tirelessly all day grilling up food, dishing out ice cream and working the booths. Look for our Brooklyn Baton Twirlers, marching in the parade!



Our annual Bunny Breakfast is held Saturday, April 13th this year at the Brooklyn Middle School. Breakfast, face painting, and family friendly entertainment is all included in your ticket price. Even a visit from the Bunny himself! Then at 10:30am, join us outdoors (weather permitting) for our annual Egg Hunt. Open to all Brooklyn children 10 and under, this part of the event is free of charge. Bring a basket and get ready to fill it with our "hidden" eggs!

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 will continue to look for creative ways to obtain funding so that all our residents can participate and enjoy everything we have to offer. 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!



Check out all our trips, programs and events online at www.brooklynct.org. Like us on Facebook!

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

Remember Fire Safety while spring cleaning!

Fire Marshal

860-779-3411

option 9

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

The leading cause of dryer fires is failure to clean them:

- ☞ Clean the lint filter before and after each load.
- ☞ Keep the area around the dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes or cleaning supplies.



**DON'T LET YOUR DRYER
START A FIRE...**

MAKE TIME FOR YOUR HOME'S UNSUNG HEROES

**Test your smoke alarms
once a month**



Check your smoke alarms:

- ☞ Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside every bedroom, outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- ☞ Test them at least twice a month.
- ☞ Replace batteries when you change your clocks.

Cooking fires:

☞ Keep anything that can catch fire off the stove top. Oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, etc.



PUT A LID ON IT



Extension cords:

- ☞ Check electrical cords to ensure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
- ☞ Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you will not need extension cords.

And as always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at 860-779-3411 Ext 32 or the fire dispatch at 860-779-7555.

Doug Kramer, Fire Marshal



Board and Commissions Vacancies

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

- **Conservation:** Vacancies for 3 alternate members
- **Emergency Management/Homeland Security:** Vacancies for 3 regular members and Vacancy for 1 alternate members
- **Housing Authority:** Vacancies for 2 regular members
- **Inland Wetlands:** Vacancies for 3 alternate members
- **Planning & Zoning:** Vacancies for 3 alternate members
- **Regulations Hearing Officer:** Vacancies for 2 members
- **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Vacancies for 3 alternate members

