

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

January - March 2016; Issue 3

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:

January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 15: President's Day

March 25: Good Friday

Parking Ban

Winter Greetings from your Highway Department!

Please remember that there is a parking ban in effect from November 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016. This means that no cars are allowed to park on Town roads as snow plowing is a priority and roads have to be cleared to efficiently remove snow. Parked cars will be ticketed.



If you see anything that needs to be addressed please call or email the Public Works Department or the Selectman's Office.

Have a warm and safe winter!

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

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Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee

WINTER CAR KIT

- Blanket
- Socks
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Hat
- Ice Scraper
- Bottle of Water (in a sealed bag)
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Basic Tool Kit
- Sand or Cat Litter

The Town of Brooklyn Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee is working hard to ensure that you and your family stay safe this winter season. Here are two important ways to help you stay safe this winter:

(1) Last winter brought with it numerous storms and high levels of snowfall. If you plan on doing any traveling, even short distances, always keep some warm clothing in your vehicle in case of car trouble. Ensure that you have adequate supplies of food and water before a storm. And make sure that you have shovels, sand, and salt ready to go. For more winter tips, check out FEMA's Ready.gov for more information (www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

(2) After the tragedies in Paris and San Bernardino, safety and how to stay safe have become a common point of discussion. The Department of Homeland Security strongly urges all citizens to consider this: "If you see something, say something." No matter where you are be it work, home, at a store, etc. if you see something that does not seem right, please notify the proper authorities. According to the Department of Homeland Security's "If you See Something, Say Something" webpage (found at www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something) here is how to properly report suspicious activity: "To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including: (1) Who or what you saw; (2) When you saw it; (3) Where it occurred; and (4) Why it's suspicious. **If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.**"

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY
SOMETHING.**

If you would like to get involved, please check out our website at www.brooklynct.org/emergency-managementhomeland-security, follow us on Twitter at @BrooklynCT_EMHS, or contact us at bemhs@brooklynct.org.

News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's January and you know what that means! Taxes are due...again!

Tax Collector

860-779-3411
Option 5
Fax: 860-779-7853
4 Wolf Den Rd
PO BOX 253

Along with the colder weather, January brings Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills. These bills are for any motor vehicles that were registered between October 2, 2014 and September 30, 2015 and covers the months that you owned the vehicle. If you had transferred a plate from one vehicle to a new vehicle during this time period, you will see the credit on your tax bill.



The third installment for real estate and personal property taxes, the second installment for sewer taxes, and supplemental motor vehicles 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).

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

The due dates for this year's taxes are:

January 1st – February 1st

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! See right for instructions!



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:** As of this writing, all property owners should have received their new assessment letters from Tyler Technologies. The values are for the 2015 Grand List and will be reflected in the July 2016 tax bills.

- **Totally Disabled Applications:** Applications must be received by January 31st, 2016.

- **Deadline for Disabled Veterans Proof:** The deadline to file proof of your Veteran's Disability is March 31st, 2016 for the 2015 Grand List.

- **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** Filing period begins February 1st, 2016 and runs until October 1st, 2016.

- **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** Filing period begins February 1st, 2016 and runs until May 15th, 2016. **To be eligible for this tax credit:**

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. Your 2015 income cannot exceed \$42,900 if you are married or \$35,200 if you are unmarried.
4. You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA1099 for 2015, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2015 Federal Income tax return if you are required to file one. And any other interest/dividend statements and pension statements, all for 2015.

- **Board of Assessment Appeals:** Applications for Board of Assessment Appeals must be filed by February 20th, 2016 for Real Estate and/or 2014 Supplemental Motor Vehicle. **BECAUSE FEBRUARY 20TH IS A SATURDAY APPLICATIONS CAN BE POSTMARKED OR HANDED IN ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 22ND.** Forms are available on www.brooklynct.org from the Assessor's Department.

- **Department of Agriculture 2015 Recommended Land Use Values for PA 490 farmland, forestland (effective October 1, 2015) are available on our website for review.**

As always we welcome any questions or comments. We can be reached at 860-779-3411 option 6.

Regards,

Kathleen M. Thornton, CCMA II Assessor

Maryann E. Szela, Assistant Assessor



Tax Bills are now Online!

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

- Go to www.brooklynct.org

- 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.



Here's what happened at the Brooklyn Teen Center...

Brooklyn Teen Center
860-412-0060
Brooklyn Community Center
31 Tiffany St
Lower Level

The Teen Center had an eventful fall, filled with 'ghastly' activities such as Costume Contests, Halloween games, and a buffet of various Halloween themed food. Spooky Nights was the highlight event of our October month; it was a Monster Mash as all the creatures danced into the night. November was a short month, but we kept ourselves busy by venturing to Launch, an 18,000 sq. ft. indoor sports and



family entertainment facility with over 10,000 sq. ft. of connected trampolines. Thanksgiving week, we cooked up a complete turkey dinner with stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, and bread. We have been enjoying new company at the Center from our neighboring high schoolers and college undergrads for homework and nutritional assistance. We've upgraded our



facility with a new and improved pool table, increased our selection of games, as well as a brand new Playstation 4, a retro arcade system, and an electronic dart system. We held a Parents Day Out event, on December 12th and 19th. We hoped that this event would offer an opportunity for parents/guardians to complete their holiday shopping and preparations while the kids spent a day with friends and staff participating in various activities. Not only did we take in 6th, 7th, 8th,

and 9th, we also allowed 5th grade students on these dates, allowing us to become acquainted with them and show them what we have to offer at the Brooklyn Teen Center before they enter 6th grade. We also have several trips planned for the New Year such as laser tag and possibly snow tubing, should the winter ever come upon us! Stay tune for an exciting New Year.....



EDC Business Recognition

New businesses that have come to Brooklyn!



Parks & Recreation Summer Update

Parks & Recreation

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

Happy New Year to all our friends, neighbors and fellow Brooklyn residents! We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season and are ready for all that 2016 has to offer! Here at the Parks & Recreation Department we are already preparing for the Spring and Summer seasons. Our Spring/Summer Brochure will be in Brooklyn mailboxes in mid to late January. Make sure to keep it handy all season for information about special events, bus trips, and our lineup of programs. Summer Day Camp is listed in the Spring/Summer Brochure with dates, pricing and other details. We are looking forward to another successful and fun-filled summer with our local youth. Check out what the Teen Center has planned, dates for our Egg Hunt and what bus trips we are taking this year – you know there is a Red Sox game or two on that list! Our winter sessions of Cardio Dance Fit and Complete Fitness are still in full swing, as is our Running Club. Spring sessions of these programs are planned as well as many other adult and youth programs.

As we look forward to another year, we also take the time to reflect on the year we are leaving behind. Much was accomplished in 2015, including the refurbishing of the Brooklyn Middle School baseball field. The school, our department and - we're sure - the coaches, parents and teams are looking forward to being able to host home games again this upcoming season.

Our Parks Department will be busy the remainder of the winter with snow clean-up and equipment maintenance. If we are fortunate enough to have a milder winter than last year, the trails will be cleaned up, indoor maintenance will be tackled, and park maintenance, as always, will continue.

We hope we will see you in the New Year, at one of our programs, special events, or bus trips. Take advantage of our parks, even in the winter months, to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. We are looking forward to 2016, with all the new challenges it will bring and the people both new and familiar. See you soon!



In recognition of Cornerstone Properties for the recent facade improvements to the Job Lot Plaza.



Stephen Gagnon's new location for his mortgage business, Stephen's Lending.

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

Space Heaters and Other Heating Equipment

Fire Marshal

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

Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported in the months of between December and March. Here are some simple steps can help prevent most heating related fires from happening:

- Have anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment such as fireplaces, furnaces, space heaters, etc.
- Keep a large free zone around open fires

and space heaters.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have your chimney and heaters serviced by a professional.
- Always turn off portable heaters when you leave the house.
- Do not place portable space heaters under desks or other enclosed areas.
- Always plug a heater directly into a wall receptacle. Never plug it into an extension cord.
- Always use the proper fuel for the heater you are using.
- Remember to always test your smoke alarms monthly.

And 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.



From the Registrars of Voters

Registrars of Voters

860-779-3411

Option 4

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

Office Hours:

Tuesdays:

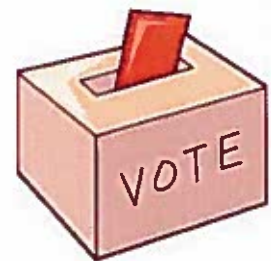
2:00pm - 4:00pm

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

Annual Canvass and Voting History:

The Registrars will begin conducting the annual canvass, according to Connecticut State Statutes, beginning in February 2016 and ending in April 2016. The purpose of this activity is to update existing voter records as well as to purge voter registrations for those voters who have either moved out of the Town and/or State or have not voted within the last 4 years.

If you have been a registered voter in Brooklyn and received our canvass mailing, please review the documents and return the canvass notice back to the Registrars with any changes/corrections noted so that you will not be removed from the Active Voter List.



November 3rd – Municipal Government Election:

There were 4,755 registered voters on the official check list; a reduction of 49 voters from the 2014 election year and a reduction of 219 voters from the 2013 election year. The official checklist was accepted by the Town Clerk.

In November, there were 931 voters that actually voted and there were 10 Absentee Ballots. The percentage of voter turnout was 19.78%. There were three Election Day Registration Ballots.