

# Brooklyn Newsletter

Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut  
January - March 2016; Issue 7



## 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 2: New Year's Day

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 20: President's Day

## Parking Ban

Winter Greeting from your Public Works Department!



**Please remember that there is a parking ban** in effect from November 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017.

This means that no cars are allowed to park on TOWN ROADS as snow plowing is a priority.

Parked cars will be ticketed. Safety is our main concern, so please be aware and careful when you

see our trucks out working. They are helping you by removing as much snow as possible as quickly as possible. If you see anything that needs to be addressed, please call or email the following: Public Works Department or the Selectman's Office.

Have a safe winter and enjoy our Northeast winter weather. That is why we live here, right? To enjoy the changing seasons.

## Upcoming Earth Day Event



The Town of Brooklyn will be holding a Town wide event in honor of Earth Day again this year! We are looking for individuals, families, groups, organizations, or anyone who wants to get involved. Please contact the First Selectman's Office at 860-779-3411 x16 or [m.bradley@brooklynct.org](mailto:m.bradley@brooklynct.org) to volunteer.

Check our website for upcoming details!

**ACT LOCALLY AND MAKE AN IMPACT GLOBALLY**

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## 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, 2015 and September 30, 2016 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).

### The due dates for this year's taxes are:

January 1<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>

April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>

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!

## INCOME TAX

### Tax Bills are Online!

## INCOME TAX

- Go to [www.brooklynct.org](http://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 Assessment Appeals Board



The next hearing of the Board of Assessment Appeals will be on **March 16, 2017**. This hearing will be for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Supplemental Motor Vehicles issues. You can print out an application from the town's website at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org), then go to the Assessors page. Also, the Assessor's office will have the forms available. The completed forms must be in the Assessor's office by February 21, 2017. They can be mailed in or hand delivered. You will be mailed a confirmation of your appointment by March 3, 2017. **Please note**, it is important for you to bring to the hearing any and all information pertaining to your case including your tax bill.

Current members are: Cassandra Leach, Chairperson, Diane Wimmer, and Robert Simons.

## News from the Assessor's Office

Please visit our website at [www.brooklynct.org](http://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

**Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills:** As we still work to resolve the difficulties the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has had with their software, **please review your 2015 Supplemental Bills (January 2017) for accuracy.** You may be receiving a Supplemental Bill because you did not receive a 2015 regular motor vehicle bill last July (2016) for a particular vehicle.

✳ **Personal Property Assessment Notices** will be mailed in January 2017.

✳ **Assessment Increase Notices** will be mailed within 10 days of the signing of the Grand List in January 2017. These notices apply to changes made to your property such as building permits, new homes, renovations, sheds, decks, pools etc.



✳ **New Totally & Permanently Disabled Applications (under the age of 65):** Must be received by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Proof of award is required.



✳ **Deadline for Disabled Veterans Proof:** The deadline to file proof of your Veteran's Disability is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for the 2016 Grand List.

✳ **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** Filing period begins February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and runs until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

✳ **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** Filing period begins February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and runs until May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. To be eligible for this tax credit:

1. 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.
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, 2016. Last day to file will be Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> as October 1<sup>st</sup> is a Sunday. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
3. Your 2016 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 2016, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2016 Federal Income tax return if you are required to file one. And any other interest/dividend statements and pension statements, all for 2016.

✳ **Board of Assessment Appeals:** Applications for Board of Assessment Appeals must be filed by February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for Real Estate and/or 2015 Supplemental Motor Vehicle. **THE TOWN HALL IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup> AND MONDAY FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> IS A HOLIDAY, PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.** Forms are available on [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org) from the Assessor's Department.

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

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



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

Happy New Year to all our town residents and TEEN Center members! The Teen Center has been enjoying fun activities this school year and has more planned for the second half of the year. We all know someone with a food allergy, and the TEEN members are no different. We learned how to create a chocolate cake using ingredients that even our allergy sufferers could enjoy! We plan to look at more recipes that teach how to create delicious foods using allergy safe ingredients.



With winter upon us you can find important updates regarding closures on WFSB or at wfsb.com. Some important dates to mention: we will be closed Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>.



We are looking forward to 2017! We have numerous new activities planned along with some of our old favorites. We are bringing back Spaghetti Tower Challenge – amazing what these teens can build! We are planning puzzle week as a new activity.

We would like to thank all our parents who have been helpful in various ways, including donations of baking supplies! We appreciate the support of our members, the residents of Brooklyn and the businesses or organizations who have been so generous to our program.



We wish all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

## News from the Building Department

### 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

The heating season is upon us once again. Please be advised that the following require a building permit for the installation of:

- \* Woodstoves      \* Pellet stoves      \* Replacement of boilers, furnaces
- \* Fireplace inserts      \* Replacement of electric heating elements

Once the installation is complete, an inspection is required by the Building Official, John Berard. Please contact the office at 860-779-3411, ext. 12 to set up an inspection date.

Just as a reminder to those who are applying for a building application, the below Town ordinance will stop you from receiving your application until your taxes are current.

### **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 § 1, 2)

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



## Parks & Recreation Mid-Winter Update

### Parks & Recreation

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

BRRRRR....it's that time of year when the weather is cold and we all seem to want to stay home where its warm and cozy, but it's hard to keep those New Year's resolutions if we don't get up and move! We have programs to get your heart pumping and help keep those resolutions: Try out our **Winter Warrior's Running Club** which began in December and runs until February



### WINTER WARRIORS

18<sup>th</sup> or **Susan's Complete Fitness** which has an ongoing session through early February and two more sessions to follow to complete the school year. **Jump Start – HIIT Class** with Christina also started in December and runs until February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Starting this spring look for Christina's spring and summer line up of **Running Club, Beginner's Only Super Series** and more! Check them out online on our webpage.



**Youth Open Gym Basketball Program** will be held on Fridays in February.

Middle school students can join us each Friday for some fun and exercise at the Brooklyn Middle School. **Baton Twirling** for ages 5-12 will be held in March again. Join Rose for this blast from the past activity and get ready to join her at the Memorial Day Parade! These programs and all our youth programs are listed in our Spring/Summer brochure and will be online beginning in mid-late January.



Our Spring/Summer brochure will be mailed out to all Brooklyn residents and posted online in January. Look for info on upcoming programs, trips and events. Our summer day camp information will be included in this brochure, as well as our Red Sox and Yankee bus trips.

Have a wonderful winter! We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming program or event!

## Brooklyn Town Library

**Hours:** Monday: 2pm-7pm • Tuesday: 11am-5pm • Wednesday: 2pm-7pm  
• Thursday: 2pm-5pm • Friday: 2pm-5pm • Saturday: 11am-5pm

### Library

860-774-0649  
10 Canterbury Rd  
PO BOX 357

Brooklyn residents may enjoy using their Brooklyn Town Library card in the comfort of their own home by using internet access to services listed on our website **brooklyntown.org**. We are happy to announce a new product called **InstantFlix** on the library's website. Using your barcode, the internet and your device, InstantFlix gives you streaming

**InstantFlix**  
Powered By IndieFlix

access to more than 7,000 high-quality shorts, features, documentaries, classic TV shows, and Web series from 85 countries. Programs include comedies, dramas, horror, documentaries, animations, classic TV, short films and over 40 other channels and genres.



Also check out ComicsPlus, ArtistWorks, Zinio, Tumble Books Library for Children, and several other products available to Brooklyn residents with their Brooklyn Town Library Barcoded Library Card.

**TumbleBook**  
Library



Keep warm this winter with a good book!

# Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee

## Emergency Survival Kit

Solar/hand crank portable radios are great for news and information updates.

Hopefully you will never need to have any use for this information, but just in case something does happen, here are the basics that are needed in an emergency survival kit. Make an emergency plan too!

**1. Water:** A person needs about one gallon of water per day. In an emergency situation, it is highly recommended that you have a 72 hour supply of water for each person. Under no circumstances should a person drink less than one quart (four cups) of water per day. Replenish your store bought water supply every six months (or by sell by date).

**3. First aid supplies:** A basic first aid kit and manual should be on hand. It should include:

- Sterile gloves and dressings to stop bleeding
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes
- Antibiotic and burn ointment
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Thermometer
- Prescribed medical supplies
- Antacid/aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever

**5. Clothing and bedding:** A complete change of clothes and footwear per person should be kept available. Additionally, the following should be on hand:

- Shoes/work boots
- Rain gear
- Sleeping bag or two blankets per person
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Sweater(s)
- Jacket

**6. Specialty items:** Keep important family papers, records and documents in a waterproof, portable container or in a bank safety deposit box. Some examples are:

- Passports
- Birth certificates
- Health insurance cards
- A list of medications that you are taking

Keep cash on hand. If there is no power, your card will not work!

**2. Food:** Select food items that require no refrigeration, minimal preparation/cooking, and little or no water. If food must be heated, pack a can of Sterno for indoors or use a barbecue, charcoal grill, or camp stove outdoors. Include a manually operated can opener and disposable utensils. Suggested items to have in your supply:

- Ready-to-eat canned foods
- Protein/fruit bars, crackers
- Dry cereal/granola/fruit
- Peanut butter
- Nuts
- Canned juices
- Food for infants

**4. Tools and supplies:** Recommended items to have on hand:

- Rope
- Blanket
- Disposable cups/plates/utensils
- Flashlight/lantern with extra batteries
- Toilet paper, towelettes and paper towels
- Plastic garbage bags
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Duct tape
- Paper, pencil/pen, needles and thread
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen
- Soap, unscented bleach
- Matches in waterproof container/or cigarette lighter

At least **three days** of required prescriptions should be kept with you at all times. Diabetics that use Insulin should keep a small insulated bag on hand that can be filled with ice. If you require glasses/contacts, keep a backup pair with your supplies.

Plan ahead for your **pets**, too. Make sure to have food and extra water for your pet. If you need to evacuate, it will be easier if pets have a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready to transport them.

This is a condensed version of the emergency survival kit article. To read the article in full, please visit the Emergency Management and Homeland Security webpage to find the link. For more information, please also visit [www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit).

