

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut
July - September 2016; Issue 5

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

Town Offices Will be Closed On:
July 4: Independence Day
September 5: Labor Day



Please check your motor vehicle tax bills!



Due to the changes at the Department of Motor Vehicles there have been issues with motor vehicles that may affect your tax bills. Please make sure that you are being billed for the correct vehicles that you own or owned as of October 1, 2015. If you have any questions, please ask before paying your tax bill.

Commission Vacancies

Want to be more involved in the Town? Have you considered being a part of a commission? Right now there are vacancies in many of the Town's Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, 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 or the Town Hall.



- Agriculture Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Emergency Management/ Homeland Security
- Housing Authority
- Regulations Hearing Officer
- Inland Wetlands
- Planning & Zoning
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Northeast Connecticut Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market will be held at the Brooklyn Commons Shopping/Ocean State Job Lot parking lot (574 Providence Rd) on Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm until October 26th. For more information, please visit their website at www.nectfarmersmarket.org.



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News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's July and you know what that means! The start of another year of taxes.

Tax Collector

860-779-3411

Option 5

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 253

The first installments for real estate and personal property taxes, the first installment for sewer taxes, fire taxes, and motor vehicle 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 or debit, \$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:

July 1st – August 1st

October 1st – November 1st

January 1st – February 1st

April 1st – May 1st

The mill rate for the 2015
Grand List tax bills is 26.34.



Tax Information you can use!

Partial payments - If you are not able to pay your tax bill in full, please know that you can make partial payments. Making partial payments will not stop any of the Tax Offices collection procedures (interest, collection companies, warrants, liens, tax sales, etc.), but any payments towards your tax bill will help to keep the interest from accruing as fast because the principle will be less.

Motor Vehicle Bills - Please make sure to look at your tax bill and be certain that all the vehicles are yours! CT DMV and Towns across the State are working to resolve inconsistencies among residents' mailing and domicile addresses. Check out the DMV website (www.ct.gov/dmv/online) for renewing a registration, cancelling plates, verifying your renewal status, changing your address, etc.

- ◆ If you have received a tax bill from a town that you **DID NOT RESIDE** or **GARAGE** your vehicle in as of October 1, 2015, contact the Assessor's office at 860-779-3411, option 6.
- ◆ If you have **NOT RECEIVED** a renewal notice for a registration that will soon expire, contact DMV. If, on your renewal, you are being reported with a tax compliance issue in a town you have **NEVER** lived in, you should contact the town **REPORTING** the issue.

If you see something wrong with your tax bill, bring it to the Tax Office's attention, so that it can be fixed/changed/explained, before you pay.

Tax Bills are 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.



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

DUE TO THE DIFFICULTIES THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES IS HAVING WITH THEIR SOFTWARE, WE ASK THAT ALL TAXPAYERS REVIEW THEIR JULY 2016 TAX BILL FOR ACCURACY. IF YOU RECEIVE A BILL IN ERROR OR FROM ANOTHER TOWN OR NO BILL AT ALL (bill is for any vehicles you owned on October 1, 2015) PLEASE CONTACT US SO WE MAY INVESTIGATE.



- ◆ The Assessors will be conducting **Building Permit assessment inspections** July 1st through September 30th for the October 1, 2016 Grand List. Please note: If you have recently acquired your property, you will receive a notice of Sales Inspection so we may maintain accurate assessment data.
- ◆ The **Renter's Rebate Program** continues until Thursday September 29, 2016. 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 and proof of any other income, Federal Income Tax form (if you were required to file), rent receipt, and utilities total for the entire 2015 year. All information must be for 2015 year. Please call for an appointment at **860-779-3411, option 6.**



- ◆ **Board of Assessment Appeals** will meet on Thursday, September 15, 2016 for Motor Vehicles only.
- ◆ **PA 490 Applications:** September 1, 2016 we will begin to accept applications for PA 490, Open Space, Farm Land & Forest Land. The filing period is September 1 to October 31, 2016. Applications are available on our website.
- ◆ **Personal Property** forms will be mailed by September 30, 2016 and are due November 1, 2016 (postmarked by November 1, 2016).
- ◆ **New Commercial Truck** applications must be completed and filed by November 1, 2016.
- ◆ The **Annual Farm Building Exemption** forms need to be notarized and filed between September 1, 2016 and November 1, 2016.
- ◆ **Totally Disabled/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption** forms must be filed annually and are due November 1, 2016.
- ◆ The **Additional Veteran's Program** continues until Thursday, September 29, 2016. You must provide all income for 2015 including a Federal Income Tax form, if you were required to file.
- ◆ **Honorable Discharge** for new Veterans to Brooklyn must be filed with the Town Clerk by Thursday, September 29, 2016. The **Original DD214** must be presented to the Town Clerk.
- ◆ **Totally & Permanently Disabled Applicants** under the age of 65 must be filed by January 31, 2017. Proof of award is required.



As always we welcome any questions or comments.

You may contact us at 860-779-3411 option 6.

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

News from the Town Clerk's Office

Town Clerk

860-779-3411

Option 4

Fax: 860-774-5732

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 356

Election season is upon us! Have you registered to vote?

Will you need an absentee ballot? Come visit our office!

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.

Dog License Month was June!

Did you remember to renew your dog license in June? If not, stop in to our office with proof of your dog's up-to-date rabies vaccination and avoid accumulating late fees. You can also print and mail the application from the Town Clerk's page on our website!



Windham County Ag Society

The 167th annual Brooklyn Fair will be held **August 25th–28th, 2016** at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. The Fair, an agricultural tradition, features exhibits, truck and tractor pulls, animal barns, competitions, rides, great food and more!

General admission is \$10 for adults, children 12 and under are free. On Friday, we offer a discounted admission of \$6 to Seniors (65+) and Military (with ID). For more information and a schedule of events visit, www.brooklynfair.org.



The Brooklyn Fair is presented by the Windham County Agricultural Society (WCAS). WCAS, created in 1809, is an organization with a rich agricultural history. In addition to the Brooklyn Fair it also proudly sponsors Brooklyn Ag Days and the Brooklyn Swap Meet.

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.

From the Registrars of Voters

Annual Canvass and Voting History:

The Registrars have conducted the annual canvass – as according to Connecticut State Statutes – which began in February and ended in June of 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 who 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.



April 26th, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary

- There were 4,929 registered voters on the official check list; an increase of 170 voters from the previous election in November of 2015.
- There were in excess of 400 registered voters who changed their party affiliation during this time as well; i.e. Unaffiliated to either Democrat or Republican, Democrats to Republicans, and Republicans to Democrats.
- There were 1,399 registered Democrats and 558 Democrats voted; about a 40% turnout.
- There were 1,095 registered Republicans and 502 Republicans voted; about a 46% turnout.

Brooklyn Town Library

Library

860-774-0649

10 Canterbury Rd
PO BOX 357

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



Summer is now in session! This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with family, friends, or just by yourself.

Passes: The Brooklyn Town Library has several CT DEEP *No Child Left Inside* passes to CT State Parks where a parking fee is charged. These passes are available to be borrowed for 2 days and may be returned in the Library Book Drop, which can be found outside the library door. Part of the *No Child Left Inside* pass is a “promise to introduce children to the wonder of nature – for their own health and well-being...” This pass allows “children and families to unplug from technology” and “reconnect” to all that nature has to offer. For more information about *No Child Left Inside*, please visit their website at www.nochildleftinside.org and take the *No Child Left Inside* Pledge found under the “Learn More” tab. Under the “Outdoor Activities” tab, go to the [EarthCache](#) page to learn about and experience a fun new activity at several CT Sites.



Pass Rules: The Pass may be reserved ONE week ahead. The Pass waives vehicle entrance fees for one vehicle only. The Pass is valid for private passenger vehicles carrying fewer than 12 passengers. The pass is also valid for 2 adults and 4 children at Dinosaur Park (Rocky Hill), Fort Trumbull, and Gillette Castle State Parks. Go to www.ct.gov/deep for hours and directions & fees, if any, at CT State Parks and Forests. Several Parks are east of the CT River.

Friends of Brooklyn Town Library: The Friends of Brooklyn Town Library will be selling baked goods on one Wednesday a month at the Farmer’s Market at the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot. Visit the Friends and discover yummy baked goods prepared by excellent bakers. All the proceeds support library programs.



Summer Reading Game: The Library also has a Summer Reading Game for children. This year’s game is about a very special Raccoon & uses the CT Governor’s Reading log to record the books each child reads. Remember to bring the reading log to the Library when you visit us.

Online Magazines: Are you tired of magazines that you have already looked at piling up on your coffee table, in the kitchen, on your night stand? The Library has a solution for you. If you go to www.brooklyntownlibrary.org, on the home page, take a look at our Zinio magazine product. Brooklyn residents may access over 50 magazines by using their Brooklyn Town Library card barcode number. The magazines are always available with the newest issues. Back issues are available too. Magazines may be downloaded to your computer, read online, saved, cut & paste articles you like or keep some tasty recipes. Check out the titles of magazines available. Some magazines in the collection might be favorites. There is no cost and no clutter. If you haven’t registered for your hometown library card at the Brooklyn Library, come in, register and access many other products on our website using the barcoded library card.



We know this is going to be a fantastic summer! As always, Read! Read!! Read!!!

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

Brooklyn Teen Center
Brooklyn Community Center
31 Tiffany St
Lower Level

Our Teen Center's first year of TEEN Camp began June 27th. This newest addition to our Summer Camp programming is open to 6th – 8th graders. Throughout the summer, our TEEN Campers will be enjoying field trips that include Letterboxing at a local State Park, Disc Golf at Davis Forest, Scarborough Beach, Brownstone, Paw Sox Game, Water Country, Six Flags and more. This camp is being offered the same 6 weeks as our Summer Day Camp, and is scheduled to end on August 5th. With new trips and activities planned for this age group, this camp is a new experience for even our 'veteran' Brooklyn Summer Campers!



We also concluded our second year at the TEEN Center in June. Our members enjoyed after school time with friends, field trips, and many hours of age appropriate activities. Knockerball was a huge hit in May, when the Knockerball of CT group came to our center for a day of soccer and tag...all while our members were



surrounded by inflatable "balls". Check out the photos on the Teens Center's Facebook and website. We also had opportunities for community service, as our members helped at the Parks & Recreation Bunny Breakfast and our first ever Spring Fling Dance which we hosted for local agencies and their clients. It was a great time for all. Again, photos can be seen on the Parks & Recreation's Facebook page.

We hope to see you all next fall!

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee



The Committee is looking into having another class for CERT training this coming fall if there is enough interest from Brooklyn residents. A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a unit that is trained 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. 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 are interested in becoming a part of the Brooklyn's CERT Unit or if you have any questions please feel free to email any questions to bemhs@brooklynct.org.

If you would like to get involved with the Committee, please check out our website at www.brooklynct.org/emergency-managementhomeland-security.

Parks & Recreation Summer Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

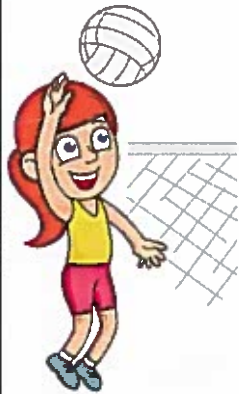
69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356



Summertime! Just saying it brings up visions of picnics, sand and surf, ice cream andSummer Day Camp! Our camps began their season on June 27th. This year we offered two separate camps. Summer Day Camp is held at the Elementary School and is open to K-6th grade. New this season is our TEEN Camp open to students in grades 6th – 8th. Our TEEN campers will enjoy trips to places specifically chosen with their age in mind like Six Flags, Water Country, and Disc Golf (just a few that they will enjoy this summer).

Don't forget to look for our Fall/Winter brochure coming to Brooklyn mailboxes in August. All of our programs, trips and events will be listed. Also in August, we will begin registration for the Before & After School Recreation Programs. Look for registration dates and information online later this summer.



This summer, enjoy one of our parks with a game of Disc Golf, Sand Volleyball or Tennis. We have a full list of facilities and what they each offer on our website.

We hope you all enjoy the summer, and remind you that Brooklyn has a lot to offer to keep your family happy, healthy and busy all summer long! Join an exercise program, take a walk on our trails, bring your kayak or canoe to Riverside Park for a day on the river, or play a game of basketball at Prince Hill Park.

Check us out online at www.brooklynct.org and follow us on FACEBOOK – Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation.



Brooklyn Fall Festival

September 24 & 25, 2016 (Rain or Shine)

The Fall Festival is a two-day festival with arts and entertainment with activities for the whole family!

Scarecrow Contest for all Ages

If you would like to participate in the Scarecrow Contest, fill out the registration form below and include your \$5 check. The scarecrow frame is supplied, all you have to do is bring your imagination, clothes, and stuffing! Decorating days: Install your scarecrow on the front lawn of Citizens National Bank, September 15-19. Cash Prizes and Ribbons awarded September 19-23.

Scarecrow Contest

Brooklyn Fall Festival

\$5 Entry Fee – Prizes Awarded

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Age Categories: Individual Business

Make checks payable to & return this form to:

Brooklyn Fall Festival Committee

c/o MaryBeth Leonard

P O Box 76

Brooklyn, CT 06234



You will be contacted with additional information about frame pick-up and how to install your scarecrow.

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

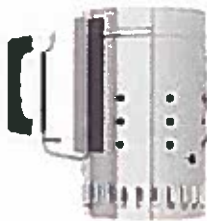
Remember, it is safety first when dealing with fire!

Summer is usually jam-packed with fun and festivities. However, it is also the time to take a few minutes to put you and your family's safety first. **Grilling** is popular all season long. With a few safety tips and facts, you can enjoy your BBQ without injury!

- Propane & charcoal grills can only be used outdoors. Make sure your grills are always clear from overhanging branches, deck railings and away from your house or other structures.

- Keep your children and pets away from the grilling area.

- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Open your gas grill's lid before lighting it.



- If you are using a charcoal grill, remember to let the coals completely cool before cleaning out the ashes. Dispose of them only in a metal container when completely cooled.

- Use a charcoal chimney to help get your charcoals ready to grill.

- Keep charcoal fluids away from heat sources and never allow a child to handle fluid. And never use any other flammable liquid to start the charcoals.



Summer is also the time for **Fireworks**. Please remember fireworks handled improperly cause thousands of injuries every year. If you want to enjoy fireworks this summer, go to a public event put on by experts. Do not use consumer fireworks this includes firecrackers and sparklers, which can cause third-degree burns. Keep children away from any fireworks at events you attend. Please also remember to keep your pets inside for their safety!



Enjoy your summer and stay safe!



From your Public Works Department

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

Spring has rolled into summer and with it the crew is busy mowing. Please slow down when you see the town equipment working on the roads. The equipment is loud and makes it hard to hear the traffic. Guard rails have been replaced where needed, trying to keep up with safety issues and some paving is being done. You can call the First Selectman or Road Foreman for more information.

Have a fun and safe summer. Take advantage of our 'walking trails' in town and also, the CT State Parks and Forests passes that the town library has available.

