

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

October - December 2016; Issue 6

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



Veterans Day

Please join the Town to honor our veterans on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 1pm at the monuments across from Mortlake Fire Department. A short ceremony will include laying of the wreaths, prayer, Color Guard, TAPS, and a three volley salute.



Please come show your support!

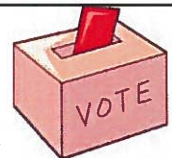
Parking Ban



A parking ban takes 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 and roads have to be cleared to efficiently remove snow.

Parked cars will be ticketed.

Important Voting Dates



October 10th: Absentee ballots are available

November 1st: Registration session, Town Hall, 9am-8pm

November 7th: Limited Registration session, Town Hall, 9am-5pm

November 8th: Voting at the Brooklyn Middle School, 6am-8pm

Register to vote at the Town Hall, 8am-8pm

See the back page for more information for the Registrars of Voters.

Inside this Issue

Tax Office.....	2
Assessor's Office.....	3
Teen Center and Town Clerk.....	4
Parks and Recreation.....	5
Fire Marshall and Registrars of Voters.....	6

Town Offices Will be Closed On:

Columbus Day - Oct. 10

Veterans Day - Nov. 11 (Highway & Rec)

Day before Thanksgiving - Offices close at 12:15

Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 24

Day after Thanksgiving - Nov. 25 (Highway & Rec)

Christmas Day - Observed on Dec. 26

New Years Day - observed on Jan. 2



Commission Vacancies

Want to be more involved in the Town, but not sure how to go about it? Consider 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.

Board of Ethics: Vacancy for 1 regular member

Conservation:

- Vacancy for 1 regular member
- Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Economic Development: Vacancy for 1 regular member

Emergency Management/Homeland Security:

- Vacancy for 1 regular member and
- Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Housing Authority: Vacancy for 1 regular member

Inland Wetlands:

- Vacancy for 1 regular member
- Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Planning & Zoning:

- Vacancy for 1 regular member
- Vacancy for 1 alternate member

Regulations Hearing Officer:

- Vacancies for 2 members

Resource Recovery:

- Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Water Pollution Control Board:

- Vacancy for 1 regular member

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Vacancies for 2 alternate members

News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's October and you know what that means! Falling leaves and taxes!

The second installment for real estate and personal property taxes are due this month. You can pay your bills three different ways:

Tax Collector

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

- 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:

October 1st - November 1st
January 1st - February 1st
April 1st - May 1st

Paying Taxes Online

If you pay your taxes online and you are trying to get a vehicle registered or renewed with DMV, please call the Tax Office so that we can release you with DMV.

Tax Bills are Online!

Whether you need information for income taxes or to see what you owe, you can 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

We continue to address the difficulties that the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles is having with their software. We ask that all taxpayers be vigilant in determining if a vehicle you owned on October 1, 2015 should be on the tax list. Please contact us so we may investigate, 860-779-3411 option 6.

- **PA 490 Applications** for Open Space, Farm Land & Forest Land are being accepted until October 31, 2016. Applications are available on our website.

- **Personal Property Declarations** deadline is November 1, 2016. If you are mailing your declaration, it must be postmarked by November 1, 2016. **Failure to file or filing late will result in a 25% Penalty assessment.**

- **Note:** Real property or Connecticut registered motor vehicles do not need to be declared. Taxable personal property includes: **Unregistered motor vehicles, vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state**, horses, ponies, manufacturing machinery and equipment, business furniture and fixtures, farm machinery, farming tools, mechanics tools, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunication equipment, cable conduits, pipes, poles, business expended supplies and other such as billboards, video games, vending machines, leasehold improvements, etc.



- **New Commercial Truck** applications must be completed and filed by November 1, 2016.

- **Totally Disabled/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption** forms must be filed annually and are due November 1, 2016. The form can be found on our website under Ambulance/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption.



- **Annual Farm Building Exemption** forms need to be **notarized and filed** by November 1, 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.**

- **New Totally & Permanently Disabled (under the age of 65)** must be filed by January 31, 2017. Proof of award is required.

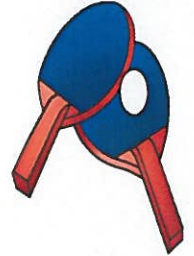
As always we welcome any questions or comments. You may contact us at 860-779-3411 option 6.

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

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

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

After a summer filled with six weeks of day camp activities, the Brooklyn TEEN Center is back to providing after school entertainment for 6th – 9th graders. We opened for the school season on August 29th and will be open throughout the school year on most days that school is in session. Members will stay busy with time to work on homework, a chance to relax in the reading nook, stay active with a game of ping pong, arcade style video games, and more!



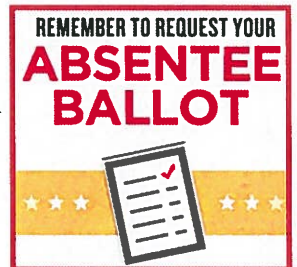
We will once again join the dozens of volunteers at the Brooklyn Parks & Recreation's Spooky Nights event held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds on October 14th & 15th. Plan on spending an evening with us at the fairgrounds and check out our group's scene which is guaranteed to be a ghostly good time!

We are happy to announce that we were at full attendance by the third week of school! If funding were to become available, additional staff would allow us to accept even more members from our waiting list. If your "teen" is interested, call the TEEN Center Coordinator at 860-412-0060, to check space availability.

News from the Town Clerk's Office

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8th at the Brooklyn Middle School from 6am-8pm. If you cannot make it to the polls on that day, please stop by the Town Clerk's Office for an Absentee Ballot. Ballots will be available starting October 10, 2016 during the Town Hall hours. You can pick up and fill out an application in our office or look for one under the Town Clerk's section of the Town's website.



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

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 letter 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.

MAPS

MAPS

MAPS

The Town now has a newly updated, printed map of the Town of Brooklyn created by Mail-A-Map. Many local businesses advertised on the map to make it possible. The maps are available at both Town Office locations at 4 Wolf Den Road and 69 South Main Street. In addition, it can be found on www.mailamap.com to view online.



LAND RECORD RECORDING FEES

Recently, the Town Clerk's office has received several complaints about the high cost of fees charged to record documents on the land records. Land record recording fees are not set by the town; they are set by the State of Connecticut. They are as follows: \$53.00 for the 1st page and \$5.00 each additional page. Of the \$53.00, \$38.00 is remitted to the State along with an additional \$6.00 to designated funds for Records Preservation and Community Re-investment funds. The remaining \$9.00 is deposited in the Town General Fund as Revenue.

Parks & Recreation Summer Update

Parks & Recreation

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

The Brooklyn Parks & Recreation Department is busy getting ready for all the upcoming holiday events! If you like ghosts, witches, and all things Halloween, then plan on joining us on October 14th or 15th at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds for our annual Spooky Nights event. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the following locations: Parks & Recreation Office, Hank's Restaurant, Hurme TV & Appliances, Danielson Surplus, Courthouse

Bar & Grille, and WINY Radio Station. There is something for everyone at this event, with a Hay Wagon Ride, Haunted "House," Bonfire area with a DJ, Food Vendors, Not so Spooky areas for the younger kids, and much more!



We are also preparing for the winter holiday programs such as our annual Toys for Giving Toy Drive. Donations are accepted throughout the year, but the drive officially starts for the 2016 year on November 1st. Unused, unwrapped toys or appropriate gifts and monetary donations are accepted. All proceeds benefit Brooklyn children in need.

Our "Letters to Santa" program also starts on November 1st. Send a letter to Santa with your child's name and address and Santa will send one back to your child! Letters should be addressed to Santa c/o Santa's Elves, 29 Canterbury Rd, Brooklyn, CT 06234.



We will be partnering with the Brooklyn Post Office again this year, for the annual Holiday Coloring Contest. Coloring pages are available beginning November 28th and should be dropped off at the Brooklyn Post Office by Saturday, December 17th. Judging will take place before the 25th. Pages will be available at our office, the Brooklyn Post Office and online at www.brooklynct.org.

We have just added a new "winter" trip to our fall/winter lineup!

Join us for a trip to the TD Garden in Boston to see the Boston Celtics take on the Miami Heat on Friday, December 30th. We will leave the Brooklyn Middle School Parking Lot at 4:30pm for this 7:30pm game. Price is \$105.00 and includes motor coach transportation and your ticket to the game.

Makes a great holiday gift for basketball fans!! Call the office to reserve your seats!



We always have something planned to keep you and your family busy and happy! Check out our upcoming and ongoing programs such as HIIT Fitness Class, Susan's Complete Fitness Winter Warriors Running Club and Open Gym Basketball. Cupcake Decorating for Kids will be held in November, just in time to learn how to create fun treats for the holidays!

Call our office, visit our website, or like us on Facebook - Town of Brooklyn Parks and Recreation

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal:

Fire Marshal

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

As fall approaches and we turn our clocks back on November 6th, I would like to remind everyone that it is also time to change the batteries in our smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

This is also a great time to have your chimneys cleaned and flues checked. For those with wood burning stoves, this is the time to inspect and prepare them for the upcoming season.

Also, please remember to burn only seasoned, dry wood and to put ashes into a solid metal ash bucket. Put them outside, away from your house or other structures.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 860-779-3411, Option 9.

Douglas P. Kramer, Sr.

Fire Marshal



**MAKE TIME FOR YOUR
HOME'S UNSUNG HEROES**
Test your smoke alarms
once a month



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 1, 2016 (Tuesday)** - There will be a registration session for any unregistered residents of Brooklyn available in which they must appear in person at the Registrar's Office at the Brooklyn Town Hall. **Hours:** 9:00am to 8:00pm.

***MAIL-IN AND ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY.** All mail-in voter registration applications must be received or post-marked by November 1, 2016 in order to be accepted for the November 8, 2016 election. Note: This is also the deadline to register to vote using the Online Voter Registration System.

***November 7, 2016 (Monday)** - There will be a "Limited Registration Session" the last weekday before elections during the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm in order to admit those seeking to vote in election whose qualification as to age, citizenship, or residence was attained since October 27th.

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

* The Polls will be open from 6:00am to 8:00pm at the Brooklyn Middle School for those residents wishing to vote in the Presidential Election.

All presently registered voters must vote at this polling place.

* **Election Day Registration (EDR)** – from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Registrar's Office at the Brooklyn Town Hall for those residents in the Town of Brooklyn who have not, for any reason, registered to vote in the town prior to election day. These residents may proceed, on Election Day, to the Town of Brooklyn Town Hall – Registrar's Office to first register to vote and then be able to cast their ballot at the Town Hall.

