

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

April - June 2021; Issue 24

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:

May 31: Memorial Day

Commission Vacancies

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

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Conservation

Vacancies for 2 regular members

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Economic Development

Vacancies for 2 regular members

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Emergency Management/

Homeland Security

Vacancy for 1 regular member

Vacancy for 1 alternate member

Ethics

Vacancies for 3 regular members

Inland Wetlands

Vacancies for 2 regular members

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

Planning & Zoning

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

Regulations Hearing Officer

Vacancy for 1 member

Resource Recovery

Vacancy for 1 alternate member

Water Pollution Control

Board

Vacancy for 1 regular member

Zoning Board of Appeals

Vacancy for 1 regular member and

Vacancies for 2 alternate members



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Earth Day Event



TOWN OF BROOKLYN &
THE LAST GREEN
VALLEY



Earth day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 where an estimated 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and classrooms to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment and show their commitment to protecting the Earth. Today, more than one billion people and 75,000 global partners in 192 countries recognize Earth day.

**MAY 1, 2021
9AM-12PM**

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTER, 31 TIFFANY STREET

The Town, in conjunction with the Last Green Valley, will supply gloves, trash pickers, trash bags, trash trackers and snacks. Routes and Parks around Town will be mapped out and assigned to volunteers. Garbage will later be picked up by the Town and disposed of at the transfer station.

Connecticut State Police will also be participating in a Drug Take-Back Day. This will take place at the Community Center from 9am – 12pm. This will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal free of charge and anonymous, no questions asked.

There will be shred truck available at the Community Center from 9am-12pm. Shredding will be done on site by P. Pellegrino Trucking Co, Inc., and later transported for disposal. You may bring up to two boxes or bags of your personal documents for shredding. Please be sure there is no metal or cardboard, this is strictly for paper. There will be no charge for this service.

The Town will be offering a discounted rate of .06 cents for bulky waste brought to the transfer station. This will only be in effect on May 1st and will last from 8am – 5pm and limited to two trips per person/vehicle.

If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Melissa Bradley m.bradley@brooklynct.org.



- Help keep water clean by using biodegradable and environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Buy locally or grow your own! Reduce air pollution caused by food and goods transport
- Plan to can! Can your seasonal foods for use later in the year
- Plant native species in your gardens, encourage important pollinators such as bees and birds with their favorite plants
- Plant a tree. Or plant many trees!
- Always practice the 7 R's – Reuse, Repurpose, Rot, Repair, Return, Refill, Refuse

News From the Tax Collector's Office

The fourth installment for real estate and personal property taxes are due this month. You can pay your bills four 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 use the drop box located at the Town Hall.
- If you need a receipt, please call the Office when you are in the parking lot and we will meet you at the door to take your payment.

The due dates for this year's taxes are:

April 1st – May 3rd



Do you need to know what you paid in taxes last year for income taxes? You can call the office for a printout or you can now print out your tax information online!



Look up Income Tax Information Online!

INCOME TAX

- Go to www.brooklynct.org and click on "Online Payments."
- You will be brought to the search page. Type in your last name space first initial (ex. John Doe would type in Doe J). Click on the circle saying IRS Payment Records for Year 2021 and click search.

TAX BILLS

SEWER/WATER/MISC

Click on Sewer/Water/Misc if you want to search Sewer/Water/Misc bills only.

Click on Tax Bills if you want to search your Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle or Supplemental Bills.

SEARCH BY

Name

Enter the search criteria below.

Search

Enter Last Name then space then 1st Initial (example SMITH J) or Business Name (No comma, & or -)

All Due Now Balance Due IRS Payment Records for Year 2020

[See Example](#)

IRS

- You will be able to see your tax bills, date(s) of payment, and how much you paid to the Town of Brooklyn during the calendar year. You can also print out your tax bills for your records by clicking on the box next to "IRS" and click on "View IRS."

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

🍃 Please join me in welcoming **STEPHANIE M. KOSOFF CCMA I** as the new assessor for the Town of Brooklyn. You can reach Stephanie at 860-779-3411 ext 20 or s.kosoff@brooklynct.org.

🍃 **2020 ANNUAL INCOME and EXPENSE REPORTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY JUNE 1ST, 2021:** 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:** During the current COVID-19 health emergency, the Assessor's Office remains closed to the Public. We are taking Renter applications **BY MAIL OR DROP BOX ONLY**. Updates will be posted on the town's website brooklynct.org



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 SSA1099 from Social Security for 2020 and proof of any other income, Federal Income Tax Return if you were required to file, rent receipt for the entire year and information from Eversource (CL&P). All information must be for 2020. Income cannot exceed \$45,800 for married or \$37,600 for single.

Please call 860-779-3411 option 6 for more information.

🍃 **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** We are accepting applications until Thursday September 30th, 2021.

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, 2021.



🍃 If you no longer own a vehicle from the October 1, 2020 Grand List and have cancelled the registration, please provide any two proofs to the Assessor's office (plate receipt, bill of sale, insurance cancellation stating why the insurance was removed, copy of out of state registration) so we may adjust your July 2021 bill.



Regards, Stephanie M. Kosoff CCMA I & Maryann E. Szela, Assistant Assessor

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



News from the Town Clerk's Office

ELECTIONS

2021 is a Municipal Election year and voting for First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Assessment Appeals will take place on November 2, 2021 at the Brooklyn Middle School from 6am-8pm. If you need to register to vote, you can do so online, by mail or through the Town Clerk's or Registrar of Voter's Office. See the Town's website for more information.



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

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT

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, primary and referendum.



DOG LICENSES

June is dog license month! Connecticut State statute requires that all dogs over six months old be licensed in your town. Proof of up-to-date rabies vaccinations—with the expiration date—is required with all licenses. Fees are as follows: \$19.00 per dog or \$8.00 per dog that is spayed/neutered. You must bring proof from your vet that your dog has been spayed/neutered. All dog licenses expire on June 30th and there is a \$1.00 per month late fee after that date. **Due to COVID-19, we encourage you to renew your dog's license by mail. Look for your renewal letter in May!** An online renewal option is coming soon!



HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES

Hunting & Fishing seasons are here! Licenses and permits can be purchased in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. You can also purchase directly through the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website. Remember, if you're over age 65, your license is free!



Parks & Recreation Spring Update

Greetings from the Parks & Recreation Dept!

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

We are sure that everyone was as excited as we were to see the return of warmer days and signs of spring! For many people, this signals that it is time to get outdoors with fun activities. We have spring and summer programs to do just that. Christina is always ready with fitness programs to keep you active and interested. After a season of Winter Warriors Running Club, she has transitioned seamlessly into Spring Running Club. You can always join in, even though this program is now ongoing. Running not your thing? No problem, we have



Sunrise Fitness, Cross Train Fix, Pylo at Park and Summer Boot Camp. Check out all the options on our website.



We are taking registrations throughout the spring for the fitness programs, and for all our other spring and summer programs. Sue's Craft Classes are scheduled to meet in May. She has one for the adults and one for kids! Her classes are fun and imaginative. Look online for the class description and registration forms. Rose is returning with Baton Twirlers. This is a great chance to share a past activity of many grandparents with a new generation of children!

Summer Slam Basketball Clinic will return for the 2021 season, and we are very excited! Held at the Middle School, this is an annual favorite for kids ages 8-13. New this year, Grand Slam Baseball Clinic will join the summer lineup. This will be held at the "Saveway" Fields off South Main St this July. Kirk Kazcor, former Killingly High sports standout, and current Old Lyme High School basketball coach will join Bucky Lohbusch, former UCONN pitcher and Brooklyn Middle School coach for both clinics.



Summer Day Camp and TEEN Camp are slated to begin June 28th. After a summer of no camp and the strangest school year ever, we are looking forward to welcoming back all our campers! Registration began in April and will continue until maximum numbers have been reached. With the assistance of funding for the educational and social needs of children, who were so affected by the COVID lockdowns and changes to their normal life activities, we have partnered with the school to offer camp free of charge this summer, to Brooklyn residents. The school is offering an

educational enrichment program and we have been able to coordinate so children wanting to attend both our programs can do so. We do have attendance limits, so parents were encouraged to register early.

Our Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park will see new basketball rims installed this spring. After our usual winter shut down of the courts, we will reopen this spring with new rims at all four baskets. We ask for everyone's patience as we wait for the installation to take place. Our tennis nets will go back up in April along with our volleyball nets, so everyone can begin to get back outdoors to enjoy the sunshine! Our trails are always beckoning and are available at many different locations throughout the town, including Prince Hill Park, near the Tennis Courts, at Riverside Park, and at Davis Forest. This is also the location of our Disc Golf Course.



We hope everyone can get outdoors and enjoy spring this year. We still need to continue to follow the health guidelines, and all do our part to work toward our return to normal. But there is so much we can enjoy and take part in, simply by following the advice and guidelines. Wear your mask, remember your 6-foot rule and wash your hands. Simple rules that make such a big difference in all of us getting out there and enjoying life again!