

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

July - September 2018; Issue 13

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:

- July 4: Independence Day
- September 3: Labor Day

Annual Chicken Barbecue

Mortlake Fire Company

Always the last Sunday in July—July 29, 2018

Mortlake Fire Station
11:30 AM till 3:00 PM
Take out only
Chicken Dinner \$12.00
Chicken Only \$7.00



Call Lou Brodeur at
860-450-6566 for
tickets.

Brooklyn Fair

August 23-26, 2018

The Fair offers something for everyone! Visitors can walk through the animal barns housing cattle, oxen, sheep, poultry and rabbits or stop by one of the event rings to see them in action. Other events include truck and tractor pulls, lawn mower racing, a skillet toss contest, arm wrestling, a kids talent show, and more.

This year's entertainment lineup includes: Souls on Fire (Thursday), Canaan Smith (Friday), Diamond Rio (Saturday), and the Great Garage Band Reunion (Sunday). All concerts are included with the price of admission and seating is based on a first come basis.

Parking is \$5. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (65+) and military (with ID). Admission is free for kids 12 and under. The Brooklyn Fair is located at 15 Fairgrounds Rd, Brooklyn CT. For more information, visit www.brooklynfair.org.

See you at the Fair!



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News From the Tax Collector's Office

It's July and you know what that means! Barbeques, pool parties, and taxes!

The first installment for real estate, personal property taxes, and sewer taxes are due this month. Also motor vehicles and East Brooklyn Fire District 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:

July 1st – August 1st

October 1st – November 1st

January 1st – February 1st (Friday)*

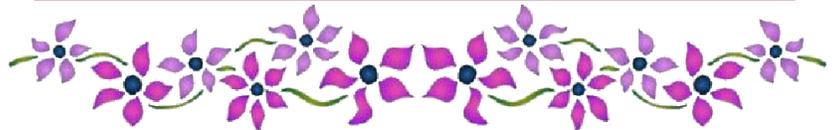
April 1st – May 1st

* Please note that the Town Hall will be closed on Friday, February 1st, but you can bring your payment to the post office and it can be postmark it with the February 1st date on the envelope.

Please check all of your tax bills and ask any questions that you have before paying the taxes. It makes it easier on you and us!

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

The mill rate for the 2017 Grand List tax bills is 28.09.



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.



From the Assessment Appeals Board

September 13th at 6:30pm

Our next hearing of the Board of Assessment Appeals will be on September 13, 2018 at 6:30pm. **This hearing will be for Motor Vehicles issues only.** The September hearing is first come, first heard. **PLEASE NOTE:** it is important for you to bring to the hearing any and all information pertaining to your case including your tax bill and the vehicle in question if possible, or pictures if not possible.

Current members: Robert Simons, Chairperson, Loni Wright, and Buddy Conroy



News from the Assessor's Office

Please visit our website at www.brooklynct.org for any forms that may apply to you.

Assessor

860-779-3411
Option 6
Fax: 860-779-7853
4 Wolf Den Rd
PO BOX 356

☀ **The Assessor's Office will be conducting Building Permit assessment inspections July 1st through September 27th for the October 1, 2018 Grand List. Please note: that if you have recently acquired your property you will receive a notice of Sales Inspections so we may maintain accurate assessment data.**



☀ **The Renter's Rebate Program** continues until Monday, October 1st, 2018. You or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older or over 28 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 for the entire 2017 year. **All information must be for 2017 year.** Income cannot exceed \$43,000 for married and \$35,300 for single.

Please call for an appointment at 860-779-3411 option 6

☀ **Board of Assessment Appeals** will meet Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 6:30-7:30pm for Motor Vehicles only.

☀ **PA 490 Applications** are taken in the Assessor's Office beginning September 1st, 2018 until October 31st, 2018. Please check our website for applications and guidelines. Please note: for Forestry a signed & certified forester's report must be filed with the Assessor by October 1st, 2018. Our website also has a listing of Certified Foresters.

☀ **Personal Property** forms will be mailed by September 27th, 2018 and are due November 1st, 2018 (must be postmarked by November 1st, 2018).

☀ **New Commercial Truck** applications must be completed and filed by November 1st, 2018.

☀ **Annual Farm Building Exemption** forms need to be **notarized** and filed between September 1st and November 1st, 2018.



☀ **Totally Disabled/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption** forms must be filed by November 1st, 2018.

☀ **The Additional Veteran's Program** ends Monday October 1st, 2018. You must provide all income for 2017 including a Federal Income Tax for if you were required to file.



☀ **Honorable Discharge** for new Veterans to Brooklyn must be filed with the Town Clerk by Thursday September 27th, 2018. **Original DD214** must be presented to the Town Clerk.

☀ **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, 2018 for exemption to your July 2018 bill.

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

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

News from the Town Clerk's Office

DOG LICENSE MONTH WAS JUNE!

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

Did you remember to renew your dog license in June? If not, stop in 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.



INCREASE IN FEES

The State legislature recently increased several fees affecting the Town Clerk's Office. Please see the Summary below.

SUMMARY OF FEE INCREASES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018

PUBLIC ACT NO. 18-136:	<u>Current Fee ending June 30</u>	<u>New Fee Effective July 1</u>
CGS 30-53 - Liquor Permit Filing:	\$2.00	\$20.00
CGS 7-34a - Misc. Document Filing(trade names)	\$5.00	\$10.00
CGS 7-34a - Map Filing & Indexing:	\$10.00	\$20.00
CGS 7-34a - Subdiv. Map Filing & Index:	\$20.00	\$30.00
CGS 7-34a - Notary Public Oath & Comm.	\$10.00	\$20.00
CGS 7-34a - Notary Public Character Certification	\$2.00	\$5.00
CGS 7-73 - Marriage License Fee:	\$30.00	\$50.00**
CGS 7-73 -Removal, Transit and Burial Permit	\$3.00	\$5.00
CGS 19a-323 - Cremation Permit:	\$3.00	\$5.00

****Breakdown of Marriage License fee:**

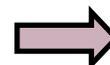
Victims of Abuse Surcharge from \$19.00 to \$34.00 (submitted to state quarterly)
 Amount retained in Town from \$11.00 to \$16.00
 Fee: \$30.00 to \$50.00

Brooklyn Fall Festival

September 29 10am - 4pm

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

Come and celebrate Israel Putnam's 300th birthday! There will be an apple pie contest, the BHS museum will be open, and the Meeting House will be open for tours! There will also be a coloring contest for kids and seniors displayed at the Post Office and a scarecrow display on the lawn of HomeTown Bank. The Federated Church will be open and selling corn chowder and crisp. The Chapel will be open with an antique appraiser. There will also be tasting of Israel Putnam ale and a few food trucks.



News from the Building Department

Happy Summer!! Please be advised that the following require a building permit:

Building Official

860-779-3411

option 9

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Hours of the official:

Monday: 8am-6pm

Thursday: 5pm-6pm

Hours of the office:

Town Hall Hours

- ☀ new single family dwellings
- ☀ additions
- ☀ garages
- ☀ barns
- ☀ porches
- ☀ handicap ramps
- ☀ decks - new and replacement
- ☀ in-ground/above ground swimming pools
- ☀ basement or attic renovations
- ☀ storage sheds greater than 200 square feet
- ☀ interior remodel/renovations
- ☀ exterior remodel/siding
- ☀ replacement windows
- ☀ strip and re-roof
- ☀ roof repair
- ☀ new chimney or repairs
- ☀ central air conditioning
- ☀ electric service repairs/upgrade
- ☀ fences over 7 feet high
- ☀ HVAC mini-splits

If you are unsure whether your project requires a building permit, please contact the building office.

Emergency Repairs: Where equipment replacements and repairs must be performed in an emergency situation, the permit application shall be submitted within the next working business day to the building official.

Expiration of Permits: Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within 180 days after its issuance. If the project is incomplete after 180 days, the applicant must renew the permit for a fee of \$20.00.

Inspections are required by the Building Official, John Berard. Please contact the office at 860-779-3411 Extension 12 to set up an inspection date.

Town Ordinance 8-2 Withholding Approval of a Building Application When Taxes are Delinquent:

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.

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 State Statute 1)

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

Brooklyn Fall Festival (cont.)

Around 2 pm, there will be a "parade" from the encampment of Second Continental Light Dragoons (the first commissioned cavalry of the United States Army) behind the Brooklyn Post Office to the UUS Meeting House for a celebration of Israel Putnam's 300th birthday with cake.

Please note that Route 169 will be closed for the parade.

The Brooklyn Post Office will have an official cancellation of stamps with an Israel Putnam stamp.



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

Brooklyn Teen Center

860-412-0060

Brooklyn Community Center

31 Tiffany St

Lower Level

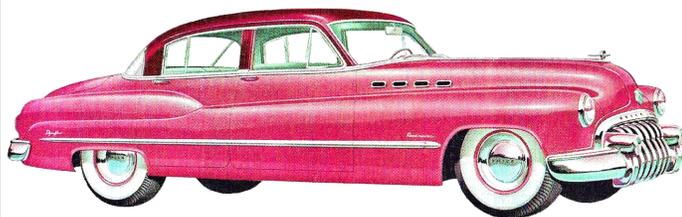
TEEN Center has been transformed again this summer into TEEN Camp! Camp began on June 25th and has been a busy place ever since. We have weekly field trips planned and daily activities to keep everyone happy and active. Trips to Six Flags, Sonny's Place, Patriots Place, and more are scheduled.

TEEN Center's Youth Afterschool Recreation Program is slated to begin on the first day of school. Open to students in grades 6th – 9th, we offer daily afternoon activities, snack, homework time and more! We have a game room with ping pong, air hockey and pool. A gaming room with gaming systems and age appropriate games available and large screen tv's for movie days! We have a kitchen, where Lisa is always cooking up something interesting and delicious with the students. A homework area with computers and a library area is also available as is a piano, for all the musically inclined members of the center! We are looking forward to our 4th year of this amazing program, and hope you plan on joining us this fall. Weekly rates are affordable, and we are now open until 6:00pm for your convenience and more time for fun activities.



thank you

We are always looking at new and creative ways to fund our program. Grants and donations have been an important part of our ability to offer this terrific program to our "teens." To all the agencies, groups and individuals who have helped us in the past, thank you! It is greatly appreciated by our TEEN staff, our commission and the parents & members of our TEEN Center.



Car Cruise

Sunday, September 30th 12-4pm

Held in the Brooklyn Walmart's Parking Lot

Registration starts at 10am

Prizes for the top three cars (Free to enter)

Hosted by Brooklyn Walmart and Presented by Brooklyn Business Association with the Tri-State Cruisers



There will be a Bike rodeo sponsored by Brooklyn Parks and Recreation. Make sure to bring your own bicycle!

Food vendors, face painting, clowns, and music!



Farmer's Market

The Northeast Connecticut Farmer's Market is in Brooklyn weekly on Wednesday's 4-6pm in the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot. Check out the Farmer's Market website (<http://www.nectfarmersmarket.org/>) for more information!



Parks & Recreation Summer Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

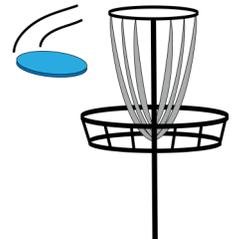


Finally, summer is here! And with the warmer weather we welcome back our summer lineup of programming. Summer Day Camp and TEEN Camp started on June 25th. We offer two camps, at separate locations based on grade/age of the campers. This allows us to offer age appropriate field trips and activities to keep your child happy and engaged in the fun all summer long!

We also offer Summer Slam Basketball Clinic in July. Open to students ages 8-13, we meet for one week from 8am – noon for some instructional fun at the Middle School gym. Check out the camps details online.

We will be holding Before and After School Recreation Program Registration earlier this year than in the past. Please check online for more information. We have sent out information through the school system and posted it online/Facebook with registration start date and forms. TEEN Center registration began June 1st. Both will be ongoing until max numbers are met.

Now is the time to enjoy some outdoor activities at one of our town's parks. Disc Golf at Davis Forest, a game of basketball at Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill, tennis at the Donald Francis Recreation Area or Sand Volleyball at Maury Bowen Complex at Riverside are all possibilities for some outdoor fun. You may have noticed that we have removed the playscape at Prince Hill Park, due to the deteriorating condition of its components. A new playscape will be completed during the month of August and will be in its new location at the Prince Hill Park.



Our Fall/Winter Brochure will be available soon. This brochure will be mailed to all households by early August with info about our fall and winter lineup of programs, trips and events. We are hoping to offer Concerts at Riverside again this September. Look for information later this summer with dates and band info. Brooklyn has a lot to offer for outdoor fun and healthy lifestyles. Take a walk at one of our parks or trails. Bring your canoe or kayak down to Riverside Park and enjoy the serenity of the river. Or play a game of volleyball, tennis or basketball at our parks. The sunshine and warm weather is calling us outdoors, let's listen and take advantage of all that our small town has to offer!



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



Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee

The Brooklyn Emergency Management/Homeland Security Commission has planned a Signal Communication Exercise, which will take place during the Brooklyn Fair. The signal exercise will encompass training in the use of emergency message handling using Amateur Radio. We are inviting the public to visit our tent site and send a message using our Amateur Radio Communication equipment to other volunteer Ham Radio Operators from the Eastern Connecticut Radio Association (ECARA) who will be part of that exercise. Allow us to share with you what the BEMHS is all about and what volunteer services we offer you. We encourage you to visit the ECARA web site and be part of Amateur Radio. See what a great hobby it is and how it serves our communities through public service. It's fun, exciting, and rewarding!

We will also have a 'go bag' displayed so that your family can see what you should have ready in case of an emergency. Stop by and find out more about the Brooklyn Emergency Management and Homeland Security Committee!



News from the Land Use Office

Planning and Zoning Commission Seeking Public Input on Draft Zoning Regulations

Land Use Office

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission is seeking public input from Brooklyn residents, businesses, groups, and commissions on possible updates to the Zoning Regulations. With the help of town staff and planning consultant Glenn Chalder, AICP, the Planning and Zoning Commission has looked at ways to update the Zoning Regulations and make them easier to use. Mr. Chalder has assisted communities throughout Connecticut with the preparation of user-friendly zoning regulations.

The draft Zoning Regulations and Map are available on the Town of Brooklyn website.

A public information session is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium, 119 Gorman Rd, Brooklyn. Interested persons are encouraged to come and share their comments, concerns, and/or support. Written communications will also be accepted via email or letter. Emails may be addressed to: j.roberson@brooklynct.org.

After the meeting the Planning and Zoning Commission will evaluate the comments received and consider additional changes. Prior to adopting any regulation changes, an official public hearing would be held, possibly in the fall of 2018.



Greetings From the Registrar's Office

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 completed conducting the annual canvass – according to Connecticut State Statutes – beginning in February and ending in April of 2018. As of May, all registered voter records have been updated or removed to keep our official voting list accurate and up-to-date. 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/State or not voted within the last 4 years.



If you have been a registered voter in Brooklyn and received our canvass mailing, please be sure to 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.

General Information: The Registrars of Voters are looking for residents of Brooklyn who would be interested in becoming a certified Town Elections Moderator. We need at least 2 Democrats and 2 Republican affiliated resident voters to fill these positions in the election process. Anyone interested should contact the Registrars of Voters Office by either leaving a voice-mail message or sending an email, or personally coming into the Registrar Office on any Tuesday between the hours of 1pm to 4pm. Our office phone is: 860-779-3411, ext. 19 or 29 and email is: registrars@brooklynct.org.