

# Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

July - September 2019; Issue 17

## 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 2: Labor Day

## Annual Chicken Bar-b-que

**Mortlake Fire Company**

Always the last Sunday in July—July 28, 2019

Mortlake Fire Station ❁ 11:30 AM till 3:00 PM ❁ Take out only

Chicken Only \$7.00

Chicken Dinner (half chicken, baked potato, bun, and ice cream) \$13.00



If we miss you when we sell door-to-door, call Lou Brodeur to arrange ticket delivery: 860-450-6566.

**Want to get involved with the Town but don't know how to go about it? See page 4 on how to join a commission or board!**



## 170th Annual Brooklyn Fair

August 22-25, 2019

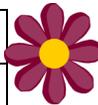
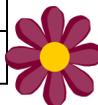
The Fair offers something for everyone! Visitors can walk through the animal barns housing cattle, oxen, sheep, poultry and rabbits or stop by one of the event rings to see them in action. Other events include truck and tractor pulls, lawn mower racing, a skillet toss contest, arm wrestling, a kids'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



This year's entertainment lineup includes: Billy Dean, Travis Denning, Neal McCoy, Jimmy Lehoux, and David Adam Byrnes. 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](http://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! Picnics, swimming, 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 1<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>

October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday)

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

April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday)

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**.

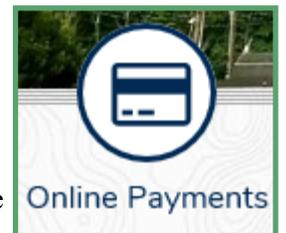
**Please Note:** The last day to pay the October and April installments are November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, which are Fridays. The Town Hall is closed on Fridays and will be closed on November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. As long as your payment is postmarked on November 1<sup>st</sup> or May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be no interest as we honor postmarks.

The mill rate for the 2018 Grand List tax bills is 28.92.

### **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](http://www.brooklynct.org).
- ✿ Click on "Online Payments."
- ✿ In 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.



**SEWER/WATER/MISC**

- ✿ To view your sewer bill, click on "Sewer/Water/Misc" located in the teal bar. You will need either your bill number or your unique id number from your real estate bill to view your sewer bill.

## From the Assessment Appeals Board

September 12th at 6:30pm

The next hearing of the Board of Assessment Appeals will be on September 12, 2019 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.



## 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

The Assessor's Office will be conducting Building Permit assessment inspections July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup> for the October 1, 2019 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.

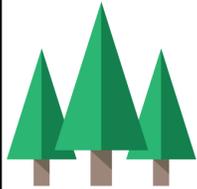
The Renter's Rebate Program continues until Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. You or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older or over 18 and totally disabled through Social Security. Applicants must submit

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 for the entire 2018 year. **All information must be for 2018 year.** Income cannot exceed \$43,900 for married and \$36,000 for single.



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

Board of Assessment Appeals will meet Thursday September 12, 2019 from 6:30pm-7:30pm for Motor Vehicles only.



PA 490 Applications are taken in the Assessor's Office beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.** Our website also has a listing of Certified Foresters.

Personal Property forms will be mailed by September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and are due November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (must be postmarked by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019). Please note: The Town Hall is closed on Fridays, please plan accordingly.

New Commercial Truck applications must be completed and filed by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Annual Farm Building Exemption forms need to be notarized and filed between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.



Totally Disabled/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption forms must be filed by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.



The Additional Veteran's Program ends Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. You must provide all income for 2018 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 Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. **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, 2019 for exemption to your July 2019 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

## Commission Vacancies

Want to be more involved in the Town, but not sure how to go about it? 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 2 alternate members

### Conservation Commission

Vacancies for 3 regular members and

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### Economic Development

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

### Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Vacancies for 2 regular members and

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

**Ethics:** Vacancy for 1 regular member

### Fire Commissioners

Vacancy for 1 regular member

### Inland Wetlands

Vacancies for 2 regular members and

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### Planning & Zoning

Vacancies for 2 regular members and

Vacancies for 3 alternate members

### Regulations Hearing Officer

Vacancy for 1 member

### Resource Recovery

Vacancy for 1 alternate member

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Vacancy for 1 regular member and

Vacancies for 2 alternate members

## Parks & Recreation Summer Update

### Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

What's more traditional in the summer than BBQ's, ice cream, a day at the beach and .....Summer Day Camp! Our camps began their season on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Summer Day Camp is held at the Elementary School and is open to K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. TEEN Camp is open to students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Our TEEN campers will enjoy trips to places specifically chosen with their age in mind. Six Flags, Disc Golf and days at the beach are just a few that they will enjoy this summer. Summer Day Camp isn't left out of the fun; they enjoy both inhouse special activities like Riverside Reptiles and Mini Golf plus trips to Quassy Amusement Park, Roger Williams Zoo and more.

If you are looking for some fun outdoor activities this summer, then look no further than our local parks. Enjoy a game of disc golf, sand volleyball, basketball, or tennis. Be sure to check out our newest playscape at the Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park. Try out the interactive activities with this new equipment. We have a list of facilities and what they each offer on our website.

### **Before and After**



### **Program**

We begin registration for the Before & After School Recreation Programs on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Look for registration forms and information online. These programs do fill up quickly, so register early. You can always contact our office during the school year too, to see if we have spaces available.



Don't forget to look for our Fall/Winter brochure coming to Brooklyn mailboxes in August. All our programs, trips and events will be listed in the brochure.

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](http://www.brooklynct.org) and follow us on FACEBOOK – Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation.



# 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:**

Monday, Tuesday, and

Wednesday: 8am-5pm

Thursday: 8am-6pm

✿ 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

✿ replacement windows

✿ strip and re-roof

✿ roof repair

✿ siding

✿ 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 Joins  
Sustainable CT*

**Sustainable CT**  
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.



On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Brooklyn joined a growing number of communities across the state participating in Sustainable CT, an exciting program to support Connecticut's cities and towns. The statewide initiative, created by towns for towns, includes a detailed menu of sustainability best practices, tools and resources, peer learning, and recognition. Brooklyn joins over 40% of Connecticut's towns that are registered for Sustainable CT. The first cohort of certified communities was announced this past fall.

The Sustainable CT platform supports a broad range of actions, such as improving watershed management, supporting arts and creative culture, reducing energy use and increasing renewable energy, implementing “complete streets” (streets that meet the needs of walkers and bikers as well as cars), improving recycling programs, assessing climate vulnerability, supporting local businesses, and providing efficient and diverse housing options. [Possible quote on action areas of interest to your community]. There is no cost to participate and communities will voluntarily select actions that meet their unique, local character and long-term vision. After successful implementation of a variety of actions, municipalities will be eligible for Sustainable CT certification.

The initiative was developed under the leadership of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Three Connecticut philanthropies - The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, the Hampshire Foundation, and the Common Sense Fund – have supported the program's development and launch.

"We are thrilled that Brooklyn has passed a resolution to join Sustainable CT. The program builds on many current success stories in our communities to create and support more great places to live, work, and play," said Lynn Stoddard, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy. "We are looking forward to working with the Town as they pursue Sustainable CT certification."

For more information on Sustainable CT see the program’s website: [www.sustainablect.org](http://www.sustainablect.org).

*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.

