

Brooklyn Newsletter



Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut

January - March 2018; Issue 11

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:

January 1: New Year's Day

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 19: President's Day

March 30: Good Friday (Parks and Rec and Highway Dept.)

Parking Ban



Please remember that there is a parking ban in effect from November 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018. If there should be a storm(s) after April 1, 2018, than this ban will be in effect throughout the storm. This means that no vehicles are allowed to park on TOWN ROADS as snow plowing is a priority.

Parked cars will be ticketed. Safety is our main concern, so please be aware and careful when you see our trucks out working. They are helping you by removing as much snow as possible as quickly as possible. If you see anything that needs to be addressed, please call or email the Public Works Department or the Selectman's Office.

Special Needs Emergency Registry

For Brooklyn residents with disabilities, chronic conditions, and special healthcare needs see **page 3** for information about the registry that may help responders meet your needs during an emergency.

Upcoming Earth Day Event



The Town of Brooklyn will be holding a Town wide event in honor of Earth Day again this year on April 21st! We are looking for individuals, families, groups, organizations, or anyone who wants to get involved. Please contact the First Selectman's Office at 860-779-3411 x16 or m.bradley@brooklynct.org to volunteer.

Check our website for upcoming details!

ACT LOCALLY AND MAKE AN IMPACT GLOBALLY



Please note that the **Transfer Station hours** during the **winter** are: Fridays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 8am-4pm.



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News From the Tax Collector's Office

The snow is flying! It must be tax time again!

Tax Collector

860-779-3411

Option 5

Fax: 860-779-7853

4 Wolf Den Rd

PO BOX 253

Along with the colder weather, January brings Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills. These bills are for any motor vehicles that were registered between October 2, 2016 and September 30, 2017 and covers the months that you owned the vehicle. If you had transferred a plate from one vehicle to a new vehicle during this time period, you will see the credit on your tax bill.



The third installment for real estate and personal property taxes, the second installment for sewer taxes, and supplemental motor vehicles 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/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:

January 1st – February 1st

April 1st – May 1st

Do you need to know what you paid in taxes last year for income taxes?

You can visit the office for a printout or you can now print out your tax information online!

INCOME TAX

Tax Bills are Online!

INCOME TAX

- 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



The next hearing of the Board of Assessment Appeals will be on **March 8, 2018**. This hearing will be for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Supplemental Motor Vehicles issues. You can print out an application from the town's website at www.brooklynct.org, then go to the Assessor's page. Also, the Assessor's office will have the forms available. The completed forms must be in the Assessor's office by February 20, 2018. They can be mailed in or hand delivered. Please note: the Town Hall is closed on Fridays and Monday, February 19th is a holiday, please plan accordingly. You will be mailed a confirmation of your appointment. **Please note**, it is important for you to bring to the hearing any and all information pertaining to your case including your tax bill.

Current members are: Robert Simons, Loni Wright, and Buddy Conroy.

From the Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security

A Message to Residents & Businesses

Emergency Management/ Homeland Security

860-779-3411, ext. 23
4 Wolf Den Rd
PO BOX 356

Winter is upon us and as we all know, it can and does bring challenges. Being prepared for anything that comes is the best step in mitigating the impact on your family, your home, and our business community. Not much is communicated during the process stage of various projects, but I want our residents and business community to know that this office, the BEMHS Commission, the First Selectman's Office, the State of Connecticut

Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security, the American Red Cross and other stakeholder groups have been working diligently to enhance our means of providing emergency services to residents and businesses.

The Town of Brooklyn has recently entered into an agreement with three other towns and the Pomfret School to provide shelter to our residents in the event there are isolated needs. This allows the American Red Cross to utilize their resources in one facility instead of trying to facilitate the needs of four communities.



On the Emergency Management/Homeland Security [website](#), you will find a [form](#) to register yourself or a loved one who is homebound or has needs requiring special attention in an emergency situation, including medical or fire. This form will be kept confidential and only used by this office on First Responders to provide critical information that will enable us to prioritize resources or how to best approach your individual need in time of emergency. Please take advantage of the benefit the form will provide by filling it out and sending it in as directed. If you want or need additional registry forms use contact information provided or feel free to reach out to me (see end of this message).

I'd like to share an important thought: You should consider keeping "CASH" in your home. If the power goes out we cannot access cash via ATM machines. Your family should also have discussions about your individualized "Emergency Plans."



Space is limited in this newsletter so I'll begin to close here. As I do, let me share that the Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security is not staffed full-time, but I can be reached via my cell or e-mail (see below). I am available most days and a couple evenings per week so should you need or want to meet with me I'll make myself available. I'd like to ask you to consider becoming involved, whether with the Brooklyn Emergency Management/Homeland Security Commission (BEMHS) or one of the other Boards/Commissions in Town. We need our residents to become part of the process.



Stephen V. Mylly, Emergency Management Director
Town Hall Office: 860-779-3411, ext. 23
Personal Cell: 860-908-4033
E-Mail: stephenmylly@att.net

Special Needs Emergency Registry: For Brooklyn residents with disabilities, chronic conditions, and special healthcare needs: Brooklyn Emergency Management and Homeland Security Commission maintains a registry for residents with disabilities, chronic conditions, and/or special healthcare needs who live at home or in group homes. By participating in the Registry, you permit BEMHS to share your information with local and state emergency responders, such as your town fire departments. The information that you provide may help responders meet your needs during an emergency, though assistance cannot be guaranteed.

News from the Building Department

Building Official

860-779-3411

option 9

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Hours of the official:

Monday: 8am-5pm

Thursday: 5pm-6pm

Hours of the office:

Monday, Tuesday, and

Wednesday: 8am-5pm

Thursday: 8am-6pm

The heating season is upon us once again. Please be advised that the installation of the following require a building permit:

- * woodstoves
- * pellet stove
- * fireplace inserts
- * replacement of boilers, furnaces
- * replacement of electric heating elements
- * generators
- * mini split ac/heat pumps
- * gas wall hung units

Once the installation is complete, an inspection is required by the Building Official, John Berard. Please contact the office at 860-779-3411 Ext. 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

Join!

Commission Vacancies

Join!

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.

* **Agriculture Commission**

* Meets the 4th Tuesday at 7pm

* **Board of Ethics**

* Meets the 1st Monday at 7pm

* **Conservation Commission**

* Meets the 1st Monday at 7:30pm

* **Economic Development**

* Meets the 1st Tuesday at 4pm every other month

* **Emergency Management/Homeland Security**

* Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7pm

* **Housing Authority**

* Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 10am every other month

* **Inland Wetlands**

* Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6pm

* **Planning and Zoning**

* Meets the 1st Wednesday at 6:30pm

* **Resource Recovery**

* Meets the last Thursday of the month, after the Board of Selectmen meeting

* **Water Pollution Control Board**

* Meets the last Wednesday at 6:30pm

* **Zoning Board of Appeals**

* Meets as needed

Parks & Recreation Winter Update

Parks & Recreation

860-779-3411

option 7

Fax: 860-779-9372

69 South Main St.

PO BOX 356

Happy New Year! We are hoping 2018 brings you new adventures, a chance to be with friends and family, and good health! With that in mind, why not check out all that we have to offer in the new year.



Winter Warrior's Running Club and Susan's Complete Fitness will keep the adults in the household moving and will help to keep some of those new year resolutions!

Coming this spring, we have Karen's Wine Glass Painting Class and Bath & Body Products Class. Both held at the Community Center, these two fun and creative classes are only \$10.00 per person. Call a few friends, and plan a night out with Karen!



For the kiddies, we have a new late winter/early spring version of our Summer Slam Clinic. Join us for Springtime Basketball Clinic this year for some fun with friends while learning some new skills on the court. We also have Baseball Pitching Clinic again this spring. Check out Karen's Chocolate Making Class for Kids and Baton Twirling Class – with a chance to march in the parade this spring!!



We have a Bruins game this February; check out all the details online at www.brooklynct.org. And like us on Facebook for updates, info and events!

All our events, trips and programs are listed in our Spring/Summer Brochure which is mailed out each January to all Brooklyn Households.



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 7th – Municipal Government Election:** There were 5,465 registered voters on the official checklist; an increase of 710 voters from the previous municipal election year 2015. The official checklist was accepted by the Town Clerk. There were 1,549 voters that actually voted. There were 36 Absentee Ballots and 7 Election Day Registration Ballots. The percentage of voter turnout was 28.3%; the turnout from the previous municipal election was 19.78%

* **Annual Canvass and Voting History:** The Registrars will begin conducting the annual canvass, according to Connecticut State Statutes, beginning in February and ending in April of 2018. 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 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.

* **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, 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 ext. 29 and email is: registrars@brooklynct.org.

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

* As we still work to resolve the difficulties the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has had with their software, please review your 2016 Supplemental Bills (January 2018) for accuracy. You may be receiving a Supplemental Bill because you did not receive a 2016 regular motor vehicle bill last July (2017) for a particular vehicle.

* Assessment Increase Notices will be mailed within 10 days of the signing of the Grand List in January 2018. These notices apply to changes made to your property such as building permits, new homes, renovations, sheds, decks, pools etc.

* Personal Property Assessment Notices will be mailed in January 2018.

* **New Totally & Permanently Disabled Applications (under the age of 65):** Must be received by January 31st, 2018. Proof of award is required.

* **Deadline for Disabled Veterans Proof:** The deadline to file proof of your Veteran's Disability is March 31st, 2018 for the 2017 Grand List.

* **ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S APPLICATIONS:** Filing period begins February 1st, 2018 and runs until October 1st, 2018. Proof of income required.

* **ELDERLY and/or DISABLED HOMEOWNERS:** Filing period begins February 1st, 2018 and runs until May 15th, 2018. To be eligible for this tax credit:

1. You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2017 or over 18 and permanently disabled per Social Security.
2. You must be a permanent resident of Connecticut. You must own the property or hold tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicant liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2017. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
3. Your 2017 income cannot exceed \$43,000 if you are married or \$35,300 if you are unmarried.

You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA1099 for 2017, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2017 Federal Income tax return if you are required to file one. And any other interest/dividend statements and pension statements, all for 2017.



* **Board of Assessment Appeals:** Applications for Board of Assessment Appeals must be filed by February 20th, 2018 for Real Estate and/or 2016 Supplemental Motor Vehicle. **THE TOWN HALL IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS AND MONDAY FEBRUARY 19TH IS A HOLIDAY, PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.** Forms are available on www.brooklynct.org from the Assessor's Department.

As always, we welcome any questions or comments. We can be reached at 860-779-3411 option 6.

Regards,

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