

Bethany Seniority
February 2018

The Bethany Town Hall will be closed on President's Day February 19, 2018 also there will be no Senior Bus Transportation.

Weather Lore: If the Sun shines on Groundhog Day, have half the fuel and half the hay.

The heart has no wrinkles, Happy Valentine's Day.

FREE TAX Service

To be starting in February on February 6th and every Tuesday in the Janice von Beren Senior Center. This free service will continue until Tuesday April 17th. Appointments are from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Call to schedule your appointment! 203 393-2100 Ext. 1351. Leave your name, telephone number(s) and the best time to reach you and a AARP Tax Aide consultant will call you back to schedule an appointment or answer questions or concerns you may have. You do not have to be an AARP member nor a Bethany Resident to take advantage of this free Tax Service.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: For The Janice von Beren Senior Center Activities and Senior Bus transportation and also the discretion of the driver ...follows the Amity School District and the Bethany Community School PROCEDURES...IF SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED and senior bus transportation is cancelled. My suggestion, if you have a medical appointment, and they are predicting snow, call your medical provider and reschedule or find alternative means of transportation.

Worth Repeating

Be A Dear and Make It Clear

Driveways, sidewalks and steps should be kept clear of brush, trees, and snow/ice for easy accessibility for the bus and the driver and YOU the passenger. If these conditions are not met, the driver will not be able to pick you up.

Bus Service Schedule

Monday's, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am to 4:30pm. You may call 203 393-2100 Ext.1324 to reserve a ride. If you are not familiar with our Senior Bus transportation by all means call me 203 393-2100 Ext. 1124, I'll be more than happy to get you acquainted with our bus service and how it works and send you a brochure.

Here's a rundown of what you need to know

Basic Service: Door to door, accommodates 2 wheelchairs, must provide your own wheelchair.

Where can you go: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Cheshire, Derby, Hamden, New Haven, Orange, Prospect, Seymour, Waterbury, West Haven, Woodbridge and of course Bethany.

Who Can you bring? A personal care attendant at no extra charge, guide dogs.

In case of inclement weather, the Transportation Program will be cancelled.

The bus driver cannot leave the bus to assist you inside a building.

The transportation bus will not operate on weekends, holidays, or when the Bethany Town Hall is closed.

Trip Rates: \$2.50 per destination, \$1.50 one way within the confines of Bethany.

Sign Up With Code Red-Why You Ask

What is CodeRED and why is it important to me? CodeRED is an emergency notification service that allows emergency officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media regarding time-sensitive general and emergency notifications. Only authorized officials have access to the CodeRED system.

When will CodeRED be used? Any message regarding the safety, property or welfare of the community will be disseminated using the CodeRED system. These may include AMBER alerts, notifications of hazardous traffic or road conditions, boil water advisories or evacuation notices.

Does the CodeRED system replace other systems that have been used to provide time-sensitive information to residents? This system is an enhancement to existing means of communication and is meant to supplement current or past systems used for mass notification.

Does the CodeRED system already have my telephone number, or do I need to sign up to receive CodeRED notifications? The CodeRED database contains information received from public databases, including regional phonebooks. However, no resident should assume that their information is in the system. The home page of the Town of Bethany website, www.bethany-ct.com, has a link to the CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page where you can register online. If you cannot register online, you can call 203-393-2100 X119 and speak with our communications specialist to complete your registration over the telephone.

I have a business located in New Haven. Can I arrange to have CodeRED contact my business? Yes. Fill out the CodeRED registration form but be sure to select the "This address is a business" option. Please note that emergency calls can only be delivered to a direct dial number. Automated attendants will disrupt the process and the calls will not be delivered. Businesses should register their main number and establish a procedure for distributing the CodeRED message to their workforce.

What if I want to register additional numbers for my address? After you submit the initial registration form, you may start the registration process again and submit more numbers for the same address.

Is my personal information protected? CodeRED is a service of Emergency Communications Network which takes security and privacy concerns very seriously. They will not sell, trade, lease or loan any data citizen supplied data to third parties.

How will I recognize a CodeRED message? A CodeRED Emergency message will have a caller ID of 866-419-5000. A CodeRED General message will have a caller ID 855-969-4636. We suggest you program both numbers in your cell phone as a "new contact" and use "CodeRED Emergency" and "CodeRED General" as the contact name. If you need to replay the emergency notification message again, simply dial the number and you will be able to hear the message again.

What should I do if I receive a CodeRED message? Listen carefully to the entire message. You will have the option to repeat the message by pressing any key. Do not call 911 for further information unless directed to do so or if you need immediate aid from the Police or Fire department.

I have a landline, and it does not work when the power goes out. How will the system be able to contact me? If it's a true "landline," it will work as long as it is connected to a corded telephone with the ringer turned on. The CodeRED sign-up form allows you to indicate both a primary and alternate phone number. Cell phone and/or work phone numbers can be entered as alternate phone numbers. Both primary and alternate phone numbers will be contacted when a notification is sent.

Will the CodeRED system leave a message on an answering machine? Yes, the CodeRED system will leave a message on a machine or on voicemail. The CodeRED system will leave the entire message in one pass.

What happens if the line is busy? If the line is busy, CodeRED will try two more times to connect.

What circumstances might prevent a message from being delivered to me?

If your contact information has changed and you have not registered your new information.

If you only have a landline at your residence, the power is out and you did not register an alternate phone number.

If your line is busy for an extended time and your calls do not forward to voicemail or an answering machine.

If you have a privacy manager on your main phone and you did not register an alternate phone number.

The Town of Bethany will receive a report of undelivered calls and can instruct the CodeRED system to begin another round of calls to busy numbers. It is best to have an alternate phone number in the calling database for these situations.

If by you are not computer savvy, then please by all means I can put the information in the computer for you. Just give me a call or stop by my office. Call 203 393-2100 Ext. 1124.

You Need to Know This

PRESS RELEASE

TOWN OF BETHANY

Applications for tax credits for homeowners over 65 years of age and those totally disabled will be taken at the Assessor's office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning February 1, 2018 thru May 15th, 2018.

These programs consist of the following:

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM-This is a real estate tax credit program for homeowners who are at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2017 and meet certain income guidelines.

Those guidelines require that annual income for single people, including Social Security benefits, should not exceed \$35,300. Married couples can be eligible if their income, including Social Security benefits, does not exceed \$ 43,000.

Applicants should bring all proof of their 2017 income including a copy of their 2017 Income tax returns if filing, and proof of Social Security income (Form 1099). Also, the applicant must own and reside at the property for which tax relief is sought, or must hold a tenancy for life use of the property and be liable for the tax bill. This must be the applicant's principal or legal residence.

DISABILITY PROGRAM-Those homeowners who are disabled, and don't qualify for the elderly homeowners program because they are under the age of 65 can apply. One must provide proof of their disability award letter from the Social Security Administration. Also, the same income guidelines established for the elderly homeowners program must be met.

Previous participants in either of these two programs will be required to re-file their applications bi-annually and will be notified by mail of this refiling requirement. New applicants who think they qualify for this tax relief should inquire at the Assessor's Office.

In addition to this State property tax relief program, the Town of Bethany has adopted a local option property tax relief program at the February 7, 2000 Special Town Meeting. Those applicants who qualify for the State of Connecticut property tax relief program can also apply for the Town program. Those taxpayers who are already on the program and are required to refile, will be notified by mail.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2018

Mario J. Panagrosso Assessor for the Town of Bethany