

Bethany Seniority
February 2017

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Being Held Wednesday March 8th!

Pots of Gold

if the truth be told,

are simply tales

left over from yore

However,

you will be sure to find

a ton of

of friends and fun at our St. Patty's Day Celebration, on Wednesday March 8, 2017 luncheon will be served at 12 Noon in the Bethany Town Hall Gymnasium. The menu is....Corned Beef, Cabbage, Carrots, Rye Bread and Cake. The cost is \$5.00 cost effective so you won't need to bring your pot of gold. No pre payment, payable at the door. R.S.V.P. with Jeanne DeIVecchio by calling 203 393-2100 Ext. 124. You do not have to be a Bethany resident, so bring your favorite lad or lassie or even your leprechaun. No take out available.

Get Free Help with Your Tax Return-Sponsored by AARP Foundation offered in conjunction with the IRS.

AARP Tax-Aide is a free program that provides income tax preparation assistance for low and middle-income taxpayers of all ages.

What to Bring All taxpayers should have with them the following information:

If married, both husband and wife should be present during an income tax counseling session.

Taxpayers must bring all the documents that have been received that apply to their 2016 income taxes including:

Copies of 2016 income tax forms.

Social Security or Individual Taxpayer ID numbers for all household members and personal identification.

A check routing number for all direct deposit refund request.

All documents that relate to deductible expenses.

All 2016 income report forms that have been received:

SSA-1099, Social Security Benefit Statement or RRB-1099-R, US Railroad Retirement Board forms.

All 1099-R (1099-INT, 1099-OID, 1099-DIV, 1099-R, 1099-B, 1099-S, 1099-MISC).

W-2, Wage and Tax Statement forms.

W-2G, Certain Gambling Winnings forms.

Original cost of assets sold during 2016.

Who to Call for an appointment Call 203 393-2100 ext. 351 a certified AARP Tax-Aide counselor will call you back so you can obtain additional information or schedule an appointment with. You do not have to be a Bethany resident. You do not have to be a AARP member. You do not have to be a "senior". So pass along this information.

Where to Go Free income tax assistance is provided at the Janice von Beren Senior Center located on the ground level of the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, Bethany CT.

The Tax-Aide will begin on Tuesday February 7, 2017 and every subsequent Tuesday until April 11, 2017. Appointments are from 9:00AM to 1:00PM.

I want to thank Ms. Joan Bettencourt, and Ms. Cheryl Watt for their volunteer work with the Tax Aide Program.

Veteran's Calling All Veteran's VFW Post 2448

Your meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning 7 P.M., at Lakeview Lodge, 265 Beacon Road, Bethany. Your attendance is requested. Membership drive is always opened

Brought You by the VFW Beletzky-Hoppe Post 2448

When you come by the Town Hall on the landing before you enter into the business offices on the left hand side you will find a "storage bin" where you can place your American Flag that is no longer a fitting emblem for display. The storage bin is clearly marked for its purpose. When the storage bin is full, a proper flag retirement ceremony will take place. The Town Hall is opened Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 4:30PM except for holidays. Thank you to Art Slicer who comes by and checks constantly on the storage bin. Keep up the good service that you provide Art, and also to our community who are dropping off the American Flags.

Bethany Lions Club Distributes Eyeglass collection boxes

Their mission is services for visually impaired. One part of this mission to collect usable eyeglasses that are then distributed to the people in need. The Bethany Lions Club has distributed to various locations in our Town eyeglass collection boxes. You will find a collection box on my bulletin board shelf. You'll recognize the collection boxes at the schools and our local businesses. A more comprehensive list will follow.

If you're unable to come to a drop off location, you may contact Lion Clark Hurlburt at 203-444-4469, he will accommodate and pick them up at your convenience, now how's that for service? I see that our Town citizens are leaving usable eyeglasses in our collection box, what can I say? I know what I can say, Thank you, and keep them coming!

Energy Assistance Program

Appointments are being scheduled for Bethany residents for the 2016-2017 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Verification of income, assets which includes but not limited to last bank statement(s), checks(s), copies of pay stubs, tips, workman's compensation (documentation of gross income for the last 4 weeks prior to the application date, social security benefits, utility bill, a statement from your heating source vendor, pension current monthly, unemployment printout, alimony/child support, interest/dividends, if you are self-employed, food stamp award notice, rental income, signed and dated statement from friends/relatives contributing to your household stating amount and frequency. Bring social security cards for all household members. Dates of birth, documented verification of any disability. Current rent receipt. No income tax return statements will be accepted as proof of income. Applications cannot be approved without a current electric bill.

Understand these are not my rules, this is dictated by Federal/State guidelines. I do not determine eligibility. Your application is forwarded to TEAM in Derby Connecticut.

Eligibility for benefits is based on the households' total annual gross income, household size, and liquid assets. Liquid assets are defined as those assets that are readily convertible to cash such as savings/checking accounts, bonds, stocks, certificates of deposit, annuities and if applicable individual retirement accounts.

It will be TEAM to notify you if you need to submit additional paper work, or if your household has been approved or denied via mail. I do not determine eligibility, TEAM intake workers determine eligibility.

I will help you get through the paper work; give me at least one hour depending on individual applications. I cannot take appointments on Wednesdays. Call me at 203 393-2100 Ext. 124 to make an appointment. I will send you via mail or e-mail the list of documents you need to bring in prior to your appointment.

Home visits are available to homebound persons. Here's my e-mail address

idelvecchio@bethany-ct.com.

You may call TEAM for further questions at 203 736-5420 their office hours are: 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

The Heating Assistance Program Overview

Provide financial assistance to help households defray the cost of heating their home, does not pay for entire winter heating. Last day that a household can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits is May 1st.

Payments made directly to vendors on behalf of clients, Vendors must be on State pre-approved vendor list, clients must have an account with vendor before ordering fuel.

Assistance with electric (if that's your household heating method), oil, kerosene, propane. State program CEAP (CT Energy Assistance Program is funded by Federal LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

CEAP Award Levels: Basic, Crisis, Safety Net (must qualify for), Deliverables only

Operation Fuel-Provides one-time emergency energy assistance in a 12 month period to households in crisis.

Operation Fuel: Utility Assistance: Households must make at least 4 payments in a 12 month period to their utility company, of these payment, 1 must be between November 1- May 1st.

Deliverable Assistance-Not available if household received CEAP Safety Net.

Any questions regarding the programs please contact TEAM 203 736-5420.

Home visit will be made for those who are homebound. Call 203 393-2100 Ext. 124.

February

Wednesday February 1st, Chili and Corn bread, dessert

Wednesday February 8th, Baked potato bar and dessert

Wednesday February 15th, Pizza, and dessert

Wednesday February 22nd, Chicken & rice casserole.

The menu is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Lunch is served at 12Noon in the Janice von Beren Senior Center located at the Bethany Town Hall, ground level and is handicapped accessible.

The cost is still only \$3.00 payable at the door.

R.S.V.P. is requested by calling 203 393-2100 ext. 124 no later than Monday.

Town Hall will be closed on Monday February 20, 2017 in observation of Presidents' Day.

There will be no Senior Bus transportation.

Worthy of Marking your calendar for

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12th

First Day of Spring March 20th

Game Day Super Bowl 51 Sunday February 5th being held at the NRG Stadium Houston Texas. Kick Off 6:30 PM, ET. Lady Gaga will head line half time entertainment. If you've never tuned in to Lady Gaga, one should, she did a duo with Tony Bennett. I will admit, she is a bit flashy, but what a voice.

I've come up with three easy appetizers for you to prepare for Super Bowl 51. These apps have been kitchen tested and tasted by me. They lasted on the dishes oh about 5 minutes. I'm such a party animal.

Fire Crackerz

1/2 cup canola oil

1 (1-oz) package Ranch dressing mix

3-5 tsp red pepper flakes

1 (13.7oz) box Cheez-Its

Preheat oven to 250.

In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients. Spread crackers on large rimmed baking sheet. **Bake** for 15-20 minutes, stirring halfway through. Cool and store in resealable bag.

Cranberry and Feta Pinwheels

Ingredients

¾ cup dried sweetened cranberries
1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, room temperature
¾ cup crumbled feta cheese
¼ cup chopped green onion
2 large flour tortillas, wheat or spinach for pretty color

Instructions

Combine all ingredients except tortillas, mix well.
Divide and spread mixture evenly among tortillas.
Roll up tightly, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least one hour.
To serve cut each roll into 12 slices.

Roast Beef Stackers

Ingredients

Club style Crackers or your favorite party cracker
Roast beef (a few slices will do) sliced on the thin side, because you will be rolling them up.
Creamy horseradish sauce (Is this stuff good), promise.
Sweet Baby gherkin pickles

Instructions

Roll each slice of roast beef, cut at least four rounds.
Put a round on each club crackers with the roast beef round, dollop horseradish sauce and top it with the baby gherkin pickle. To hold it all together, use sandwich picks.
Can be made ahead of time and placed in the refrigerator until serving.
I didn't give you quantities because it depends on how many you want to make. So do what I do, eyeball it. Each piece of roast beef will give you at least four sliced rounds.
Tip: Have the roast beef slices thin enough.
The combination of the roast beef, creamy horseradish and the sweet baby gherkin pickle makes a tasty combination. Easy takes minutes to make.

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, 2017 thru May 16th, 2017.

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, 2016 and meet certain income guidelines.

Those guidelines require that annual income for single people, including Social Security benefits, should not exceed \$35,200. Married couples can be eligible if their income, including Social Security benefits, does not exceed \$42,900.

Applicants should bring all proof of their 2016 income including a copy of their 2016 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, 2017

Mario J. Panagrosso, Assessor for the Town of Bethany

Additional Veterans and Local Veterans Exemption Notice Issued

ADDITIONAL VETERANS AND LOCAL VETERANS EXEMPTION- The additional veteran's and local veteran's exemptions are available to qualified veterans who meet certain income requirements. These two programs provide an increase in assessment reduction beyond the standard veteran exemption. The deadline for filing applications is October 2, 2017. Applicants must meet an income requirement of not more than \$42,900 if married and \$35,200 if single to qualify for the State of Connecticut Additional Veteran's Program. The income limits for the Town of Bethany Local Option Additional Veterans Exemption are \$60,200 for single persons and \$67,900 for married couples. Income includes adjusted gross income plus any other income, including Social Security benefits. Income is based upon the 2016 calendar year. Federal Income Tax returns and/or proof of all income must be presented to the Assessor's office which is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please remember that proof of all income, including Social Security benefits (Form SSA-1099) for the 2016 calendar year must be submitted by October 2, 2017 or the application cannot be processed.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Assessor's office with any questions or concerns regarding this program.

Mario Panagrosso, Assessor

Dated January 4, 2017

Rules of Chocolate

Never eat more chocolate than you can lift.

Chocolate is the answer and the question is irrelevant.

Have a chocolate bar before each meal; it will take the edge off your appetite and you will eat less. Yeah right.

If at first you don't succeed, have a little chocolate.

Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today and at least you'll get one thing done.

A little to much chocolate is just about right.

If you have melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it to

Slowly. Happy Valentines Day (jpd).

