

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 12

www.bethany-ct.com

December 2024

REMINDER

Town Hall Offices, the Public Works Department and the Recycling Center will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday and on Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

From the First Selectman's Desk November Highlights and December Notes

Dear Bethany Residents,

PLEASE REMEMBER – NO outdoor fires are allowed until further notice. The fire danger is still extreme, and the Governor's ban is still in place. Since the fire ban has been put into effect, we have responded to several illegal burns. The common excuse has been "I didn't know!" The State has us tracking these fires now as well. At the time this Bulletin was being prepared, there were currently approximately 82 fires being monitored around the State.



Once again Mother Nature never ceases to amaze us with temperatures ranging from seasonal to a repeat of last October with temperatures near and in the 80's for Halloween and reaching into early November. Post Halloween, November was a relatively quick month, and depending on when you receive this Bulletin I hope everyone has/had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and has/had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

Following 14 days of early voting, the official election date took place on Tuesday November 5th. The total of those voters taking advantage of early voting was 1,842. Registered voters taking part on the traditional Tuesday totaled 1,562. It was an early start for our Registrars, Deputy Registrars and all the poll workers and volunteers. Even with many taking advantage of early voting, it was a very steady flow all day. Thank you to all for your dedication to the process. It was a very long day for everyone. The full results can be found in the Bulletin.

Quick summary: There are now a total of 4,192 registered voters in town, and 3603 names were checked off as having voted for early voting, absentee ballot, same-day registration and on November 5th. There were 166 absentee ballots and 72 Same-Day Registrations totaling 238. Of the absentee ballots four (4) were rejected for not being properly completed. There were 32 spoiled ballots the day of the election due to being incorrectly completed by the voter and a request made for a replacement ballot. Bethany had an 85.9% voter turnout.

At a rescheduled Special Board of Selectmen

meeting on November 6th, the Board voted to reconstitute the Housing Advisory Committee. Alex Hutchinson, a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, and a previous member and Chair of the Advisory Committee, asked for the opportunity to discuss the re-establishment of the Housing Advisory Committee that was originally created by the BOS in the Winter/Spring of 2021. This original committee worked under a State of Connecticut Department of Housing grant under a specific timeframe. The purpose of the Advisory Committee was "to study the issue of affordable housing on a local, regional and statewide basis and to provide recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission with regard to the creation and adoption of the Bethany Affordable Housing Plan". The Housing Plan was required to be included in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development by Section 8-30j of State Statutes and was adopted by the Commission.

The reason for re-establishing the Housing Advisory Committee now is to again serve as a resource to the Planning and Zoning Commission in its ongoing mission to develop, enforce and modify land-use and zoning policies related to housing needs within the Town and to monitor State mandates and the potential impact on the Town. All decision-making authority would remain with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Hutchinson was joined by Town Planner, Hiram Peck, and the former Chair of the P&Z Com-

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Submit stories, events, calendar dates, press releases, inquiries, advertisements, etc. to the

BethanyBulletin@bethany-ct.com

Please hand deliver or mail all advertisements' payments and make checks payable to the Town Clerk's office located at 40 Peck Road, Bethany, CT 06524.

Deadline is the 15th of the previous month.

First Selectman's Desk

continued from front page

mission, Kim Brinton. Mr. Hutchinson also noted that he would be happy to be a spokesperson for the Committee to continue to keep the Board of Selectmen updated.

Veterans Day was recognized in the schools again this year with in-house activities. BCS organized two separate sessions, The assembly for the younger students in grades K-3 had veteran speakers. The assembly for students in grades 4-6 had student speakers who honored those veterans in attendance.

Monday, November 11th, the Amity Middle School Bethany Campus held its Veterans Day recognition. They hosted several veterans throughout the school day in the school's Media Center. The veterans who represented were: James Scott, Matt Edwards, Tom Norton, Jim Scott, and Alex Budzinski. The veterans presented to the students during their Social Studies classes. Principal Jason Tracy shared the following with me: Presenters shared their stories of service and provided the students with some perspective on the meaning of service to our country. The presenters took time to answer the many questions the students had and were impressed with the students' attention and respect they showed the guest speakers. The students left better educated about the commitments these heroes made and just what it takes to protect our freedoms. Following the presentations, students wrote letters of thanks in their academic success classes.

As always, thank you again to our veterans for your service. Thank you to the men and women actively serving now who keep us safe and free every day.

Mother Nature provided an absolutely beautiful day for a race on Sunday, November 17th. Thank you to Asst. Chief Ciccarelli for providing some highlights. The Bethany Vol. Firemen's Assoc. and The Bethany Athletic Association held the Bethany Fall 5K Road Race. This event was in honor of the 90th anniversary celebrations of both organizations, that were both established in October of 1934. There were 242 participants running in the event, over 100 spectators and countless volunteers. Stephen Fengler won the men's division with a time of 17:35 and Elizabeth Fengler won the women's division with a time of 20:20.7. There were multiple certificates also awarded for age categories. Runners ranged in age from 6 to 79 years old. The BVFD and BAA would like to thank the volunteers and sponsors for their contributions in making this day a success. They hope to make this an annual event for our town. A special thanks goes to the Delta Company of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion of the Army Reserves. They had 19 members of their unit assist and run in the event. They then spent the afternoon with Fire Department leadership learning about the function of the department within the Town. Topics included training, budgeting, recruitment, and interaction with our community and the ones around us. Pictures and full results from the event will be posted the Fire Department Facebook page in the coming

days.

Thank you to The Bethany Volunteer Fire Department and The Bethany Athletic Association for sponsoring such a great community event, and congratulations on your milestone anniversaries serving the Town of Bethany.

On Wednesday, November 20th, a wonderful Thanksgiving meal was provided to seniors by reservation as a take-out event. The Great Turkey Take-Out Thanksgiving Dinner was hosted by our Human Services Department. The feast was prepared by Jewish Senior Services. Approximately 75 seniors enjoyed roast turkey with gravy, cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, whole green beans with roasted red peppers, and a dinner roll, topped off with a slice of pumpkin pie. The lobby was decorated with colorful turkey blowups. Thank you to Robin Glowa and her assistant, Emily Richard, for organizing such a wonderful event.

As you may be aware, electricity rates will be on the rise again. Shop for the best rate. Go to energizect.com for the list of suppliers: <https://energizect.com/rate-board/compare-energy-supplier-rates>. Check Eversource Residential, then Search and Compare Rates. Click on View Offer Details for a supplier. Read each supplier's details carefully. Some charge an enrollment fee. Some do not. Some lock you into a set number of months. Others may allow more flexibility. Contact individual suppliers if you have any questions to confirm offers, terms, and conditions before enrolling. Suppliers may not charge cancellation fees to residential customers.

An early reminder about recycling during the holiday season: Holiday gift wrap and gift bags should be considered curbside municipal solid waste and NOT recyclable mixed paper. You can check www.recyclect.com for a list of "what's in/what's out" for recyclables (Click on Get to Know Recycling).

Please note: Town Hall offices, the Public Works Department and the Recycling Center will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday, and Wednesday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

Check the Bulletin for more information:
Santa is coming to Town on December 17th.

***WISHING EVERYONE A VERY
SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND AN EARLY WISH
FOR A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!***



and



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL – BETHANY CAMPUS**



Each year, schools across the country are ranked by US News & World Report, and for each state schools are assessed on the number of students who scored proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments. The top-ranked schools are all high-achieving and have succeeded at educating all their students.

This year AMSB was ranked the #8 middle school in the state of Connecticut thanks to the hard work of the students and the dedication of the amazing teachers. Considering the financial resources of the towns who scored above us, this ranking is even more impressive!

You can read the full ranking here:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/middle-schools/connecticut>



Prospect Memorial

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Funeral Home



Kimberly, RN, LEFD

122 Waterbury Rd.
Prospect, CT 06712
(203) 758-6008

www.prospectmemorial.com



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APPAREL**



TACK

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From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Community Member,

As the holiday season approaches, it is a cherished tradition to pause and reflect on all we have to be thankful for, and to look forward to the joy of gathering with loved ones.



In this season of gratitude, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible support and generosity of the Bethany Community School (BCS) community. I am continually inspired by those who selflessly give of their time and resources to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

At BCS, we strive to nurture this spirit of giving in our students. This November, our students, families and staff demonstrated remarkable generosity through a food drive to benefit the Food Pantry, ensuring that many in need will have meals to share this season. The BCS Leadership Council also planned a deeply moving Veterans' Day ceremony to honor our community veterans and organized our first-ever "Ruby Bridges Walk to School" event, fostering meaningful dialogue and reflection.

As December unfolds, the momentum of goodwill remains strong at BCS. The Student Leadership Council will sponsor our annual Holiday Toy Drive, collecting donations in

the school's main lobby for families in need. Our talented students will also spread cheer by performing for our seniors at their holiday luncheon. The collective efforts of our teachers, staff, students, and families in supporting these initiatives are truly humbling, and I am in awe of the generosity that defines our community.

Looking ahead, our commitment to responsible stewardship continues as we prepare the 2025-2026 budget. We are carefully evaluating salary and benefit obligations, curriculum enhancements, class sizes, staffing needs, and programming, while remaining mindful of the economic realities facing our town and state. Our goal is to propose a budget that is both fiscally responsible and meets the educational needs of all our students.

On behalf of the Bethany Board of Education and the entire BCS community, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a joyful holiday season. May the New Year bring you health, happiness, and continued success.

Thank you for your steadfast support of the children of Bethany and their education, a gift that truly keeps on giving.

With gratitude,
Kai Byrd
Superintendent
Bethany Community School

Check it Out! ***December 2024*** ***Clark Memorial Library***

Visit with Santa!

Thursday, December 5 4:30-6:30 PM

The Bethany Lions Club will be bringing everyone's favorite Holiday Elves to the library on December 5th from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Join members of the Lions Club and your favorite Librarians at the makerspace table.

Arts@Clark! and Bethany Land Trust Historical Boundary Rock Exhibit

Come see the historical boundary stone once used to mark the site where Bethany, Naugatuck, and Prospect meet. The ancient stone is engraved with dates and initials and was originally located at the top of a steep ravine marking where the boundaries of Bethany, Prospect and Naugatuck converge in the Bethany Land Trust's Three Sisters Preserve. This famous Rock will be on display in the Library's first floor exhibit case during the months of December and January.

Let it Snow!

Help us welcome winter by making snowflakes and

winter decorations. The Children's Room will have a crafting area open every day from December 10 – 31. Make one for the library and one to take home! For all ages, everyday.

Bethany Library Association Annual Drive

As an Association Library, we are a non-profit that depends on the generosity of our community.

Your gift will mean so much to the financial stability of this beloved institution.

The Annual Pledge Card may be downloaded at

<http://bethanylibrary.org>

With Gratitude,

The Bethany Library Association



Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed 12/24 and 12/25 and will re-open on Wednesday 12/27.



**Happy Holidays
from the Library Staff**

*Gayle, Jean, Antonio, Dorothy, Dottie,
Deborah, Donna & Tracey*

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

December 2024

"Good tidings we bring to you and your kin"

Bethany Town Hall will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26 for Christmas and Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

No Senior Bus Transportation on December 25th or January 1st.

SENIOR LUNCH!

Senior Lunch is held every Wednesday at Noon at Bethany Town Hall Reservations Required by the Wednesday prior by calling 203-393-2100 x1124

\$9.00 per person.

(Please pay in exact cash when you arrive)

(Includes salad or soup, entrée, starch, vegetable, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.)

DECEMBER ENTREES

- DEC. 4: NO LUNCH
DEC. 6: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
(Prior reservation was required by November 22)
DEC 11: HOLIDAY BINGO & LUNCH
from NARDELLI'S-sponsored
by Opal Stork Home Care
DEC. 18: HOLIDAY FILM FESTIVAL &
COOKIES
DEC. 25: NO LUNCH
JAN. 1: NO LUNCH

FREE VIRTUAL VISIT and CRAFT CHRISTMAS in GERMANY!

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services

Monday, December 16th
11:00 AM

Bethany Senior Room

Join us as we travel to Germany to see all the sights and sounds of the holiday season!

We will also learn to craft gorgeous paper stars!

Reserve your seat by December 2nd
Seating is Limited
203-393-2100 x1124

FREE HOLIDAY FILM FESTIVAL with Homemade Christmas Cookies!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
11:00 AM
Center Station

"WHITE CHRISTMAS"

This amusing and touching holiday classic stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen

Reserve your seat by December 10th
203-393-2100 x1124

SAVE THE DATE!

FREE AAA SENIOR SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services and South Central Regional Council of Governments

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025
10 AM -2 PM

Bethany Senior Center

RSVP by January 2, 2025
203-393-2100 x1124

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR BETHANY RESIDENTS

Christ Church Bethany and Woodbridge is offering Bethany residents contactless, front-door delivery of nonperishable goods. Contact Christ Church at 203-393-3399. Leave your name and phone number.

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Eversource has programs that may help.

Call 800-286-2828 or visit [Eversource.com/BillHelp](https://www.eversource.com/BillHelp) to find out if you qualify for Protection from Shutoff, Medical Protection or Matching Payment Programs. Eversource also offers Home Energy Solutions at 1-877-947-3873.

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Fall Educational Program: “Don’t Attract Bears”

Felicia A. E. Ortner, Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist, presented an educational program called “The Bear Reality” to a packed house at the Lakeview Lodge in November. Ortner has been studying bears for over 30 years. Her passion for bears inspired her to create an educational program called, “The Bear Reality.” Her intent was to dispel misunderstandings about bears and discuss strategies for coexistence with humans and bears.

Ortner said that there are currently eight species of bears across four continents, but the only bear species found wild in Connecticut is the American black bear. Black bears can grow to be four to seven feet tall and adult males can weigh anywhere from 125 to 500 pounds. They also happen to have good vision, hearing that exceeds human frequency ranges, an incredible sense of smell, and the ability to run more than 30 miles per hour.

Even though bears are known to hibernate throughout the winter, they will leave the den on warmer winter days in search of food. Ortner stressed how important it is for people to never intentionally attract bears. This will prevent the majority of unwelcome encounters with bears.

Any food or garbage outside should be relocated, removed, or secured to reduce the chance of bears being drawn to yards looking for nourishment. Ortner recommended to keep garbage cans clean and secure inside a garage or shed and not to leave pet food or feed for wildlife outside. Additionally, if people still want to continue to have bird feeders in their yards, they should at least be moved to a spot away from the house.

Bethany Land Trust Monthly Hikes

The series of monthly guided hikes this past year has been a resounding success with over 100 hikers joining our guides. The hikes were designed to introduce residents to some of the Land Trust preserves and to identify unique features that make those preserves very special places in town.

On our last hike for 2024 in November, Ali Beres-Nork, an Environmental Science teacher at Amity High School who has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science from Montana State University, served as the guide. Participants hiked through the very active beaver habitat

in Mendell’s Folly with three beaver lodges seen in the pond. Evidence of beaver activity was seen along the trail. Hikers visited a beaver dam, where they learned about the installation of the beaver flow system that helps maintain beaver pond water levels.

Save the Dates:

New Year’s First Day Hike – Wednesday, January 1, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Kicking off our planned series of hikes for 2025 will be a New Year Day afternoon hike through the Hidden Brook Preserve, the most recent Land Trust acquisition. Details to be posted soon on our website, Facebook page and in next month’s Bethany Bulletin.

Three Sisters Preserve Boundary Stone Display in Clark Memorial Library – December & January

Come see the historical boundary stone once used to mark the site where Bethany, Naugatuck, and Prospect meet at the top of a ravine in the Bethany Land Trust’s Three Sisters Preserve. The stone, once lost but now returned, will be on display in the library’s first floor exhibit case during the months of December and January.

Bob Harrison
Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
WARECK D'OSTILIO

Selling?

I HAVE BUYERS WAITING!

Heidee Garcia Pestana
Bethany Resident

(203)543-9408
 hgarciapestana@houlihanlawrence.com
 378 Amity Rd, Woodbridge, CT. 06525

It Happened In Bethany

The Russell Family Homestead

By Linda Wooster

In 2005, a weathered red farmhouse with white trim, which had sheltered five generations of Russell's for over 200 years, and others before them, began a new chapter in its long and eventful history. Hill Top Farm, which hugs the land on a gentle rise on Round Hill Road near Amity Road, in Bethany, was donated to the Bethany Historical Society by Ernie and Mary Russell, with the support of other family members. The homestead included the barns and other outbuildings and fields.

Preserving the farmstead was important according to Town Historian Robert Brinton Sr. "so future generations could have some tangible connection with our agricultural past" and Bethany's own long rural history. The society planned to maintain the farm to enhance the experience for visitors.

"We know exactly what was on the farm from early tax records," Brinton explained. Daniel Russell, Ernie's great-great grandfather, purchased the property from Hezekiah Sperry in 1804. Five generations of Russell's lived and worked on the farm. All twelve children of Ernie's generation were born and raised at the homestead.

Hill Top Farm was the last home to Ernie Russell's sister Henrietta, who lived there until her death in May 1994 at age 90. Family furnishings, mementos and old photographs filled every nook and cranny of the small two-story house. The house had four small upstairs bedrooms, an attic under the eaves, a basement and sub-basement, where perishables like butter were stored.

The farmstead was originally a subsistence economic unit. This self-sufficient type of agriculture was changed when dairy farming and poultry raising provided the major cash crop for farmers. That change was evidenced by the addition of the large cow barn which would accommodate more than a family cow or cows and the construction of the two-story chicken house to hold a large flock of chickens.

The large number of canned goods preserved in the basement of the farmhouse to this day illustrate past production of food directly from the land.

In 2005, Ruby Russell DeCosta remembered that when she was about 8 years old, her uncle, a carpenter, offered to renovate the house. Her parents resisted, but finally gave in sometime in the 1920's, much to Ruby's disapproval. "It changed so much. I was born in the small bedroom out there," she said, pointing to an area of the

kitchen.... She said a window in the kitchen was half in one room and half in another."

Ruby also recalled a large fireplace that was once in the basement. "We used to cook in the fireplace downstairs... It had a warming oven, and there were fireplaces in every room." The remodel changed all of that.

The home still had a sub-basement that was the family's freezer in the summer. The canning room in the basement still had shelves full of fruits in mason jars.

The Historical Society continues to maintain the house, outbuildings, and fields to enable visitors to experience agricultural life in the mid-1950s.

BETHANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Holiday Tree Lighting

**Sunday
December 1
6:00pm**

**Russell Homestead
20 Round Hill Road
Bethany, CT**



A Historical Walk-Through Bethany

The Clark Memorial Library and Bethany Historical Society are creating a visual exhibit highlighting the everyday life of Bethany residents throughout the decades. The exhibit will feature photos shared by the community which will be displayed for all people to "walk through," by decade at the Library's Community Room in January.

*We will scan your photos at the Library on:
Thursday, December 5th, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

TOWN OF BETHANY

GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT 4:30PM
BETHANY TOWN HALL**

FOOD - DRINKS - MUSIC - GAMES



Sustainable Bethany

No. 48. Letter from Sustainable Bethany, Winterizing Tips, Book, December Night Skies, NORAD, Upcoming

This is our last newsletter of the year. We hope you have had the opportunity to read some of books we recommended. They have spanned the space from nuclear power to electrical infrastructure and the state of waste in our world. We also hope you have gotten a chance to look into the night sky and marvel at the glories of the universe as well as bask in the magnificence of a full solar eclipse. We look forward to providing you with more inciteful reading next year, as well as providing you with tips to live more sustainably.

Winterizing Tips: To save energy while staying cozy, here are few tips.

1. Reverse ceiling fans to push warm air down
2. Set water-heater to 120-140°F
3. Seal around windows, doors, and fireplace(s) as needed
4. Use LED bulbs for holiday lights. They use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs
5. At night drop thermostat temperature, add extra blankets and down comforters on beds
6. Use south-facing windows to add sun-warmth to rooms
7. Use rugs to insulate floors
8. Close closet and unused room doors to conserve heat in active living space
9. Wear layers of clothing
10. Have winter storm essentials e.g., candles, batteries, water bottles, non-perishable food, and multipurpose hand crank radio.
11. In the car have a flashlight, candle and matches, emergency mylar blanket, snacks, folding snow shovel, ice scraper, multi-tool, cat-litter, tissues, wool socks, mittens, and hat.

Book: Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet by Hannah Ritchie Let's end the year on a hopeful note. Hannah Ritchie looks at the environmental issues facing us from a macroscopic perspective, and clearly describes the progress that has been made. She provides historical context for the data and debunks some of the headline-grabbing doomsday predictions. She clearly describes issues arising from air pollution, climate change, deforestation, food security, biodiversity loss, ocean plastic pollution and overfishing and provides data showing how to recover from or live with the environment we have created. By outlining what works and doesn't, she constructs a pathway to follow. Once again, she reminds us that the future is in our hands.

Not the End of the World is available at Clark Memorial Library. If you have recommendations about books that you think others should read, let us know at the email address below.



December Night Skies: For those who do not have sky charts, the best way to locate planets is to know when they are close to the Moon.

December 4. The Moon and Venus will make a close approach. The Moon will be 3 days old. The pair will become visible around 4:41 PM. They will then sink towards the horizon, setting 3 hours after the Sun at 7:28. Both objects will lie in the constellation Sagittarius.

December 6. Jupiter's orbit around the Sun carries it closest to the Earth, its perigee. Currently, the Sun, Earth, and Jupiter lie in a straight line. Consequently, Jupiter appears almost exactly opposite the Sun, a configuration called opposition -- when Jupiter reaches its highest point in the sky at midnight and visible for much of the night. It will be visible between 5:09 PM and 6:21 AM.

December 8. The Moon and Saturn make a close approach. They will be visible in the evening sky, becoming accessible from 5:02 PM until 10:03 PM.

December 14. The Moon and Jupiter will make a close approach. The pair will be visible in the evening sky between 4:41 PM until 5:45 AM.

December 18. The Moon and Mars will make a close approach. The pair will be visible beginning around 7:59 PM until 6:49 AM.

December 17 to December 26. The Ursid meteor shower will be active, producing its peak rate of meteors on December 22. Ursid meteors will radiate from in the constellation Ursa Minor e.g., the Little Dipper when it's above the horizon, with the number of visible meteors increasing the higher constellation is in the sky.

In 1955, NORAD began to track another celestial "flying object". Pilots across the world on December 24 tune in to find where he and his four-legged companions are. If spotted they tip their wings in salute as they fly by. Go to www.noradsanta.org for more details.

Upcoming Events:

The Woodbridge and Bethany Sustainability committees are co-hosting monthly lectures. Next lecture is Saturday, December 14 at 3:00 at the Woodbridge Library. With the holiday season upon us, the topic will be Gift Up Cycling. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year Everyone!

Gale Ridge

Co-Chair Sustainable Bethany

Michael Kaloyanides and Eric Frieden contributors.

sustainablebethany@gmail.com

Recycle Center hours: Tuesday-Saturday 7:30AM-3:00PM.

Bulky Waste Appointments: (203) 393-1555.

Who is Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD)?

QVHD is Bethany's Health Department. QVHD serves the towns of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge. Their website contains information about QVHD programs; highlights health issues of importance; contains links to local, state and national public health resources; and provides access to QVHD forms, applications and guidelines for services geared to improving the health of the community.

The mission of Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is to protect the residents of Bethany, Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge, Connecticut from disease, injury and environmental health hazards through prevention, education, enforcement and collaboration. The website is a wealth of information regarding Community Health, Environmental Health, and Inspections and Licensing.

Visit www.qvhd.org for more information.

Advisory Housing Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Board of Selectmen has approved the re-constitution of this advisory committee. The reason for re-establishing the Housing Advisory Committee now is to again serve as a resource to the Planning & Zoning Commission in its ongoing mission to develop, enforce and modify land-use and zoning policies related to housing needs within the Town and to monitor State mandates and the potential impact on the Town. All decision-making authority will remain with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Housing Committee, please send a letter of interest to Planning & Zoning Chair Nancy Held-Sheehe at townofbethany@bethany-ct.com.

Please submit your letter by Friday, December 13, 2024.

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

December 3rd	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
December 4th	Planning and Zoning Commission	7:00PM
December 9th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
December 9th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
December 10th	Board of Finance	6:30PM
December 11th	BCS Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
December 11th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
December 12th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
December 16th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
December 19th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM

*Meetings may change, check:
<https://bethany-ct.com/virtual-bulletin-board>
for up-to-date information.*

TEAM TOYS 4 KIDS 2024

TEAM is seeking NEW toys for children ages newborn to 12 years old *Toys MOST needed: for age range 0-18 months and pre-teen girls*

You may also donate monetarily or shop on their Walmart Wish List and purchase toys that will be shipped directly to TEAM!

To donate online or shop the wish lists go to:
www.teaminc.org/toys4kids

TEAM Toys 4 Kids supports nearly 2,000 children from low-income families, right in local communities.

For more information or questions contact Lilly at:
lmckenzie@teaminc.org or (475) 223-2214.

TOY DONATIONS MAY ALSO BE LEFT IN THE BOX IN THE TOWN HALL LOBBY



INFORMATION REGARDING WEEKLY TRASH PICK-UP

You can sign up for text alerts – text BETHANY to 203-334-1660 to be added to their holiday and weather-related schedule change Alert System.

You can also sign up to receive email notifications on their website: <https://residentialwastesystems.com> If you need to email RWS, put BETHANY in the subject line.

Their email address is: info@residentialwastesystems.com.

NOTE: ALL CUSTOMERS, PLEASE HAVE YOUR TRASH OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR PICK UP DAY (EVEN IF IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY OR WEATHER-RELATED). STORING/SECURING YOUR TRASH IN PROPER BINS OR PAILS COULD HELP AVOID YOUR TRASH FROM BEING RUMMAGED THROUGH BY ANIMALS.

Residential Waste Systems Trash Pick Up Reminder

Christmas Day 2024: Wednesday/Thursday Pickups delayed one day

New Year's Day 2025: All Pickups delayed one day.

Calcagni

REAL ESTATE

Irma Nesson

ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR

Bethany Resident since 1972.

Multi-year recipient of Connecticut Magazine's Five Star Real Estate Agent Award.



203-671-1706

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Annual Christmas Bazaar
 Experience the Magic!!

Don't Miss Out on Our Exciting Raffle Baskets
 Annual Quilt Raffle (generously donated by the Bethany Quilters)
 Explore Over 20 Vendors for Your Holiday Shopping Needs
 Indulge in Dozens and Dozens of Delicious Cookies
 Savor Our Freshly Baked Goods
 Santa Will Be Here for Memorable Photos
 Enjoy a Scrumptious Breakfast and Lunch

Bethany First Church
 Dec 7/ 10-3pm
 511 Amity Rd./ Bethany Ct



BETHANY HOOPS

Bethany Parks & Recreation is excited to announce the return of our youth basketball league starting this December and January and running through mid-March.

These developmental programs help introduce players to the game, while they learn about sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy competition.

TEAMS & SCHEDULE:

K-1 Boys & Girls

(Beginners, clinic-style)

Monday 5:30-6:30 PM

\$100/season

Starts in January

Grades 2-3 Co-Ed

(Mostly clinic-style, no teams)

Tuesday 5:30-6:30 PM

Saturday 9:00-10:30 AM

\$150/season

Starts in January

Grades 4-6 Girls

(Teams rotate within the time block.
Games TBD with other towns)

Thursday 5:30-7:00 PM

Games TBD

\$100/season

Starts in December

Grades 4-6 Boys

(Teams rotate within practice during the week.
Scores kept for games. Tournament at the end
of the season)

Monday/Tuesday 6:45-8:15 PM

Saturday 10:45-12:15 or 12:30-

2:00

\$150/season

Starts in December

LOCATION:

Sessions will take place at Amity Middle School, Bethany. Enter through the far door on the right side of the building.

TO REGISTER, GO TO BETHANYCT.MYREC.COM

NO REFUNDS ONCE ENROLLED



BETHANY
Serving Since 1934
FIRE DEPT. 
Santa Delivery

It's that time of year again!

Sunday, December 22, 2024

The B.V.F.D. is helping Santa make an early trip through town.



- Gift drop-off at **BVFD Fire Headquarters, 765 Amity Rd., Bethany**, from **9 am to 12 pm**.
- Place **wrapped and labeled gifts** in the trunk of your car with the **attached form**
- Drive to the rear entrance of the building where someone will retrieve the gifts
- No need to sign up ahead of time

Deliveries will begin at 4 pm and usually finish around 8 pm

We CANNOT guarantee a delivery time.

For more information, please email events@bethanyfire.org



HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING PARTY
 Sponsored By Woodbridge

7th and 8th graders can create sweet treats with friends!
After school party December 6th, 2:30-4:00 PM.
at Amity Middle School, Bethany-West Cafeteria.
 All supplies included. Hot cocoa and snacks provided! \$15 per student. Fee and permission form are required by December 4th. Payment by check in advance.
 Contact Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3429 or via email at youthone@woodbridgect.org to register.

INFO FOR PUBLIC WORKS

For road/tree issues call:

475-238-6966

PW Hours: M-F 7a.m.-3p.m.

For recycling/bulk waste call:

203-393-1555

R/BW Hours:

Tues. - Sat. 7:30a.m.-3:00p.m.

BETHANY LIONS EVENTS

Bethany Lions Santa & Mrs. Claus

Bethany Lions Club is gearing up for the holidays! Join us and our partners in service our Librarian elves at the Clark Memorial Library on Thursday, December 5th from 4:30p.m. - 6:30p.m for photos (you can take with cell/camera) with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Plus, have fun at our makerspace table for some fun at the makerspace with our Lions & Elves!

Bethany Lions Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Our Annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 14th at Bethany Community School from 10a.m. - 3:00p.m. promotes small businesses - Shop local and often! Free shopping bag and choice of a free holiday oriented gift while supplies last! Breakfast and lunch for purchase from Not Just Blowin Smoke!

Bethany Lions Carol Time

One of our favorite service activities! Contact Carol and let her know who might need some holiday cheer this year with some songs, cookies and holiday love from the Bethany Lions. We invite you to join us on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. as we sing around town!

Contact Lion Carol at: crgoldberg@comcast.net or call (203) 772-5648 or message us through our Facebook page: [@bethanyclions](https://www.facebook.com/bethanyclions)

BETHANY LIONS
PHOTOS WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS AT THE LIBRARY!

Take Your Own Photos

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 5TH
CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
4:30 - 6:30 PM

The Bethany Lions Club will be bringing everyone's favorite Holiday Elves to the Library on December 5th from 4:30 - 6:30 PM. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and join members of the Lions Club and your local librarians at the makerspace table!

BETHANY LIONS
7TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

FREE VENDOR & SHOPPER GIFT (WHILE SUPPLY LASTS)

SHOP LOCAL!
ARTISANS,
AUTHOR
FOOD ARTISANS
CRAFTERS
VENDORS
FOOD TRUCK
GIFT VENDOR
RAFFLE AND
MORE!

14
DECEMBER
10:00 AM
- 3:00 PM

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Tally Numbers for 11/5/2024 Election
Column Titles and Party Labels for the Chart are as follows:

Column Titles:
A - Candidate Name
B - Ballot Position
C - Polls Tabulator
D - Polls Hand Count
E - AB Tabulator (Absentee Ballot)
F - AB Hand Count (Absentee Ballot)
G - EV Tabulator (Early Voting)
H - EV Hand Count (Early Voting)
I - SDR Tabulator (Same Day Registration)
J - Oversees (Federal Only)

Party Identification:
Dem – Democrat
Rep – Republican
Gre – Green Party
CGG – Cheap Gas & Groceries
Lib – Libertarian
PC – Petitioning Candidate
Unk – Unknown

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Totals
Question										
YES	-	602	3	107	3	1038	1	32	-	1786
NO	-	856	2	39	2	695	2	32	-	1628
Candidate										
Pres / VP	Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris/Walz	Dem	615	1	111	6	1027	1	26	1	1788
Trump/Vance	Rep	840	0	39	1	763	2	43	0	1688
Stein/Ware	Gre	21	1	1	0	11	0	3	0	37
Oliver/terMaat	Lib	12	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	18
Kennedy Jr. / Shanahan	PC	9	0	1	0	11	0	0	0	21
Sonski / Onak	Write-In	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
U.S. Senator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Murphy	Dem	570	1	106	6	986	1	21	1	1692
Murphy	Wkf	48	0	2	0	39	2	2	0	93
Murphy	Unk	7	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	23
Corey	Rep	810	1	38	1	727	0	33	0	1610
Paglino	Gre	15	1	3	0	11	0	3	0	33
Hyde	CGG	16	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	26
Rep. in Congress	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DeLauro	Dem	617	1	105	6	1039	1	22	1	1792
Massey	Rep	804	2	42	1	731	0	35	0	1615
Massey	Ind	36	0	2	0	19	0	0	0	57
Massey	Unk	1		0	0	6	0	0	0	7
Omar	Write-In	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
State Senator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabrera	Dem	628	1	105	5	1026	1	27	-	1793
Cabrera	Wkf	125	0	7	0	86	0	0	-	224
Cabrera	Ind	111	0	7	0	97	0	5	-	220
Cabrera	Unk	10	0	0	0	16	0	1	-	27
State Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zupkus	Rep	1106	1	77	2	1090	1	48	-	2325
Judge of Probate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolan	Dem	843	3	116	4	1169	1	35	0	2162

NOTE FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

Please be advised that Webster Bank will no longer be accepting January or July tax payments at their branch. This change has been implemented at the request of our auditors to bring the department into compliance.

We kindly ask that payments be made at the towns website www.bethany-ct.com (No fee for ACH payments), in the Tax Office during the hours of 8:30 – 4:00, or mail checks to: Bethany Town Hall, Attn: Tax Collector, 40 Peck Road, Bethany, CT 06524.

As a reminder – Supplemental Motor Vehicle, the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on January 1, 2025. The last day to pay without interest is February 3, 2025. No bills will be mailed out for second installments of Real Estate and Personal Property. Please provide your bill number with your payment.

Linda Bates, Tax Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

The second installment of the Bethany Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, and the full amount of Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes on the 2023 Grand List are due and payable on January 1, 2025. Mail payments to Bethany Tax Collector, 40 Peck Rd, Bethany CT 06524. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 3, 2025, to avoid interest.

All payments remaining unpaid after February 3, 2024 will be charged interest from January 1, 2025, at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per installment. SS 12-146 Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. SS 12-130

Payments may also be made at the Tax Collector's Office M-F 8:30 to 4:00, or online at www.bethany-ct.com. Supply a self-addressed stamped envelope if you require a receipt mailed back to you. Credit Card payments will require a 2.5% bank fee to be paid by the taxpayer. There is no fee for EFT payments online. Back taxes on Motor Vehicles must be paid with cash, bank check or credit/debit card IN PERSON for immediate DMV registration release.

Linda Bates, Tax Collector



REMINDER FROM THE RECYCLING CENTER

During the Holiday Season: Holiday Gift wrap and gift bags should be considered curbside municipal solid waste and NOT recyclable mixed paper. You can check www.recyclect.com for a list of "what's in, what's out" for recyclables click on Get to Know Recycling and learn so much more.

**Calling All Chefs!
The BVFD Auxiliary is
collecting recipes for
our newest cookbook!**



The Bethany Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is happy to announce the return of our cookbook, and this one is in memory of our late members [Linda Rosson and Ellie Miller.](#)

We can't do it without your help, so gather your recipes and if you also wish please share your story on your special family traditions or what is special about your recipes, ask your family and friends too!

Make sure to include your name, as it will be printed alongside your recipes, and a way to contact you if we have any questions.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's submissions!

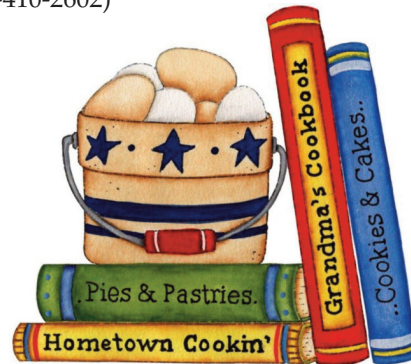
You can email them to BVFDcookbook2024@gmail.com or mail them - Attn: Cookbook 765 Amity Road, Bethany, CT 06524

Any questions, email or call,

Cora – coracogill@outlook.com (203-516-1686)

Sarah – top-a-hill@hotmail.com (203-314-8239)

Amy – amycogill@yahoo.com (203-410-2602)



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