

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 4

www.bethany-ct.com

April 2024



REMINDER

The Annual Budget Hearing will be held on **April 4, 2024**,
7PM in the Bethany Community School Gymnasium
Information can be found at
bethany-ct.com/board-of-finance; under Annual Budget Hearing



From the First Selectman's Desk March Highlights and April Updates

Dear Bethany Residents,

When the March Bulletin went to print in February, we had not reached the extra day to celebrate Leap Year. That 366th day is added to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year or seasonal year. It takes approximately 365.25 days for Earth to orbit the Sun – a solar year. We usually round the days in a calendar year to 365. To make up for the missing partial day we add one day to our calendar approximately every four years.



Did you know? Some Fun Facts about Leap Year:

- 4 million people in the world are leap day babies.
- Leap day babies are called leapers or leaplings.
- There is a one in 1,461 chance of being a leap day baby.
- Every year divisible by 4 is a leap year.
- But every year divisible by 100 is NOT a leap year.

As we have experienced over that past few months, Mother Nature continues to be fickle. March came in with not much of a roar but lots of chances for rain. As the saying goes: "At least we didn't have to shovel it." March could just not make up its mind what season it wanted to be even with Spring starting on the 19th. According to the calendar Spring has now officially sprung, and we can hopefully look forward to more beautiful, consistent weather ahead.

If you travel Amity Road regularly, you may have noticed catch basins being replaced at various locations along Amity Road both north and south of the Bethany/Woodbridge town line. The State is getting things set up to start the process of repaving Amity Road. The project will start in Woodbridge and work its way north into Bethany going as far as Rte. 42 west (the south junction). The total miles covered in Bethany will be 3.98. They anticipate to start the milling process in Woodbridge around May 20th and ending June 11th depending on the weather. They have a tentative start date for paving around June 16th, ending July 10th, once again depending on the weather. All work will be done at night. Prior to and during the paving project, there may be a need to adjust drainage, curbing, signage, guide railing, pavement markings, and any other items that promote safe traveling conditions. I will keep you posted

as we receive more information.

Here are some highlights from the month of March for activities that were held early on: Wednesday, March 6th, our Bethany seniors celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day at our Veterans Memorial Park Lakeview Lodge. Attendees were entertained with live music by Pierce Campbell, a member of Connecticut's own Irish Folk Band "The Kerry Boys." Approximately 75 meals were prepared by Mozaic of Bridgeport for in-person enjoyment or take-out. Always great food and wonderful service. A delicious meal of Guinness Beef Stew, a Shamrock salad (composed of assorted greens, dill, parsley, cucumber, green pepper and carrots) with a vinaigrette dressing, a tasty cupcake with Irish Cream frosting, as well as homemade Irish soda bread prepared by our very own Human Services Director, Robin Glowa, was served. As always, a BIG THANK YOU to Robin for organizing this event along with her assistant Emily. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped to make the event a success: Janice Howard, Trooper Ryan Piccirillo, Trooper Justin Trazski and Officer Dave.

On Friday, March 8th, Town Clerk Will Brinton, Registrar of Voters Jan Loomis and I attended a seminar entitled "2024 Election: It Will Be Different – Learn How and Be Prepared for Early Voting." This seminar was coordinated by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys (CAMA). The speakers included Attorney Aida R. Carini, staff attorney for the Office of the Secretary of State, and Attorney Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel for the Elections Enforce-

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Submit stories, events, calendar dates, press releases, inquiries, advertisements, etc. to Jennifer Cafasso at 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

ment Commission. Attorney Carini gave an overview of updates and how to look ahead with early voting. She fielded a variety of questions to try and help clarify issues that might arise. She shared her PowerPoint presentation with those present to have as a resource, which included additional contact information for any future questions. Attorney Brandi shared how his office works relating to voting and elections. There was much discussion about absentee ballots versus early voting. He also fielded a number of questions from those present. The seminar was full of helpful information and probably could have gone on for more than the two hours allotted.

We jumped ahead on Sunday, March 10th and gladly gained an extra hour of daylight. After some downpours during the night before, it turned out to be a cloudy day with a sprinkle here and there, and I had the pleasure again of marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven. The seasonable weather invited a good crowd to gather along the parade route. As you probably know, the parade covers a little over a mile starting on upper Chapel Street and proceeding down to the New Haven Green by New Haven City Hall. It is quite the experience and an honor to represent the Town of Bethany in the event. It's always fun to look for Bethany residents along the way, and I did see several, and got an occasional shout out.

Bethany Community School held an Invention Convention on Tuesday, March 12th in the school gym. It's like "Shark Tank meets Science Fair." Invention Convention competitions provide student innovators the opportunity to develop products that help solve a problem in their own lives or for those around them. Sometimes it takes more than one try to come up with the right solution. I had the honor to be a judge. There were approximately 23 aspiring inventors from Grades 3-5. There clearly was a lot of thought and work put into these projects. Besides me, staff and administrators also helped to judge the projects on originality of invention, purpose and practicality, attention to detail, adherence to the guidelines and presentation/display. Five semi-finalists were chosen to move on to the next level. The 41st Annual Connecticut Invention Convention State Finals will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus. Congratulations to all the inventors on a job well done. Thank you to Kimberly Wolcott, a teacher at BCS, for coordinating, organizing, and overseeing this event.

We have worked very hard to put together a budget that takes care of the needs of the Town and is fiscally responsible at the same time. The economic climate right now makes producing a budget quite a challenge. Just like running your house, some things are out of your control. We need to make sure that we are appropriately funding all departments to have them functioning at their best to serve the Town. At its March 12th meeting, the Board of Finance finalized its proposed budget to bring forward to the town residents.

You should have received the formal notice regarding the upcoming Public Hearing on the FY25 Town Budget. Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 / Time: 7:00p.m.

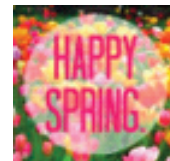
/ Place: Bethany Community School Gymnasium. The purpose of the hearing is to have residents of Bethany get information on the proposed budget, ask questions and give feedback to the Board of Finance. This is the residents' opportunity to request increases or decreases in line items. The Board of Finance then makes any changes it agrees are necessary. The final version will then go to the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 20th for approval. Applicable notification will be sent out to residents for this meeting.

We will continue to look for state and federal funding to help with any infrastructure projects to keep Bethany safe, vibrant and moving forward. As I have mentioned before, the grant process is a very laborious task. Every grant has different criteria and timelines. With many grants we may only have a short window in which to apply for the funding, but it could take several months before the project gets reviewed and approved, and then several more months before the funding actually gets appropriated and sent to the Town. Some grants are reimbursement grants where the Town has to expend the monies first, and then get reimbursed. There are annual grants as well as one-time grants, but we will watch to see which ones will be applicable to projects we need to help Bethany.

Make sure you take a look at the rest of the Bulletin for more information and fun activities going on in our beautiful little town. We may be small, but we rock it 😊.

Mark your calendars for: The Lions Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 27th, and the Bethany Athletic Association Carnival to be held Thursday, May 30th, Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st. Always wonderful community events.

I wish everyone good health and a



There's always something to celebrate – just about every single day. Here's to Opening Day (March 28th) for major league baseball. Enjoy

Paula Cofrancesco
First Selectwoman

ARPA FUNDING

Any ARPA funds not expended or already earmarked at this time need to be encumbered by December 31, 2024. We have a small, unencumbered balance that we are looking to earmark and encumber for any ARPA-eligible project(s) before that deadline. Please submit any suggests to: finance@bethany-ct.com for review, assessment and potential approval.



Easter Sunday Service, March 31, at 9:30 AM- During this joyous celebration, we will have a performance by the Bethany Church Choir joined by Lyman Hall High School student, Luca Dilucia on trumpet.

It wouldn't be Easter without our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids that join us! Immediately after service, join us in our grove for this fun family event (bring your own egg baskets). For more information or to inquire about any of our Easter services, please contact Joanna at (203) 393-3116 or info@bethanyfirstchurch.org. 511 Amity Rd, Bethany, CT, 06524.

Bethany Rid Litter Day returns Saturday, April 20, 2024



Won't you join us to beautify our town and get into Earth Day!?! Rid Litter Day in Bethany is a wonderful outdoor activity that can be performed by individuals, families, businesses, and small groups working together to clean up the roadside trash on the roads we pass every day.

This event showcases Bethany's sense of community.

If you, your family, your company, or civic group is interested in volunteering, email at: Bethanyridlitterday@gmail.com.

If you have any questions contact - John Pellicano at 203-687-5755.

The Bethany Garden Club Updates

Thinking of a new hobby or indulging your creative senses?

The Bethany Garden Club is inviting all to become a member.

You can learn, create, design, make new friends & you may find a new passion.

Contact bethanygardenclub@gmail.com or call 203-525-2167

Residential Waste Systems Trash Pick Up Reminder

Memorial Day 2024: All Pickups delayed one day

Independence Day 2024: Thursday Pickups will be Friday

Labor Day 2024: All Pickups delayed one day

Thanksgiving Day 2024: Thursday Pickup delayed one day

Christmas Day 2024: Wednesday/Thursday Pickup delayed one day

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

PARK AND RECREATION

Pilates

Beginners and Pilates Enthusiasts Welcome

Thursday Evenings, 6p.m. – 7p.m

8-Week Sessions:

\$10/session if you enroll for 4+ sessions

\$12 per Session: For Drop-Ins

Check out the flier online at www.bethany-ct.com

Healthy Vessels Ministries Inc.

will be hosting the 73rd annual "National Day of Prayer" Meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Bethany's Town Hall Commission Room.

We are excited about this year's theme "Lift up the Word, Light up the World" (2 Samuel 22:29-31) as the community comes together for unified prayer for the Nation and the seven centers of influence, to include the Government, Church, Families, Military, Business (Workplace), Education and Arts (Entertainment/Media).

ANNUAL PAJAMA HOP FUNDRAISER hosted by Bethany Nursery Group

It's time for the Annual Pajama Hop Fundraiser, hosted by Bethany Nursery Group!

The "PJ Hop" will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024, from 4-6p.m. at the school, 511 Amity Road in Bethany.

Join us for a breakfast for dinner buffet, raffles and silent auctions. Items include tickets for family events, gift certificates to local restaurants, themed baskets, memorabilia and tickets to local and professional sports teams and MORE! Tickets will not be sold at the door, so get yours now by emailing bethannurserygroup@gmail.com or calling 203-393-3032. We can't wait to see you there!

From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Community Members,

As the gentle warmth of spring unfurls and daylight stretches into the evening, a palpable sense of energy and creativity permeates Bethany Community School. Springtime has arrived, and with it, a renewed vigor for exploration and expression. At BCS, we embrace this season of growth and transformation, celebrating the artistic talents of our students and fostering a community where creativity thrives.



Recently, our second-grade students garnered recognition in the March newsletter of the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. Led by Maria Douglas of Magic Storybook Productions and supported by their dedicated teachers - Mrs. Mauro, Ms. Pilon, and Mrs. Albert - our young learners have been immersed in the world of performing arts. Throughout the school year, they engage in activities that not only enhance their language skills but also ignite their imaginations. From reading and performing short stories aligned with Grade 2 thematic units of study to participating in theater games, our students develop reading fluency, public speaking, teamwork, and self-confidence. It's inspiring to witness their growth as they explore the realms of storytelling and performance.

The excitement doesn't end there. Our BCS Drama Club is in full swing, preparing for their upcoming performance in May. Save the dates - May 10th and 11th - as our talented students take center stage with their rendition of "The Princess Pirate." This original production promises to be a thrilling showcase of creativity and talent. Stay tuned for more details on how you can secure tickets and support our budding actors and actresses.

In addition to their theatrical endeavors, our students are once again channeling their creativity into crafting a book of original poems. As the celestial wonder of an eclipse looms on the horizon, it's fitting to share a celestial-themed submission from one of our students:

The Stars Beyond

Maximus A. Canul

As I look towards the night sky,
Towards the eastern night I spy,

The planet Venus, the brightest in the sea of stars,
I wonder...

What is beyond the system of ours?

I continue looking for the most distant suns,
Spotting Polaris, 323 light years away and weighing
millions of tons.

Looking further north, I spot Vega, an amazing blue star,
Only 25 light years away, so close yet so far.

Before I continue looking,
I think about what is beyond.

What lies beyond,

How we get to what lies beyond,

What is undiscovered in what lies beyond,

The distant systems in what lies beyond,

The birth of new stars in what lies beyond,

But most importantly,

What other life may be in what lies beyond.

I begin to imagine, in a system with a burning red sun,
A system full of extraterrestrial life.

A beating red star,

Constantly emitting light.

An orbiting planet, full of ocean,

A world just like ours,

With beings from another world, wondering...

What is beyond their star?

And here we are questioning about what lies far
away,

And having a beating heart to see what is further
away from where we stay.

And we always want to know,

What Lies Beyond.

Great things are happening at BCS, and our talented students are at the heart of it all. We hope this mini-student showcase has inspired you, igniting your own creative spark. Whether it's through poetry, performance, or any other form of expression, we encourage you to explore your creativity.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and ideas on how we can continue to propel our district forward. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (203) 393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org. In continued partnership, let's foster a community where artistic brilliance knows no bounds.

Kai Byrd
Superintendent

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

April 2024



"April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year" -Vita Sackville-West



SENIOR LUNCH!

Senior Lunch is held every *Wednesday at Noon* at *Bethany Town Hall*. Reservations must be made by the Wednesday prior at 203-393-2100 x1124.

\$7.00 per person.

(Please pay in exact cash when you arrive.)

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

APRIL ENTREES:

April 3: Chicken Pot Pie

April 10: Brunch for Lunch -Cinnamon French Toast

April 17: Slow Roasted Beef Brisket

(Special Guest Speaker: Andrew Jambor
"Tips for Downsizing and Decluttering")

April 24: Maple Glazed Salmon

FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

"MEET THE PARENTS"

Friday, April 5th
11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

Don't miss this zany and hilarious comedy about a hapless young man's first visit to his girlfriend's parent's house.

Please call to reserve a seat

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 by April 3rd

SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services
& Hamden Rehabilitation

Monday, April 15th
11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

SPRING DOOR DECOR

We'll create a lovely spring-themed plaque suitable for hanging anywhere in your home

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 by **April 8th** to reserve your seat. *Space is Limited.*

SPECIAL FREE SENIOR EVENT

Hosted by Bethany Human Services

VIRTUAL VISIT TO SPAIN

Monday, April 22nd at 11:00AM

Bethany Senior Center

Come experience the drama and beauty of this breathtaking country

Book your seat by Friday, April 12th

Call 203-393-2100 x1124

SAVE THE DATE!

SENIOR LADIES

SPRING FLOWERS TEA PARTY

Hosted by Bethany Human Services

Monday, May 6th

Noon -2:30 PM

Bethany Senior Center

Come enjoy Tea, Sweets, and Special Entertainment!

Bring your own tea cup!

Call 203-393-2100 to reserve your seat by April 23rd.

Reservations taken on a first come, first served basis.

SAVE THE DATE!

Special Spring Senior Lunch!

Hosted by Bethany Human Services

Wednesday, May 15th

11:00AM-1:00 PM

Lakeview Lodge

Entertainment by the incredibly talented Amity Middle School Choir

Don't miss this exciting event!

Sandwiches and Sweet Treats will be served

This is a FREE event!

Call to reserve your seat by Monday, April 29th

203-393-2100 x1124

Seating Is Limited

continue on pg. 6

Bethany Seniority

continued from pg. 5

FUEL ASSISTANCE

For information regarding assistance for the upcoming heating season you may contact TEAM by e-mailing energy@teaminc.org or call Bethany Human Services at 203-393-2100

LAST CALL FOR FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES 2023 Tax Returns are due April 15, 2024

In partnership with the IRS and CT Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Woodbridge Center offers free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program beginning in February. Taxpayers with low to moderate income, older adults, people with disabilities, or those with limited English have options to complete 2023 tax returns. Call Woodbridge Human Services (203-389-3429) for a list of required documents and to schedule an appointment.

Resident Relief Fund

If you would like to make a cash or gift card donation to the Resident Relief Fund, please contact Bethany Human Services at 203-393-2100 x1124.

Donations of cash or gift cards will help assist residents in need. Donor and resident identity will be kept strictly confidential. Many thanks to those who have already generously donated!

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR BETHANY RESIDENTS

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

SENIOR BUS TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE MON-WED-FRI

from 8:30AM to 3:30PM.

To reserve call 203-393-2100 x1324

Medical appointments take priority.

First time riders please call 203-393-2100 x 1124 before making reservations.

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Eversource has programs that may help.

Call today 800-286-2828 or visit

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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY
APRIL 13

LASAGNA DINNER

AT LAKEVIEW LODGE

5:00 TAKE OUT
6:00 EAT IN
BYOB

\$25 ADULTS
\$15 CHILDREN

PAYMENT
DUE BY
APRIL 10TH

**PAYMENT:
CHECKS TO
BHS 512
AMITY RD.
BETHANY, CT
06524**



SAVE THE DATES!

Bethany Athletic Association
is hosting their annual:

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30th

10a.m. sharp

at Bethany Town Hall

AND

FISHING DERBY

Saturday, April 20th

8:00a.m. to 11a.m.

at Veteran's Memorial Park

It Happened In Bethany

Rose Hurst Dairy

By Linda Wooster

Nancy Petruzzello Criscuolo has fond memories of her family's Rose Hurst Dairy which was located on Amity Road, almost across from the State Police Barracks. Nancy's mother, Marion, grew up on a farm in Middletown, CT. She was only 16 or 17 when Albert Petruzzello's father took him to the farm in Middletown to buy a cow. Albert was only 21 at the time. Marion happened to be in the barn when they arrived; Al must have thought that she was "pretty good looking" because they started dating. Marion could only go on a date with Al if her father was with them. She would sit in the front seat; the dad would sit in the backseat. It was a while before the couple could go out alone. It was a short courtship. They were married for 55 years.

When he started his own business, Albert Petruzzello worked for American Brass in Ansonia. His shift started at 4 PM and ended at midnight. He would leave at 12 AM and pick up milk from Borden's Dairy, go home to sleep for a few hours, and then make deliveries for his house routes. He started the business with one truck.

A short time after he left American Brass, Al rented a building on Sorenson's Farm, Johnson Road in Woodbridge, where he had worked for several years. His two sons-in-law – George Valenti and Jimmie Nappi -- also worked at Rose Hurst. Saturdays were delivery and collection days. One brother-in-law had to work the morning of his wedding, because there was no one to cover for him. Albert's brother, Santo Petruzzello, ran Sound View Dairy on the Ansonia/Woodbridge line. He ran the farm until the airport bought the land.

Albert's cousin Mike Ferla would come to work at 11 PM to start bottling for the vending machines. At 2 AM the rest of the crew came in to bottle the glass containers for their own routes and for Sound View Dairy. Albert's younger brother, Michael Petruzzello, drove the trailer filled with bottled milk to Sound View Dairy. Obviously, the entire Rose Hurst Dairy operation was a family affair.

During its existence, the keys were never removed from Rose Hurst trucks parked out at the docks or in the yard. The dairy doors were open 24 hours a day.

Bob Criscuolo took over the milk machines during the last two years of the Rose Hurst operation. He filled them, fixed them, and maintained the trucks. At the end, Albert had seven trucks on the road, 50 vending machines, and made deliveries to eight diners. He had two tankers of raw milk delivered every day and distributed 1500-2000 cases of milk a day.

All the milk was pasteurized and homogenized. They used glass bottles for the house routes and paper containers for the stores and milk machines. Milk cost 25 cents a quart in the machine. The machines were filled 365 days a year. The price remained the same from 1959 to 1971.

Albert Petruzzello, a man with only a sixth-grade education, started and ran the successful Rose Hurst Dairy business for 13 years. Health issues forced him to give up the business he loved so much. In 1971, Albert's nephew, Anthony Petruzzello bought the building, which is now Petruzzello's Transport on Amity Road. Guida Dairy bought the store and routes and Maple Shade Dairy bought the equipment.



Historical Society News

Revised BHS ByLaws will be reviewed at a brief Annual Meeting after Lasagna Dinner on April 13, 2024, at 7:15p.m. at Lakeview Lodge. All are invited to participate.

BHS needs old manual typewriters for a student project. Hopefully keys will depress and carriage return works. Contact Linda Wooster at ljwooster@gmail.com or 203.393.1832.

BHS needs "early 1900ish" clothing for displays...women's and girls' cotton dresses, caps, aprons; men's and boys' pants, shirts, suspenders, etc. Possibly clothing used for BCS one-room school-house event? Contact Linda at 203.393.1832.



Sustainable Bethany

No. 40 Letter from Sustainable Bethany. Eclipse-April-8th, Book, Events.

Eclipse-April-8th: Those planning to travel to see the total solar eclipse (April 8) might be lucky enough to experience something extraordinary! We are approaching the height of the 11-year solar cycle characterized by spectacular solar flares. Late February saw powerful top-tier solar flares launch off the Sun with more expected. These are bursts of radiation originating from sunspots. During total solar eclipses these flares erupt as tongues of flame. When a solar flare occurs, the radiation travels towards the Earth at the speed of light, ionizing our atmosphere and potentially causing radio blackouts. Accompanying coronal mass ejections can also cause havoc with radio and satellite transmissions. If you haven't made your eclipse travel plans yet, consider the weather. You are more likely to have clear weather in the Southwest over the Northeast. Now is the time to order solar eclipse glasses for safe viewing. You can obtain free ISO-certified solar eclipse glasses at the Warby Parker store in New Haven starting on April 1st as long as supplies last. From Bethany, at 3:27 PM, 91% of the Sun's disc will be covered by the Moon.

The Lyrid meteor shower is from April 16 to April 25, peaking around April 22. Seen from Bethany, the shower will not be visible before 8:22 PM when its radiant point rises above our eastern horizon. It will remain active until dawn around 5:29 AM.

- Michael Kaloyanides.

Book: Ah, Spring! When our thoughts turn to our lawns and gardens. This month we recommend the recent book Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard, by Douglas Tallamy. Tallamy outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation and shows how homeowners can use native plants to turn their yards into conservation corridors-spaces for wildlife. By incorporating native plants into our landscapes it supports wildlife, enhance ecosystems, and mitigates the impacts of habitat loss and climate change. Importantly, it's practical, effective, and easy— there are specific suggestions which can easily be implemented by the most novice gardeners. If you are concerned about doing something good for the environment, Nature's Best Hope is a must

read.

Both the adult and middle school versions of Nature's Best Hope are available at Clark Memorial Library.

Events: Saturday April 20th Bethany Rid Litter Day. You're invited to grab a bag and pick up roadside, open spaces, and woodlands litter around town. If interested, please contact John Pellicano at (203) 687-5755 or email Bethanyridlitterday@gmail.com

Saturday April 27.th Earth Day Celebrations. The Woodbridge Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee is hosting Earth Day celebrations on the Woodbridge Town Green. We will be there sharing information about Proliferator Pathways and Invasive Species including Ticks.

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE.

Best wishes,
Gale Ridge

Sponsored by Sustainable Bethany
sustainablebethany@gmail.com or at the state level,
Sustainable CT

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Property Is Worth?**

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carol-murphy.com

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Check It Out !

April 2024
Clark Memorial Library

National Library Week is April 7 – 13
Ready, Set – Go to the Library!

Passport to Connecticut Libraries

Between April 1st and April 30th pick up your passport at Clark Memorial Library. Take this opportunity to explore each library on the passport list – it's architecture, ambiance, and collection. Have your passport stamped at five or more libraries on the list to be eligible to win a \$200 gift card for adults or a \$200 gift card for children. See our website for more information.

Arts@ Clark Exhibit for April & May

Daniel Eugene Kaminski is a visual artist, poet, musician, performer and photographer from Bethany, Connecticut. The exhibition is titled Bethany Photographs and features images from around town going back to 2016. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, April 20th from 2PM-4 PM in the Community Room.

Friends of the Library Book Donation Day

The Friends will be on site to accept gently used books for the entryway book sale. Children's and adult books in good condition will be considered. Saturday April 6 from 9 AM – 12 PM.

Thursday Game Days

Drop by the library for an afternoon of games upstairs in the Teens and Tweens area. Learn to play board games, card games and other tabletop games, as well as role-playing games. Every Thursday from 3:30 - 6:30 PM.

Family Storytimes – Every Wednesday

For all ages. Enjoy a lively read aloud and then check out books to take home to read, read, read. Bring a friend! Drop in 10:30 – 11:00 AM.

April "First Saturday"

The Colors of Spring are blooming with crafts and activities upstairs and downstairs during library hours on April 6, and all month long. All ages/all day/all fun!.

Library Hours
Tues/Wed 10 AM – 6 PM
Thurs 10 AM -7 PM
Friday 1 PM – 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM -5 PM



Need a new card or to renew and existing card?
Contact us at 203-393-2103
or ClarkMain@bethanylibrary.org

Bethany Trivia

[courtesy of the Historical Society]

According to Bethany news reporter Barrie Collins:

1. At least nine former Bethany residents became president of a college, including Barnard, Quinnipiac, Radcliffe, Smith, Sweet Briar and Warren Wilson.
2. George Durrie, the most famous Currier and Ives artist, married a Bethany woman, Sarah Perkins, in Bethany's Christ Episcopal Church. Three of his paintings are owned by the White House. One, believed to be of the local church, was used on a Christmas card by President Gerald Ford.
3. At least five US postage stamps were designed by Bethany residents Alvin Eisenman and John Hill.
4. A Bethany newspaper, "the Amity Star," was edited by George Vaill, a former resident and owner of the Bethany Press from 1950 to 1953.
5. Tolls were once charged on the Litchfield Turnpike, while Amity Road was known as the Shunpike.
6. The state guide produced by writers in a national Depression-era project described Bethany as a "hamlet on the hilltop."
7. Wooden matches were manufactured at the Hoadley Mills in eastern Bethany.
8. A Yale Medical School monkey research farm was once planned on Bethway Road.

From the Assessor's Office

Applications for tax credits for homeowners over 65 years of age and those totally disabled will be taken in the Assessor's office between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm beginning February 1, 2024, thru May 15, 2024.

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS & DISABILITY PROGRAM- This is a real estate tax credit program for homeowners who are at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2023 and meet certain income guidelines. Those guidelines require that annual income for single people, including Social Security benefits, should not exceed \$43,800. Married couples can be eligible if their income, including Social Security benefits, does not exceed \$53,400. Applicants should bring all proof of their 2023 income including a copy of their 2023 Income Tax Return, if filing, and proof of Social Security income (Form 1099). Also, applicant must own and reside at the property for which tax relief is sought or must hold tenancy for life use of the property and be liable for the tax bill. This must be the applicant's principal or legal residence.

Those Homeowners who are disabled, and don't qualify for the elderly homeowner's 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 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 will also receive the Town of Bethany benefit. Those taxpayers who are already on the program and are required to refile, will be notified by mail.

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 September 30, 2024. Applicants must meet an income requirement of not more than \$43,800 if single, and \$53,400 if married to qualify for the State of Connecticut Additional Veteran's Program. The income limit for the Town of Bethany Local Option Additional Veterans Exemption

is \$68,800 for single applicants and \$78,400. Income includes adjusted gross income plus any other income, including Social Security benefits. Income is based upon the 2023 calendar year. Federal Income Tax return and/or proof of all income must be presented to the Assessor's office which is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. Please remember that all proof of income, including Social Security benefits (Form SSA-1099) for the 2023 calendar year must be submitted by September 30, 2024, or the application cannot be processed.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Assessor's Office with any questions or concerns regarding these programs.

Dated this 12th day of December 2023.

Betsy Quist – Assessor for the Town of Bethany



RENTERS PROGRAM

Applications for the Renters Program may be filed with the Town's Assessor between April 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.

Those residents of Bethany who:

1. Have attained the age of 65 on or before 12/31/2023.
2. Hold full-time residence in Bethany.
3. Total income does not exceed \$43,800 for a single person or \$53,400 for a married couple.

Those on social security disability are exempt from the age requirement.

Applications can be mailed to the Assessor's Office, Town Hall, 40 Peck Rd, Bethany, CT 06524 by September 30, 2024.

Proof of 2023 income and social security earnings (SSA-1099) is **REQUIRED ALONG WITH RECEIPTS OF ALL 2023 RENT AND 2023 UTILITIES** (exclusive of phone & cable).

Those persons who had applied for this program last year will be mailed an application in April 2024.

If you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Assessor's Office at 203-393-2100 ext. 1112.

Betsy Quist, Assessor
bquist@bethany-ct.com

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Monthly Land Trust Trail Hikes

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

If you've ever wanted to walk some hiking trails in Bethany and are not too sure where to start, the Bethany Land Trust is thrilled to invite you to join us for a series of monthly, guided hikes through some of our properties. Starting in April, these guided hikes have a theme and are designed to both introduce you to some of our preserves and to identify unique features that make those preserves very special places in town.

Below is the list of monthly hikes that will occur on the first Sunday of the month from 1 – 3 PM, except as noted. All are welcome, and we look forward to having you join us.

April 7th - Signs of Spring Hike - Woodward Nature Preserve - Guide: Ali-Beres Nork (see more details below)

May 5th – Kids & Family BioBlitz Hike - Whispering Pines - Guides: Ali-Beres Nork and Grace Kenney

June 2nd - National Trails Day Loop Hike, co-sponsored with Bethany Conservation Commission - Bethany Farms & Whispering Pines - Guide: Bob Harrison

July 7th - Tree Identification Hike - Van Epps Preserve - Guide: Dan Van Epps

August 4th - Bethany History Hike in collaboration with the Bethany Historical Society - Three Sisters Preserve – Guide: Will Brinton

September 1st - Early Morning Birding Adventure - Mendell's Folly - Guide: Christin Arnini (time will be 8 – 9 AM)

October 6th - Bethany Airport Trails Hikes at the Bethany Harvest Festival - Guides: Bethany Land Trust Board Members

November 3rd - Beaver Habitat Hike - Mendell's Folly - Guide: Ali-Beres Nork

All are welcome but space for each hike will be limited to 25 registered participants. No dogs will be allowed and inclement weather will cancel. Details about each preserve, theme and guide will be given at the beginning of each month here in the Bethany Bulletin, our Facebook page and website. Details for registration, directions and parking will also be provided on our website, <https://bethanylandtrust.org/>.

So here are the details of our first hike in this series:

Sunday, April 7th, 1PM – 3 PM: Signs of Spring Hike
- Location: Woodward Nature Preserve

Join us in exploring the wonders of early spring and understanding the importance of preserving our natural landscapes for future generations. We'll look for spring ephemerals, native wildflowers that emerge and flower in early spring and complete their life cycle before the forest canopy shades them out. Despite their short lives, ephemerals, such as trout lily, wood anemone and hepatica play a crucial role in the ecosystem by providing food for pollinators like bumblebees and butterflies. We'll also learn to recognize and address the presence of invasive plants that threaten this delicate ecosystem balance.



Guide: Ali Beres-Nork is an Environmental Science teacher at Amity Regional High School holding an MS in Environmental Science from Montana State University and is a certified Connecticut Master Naturalist.

To register: contact Bob Harrison by April 5 via cell at 203-506-5888 or bjh51box@gmail.com
Parking at the end of Northrup Road

BCS Kindergarten Registration

Academic Year 2024 - 2025

Children who are Bethany residents and turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024, are eligible to attend Kindergarten at Bethany Community School for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Please pre-register by visiting [Bethany-ed.org](https://bethany-ed.org).



More Information

www.bethany-ed.org
203-393-3350 Ext. 601



Children who are Bethany residents and turn 5 years old between September 2, 2024 and December 31, 2024 may be eligible to attend Kindergarten at Bethany Community School for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Please review the following [document for more information](#).

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

April 2nd	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
April 3rd	Planning and Zoning Commission	7:00PM
April 4th	Annual Budget Hearing	7:00PM
April 8th:	Amity Regional School District	6:30PM
April 8th:	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
April 9th:	Board of Finance	6:30PM
April 10th	BCS Board of Education	6:30PM
April 10th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
April 11th	Bethany Conservation Commission	7:30PM
April 15th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
April 18th	Bethany Cemetery Commission	7:00PM



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NOTICE OF DECISION

AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, 14TH DAY OF MARCH 2024

Notice of Decision is hereby given at Regular Meeting held
Wednesday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
in the commission room located at the Town of Bethany - Town Hall

1. **APPROVED** - Manuel Preta: 33 Old Amity Road. - Appl# 2024-001 – Site Plan Approval for the construction of Storage Building – No water.
2. **APPROVED** - Application #2024-002 and on application of Dennis Croteau (applicant and owner) of property at 8 Dayton Road in an existing R-65 zone for approval to construct an approximately 750 sf apartment above existing garage at this location for a Special Permit and a site plan approval in accordance with Section 5.4.J of the Bethany Zoning Regulations.
3. **APPROVED** - 511 Amity Road: First Congregational Church of Christ – Joyce Plaskowitz. - Appl# 2024-003 – Replacing sign from current 2 ½' x 3' to be 3' x 5 ½' in the same location.

March 15, 2024

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

******IN PERSON ONLY MEETING ******

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission to be held on the regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, APRIL 3, 2024, to commence at approximately 7:15 p.m., in the Commission Meeting Room of the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, Bethany, Connecticut.

PROPOSED BETHANY ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENT TO ADD TO SECTION 5, SUBSECTION 5.4.N

PROHIBITING THE BURIAL OF HUMAN REMAINS IN ALL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BETHANY

- A. The burial of human remains is hereby prohibited in all districts within the limits of the Town of Bethany, except for burials in cemeteries that are recognized and approved by the State of Connecticut and Town of Bethany.



Lina Cortez-Frazer
Land Use Administrator and
Zoning Enforcement Officer.



Bethany Athletic Association 2024 Carnival Sponsorship

The Bethany Athletic Association will be holding their annual carnival Thursday, May 30, 2024, Friday, May 31st and June 1st. The BAA is looking to bring back fireworks again at the carnival on Saturday, June 1st. Donations are always welcome to help reach that goal.

All proceeds of the carnival are used by the Bethany Athletic Association to:

- Repair and provide ongoing maintenance to baseball fields in the town.
- Sponsor children sports in the Bethany community.
- Provide scholarships to selected Amity High School Senior students.
- Provide funding to annual activities in the town of Bethany, i.e., The Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, etc.

You can be a Sponsor for the event:

- *** SPONSORSHIP MEMBERSHIP LEVELS ***
- GOLD CARNIVAL EXECUTIVE \$5,000
 - SILVER CARNIVAL EXECUTIVE \$3,000
 - BRONZE CARNIVAL EXECUTIVE \$2,500
 - CARNIVAL EXECUTIVE \$1,500
 - CARNIVAL DIRECTOR \$1,000
 - CARNIVAL HEADLINER \$500
 - CARNIVAL PROMOTER \$250
 - CARNIVAL RIDER \$100
 - CARNIVAL MEMBER \$50
 - FRIEND OF THE BAA \$25

Bethany Athletic Association Federal ID: 06-1636936

Please print your information and return your sponsorship with this form: The Sponsorship is tax deductible. Please save a copy of submitted document for tax purposes

Provide the following

Sponsor Information Company Name:

Name of Sponsor:

Signature:

Date: _____

Donations/Sponsorships can be mailed to:

Bethany Athletic Association
P.O. Box 4058
New Haven, CT 06525

Bethany Lions Club News and Events!

Bethany Lions - Spring Events: Check our Facebook page @bethanyctlions or our website at: bethanyctlions.com for our flyers and event information!

38th Annual Goods & Services Auction (online): Will run from March 27th - April 5th. The auction link for active bidding will be posted on March 27th on the Bethany Lions Facebook page (@bethanyctlions) and posted on social media sites.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Will be held at the Lodge on April 12th from 12p.m.-5p.m. Go to: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive to register/no walk-in donors, please.

Shred Day: Our bi-annual shred and E-waste day will be Saturday, April 13th from 9a.m. - Noon at the Bethany Recycling Center. Bring your documents for shredding and E-waste to be destroyed. Pricing on our flyers.

Food Drive: Our food drive is also on Saturday, April 13th from 9am - Noon at the Bethany Recycling Center.

Scholarship: Pick up applications at Clark Memorial Library, Bethany Town Hall - Town Clerk Office and Amity High Guidance Office. Deadline for application submission is May 1st to either the Town Clerk Office or Amity High Guidance Office.

Flea Market: Opening day is Saturday, May 4th and will run 26-weeks through October 26th.

Murder Mystery Dinner: Our club is proud to support this local fundraiser for Lions Clubs International Foundation. On Friday, April 19th, doors open at 6.p.m., show starts at 6:45p.m. at the Crystal Room in Naugatuck, the Dinner Detective interactive murder mystery dinner show, who does the dinner shows at the Omni in New Haven, will be hosting the "Comedy Murder Mystery at the Crystal Room." \$500 wine/liquor beverage bucket in its own stand is up for raffle - Great way to start off summer!

Memorial Day Parade - Save the Date! Save the date for Monday, May 27th for our Annual Memorial Day Parade! Please let us know of any Bethany veterans who would like to participate in the event. Email Janet Brunwin at: brunwins@sbcglobal.net.

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SAVE THE DATE
Bethany Economic
Development Commission
 Meet and Greet -- May 16, 2024
 Hosted by Green Light Auto Sales
 "BUY BETHANY"

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Dancing Through the Decades
Dinner & Dance

6p.m. – 11p.m.
 \$25 / Person
 Bethany Veterans Park Lodge
 Contact: Rob (203) 623-0274

Humongous Tag Sale

Christ Episcopal Church
 526 Amity Rd. Bethany
 (at the blinking light)

Saturday, May 11th
from 9a.m.-2p.m.

You'll find bargains on housewares, home decor, books, plants, Twice as Nice Boutique, jewelry, fabulous home baked goods and more. And stop by our grill to have lunch! It's two months away but not too early to mark your calendars!

BVFD Auxiliary Presents
LIVE
MUSIC



Nashville Drive

Kick Off to Summer!

Saturday, May 18th, 2024
 Doors Open: 5:30pm
 Band Starts: 6:00pm-10:00pm
 Location: 765 Amity Road,
 Bethany, CT
 \$10 per person
 Tickets Available Online or
 Cash Only at Door
 (Limited 300 Tickets)
 BYOB, Snacks & Chairs
 Silent Raffle

**USE THE QR CODE
 TO PURCHASE TICKETS**



[HTTPS://WWW.BETHANYFIRECT.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.bethanyfirect.org/events)

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