

# BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 2

www.bethany-ct.com

February 2024



## \*REMINDER\*

Town Hall and the Department of Public Works will be **CLOSED**

**Monday, February 19, 2024 for Presidents' Day.**

**\*\*\*Trash pick up will not change.\*\*\***



## From the First Selectman's Desk January Highlights and February Updates

Dear Bethany Residents,

Quick flashback to December: Well, 2023 ended on a soggy note. Rain throughout the month of December saturated not only Bethany, but the entire state. I can only imagine what it would have been like if that was all snow. Whether it's rain or snow, our Public Works Department is always ready to address any issues. We are very lucky to have a Public Works crew who takes these weather events in stride and takes care of business to keep our streets and residents safe.

We welcomed January with sunshine and moderate temperatures and then our first big snowfall. At least it came over the weekend. The snow didn't last long as we once again dealt with torrential rain and wind. Unseasonably warm temperatures allowed more rain to fall but then temperatures became more winterlike. Mother Nature is clearly having a hard time deciding what season it is supposed to be. I want to thank residents for their patience as we tried to address any issues related to the weather.

On Friday, January 5th Senator Cabrera met with the Chief Executives from his constituent towns (the 17th District – Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge) to discuss bonding and funding priorities that the towns might hope to have addressed in the upcoming legislative session. Town officials also had the opportunity to share their concerns and challenges. The meeting was hosted by Mayor DiMartino of Derby. I attended the meeting along with Finance Director Leslie Bacigalupi.

Budget season has started and striving to hold to the goals of the Board of Finance, as in 2023, the Finance Director and I will be working closely with all departments and the Board of Finance to make sure we present a fiscally responsible budget that maintains important town services, continues to provide a quality education for our children, and keeps taxes at an acceptable level. In mid-January Finance Director Leslie Bacigalupi and I met with Department Heads



individually to do a first review of their respective budgets. The Board of Finance will be conducting budget workshops on January 29th and February 2nd with all departments to review their budget requests for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. We have our work cut out for us.

More information will follow in future Bulletins, but we plan to hold the Town Hearing on the budget around mid to late April. The final budget will be presented for approval at the Annual Budget and Town Meeting on the 3rd Monday of May (May 20th).

The Town continues to actively research different grant opportunities to help with capital projects in town to take a direct burden off residents. We are able to apply for both State and Federal funding for projects. Applying for grants is a very arduous process, which can take quite some time to complete and then several months before any funding becomes available if a grant application is approved.

The Town of Bethany performed its 5-year revaluation cycle for the year 2023. People from Equality, our CAMA vendor, went around town doing some sales and permit inspections. Residents received an informal notice with the new assessment in early December. Information was provided in the notice to have an opportunity to discuss these changes with a person from the Revaluation staff. At any time if you have any questions about the process, please feel free to reach out to the Assessor's Office at 203-393-2100 x1112 or [bquist@bethany-ct.com](mailto:bquist@bethany-ct.com) (Betsy Quist, Assessor.)

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*Submit stories, events, calendar dates, press releases, inquiries, advertisements, etc. to Jennifer Cafasso at [BethanyBulletin@bethany-ct.com](mailto: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*

The Assessor's Office maintains records of each parcel of Real Estate, Motor Vehicles and business equipment in Bethany. The main function of the Assessor's Office is to prepare and perfect the Grand List. The Grand List is comprised of all taxable and tax-exempt properties, real and personal. The Grand List runs from October 1 through September 30. Your Motor Vehicle will be taxed in the town in which it is registered on October 1st when the Grand List is pulled from the DMV database. The real estate list is adjusted for new constructions, additions and alterations. Owner's names and exemptions are maintained and updated. The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles sends lists to the Assessor's Office twice per year. Motor vehicle identification numbers are matched to the average retail values as supplied by the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA). The personal property list is comprised of business equipment as provided by the business owner(s) on the annual Personal Property Declarations due each year by November 1. The Assessor certifies the grand list annually by February 1. After the Grand List is certified and signed by the Assessor, the Board of Assessment Appeals (an elected board consisting of three (3) officials) conducts hearings and adjusts values as deemed appropriate.

A notice was posted in the January Bulletin, but here is a reminder: The Board of Assessment Appeals will be holding their annual appeal meetings on the following dates and times: Wednesday, March 13th (6-9p.m.), Thursday, March 14th (6-9p.m.), Saturday, March 16th (9a.m.-Noon), Wednesday, March 20th (6-9p.m.), Thursday, March 21st (6-9p.m.) and Saturday, March 23rd (9a.m.-Noon). These meetings will be held in the Assessor's Office at Bethany Town Hall. Written applications are mandatory, and no appeal will be heard without one. Applications may be obtained from the Assessor's Office Monday through Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. or from the Bethany-ct.com website under the Board of Assessment Appeals. All applications must be filled out and received by the Assessor's Office no later than 4:00p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. All persons filing proper applications shall be notified of the date, time and place of their appeal hearing. You must appear in person, or you must send a duly authorized representative who must bring evidence of authorization.

Seniors enjoyed their first lunch of 2024 on January 10th. Our Human Services department offers wonderful events and delicious lunches. Check out the Bethany Seniority page for more information. You can also find information if you need assistance paying your utility bills. Thank you Robin and Emily for running such fun programs.

January 26th, Leslie Bacigalupi and I attended the 2024 CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) Annual Meeting of Members in Hartford. The event included seminars, Keynote Speaker Dr. Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW, the business

meeting and a networking event. Dr. Lee, also known as "Dr. Kris," is an internationally recognized, award-winning behavioral science clinician, researcher, educator, speaker, comedian and author. She is from Boston, Massachusetts and is a Behavioral Science Faculty member at Northeastern University. Her research and teaching interests include individual and organizational well-being and resilience and how to use the science of behavioral change and human potential to build healthy mental health and cultures that help prevent burnout and promote organizational and human sustainability. She was very engaging and shared a wealth of information.

It's that time of year again for the First Selectman's Youth Award. Any Bethany youth, 18 or under, who is in school, and who, either individually, or as part of a group, has demonstrated positive actions to improve Bethany or assist Bethany residents is eligible to be nominated for the award. Areas of involvement may include group or individual volunteer work aimed at improving the quality of life in the Bethany community. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group leaders, clergy, and volunteer agencies are among those who may nominate a youth for consideration. Parents and family members may not nominate a relative. For more information and the Nomination Form, you can go to the Town website: <https://bethany-ct.com/first-selectman-youth-award>. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 5, 2024.

Always remember to check out other items in the Bulletin. You will find the monthly list for Board and Commission meetings, which can also be found on the Town website calendar. The Bulletin is full of fun and helpful information. The website also provides a wealth of information. You can also check out the Town Facebook page.

Just a quick reminder - Some people like to brave the chilly weather (when conditions allow) and get out and walk, ride a bike, etc. If you are doing this at dawn or dusk (especially), please remember to wear brightly colored or reflective clothing so that you can be seen by oncoming cars. Remember to walk against the traffic and ride with it. I want all our residents to be safe.

## Happy Valentine's Day



**NOTE: The Town Hall Offices will be closed Monday, February 19th for Presidents' Day**  
**\*\*\*Trash pickup will not change.\*\*\***



## 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 in-

come 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

## Assessment Appeals Notice

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Bethany will be holding their annual appeal meetings on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday March 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m., and Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 9a.m. to Noon.

These meetings will be held in the Assessor's Office at the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, to hear appeals relating to assessments for Real Estate Property and Business Personal Property on the Grand List of October 1, 2023 and Supplemental Vehicles for Grand List 2022. All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the actions of the Assessor on said list are hereby warned to submit their written appeal by February 20, 2024.

Written applications are mandatory, and no appeal will be heard without one. Applications may be obtained from the Assessor's office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or from the Bethany-ct.com website, under the Board of Assessment Appeals. All applications must be filled out and received in the Assessor's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 20, 2024. All persons filing proper applications shall be notified of the date, time, and place of appeal hearing.

You must appear in person, or you must send a duly authorized representative who must bring evidence of authorization.

If you have any questions concerning the Board of Assessment Appeals, please call the Assessor's Office at 203-393-2100 ext. 1112.

Dated at Bethany, CT this 14th day of December 2023.

Gary Ross

Chairperson, Bethany Board of Assessment Appeals

## From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Bethany Community,

I am pleased to update you on the Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan for the 2024-2025 academic year, which was presented during the Board of Education Meeting on January 10, 2024. The creation of this proposed spending plan was a collaborative effort involving the Bethany Board of Education, the superintendent, BCS administration, and all department heads.



At the core of our district budget lies a commitment to the children of our community, guided by our mission statement: "We inspire and empower children to thrive in the world of tomorrow." Our strategic approach to achieving "Excellence for All by All" encompasses support for curriculum and instruction, fostering a positive culture and climate, engaging with the community, and ensuring our facilities are future-ready. These elements collectively represent the "why" behind our spending request.

Through our budget, we allocate resources to provide high-quality instruction to our 450 students. This includes mental health support, nutrition, and medical care to facilitate student access to instruction. Specialized services are provided to ensure that all students can reach their full potential. Our commitment extends to maintaining small class sizes, offering diverse extracurricular opportunities, providing before and after-school programs, and facilitating transportation to and from school.

Furthermore, continuous professional development for our staff, ongoing curriculum renewal, technology up-

grades, and Parent Academies are integral components of our budget. These initiatives aim to build the capacity of our educators, ensure up-to-date curricula, and foster partnerships with families and community members.

In crafting a fiscally responsible budget, we have prioritized the needs of our community, students, and staff. The proposed spending plan, presented to the Board of Education, carefully balances contractual salary and transportation obligations, benefit increases, and special education costs. Grant funds have been strategically utilized to offset the proposed budget, allowing us to avoid making cuts to department budgets.

It is important to note that the Board of Education has successfully negotiated a new contract for teachers, constituting a significant portion of the requested increase for the 2024-2025 academic year. The proposed spending plan recommends a 5.44% increase amounting to \$410,423.

The Board will vote on the budget at the upcoming meeting scheduled for February 14, 2024. Once approved, a full copy of the budget presentation will be available on the Bethany Community School website at [www.bethany-ed.org](http://www.bethany-ed.org).

As a member of the community, I encourage you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas. Please feel free to contact me at (203) 393-1170 or via email at [kbyrd@bethany-ed.org](mailto:kbyrd@bethany-ed.org).

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide an exceptional education for the children of Bethany.

In continued partnership,  
Kai Byrd  
Superintendent

## Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

Feb. 6th	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
Feb. 7th	Planning and Zoning Commission	7:00PM
Feb. 8th	Bethany Conservation Commission	7:30PM
Feb 12th:	Amity Regional School District	6:30PM
Feb. 12th:	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
Feb. 13th:	Board of Finance	6:30PM
Feb. 14th	BCS Board of Education	6:30PM
Feb. 14th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
Feb. 15th	Bethany Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
Feb. 20th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
Feb. 20th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM

# Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

February 2024



*"Chocolate is Happiness You Can Eat" -Anonymous Chocolate Lover*  
**We are Celebrating Chocolate All Month Long!**



The Town Hall will be closed Monday, February 19th, in honor of Presidents' Day.  
**There will be no Bus Service on February 19th.**

## **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.

## **FEBRUARY ENTREES:**

**FEB. 7th:** Mushroom Bisque, Beef Burgundy

**FEB 14th:** Valentine's Day Take-Out Box Lunch

**FEB 21st:** Italian Wedding Soup, Chicken Parmesan

**FEB 28th:** Broccoli & Cheddar Soup, Oven Roasted Cod

**Guest Speaker:** Estate Planning w/Atty. Rob Heinimann

## **Happy Valentine's Day Senior Take-Out Box Lunch**

**Wednesday, February 14th NOON-1:00 PM**

Bethany Town Hall Lobby

Menu will include:

**Be Still My Heart Soup** (Homemade Tomato Soup)

**Love Me a Little Tea Sandwich Trio**

(Ham and Swiss with Creamy Dijon, Very Veggie with Herb Cream Cheese and Peanut Butter and Strawberry Jelly) **Chips, Pickle** and a **Sweetheart Cookie**

**\$11.00 per meal**

(pay in exact cash at time of pick-up)

**Deadline to reserve meal(s) Monday, February 5th**

Call 203-393-2100 x1124

## **FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL**

### **"CHOCOLAT"**

Friday, February 9th 11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche star in this "delicious" romantic comedy about a chocolate shop owner who awakens an old-fashioned French village with her uniquely gifted treats.

RSVP by Friday, February 2nd 203-393-2100 x1124

## **VIRTUAL VISIT TO BELGIUM**

**CHOCOLATE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.**

This free event is sponsored by

Bethany Human Services

Monday, February 26th 11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

Come learn about one of the most well-known chocolate destinations in the world!

RSVP by Tuesday, February 20th

203-393-2100 x1124 Space is Limited

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

Wednesday, March 6th Noon-1:30 PM

Lakeview Lodge

Guinness Beef Stew -Shamrock Salad- Soda Bread -  
Irish Cream Cupcakes

**Live Entertainment: PIERCE CAMPBELL**

Member of CT's own Irish Folk Band "The Kerry Boys"

**\$13.00 Exact Cash at the Door**

**RSVP 203-393-2100 x1124 by February 26th**

## **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.**

## **SENIOR BUS TRANSPORTATION**

**IS AVAILABLE MON-WED-FRI**

**from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.**

To reserve call 203-393-2100 x1324

Medical appointments take priority.

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

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# 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](http://Bethany-ed.org).



## More Information

[www.bethany-ed.org](http://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](#).

## Bethany Seniority

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### FUEL ASSISTANCE

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

### 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!

### 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.



## What Can We Feed or Fix For You?

770 Amity Road, Bethany, CT | [lsbfarmsupply.com](http://lsbfarmsupply.com) | (203) 393-0002

# *It Happened In Bethany*

## *Governor's Horse Guard in Bethany*

*By Linda Wooster*

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard (2GHG) is an all-volunteer state-organized militia unit, originally formed to protect and escort the Governor. As an active Cavalry Unit, 2GHG continues to serve the Governor and the State of Connecticut at the direction of the Connecticut Army National Guard, under the command of the Adjutant General. The main duties of the unit are as a ceremonial unit, partaking in parades and public educational service to schools, scouting groups, and special needs.

For many years, the 2nd Company Governor's Horse Guard was stationed in various locations throughout Bethany...Amity Road, next to the old firehouse and Bethway Road, among others. One of the oldest cavalry units in continuous service in the United States, 2GHG was chartered in 1808 and had a history throughout the years of dedicated service to the preservation of the Cavalry in Connecticut. The unit's original mission was to protect the Governor as he commuted between Hartford and New Haven, then Connecticut's two part-time capitals.

During the 19th century, the ancestors of the 2nd Company fought in every American war. During the War of 1812, in which Britain and France battled for political and economic control of Europe, the Governor, fearing a British reprisal against Connecticut merchants for supplying arms to France, ordered his 2nd Company to protect the ships in New Haven Harbor. The Governor's fear was well founded; the British had earlier destroyed 26 ships at Pettipaug, a small town on the Connecticut river. The guardsmen reportedly saw a British man-of-war off the coast of New Haven, but the ship sailed away without incident.

In 1916, as a troop of the Connecticut National Guard, the 2nd Company was activated and served on the Mexican border replacing regular army units which accompanied General John Pershing in his search for Pancho Villa.

When the US entered World War I, the Company, without horses, became part of a machine-gun battalion attached to the 26th Yankee Division, which was made up of National Guardsmen from New England. In France, they fought in several major battles with that division.

At the onset of World War II, the troop was again dismounted, and assigned to an anti-aircraft gun battalion. In this capacity, its members served in the South Pacific.

In 1948, the unit was re-formed as a Calvary troop in the state militia and reverted to its original designation, 2nd Company GHG, for the first time in over four decades.

The Company first represented Connecticut in the inaugural parade of 1928. One of the most unforgettable moments of the Guard was marching in President Reagan's 1984 inauguration day parade. It was extremely cold that day – something like 20 below zero with the windchill factor. To make matters worse, the bus the CT Guard took to Washington didn't have any heat. The Guardsmen were cold; the horses were cold. The swearing-in ceremony was moved indoors and the traditional parade was cancelled!

The unit was a familiar sight on Bethany roads until the fall of 1990 when higher rent and cramped space forced the company to move into a series of temporary quarters before eventually settling in Newtown.



## **NOTICE FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR**

The second installment of Bethany Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes and the full amount of Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes on the 2022 Grand List (2023 Taxes) become due and payable on January 1, 2024. Thursday, February 1, 2024, is the last day to pay said taxes without interest penalty. Interest is calculated from the due date at the rate of 1.5% per month (18% per annum). Minimum interest charge is \$2.00. In accordance with CT state statute Sec. 12-130, failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from payment of taxes, interest charges or fees. Mail tax payment to Bethany Tax Collector, 40 Peck Rd, Bethany CT 06524. Your cancelled check is your receipt or enclose a self-addressed/stamped envelope. You may also pay at Webster Bank's Bethany Branch during regular banking hours but will need your bill to do so. To pay online by electronic funds transfer (no fee) or credit/debit card (2.5% bank fee), go to [www.bethany-ct.com](http://www.bethany-ct.com) > Pay Online > Tax Collector. Back taxes on Motor Vehicles must be paid with cash, money order, Official Check or credit/debit card for immediate DMV registration clearance.

Linda Bates, Tax Collector

# Sustainable Bethany

## No. 38. Letter from Sustainable Bethany. Books, Noisy Neighbors, Foraging Talk Part III, and Eclipse 2024.

**Books:** We are launching a new feature in our newsletter – book recommendations we hope are compelling and engaging about environmental, ecological or sustainability issues that affect us all. This month it's *Wasteland: The Secret World of Waste and the Urgent Search for a Cleaner Future* by journalist Oliver Franklin-Wallis. He takes us through the secretive profitable multi-billion-dollar world of the waste industry that drives modern economies. In India, he visits plastics waste-pickers. In England, he slips down into sewer systems to write about old and new waste crises and comes face-to-face with some glowing nuclear waste! In Ghana, he explores the afterlife of used often donated technologies, following global export networks that clog African landfills. In his travels, Franklin-Wallis meets innovators and campaigners who are creating a cleaner and less wasteful future. This thought-provoking, occasionally disturbing book tells the story of humanity, based on what we leave behind, and along the way, he shares a blueprint for building a healthier, more sustainable world before we irreversibly foul our nest. (Text adapted from "Goodreads.")

*Wasteland* is available at **Clark Memorial Library**. If you have recommendations about other books, please email us.

**Noisy Neighbors:** Have you noticed it has become noisy during winter nights? The great horned owls are back, hooting courting calls to one another everywhere. Each owl has his or her own voice. The Casanovas and coquettes high in our trees are pairing off to build large rough stick nests for their future families. This species is in decline, so it is good they are thriving in Bethany. Below, coyotes howl which sets many sensible dogs in our neighborhoods off into hysterics. Coyotes have at least 12 vocalizations including huffing, barking, yelping, winning, lone and group yip-howling (choir practice), and woofing. Only a few coyotes make these calls while most remain silent. This deception makes us believe there are many more animals than there are. The calls function to gather packs together, call to dinner, mood assessment, greeting, submission, location information, territory, or identification of the sexes. We also have red foxes and in late winter you may hear "blood curdling" screams as if someone is being murdered. It is the vixens calling to their dog/tod/reynard-foxes. These are some noises coming from our woods suggesting our forests are alive with wildlife and doing well.

**Foraging Talk, Part III:** This is the final part of the series from Karen Monger's Land Trust sponsored talk held last November (2023). **Sassafras** suckers can be gently pulled from parent trees, cleaned, chopped, and boiled for 40-45 minutes. This is the original flavor for root beer. **Chicory** roots once cleaned, roasted for 20-25mins at 300°F until crisp and ground up makes a great substitute for coffee. **Dandelions** in early spring while young are not bitter and make excellent nutritious greens. In fall dig up the roots, clean, dry, and grind to make dandelion coffee. **Autumn Olive** has bright red berries in the fall, rich in lycopene (helpful with diabetes mellitus), antioxidants, and Vitamins C and E make excellent jams, jellies and souffles. Happy foraging everyone.

**Eclipse 2024:** Now is the time to plan for the great 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. Folks are already booking hotels under the path of the totality. On April 8, 2024, the total solar eclipse will pass over Mexico, United States, and Canada. Under the right conditions and in particular locations, the entirety of the Sun will be blocked by the Moon. Here are some New England locations for viewing the total eclipse:

**Burlington VT**, partial eclipse begins 2:14 PM, totality begins 3:26 PM, totality ends 3:29 PM, partial eclipse ends 4:37 PM.

**Lancaster NH**, partial eclipse begins 2:16 PM, totality begins 3:27 PM, totality ends 3:30 PM, partial eclipse ends 4:38 PM.

**Caribou ME**, partial eclipse begins 2:22 PM, totality begins 3:32 PM, totality ends 3:34 PM, partial eclipse ends 4:40 PM.

If you can't travel, don't despair. In Bethany 91% of the Sun will be eclipsed. As part of your preparation, purchase eclipse viewing glasses. Viewing the Sun directly can permanently damage your eyes. You can also easily construct a pinhole projector for indirect viewing. For more details on the path of the eclipse see the YouTube video: "A tour of NASA'S 2024 total solar eclipse map."

**February** is quiet. The Moon and Jupiter will make a close approach, passing within 3 degrees of each other on the evening of February 15. From Bethany, the pair will become visible at around 5:41 PM above your southwestern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness. They will then sink towards the horizon, setting at 11:28 PM. - Michael Kaloyanides.

Best wishes,

Gale Ridge

Sponsored by Sustainable Bethany

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

# Check It Out !

*February 2024  
Clark Memorial Library*

## Take Your Child to the Library Day 2024

### February 1st-3rd

Come celebrate with us! Clark Memorial Library is participating in this national event and we ask all of Bethany to take part. We thank the many donors who made the Children's Room renovation possible --- and we invite everyone to enjoy the new space and honor our shared commitment to having a strong public library in Bethany. A special dedication on Saturday will honor lifelong Bethany resident and library supporter Nancy Disbrow.

### Celebration Schedule:

#### **Thursday, Feb. 1st and Friday, Feb. 2nd: 12PM-6PM**

- Cut a ribbon for the ribbon tree.
- Decorate a cupcake to take home.
- Enter the raffle for an Award Book Basket.
- Sign up for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

#### **Saturday, Feb. 3rd: 10AM-5PM**

- Special dedication of the Nancy J. Disbrow Children's Room at 1:30 PM.
- Ali the Balloon Guy from 2-4:00 PM.
- Cut a ribbon for the ribbon tree (all day).
- Decorate a cupcake to take home (all day).
- Enter the raffle for an Award Book Basket.
- Sign up for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program (all day).

#### **Paint and Sip on Tuesday, Feb 13th 7:00 PM**

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library to thank our supportive community. This is a free event and space is limited.

Call the Library at 203-393-2103 to sign up.

#### **Children's Programs Resume on January 24th.**

#### **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 10:30AM – 11:00AM.

#### **Share the Love – Valentine Maker Days**

Come to the Library to make a valentine. All day during library hours February 7th-14th in the Children's Room Makerspace. All ages welcome!

#### **Crafty Bots Maker Days**

Enjoy creating a robot craft in the Makerspace. February 15th - March 1st. All day – all ages!

Available during library hours.

#### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.



**1000 Books before Kindergarten is a national program that focuses on early literacy. It offers the opportunity to enhance the services of Clark Memorial Library and support the youngest residents of Bethany.**

Is it possible to read 1000 books? Yes it is! Reading three books a day for 1 year = 1095 books. Reading one book a day for three years = 1095. Our goal is to develop a program that supports young families by providing incentives and materials to reach those reading goals.

Sign up at the Library to get started!

*This program is made possible by a grant from the Town of Bethany*

#### Library Hours

Tues/Wed/Thurs 10AM-6PM

Fri 12PM-5PM / Sat 10PM-5PM



**Need a new card or to renew an existing card?**

**Contact us at 203-393-2103  
or [ClarkMain@bethanylibrary.org](mailto:ClarkMain@bethanylibrary.org)**

### **BETHANY LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP**

The Bethany Lions Club has established four scholarships for \$2,000 each and one scholarship for \$3,000.

Applicants must be a Bethany resident and a member of a graduation class of an accredited secondary school.

Applications are available at the Clark Memorial Library, the Bethany Town Hall and the Amity Regional High School Guidance Office.

Applications must be returned to the Amity Guidance Office or Bethany Town Hall on or before May 1, 2024.

**BETHANY LIONS**  
*Comedy Night*

**LINDA BELT**

**PAUL TARO**

**WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND BEVERAGE**  
Coffee/Tea/Dessert Provided

**DONATION \$25/pp**  
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM

**Tickets? Call/Text Lion Linda (203) 530-5287 or email: blcomedynight@gmail.com**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

Bethany Lakeview Lodge  
265 Beacon Rd., CT-42,  
Bethany, CT., 06525  
Doors open @ 7 pm - Show @ 7:30 pm

**PG16-R\***  
\*Some adult suggestive material, language

## 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.

## Christ Episcopal Church Annual Chili Cook Off

The Annual Chili Cook Off presented by Friends of Christ Church is back! Sample a number of delicious chilis and choose your favorite to see who wins the coveted Wooden Spoon!

To be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 526 Amity Rd., Bethany (at the blinking light) on Saturday February 24, 3-6p.m. \$20 per person to sample (and re-sample) all the chilis and cornbread too. BYOB. There are some good cooks in town so don't miss this!



## From the desk of the Fire Marshal

With spring being not too far off, and having a mild winter, the thought of spring yard cleanup will soon be on everyone's mind. With that being said, I would just like to remind everyone that Bethany has an open burning policy that requires you to obtain a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office in order to burn piles of brush. Campfires that are in a confined pit with a cover or a premade fire pit, such as those you would purchase at a Lowes or Home Depot type store, are allowed without a permit, as long as the fire department or the Fire Marshal's Office do not receive a valid complaint that would need to be investigated. If a valid complaint is made, then the campfire will have to be extinguished at the discretion of the Fire Marshal's Office. There is no cost for a permit, and just a simple inspection is required. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Fire Marshal's Office at (203) 393-2100 Extension 1119.

## The Bethany Conservation Commission is seeking nominees for the annual Conservationist of the Year Award.

The nomination form can be found on the town's website or at Town Hall and needs to be submitted by March 7, 2024.  
Brian Eitzer, Chair Conservation Commission.

## NOTICE OF DECISION

AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024

Notice of Decision is hereby given at Regular Meeting held.  
Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.  
in the commission room located at the Town of Bethany - Town Hall

1. **APPROVED** - Application #2023-018 and on application of John Corbo (applicant and owner) of property at 58 Lebanon Road in an existing R-65 zone for approval to construct an approximately 450 sf studio/ apartment in existing basement at this location for a Special Permit and a site plan approval in accordance with Section 5.4.K of the Bethany Zoning Regulations.
2. **DID NOT PASS** - proposed Bethany Zoning Regulation Amendment Special Exception Uses - Residential Zones: Section 5, Subsection 5.4.N to regard burial of family member on residentially zoned and residentially used lot.
3. **APPROVED** - 6 Sargent Drive - Applicant/Owner Mukesh Patel - Map 117 Lot 11X - B&I.
  - o Application #2023-017 for illuminated "Shell" sign at gas station with yellow shell border on canopy.

Respectfully submitted,

Lina V. Frazer  
Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Land Use Administrator

# BETHANY LAND TRUST



## The Legacy of Stephen Collins-Part 2

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

After the establishment of the Bethany Land Trust in 1968, Stephen Collins, Bethany resident and Professor of Biological Sciences at SCSU, set his sights on a larger landscape, West Rock Ridge. What grew in the imagination of Mr. Collins along with Peter Cooper, a conservationist lawyer, and Dr. William Doheny of Hamden was the possibility of creating a regional park.

At that time, the City of New Haven had its own West Rock Park, with an access road, Baldwin Parkway, constructed by the Works Progress Administration’s (WPA) along the ridge in the 1930’s. The idea for the expanded regional park had the four abutting towns of New Haven, Woodbridge, Bethany and Hamden coming together to form a larger entity. This larger park would include not only lands already protected but also a “Conservation Area” out beyond the existing preserved lands in each community.

The three conspirators used the 1961 Cape Cod National Seashore legislation, which encompassed both private and public lands, as inspiration for preservation of West Rock Ridge. They drafted legislation that included a mechanism to create a conservation area beyond the existing park’s boundaries. The draft also established a reviewing committee with representatives from the four different communities to advise on which properties to purchase for the park.

The legislation establishing the new regional park passed. However, the chief of the State Park Department recommended that then Gov. Ella Grasso veto it, which she did. It was felt that a local grass roots proposal would interfere with the usual protocol that ideas for new parks were generated by bureaucrats from the top down. The creation of a local level advisory committee was going to be an enormous bother and interference with the sovereign immunity of the State.

Because Steve and Bill and Peter were sufficiently naïve young “whippersnappers” and did not know any better, they thought Ella Grasso’s veto was an outrage. So, they plunged into the political process, buttonholed legislative supporters, and to everyone’s amazement generated enough support so that the legislature overrode the veto in 1975. Thus, the small New Haven West Rock Park became over time the four-town West Rock Ridge State Park of now almost 1700 acres.

The park is the second largest in Connecticut, has 21 miles of blazed trails, and has the second highest concentration of rare and endangered species of any park in the state. For more information about the West Rock Ridge State Park including hiking trails, visit the West Rock Ridge Park Association website at:

<https://westrockpark.wordpress.com/home/>

The Stephen Collins Memorial located in the Niederman/Sizer Field on Sperry Road has a bench facing east toward one of Stephen Collins’s legacies, the West Rock Ridge State Park.

Linda Francois

Past-president, Bethany Land Trust



## News From the Registrar of Voters

With Early Voting beginning in 2024 as well as Primary Elections this year, we felt it would be a good time to provide residents with some election information. Please note: the information provided here is the most current that we have. We will continue to update you as we can.

- The Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Our polling location is at the Bethany Town Hall. When you registered to vote, you were asked “Do you wish to enroll in a Political Party?” If you chose “No”, you are not eligible to vote in a Democratic or Republican Primary.
- Even if you have always voted for a particular party, we do not know that and we should not know that.
- If you are Unaffiliated (checked “NO”), you can change to a party the day before the primary. (Please note, we do not yet know how this will work for Early Voting.)
- If you are affiliated with any party, including “Independent” as that is a party in CT, you have to change your party 90 days before a primary. With the PPP on April 2, 2024, 90 days before was January 3, 2024.

Early Voting will occur for the PPP during the week preceding the Election on April 2, 2024. Days and times are being scheduled at this time and will be announced in the March Bulletin. Please check back on the Town of Bethany website under the “Registrar of Voters” section for updated information.

For any questions about voter registration, please contact the Registrar of Voters at 203-393-2100 x1121 or [registrar@bethany-ct.com](mailto:registrar@bethany-ct.com).



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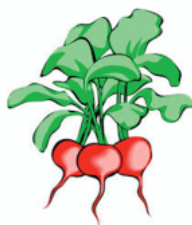
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Garden  
*Let's Grow!*

**Growing Season 2024**

Rent a raised bed in the Bethany Community Garden  
for \$25 per year (\$15/year for seniors).

Email: [bethanycommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:bethanycommunitygarden@gmail.com) for  
more information and check us out on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/BethanyConnecticutCommunityGarden>

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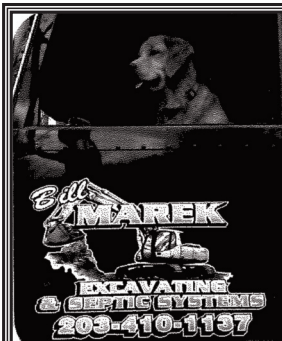
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