

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 6

www.bethany-ct.com

June 2024

Town Hall & Public Works will be **CLOSED**

Wednesday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth. *No change in trash pick up Parks and Recreation Summer Camp will be OPEN on June 19th.*



From the First Selectman's Desk May Highlights and June Updates

Dear Bethany Residents,

Once again Mother Nature provided us with a period of diverse weather conditions. May is one of those months when it may rain, it may snow/hail, it may be 70° or it may be 40°. Only Mother Nature seems to know for sure. I hope you had a great month of May, and I hope all our moms were able to enjoy a wonderful Mother's Day. As we start the month of June, I'd like to think we can now enjoy some beautiful weather on a regular basis.



Eagle Scout candidate Shane Johnson from Troup 931 presented his proposed project to the Board of Selectmen and those present at the May 2nd Board of Selectmen's meeting. Shane plans to replace several boards of the fencing of the horse rings at the Bethany airport property as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He stated that he participated in horse shows at the Bethany airport property for much of his life. He is looking to paint, prime, and replace the boards that are rotted on the fences. He stated that several members in the troop, along with some adults, will be providing help with the fences and that he is looking at spending a total of \$750.00. So far, a local business has provided the paint. Shane will be contacting the Bethany Lions Club to see if they can assist with the boards. Twenty-three (23) 2x8x16 boards are needed. We confirmed that pressure treated boards are allowed. The Board unanimously approved his project.

Saturday, May 4th was Opening Day for the Beth-Wood Baseball League. Of course, hoping that Mother Nature would cooperate, the Opening Day event was scheduled to be held at 10a.m. on the Woodbridge Town Green. The Beth-Wood Baseball League is a volunteer-driven program that serves young players ages 4-15. In their Mission Statement it notes: ...This is a Program of serving our Youth and is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation.... It is always fun to participate in this event, and I enjoyed seeing all of the happy faces and feeling the energy. Wishing all the players, coaches and fans a great season.

On Monday, May 6th, our Human Services Department hosted a lovely Mother's Day Tea for our Bethany Senior ladies. It was a full house. Lunch was prepared by Senior Services Director Robin Glowa. Thank you to Robin Glowa for hosting this wonderful event and thank you to Emily Richard and Janice Howard for all their help.

The Amity Budget Referendum was held on Tuesday, May 7th. Thank you to our Registrars and all the poll workers who kept things running smoothly. We know it is a very long day for many of you. The results were:

Amity Referendum Results		
	May 7th Vote	
	Yes	No
Bethany	295	147
Orange	524	361
Woodbridge	427	300
TOTALS	1,246	808

An informational meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15th. This meeting was a follow up to the Public Hearing held in early April. Whether you were able to attend the meeting in April or not, this was another opportunity to ask questions for clarification as to how the Town will be handling the town-wide curbside collection of municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling. The meeting was well at-

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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

tended. JR Bria from RWS and Executive Assistant Jenn Cafasso were also on hand to address questions and concerns.

On Monday, May 20th, we held our Annual Town and Budget Meeting. There were several items on the notice for approval by the Town. Prior to starting the agenda, a couple of acknowledgements were made:

Bart Piccirillo received recognition as the Bethany 2024 Conservationist of the Year from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Brian Eitzer, Chair of the Conservation Commission provided the following: Both an electrical engineer and a master carpenter, Mr. Piccirillo gives of his time freely to environmental projects and has become the Land Trust's trusted and dependable expert to lead the successful completion of large endeavors throughout Bethany. Most notably, Mr. Piccirillo has improved access to four of the Land Trust's preserves by designing four different bridges and then leading teams of volunteers with the construction. In addition to volunteering his time, Mr. Piccirillo has been able to convince small and large businesses to donate materials for these projects. Mr. Piccirillo has served as a member of the Land Trust Board of Directors for over 10 years. As a member of the Land Trust's volunteer trail crew, Mr. Piccirillo has helped with wildlife habitat restoration and preservation of natural and historical resources. Mr. Piccirillo has worked tirelessly to help organize and promote the twice annual environmental educational programs supported by the Land Trust. He has built and placed wildlife viewing benches at Mendell's Folly and at the Stephen Collins Memorial located in the Niederman/Sizer Field on Sperry Road. He has built and placed wooden supports for marquee signs at both Land Trust and town-owned properties. He provided materials and mentorship as part of an eagle scout project to place map kiosks at preserves. All across Bethany are enduring additions to the natural landscape that help to provide a link with nature thanks to Bart Piccirillo. Congratulations to Bart on this wonderful recognition.

As you may recall earlier this year, I put a posting in the Bulletin looking for nominations for our annual First Selectman's Youth Award. As noted in my May Bulletin message, Michael Crisci was our 2024 recipient of this award. Michael was recognized at the Town Meeting on May 20th and presented with a plaque and check. The monetary donation for this award was provided by Webster Bank. Congratulations to Michael and his family – well deserved.

Budget Highlights from the Annual Town Meeting on May 20th: Twenty-four out of the Twenty-five items on the call passed. The total proposed budget for 2024-2025 is \$26,627,696.00, which is an amended final number as \$213,601.00 was voted out from the Solid Waste-Curbside Pickup line item; the Item for the Code of Conduct was tabled. The Board of Finance met immediately following the Annual Town Meeting to approve the mill rate. The mill rate for 2024-2025 has decreased below the state cap for motor vehicles so there will be a uniform mill rate of 28.42 for all taxable real estate, personal property and motor vehicles. Regarding July 1st tax bills: Please check important information included in this Bulletin from the Tax Collec-

tor's Office regarding tax bills and payments.

Veterans' Park is open, and the Lodge and Pavilion are available for rental. If interested in renting either of these venues, you can contact Vinny Ciavarella for more information. He can be reached at 203-393-2100 x 2101 or via email at reservations@bethany-ct.com. Memorial Day starts the summer season. Come to the park and enjoy basketball, pickleball and tennis. Bring the kids to the beach and/or the playground. It's a wonderful place for fun and memories. Dog owners please remember when visiting the park to keep your dog(s) on a leash and pick up after them.

I bet we all have them – hazardous waste items stored either in our basements or garages. Please see the section in this issue of the Bulletin on Hazardous Waste Disposal. It helps you and the environment.

I know you've heard me say it before, but please slow down and stay alert. As the nicer weather has finally arrived, it is even more important to be aware of your surroundings when driving. Warmer weather brings more people out on the road, whether they are driving, walking, biking, or riding horses. We want everyone to be safe.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for the Northern Civil War, called for a nationwide day of remembrance of former Union military veterans later that month. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. By proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated as an official federal holiday on the last Monday of May.

On Monday, May 27th, the Bethany Lions Club held the 63rd Memorial Day Parade. It was a wonderful event even with the torrential downpours. Bethany certainly showed its resilience and grit. The Grand Marshal of the parade was Retired Commander, U.S. Army, James Tirrell. The parade included school bands, a variety of local groups and organizations, the Bethany Public Works, the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department, the Woodbridge Fire Department, boys and girl scouts, and a variety of antique and unique cars and trucks. Of course, no parade would be complete without the horses. Kudos to all who came out to see the parade. It was great to see so many enjoying the event. We didn't let a "little" rain dampen our enthusiasm.

The parade was followed by the Memorial Day Service at the Town Hall. There were a few speeches and then Mr. Tirrell and I placed the memorial wreath at the base of the monument in front of Town Hall as taps was played by a member of the Amity Regional High School band. Kim Brinton read the history/meaning of the folding of the American flag as Jackie and Don Duman demonstrated the process. The Service was a wonderful and heartfelt tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom.

For ongoing updates, please go to the Town website or follow the Town of Bethany Facebook page.

As a final note: I want to extend congratulations and good luck to all our students who are moving up from elementary to middle school and middle to high school. You are moving on to another chapter in your life. Enjoy it and make the most of it.

To all of our high school and college graduates, you have come to a new juncture in your life. Everything you have learned to this point, both in and out of school, will guide you to make the right decisions to help you be successful with any future endeavors. I am extending my sincerest congratulations and wishing you all the best, now and in the future!

To all the parents, job well done! Congratulations to you, too!

I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing Memorial Day as we remembered those who have served and died to protect our freedom. And as always, thank you to those currently serving.

A friendly reminder: The Bethany Athletic Association Carnival is May 30th and 31st, and June 1st. The Firemen's Parade will be Friday the 31st starting at 7p.m. Fireworks are planned for Saturday the 1st. It is always a special time in our beautiful community. Looking forward to seeing everyone 😊.

Thank you and stay safe.

I wish everyone good health and a happy:

Flag Day

1st of Summer

June 16th



and



and



INFORMATION REGARDING WEEKLY TRASH PICK-UP

We have received information that may be helpful when leaving your trash out for pickup by RWS (Residential Waste Systems). You can sign up for text alerts – text BETHANY to 203-334-1660 to be added to their holiday and weather-related schedule change Alert System. You can also sign up to receive email notifications on their website: <https://residentialwastesystems.com>
If you need to email RWS, put BETHANY in the subject line. Their email address is: info@residentialwastesystems.com.

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

*** HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL ***

HazWaste Central is a free service to residents of Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Fairfield, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge.

Household hazardous waste comes from everyday products used in the home, garage, yard or garden. HazWaste Central helps area residents in member towns protect water quality by safely disposing of these household wastes. Located at our headquarters at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, HazWaste Central is open from 9a.m. until noon during scheduled collection days. You must register for drop off. For more detailed go to rwater.com/hazwaste/.

A visit to HazWaste Central is quick and easy. Participants never have to leave their cars, and the waste is off-loaded by professionals. Co-sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG). Some of the household wastes that can be dropped off include aerosol cleaners and sprays, antifreeze, oil-based paint and pool chemicals. Online registration is required to participate in HazWaste Central.

The Town of Bethany accepts the following hazardous waste items at the Town Recycling Center: antifreeze, auto batteries, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, electronics, motor oil, and smoke detectors.

BETHANY FIRST CHURCH Strawberry Shortcake Take-Out

Saturday June 1st

11 AM - 3 PM

\$8 each



511 Amity Rd, Bethany, CT

Don't miss out - Order in Advance!

Call in your order at (203) 393-3116 or email it to info@bethanyfirstchurch.org

Let us know your **name, phone #, how many** you're ordering & if any need sugar-free berries.

Residential Waste Systems Trash Pick Up Reminder

Independence Day 2024: Thursday Pickups will be Friday

Labor Day 2024: All Pickups delayed one day

Thanksgiving Day 2024: Thursday Pickups delayed one day

Christmas Day 2024: Wednesday/Thursday Pickups delayed one day

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

From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Community Member,

It is a very celebratory time of year at Bethany Community School! May overflowed with gratitude and celebration as we honored our phenomenal staff. During Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, our community united to shower our teachers and staff with tokens of appreciation, from scrumptious lunches to delightful surprises. It was a heartfelt demonstration of our gratitude for their unwavering dedication and hard work at BCS, day in and day out.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such exceptional individuals among our staff, and I trust that during that special week in May, they felt the depth of our appreciation—from students, families, administration, community members, and the Board of Education alike.

The celebrations didn't end there! We took the opportunity to shine a spotlight on some of our remarkable staff members marking milestone years at BCS. Congratulations to Mr. Kevin Fallon, Mrs. Trudianne Formica, and Ms. Donna Ricciardi on their 5-year service recognition. Cheers to Mrs. Marjorie Nusom and Ms. Anastasia Przyblyoski for completing 10 years of dedicated service. A special salute to Mrs. Liz Harsche for her 20 years of commitment and Mrs. Maria LeVasseur for an impressive 25 years of service to BCS. Let's also extend our heartfelt appreciation to retiring teacher Meladee Ruzbarsky for her years of shaping young minds. Last, but certainly not least, a standing ovation for our 2024 Staff Member of the Year, Donna Ricciardi, and our 2024 Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Grayeb.

As we step into June, we embark on the final stretch of the school year with only seven school days left on the calendar. End-of-year festivities are in full swing, marking both closure and new beginnings. To our graduating sixth-grade students, as you bid farewell to the halls of BCS and embrace the next chapter at Amity, know that you carry with you the encouragement, support, and confidence of our entire community. We believe in you and look forward to witnessing the greatness you'll achieve in middle school and beyond.

To every member of our Bethany community, thank you for your unwavering support throughout this school year. Our collective success as a district is a testament to the power of collaboration and partnership. Let's take pride in the strides we've made together toward providing an outstanding education for all our students.

Remember that the doors of the Board of Education offices remain open during the summer. Your feedback, suggestions, and ideas are invaluable in propelling our district forward, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (203) 393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org. Yours in partnership,

Kai Byrd
Superintendent



FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S DESK

Summer is here!

It is time for outdoor cooking.

During the warm months everyone enjoys food on the grill or griddle. This is also when there are a lot of fires from gas grills or griddles, due to lack of maintenance.

Every season you should check your cooking appliances for leaks and proper operation. You should check for leaks at all gas connections by turning on the gas and spraying a solution of dish soap and water on all the connections. If there is a leak, you will see bubbles where there is a leak. If you spray it with the solution and nothing happens, you have no leaks.

You should also check your burners where the burner meets the gas line. Spiders are known to build nests in these areas. This causes improper flow of the gas and can cause fires from gas pockets building up and creating a flash fire.

If you have questions on maintaining your gas device, refer to your owner's manual or manufacturer's website.

PICKLEBALL CLINICS

Saturday, June 29th
at Veterans Memorial Park

\$40/Clinic per Person

Please register for the clinic that best represents your skill level.

New Beginner/Beginner 10am—11:30am

For players brand new to the game or who have only played a few times. You will learn the fundamental shots of the game including dinks, drives, volleys, serves and returns. We will also review the rules, scoring and positioning when playing doubles.

Advanced Beginner/Low Intermediate

11:30am—1:00pm

For players who already know the rules and scoring of the game. Fundamental shots like dinks, 3rd shot drop, volleys, serves and returns will be taught. Doubles Matchplay analysis will be emphasized as we review strategy, positioning, and moving in unison with our partner.

For more information, please refer to the Town's website or call the Parks and Rec office at 203 393-2100 ext.1127

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

June 2024



"And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days."- John Keats



Bethany Town Hall will be closed Wednesday, June 19th.
No Bus Service on Wednesday, June 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.

JUNE ENTREES:

June 5: Ginger Carrot Soup, Lemon Dill Cod

June 12: Food Demo with Chef Edwin from Charter of Woodbridge

June 19: NO LUNCH-Closed for Juneteenth

June 26: START OF SUMMER PARTY

Reservations Required by June 12th

FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

"FATHER OF THE BRIDE"

Friday, June 7th at 11 AM
Bethany Senior Center

In honor of Father's Day and June Brides! This heart-warming and hilarious film stars Steve Martin, Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams

Please call 203-393-2100 x1124
to reserve a seat by June 3rd

SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services
& Hamden Rehabilitation

Monday, June 10th at 11 AM
Bethany Senior Center

SUNCATCHERS

Capture the summer sun with this beautiful craft!

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 by **June 3rd**
to reserve your seat. *Space is Limited.*

START OF SUMMER PARTY!

Wednesday, June 26th from Noon-2PM
Veteran's Park Pavilion

(Event will be held at Lakeview Lodge if there is inclement weather or extreme heat)

Hot Dogs-Potato Salad,
Coleslaw -Baked Beans

And for Dessert-

Make Your Own Sundaes aboard
The Ice Cream Emergency Truck!!!

\$10.00 Pay in exact cash at the event
Reserve Your Seat by Wednesday, June 12th
SEATING IS LIMITED FOR THIS EVENT
Call: 203-393-2100 x1124

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 LAND TRUST



Monthly Land Trust Trail Hikes in June

Our series of monthly, guided hikes through some of our properties continues with two upcoming hikes in June. If you've ever wanted to walk some of our hiking trails in Bethany and are not too sure where to start, now is an opportunity to join us for some guided hikes. These hikes are designed to introduce you to some of our preserves and to identify unique features that make those preserves very special places in town. See our website for the full list of hikes.

Sunday, June 2, 1 – 3PM:

CT Trails Day Complete the Loop Hike

Come join us on our Complete the Loop Hike through four different preserves in Bethany and Woodbridge. CT Trail Day, held on the first weekend in June every year, is the largest celebration of trails in the nation. Coordinated by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, CT Trails Day features over 175 events throughout the state.

Co-sponsored by the Bethany Conservation Commission and the Bethany Land Trust, the Complete the Loop Hike will take us along a newly created loop trail that traverses the Land Trust's Bethany Farms and Whispering Pines parcels, the Town of Woodbridge's Russell Swamp parcel, and the Carrington Preserve owned by the Town of Bethany.

We will be hiking through an area of rich history, both colonial and indigenous, and an area providing a wildlife corridor and natural habitat for many species. The hike will follow a portion of the historic Naugatuck Trail, originally established by the Paugussett Tribe and later used by settlers as the main route leading from New Haven to Naugatuck.

The hike will be between three – four miles or so with a few, strenuous uphill sections. Solid footwear is recommended. Please bring your own water and snacks.

To register: contact Bob Harrison by May 31st via cell at 203-506-5888 or bjh51box@gmail.com

Parking at the trail entrances on to Bethany Farms at 59 Farm View Road in Bethany; look for the green Land Trust banner.

Sunday, June 23rd, 1 – 3PM: Kids & Family BioBlitz. This fun-filled hike, rescheduled for June after being rained out in May, will be held in the Whispering Pines Preserve. A BioBlitz is an exciting event where teams of scientists, students, and community members come together to identify as many species as possible in a specific area over a set period of time. It's a hands-on way to engage with nature and learn about local biodiversity.

This event is kid-friendly, but please note that it involves a short 0.3-mile hike to the survey site. During our BioBlitz, we will be surveying plants and animals that inhabit both the stream and nearby forest. If you're plan-

ning to explore the stream and look for critters, be sure to bring waterproof boots or shoes.

Explore this beautiful spot with us and help identify its inhabitants! Your discoveries will be shared with the scientific community via iNaturalist. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our Guides:

- Ali Beres-Nork is an Environmental Science teacher at Amity High School.
- Grace Kenney is an environmental educator at Slate School in North Haven.

To register: contact Bob Harrison by June 21st via cell at 203-506-5888 or bjh51box@gmail.com

Parking at the trail entrance to Whispering Pines at 30 Briar Rd; look for the green Land Trust banner.

Bob Harrison

Bethany Land Trust, Trails Chair

NOTICE FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

The first installment of the Bethany Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, and the full amount of Motor Vehicle Taxes on the 2023 Grand List are due and payable on **July 1, 2024**. Mail payments to Bethany Tax Collector, 40 Peck Rd, Bethany CT 06524 **Payments must be received or postmarked August 1, 2024, to avoid interest.**

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

Payments may also be made at the Tax Collector's Office M-F 8:30 to 4:30, at Webster Bank Bethany Branch (with a copy of your bill) or online at www.bethany-ct.com. Supply a self-addressed stamped envelope if you require a receipt mailed back to you. Credit Card payments will require a 2.5% bank fee to be paid by the taxpayer. There is no fee for EFT payments online. Back taxes on Motor Vehicles must be paid with cash, bank check or credit/debit card in person for immediate DMV registration release. **Payments cannot be accepted before July 1, 2024.**

Linda Bates, Tax Collector

It Happened In Bethany

By Linda Wooster

The Historical Society recently held two very successful events at the Russell Homestead. The group entertained 60 BCS second graders who experienced life in 1900s Bethany. The kids had tours of the house and barn and participated in activity stations — an early morning relay, making candles, peeling apples, doing laundry using a washboard, playing games, saddle-soaping, potting vegetable plants, making butter, and interacting with chickens and goats. A very popular hayride was added for the open house.

A huge thank you to Katharine Oshlick who created the events, Pete Latronica who provided the hay wagon for driver Jim DeCosta, the Public Works Dept., Tracey Flynn, Toni Green, Eva Arnott, Andy and Nancy Liveton, Jason Warner and his friends, and BHS Board of Directors who participated.



Sustainable Bethany

No. 42. Letter from Sustainable Bethany. National Trail Day, The Messier Catalogue, and “The Heat Will Kill You First.”

National Trail Day: Celebrate the first weekend of June and enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, running, trail maintenance, kayaking, family walks, educational outings, bird watching and more! Connecticut is a trailblazer in this celebration, hosting more events than any other state. With over 200 activities, the weekend has expanded to a two-day celebration from June 1-2. Visit trailsday.org to search/register for events. Also, check the Bethany Land Trust <https://bethanylandtrust.org/> for information on a “trails day loop hike” happening in town (Sun., June 2nd). Enjoy the outdoors and promote trail preservation for future generations!

Messier Catalogue: A set of 110 astronomical objects was catalogued by the 18th century French astronomer, Charles Messier. It is one of the most enduring lists, and many objects are still referenced by their Messier number. The catalogue includes most of the astronomical deep-sky objects easily observed from Earth's Northern Hemisphere and are popular with amateur astronomers. Some of the easiest Messier objects to see with binoculars/small telescope are globular clusters. A globular cluster is a spheroidal conglomeration of stars bound together by gravity, with a higher concentration of stars towards their centers. They can have anywhere from tens of thousands to many millions of stars, all orbiting in a stable, compact formation. Globular clusters appear as fuzzy spheres using most amateur viewing equipment. During June you can see some of the Messier globular clusters:

On June 1st the Great Globular Cluster in Hercules (Messier #13) will reach its highest point in the sky around midnight. From Bethany it is visible all night. It will appear at 9:41PM, 53° above your eastern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness and be visible until dawn.

In the first week of June the globular clusters Messier #10 and #12 in Ophiuchus will be well placed in the evening sky. They will reach their highest points in the sky around midnight and be visible until dawn.

The globular clusters Messier #92 in Hercules and Messier #22 in Sagittarius near the galactic center, will be well placed in the evening sky in coming weeks and reach their highest points in the sky at around midnight.

Follow the link below to locate Messier objects in your night sky: <https://in-the-sky.org/data/catalogue.php>

Book: With space limitations in last month's Bulletin, we are re-sharing the description of the book this month: *The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet* by Jeff Goodell.

The book describes ways our planet is changing from impacts of the fossil fuel industry. “Heat” is a primary

threat driving many impacts of the climate crisis. Goodell describes the implications of slight changes in temperature; why spring is earlier and fall later. Additionally, the impact on our food supply is huge. He explains why wildfires are longer and more severe. Goodell describes heat islands - what will happen to our lives and our communities when summer days in cities go from 90° to 110°F. “A heatwave,” Goodell explains, is a “predatory event;” one that “culls vulnerable people.” Increased heat will lead to changes in farming and disease patterns. As heatwaves become more intense and common, these predatory events will become more “democratic.” *The Heat Will Kill You First* is available at Clark Memorial Library. If you have recommendations about books, please let us know at the email address below.

Best wishes,

Gale Ridge

Co-chair Sustainable Bethany

Ali Nork, Michael Kaloyanidis and Eric Frieden contributed to this article.

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

Updates from State Representative Lezlye Zupkus

The 2024 legislative session has recently concluded, and I wanted to share information about several bills that I felt would be important to you.

First, the positive. HB 5413, legislation which I co-sponsored, was focused on enhancing the penalties against people convicted of violating street takeover laws, including the permanent revocation of a driver's license after the third offense.

The bill would have required a municipality to notify the owners of ATVs that are confiscated by police to collect them 30 days after the municipality mails a written notice to the owner that it will be forfeited if not collected. And it would have allowed municipalities to destroy unclaimed confiscated vehicles, rather than auctioning them off.

We know that street takeovers and illegal ATV use continues to be a problem, which is why we threw our support behind this legislation. Though the bill passed in the House, the Senate failed to take up this bill for a debate.

In the final weeks of session, I also voted in favor of HB 5150, legislation which would prohibit THC-infused beverages from being sold in convenience and grocery stores, where they're currently available for purchase by children. The legislation also makes it easier for municipal officials to initiate legal action on establishments that sell marijuana products illegally.

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The Appropriations Committee did not put forward a budget adjustment this session. They did put forward a bill (they refused to call it a budget) that directs remaining American Rescue Plan Act dollars for state spending. Unfortunately, the package shorted funding for special education by nearly \$80 million.

In response, my colleagues and I prepared a balanced budget adjustment that not only corrected the budget within the fiscal guardrails put forth in 2017, but focused resources in critical areas, including special education funding. The majority declined to take up that proposal.

My colleagues and I also had a simple legislative request: to allow a police officer to pull over a vehicle if they reasonably suspect the operator is smoking marijuana inside. Should have been commonsense legislation that would easily pass, right?

Lately, we've all smelled it – marijuana in cars that has drastically increased in our state and made our roads less safe. During session the House debated HB 5500, a bill referred to as an "aircraft carrier" that was jammed packed with a variety of legislation, some of it which was good, including the enhancement of protective orders for victims of certain crimes.

During debate on the House floor, I and my colleagues, offered an amendment to that bill, which would allow police to make traffic stops when they suspect marijuana is being smoked by the driver or the passenger.

Right now, our police officers are not allowed to make those stops. Our amendment should have passed, but it failed by 4 votes. We also offered an amendment that would allow police to stop a car if they suspected that a child under 18 was inside a car where marijuana was being smoked. It was also rejected.

As always, thank you for your support and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, ideas, and concerns at Lezlye.Zupkus@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700

ATTENTION DOG WALKERS

If you walk your dog up on the airport property, please clean up after your dog and take it with you. We need your help to keep the property pristine.



Thank you!

Check It Out !

June 2024
Clark Memorial Library

Help us shape the future of
Clark Memorial Library!

The Bethany Library Association is creating a new strategic plan and would like your input. Whether you use the Library or not, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

The survey is available on our website or directly at this link or through the QR code below. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KTDNL2>



Summer Reading begins June 8th

“Adventure Begins at your Library” this summer with summer reading activities beginning June 8th. Join us for weekly makerspace adventures, games, storytimes and special events. Check the library calendar for more information.

Arts@Clark!

Local artist Karen Cebula will exhibit her work in the library Community Room in June and July. Karen Cebula, a Northford artist, studied art at SCSU and taught art at public schools for 25 years. Now retired, she focuses on painting with acrylics and is inspired by nature. A reception for the artist will be held June 15th from 2p.m.-3:30p.m.

Fifth Annual Public Art Exhibit **Sunday, July 28 1-5 PM**

This event is our gift to the community – free to all participants --- artists, would-be artists and those who are simply looking to enjoy, renew and relax on a beautiful summer afternoon. The Call for Artists Application Forms are available at <http://bethanylibrary.org> by clicking on Arts@Clark! -- due June 15, 2024.

Thank you to all who donated to
the Great Give this year!

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



CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19th

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.

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

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

June 4th	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
June 5th	Planning & Zoning Commission	7:00PM
June 10th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
June 10th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
June 11th	Board of Finance	6:30PM
June 12th	Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
June 12th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
June 13th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
June 17th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
June 20th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM



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 Five Star Real Estate Agent Award.

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✉ Irma_Nesson@calcagni.com



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WHAT MY CLIENTS ARE SAYING...



"Susan is very professional and looks for every detail in the home buying process. her knowledge makes you feel at ease every step of way". - Mike M.

Susan Bedron
 REALTOR, CNHS, RCC

- 📞 203-215-2158
- ✉ Susan_Bedron@Calcagni.com
- 📍 975 South Main Sreet, Cheshire

Calcagni
 REAL ESTATE

Licensed in Connecticut.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS – DOG LICENSE APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 22-338, as amended, the owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older, except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in Sec. 22-342, shall license their dog during the month of June. All dog owners shall, on or before June 30th or when the dog reaches 6 months of age and annually thereafter, cause such dog to be licensed in the Town Clerk's Office.

The fee for licensing is as follows:

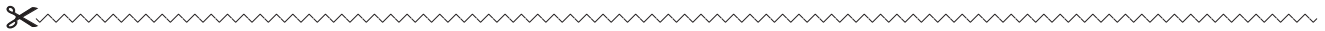
- Unaltered Male or Female dogs \$19.00*
- Spayed or Neutered dogs \$8.00*

*There is a \$1.00 late fee added each month that your application is received after June. You must include the \$1.00 late penalty in addition to the licensing fee if submitting late.

Proof of rabies vaccination is required when licensing your dog. If this is the first time licensing your dog, or your dog was recently fixed, **proof of spay or neuter** is also required. Failure to provide the required documents may subject you to late fees while we wait to receive them.

Licenses are payable by cash or check in the Town Clerk's Office or by mail. If submitting by mail please include a **self-addressed, stamped envelope** so we may return your license and tag. Make checks payable to "Bethany Town Clerk". Contact the Town Clerk's Office at (203) 393-2100 x1104 with any questions.

Bethany Town Clerk
40 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06524



OWNER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

PRIMARY VETERINARIAN _____

DOG'S NAME _____ BREED _____ COLOR _____ SEX _____ AGE _____

PAID (CIRCLE): SPAYED or NEUTERED DOG - \$8.00 UNALTERED MALE or FEMALE - \$19.00

Rev. 5/4/2023

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Bethany, CT 06524

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