

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 10

www.bethany-ct.com

October 2024

Town Hall & Public Works/Recycling Center will be **CLOSED** Monday, October 14th in observance of Italian Heritage (Columbus) & Indigenous Peoples Day.



From the First Selectman's Desk September Highlights and October Updates

Dear Bethany Residents,

School got off to a fantastic start on Monday, August 26th with lots of happy faces – children and adults alike. After settling in for the first week of school, everyone was able to enjoy the long Labor Day holiday weekend. Thank you to Superintendent Byrd and her wonderful staff for all the time, effort and energy that was put into having BCS ready to welcome back students for a new school year. Wishing students, families and staff a great year!



On the afternoon of Friday, September 6th, we were notified of the unexpected immediate resignation of our Interim Parks and Recreation Director. This put us in a very difficult position to continue the before and after-school programs the following week. We worked throughout the weekend to investigate viable options to keep the programs running. On Monday, September 9th, interviews were held with potential candidates, and a continuing conversation was held with representatives from the JCC. Looking at the JCC as the best option, a Special Board of Selectmen meeting was called for Tuesday, September 10th, to discuss and act on engaging the JCC to coordinate working with the Town to assist Bethany Parks and Recreation families who use the before and after-school programs and then forward this recommendation to the Board of Finance for any potential funding that might be required (i.e., bus, fee).

The JCC was willing to open an entirely new section just for Bethany students in the after-school program. They are only able to accommodate a maximum of 46 students based on their license. However, a minimum of 25 students would need to be enrolled for the program to move forward. All families registered with the Bethany Parks and Recreation program were contacted and provided the necessary paperwork to enroll their child/children in the JCC program. As of Friday, September 13th, 40 families had registered for the program to start on Monday, September 16th. Also, a contract is in place to have the JCC run the after-school program for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Families were provided with the JCC calendar and notified of any exclusionary dates. Vacation weeks will be scheduled separately by the families based on their need. The after-school program at the JCC will run from 3:30p.m. to 5:30p.m. compared to the program in Bethany which ran until 6:00p.m.

The JCC's daily rate is \$30 per day versus Bethany's program which was \$12 per day. However, we were able to negotiate the rate down to \$20 per day for Bethany Parks and Recreation families participating at the JCC. This now requires bus transportation which will cost approximately \$180-\$200 per day to be split 50/50 between the JCC and the Town of Bethany. At its regular monthly meeting on September 10th, the Board of Finance did approve to cover the cost of the bus and pay the \$8 differential for the Bethany Parks and Recreation after-school families only. These costs would work within the current Parks and Recreation Department budget and not require any additional appropriation in funding.

The Town of Bethany employed 20 active before and after-school counselors that the JCC said could be potential additional staff, but they would need to apply for the positions if they choose to do so. Those interested would need to go through JCC's hiring and training process independently from their position for the Town of Bethany.

The before-school program: Mrs. Byrd, the BCS Superintendent, was contacted regarding the possibility of having the before-school program being run at the school. On Tuesday, September 10, 2024, it was confirmed that there is a 100 percent confidence level of getting a program together and having it run for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Byrd also confirmed that she felt comfortable with having a soft opening on September 23rd for the Parks and Recreation families. The school would register and bill families accordingly.

An additional item on the September 10th agenda was to discuss the overall status of the Parks and Recreation

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

Department. As the before and after-school programs would be operated outside of the Parks and Recreation Department at this time, the Board would be moving forward with the Special Meeting on the 19th that had been previously approved to address the appointment of new members to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

At the meeting on the 19th, the following individuals have now been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to be on the Parks and Recreation Commission: Jaime Dawson-Guthrie, David Pecoraro, Craig Behun, Emily Meredith-Stein, Jennifer Galik, Erik Rooney and Marissa DeFeo. Thank you to these individuals for stepping into this role.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an organizational meeting on the 25th to address their scope of work, i.e., to review policies and procedures, review the monthly revenue and expenditures reports, help oversee any possible additional programs, i.e., Bethany Hoops, art, cooking and yoga classes for students. Also, looking at the possibility of holding recreational and leisure needs for adults, and the Town as a whole, as well. An initial task was to appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to help run the meetings.

Paving on Almar, Judd Hill, Tollgate and Oak Ridge is complete. Thank you to Tilcon for another wonderful job. A separate crew will be returning to do any backfill and/or curbing that needs to be done. We continue to monitor our roads so that we can stay ahead of any major issues. The Public Works Department works very hard to keep our catch basins cleared of debris and fill any potholes that may occur. If you see any clogged catch basins or notice any potholes, you can call the Public Works Department at 475-238-6966 to let them know.

Just a friendly reminder to lock your cars if they are parked outside, and do not leave valuables in sight. If your car is not locked and you have your garage door remote programmed in your car, you now give someone access to your house. It cannot be stressed enough to be diligent and aware. Some neighborhoods have block watches. If something doesn't seem right, call the police. Troop I Barracks is 203-393-4200 X0 (available 24 hours a day). The Resident Trooper's office is 203-393-2100 X1129 during regular business hours at the Town Hall.

No matter what time of year: Please remember to make sure your residence is properly identified on your mailbox and/or house. Shared driveways should have a clear direction to each house. Long driveways should have ample clearance on both sides of the driveway for emergency vehicles to access the residential property. Valuable time can be lost in the case of an emergency. Proper identification and access are crucial.

Yes, winter is coming. So, it's never too soon for these reminders: It is never too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Make sure your furnace has been inspected and serviced; have your chimney and vents cleaned and inspected (buildup of creosote is a leading cause of chimney fires). If you use portable heaters, always plug them directly into an outlet (do not use extension cords) and place them at least three feet from anything that can burn. The safest way to know it's off when not in use – unplug it. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. We want everyone to be safe.

A reminder from recycling: Please DO NOT leave cardboard out with your curbside trash pickup. Cardboard should be taken up to the Recycling Center. For large boxes, they should be cut into sections no larger than 3 ft. square. ALL cardboard should be flattened. The trash hauler has been reminded that they are not to take cardboard or other recyclables or bulk trash left out with regular curbside trash pickup. We have contracted with them for municipal solid waste only. Any questions regarding recycling or bulky waste call 203-393-1555.

RWS (our trash hauler) provides a private pick up for recyclables. All participants are provided with a 96-gallon recycling cart. The charge is \$18.99 per month. For more information on this program, you can reach them at [BethanyRecycles.com](https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central) or text them at 203-334-1600.

Hazardous Waste (paints, solvents, chemicals) may be disposed of at HazWaste Central at the Regional Water Authority building on Long Wharf in New Haven. Go to: <https://www.rwater.com/in-the-community/hazwaste-central> for more information.

Our Human Services Department continues to provide our Seniors with weekly lunches on Wednesdays and wonderful programs and events to entertain and engage. If you are a senior, make sure you read the Bethany Seniority page for upcoming events and important information.

A couple of notable events Wednesday, October 16th, from 10a.m. to 12:30p.m. will be the 2024 Community Health Fair to be held in the Bethany Town Hall Gym and the Flu Clinic being held in the Community Room on the lower level of the Town Hall (call 203-393-2022 x1124 for more details).

Reminder: Town Hall Offices will be closed on Monday, October 14th in observance of the Italian Heritage (Columbus)/Indigenous Peoples Day holiday.

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

Wishing everyone a safe and happy month!



From the Fire Marshal's Desk

The Bethany Fire Marshal's Office is offering a Fire Safety Survey for any Barn owners here in Bethany. This is not an official inspection, and no fines would be in place for this program. This is just a courtesy that I am offering to help barn owners, and their staff, become more aware of how they can operate in a fire-safe manner and protect themselves and their furry friends better. This is a free service, and owners will be given a copy of the findings to work with. Again, no penalties involved. I am just trying to educate people of our community how to be firesafe. If you are interested in this program, please call my office at (203) 393-2100 Extension 1119.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Mark your calendar for our annual Community Breakfast hosted by the Bethany Republican Town Committee.

This is an all you can eat breakfast at Bethany Town Hall on **Sunday, November 3th**, 7:30a.m to 11:00a.m.

Tickets \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.



INFORMATION REGARDING WEEKLY TRASH PICK-UP

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

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

Their email address is: info@residentialwastesystems.com.

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

Residential Waste Systems Trash Pick Up Reminder

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.

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From the Superintendent of School's Desk

BCS K.I.D.S. Program and Before-School Care Update



The Bethany Community School (BCS) team has worked tirelessly alongside Jenn Cafasso from the Town to find safe, affordable, and reliable before- and after-school care solutions for families, following the sudden shutdown of the Park and Recreation program. Our collaborative efforts were driven by a shared commitment to ensuring that no family was left without support during this challenging transition.

Throughout this process, we have focused on identifying staff members who would not only meet the program's needs but also reflect the high standards of care and safety we hold at BCS. The selection and training of staff were key to ensuring the program's success. Thanks to the dedication of our team, we are pleased to announce the soft launch of the BCS K.I.D.S Before School Program.

Unfortunately, despite extensive efforts, the BCS K.I.D.S. program was unable to fully launch both before- and after-school care, as we were not able to secure enough staff for both portions. However, Mrs. Cafasso successfully arranged for after-school care through the JCC, providing families with a vital service. Although the after-school solution did not include a morning option, the BCS administration, based on staff interest, has been able to offer before-school programming.

The BCS K.I.D.S. Before School Program has been extended to families previously enrolled in the Park and Rec morning program. All staff members involved in this program are from the BCS team, ensuring familiarity

and trust. On September 18th, staff members participated in an orientation and planning session, followed by a virtual information session for families on September 19th.

The official "soft launch" of the BCS K.I.D.S Before School Program began on September 23rd with an initial group of students. If additional staff express interest in working within the program, we hope to expand it and increase the number of available slots for more families.

We are also pleased to share that the cost of the morning program is set at \$30, lower than the initial estimate shared in the August survey.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to BCS Principal Tom Reed-Swale, Cheryl Kiesel, and Brandy Spargo for the countless hours of hard work they dedicated to making this program a reality. We would also like to recognize the BCS staff members who stepped up to support the families during this time: Jaime Bowen, Eileen Babbitz, Jessica Graham, William Fencl, Vincent Condo, Marissa Saucier, and Maria LeVasseur. Their commitment to our students and families has made all the difference.

We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we continue working toward long-term solutions for our before- and after-school care. If you have any questions or need further information about the program, please contact us at bskids@bethany-ed.org.

As we move forward into the upcoming months of the school year, let us continue to work together to create a safe, nurturing and empowering educational environment for our students. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out at 203-393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org.

Respectfully,

Kai Byrd, Superintendent

BETHANY LIONS CLUB EVENTS

October 4th: 3rd Grade Dictionary Day at BCS

October 6th: Lions Table at Bethany Harvest Festival – We're a Gold Sponsor for another year! Located at the Airport

October 16th: FREE KidSight Vision Screening at BCS

October 19th: Document/Technology Shred Day & Fall Food Drive -New Location: Airport Hanger

October 24th: Red Cross Blood Drive at the Lakeview Lodge

October 27th: Bethany Lions Halloween Costume Parade w/BVFD Trunk and Treat BVFD

October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th: Bethany Lions Flea

Market - On our last day of October 26th it will be our Annual Vendor Appreciation Day! Located at the Airport

October 8th & 22nd: Bethany Lions Gathering – Interested in serving your community? Stop by! Held at the Lakeview Lodge

Website: www.bethanyclions.com **Facebook:** [@bethanyclions](https://www.facebook.com/bethanyclions)

**BETHANY LIONS
BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, OCT. 24TH
12:00 - 5:00 PM**

LAKEVIEW LODGE
265 BEACON RD.
BETHANY, CT 06524

SCAN ME

[HTTPS://WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG/GIVE.HTML/
FIND-DRIVE](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive)

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

October 2024

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."— Emily Brontë



Bethany Town Hall will be closed Monday, October 14th in honor of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day.

No Senior Bus Transportation on Monday, October 14th.

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.

\$9.00 per person.

(Please pay in exact cash when you arrive.)

OCTOBER ENTREES:

OCT. 2nd: BEER MARINATED BEEF BRISKET
(*Guest Speaker from AAA: Real ID, LYFT and Distracted Driver Avoidance*)

OCT. 9th: CHICKEN MARSALA

OCT. 16th: NO LUNCH (Health Fair/Flu Clinic)

OCT. 23: GERMAN POTATO SAUSAGE SOUP
Oktoberfest Celebration

(*Guest Speaker: Bethany Fire Marshal Steve Sousa*)

OCT 30th: **Pirates, Punks, & Pizza Halloween Party**

(*RSVP by OCTOBER 4th*)

FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

“PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN”
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th at 11:00 AM
Bethany Senior Center

Don't miss this swashbuckling adventure starring Johnny Depp, Keira Knightly, Orlando Bloom and Geoffrey Rush
Please call to reserve a seat 203-393-2100 x1124

NEXT FILM: November 15th
“PLANES, TRAINS and AUTOMOBILES”

2024 SENIOR HEALTH FAIR & FLU CLINIC

Wednesday, October 16th
10AM -12:30PM
Bethany Town Hall

Live entertainment, raffle prizes,
health screenings and more!

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 for more information

SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services and Hamden Rehabilitation

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28th
11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

FOAM PUMPKIN DÉCOR

Create beautiful seasonal décor with pumpkins,
flowers and more!

Reserve a seat by October 15th 203-393-2100 x1124

PIRATES, PUNKS, & PIZZA

Halloween Costume Party

Wednesday, October 30th

NOON-2:00 PM

LAKEVIEW LODGE

Prizes for Best Pirate or Steam Punk Costumes!

Pizza, Salad, Gelato, Coffee, Tea

\$10.00 per person

PAY IN EXACT CASH AT THE DOOR

RSVP by October 4th 203-393-2100 x1124

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR BETHANY RESIDENTS

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

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Eversource has programs that may help.

Call today 800-286-2828 or visit

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

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Local Boy Scout Completes Hidden Brook Preserve Trail

Liam Hendricks, an Eagle Scout Candidate with Scout Troop 931, has completed building the Sisyphus Trail in the newly acquired Hidden Brook Preserve. Working closely with the Land Trust Trail Crew for his Eagle Scout project, Hendricks chose the trail route and then directed his team of scouts, family, and friends during the construction phase in August and September.

His team cleared downed trees and brush, built stone crossings over streams and marked the trail using yellow blazes. About 2/3 mile in length, the trail courses through the 36.1-acre Hidden Brook Preserve, a parcel that includes approximately 8 acres of a mix of woodland and rocky outcrops encircling a rich woody marsh, which protects songbirds, wild flowers, and other wildlife.

Starting from the unimproved section of Atwater Road near Russell Road, the trail partially circles the wetlands, runs along nearby stone walls, passes through a stand of huge tulip trees, and climbs to a rocky outcrop overlooking the wetlands. A huge boulder left behind by glaciers that lies on this outcrop served as the inspiration for the trail's name based upon the tale from Greek mythology. The Sisyphus Trail terminates with Falling Water Trail in the Town of Bethany's 74-acre Carrington Preserve.

Liam's final step on his path to becoming an Eagle Scout will be to participate in a Board of Review, which many liken to a job or college interview. Adult leaders of Connecticut Yankee Council, Scouts of America and others will conduct the Board of Review. Once completed and certified, Liam will achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

The Bethany Land Trust is grateful to be supported by the Scouts, their parents and leaders and we are always

looking to provide the Scouts and other youth groups with opportunities for community engagement.

The Land Trust invites everyone to take a walk in the woods on the Sisyphus Trail. The easiest access is from the unimproved section of Atwater Road where it meets Russell Road. A map is available on the Land Trust website bethanylandtrust.org.

Monthly Hikes: Early Morning Birding Walk in August

Led by Christin Arnini, retired science teacher, and Chris Howe, president of the New Haven Bird Club, a small group of birders walked through Mendell's Folly, one of the Bethany Land Trust's bird-rich gems on an overcast day in August. Using binoculars and a spotting scope, the group was thrilled to see some water birds like herons, kingfishers and cormorants as well as an Eastern Wood-Pewee and Eastern Phoebe. The group of birders also identified birds by their calls using bird identification phone apps. Of note, in bird surveys for the Connecticut Bird Atlas, 2018-2022, 77 total species were seen/heard in Mendell's Folly. Thirty-nine species were confirmed as breeding there, including species declining in many areas such as the American Woodcock.

October Monthly Hike: Sunday October 6, 1 PM. Come join us at the Bethany Harvest Festival where we will walk for 30 minutes or so through some of the Bethany Airport trails. Meet at the Bethany Land Trust booth at the festival.

Save the Date: Friday, November 15, 7 PM; Fall Program: "The Bear Reality" presented by Felicia A. E. Ortner, Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist; Lakeview Lodge

Bob Harrison

Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

October 1st	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
October 2nd	Planning and Zoning Commission	7:00PM
October 7th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
October 8th	Board of Finance	6:30PM
October 9th	BCS Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
October 9th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
October 10th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
October 15th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
October 17th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
October 21st	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM

Meetings may change: Check Bethany-ct.com/virtual-bulletin-board for up-to-date information.

It Happened In Bethany

SPERRY ROAD
By Linda Wooster

Sperry Road has seen a lot of history and colorful personalities since it was laid out as one of many grid roads (with adjoining lots) in 1711. Eastern Bethany and Woodbridge were part of the church-run New Haven Colony then. The road wasn't paved or named until the 1930s and it never became a main road.

It was Clifford Whitlock, founder of the Whitlock Bookstore in New Haven, who named many Bethany roads. The enterprising businessman moved to Bethany in 1917 and settled on Sperry Road a decade later. Although the grid of Bethany roads is obvious on a map, Sperry Road developed some twists over the centuries because of terrain, spring mud and structures. Whitlock moved the road about 50 feet away from his house to provide a lawn. "No one asked anyone. You just moved it", said son Gilbert Whitlock. As an early commuter, his father improved the road with hundreds of cinder loads.

Sperry Road's best known landmark is the Whitlock Book Barn, housed in two old farm buildings. Book lovers from near and distant points browse among 50,000 used and rare books and pamphlets, prints, maps, postcards, small collectibles.

Memories include the great blizzard of 1934, which required two weeks of neighborhood shoveling to reach the main road. Another story involved the ax murder of Enoch Sperry near his Sperry Road Mill on New Year's Day 1856. Charles Sanford, the cult-crazed maniac who ambushed Enoch as he walked his horse and sleigh up a hill, killed two others before being cornered with pitchforks.

Several historic houses along Sperry Road were described by Alice Bunton in her book "Bethany's Old Houses and Community Buildings." The Chauncey Tuttle House, later owned by Theodore Sizer, was built in 1799, and overlooked pastures, hills and Bethany Lake.

The Marcus Sperry House, at the Hatfield Hill intersection, predates 1750, making it one of Bethany's oldest.

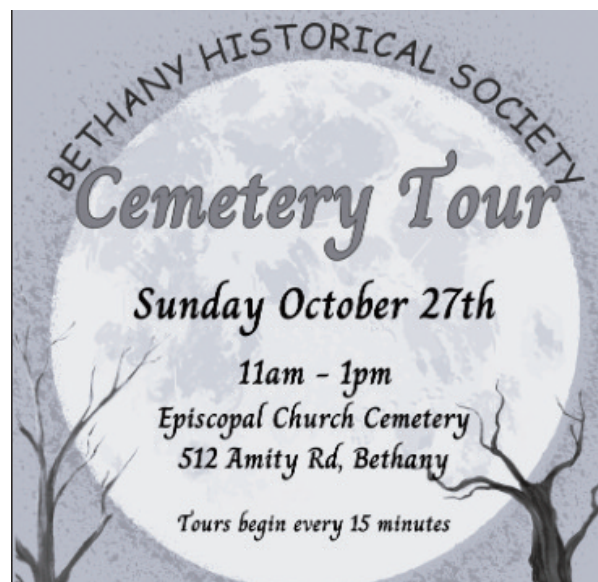
The Rosella Allen House was built in the 1870s. Rosella reportedly left \$5000 for the obelisk that marks her and her husband's grave. It is, without question, the tallest in town.

The small house at No. 281 incorporated the one-room Beecher School, attended by students from 1870 to 1934. An earlier building had been dated to the 1790s, when Bethany was still part of Woodbridge.

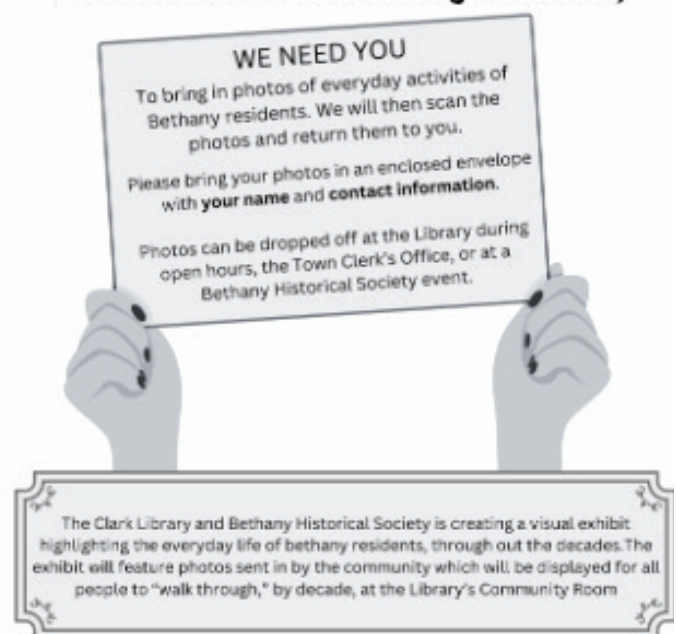
Manson Whitlock recalled walking to the school in all kinds of weather while those farther away were "bussed" in a horse-drawn surrey. The road was dirt track with a grassy median. In spring, it was a quagmire, trapping buggy and car wheels alike.

The Edson Beecher House at No. 248 dates from the 19th century. At Bethway Road, the view opens out to expansive fields, a pond and barns where sheep were a familiar sight when the Yale School of Medicine used the farm for animal research.

The Cyrus Sanford House, at No. 106, dates to the early 1800s. The salt box at No. 28 was built in 1756 on State Street in Hamden and moved in numbered pieces by Reverdy Whitlock. Quite the historic Bethany road....



A Historical Walk Through Bethany



Sustainable Bethany

No. 46. Letter from Sustainable Bethany. Well Water Testing, Book, Upcoming Events, October Night Skies.

Well Water Testing: Do you ever think about the water from your well? Good tasting water doesn't mean it's good nor safe. It is estimated that ~25% of Connecticut residents get water from private wells. Public water sources, like the Regional Water Authority, which owns land in Bethany and uses water from Lakes Chamberlain and Bethany for the Greater New Haven area are required by the Connecticut Department of Health to follow federal and state laws to test water, to treat when needed, and to share information with the public. Recent federal law added PFAS testing to water quality evaluation in April 2024. But private well owners are on their own. Testing occurs when a well is first installed or when a home is purchased in accordance with Section 19-13-B101 Public Health Code.

Water tests look for minerals, bacteria, and uranium/radon. High levels of iron and manganese stain toilets and laundry. High levels of bacteria cause illness, and uranium and radon can damage kidneys and cause other serious health effects.

Want to learn more? search "Private Drinking Water in Connecticut," publication 24.

Book Recommendation: The Light Eaters, by Zoë Schlanger.

Zoë Schlanger takes us on a remarkable journey into the life of plants. Working with botanists she describes how trees change their leaf chemistry to kill feeding caterpillars and alert nearby trees using airborne pheromones. Lima beans send out chemical messages summoning predators of insects that eat the bean plants, male ferns sabotage one another's rainwater swimming sperm using hormones, Arabidopsis plant veins light up in rippling bioluminescence when pinched, older trees share nutrients with younger trees, and plants alter their growth in response to the weather growing shorter in wind. With these examples and more, Schlanger shows us how plants are not background wallpaper to be eaten, bullied, or ignored but dynamic, responsive, even sensitive altruistic planet-wide greenery that can bicker, fight, and defend with the best of us. When you sit down to eat your salad, consider who might be chatting about you outside in the vegetable garden. The trees might say a word or two as well....

Upcoming Events:

Bethany Harvest Festival: Sunday October 6th 11:00AM-4:00PM at the Airport. We'll exhibit with Pol-

linator Pathways in the back left corner of the firehouse. Visit our monarch butterflies, invasive plants and insects, jumping worms, spotted lanternflies, ticks and more. Get on our mailing list for notifications about upcoming events.

The Woodbridge and Bethany Sustainability committees are co-hosting monthly lectures. Next lecture is Saturday, October 19 at 3:00 at the Woodbridge Library. A representative from the Regional Water Authority (RWA), will discuss programs presented by the RWA.

October Night Skies: On the 17th the October Harvest Moon is full. In ancient times the Moon's patchy appearance was explained as being a trick of light. In 1609 Galileo for the first time pointed a telescope at the Moon. What he saw was startling. The Moon's surface had what looked like valleys, plains, and mountains much like an unheavenly version of Earth. This led him to search for imperfections in other objects in the night sky. Ultimately, he proved the Earth was not the center of the Universe! The imperfections of the Moon are in three interrelated categories: the dark maria "seas", circular rings, and rays. Despite Galileo finding similarities between Earth and the Moon, it remains an alien world. For example, the huge circles that dot the surface were a mystery. Some scientists over the centuries correctly predicted they were impact craters from meteorites, but most thought right up to the mid-20th century they were ancient volcanic eruptions!

The **dark maria** were formed by large meteorite impacts causing molten rock to back fill the craters. Maria are darker than the rest of the surface because the volcanic rock is iron rich, which is less reflective than other Moon rock. They are seen as the dark areas of the Moon we variously interpret as the Man in the Moon, Moon Rabbit, female figures, a toad, even Saint George! They're called "seas" because earlier they were thought to be filled with water. As we now know, there is no water on the Moon. The circular rings are the raised edges of hundreds of smaller craters from impacts that were not large enough to create molten rock, and the rays were created by ejected matter radiating from impact craters. So, enjoy our beautiful closest extraterrestrial neighbor.

Best wishes,

Gale Ridge

Co-chair Sustainable Bethany

Michael Kaloyanidis and Marie Pulito contributors. sustainablebethany@gmail.com

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

Bulky waste appointments: (203) 393-1555.

BETHANY LIONS SHRED & E-WASTE DAY

Saturday, October 19th
9 am - Noon

Bethany Airport Hanger
695 Amity Rd., Bethany
By Affordable Solutions

**NEW
LOCATION**



ANNUAL PUMPKIN & HOLLY FAIR

Christ Episcopal Church - 526 Amity Road (Rt. 63)

It's only October but not too early to mark your calendar for the annual Pumpkin and Holly Fair, Saturday November 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. You'll find bargains on holiday decor, fabulous baked goods, a clothing boutique, gift basket raffles, and delectables at the Country Store- Vermont cheese, pickles, relishes, pierogis, and more. Stop and enjoy lunch at the cafe. You don't want to miss it!



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Check It Out !

*October 2024
Clark Memorial Library*

Check our website and online calendar for a full list of programs and activities. <http://bethanylibrary.org>

!!New Library Hours!!

Tue/Wed/Thurs 10:30AM – 7:00PM

Fri/Sat 10:30AM – 5:00PM

Connecticut Cryptids

Saturday October 12th 3PM- 4:00PM

"What is a cryptid? It's a mysterious creature that has been claimed (but never proven) to exist, like Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster.

Join Patrick Scalisi and Valerie Ruby-Omen, the author and illustrator of Connecticut Cryptids: A Field Guide to the Weird and Wonderful Creatures of the Nutmeg State, for a presentation on Connecticut's cryptids – including a special look at our local Bethany cryptid, the Downs Road Monster. The presentation will take place in the Community Room on Saturday, October 12, starting at 3:00 PM.

Arts@Clark!

Local artist Roberta Scott will present an exhibit of abstract multimedia, including paint, textile, line, and paper from October 5th – December 6th.

Roberta grew up in the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, on and off the Navajo reservation, and military bases. After high school, she worked for the Forest Service, then served 5 years in the Navy as an aviation mechanic and locally at Sikorsky Aircraft. She received a BFA in Sculpture at Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. She is a mother, a technical writer for Sikorsky and describes herself as a “fair weather” artist.

Join us for a reception and meet the artist on
November 16th from 3PM-4:30PM
in the Library Community Room.

Look for us at the Harvest Festival!!!

Library Hours

Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:30AM - 7PM

Friday/Saturday: 10:30PM - 5PM



From the Assessor's Office

PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATIONS

Pursuant to Connecticut Statute 12-42, any business owning or leasing personal property within the Town of Bethany must file their Declaration with the Assessor's Office no later than Friday, November 1, 2024. Any declaration received in an envelope bearing a US Postal postmark, as defined in section 1-2a, on November 1, 2024, or before, shall not be deemed delinquent. Extension may be requested up to the end of day Friday November 1, 2024 at 4:00pm.

A twenty-five (25) percent penalty must be imposed on any business that does not file by November 1, 2024. Files without a signature by the business owner or authorized agent will not be accepted.

The following should be reported: machinery and equipment, office furniture and fixtures, computers and computer equipment, vending machines, copiers, non-registered motor vehicles, horses, farm machinery and all other taxable personal property located within Bethany.

All farmers may file an application to the Assessor for exemption of farm machinery, horses, or ponies which are exclusively used in farming. Exemptions will NOT be granted to those not filing an application.

Declaration forms will be mailed no later than September 30, 2024. If you do not receive one, but own taxable business personal property within the Town of Bethany, please contact the Assessor's Office at 203-393-2100 ext. 1112 or come into Town Hall at 40 Peck Road to pick up this form.

Veteran's – If your DD214 is NOT on file in the Town Clerk's Office, it must have been filed by September 30, 2024 to be considered for a veterans exemption on the 2024 Grand List.



Presidential Election November 5, 2024

An election for President & Vice President, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative and Judge of Probate will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm at the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road. There will also be a state constitutional question on the ballot. For more details, please visit bethany-ct.com/election-information

In addition to Election Day, Early Voting will be available between October 21 to November 3. Early Voting days and hours will be as follows:

- Monday, October 21, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 22, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 23, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 24, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Friday, October 25, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Saturday, October 26, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Sunday, October 27, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Monday, October 28, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 30, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 31, 2024: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Friday, November 1, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Saturday, November 2, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Sunday, November 3, 2024: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Early Voting will take place in the Commission Room at the Bethany Town Hall. Please bring your ID with you to vote.

For any questions about voter registration, please contact the Registrar of Voters at 203-393-2100 x.1121 or registrar@bethany-ct.com

Absentee Ballots will be available for the election beginning on October 4, 2024. For more information about absentee ballots, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 203-393-2100 x.1104 or townclerk@bethany-ct.com

To register to vote online, check your voting status, get more information about Early Voting, or request an absentee ballot online, please visit myvote.ct.gov

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 6, 2024
11AM-4PM**



**PROGRAM
SUBJECT
TO CHANGE**

Time On the Music Stage

12:00PM West Rock
1:30PM \$100 Gift Cards & Other Raffle Drawings
(must be present to win)
2:30PM The Burrbons

Time In the Activity Tent

11:00AM Amazing Andy's Magic Show
12:00PM Birds of Prey – Blue Moon Raptors
1:00PM Kid's Bikes and Other Raffle Drawings
(must be present to win)
2:00PM – 3:30PM Children's Entertainer
– Mr. Bungles

Time In the Field

11:30AM – 1:30PM Paint a Pony
11:00AM - 2:00PM Petting Zoo
11:00AM - 1:00PM The Renegades
- Cowboy Shooting Demonstration (North Ring)
2:00PM Skillet Toss Contest - with PRIZES!
(South Ring)
1:00PM – 2:30PM Dimples the Clown
2:00PM – 4:00PM Ali the Balloon Guy

All Day Obstacle Course, Quarterback Challenge,
Shooting Starz B-Ball, Big American Combo

All Day Face Painting

All Day Beekeeping Demonstration

All Day Climbing Wall – NEW!!

All Day State Police K-9 Unit

All Day B & B School Bus, Tractor, Truck and Car Display

Time In/Near the Firehouse

11:30AM Helicopter Landing – Sky Health II
11:30AM – 3:00PM Beer Garden – NEW!!!

All Day Craft Fair, Business Showcases

All Day Free Snow Cones and Popcorn

All Day Photo Booth

8:00AM – 11:00AM Bethany Athletic Association
– Breakfast Sandwiches

12:00PM – 3:00PM Bethany Volunteer Fire Dept
– Hotdogs and Fries

Food Trucks In the Field:

All Day Big Dipper Ice Cream

All Day DiSorbo's Bakery – Cannoli, Fried
Dough & Lemon Italian Ice

All Day Fork in the Road – Sandwiches, Mac N Cheese

All Day Calandrelli's Kettle Corn

All Day Colossal Kielbasa – Polish Food

All Day Mamoun's – Falafels

All Day Not Just Blowin' Smoke – BBQ

All Day Spuds Your Way– Stuffed Baked Potatoes

All Day Szabo's Seafood – Seafood

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**The Bethany Harvest Festival Com-
mittee would like to thank the local
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made the Festival possible –**



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