

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.14, ISSUE 9

www.bethany-ct.com

September 2024

Town Hall, Parks & Recreation & Public Works/Recycling Center will be **CLOSED Monday, September 2nd** in observance of Labor Day.
Trash pick-up delayed one day.



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

Dear Bethany Residents,

As many of you already know, a tragic event has deeply affected our town. An individual who previously worked as a counselor for the Parks and Recreation Department and as an intern and substitute teacher at Bethany Community School was arrested. The individual was charged with sexual assault charges that involved five separate minors. This incident was investigated by the Connecticut State Police, and after a lengthy investigation that lasted approximately 18 months, the suspect was ultimately arrested.



There has been a great deal of speculation surrounding this incident, and as your First Selectman, I would like to explain what actions were taken by the Town prior to the arrest and following the subsequent arrest. An allegation regarding the suspect came to the attention of the Superintendent of BCS in December of 2022. The allegation was made by a parent. The Superintendent had a conversation with DCF. Although DCF requires mandated reporters to report incidents involving potential child abuse immediately, the information must be obtained from first-hand sources. At that particular time no direct information was available to the Superintendent or me. (Later reports would be made to the Connecticut State Police (CSP) regarding the incident which would be investigated by both DCF and CSP.) Based on the limited information available at the time, it was decided by the Superintendent to remove this individual from the school immediately. At the same time this individual was removed from any contact with minors in all Parks and Recreation programs. He was allowed to work for a short period of time in a different capacity while supervised. Many have complained that he was not terminated immediately. The reason is simply that enough evidence was not available at the time to justify such an action. A decision was made by me to limit the Town's potential exposure to liability while at the same time ensuring this individual had no further contact with the minors involved in town programs.

There have been many complaints that residents of our town were not notified of this event when it was brought to our attention in 2022. It is a valid question, but the reason is simple. Both a DCF investigation and CSP criminal in-

vestigation were opened shortly after the initial complaint was made. At that point the Town was legally and ethically bound not to comment on an open investigation. The immediate threat to our children was already addressed so any type of notification would have been considered interfering with an investigation. It is also crucial that both DCF and CSP were able to perform a proper investigation that was unbiased. As part of their investigation, children and Parks and Recreation employees were interviewed. It is imperative that testimony obtained from all parties as part of the investigation was not influenced by the sharing of allegations that were at the time not substantiated. Doing so would have a high likelihood of compromising the investigations of both agencies. Additionally, sexual assault counselors recommend against such action since it has the potential to affect the natural disclosure process of children potentially subjected to this type of abuse.

I learned of the details of this case upon reading the arrest warrant affidavits in June of 2024 when they were made public by the Connecticut State Police. Some residents believe that CSP must have been sharing the findings of their investigation in real time with me over the previous 18 months. This simply is inaccurate and would violate proper police procedure. I did not learn of the charges until they were shared publicly.

Since learning the tragic details, several actions have been taken. I have spoken to representatives of the Connecticut State Police to understand why this investigation took so long. There are several other questions that have come to light regarding CSP's handling of this case. Normally, cases involving children or sexual assault are assigned to a specialized unit within police agencies that spe-

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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

cialize in them. This was not done by CSP for some reason. Perhaps this is why it took so long to investigate this incident.

To fully understand the situation, an independent investigation by outside council will be conducted. The funding of up to \$75,000.00 was approved for this review. I have recused myself from the process, and the 2nd and 3rd Selectmen will be working to set the scope of work, find and retain independent counsel capable of performing this task. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department submitted a letter of resignation effective August 23, 2024. The Assistant Director currently remains on administrative leave. An Interim Director of Park and Recreation has been appointed so the Park and Recreation program can continue to operate. The Parks and Recreation Department is vital to many families in town. Nick Bottone has done an incredible job stepping into this role. Park and Recreation families have been receiving updates from Nick on a regular basis to explain each week's plans and events. We have also installed cameras in the annex building of Park and Recreation.

Moving forward we will be working to begin a minor protection program for all staff of Park and Recreation. This training will be conducted online and required annually. The purpose of this training is to ensure all staff and volunteers know what behavior is appropriate around children. This is important because in most situations something inappropriate may not be abuse and would not rise to the level of a DCF report. This training should make it very clear to staff what behavior needs to be reported to supervisors immediately. A formal DCF mandated reporter training will also be administered annually to all staff. We also will be working with the Women and Family Center in New Haven to offer counseling sessions to anyone who feels they need assistance. This organization came to town in July to offer services and explain to residents how the process of reporting these incidents works. They are a wonderful resource for anyone with questions or concerns. Finally, a Parent Academy was held on August 20th at BCS for parents wishing to learn the best ways to discuss these difficult topics with their children and learn about the services available through BCS. This is another resource for anyone who wishes to learn more. The Parent Academy is being recorded and will be available on the school website.

Towns around the State held early voting for seven days and the primary on Tuesday, August 13th. For the Bethany Democrats it was a primary to select the candidate to run to fill a vacancy for Judge of Probate District 37. The Bethany Republicans held a primary to select the candidate for U.S. Senator. The results follow:

AUGUST PRIMARY RESULTS

Democrats Judge of Probate Candidates		Republicans United States Senator Candidates	
Michael Dolan	Karolyn Papacoda	Gerry Smith	Matthew M. Corey
Totals: 121	47	Totals: 50	30
Early Voting: 55		Early Voting: 9	
Absentee: 8		Absentee: 1	
In Person: 105		In Person: 70	
TOTAL VOTES: 168		TOTAL VOTES: 80	

On Thursday, August 15th, the Bethany representative from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) presented a check for \$5,188.87 to me as the First Selectwoman of the Town of Bethany, which is a share of CIRMA's latest \$2 million Members' Equity Distribution. Over the past fourteen years, CIRMA has placed nearly \$44 million in equity back in the hands of its members.

CIRMA was established as a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) service program--with all of Connecticut's 169 municipalities as members of CCM. CIRMA is also the only insurance provider that returns equity to its members—not shareholders. The program also supports CIRMA's long-standing commitment to prioritize the interests and prosperity of Connecticut's local communities over profit margin.

The Bethany Community School staff has been working very hard to make sure that things are ready for a safe and productive year. Thank you to Kai Byrd, our Superintendent of BCS, and all of her staff for the countless hours and energy they have expended getting ready for this school year. Teachers and staff were back in action for professional development days the week of the 20th. Everyone has a new energy and enthusiasm as they prepare for the new school year. Whether heading to kindergarten or college or middle or high school, I want to wish all of our students a wonderful school year. Best wishes to teachers and staff too 😊

A reminder as we start a new school year: Bethany/Amity schools began classes Monday, August 26th. August/September brings the opening of schools across the State of Connecticut. In our beautiful rural town, students will be walking to nearby bus stops and waiting at intersections. Please SLOW DOWN when you see children or see a school bus. Be aware that children may dart across the street. Watch for school buses and STOP at all flashing lights. When you stop for a school bus, you are ensuring the safety of the students boarding or exiting that bus. If we all work together, we can keep the students of Bethany safe this year. Thank you.

Remember, as Amity is a regional school system and deals with a larger population, their protocol and schedules will be a little different than BCS.

Summer certainly provided its share of hot and at times tumultuous weather. On Sunday August 18th, portions of the State received unprecedented amounts of rain, which brought catastrophic results to several towns. Bethany endured the rain but came through with only a couple of minor issues. I was in contact throughout that day with our Emergency Management Director to make sure we stayed on top of anything that might arise

Most of the summer temperatures fluctuated from comfortable to heat waves, but we carried on. Our young campers continued to enjoy being with friends, doing crafts, playing games and just having fun, especially on Fridays down at the lake at Veterans Memorial Park when weather permitted. Thank you to our Parks and Recreation staff for continuing to conduct a safe and energetic program.

Catch basin replacement and road repairs have previously been completed on Almar Drive, Judd Hill Road, Tollgate Road, and Oak Ridge Drive in preparation for paving. As always, thank you to our wonderful road crew for their assistance to W.R. Grieger Excavation with any preparation work on this road project. Milling has begun and paving will begin around or shortly after the Labor Day

weekend depending on the weather. The paving company will determine the order in which the roads are done.

As this Bulletin gets ready to go to print, the paving project behind the Town Hall has been completed. There will now be additional parking spaces available during school and town events. Thank you to our public works crew and the following companies who helped with this project: NJM Landscaping & Excavation, LLC; W.R Grieger Excavation; Hines Paving & Sealcoating. It clearly was a team effort to get this project completed.

Reminder: When walking your dog at Veterans Memorial Park, please abide by the posted signs: dogs must be on a leash, and you are required to clean up any dog waste that they make. These rules also pertain to Hoppe/Cofrancesco Fields on Amity/Munson Roads. Please help keep these areas safe and clean. We ask that you also pick up after your dog if you are walking along our town roads. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please note that the posting for vacancies on Boards and Commissions is being listed again in this issue. We want to make sure that everyone has had an opportunity to see it. If you have already responded to the August posting, your response is on file. Thank you for your interest in serving the Town of Bethany.

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

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. We now look forward to the start of school and the return to our regular routines.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy



SAVE THE DATE!!!



DATE: Sunday, October 6, 2024

TIME: 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Bethany Airport - Amity Road

New this year will be a climbing wall, beer garden, band concert to name a few!

Interested in being a sponsor: Contact Janet Brunwin at (203) 231-3694 or email: brunwin@sbcglobal.net

Interested in being a vendor: Contact Sue Hurlburt at (203) 996-2275 or email: bethanyctharvestfestival@gmail.com

Check out our Facebook page: [@bethanyharvestfestival](https://www.facebook.com/@bethanyharvestfestival)

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TACK

What Can We Feed Or Fix For You?

770 Amity Road, Bethany, CT | lsbfarmsupply.com | (203) 393-0002 | [f](https://www.facebook.com) [i](https://www.instagram.com) [t](https://www.twitter.com)

From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Community Members,

It feels like just yesterday we were soaking up the last rays of summer, and now we've already wrapped up the first exciting week of the new school year! On August 19th, the entire Bethany Community School (BCS) staff returned refreshed from their well-deserved summer break, ready to dive into four days of professional development and classroom preparation. Our first day together, led by Mr. Reed-Swale and Ms. Nathman, centered around team-building, behavioral support, and communication. This time was invaluable, not only for practical planning but also for recognizing the importance of adult social and emotional learning as we welcomed several new staff members to the BCS family.



We are thrilled to share that the 2024-2025 school year is officially underway, and the excitement on campus is contagious! The start of a new school year brings a unique sense of anticipation, and we are eager to embark on this journey of learning, growth, and discovery together.

From the Central Office staff, who spent the summer diligently updating all district information systems and instructional platforms, to our custodial team, who meticulously prepared the school and campus grounds, to the administrative team that coordinated professional learning and

back-to-school logistics—every member of our community played a vital role in creating a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment for our students. We are also deeply grateful to our teachers and staff for preparing their classrooms and instructional spaces, and to the parent volunteers who generously contributed their time and treats. This collective effort truly reflects the strong sense of community that defines Bethany Community School.

On August 26th, the BCS campus was alive with excitement as over 400 eager students arrived for their first day of the new school year. The air was filled with anticipation and the promise of a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences. With backpacks on shoulders, students—both new and familiar—were greeted by the warm smiles and high-fives of teachers and staff lining the walkways, ready to embark on another year of discovery and achievement.

The enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by our entire community have created an inspiring atmosphere where our students are excited to learn, explore, and grow. As we move forward into the school year, we are eager to strengthen our connections with the community and foster new partnerships to support our students, families, and staff.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me at 203-393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org.

Let's make this school year one of remarkable achievements, shared successes, and boundless opportunities for everyone in our community!

INTERESTED IN BEING A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?

Applications are available between August 1, 2024, and November 1, 2024, for anyone who would like to apply for appointment to the office of Justice of the Peace. To be eligible, you must be a town elector and NOT a member of a major party (Democratic or Republican.) The term runs from January 6, 2025, to January 1, 2029. Unaffiliated or minor party voters who miss the November 1st deadline may not apply again until 2028.

If on November 1st the number of applications for Justice of the Peace filed with the Town Clerk under Connecticut General Statutes Sec 9-184c exceeds the number of Justices of the Peace allowed under that section, the Town Clerk shall, on or before the 15th business day of November, select the remaining applicants to be appointed as Justices of the Peace by lot in a ceremony which shall be open to the public and held on five days' public notice.

No one who is, or has been, a registered Democrat or Republican on or after May 1, 2024, may apply for one of these appointed Justice of the Peace slots. (Each major party has already nominated their full number of candidates.) Applications are available at the Town Clerk's office or on the town website at <https://bethany-ct.com/justices-of-the-peace>. If you would like more information, please call 203-393-2100 x1104 or email townclerk@bethany-ct.com.

Bethany Seniority

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 Seniority

By Robin Glowa

September 2024



"Ah September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul" Peggy Toney Horton

Bethany Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 2nd in honor of Labor Day

No Senior Bus Transportation on Monday, September 2nd

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.)

SEPTEMBER ENTREES:

Sept. 4th: NO LUNCH SERVED

Sept. 11th: Eggplant Rollatini

Sept. 18th: Picnic Lunch at Russell Homestead

Sept. 25th: Lemon Dill Cod

FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

"DR. DOOLITTLE"

Friday, September 13th at 11:00AM
Bethany Senior Center

Don't miss this classic 1967 musical fantasy about the Doctor who can "talk to the animals". Starring Rex Harrison, Anthony Newley and Samantha Eggar.

Please call 203-393-2100 x1124 to reserve a seat

NEXT FILM: PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
Friday, October 4th

SAVE THE DATE!

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



SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services
& Hamden Rehabilitation

Monday, September 16th at 11AM
Bethany Senior Center

SQUEEGEE PAINTING

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 by September 6th
to reserve your seat

FREE MEDICARE SEMINAR!

Monday, September 23rd at 11:00 AM
Bethany Senior Center

WHAT'S NEW IN MEDICARE FOR 2025
Join us for coffee and conversation with Jeffrey Comen, local Medicare Advocate/Broker.

Reserve your seat by September 12th
203-393-2100 x1124

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

Wednesday, October 16th

10AM -12:30PM

Bethany Town Hall

Live entertainment, raffle prizes,
health screenings and more!

2024 COMMUNITY FLU CLINIC

Wednesday, October 16th

10AM-12:30PM

Bethany Town Hall

Call 203-393-2100 x1124 for more information

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.**

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Early Morning Birding Walk - Sunday, September 1, 8 AM-10 AM

Come join us for a bird walk at Mendell's Folly, one of the Bethany Land Trust's bird-rich gems.

Christin Arnini, retired science teacher and Land Trust and New Haven Bird Club (NHBC) member, will be leading us to explore, listen and look for birds, some of which may be year-round residents breeding there, and some migrating through. Chris Howe, Land Trust member and current president of the NHBC, will also be joining us on this adventure and has several pairs of NHBC binoculars to lend out on the walk if needed.

On any given day, Mendell's Folly can offer many avian and other natural history wonders! As a part of the Connecticut Bird Atlas, 2018-2022, volunteers participated in bird surveys. Christin was the lead volunteer for Atlas block 79D which includes the Mendell's Folly parcel; 77 total species were seen/heard. Thirty-nine species were confirmed as breeding there, including species declining in many areas such as the American Woodcock.

This walk will be about 2-3 miles long with some uneven footing, a stream crossing, field/tall grass walking, a ridge climb and some rocky steep sections. Solid footwear and long pants for tick protection are recommended. Bring your water and a snack and please leave your pets at home. The outing is appropriate for ages 12 and above and limited to 12 participants. All levels of experience are welcome. Bring your own binoculars if you have them, or borrow one of the NHBC pairs.

To register contact Bob Harrison via cell at 203-506-5888 or email at bjh51box@gmail.com by Friday, August 30th.

We will meet at the Van Epps Preserve roadside

parking area, a little west of 380 Beacon Rd (route 42) at 8 AM. Look for the green Land Trust banner.

August Bethany History Hike a Success

Many thanks to Will Brinton, Bethany Town Historian, for leading our Bethany History Hike on Sunday, August 10th, in the Three Sister's Preserve. And thanks to the close to 25 people who joined the hike. Hikers met at the newly reconstructed bridge across Beacon Hill Brook and proceeded on the loop trail past the remains of a dam and a series of old foundations. Will explained that the area was once the location of a grist mill and well as a tannery in the 1800's.

At a stop during our climb up the ravine, Will discussed the common boundary point where Bethany, Prospect and Naugatuck meet once marked by three chestnut trees that grew from the same root. He also described the process of perambulation during which selectmen from each town met periodically with their counterparts from adjoining towns to inspect and mark the town borders as required by state law. All in all, an enjoyable way to spend a summer morning in the woods.

Historical Stone Marker Recovered

Thanks to an anonymous report, the historical boundary stone missing since the spring from the Land Trust's Three Sister's Preserve has been recovered. Administrative Lieutenant Trooper Dave Merriam retrieved the stone this week and returned it to the Land Trust.

The decision about future plans regarding the return of the historical boundary stone to its original site, or other options, will be discussed and determined in consultation with the neighbors whose properties share the historical boundary site.

Bob Harrison, Land Trust Trails Chair

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Looking to volunteer? If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, please see the positions currently available to be filled:

Board / Commission	Position	Term Length
Cemetery Commission	Alternate	3-yr (7/1/2023-6/30/2026)
Conservation Commission	Alternate	5-yr (7/1/2024-6/30/2029)
Economic Development Comm. (2 slots)	Regular	5-yr (7/1/2024-6/30/2029)
Park & Recreation Comm. (up to 7 slots)	Regular	2-yr (7/1/2024-6/30/2026)
Town Code Review Committee	Unaffiliated Needed	Ends no later than 12/6/2025)

Please send a letter stating which Board or Commission you are interested in serving on, indicating any special expertise, experience or training you may have that will be helpful to that Board or Commission. Send to: townofbethany@bethany-ct.com

Thank you in your interest in serving Bethany.

It Happened In Bethany

Eight College Presidents Lived in Bethany

By Linda Wooster

Our small town of Bethany has been the home to no less than eight college presidents.

Jacquelyn Mattfeld, who lived in Bethany while attaining a PhD in music history at Yale, was the latest to join the impressive list. She was selected president of New York's Barnard College in November 1975. Mrs. Mattfeld is one of seven college presidents who was in some way connected with Yale and resided in Bethany.

Donald B. Prentice was on the Yale faculty before moving to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he served as acting president of Lafayette College from 1926 to 1927. He later served as president of Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana from 1931-1948. The current name is Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (RHIT).

Mary I. Bunting served as a research assistant in bacteriology at Yale before being selected Dean of Douglas College, the women's school at Rutgers University in 1955. She went on to become the fifth president of Radcliffe College in 1960 where she was responsible for fully integrating women into Harvard University. In 1964, Bunting took a leave of absence from Radcliffe to serve on the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission; she was the first woman to ever do so. In 1972, she was named assistant to the president of Princeton.

Reuben A. Holden served as assistant to the dean, assistant to the president and secretary of Yale Uni-

versity before assuming the presidency of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina, in 1971 until 1986.

Thomas C. Mendelhall taught history and served as an assistant to the Yale Provost before being named master of Berkeley College in 1950. In 1959 he left Yale to become the sixth president of Smith College, a position which he held until 1975. He was known for his writing on the history of crew and collegiate rowing.

Harold B. Whiteman Jr., who was captain of the Yale football team as an undergraduate, became associate dean of Yale College before leaving in 1964 to become assistant to the president at New York University. He was named president of Sweet Briar College in 1971, the only male to serve in that position.

Nils G. Sahlin lived in Bethany after leaving the Yale faculty. He went on to serve as the president of Quinnipiac College from 1956 to 1968 where he oversaw the transition of the school to its present location at the base of the Sleeping Giant State Park.

The only college president lacking the Yale connection was Warren G. Hill, a Nova Scotia native, who served as assistant to the president and acting president of the New Haven State Teachers' College (now SCSU) from 1947 through 1955. In 1963 he was named to the presidency of Trenton (NJ) State College, but resigned that position to serve as vice chancellor of higher education in Connecticut in 1966.

Bethany was also the home of Edward L. Tatum, who shared the Nobel prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1958, and eight persons who served as masters of residential colleges at Yale.

(Paraphased from an article by Art Horwitz)

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

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

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

Sustainable Bethany

No. 45. Letter from Sustainable Bethany. Trash, Monarchs, Upcoming Events, Book, September Night Skies

State of Trash in the State: You roll your garbage bin to the curb. The garbage disappears. All is good. But wait, what happens to that trash in Connecticut? Connecticut has four trash-to-energy plants, all over 30 years old. There is no plan to build additional trash-to-energy facilities as they are not consistent with long-term goals to increase recycling rates and reduce trash. The trash-to-energy model relies on producing more trash to run these facilities at full capacity, rather than reducing the amount of trash produced.

There are no state landfills currently accepting municipal solid waste (MSW). Nearly 900,000 tons representing 40% of our trash is sent to out-of-state landfills in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Longer transportation routes create more greenhouse gases.

Tipping fees have increased 40% in the last 5 years. As landfill space becomes more limited and demand increases, it is projected disposal costs may quintuple by 2050. This is a crisis.

What's in our municipal solid waste? The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) estimates our MSW is 22% food waste, 35% paper and plastics, 19% other organics, and 24% actual trash. Yes, nearly 2/3 of our MSW could be repurposed if we made an effort to do it.

Some in our community believe it is the Town's responsibility to pay for all their garbage, no matter how much they produce. We disagree. It is incumbent upon us all to responsibly reduce our trash. We believe the 96-gallon trash bins distributed by the Town do nothing to motivate us to reduce our trash, in fact it encourages some residents to be wasteful. Smaller bins prompt us to be more thoughtful about our waste. If you would like a smaller bin, please contact Jennifer Cafasso at Town Hall Jcafasso@bethany-ct.com.

Monarchs: Adult butterflies and caterpillars have been seen in Memorial Park so our Pollinator Pathway and the park's monarch butterfly sanctuary has been successful! This is just one small part in rescuing the species. Also seen are Milkweed-Tussock-Moth caterpillars. Do not touch! They have stinging hairs. If hairs get onto the skin, wash gently away under flowing cold water.

Book Recommendation: Superpower: One Man's Quest to Transform American Energy. By Russell Gold

More than 10% of US energy is from the wind. How did we get here? This is the story of a single infrastructure-builder, who developed the second largest wind company in the US. After selling the company, he reimagined the entire electrical grid in a quest to develop the infrastructure to facilitate the renewable energy industry. His vision included solar and wind complementing each other - using wind and sun from the Oklahoma panhandle to power the southeast. How to

navigate public doubt, inertia, utility companies and local politics makes this both a compelling read and a warning about the pitfalls in trying to improve our electrical infrastructure.

Superpower is available at Clark Memorial Library. If you have recommendations about books that you think others should read, let us know at the email address below.

Upcoming Events: The Woodbridge and Bethany Sustainability committees are co-hosting monthly lectures. Next lecture is Saturday September 21st at 3:00p.m. at the Woodbridge Library. The lecture is on "CT Rides, Resources and Programs."

Bethany Harvest Festival. Sunday October 6th 11:00AM-4:00PM at the Airport. We'll exhibit with Pollinator Pathways in the back left corner of the firehouse. Visit our monarch butterflies, invasive plants and insects, jumping worms, spotted lanternflies, ticks and more.

September 2024 Skies: The ϵ -Perseid meteor shower is active from September 5th to 21st, peaking September 9th. Whenever the shower's radiant point in the constellation Perseus is above the horizon you will see meteorites. In Bethany this means all night! The moon in September will make close approaches to three planets. On September 17th it will pass Saturn within a mere 16.2 arcminutes. Parts of the world will see a moon eclipse of Saturn called a "Lunar Occultation." In Bethany, this will be seen 7:43PM-4:43AM; September 23rd it will pass within 5°48' of Jupiter. In Bethany, this will be visible 11:22PM, at an altitude of 7° above the north-eastern horizon reaching their highest point in the sky at 71° above the southern horizon at 6:00AM in the morning; September 25th the moon will pass within 4°52' of Mars. In Bethany, this will be visible at 11:50PM reaching an altitude of 65° above the south-eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks at 6:07AM. There will be a supermoon on September 18th.

Best wishes,

Gale Ridge

Co-chair Sustainable Bethany

Michael Kaloyanidis and Eric Frieden contributors.

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

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.

An Invitation from Bethany Cub Scout Pack 931

Registration for boys into Bethany Cub Scout Pack 931 is open for the 2024-2025 school year. If your son is in first grade through fifth grade there is a cub adventure waiting for them to have!

Cub Scouts typically meet in age/grade appropriate dens twice a month during the school year from October ~ May with an additional Pack Meeting once a month. Meetings are typically an hour in length.

Den meetings are when scouts work on the rank for their age/grade. Pack meetings are when all the dens meet together, have rank awards given out and have activities such as a sailboat race called a raingutter regatta, the well-known pinewood derby and blue and gold dinner.

The Pack participates in Community Projects/Events like the Fall Town-wide Scouting for Food Drive and Memorial Day Parade.

The basic foundation of scouts is to help create good citizens by focusing through each grade/rank on citizenship, character, personal fitness, and leadership.

If you would like more information on joining the Pack, please contact Kris Sullivan at merlecookers@gmail.com and save the date for the first Pack Meeting on September 27th in the Town Hall Gym..



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Check It Out !

*September 2024
Clark Memorial Library*

**This is Library Card Sign-Up Month
Sign up now!**

Clark Memorial Library is a member of the Libraries Online Consortium (LION), 30 Connecticut libraries that offer a shared catalog and delivery services to each library. Our online catalog is your portal to the holdings of every library in the system.

With one simple search you can find print materials that you may request for delivery, and we will have them waiting for you on our downstairs curbside table. We will email you when they are ready, usually within a few days. You will also find digital materials -- e-books, audiobooks and videos available for instant download.

Visit our catalog at <http://bethanylibrary.org>.

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten
September is the perfect time to sign up for our 1000
Books Before Kindergarten Program.**

Is it possible to read 1000 books? Yes it is! Reading 3 books a day for 1 year = 1095 books, reading 1 book a day for 3 years = 1095 books — and repeat reads do count towards the total! Clark Memorial Library's goal is to develop a program that supports young families by providing incentives and materials to help reach their reading goals — including special 1000 Books Before Kindergarten book-bags containing a curated selection of award-winning children's books to check out once you sign up.

Stop by the Library to receive an Activity Journal to keep track of your progress.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Fifth Annual Outdoor Art Exhibit a success!

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



From the Assessor's Office

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

Filing for PA-490 Exemptions begins September 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. If you have any questions about this exemption, please call the Assessor's Office, 203-393-2100 ext. 1112 or email the assessor: bquist@bethany-ct.com

MOTOR VEHICLES NOTICE:

If you no longer own a motor vehicle and need to have a tax bill prorated, please see the list of accepted documentation below:

OLD/TRADED IN: A copy of the bill of sale with the year, make, model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle as well as the buyer's signature. No handwritten bill of sale will be accepted.

TOTALED/JUNKED: A letter from your insurance agent or company stating that the vehicle was totaled, the date of the accident and the year, make and model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle.

REGISTERED OUT OF STATE: A copy of the original out of state registration OR title showing the issue date, year, make, model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle.

STOLEN: A statement from your insurance agent or company stating that vehicle was stolen and not recovered, date of theft and year make, model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle.

REPOSSESSED: Letter from the finance company stating the date vehicle was taken and that it was not redeemed by you and the year, make, model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle.

DONATED: Letter from charitable organization on the organization's letterhead, stating that the vehicle was donated, the date of the donation and the year, make model & Vehicle Identification # of the vehicle.

If only the canceled plate receipt from DMV is provided **NO PRORATION** can be done. You must include one of the above-mentioned proofs **IN ADDITION** to the plate receipt.

Please feel free to call the Assessor's office with any questions. 203-393-2100 ext. 1112

Board of Assessment Appeals

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Time: 9am-Noon

Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, Bethany

The sole purpose of this meeting is to hear appeals related to the assessments of **MOTOR VEHICLES ONLY** on the 2023 Grand List. You will be heard in the order that you arrive. *****Please bring the vehicle you are appealing if you are appealing condition or mileage*****

Bethany Democratic Town Committee Citizen of the Year 2024

The Bethany Democratic Town Committee is pleased to announce that Bernie Bachenheimer is Bethany's 2024 Citizen of the Year. We honor Bernie for his service as a volunteer and community leader.

Bernie and his wife, Buff, came to Bethany 36 years ago and raised their two children here. Bernie soon became involved with the Democratic town committee and began working closely with Bill Philie on the annual DTC Spaghetti Dinner. When Bill tragically and unexpectedly passed away, Bernie stepped up. He took over leadership of the planning, purchasing, cooking and cleaning for the event, and he has been doing so ever since.

Bernie also spent many years working with the Boy Scouts. He originally got involved when his son, joined the cub scouts in 1995. He had not planned to be a leader, but when the leaders of the den abruptly resigned, Bernie again stepped up. Bernie took over as den leader so that the boys would not be disappointed in their scouting experience. He recruited one of the mothers to serve as co-leader. Bernie volunteered to assist the Boy Scout Troop when his son crossed over in 1999 and stayed with the troop long after his son earned Eagle and aged out. He taught the boys outdoor skills and was eventually tapped to become Scouts Committee Chairman. As Chairman, Bernie coordinated all aspects of the troop including finances, program needs and works with other committee members. He also acted as a liaison to outside groups and the Scouts Charter representative. In addition, he continued to act as assistant scoutmaster throughout. In 2009, Per his long-time peer in the scouting organization, Linda Francois, Bernie was an incredibly patient and dedicated teacher who was able to bring the best out in the young men he mentored, helping them to learn leadership and teamwork. Bernie stepped away from the chairmanship to take over as Scoutmaster when then current Scoutmaster became ill. Bernie continued in that capacity until 2023.

When Bernie's wife Buff launched the only all-female FIRST robotics team in New England at the high school where she taught, Bernie wanted to contribute. He became a mentor for that team from 2012 – 2018. His background in engineering enabled him to teach programming, electronics and mechanics as well as strategy. Bernie continues to volunteer and assist as a robot inspector checking the robots for safety and acting as a technical advisor to all teams at a competition.

Bernie also served on Bethany Planning and Zoning from 1990 – 99 and has recently begun volunteering with the land trust.

Please join us in honoring Bernie Bachenheimer at the Bethany DTC Spaghetti Dinner on September 7th, 6 PM at the Bethany Town Hall. For further information and tickets, please call 203-772-5648.

From the Fire Marshal's Office

Fall is fast approaching. The temperature outside will be dropping soon. That means it's time for the heating season to begin. You should get your heating sources checked by licensed technicians. Have your furnace cleaned and tuned so you do not have any carbon monoxide issues. Have your chimney cleaned and inspected to avoid chimney fires. If you use a pellet stove or wood-burning stove, have them checked and serviced to avoid fire issues as well. These things do cost money, but the alternative can cost you your house or your life. Please be safe.

BETHANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FAMILY FUN DAY

AT RUSSELL HOMESTEAD

SUNDAY SEPT 8 - 10AM-1PM



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a hayride!

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GAMES**

**CANDLE MAKING
USE WASHBOARDS
AND MORE!**

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New Land Record Fraud Protection Services

The Town Clerk's office now offers Property Check powered by Cott Systems. This free service is intended to combat property and mortgage fraud by allowing residents to sign up to receive notifications of when official documents are recorded for their property on the Bethany Land Records.

Property fraud can occur if someone forges your identity, transfers your property into their name, and records the document. This fraudulent activity can make it appear as if that person owns your home or property - and you may not have any idea that this happened! It is, unfortunately, becoming more prevalent today as cyber criminals exploit every avenue they can to cause harm and steal from everyday citizens.

Property Check works seamlessly in the background of the Bethany Land Records management software, automatically alerting if a document with matching name is recorded. Property owners need to opt-in by establishing a free RECORDhub account, creating alerts for their name and choosing the preference of alerts - email and/or text message. It's a good idea to set up multiple alerts based on first, middle and last name variations and your spouse's name, to be sure that an alert will be triggered in case a recording happens with some kind of slight variation.

If you have any questions about this new service, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 203-393-2100 x1104 or email townclerk@bethany-ct.com. To sign up for a free account, visit bethany-ct.com/town-clerk/land-records and start protecting against fraud today!



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