

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.16, ISSUE 7

www.bethany-ct.com

July 2025

Mark Your Calendars!

Town Hall Offices and Public Works / Recycling Center Will be **Closed** Friday, July 4, 2025

Trash Pick up will not change

The Team Behind the Town

Admin Lieutenant: Dave Merriam

I have served the Town as a public safety official after retiring from State Police since 2019, with responsibilities that include coordinating public safety efforts, SRO, maintaining emergency preparedness records, overseeing resident communications related to safety protocols, and acting as liaison between the Town and state law enforcement agencies. My role helps ensure that the community remains informed, prepared, and connected to the appropriate public safety resources.

Constables: Jason Agvent, Todd Brouillette, Richard Dziekan, Mark Sheppard, Mark Jazwinski

Constables serve as part-time law enforcement. Their duties often include traffic control, patrol, and providing support during town events or emergencies.

Jason: Jason has served the Town since 2012.

Todd: Todd has been serving the Town since 2022.

Richard: I joined the US Air Force, Aug. 2, 1983 and served in NH, Germany, ND and was honorably discharged Dec. 2, 1988. I was hired by the Hamden Police Department, Aug. 7, 1989, retired Aug 30, 2013. I was assigned to the community police division and traffic division. In the traffic division, I was trained as an accident reconstructionist handling, serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes. In May 2013, I was hired by the Bethany Police Department, where I currently work as a constable.

Mark S: Mark is an 18 year veteran of the Hamden Police Department, During this time, he worked Patrol, served on the Street Crime Unit, and was assigned to violent crime task forces with both the ATF and FBI, worked on New Haven Police Department's Shooting Task Force, and served as a Major Crimes Detective and SWAT team squad leader. Mark retired from HPD in 2022. Mark joined Bethany in 2009. Mark is an avid New York Mets fan.

Mark J: After serving in the Marine Corps, I joined the Connecticut State Police Department in 1987. While assigned to the Westbrook, Hartford, and Bridgeport barracks, I attended college and graduated from law school before retiring in 2011. Since 2012, I have been enjoying serving in the town that was the last one in Connecticut to switch over from having more horses to more people.

Assesor: Betsy Quist

I am the Tax Assesor, and I have been working in Bethany since 2018. I enjoy the diversity of the job. Every day is a surprise like a box of



chocolates. My favorite saying is "never underestimate the power you have to change someone's day... GOOD or BAD, always strive for GOOD!" A recent accomplishment that I'm proud of is that I just celebrated my 36th year of working in the Assessment field AND I just celebrated my 20th anniversary with my husband, and we renewed our vows on a pirate ship. I always believe that what I am doing makes a difference in people's lives, so it makes me feel needed.

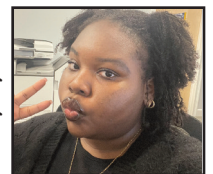
Assesor Clerk (P/T)/Asst. Tax Collector: Annette Defelice

I'm the Assessor Clerk/Asst. Tax Collector and I'm approaching my 1-year anniversary on July 15th. I enjoy the opportunity to serve the public. Every day brings something different, and I do appreciate the balance. My favorite quote "I am the captain of my ship and the master of my fate"-Invictus by William Ernest Henley. I'm proud to be learning things I never expected-from how to handle unique property situations and doing my best for things to run smoothly. The on-going learning for me feels like a real accomplishment. What I love the most is a sense of connection. In a small town, public service feels personal, and getting to know everyone by the first name is a great feeling and important to me.



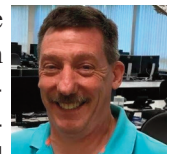
Assistant to the First Selectman: Deyonelle Patterson

Hi, I'm Dey Patterson. I've been working with the Town for a little over 4 months and I recently graduated from the University of Hartford. My role involves a wide range of responsibilities which include working on this bulletin. What I love most about working in public service is being involved in work that directly supports the community while being behind the scenes.



Emergency Management Director: Mike Katzmark

Michael Katzmark has served as the part-time Emergency Management Director since 2022. In this capacity, he has supported the Town's emergency preparedness and planning efforts, including coordination during weather related events and other public safety concerns.



Continued on pg.2

Submit stories, events, calendar dates, press releases, inquiries, advertisements, etc. to Dey Patterson 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.

Facilities and Public Works Manager: Don Shea

I oversee the town's infrastructure and public service operations with a focus on efficiency, safety, and reliability. I previously served on the Board of Selectmen for 16 years through 2023, and I've also had the privilege of contributing to the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission, and Bethany CERT. With over 40 years of experience as a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local #40 and as an Outside Supervisor for Ernest Peterson, Inc., I've developed a strong background in project coordination and construction management. I work closely with architects and project managers to ensure that town projects are completed on time and within budget. Bethany has been my home for the past 26 years and remain deeply committed to serving our community with integrity and dedication.

**Custodians (P/T): Chris Cofrancesco, Devon Cruz**

Like many positions with the Town, the custodians do more than just clean. They set up for events, help with reservations, and make sure the buildings are clean and safe for residents and guests.

Chris: Chris has been working with the Town since 2018.

Devon: Devon is a new addition to the Town staff, having started a month ago.

Finance Director: Leslie Bacigalupi

I'm Leslie Bacigalupi and I have been serving the Town of Bethany as it's Finance Director since March of 2022. I hold a bachelor's degree in finance and have worked in both the private sector as a controller and the public/nonprofit sector. Much of my Municipal experience I obtained through my work in the Finance Office in the Town of Southbury. I continue to serve as the Financial Secretary of a 500+ member church, a position I have held for nearly 25 years. Since coming to Bethany, I have changed accounting software systems and have implemented many new financial policies and procedures which have significantly reduced audit time and deficiencies. I chose to enter the field of finance because I wanted to be involved with all aspects of the financial cycle, from budgeting and investments to accounting and financial reporting. I grew up in a family where service was important and working in a municipality gives me the opportunity to use my education and knowledge to serve a community.

**Accounts Payable Specialist: Marian Fahmi**

It's me, Marian Fahmi. I am originally from Egypt and moved here to the USA in 2009 with my husband and daughter. I had my second child in CA. I faced a lot of challenges to get here, and now I'm working at Bethany Town Hall as an Accounts Payable Specialist. I want to express my gratitude for this opportunity to work with such wonderful people like you.

**Accounting Clerk: Vincent Ciavarella**

I've been with the town since I was 16 in multiple capacities, but I've been in my current position



since March of 2024. What I enjoy most are the daily challenges of taking in money and making sure it goes to all the right places. Every account has its own importance, so being organized is the most important thing. My favorite quote is "Isn't the idea of 'never give up' one of them things we always talk about in sports? And shouldn't that apply to people too?" – Ted Lasso. My favorite part is the sense of community I have when I have to work with other departments on projects or when seeking advice on organizational matters, procedure, or just personal matters. I feel like we are constantly trying to figure things out as a team, which brings me joy and feeling accomplished.

Fire Marshal: Steve Sousa

I am the Fire Marshal for the Town of Bethany, responsible for educating the public on fire safety, enforcing fire and life safety codes, and investigating fires. I also issue open burning permits. With over 20 years of firefighting experience, I've served in this role since July 2022. What I enjoy most is connecting with people and helping them understand how to stay safe. I recently did an interview with Fox 61 News about fire pit safety, and I hope the message helps others make informed choices when burning wood outdoors. Public service allows me to make a difference, whether I'm teaching someone to use a fire extinguisher or investigating a fire, I aim to bring reassurance and find a positive in every situation. If you can't figure out your purpose, find your passion. Your passion will lead you to your purpose.

**Human Resources/Administrative Manager: Jenn Cafasso**

Hi, I'm Jenn Cafasso. HR/Admin Manager for the Town. With a Master's in Business Administration, a Professional Human Resources certification, and over 15 years of operational leadership experience, I've spent the last five years driving key initiatives that strengthen our town's operations and services. I've led major projects including a full phone system transition, implementation of town policies, an overhaul of the reservation system, integration of the new municipal website, and writer/administrator of town grants. I also oversee a broad range of HR and administrative functions that support our departments and leadership. What I value most is the opportunity to create meaningful, lasting improvements for our employees and residents. As one of my favorite quotes says, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." That's what makes public service so rewarding.

**Human Services Director: Robin Glowa**

I've been full time since July 2012. I most enjoy creating programs and activities that enrich our resident's lives. A favorite quote: "My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece" -Claude Monet. I am proud of the gardens I have most recently designed and nurtured for friends and family. My favorite part of working in public service is knowing that my team and I will always work creatively and compassionately to resolve resident dilemmas.



Human Services Assistant: Emily Richard

I've been F/T since July 2024. I most enjoy working with Robin to create and host fun events for our Senior Residents. A favorite quote is "You have to recognize opportunity, no matter how subtle the knock." – Charlie Daniels. A recent accomplishment I'm proud of was rescuing my furry and feathered family members! My favorite part of working in public service is assisting our community members with various needs.

**Bus Drivers (P/T): Mike Alberti, Tom Mabry**

Tom Mabry, Senior/Disabled Bus driver has been driving for the Town of Bethany since 2015. An avid sailor, Tom and his wife Carleen, (who also serves the town as a substitute driver on occasion) love to travel, garden, and attend music events. Tom is proud to provide reliable transportation service to Bethany senior and disabled residents.

Mike Alberti, Senior/Disabled Bus driver has been driving for the Town of Bethany since 2007. He enjoys his interactions with the senior and disabled riders and is devoted to providing reliable service for them. Mike and his wife Donna have been married for 60 years and recently enjoyed a second honeymoon exploring Alaska.

Parks & Recreation Director: Nicole Vigneron

I've been in this role for 2 months. During this time, I've had the opportunity to begin working on several key initiatives that directly impact our community. We're currently preparing for summer camp, the after-school program, and expanded program offerings for the fall. We also plan to improve internal processes, staff training, and overall planning to deliver fun, well-organized programs for residents. I really enjoy the collaborative environment in our department. We support one another and work together to find solutions that benefit the community. I also appreciate the chance to connect with residents and make a positive impact through our programs and services. One of my favorite quotes is, "Think big." I'm always looking for ways we can improve and bring fresh ideas to make things better for the community. I'm proud of the upgrades we've made to the Annex building. It's been a team effort, and seeing those improvements come together has been a tangible result of everyone's hard work and dedication. I love knowing that the work we do each day helps improve the lives of the people who live in our community. Whether it's maintaining our parks, implementing engaging programs, or simply being available to help residents, it's truly fulfilling to be part of the Bethany community.

Youth Rec Program Manager: Michael Centoni

I've been in this role for about a month. What I enjoy most about this work is the chance to give back to my community by creating meaningful experiences and lifelong memories for our program participants. I truly believe in the motto, 'treat people the way you want to be treated,' and I try to reflect that in every interaction I have and every program we run. One personal accomplishment I'm proud of is training for and completing a triathlon. Professionally, stepping into this new role has been a major milestone, and I'm excited to work toward providing the

best possible programs and services for our community. My favorite part of working in local government is the ability to build lasting relationships with families and local businesses, while making a real, positive impact on people's everyday lives. Whether it's offering safe and inclusive spaces for children or planning events that bring neighbors together.

Public Works Crew: Tony Ciarleglio, Lou Cuomo, Nicholas Falcone, Brian Howard, Greg Lastauskas, Kevin Smith, James Valenti

The Department of Public Works plays a vital role in supporting the daily life of our community. From keeping our streets clear and safe, to maintaining public spaces, and providing essential services. Their work helps create a clean, connected, and welcoming town for everyone. They're a behind-the-scenes backbone of our Town.



Tony: Tony has been working with the town since 2001.

Lou: Lou has been working with the town since 2023.

Nick: Nick has been working with the town since 2021.

Brian: Brin has been working with the town since 1982.

Greg: Greg has been working with the town since 2023.

Kevin: Kevin has been working with the town since 2006.

James: James has been working with the town since 2016

**Recycling Center (Non-Union): Stephen Knapik, James Luciani**

Stephen: Stephen has been working with the town since 2017.

James: James has been working with the town since 2023.

Registrars (Elected): Kathryn Sylvester, Jan Loomis

Kathryn: I've been a Registrar of Voters (D) since 2017. I love encouraging high school and college students to become poll workers to help clear up misperceptions about voting. Don't panic. We will figure it out. A recent accomplishment that I'm proud of was receiving a community award for my work as a criminal defense attorney. My favorite part of working in public service is encouraging voter participation.



Jan: Jan has been working with the town since 2016 as a Republican Registrar.

Deputy Registrars: Carol Goldberg, Judith Johnson

Deputy Registrar helps with voter registration and maintaining voter records. They assist with local elections and support the Registrar of Voters to ensure that basic election processes run smoothly in the community.

Carol: Carol has been working with the town since 2016.

Judy: Judy has been working with the town since 2016.

Tax Collector (Elected): Linda Bates

I serve as the Tax Collector for the Town. I was elected in November 2023 and officially began my duties following the swearing-in ceremony in December 2023. I take pride in knowing that my department plays a vital role in generating the majority of the Town's revenue. There's a strong sense of purpose in ensuring that essential services, programs, and operations continue to run smoothly through the timely collection of taxes. "Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill. I recently passed my third state certification exam in Municipal Finance Administration and Management—with the highest score in my class (98.5%). It was a rewarding milestone in my professional development. I truly enjoy collaborating with the dedicated individuals at Town Hall who share my commitment to our community. I also value the opportunity to interact with and assist taxpayers on a daily basis.



Town Clerk (Elected): Will Brinton

My name is Will Brinton, and I have been Bethany Town Clerk since 2021. Prior to that I was Assistant Town Clerk for 4 years and Registrar of Voters for 19 years. I am a Connecticut Certified Town Clerk (CCTC) as well as a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC), with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Our office is often the first point of contact with the public and I enjoy the variety of questions and challenges that come in each day. I have also served as Town Historian since 2008 and like digging into records to research historical inquiries from residents. We are always looking for ways to modernize office operations and are working towards the goal of having all our permanent records in three formats: paper, microfilm and digital. We have a sign on our counter that says, "Good Deeds Done Here". It is meant as a tongue and cheek reference to the land records that come across our counter daily, but it could also refer to our efforts to serve the Bethany community.



Asst. Town Clerk: (Nik Decker)

My name is Nikolas Decker and I've been with the Town of Bethany for four years in the Town Clerk's Office. Much of our work is seasonal, from issuing dog licenses in May to handling absentee ballots in November, with land records, meeting minutes, and everything else in between. The more visible parts of my work include setting up our YouTube livestreams or you may see me putting up dog license signs around town. I'm proud to have recently completed my Connecticut Town Clerk Certification and attended a class on increasing Town Clerk efficiency through AI, finding ways to make the routine parts of government work a little smarter and smoother. Something I think about is "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." To me, it's a reminder that public service is about



showing up every day to do the work, helping the community run smoothly and making small changes that add up over time. That's the kind of work I'm proud to do.

Asst. Town Clerk (P/T) Asst Assesor: Stephanie Howard

My name is Stephanie Howard, and I am a Certified Connecticut Town Clerk. I've been part time in the Town Clerk's office for 4 years. Working in the Town Clerk's Office is more than just a job to me—it's a chance to connect with our community and help make things run smoothly behind the scenes. Every day is different, whether we're issuing marriage licenses, recording vital records, assisting with elections, or helping residents with their questions. What I enjoy most is the opportunity to be part of people's important life moments and to support the transparency and integrity of our local government. It's rewarding to know that the work we do helps keep our town organized, informed, and moving forward. Serving the residents of our town is truly a privilege, and I'm proud to be part of a team that values accuracy, service and community. "Civic duty is the soul of democracy."



Zoning Enforcement Officer: Lina Frazer

"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." John 1:16. From my early days with the Bethany Gardening Club to my current service as a member of the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department, my commitment to community engagement has been both personal and professional. As Manager of the Building and Land Use Departments—and in my official roles as the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) and Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer (IWEO)—I lead integrated operations across Building Permitting, Planning & Zoning (PZC), the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC), and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I've played a pivotal role in streamlining permitting workflows, strengthening code enforcement, and enhancing regulatory transparency. I was instrumental in securing over \$1 million in FEMA reimbursements following the 2018 tornado and led the implementation of a town-wide remote continuity system during the COVID-19 pandemic. I continue to support Bethany's growth through innovation, accountability, and community-centered governance.



Building Clerk: Veronica Novack

In my role as the Building & Land Use Clerk for the Town of Bethany, I've enjoyed engaging with the residents & hearing all of their cherished stories & fond memories they happily share while they visit the Town Hall. I believe that kindness is free to give, and I am continually inspired by the principle of "Be a light for all to see" (Matthew 5:16).



Building Official (P/T): Brian Donovan

Brian has been a building official for the town since 2010.

Assistant Building Official (P/T): Maher Hussein

Maher has been a building official for the town since 2022.

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

July 2025

"Where liberty dwells, there is my country." —Benjamin Franklin

Senior Bus Service is suspended through July 6th

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.)

JULY ENTREES:

July 2nd: NO LUNCH SERVED

**July 9th: Social Security Presentation with AARP
CLASSIC OVEN FRIED CHICKEN**

July 16th: ASIAN BEEF SALAD-FRIED RICE

July 23rd: LEMON DILL COD

July 30th: VEGGIE FRITTATA

CANASTA CLUB

Come join the fun as we learn how to play Canasta!

No experience necessary

July Dates: July 8th & July 22nd 11A.M.

Bethany Senior Center

Please call ahead to reserve your seat
at the card table: 203-393-2100 x1124

SAVE THE DATE!

VIRTUAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Monday Aug. 4th 11AM Bethany SR Center

Come visit the wonders of the
"land down under" on this virtual adventure!

RSVP no later than July 21st

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

FREE FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

"TITANIC"

FRIDAY, JULY 11th 11:00 A.M.

Bethany Senior Center

This epic romantic disaster film stars Leonardo
DiCaprio & Kate Winslet

NEXT FILM: FRIDAY, August 8th at 11:00 AM

"Julie & Julia"

FREE SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

MONDAY, July 14th 11 A.M.

Bethany Senior Center

Gilded Seashells

We'll be creating beautifully decorated seashells

Reserve a seat by July 3rd: 203-393-2100 x1124

NEXT CRAFT: MONDAY, Aug. 18th

Coloring Mandalas

SPECIAL FREE SENIOR EVENTS

Monday, July 21st 11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

**Makeup and Mocktails Diva Day with celebrity
makeup artist Joby Rogers**

RSVP no later than July 7th 203-393-2100 x1124

**SENIOR SALON DAY Friday, July 25th at
Hair Bottega RSVP by July 11th**

**VISION CLINIC - Tuesday, JULY 29th
Call if interested for more details**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF SENIOR EVENTS BY E-MAIL?

Please e-mail rglowa@bethany-ct.com
or erichard@bethany-ct.com to be added to our
monthly activity e-mail list.

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Kid Friendly Bio-Blitz Hike Sunday July 13th, 1 – 3 PM

Join us for a fun-filled BioBlitz at Whispering Pines Preserve on Sunday, July 13th from 1-3!
(NOTE: date change!!!) 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 time period. It's a hands-on way to engage with nature and learn about local biodiversity.

Participants will be surveying plants and animals that inhabit both the stream and nearby forest. Explore this beautiful spot with us and help identify its inhabitants! Your discoveries will be shared with the scientific community via iNaturalist.

This event is kid-friendly and involves a short 0.3-mile hike to the survey site. If you're planning to explore the stream and look for critters, be sure to bring waterproof boots or shoes. Inclement weather will cancel.

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 July 11th 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.

Land Trust Volunteer Refurbishes Two Land Trust Preserve Marquee Signs

Patty Wey of Bethany has meticulously restored wooden marquee signs for two Land Trust preserves, the Edna L. Delano Nature Sanctuary on Amity Road across from the library and the Podgwaite Preserve in the northeast corner of the junction of Routes 69 and 42.

Constructed and installed over two decades ago, both signs had weathered, their faded green lettering barely readable from the road. After prepping, sanding and restaining the wood, Patty painted the faded logo and lettering a vibrant green, finishing with an application of polyurethane. Patty said, "I am very happy I could help the Land Trust."

The Land Trust is indebted to Patty and to our many volunteers, who help us continue to be Bethany's Link to Nature.

Land Trust Volunteer Opportunity

Speaking of volunteers, the Land Trust is seeking dedicated volunteers to assist in monitoring our properties. By walking through an assigned property at least on an annual basis, monitors will help ensure our properties are cared for and remain in good condition, with trails that are clear of obstructions. Join us to make a lasting impact.

For more information or to sign up, please email Bernie Bachenheimer at BLTsteward@gmail.com

Bob Harrison, Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair

TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

The first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, along with the full amount of Motor Vehicle Taxes on the 2024 Grand List, is due July 1, 2025. Please note: This will be the only bill mailed for BOTH installments. (Your cancelled check serves as your receipt.) Payments should be mailed to: **Bethany Tax Collector** 40 Peck Road, Bethany, CT 06524

To avoid interest charges, payments must be received or postmarked by **August 1, 2025**.

Taxes not paid by **August 1, 2025**, will accrue interest at **1.5% per month**, starting from **July 1, 2025**, until paid in full. The **minimum interest charge is \$2.00 per installment**. (Per Connecticut General Statute §12-146) **Reminder:** Failure to receive a tax bill does **not** exempt you from payment or interest charges.

(Per Connecticut General Statute §12-130) Payments may be made **In Person:** Tax Collector's Office, Monday–Friday, **8:30 AM – 3:30 PM** (Note: No payments processed after 3:30 PM) If paying in person, bring your ENTIRE bill with you. If we need to reprint a bill, there will be a fee incurred.

•**Online:** www.bethany-ct.com

•**Credit Card Payments:** Subject to a **2.5% bank fee** (paid by the taxpayer)

•**EFT Payments Online:** **No fee**

NOTE: WEBSTER BANK CAN NO LONGER RECEIVE TAX PAYMENTS.

Motor Vehicle Back Taxes

To obtain **immediate DMV clearance**, back taxes on motor vehicles must be paid by **cash, bank check, or money order**. (Per Town Code §184-7)

Linda Bates, Tax Collector.

Bethany Historical Society Updates

Check out our new website!

Bethanyhistoricalsociety.org

Go to Youtube channel [@bethanyhistoricalsociety4626](https://www.youtube.com/@bethanyhistoricalsociety4626) for many previous BHS presentations.

Community Services Hours Available

Volunteer Hours for **Adults:** Tuesdays/Fridays
10am–noon

Bethany Historical Society
512 Amity Road

Interested? ljwooster@gmail.com

Parks and Recreation Commission

Jennifer Galik, Chairwoman

Welcome Summer with Bethany Parks & Recreation! Summer is officially here, and we're excited to announce that our annual Summer Camp kicks off (or kicked off depending on when this hits your mailbox) on June 30! The P&R team has been busy preparing a season filled with an exciting array of activities designed to keep kids engaged, active, and having fun all summer long. From sports, arts & crafts, nature walks and group games, every day will be packed with adventure, learning opportunities, and a chance to build new friendships. Registration remains open at bethanyct.myrec.com.

Professional Development and Team Success:

Earlier this month, several members of our Parks & Recreation staff attended the CRPA Camp College professional development session at Southern Connecticut State University. It was a fantastic day of learning, connecting, and bringing their best energy to new challenges. We're thrilled to announce that our team WON the overall challenge at the event! Congratulations to everyone who represented Bethany so well—your dedication and teamwork continue to shine.

Staff Training & Meet the Counselors Night: To ensure a safe and successful summer, all camp staff will participate in additional, comprehensive training sessions before camp begins. This training covers mandated reporter and youth protection training, safety protocols, program planning, and team building to make sure our campers have the best possible experience.

We're also excited to invite families to our "Meet the Staff" event on June 25th from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Annex Building. This is a great opportunity for campers and parents to get to know the staff, ask questions, and get ready for an amazing summer together.

Before and After-School Care: The P&R before and after-school care program will be running once again next school year! Stay tuned for information regarding the program and information about registering your child(ren).

Meet the Commission Secretary, Emily Meredith-Stein: Emily is an early childhood educator with over 20 years of experience in creating supportive and enriching environments for families and communities. She and her family have lived in Bethany for six years, and she's eager to contribute her expertise in program supervision, state licensing, and systems development to help the Commission foster a vibrant and inclusive environment for all Bethany residents.

With summer camp just around the corner, our staff's enthusiasm and commitment are stronger than ever. We look forward to a safe, fun, and memorable summer for all our campers and families. Thank you for your continued support of Bethany Parks & Recreation!

Check It Out !

July 2025

Clark Memorial Library

Full Calendar: <http://bethanylibrary.org>

*Ask about our Adult Summer Reading Raffle!
Enter to win one of two "Enchanted iPad Packages"
— sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Amigurumi Workshop

Tuesdays July 1st, 8th, 22nd

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Drop in - ages 10 and up

Learn to crochet (no experience needed) and create a baby creature of your own! Amigurumi is a specific type of crochet, focusing on creating 3D stuffed, and often small, crocheted toys or figures.

Yarn and all materials provided!

Early Reader Book Club

Wednesdays 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

June 25th, July 23rd, Aug 13th

Enjoy the new Early Reader book collection at the Library by joining our summer Book Club!

Participants can add to their Summer Reading Program reading log and earn beads/charms as part of this program. Caregivers must remain in the Library while the program is in progress.

Drop in for ages K-2.

Fractured Fairy Tales!

Thursdays, July 10th - August 15th

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Come to the Library for a fun twist on a classic fairy tale, along with a craft and/or STEM activity perfect for kids **ages 2-10**. (Drop in -- and parents must remain in the library during the activity).

Arts@Clark!

Local artists Liz Smolinski and Susan Taddei will be exhibiting their work (paintings and quilts) in the library Community Room in June and July. A reception for the artists will be held on July 16th from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – join us!

Mark your calendars for the Arts@Clark!

Sixth Annual Public Art Exhibit

Sunday, August 3rd 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Library Hours

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

Saturday: 10:30AM - 5PM



Sustainable Bethany

No. 55. Letter from Sustainable Bethany.

Spring and summer bring powerful storms from thunderstorms, tornadoes, to hurricanes. Records show Connecticut endures a hurricane every 20 years. We suggest a 10-day supply. Many items and actions can be put in place well before an emergency event to avoid last minute panic preparations.

Documents/signaling/information: Insurance coverage. Photographic records of home/business, valuable artifacts, and vital records. Secure in safe dry place. Keep in portable document organizers in the event of evacuation. Written important contacts for family, physicians, veterinarians, friends, neighbors. White distress flag. Whistle. Battery power/crank radio with emergency frequencies identified. Local paper maps. Emergency cash.

Energy: Fresh gasoline. Generator in good condition. Battery powered lighting. Matches in waterproof container. Grill. Dry firewood. Batteries.

Hardware: Plastic sheeting/tarps. Manual can opener. Extra set of car/house keys. Two-way radios. Duct-tape. Plastic gallon bags. Scissors/knife(s). Multi-purpose and/or handyman tools.

Food (stored in cool, dark, dry place labeled with expiration dates. Monitor and exchange as needed)

Any canned/in-glass processed foods. All grains including rice and pasta. Vegetable oils. Baking powder. Dried beans/lentil products. Coffee/tea/cocoa. Bouillon products. Dried fruit/nuts. Shelf safe fruit juices. 10lbs of bread flour and yeast. Sugar. Milk: powdered, condensed and/or cartons of long-life milk.

Care: All hygiene supplies including hand-dishwashing soap, paper towels, toilet rolls etc. Vitamins, protein bars, supplements. Dropper. Medicines, bandages, wraps. Small trash bags.

Liquids: Toilet water: 5-gallon buckets to collect from streams, lakes, rainwater, springs. Fresh water: One gallon/person/day. Water purification instructions: Boiling water kills bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Cloudy water, allow to settle and filter through a clean cloth, or coffee filter. Heat to rolling-boil for five minutes. Let water cool, store in clean covered containers. Improving taste of boiled water: use a pinch of salt/quart water or pour from one clean container to another several times.

Pure unscented bleach – Add 16 drops of liquid chloride bleach/gallon of water. Sodium hypochlorite concentration of 5.25%-06% should be the only active ingredient. No soap or fragrances. Stir and stand for 30 minutes. Information sources: FEMA, Red Cross, WHO.

Gale Ridge, Co-Chair Sustainable Bethany.
Michael Kaloyanides, Eric Frieden contributors
sustainablebethany@gmail.com

It Happened in Bethany By Linda Wooster

Soap Sculpture in Smithsonian

In 1976, Bethany Sculptress Ann Lehman was commissioned by the Smithsonian Institute to design something “in the spirit and style” of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. Artistic sculptures in soap, cheese, and other exotic materials were in Victorian vogue back then.

Lehman started to shape a half ton block of soap with a power saw when it arrived at her studio home in January 1976. As the general proportions she wanted emerged, she switched to more conventional tools. What evolved after a mass of soap had been cut away was “campy and fun.” There was a three-foot high cherub, holding aloft a torch -- --a la Statue of Liberty -- as he rises from a broken eggshell. Two almost life-size eagles, wings partly spread, guarded either side of the base with a swirling American flag.

Lehman’s soap block was cast in the carton in which the Colgate-Palmolive Co. shipped it to Bethany. Because of its size, the initial cutting had to be done outside under a polyethylene shelter before it was wheeled indoors to be worked on. The block was made with a 30% moisture content (regular soap is 13%) to ensure greater density and ease of carving.

Lehman and her family used a small van to drive the 400-pound finished work to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC at the end of March, where the Institute was preparing for its two-year exhibit which was to open in May of that year.

Lehman noted that some flamboyant sculptures in butter and chocolate at the original 1876 Centennial had to be carved each night to keep outlines firm. Although such repairs appeared unlikely to be necessary for the soap sculpture, the Bethany artist did have problems with “checking” when exposure to air caused some drying and cracking. Spraying the statue with clear spray, plus displaying it under glass at the Smithsonian, was expected to pre-protect it.

Lehman’s husband, Albert and her father, Nathan Podoloff, frequently were involved in moving her 500-pound creations, which were often in metal. Examples of her work were showcased at the Fieldhouse Sports Center at Southern Connecticut State College and private collections. She taught metal sculpture at New Haven’s Creative Arts Workshop, of which she was first president. Lehman was also an active horsewoman and tennis player.

(Excerpted from an article by Barrie Collins)

From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Happy Summer, Everyone!

Summer in Bethany is truly something special—a season filled with sunshine, the quiet hum of open spaces, and the joy of unhurried moments spent with family and friends. Whether you're enjoying a long walk on a wooded trail, catching up with neighbors, or simply taking time to rest, I hope your summer days are off to a wonderful start.

As we close the chapter on the 2024–2025 school year, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the journey from August to June. While the start of the year brought its share of unknowns, one thing I never questioned was the strength and commitment of the BCS staff. I knew, without a doubt, that they would rise to whatever the year brought.

Each and every one of our teachers, paraeducators, lunch ladies, nurses, IT professionals, facilities crew, office staff, and everyone in between poured their time, talent, and heart into ensuring our students had a safe, enriching, and joyful year. I saw them support one another in difficult moments, celebrate each other's successes, and create a learning environment that truly embodied what it means to be a community. Their dedication was reflected in the faces of our students, who showed resilience, kindness,



and an unwavering spirit every step of the way.

To our sixth-grade graduates: as you take your next steps toward Amity Middle School, know that you go with our full hearts behind you. We are proud of the foundation you've built here at BCS and excited for all the new adventures that await you. You are more than ready, and we can't wait to hear about all the great things you'll do next.

To our families and the broader Bethany community, thank you for being steadfast partners in our shared mission. Your involvement, encouragement, and trust make all the difference. This year's success is a reflection of what we can accomplish when we work together.

Even though school is out for summer, our work continues. The Board of Education offices remain open throughout the summer months. If you have thoughts, feedback, or new ideas you'd like to share, I welcome them. Please feel free to reach out to me at (203) 393-1170 or by email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org.

Thank you again for a memorable school year. Here's to a summer filled with rest, laughter, and the joy of community.

In partnership,

Kai Byrd
Superintendent
Bethany Public Schools

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From the Assessor's Office

RENTERS PROGRAM

Applications for the Renters Program may be filed with the Town's Assessor between April 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025. Those residents of Bethany who:

Have attained the age of 65 on or before 12/31/2024, Hold full-time residence in Bethany, Total income does not exceed \$45,200 for a single person or \$55,100 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, 2025. Proof of 2024 income and social security earnings (SSA-1099) is REQUIRED ALONG WITH RECEIPTS OF ALL 2024 RENT AND 2024 UTILITIES (exclusive of phone & cable). Those persons who had applied for this program last year will be mailed an application in April 2025.

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

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, 2025. Applicants must meet an income requirement of not more than \$45,200 if single, and \$55,100 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 \$70,200 for single applicants and \$80,100. Income includes adjusted gross income plus any other income, including Social Security benefits. Income is based upon the 2024 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 2024 calendar year must be submitted by September 30, 2025, 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 15th day of January 2025.

Betsy Quist – Assessor for the Town of Bethany



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From the Conservation Commission

Ali Beres-Nork, 2025 Conservationist of the Year!!!

At the May Town Meeting, Ali Beres-Nork was recognized as Bethany's 2025 Conservationist of Year. Presented each year by the Conservation Commission, the award recognizes excellence in environmental protection or significant contributions to the advancement of conservation. Nominated by one of her students at Amity High School, Ali is an environmental science teacher, passionate about inspiring a love for science and the natural world. Her students have volunteered to clear invasive plants from Bethany's trails and they help maintain the campus pollinator garden she created. She has also created a food rescue initiative through which thousands of pounds of donated school cafeteria food and drink have been given to Haven's Harvest, an organization dedicated to reducing food waste. Ali also serves as a member of the Bethany Conservation Commission, the Sustainable Bethany Committee and the Bethany Land Trust Board of Directors. As a CT State Master Naturalist, Ali leads hikes and delivers lectures on ecology and natural history. She holds two master's degrees, one in science education and the other in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. Currently, she is seeking her PhD in Education, with a focus on experiential learning in Environmental Science at the University of Idaho.





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LATE DOG LICENSES

A late fee of \$1 per month applies to applications received after June 30th. **The fee for licensing in JULY is now \$20 for unaltered Male or Female dogs and \$9 for Spayed or Neutered dogs** and will increase by \$1 in August.

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.

Dog Licenses may be renewed in person in the Town Clerk's Office or by printing and mailing the Dog License Application/Renewal Form from

Licenses are available in the Town Clerk's Office, by mail or online. www.bethany-ct.com/town-clerk/dog-licensing



Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

July 1st	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
July 2nd	Planning & Zoning Commission	7:00PM
July 7th	Housing Advisory Committee	7:00PM
July 8th	Board of Finance	7:00PM
July 9th	Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
July 9th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
July 10th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
July 14th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
July 17th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
July 21st	Solid Waste and Recycling Committee	5:30PM
July 21st	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
July 23rd	Parks & Recreation Commission	6:30PM

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



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Bethany Parks and Recreation

Nicolle Vigneron, Director

Bethany Parks and Recreation's summer staff recently attended an intensive training session at Southern Connecticut State University, hosted by the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association. During the training, they competed against staff from neighboring towns in a series of physical and mental challenges. I'm proud to share that the Bethany Parks and Recreation team won the competition! I couldn't be more proud of the amazing staff who will be supporting our camp this summer.



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