

BETHANY BULLETIN

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www.bethany-ct.com

April 2025

Mark Your Calendars

Budget Hearing for FY26/Thursday, April 3, 2024/Watch Your Mail for More Information

Reminder: Town Hall Offices and Public Works Will be Closed Friday, April 18th in Observance of Good Friday (No change in trash pickups)

From the First Selectman's Desk March Highlights and April Updates

Welcome to April 2025. You may have heard already, but just in case you haven't - The news you have all been waiting for: Bethany has a new Parks and Recreation Director. On Monday, April 7th, we officially welcome Nicolle Vigneron. Nicolle brings over 30 years of experience in recreation management, project coordination, and organizational leadership to the role. She will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the town's parks and recreation programs, facilities, and initiatives. Ms. Vigneron emerged as the top candidate from a pool of 49 applicants and was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen.



Ms. Vigneron comes to Bethany from the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater New Haven in Woodbridge, CT, where she most recently served as the JCC Assistant Director, a position she held from March 2021 to present. In this role, she was responsible for the overall strategic planning, business development, and the effective management of JCC programs and departments, including aquatics, early childhood, youth and after-school programming, summer camp, and wellness programs. Prior to her role as Assistant Director, Nicolle served as the Director of Health and Physical Education at the JCC and the Athletic Director and Director of Sports and Enrichment at Luralton Hall in Milford, CT.

Nicolle has a reputation of developing and implementing safe and successful recreation programs and initiatives. She has spearheaded a diverse range of community activities, from sports leagues and day camps to senior and youth programming and special events like craft fairs and 5k runs. She is dedicated to fostering positive relationships with community members and delivering exceptional recreational experiences.

A lot of time and hard work has been devoted to putting together a budget that takes care of the needs of the Town and is fiscally responsible at the same time. The economic climate right now makes producing a budget quite a challenge. Just like running your house, some things are out of your control. We need to make sure that we are appropriately funding all departments to have them functioning at their best to serve the Town. At its March 11th meeting, the Board of Finance finalized its proposed budget to bring forward to the Town residents.

You should have received the formal notice regarding the upcoming Public Hearing on the FY26 Town Budget. Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 / Time: 7:00p.m. / Place: Bethany Town Hall Gymnasium. The purpose of the hearing is to have residents of Bethany get information on the proposed budget, ask questions and give feedback to the Board of Finance. This is the residents' opportunity to request increases or decreases in line items. The Board of Finance then makes any changes it agrees are necessary. The final version will then go to the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 19th for approval. Applicable notification will be sent out to residents for this annual meeting.

We will continue to look for state and federal funding to help with any infrastructure projects to keep Bethany safe, vibrant and moving forward. As I have mentioned before, the grant process is a very laborious task. Every grant has different criteria and timelines. With many grants we may only have a short window in which to apply for the funding, but it could take several months before the project gets reviewed and approved, and then several more months before the funding actually gets appropriated and sent to the Town. Some grants are reimbursement grants where the Town has to expend the monies first, and then get reimbursed. There are annual grants as well as one-time grants, but we will watch to see which ones will be applicable to projects we need to help Bethany.

Clocks have jumped forward that one hour, and now we get to enjoy that extra daylight. According to the calendar Spring has now officially sprung, and we can hopefully look forward to more beautiful, consistent weather ahead.

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*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.

First Selectman's Desk

continued from front page

Reminder: the deadline is quickly approaching to submit your nominations: It is that time of year again for the First Selectman's Youth Award. Any Bethany youth, 18 or under, who is in school, and who, either individually, or as part of a group, has demonstrated positive actions to improve Bethany or assist Bethany residents is eligible to be nominated for the award. Areas of involvement may include group or individual volunteer work aimed at improving the quality of life in the Bethany community. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group leaders, clergy, and volunteer agencies are among those who may nominate a youth for consideration. Parents and family members may not nominate a relative. For more information and the Nomination Form, you can go to the Town website: <https://bethany-ct.com>. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 4, 2025.

Let's take a quick look at some happenings from March: Wednesday, March 5th, our Bethany seniors celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day at our Veterans Memorial Park Lakeview Lodge. This event is always well attended, and attendees were entertained with live music by Pierce Campbell, a member of Connecticut's own Irish Folk Band "The Kerry Boys." Great food and wonderful service. Thank you to Robin for organizing this event along with her assistant Emily. Remember to check out the Bethany Seniority page for other activities and events, such as the Canasta Club, the Free Friday Film Festival and Craft Corner projects. A little something for everyone. Bethany celebrated the Grand Opening of a new business on Friday, March 7th. Welcome Elm City Trailer. I had the pleasure of taking part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with owner Robert "Bobby" Fantarella. They have quite a variety of trailers and anything that goes with them.

On Friday, March 7th Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro hosted her Annual CT03 Municipal Leaders Meeting at Brazi's Restaurant in New Haven with local municipal leaders from District 03. Congresswoman DeLauro provided an update on the impoundment of federal funding as well as where things stand on the FY25 and FY26 appropriations bills, to include the future of Community Project Funding, as well as the federal budget reconciliation process. All of these are pieces of how the overall federal appropriations process will move forward and will impact federal programs across all agencies. Congresswoman DeLauro also talked about how her office can be helpful to our respective communities in navigating the impact this will have on our residents and businesses.

Bethany Community School held an Invention Convention on Tuesday, March 11th in the school gym. It's like "Shark Tank meets Science Fair." Invention Convention competitions provide student innovators the opportunity to develop products that help solve a problem in their own lives or for those around them. Sometimes it takes more than one try to come up with the right solution.

It was a great day for Bethany Hoops on Saturday, March 15th. The girls' team, the AT Sangha Yoga Goddesses, won the championship game in the Orange Rec league in double overtime with a score of 13-11. A well-played game. Congratulations to the players and their coaches, Angela

Nielsen and Taryn Sheehan. As this Bulletin goes to print, the boys are in their post-season play. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Commission for all of their hard work to get Bethany Hoops up and running this year and to all the players, coaches, families and fans for making this such a fun season for all.

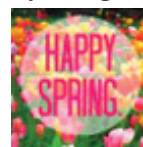
Sunday, March 16th was the New Haven St. Patrick's Day parade. It was a cloudy day, but the major rains held off until late in the day. I had the pleasure of marching in the Parade again this year. The very windy, seasonable weather invited a good crowd to gather along the parade route. As you probably know, the parade covers a little over a mile starting on upper Chapel Street and proceeding down to the New Haven Green by New Haven City Hall. It is quite the experience and an honor to represent the Town of Bethany in the event. It's always fun to look for Bethany residents along the way, and I did see several, and got an occasional shout out.

If you travel Amity Road regularly, the State is planning to pave Amity Road north of Judd Hill to the Bethany/Naugatuck town line. The initial notification indicated that the project will start some time late spring early summer. Should that change, we will let you know. The start of the project is always dependent on the weather. It is an approximately one-mile stretch. Prior to and during the paving project, there may be a need to adjust drainage, curbing, signage, guide railing, pavement markings, and any other items that promote safe traveling conditions. I will keep you posted as we receive more information.

Make sure you mark your calendars for: The Lions Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 26th, and the Bethany Athletic Association Carnival to be held Thursday, May 29th, Friday, May 30th and Saturday, May 31st. Always wonderful community events.

Make sure you take a look at the rest of the Bulletin for more information and fun activities going on in our beautiful little town. We may be small, but we rock it.

I wish everyone good health and a



There's always something to celebrate
— just about every single day.

Here's to Opening Day (March 18th) in
Tokyo, Japan for major league baseball. Enjoy

ATTENTION BETHANY DEMOCRATS

We meet the first Monday of every month in the community room at center station and would love to have you join us to stay updated on what is happening in town.

We are looking for future candidates who feel they hold value to improving our town and joining our team. Please email bethanydems@gmail.com for more information.

Bethany Rid Litter Day returns Saturday, April 19, 2025



Won't you join us to beautify our town and get into Earth Day spirit!?! Rid Litter Day in Bethany is a wonderful outdoor activity that can be performed by individuals, families, businesses, and small groups working together to clean up the roadside trash on the roads we pass every day.

This event showcases Bethany's sense of community. If you, your family, your company, or civic group is interested in volunteering, email at Bethanyridlitterday@gmail.com

Volunteer sign up link: Bethanyridlitterday.com

Bethany Rid Litter Day 2025

If you have any questions contact - John Pellicano at 203-687-5755

Bethany Airport Natural and Historical Tour Sunday, April 27, 1:00 PM

The Bethany Land Trust and Bethany Historical Society will hold a Natural and Historical Tour at the Airport Property in conjunction with Earth Day weekend. Bob Harrison of the Land Trust and Will Brinton of the Historical Society will act as guides for a walking tour of the 140-acre Airport Property. Eric Frieden of Sustainable Bethany will also provide a discussion of recycling efforts and waste removal strategies. The event will start at 1:00 PM on Sunday April 27, 2025, in front of the Hangar at 719 Amity Road.

The tour will include an overview of the former airport activities, including sites of several old buildings, as well as some surviving structures and artifacts. The directional arrow that was unearthed in recent years will be highlighted and the importance of the Bethany Airport in early aviation history will be discussed.

Following the historical presentation, a walk in the woods will commence to explore the natural features of the property. The hike is a relatively flat one-mile loop trail.

YOUR OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SUPERSTORE



ARIENS



eXmark

STIHL



Simplicity



Husqvarna



GENERAC



LITTLE WONDER

770 AMITY ROAD, BETHANY, CT | (203) 393-0002 | LSBFARMSUPPLY.COM

From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Dear Bethany Community,

I am pleased to share an important update regarding the Superintendent's Proposed Spending Plan for the 2025-2026 academic year. Initially presented to the Board of Education in January 2025, the proposal reflected an 8.8% budget increase, largely due to rising insurance costs. Understanding the potential impact on the town budget, we proactively transitioned from ConnectiCare to Anthem, which significantly lowered insurance expenses and reduced the overall proposed increase.

At the March 12th, 2025, budget meeting, I presented a revised spending proposal totaling \$8,207,602. This represents a \$258,584 increase over the 2024-2025 budget, marking an overall increase of 3.25%. The Board of Education has since approved and adopted this proposal as the official budget for the 2025-2026 school year. This collaborative effort involved the Bethany Board of Education, BCS administration, and department heads, all committed to developing a responsible and strategic budget.

Our budget is rooted in our mission to "inspire and empower children to thrive in the world of tomorrow." Guided by our strategic vision of "Excellence for All by All," we focus on strengthening curriculum and instruction, fostering a positive culture and climate, engaging the community, and ensuring the safety and security of our facilities. The budget supports our 435 students by promoting high-quality instruction, mental health support, nutrition, and medical care to ensure learning readiness. It also provides specialized services to help every student reach their full potential, maintains small class sizes, and offers diverse extracurricular activities along with before and after-school programs. Reliable transportation services are included to ensure safe travel to and from school. Additionally, continuous professional development for staff, curriculum renewal, technology upgrades, and Parent Academies are key initiatives designed to build staff capacity, keep curricula current, enhance technological resources, and strengthen partnerships with families and the community.

Lastly, we are thrilled to announce that the BCS Drama Club will be performing Moana, Jr. on Friday, May 30th, and Sunday, June 1st. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for ticket information—you won't want to miss this exciting production!

As always, I welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas. Please feel free to contact me at (203) 393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we strive to provide an exceptional education for the children of Bethany.

In partnership,
Kai Byrd - Superintendent



LAND USE DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONS PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION IN- LAND WETLANDS COMMISSION ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The commissions certify and require, when deemed appropriate, that a site plan be filed to aid in determining conformity of a proposed building, structure, or use within the town's regulations, and to approve, modify, or deny such a site plan. The commissions also regulate and restrict proposed locations and variances; hears, considers, and decides upon special applications and special exceptions permits when deemed necessary.

Call the Land Use Department at (203) 393- 2100 ext. 1115 or email to the Land Use Administrator & Zoning Enforcement Officer at LFrazer@bethany-ct.com if you need any further assistance and details on applications' procedures and processes.

Note: Prior to initiating any Land Use or Building Department permitting application process with the Town, we advise you to consult with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District at (203) 248-6671 in the event that their approval would also be required.

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

If you are thinking about doing any site work involving grading, filling, cutting and/or stumping of trees or bushy vegetation that is within 150 feet of a designated wetland area, i.e., land consisting of wetland soils, a river, stream, brook, lake, pond, marsh, swamp, bog, or any other body of water, natural or artificial, vernal, or intermittent, you may need to obtain an Inland Wetlands Permit prior to having that work done. The permitting process takes a minimum of two months.

Please plan ahead and call for more information on the permitting process application at (203) 393- 2100 ext. 1115 or email: LFrazer@bethany-ct.com

Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer

SAVE THE DATE!

**BETHANY
FIRST CHURCH
ANNUAL
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL**

Saturday, June 7, 2025
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
RAIN OR SHINE

Craft Vendors
Homemade Strawberry Shortcake
Breakfast & Lunch Available
and Much More!

511 AMITY RD
BETHANY, CT 06524

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

April 2025

"Where flowers bloom so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson

Passover begins April 12th - Good Friday is April 18th - Easter Sunday is April 20th
No Senior Bus Service on Friday, April 18th or Monday, April 21st

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.)

APRIL ENTREES:

Apr. 2nd: Homestyle Beef Stew

Apr. 9th: NAME THAT TUNE (50's-60s) PARTY
Herb Roasted Chicken

Apr. 16th: EASTER THEMED BRUNCH
Belgian Waffles

Apr. 23rd: TRIVIA PARTY
Chicken Parmesan

Apr. 30th: KENTUCKY DERBY/BEST HAT PARTY
Kentucky Hot Browns

CANASTA CLUB

Come join the fun as we learn how to play Canasta!
No experience necessary **FREE EVENT**.

Tuesdays: April 8th & April 22nd at 11 AM
Bethany Senior Center

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

LAST CALL FOR FREE VITA TAX ASSISTANCE

Tuesdays ONLY through April 8th
9 AM-12 NOON
Woodbridge Human Services

By Appointment Only: 203-389-3429

To qualify for services you must be a senior, low-income or have English as a second language. For Income qualifications call Woodbridge Human Services.

FRIDAY CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL

" EASTER PARADE"

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th 11:00 AM

Bethany Senior Center Free Admission

Don't miss this wonderful holiday classic starring
Judy Garland and Fred Astaire!

NEXT FILM: FRIDAY, May 9th at 11:00 AM
"LITTLE WOMEN"

FREE SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services

MONDAY, APRIL 14th
11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

EASTER BUNNY CENTERPIECES

We'll be crafting adorable centerpieces perfect for
decorating your holiday table!

Reserve a seat by Fri, April 4th: 203-393-2100 x1124

SAVE THE DATE!

Free Senior Ladies' Event
MONET'S GARDEN TEA PARTY

Monday, May 5th NOON-2:00 PM
BETHANY SENIOR ROOM

Join us for tea and refreshments surrounded by the
beauty of Monet's Garden!
You will also have the opportunity to create your
own keepsake paper flower.

LIMITED SEATING RSVP before APRIL 21st
203-393-2100 x1124

BETHANY LAND TRUST



April Hike: Walking the Poetry in the Woods Trail

Join us on Sunday, April 13th from 1 – 3 PM for a walk in the woods as we celebrate National Poetry Month. The hike in Mendell's Folly will be highlighted by stops at locations along the way where we will hear readings by members of the Connecticut Poetry Society.

Those attending the hike are in for a special treat: attending the official opening of the Bethany Land Trust's Poetry in the Woods poetry trail, the first of its kind in Connecticut! The initial section of the poetry trail in Mendell's Folly consists of three permanent plaques installed on wooden posts allowing hikers to enjoy poems at any time - simply scan the plaque's QR code with a phone's camera to hear an audio recording of the poem, read by the author themselves! The poems chosen for this section of the poetry trail include "Eagle Poem" by Jo Harjo, "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver and "Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry.

In time, as we continue the initiative, more of these *Poetry in the Woods* treasures will be found throughout the Land Trust's many preserves. Look for more details posted to our website, Facebook page and here in the Bethany Bulletin column.

For the April hike, we will meet at the roadside parking area at the Van Epps Preserve at 390 Beacon Road (Route 42) in Bethany at 1:00 PM. Look for the green Land Trust banner. Off-road parking is also available. All are welcome but space for the hike will be limited to 25 registered participants. Please leave your pets at home and inclement weather will cancel. **To register:** contact Bob Harrison by Fri. Apr. 11th at 203-506-5888 or bjh51box@gmail.com.

A Fresh New Design for the Land Trust Website

The Land Trust is thrilled to announce that we've completely redesigned our website: its structure, layout, content, and functionality have all been significantly improved. This redesign offers a user-friendly experience with improved navigation, making it easier for visitors to find information about our conservation efforts, preserves, and upcoming events.

Some highlights include: an interactive, townwide map of Bethany with links to preserve trail maps, updated trail maps and descriptions of the trails, updated preserve description and history, an array of striking photos of our preserves and the people who hike them and those who help keep them maintained, listings of volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and a wealth of educational resources to better serve our community and supporters. With this redesign, we aim to provide an engaging platform that reflects our commitment to preserving natural landscapes. We invite you to explore our website bethanylandtrust.org by clicking on the QR code here and join us in our mission to preserve and cherish the beauty of our environment



Bob Harrison-
Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair

Parks and Recreation Commission

Jennifer Galik, Chairwoman

We are excited to announce the hiring of Nicolle Vigneron as Bethany's new Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director. With over 30 years of experience in recreation management and organizational leadership, Nicolle emerged as the top candidate and was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Nicolle brings a wealth of expertise from her role as Assistant Director at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, where she managed programs including early childhood, youth and after-school programming, summer camps, and wellness initiatives. Her proven track record in developing successful programs and fostering community engagement makes her an ideal fit for our town. Ms. Vigneron is thrilled to become part of the Bethany community and play a role in the positive growth and transformation of the Department. We look forward to the positive impact she will have on our community. The full press release may be found on the website.

We urge all residents to attend a special town meeting on March 27th at 7 P.M. at Town Hall.

The BOS voted not to allow P&R to run the before and after school/extended day program. This decision significantly impacts our community, and it's crucial that your voices are heard on this matter. Please be aware that the BOS also voted to bring this issue to a referendum vote, which is a departure from typical town practice and how the last petition related to P&R was handled. Your participation in this special meeting and voting at the referendum is vital to ensure that the community's interests are represented in this important decision.

The referendum is set for April 7th and voting will take place at Town Hall from 6A.M.-8P.M.

As the P&R Commission Chairperson, I'd like to share a bit about my background. I've been a proud Bethany resident for 20 years. My husband, Bryan, and I have 7-year-old twins, Bryan and Ben, who attend BCS. My professional background includes over 20 years of experience in education, serving as a teacher, school principal, and central office administrator. This has taught me the importance of ensuring clear procedures and policies are in place to safeguard children and ensure consistency in handling things. I am well-versed in state requirements for training and screenings needed for employees, and regularly provide professional development to teachers and school-based support staff. My roots in the community and extensive experience in education give me a unique perspective on the needs of our town's families and the importance of robust recreational programs. I am committed to ensuring that Bethany's Parks and Recreation Department continues to serve our community effectively and with the utmost standards for safety.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in our town's affairs.

It Happened In Bethany

By Linda Wooster

The Wheeler-Beecher House, sometimes referred to as the Hoadley House, is located on Amity Road in Bethany. Built at the start of the 19th century for Darius Beecher, a wealthy farmer and architect, it served not only as an outstanding example of Colonial architecture but also of renowned architect David Hoadley's work.

Hoadley, born in Waterbury in 1774, was the third of nine children in his family. His father, a blacksmith, made a very modest living. Consequently, David received little schooling and apprenticed himself to a carpenter at an early age. A self-taught architect, his first real break came with the chance to contribute to the design of the Congregational and Episcopal churches in Waterbury. The recognition he received from the completion of those designs launched his successful career in architecture.

Among Hoadley's more famous designs was the mansion built in Waterbury in 1800 for Colonel William Leavenworth. Additionally, he designed and built the Judge William Bristol House between 1800 and 1802. (Its doorway is preserved in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.) He built another Bethany landmark, the Christ Episcopal Church, in 1810 before a series of health crises brought about a poverty-stricken death in 1839.

A typical example of Hoadley's work, the Wheeler-Beecher house was 2-½ stories high, with a stone foundation, clapboard exterior, and wood-shingled roof. The front door had tall, fluted pillars and an arched entranceway, with a mantel and detail work. The house also contained 10 fireplaces and a large second-floor ballroom used for social affairs, church gatherings, town meetings, and meetings of the local Masonic Lodge.

After Darius Beecher moved West, the house served as the home to Abraham Beecher (no relation), then Lewis Thomas, before becoming the home of Orrin Wheeler, whose family kept it until 1899. By 1940 it was home to Huntington Lee and his sister and served as the headquarters of the Gale Electric Company. Having exhausted its usefulness as a residence, the Wheeler-Beecher took on new life as a historic structure when it received a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Additionally, a 1982 dig by Bethany resident David Thompson of the Greater New Haven Archaeological Society on the Wheeler-Beecher grounds uncovered more than 1,000 utensils, animal bones, thimbles, buttons, and other artifacts that made significant contributions to scholarship on life in colonial Connecticut. (Excerpts from "The House That Hoadley Built Wheeler")

BETHANY LIONS UPDATE

Did you catch the Bethany Lions marching in the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day parade as part of our District 23A marching unit? We're always out and about with our Lions' Pride! For our Bethany Spring events "Like" and follow our Facebook page @bethanyctlions or our website at bethanyctlions.com for our event information and flyers.

39th Annual Goods & Services Auction: Will run from March 26th - April 4th. Pickup will be the afternoon on April 5th. The auction link for active bidding will be posted on March 24th on the Bethany Lions Facebook page.

Egg My Yard: Back for our 4th year. Let the Lion "bunnies" do your Easter egg hunts at your house! Go to the Bethany Lions Facebook page for the link/QR code. It's filling up fast!

Red Cross Blood Drive: Will be held at Lakeview Lodge on April 28th (12-5 pm). Go to: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive to register. **Walk-ins are welcome.**

Shred Day/Food Drive: Our bi-annual shred and E-waste day will be Saturday, May 10th from 9 am - Noon at the Bethany Airport Hanger. Bring your documents for shredding and E-waste to be destroyed. Suggested donations on our flyers.

Scholarship: Pick up applications at Clark Memorial Library, Bethany Town Hall - Town Clerk Office and Amity High Guidance Office. Deadline for application submission is May 1st to either the Town Clerk Office or Amity High Guidance Office.

Flea Market: 2025 Opening day is Saturday, May 3rd and will run 26-weeks through October 25th.

Memorial Day Parade - Save the Date! : Monday, May 26th for our Annual Memorial Day Parade! Please let us know of any Bethany veterans who would like to participate in the event. **Any groups wishing to march are welcome.** Email Janet Brunwin at: brunwins@sbcglobal.net.

New Project: Recycle your household bags and wrap. Starting in early April, bring your plastic film and bags to the Bethany Recycling Center. A separate collection area will be set up to accept plastic bags and film not normally accepted for recycling. The accumulated plastic will be exchanged for Trex donated benches to be installed at Bethany public areas.

Accepted items: produce bags, store bags, grocery bags, ice bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, pallet wrap and stretch film, plastic e-commerce mailers

All bags/film must be clean and dry.

Sustainable Bethany

No. 52. Letter from Sustainable Bethany.

Upcoming Events: *Earth Day!* Woodbridge Sustainability is hosting an Earth Day Fair on April 26th 10am-5pm. Woodbridge Town Green. **We'll be there too!**

Bamboo toilet-rolls! April 26th we're handing out **free bamboo toilet-rolls** (one/family), at the recycling center, 10:00AM until we run out.

Anti-idling laws: Most people are unaware; Connecticut has **anti-idling laws** to limit time vehicles idle. The key provision is that motor vehicles are prohibited from idling for more than **three consecutive minutes**, with exceptions for traffic conditions, vehicle repairs, and temperatures below 20°F. It's to reduce vehicle emissions which helps prevent respiratory illness, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption, and lowers maintenance costs for vehicles. A gentle reminder to those of you waiting for the school bus.

Recommended Reading: "Cheaper Faster Better," by **Tom Steyer** provides a commonsense perspective about the climate change "war." Like the books we presented in the past few months, the thesis is that financial capital can be ramped up to mobilize investment in clean energy and create jobs against climate change. Steyer says the fossil fuel industry has a vested interest in maintaining a status quo, by continuing to reap tax breaks in its favor. The cost of clean energy (solar/wind) has dropped so much in the last few decades that the fossil fuel industry (who Steyer says "are rooting for the end of the world"), could not compete in many of areas that it now dominates. We can be both clean and profitable. Book available at Clark Memorial Library. Please recommend books at our email address below.

April night skies: Have you observed a nebula? It's often a star nursery of gases and dust. In the 1700's, French astronomer Charles Messier cataloged all the fuzzy objects he could find in the evening sky. He identified 103 "fuzzies." They are all titled by their Messier number e.g., M45. Use "averted vision" to see two nebulae this month. April 1, the Moon and M45 will be close together. View the nebula starting around 8:00PM. M45 is the Pleiades/Seven Sisters; a collection of stars within a nebula. In Greek mythology, the Pleiades were the seven daughters of Atlas, the Titan of endurance and astronomy. In Japan they are called "Subaru" with six prominent stars. The Subaru car logo has copied the Pleiades constellation. Jupiter will be to the upper left of the moon.

In the constellation Orion, seek Orion's Nebula (M42). It is a bright-diffuse nebula, a prominent star-forming region about 1,344 light-years away and visible to the naked eye as a fuzzy "star" in the middle of Orion's Sword, which hangs below his three-star belt. Go online and find photos of these two nebulae. They are remarkably beautiful.

Gale Ridge-Co-Chair Sustainable Bethany
Michael Kaloyanides, Eric Frieden contributors

Bethany Democratic Town Committee Citizen of the Year 2025

Bethany, CT, has long been a town where community engagement plays a big role in shaping local government. This year, the town has recognized an individual whose tireless dedication to transparency, voter access, and public service has left an indelible mark on the community. Pua Ford has been named Bethany's Citizen of the Year, an honor well deserved for her commitment to ensuring that local government remains accessible to all.

For the past 12 years, Ford has dedicated herself to recording important town meetings and making them available to the public through her personal YouTube channel. In a time when government transparency is more important than ever, her work has been instrumental in keeping residents informed and engaged. In 2024 alone, she recorded 24 meetings, helping the community navigate complex governmental decisions and fostering greater civic participation.

Beyond her efforts in government transparency, Ford has played a big role in Bethany's electoral process. After serving as a poll worker for several years, she was appointed as Bethany's Democratic Registrar from 2011 to 2016. Since stepping down from that role, she has remained a crucial member of the registrar team, offering unwavering support to her successors and continuing to contribute to the electoral process. She moderates elections, helps conduct election-day registration—one of the most intricate tasks in the voting process—trains poll workers, ensures voting machines are tested properly, and provides guidance whenever questions arise.

Ford's commitment to voter education extends beyond Bethany's borders. She is the driving force behind the Amity chapter of the League of Women Voters, which serves Bethany, Woodbridge, and Orange. On a statewide level, Ford serves as the League of Women Voters' Media Issues Specialist, advocating for crucial policies such as funding for Community Access Television and CTN, expanding internet access for low-income households, and combating deceptive election-related communications. Her influence extends even further within the Bethany community. She has been a dedicated volunteer at Bethany Community School, assisting with projects such as creating bound books of students' work. Her countless contributions have left a lasting impact on the town, particularly in the realm of voter access and government transparency.

In recognition of her decades of volunteer service, her commitment to voter education, and her steadfast efforts to keep Bethany residents informed, Pua Ford has been rightfully honored as Bethany's Citizen of the Year. Her work has strengthened the community's ability to engage with local government and has ensured that democracy remains alive and well in Bethany. This award is not just a celebration of her contributions but a testament to the vital role she plays in making Bethany a more informed and civically engaged town.

Please join us in honoring Pua Ford at the Bethany DTC Spaghetti Supper on April 26th, 6pm at Bethany Town Hall. Tickets are available online at www.BethanyDems.com or call 203-772-5648.



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Check It Out !

April 2025
Clark Memorial Library

Check our website and online calendar for a
full list of programs and activities.

<http://bethanylibrary.org>

April 6th-12th is National Library Week

Arts@Clark! Exhibit for April and May

"Never Alone: Keeping

Company with Painters and Poets"

Gigi Lawrence along with Margot Trout

April 5th- June 6th, 2025

Keeping company with those who give and have given
form to imagination across genres, media, and time,
Gigi Lawrence presents her work along with work by
Margot Trout, and the poetry that has sustained and in-
spired them.

Reception: Saturday May 17th, 2-4 PM

Montessori Morning: Stories of Spring

Families with children 0-3 are invited to join Mrs.
Perkins, a Montessori Guide from Willow Montessori
School for a story time session. During this read aloud,
Willow Tree hopes to share the love of language with
rich vocabulary through stories, songs, and poems.

Drop in – Saturday April 5th 10:30 AM

3D Printing at the Library!

Join us to learn how to use our 3D printer. **Saturday
April 19th at 11:00 AM.** Call the Library at (203) 393-
2103 to sign up!

Friends of the Library Book Donation Day

The Friends will be on site to accept gently used books
for the entryway book sale. Children's and adult books
in good condition will be considered.

Saturday April 26th from 9 AM – 12 PM.

Paint and Sip

Mark you calendars for another "Paint and Sip" event
organized by the Friends of the Library. Thursday April
10th, 7- 9 PM. **THIS PROGRAM IS FULL.**

**The Library will be closed on Fridays
through April 30th.**

Library Hours

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

Saturday: 10:30AM - 5PM



From the Assessor's Office

Applications for tax credits for homeowners over 65 years of age and those totally disabled will be taken in the Assessor's office between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm beginning February 1, 2025, thru May 15, 2025.

ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS & DISABILITY PROGRAM- This is a real estate tax credit program for homeowners who are at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2024 and meet certain income guidelines. Those guidelines require that annual income for single people, including Social Security benefits, should not exceed \$45,200. Married couples can be eligible if their income, including Social Security benefits, does not exceed \$55,100. Applicants should bring all proof of their 2024 income including a copy of their 2024 Income Tax Return, if filing, and proof of Social Security income (Form 1099). Also, applicant must own and reside at the property for which tax relief is sought or must hold tenancy for life use of the property and be liable for the tax bill. This must be the applicant's principal or legal residence.

Those Homeowners who are disabled, and don't qualify for the elderly homeowner's program because they are under the age of 65 can apply. One must provide proof of their disability award letter from the Social Security Administration. Also, the same income guidelines must be met.

Previous participants in either of these two programs will be required to re-file their applications bi-annually and will be notified by mail of this refiling requirement. New applicants who think they qualify for this tax relief should inquire at the Assessor's Office. In addition to this State property tax relief program, the Town of Bethany has adopted a local option property tax relief program at the February 7, 2000, Special Town Meeting. Those applicants who qualify for the State of Connecticut property tax relief program will also receive the Town of Bethany benefit. Those taxpayers who are already on the program and are required to refile, will be notified by mail.

ADDITIONAL VETERANS AND LOCAL VETERANS EXEMPTION- The additional veteran's and local veteran's exemptions are available to qualified veterans who meet certain income requirements. These two programs provide an increase in assessment reduction beyond the standard veteran exemption. The deadline for filing applications is September 30, 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

Board of Assessment Appeals Notice Town of Bethany

Assessment Appeals Notice Issued

Pursuant to the adoption of the Local Option under House Bill 7067 section (2) and signed by the Governor on March 3, 2025. The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Bethany will be holding a special appeals meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in the Assessor's Office at the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, to hear appeals relating to assessments for Real Estate Property and Business Personal Property on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 and Supplemental Vehicles for Grand List 2023. All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the actions of the Assessor on said list are hereby warned to submit their written appeal by April 3, 2025.

Written applications are mandatory, and no appeal will be heard without one. Applications may be obtained from the Assessor's office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or from the Bethany-ct.com website, under the Board of Assessment Appeals. All applications must be filled out and received in the Assessor's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 3, 2025. All persons filing proper applications shall be notified of the date, time, and place of appeal hearing.

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

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

Dated at Bethany, CT this 18th day of March 2025.

Gary Ross

Chairperson, Bethany Board of Assessment Appeals

Bethany Community Breakfast

Hosted by the Bethany Republican Town Committee

Come One, Come All
To Bethany Town Hall !!

Sunday, May 4th
7:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

All you can eat, **\$15 per person**
Free for children under 12

Tickets available at the door
See details on Facebook: BethanyRepublicans

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Finally, spring is around the corner, and with this comes Brush Fire Season. Please be aware of the forest fire danger level put out on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Fire/Forest-Fire-Danger-Report>

IF the danger IS high, very high, or extreme, you may NOT burn even if you have a permit for that day. Please reach out to my Office to obtain a permit or if you have any questions: (203) 393-2100 Ext. 1119.

Grand Opening: Elm City Trailer



Bethany celebrated the Grand Opening of a new business on Friday, March 7th. Welcome Elm City Trailer. First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with owner Robert "Bobby" Fantarella.

BVFD Auxiliary Presents KICK OFF TO SUMMER!

LIVE MUSIC



Saturday, May 17th, 2025
Doors Open: 5:30pm
Band Starts: 6:00pm-9:00pm
Location: 765 Amity Road,
Bethany CT
\$10 per person
Tickets Available Online or
Cash Only at Door
(Limited 300 Tickets)
BYOB, Snacks & Chairs
Silent Raffle

USE THE QR CODE
TO PURCHASE TICKETS



[HTTPS://WWW.BETHANYFIRECT.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.bethanyfirect.org/events)

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

April 1st	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
April 2nd	Planning & Zoning Commission	7:00PM
April 7th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
April 7th	Housing Advisory Committee	7:00PM
April 8th	Board of Finance	7:00PM
April 9th	Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
April 9th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
April 10th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
April 14th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
April 17th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
April 21st	Solid Waste and Recycling Committee	5:30PM
April 21st	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
April 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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for \$25 per year (\$15/year for seniors).
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