

BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.15, ISSUE 3

www.bethany-ct.com

March 2025

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

Dear Bethany Residents,

As the February Bulletin went to print in January, a Special Town Meeting was about to be held in response to a petition that had been filed regarding the potential postponement of the hiring of a Director for the Parks & Recreation Department. Residents received the call in the mail noting two questions. For those unable to attend, a recording of the meeting is available on line; the results of both questions were the same: the residents voted not to postpone the hiring of the Director for the Parks & Recreation Department.



The Parks & Recreation Commission scheduled interviews in early February after a thorough review of almost 50 candidates' packets. They brought in five (5) candidates to be interviewed by a panel, which included members of the Commission, the Finance Director, two (2) Directors of Parks & Recreation Departments from other towns, and the Human Resources Administrator. A follow-up round was held the following week.

A finalist was recommended to the Board of Selectmen mid-February. The Board of Selectmen scheduled a special meeting to get feedback from members of the interview committee, meet with the finalist and confirm an appointment of a new Director of Parks and Recreation.

At the end of January, Finance Director, Leslie Bacigalupi and I attended the 2025 Annual Town Meeting for the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST). The event opened with remarks from Governor Ned Lamont, followed by State Comptroller Sean Scanlon, and Commissioner Katie Dykes from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. Each speaker fielded questions from the audience. A Legislative Leaders Forum was conducted. Participating on the panel were Senate President Pro Tempore Senator Martin Looney, Speaker of the House Representative Matthew Ritter, House Republican Leader Representative Vincent Candelora, and Senate Republican Leader Senator Steve Harding. Mark Pazniokas, from the CT Mirror, was the Moderator for the Legislative Leaders Forum. Attendees heard from the legislative leaders about issues and priorities for 2025 and how they may impact Connecticut small towns, including issues affecting local budgets, education, energy, the environment, housing and land use, public health and safety, transportation and more. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz was the Keynote Speaker. The Lt.

Governor also fielded questions from attendees. There was also the opportunity during the event to network with colleagues and visit exhibitor booths to learn about products and services available to small towns. At the end of the program, COST members present voted on the 2025 legislative platform on issues important to address in Hartford.

As February and March can still bring unpredictable weather: Important reminders from the Public Works Department – When inclement weather is forecast or happening, please make sure all vehicles are parked off the road. Any cars parked along the side of the road impede the trucks from properly plowing and treating the roads. If your trash pick-up day happens to fall when inclement weather is forecast, it is also important to remember NOT to put your trash can in the street. Please make sure it is set back from the road, preferably on your driveway, otherwise there is the potential that it will be knocked over by the snow being plowed and or by the plow itself. If you have a private contractor who plows your driveway, please ask them to NOT push the snow into the road. Thank you again for your cooperation.

There are times when they are plowing throughout the night or the very early hours of the morning. They take pride in keeping our streets clear and safe for all travelers, and we truly appreciate the job they do. Thanks again to our Public Works crew (Tony, Brian, Jimmy, Kevin, Nick, Greg and Lou) for making sure our roads are safe.

Our seniors continue to enjoy a variety of activities and events whether they are for fun or informational. A craft corner was held on February 10th for basket weaving. Master craftsperson Katharine Oshlick showed attendees how to make a small woven basket and shared information on the basic technique behind traditional basket weaving and chair caning. Even in the dead of winter, we can leave winter behind. Seniors enjoyed a virtual trip to Hawaii on February

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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

14th. On Monday, February 24th, Attorney General William Tong joined some of our residents for a fireside chat at Center Station. If you enjoy the game of Canasta or want to learn, check out the Bethany Seniority page for more details. Thank you once again to our Human Services Director, Robin Glowa and her assistant Emily for putting on these events. Remember to check out the Bethany Seniority page for upcoming events and other helpful information.

The Board of Finance is in full swing with the FY26 budget. All departments have presented their budgets to the Board of Finance for final review. We continue to fine tune our numbers as the State budget is also being finalized, which can have an impact on the funding we receive or lose. As a reminder, there will be a Budget Hearing sometime early to mid-April, with the Annual Town and Budget Meeting on the 3rd Monday of May. Any applicable notices will be mailed to each household in a timely manner.

As noted in previous Bulletin messages, the Board of Finance, Finance Director, and I will continue to work closely with all departments to make sure we present a fiscally responsible budget that maintains important town services, continues to provide a quality education for our children, and keeps taxes at an acceptable level. Today's economic climate will be an added challenge as many things are out of our control. The Grand List has been certified by the Assessor. Once the budget is approved in May, the mill rate will be adjusted accordingly.

It's 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>.

An important reminder from RWS, our trash collector. Besides paying RWS, the Town also pays tipping fees per ton for our trash that is transported to a facility for disposal. It can be very costly when items are put out with regular trash that should not be there. As the nicer weather comes, spring clean out may be on your to do list. It's important to know where you can dispose of things. RWS is contracted to pick up just trash and not recycling, unless you are paying for their recycling service privately. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Reminder regarding trash pickup: Sign up for the notification system so that you get immediate updates when pick-ups might change. We will also put reminders up on the Town Facebook page and Website when received from RWS.

Looking forward to spring and more daylight hours.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR
CLOCKS
ONE HOUR AHEAD
WHEN YOU GO TO BED ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025.**

Wishing everyone a



&



**Paula Cofrancesco
First Selectwoman**

Bethany Rid Litter Day returns Saturday, April 19, 2025



Won't you join us to beautify our town and get into Earth Day!?!

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 site to be announced
Bethany Rid Litter Day 2025

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

Town Code Review Committee

The Board of Selectmen appointed a seven-member Town Code Review Committee on March 5, 2024, to study and recommend potential code changes. Several amendments were considered and voted on at the May 20, 2024, Annual Town Meeting. Other ideas required further investigation, so after additional meetings, the committee recommended 10 more proposed changes to the following chapters:

Chapter 20 – Conservation Commission, Chapter 28 – Economic Development Commission, Chapter 46 (NEW) - Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Chapter 54 – Meetings, Chapter 95 - Zoning Enforcement Officer, Chapter 97 – Zoning Board of Appeals, Chapter 102 - Alarm Ordinance, Chapter 114 - Building Construction, Chapter 170 - Sewage Disposal, and Chapter 200 – Wells.

The process for approval begins with the committee's recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Board can then discuss, amend, approve or deny any of the proposals. The full text of all the proposed amendments is located on the Town Code Review Committee page of the Town of Bethany website: <https://bethany-ct.com/town-code-review-committee>

The public is invited to provide input on the changes to the Selectmen. If you would like to comment on any of the proposed code amendments, email town-clerk@bethany-ct.com or call 203-393-2100 x1104.



*ATTENTION BETHANY REPUBLICANS *

There are plenty of opportunities for community-minded folks like you to get involved and make a positive difference.

Consider becoming a member of the BRTC, serve on a board/commission or run for an elected position. It could be the chance you've been waiting for to contribute towards the betterment of Bethany.

Interested in learning more? Come to our meetings the 3rd Wed. of each month at 7p.m. at Town Hall in the Conference Room.

For more information please contact: Linda Bates, BRTC Chair at: batesrtc@yahoo.com

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From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Bethany Community School is buzzing with exciting news and upcoming events that highlight our commitment to creativity, wellness, and community engagement.



First, we are thrilled to announce the return of the BCS Drama Club for another spectacular year under the direction of Erin Stevens. With an incredible team of dedicated parent volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes—designing costumes, building sets, and fine-tuning every detail—our young performers are gearing up for an unforgettable spring production. This year, we are excited to present Disney's *Moana Jr.*, a musical adventure that will transport audiences to the islands of Polynesia. Stay tuned for more details on how you can secure tickets and support our talented students as they bring this beloved story to life.

While March is often synonymous with the excitement of college basketball and March Madness, we at BCS are focusing on something just as important—March Wellness. On March 14th, we will host a Professional Learning and Staff Wellness Day, dedicated to our exceptional teachers, paraeducators, and staff. This special day will feature team-building exercises, wellness workshops, and stress-reducing activities to support those who give so much of themselves to our students every day. As we step into spring, I encourage every member of our community to prioritize their own well-being—because a healthy

community is a thriving community!

March also brings an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate those who help guide and shape our district. Board of Education Appreciation Month is a time to recognize the dedicated members of the Bethany Board of Education, whose hard work and leadership make a lasting impact on our schools. We extend our sincere gratitude to:

- John Paul Garcia (Chairman)
- Angelo Amato (Vice Chairman)
- Caroline Leary (Secretary)
- Amy Lestinsky
- Joseph Cafasso
- Shannon Lane
- E.J. Maher
- Sean Uscilla
- Susan Bradford

Their unwavering commitment to the children of Bethany is truly commendable, and we are grateful for their service.

As always, I welcome your feedback, ideas, and suggestions as we continue to move forward together. Please feel free to reach out to me at (203) 393-1170 or via email at kbyrd@bethany-ed.org.

Let's continue making Bethany Community School a place of growth, creativity, and wellness for all!

Warm regards,
Kai Byrd
Superintendent, Bethany Community School

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 Depart-

ment 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](mailto:LFrazer@bethany-ct.com).

Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer

Bethany Seniority

By Robin Glowa

March 2025

"Happiness? The color of it must be Spring green." -Frances Mayes

Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins March 5th
St. Patrick's Day is March 17th

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9th
First Day of Spring is March 20th

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.)

MARCH ENTREES:

Mar. 5th: ST. PAT'S PARTY at Lakeview Lodge
ENTERTAINMENT!

Reservations were due February 21st-seats may still be available-call 203-393-2100 x1124

Mar. 12th: VEGETABLE FRITTATA

Mar. 19th: NO LUNCH SERVED

Mar. 26th: BRUNCH FOR LUNCH
BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

CANASTA CLUB

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

Tuesday, March 4th & 18th at 11 AM
Bethany Senior Center

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

FREE VITA TAX ASSISTANCE

Tuesday's ONLY:

February 11th 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.

FREE-FRIDAY FILM FESTIVAL

"THE LOVE BUG"

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th

11:00 AM

Bethany Senior Center

Don't miss this hilarious 1969 classic!

NEXT FILM: FRIDAY, April 11th at 11:00 AM

Bethany Senior Center

"EASTER PARADE" starring Judy Garland

FREE SENIOR CRAFT CORNER

Sponsored by Bethany Human Services

MONDAY, MARCH 10th

11 AM

Bethany Senior Center

St. Patrick's Day CHARM BRACELETS

We'll be crafting adorable charm bracelets with a wearin' o the green theme!

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

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR **BETHANY RESIDENTS**

Christ Church Bethany and Woodbridge is offering Bethany residents contactless, front-door delivery of non-perishable goods.

Contact Christ Church at 203-393-3399. Leave your name and phone number.

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Eversource has programs that may help. Call 800-286-2828 or visit [Eversource.com/BillHelp](https://www.eversource.com/BillHelp) to find out if you qualify for Protection from Shutoff, Medical Protection or Matching Payment Programs. Eversource also offers Home Energy Solutions at 1-877-947-3873.

BETHANY LAND TRUST



Poetry in the Woods "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood..." - Frost

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Bethany Land Trust unveils a new kind of adventure - Poetry in the Woods. You've probably heard of wine trails, and maybe even chocolate trails, but a poetry trail? The Bethany Land Trust's Poetry in the Woods poetry trail will be the first of its kind in the state of Connecticut!

Join us as we introduce the initial section of the trail at Mendell's Folly during a guided hike on Sunday, April 13th, 2025, 1-3pm, the first hike of the 2025 monthly hikes series. During this hike we will stop along the way at three locations to hear readings by members of the Connecticut Poetry Society. Permanent plaques will be installed on wooden posts at these locations, allowing hikers to enjoy these 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!

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.

- Becki Hildrew

Bethany Land Trust 2024 Annual Report

The Land Trust has completed its 2024 Annual Report summarizing the accomplishments of last year. Chief among those accomplishments was completing the acquisition of 36.1 acres of open space located at 89 Russell Road in southern Bethany. Now known as "Hidden Brook Preserve", it includes 8 acres of mixed woodland and rocky outcrops encircling about 28 acres of rich woody marsh with a trail that connects with others in the nearby Carrington Preserve. We also introduced the series of monthly guided Sunday hikes with over 100 hikers joining.

Thanks to the unwavering support of donors, volunteers, and friends, the Land Trust made significant strides in land acquisition, stewardship, and outreach, ensuring these natural treasures endure for generations to come. Visit our newly redesigned website to review the Annual Report.

Bob Harrison-Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair



Parks and Recreation Commission

Jennifer Galik, Chairwoman

As chair of Bethany's bi-partisan Parks and Recreation (P&R) Commission, I'm excited to share our progress and initiatives. First, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who came out to the special town meeting in late January. We appreciate the open dialogue and hearing the different ideas about the direction of the P&R Department. Ultimately, the support from so many in town enabled us to move forward with interviewing for the Director position, and we are hopeful that we will be able to announce a new Director soon!

As you're probably aware, the P&R Department has been shut down since September. The former Commission members all elected not to continue; thus, a new Commission was appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The new Commission has been hard at work to address numerous aspects of our town's recreational needs. We've been focused on rebuilding from the ground up as we recognize the extent of the work necessary to make the department successful.

Safety and integrity are paramount in the development of the department and related programming. While there is much still to do, one of our most significant achievements was the revival of Bethany Hoops. To ensure this program could open while remaining committed to high standards for safety and quality, we developed a comprehensive protocol for coaches and volunteers, which included mandatory fingerprinting and background checks, as well as DCF mandated reporter training. The Commission developed specific procedures related to Hoops to ensure consistency and a secure environment for all participants. We're proud to report that the program is thriving and operating at capacity, with over 100 children enrolled.

We've worked closely with the Finance Director to craft a fiscally responsible and comprehensive budget for the upcoming cycle. By reviewing historical information, and conducting thorough research into offerings and salaries in similar towns, we're committed to establishing a well-developed, self-sustaining plan as offerings expand. For the first time ever, our Hoops program is running at a profit, despite a steep increase in facility costs. This success not only provides a valuable recreational opportunity for our youth but also demonstrates our commitment to responsible fiscal management.

Finally, in each of our next reports, we'd like to help the community get to know who we are and why we're excited to be a part of the Commission. We look forward to continuing our work and keeping the community informed of our progress.

It Happened In Bethany

By Linda Wooster

"Mrs. 4-H in Bethany" – Marion Woodward Sandell

Marion Woodward Sandell was active in 4-H work most of her life until retiring in 1977. She began as a 1934 charter member of Mrs. Lena Fenwick's Happy Maiden's 4-H club. During those seven years, she won the state dress competition. She and Mrs. Fenwick each won the national 4-H Alumni Recognition Program Award for "inspiring youth."

Marion led her first club as a high school senior, ran four others from 4 to 10 years each and was project leader for a sixth group. Mrs. Sandell led two clubs simultaneously for a number of years and donated her time to many young people through service on county and state 4-H committees.

In 1976, Mrs. Sandell's Learn and Do 4-H club dedicated a memorial stone to eight Revolutionary War soldiers buried without gravestones in the Old Cemetery on Meyers Road. The ceremony represented the culmination of a bicentennial project undertaken by club members who had customarily marked Memorial Day by putting flags on veterans' graves.

In undertaking the project, the girls conducted research at the State Library in Hartford, confirming that the eight were revolutionary soldiers who had been buried at that cemetery. To finance the project, Mrs. Sandell's group appealed to other 4-H clubs in town who responded by raising money selling seeds and holding tag and bake sales.

The seven members of Mrs. Sandell's group who undertook the project were students at Amity Regional High School: Nancy Briggs, Barbara Copeland, Wini Parker, Eileen Slater, Catharine Ode, Jacqueline Sykes, and Carolyn Plummer.

Other projects undertaken by Mrs. Sandell's groups included making Memorial Day parade floats (14 over the years), participating in the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, starting Rid Litter Day, and involvement in many senior citizen projects.

BETHANY LIONS UPDATE

Book Drive - March 3rd - 14th.

Support our literacy initiative! From March 3rd - 14th, drop off new or gently used children's books at Town Hall; there are donation bins in the lobby. Books will be donated to New Haven Reads and thank you for giving the gift of reading!

Auction Time!

The Lions Club will be running its annual online auction from March 26 - April 4, with pick up on Sunday, April 6th at the Lodge. The link to view the auction will be sent out via social media a few days before the auction goes live! A big thank you to all our local residents and businesses who donated to our auction!

If you want to donate a good or service, please contact Lion Janet at: (203) 393- 0598.

Egg Your Yard 2024

We're back again for the popular "Egg Your Yard." It's where candy filled Easter eggs suddenly appear in yards very early in the morning on Sunday, April 20th! We'll be sending out via social media the sign up/payment form the week of March 2nd.

Flea Market

Our annual flea market will be starting Saturday, May 3rd and running through October 25th - Still just \$10 for a car length table, no reservations needed. Setup starts at 6a.m. and the flea market runs from 7a.m.- 1p.m., volunteer staffed by your Bethany Lions - This is when we know Spring is coming!

Shred Day and Spring Food Drive

Our second shred day of the year will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 9a.m. to Noon at the Airport Hanger building - it's flea market day, too! Donations suggested based on quantity. As part of the document shredding, our vendor will be offering electronic recycling with hard-drive destruction. Our springtime food drive is held on the same day, and at that time will be collecting non-perishable foods for area food banks. Make sure to check out our flyers around town.

Scholarship Time

May 1st is the deadline for Bethany residents who are high school seniors at all high schools to submit their application for our scholarships. Get your application at ARHS Guidance Dept., Clark Memorial Library, Bethany Town Hall or our website at: www.bethanyctlions.com

Sustainable Bethany

No. 51. Letter from Sustainable Bethany. Upcoming events, Compost Program, Book, March Night Skies.

Upcoming Events: *The Woodbridge and Bethany Sustainability committees* are co-hosting monthly lectures. Next lecture is Saturday, March 15th, 3:00p.m. at the Woodbridge Library. Everything you want to know about home composting.

Compost Program: Woodbridge Sustainability Committee is developing a program for home pickup of compostables! Blue Earth would provide a pail and bags, and they would pick up your waste food weekly for a very reasonable cost. They are offering this service to southern Bethany residents. If there is sufficient interest, we may offer this service to the rest of Bethany. If you live in southern Bethany, are interested, please contact them at sustainablewoodbridge@gmail.com.

Recommended Reading: *Pricing the Priceless* by Paula DiPerna

Paula DiPerna poses the question of why we value our environment at zero, when the atmosphere is indispensable to our lives. The key to combating climate change is pricing, because people don't typically value what they don't pay for. In *Pricing the Priceless*, DiPerna argues that the world needs a "market" for protecting the environment and addressing climate change because without setting a price, any asset is invisible from a financial standpoint. Conventional economic studies do not address the value of "externalities," such as good health, social coherence and harmony, educational advancement, art, culture, public safety, and research and development. These are priceless assets to be valued appropriately so they are not the first to be tossed aside during challenging economic times.

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

March night skies: will treat us to a Lunar Eclipse, a solar eclipse and close encounters!

March 1. The Moon will be at its perigee (closest to the Earth) and larger than at other times. See the conjunction of the Moon and Venus.

March 5. At 5:30PM look southwest for the array of planets in line above and to the right of the Moon. Left to right you'll see Mars, Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury. Note contrast in colors/brightness of these objects. Mars will have a reddish hue, Jupiter and Venus will be white.

March 8. Starting 6:30PM the Moon and Mars will make a close pair.

March 14. Tonight, we will be treated to a total lunar eclipse. It will be visible in the southwestern sky from 1:10 to 4:48 AM. Totality is from 2:26AM to 3:31AM.

March 20. The March equinox, Spring begins in the northern hemisphere. Equinox means "equal night" in Latin and is the date when day and night are both 12-hours long.

March 29. Today, we will experience a partial solar eclipse. Between 4:51AM and 8:43AM EDT, it will be visible from the Americas, western Russia, Europe, and Africa. From Bethany, the Sun will be eclipsed to a maximum of 25%, but further east the Sun will be eclipsed to a maximum of 85%.

Gale Ridge

Co-Chair Sustainable Bethany

Michael Kaloyanides, Eric Frieden contributors

sustainablebethany@gmail.com

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

Bulky Waste Appointments: (203) 393-1555.

From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Well Winter is in full swing, and it has been cold. This is the time of year when people are using wood stoves or pellet stoves for heat. There have been quite a large number of fires over the last few years that have been started by wood or pellet stoves that have been installed incorrectly. If you have one of these types of stoves, have it checked annually by a qualified technician. Also have your chimney cleaned annually to prevent a chimney fire.



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Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm, Saturday: 8:00am-2:00pm

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Check It Out !

March 2025
Clark Memorial Library

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

<http://bethanylibrary.org>

Mad March Science

Three STEM makerspace activities for ages 8+. SPACE
IS LIMITED. Call the Library at 203-393-2103 or ask
a librarian to sign up for one or all three!

Sat. March 1st, 1-2 PM - Popsicle Stick Catapult

Wed. March 5th, 4-5 PM - Alka Seltzer Lava Lamp

Sat. March 15th, 1-2 PM - Magnetic Slime

Arts@Clark! Student Art Exhibit & Reception

Students from Amity High School and Bethany and
Orange Middle Schools will be sharing their work in a
exhibit in the Community Room from

Saturday, February 3rd to Thursday, April 4th.

A reception for the artists will take place on Thursday,
March 6th, from 3:30 – 5:30 PM.

Arts@Clark!

**Sixth Annual Public Art Exhibit Spellbound: Art,
Poetry and the Enchantment of Reading**

Sunday, August 3rd 1-5 PM

Call for Artists Application Forms are available now.

*This event is our gift to the community – free to all
participants --- artists, poets, readers --- and those
who are simply looking to enjoy, renew and relax on a
beautiful summer afternoon. **The Call for Artists Ap-
plication Forms** are available at [http://bethanyli-
brary.org](http://bethanyli-
brary.org) by clicking on Arts@Clark!*

Due June 15, 2024.

Paint and Sip

Mark your calendars for another "Paint and Sip" event
organized by the Friends of the Library.

Thursday April 10th, 7- 9 PM. Space is limited and
registration is required. Cost is 20.00 per person and
may be paid at the door. Call the library to sign up!

**The Library will be closed on Fridays
beginning February 21st.**

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

got bulky waste?

Yes? Drop it off at the Bethany Recycling Center - Tuesday through Saturday!

INFORMATION REGARDING WEEKLY TRASH PICK-UP

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

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

Their email address is: info@residentialwastesystems.com.

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

BOBCATS IN CT

Sponsored by the Garden Club

Monday, March 10th

Lakeview Lodge-265 Beacon Rd.

Doors open at 6:15PM

Speaker Begins at 6:30PM

Jenny Apple will give an overview of bobcats in CT, their diet behavior, reproduction, and current research efforts.

Bethany Community Breakfast

Hosted by the Bethany Republican Town Committee

**Come One, Come All
To Bethany Town Hall !!**

**Sunday, May 4th
7:30 am to 11:00 am**

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

**Tickets available at the door
See details on Facebook: BethanyRepublicans**

Ion Bank Customers

Your vote earns \$25 for the Bethany Historical Society
in the Community Awards Program

Vote online at cap.ionbank.com for BHS in
Arts & Culture section

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 Historical Society Updates

Clover Nook Farm: 260 Years of Family Farming and Perseverance

Friday March 7th- 6:00PM

Presented by Lars Demander

At Town Hall Gym: Free Admission and Light Refreshments

Lasagna Dinner:

Saturday March 29th,

RSVP 203-393-1832 & Pay By March 24th

Lakeview Lodge - 265 Beacon Rd Bethany

BYOB

5:00 Take Out

6:00 Eat In

Adults \$25, Kids Under 12 \$10

Town of Bethany Monthly Meeting Schedule

March 3rd	Solid Waste and Recycling Committee	5:30PM
March 3rd	Housing Advisory Committee	7:00PM
March 4th	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
March 5th	Planning and Zoning Commission	7:00PM
March 10th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
March 10th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
March 11th	Board of Finance	7:00PM
March 12th	BCS Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
March 12th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
March 13th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
March 17th	Solid Waste and Recycling Committee	5:30PM
March 17th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
March 20th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
March 26th	Parks and Recreation Commission	7:00PM

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



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 hgarciapestana@houlihanlawrence.com
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Help Wanted

Town of Bethany

- Interim part time custodian 20-25 hours a week
- Contracted Minutes clerk for Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance

Please see **Bethany-ct.com** for details!

2025 Annual Conservationist of the Year Award

The Bethany Conservation Commission is seeking nominees for the annual Conservationist of the Year Award. The nomination form can be found on the town's website or at Town Hall and needs to be submitted by March 9, 2025. Brian Eitzer, Chair Conservation Commission."

**LOCAL
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 BETHANY, CT 06524**