

# BETHANY BULLETIN

VOL.17, ISSUE 1

[www.bethany-ct.com](http://www.bethany-ct.com)

January 2026

## A Warm Welcome to Our New First Selectwoman, Carol Goldberg.

Town Hall & Public Works/Recycling Center will be **CLOSED Thursday, January 1st** for New Year's Day and **Monday, January 19th** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

*Trash Pick up will be delayed 1 day for New Year's Day.*

### From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Bethany Residents,

Thank you - truly - for the honor and privilege of serving as your First Selectman. I am deeply grateful for your trust and excited to work on behalf of our community. Please know that my door is always open. I welcome your ideas, concerns, and feedback. Your voice matters.



The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee has created a short, three question survey to better understand how residents use the Bethany Recycling Center - and if you don't use it, why not. Your input will help us improve services for our community.

You can access the survey using the QR code included with this message. It is also available on the Town of Bethany website and Facebook page. Please complete the survey once, so we can collect accurate and meaningful results. The only way to improve services is to listen—and this survey helps us do exactly that.



I am pleased to share that applications submitted to our Zoning Office will soon be available online. As we work toward a permanent, user-friendly system, applications will be posted on the Town website. Transparency and access to information are important priorities for me. In that same spirit, meetings of our Boards and Commissions will now be livestreamed and recorded. Residents who are unable to attend in person will be able to watch live or view meetings later at their convenience. Links to each meeting will be included on the meeting/agendas on the Town Website, and recordings will also be available on the Bethany Town Clerk's YouTube page.

I am excited to share that Troop I will be receiving a complete modernization. A new, state-of-the-art facility will be constructed here in Bethany at the current Troop I location. Demolition and construction are expected to begin in mid-to-late 2026. This project represents a significant investment in public safety for our town and region.

I am pleased to let you know that the firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy is now representing Bethany. Bethany will benefit from the firm's diverse practice and experienced municipal attorneys. Their team approach will give us access to a myriad of knowledgeable lawyers upon whom we can rely.

I am looking to establish a fully functioning Grant Committee within the next few months. Bethany is fortunate to have many talented residents, and I encourage anyone with grant-writing experience - or an interest in learning - to reach out. This committee will play a vital role in helping our town pursue funding opportunities that support long-term goals and services.

As we begin a new year, I wish you and your families health, happiness, and prosperity. I am optimistic about what we can accomplish together and look forward to working with you to move Bethany forward.

**Town Website:** [https://bethany-ct.com/](http://www.bethany-ct.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/townofbethanyct>

**Email:** [cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com](mailto:cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com)

Please stay in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Carol R. Goldberg*

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*Submit stories, events, calendar dates, press releases, inquiries, advertisements, etc. to Dey Patterson at [BethanyBulletin@bethany-ct.com](mailto: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.*

## Note From The Tax Collector

If you purchased a motor vehicle between late September 2024 and July 1st, 2025, you may receive a Supplemental Motor Vehicle Bill. These are being mailed out in late December. Supplemental Motor Vehicle Bills, as well as the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on January 1, 2026. The last day to pay without interest is February 2, 2026. Please provide your bill number with your payment.

*As a friendly reminder, we do not mail out bills for the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes.*

## TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

The second installment of the Bethany Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, and the full amount of Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes on the 2024 Grand List are due and payable on January 1, 2026. Mail payments to Bethany Tax Collector, 40 Peck Rd, Bethany CT 06524. **Payments must be received or postmarked by February 2, 2026, to avoid interest.**

All payments remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged interest from January 1, 2026, at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per installment. SS 12-146 Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. SS 12-130

Payments may also be made at the Tax Collector's Office M-F 8:30AM to 4:00PM, or online at [www.bethany-ct.com](http://www.bethany-ct.com). Supply a self-addressed stamped envelope if you require a receipt mailed back to you. Credit Card payments will require a 2.5% bank fee to be paid by the taxpayer. There is no fee for EFT payments online. **Back taxes on Motor Vehicles must be paid with cash, bank check or credit/debit card IN PERSON for immediate DMV registration release.**

Elizabeth Thornquist, Tax Collector  
203-393-2100 x 1110

## Check It Out !

**January 2026**  
**Clark Memorial Library**

**View our online calendar for all events:**  
<http://bethanylibrary.org>

### Friends 1976 Bicentennial Quilt

The special quilt created 50 years ago by the Friends of the Library is on display in the Community Room in December and January. Every day during library hours. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library*

### Take Your Child to the Library Day 2026

Take Your Child to the Library Day is a national event that encourages library visits! Come to the Library February 3rd – 7th for a special craft, and on **Saturday, February 7th at 2:00 PM**, join us for a marionette production of *"The Snow Queen"* by local artist and puppeteer Robin McCahill!  
Drop in. For all ages.

### Bethany Library Quilt Bee

Curious about quilting? Our popular series of 6 workshops with Susan Taddei is back! Bethany Library Quilt Bee will be held every other week on **Saturdays 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, & 3/21 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM**. No prior experience needed! Susan will be teaching about preparing fabric and ironing, rotary cutting, strip piecing, easy triangles, tying the layers, and binding the edge. The result will be a 9" x 9" square sampler (you must attend all 6 sessions to complete). We supply all materials – come free your inner quilter in a relaxed afternoon atmosphere. **Space is limited, call the Library to register – 203-393-2103.**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

### Bethany Comicbook Workshop!

**Sat. Jan 10th, 17th & 24th 10:30AM-12:30PM**  
Join artist and comic maker, James Vanderberg for a three part workshop exploring cartoon drawing, narrative storytelling and autobiographical comic making. Work with simple tools and no-fail prompts to ignite your creativity and help you create your own characters and tell your own stories. No previous artistic experience needed! All supplies provided.

**Ages 10+. Space is limited/no pre-registration.**

### **Library Hours**

**Tues/Wed/Thurs: 10:30 AM -7:00 P M**

**Saturday: 10:30 AM -5:00 PM**



## From the Superintendent of School's Desk

Happy New Year, Bethany Community!

As we welcome a new year, it is remarkable to reflect on how quickly the school year has progressed. Reaching the midpoint offers a moment to appreciate the energy, kindness, and connection that continue to define our community. The past several months have been filled with moments that highlight the very best of Bethany.



In December, our students demonstrated exceptional compassion through a heartwarming toy drive that brought joy to many families. They also lifted the spirits of our senior residents during a festive in-person holiday luncheon. These acts of kindness remind us that the generosity of our children is both inspiring and impactful. Their commitment to supporting those in need is something we can all take pride in.

The season's spirit continued through family and teacher partnerships that brought festive celebrations to life across our school. Strong family engagement remains essential to student success, and we deeply value the involvement and encouragement our families bring to every school event.

Looking ahead, the Board of Education and I are preparing the 2026-2027 school budget. Our focus is to develop a responsible spending plan that meets the evolving needs of our

students while remaining mindful of the town's financial landscape. We appreciate the community's support and collaboration as this important work continues.

January also brings attention to both kindergarten registration and our preschool program, including the annual preschool lottery. Beginning January 12, 2026, we will accept names for the preschool lottery. Children must meet the required age by September 1, 2026. Families with eligible children are encouraged to contact Karen Egan at [kegan@bethany-ed.org](mailto:kegan@bethany-ed.org) or 203-393-1170 ext. 806 to learn more.

Our kindergarten pre-enrollment process is currently open. Children entering kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2026. Families with incoming kindergarten students can visit our district website to begin the enrollment process. Early action helps us plan effectively and supports students as they transition into their first year.

As always, I welcome questions, feedback, or ideas. Please feel free to contact me at 203-393-1170 or [kbyrd@bethany-ed.org](mailto:kbyrd@bethany-ed.org) at any time.

May the year ahead bring joy, success, and continued strength to our entire community. Thank you for all you do to make Bethany a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Sincerely,  
Kai Byrd, Superintendent

### What Can We Feed or Fix For You?



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Gifts and more! \*\*In Store purchases ONLY, doesn't apply for deliveries\*\*

770 Amity Rd,

Bethany, CT

203-393-0002

\*No minimum purchase

\*One time use, no Cash back



# BETHANY LAND TRUST

## First Day Hike - Simpson Preserve and Veterans Memorial Park – New Year's Day, 1-4 PM

Celebrate the beginning of 2026 by joining the First Day Hike along the trails in Veterans Memorial Park and in the Town's newly acquired Simpson Preserve. This hike, co-sponsored with Bethany Conservation Commission, will take hikers through rerouted trails in the Simpson Preserve that lead to the uplands near the Woodward Nature Preserve. From there, the hike will proceed to trails in Veterans Memorial Park, climbing up to near the Bethany Bog in the woods above the lake. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes for this hike of about 3 miles.

Veterans Parks was once the site of the Beacon Outing Club run by the Simpson family for many years, featuring Simpson Pond for swimming, a clubhouse and a ski slope with a tow line. The Town purchased the property in 1997. The 50-acre Simpson Preserve adjacent to Veterans Park was created when the Town purchased it using funds from two grants.

The Bethany Bog, formerly known as Lebanon Swamp, is situated on 62 acres of land owned by Yale University and some private parcels. In the 1800s, a landowner kept a sailboat on a large area of open water in the swamp. Eventually, plants such as sphagnum moss colonized the water, built up organic matter (peat), and eventually converted the pond into today's land-based bog.

To register: contact Bob Harrison by Tuesday December 30th via cell at 203-506-5888 or [bjh51box@gmail.com](mailto:bjh51box@gmail.com)  
Parking: Veterans Memorial Park, 265 Beacon Rd (Route 42), Bethany; look for the green Land Trust banner.  
Rain date: Sunday January 4th, 1-4 PM

## **Help The Land Trust Preserve The Natural Beauty And Unique Habitats Of Our Community**

The Bethany Land Trust Annual Appeal is reaching out to you via the Annual Appeal with an exciting opportunity to make a lasting difference in our community. Households in town were sent the Annual Appeal mailing in early December that included a large-scale, full-color map of the hiking trails in town.

The Land Trust has a plan to save open space by purchasing a large tract of forest that abuts another preserve. Your dollars will help add this parcel to the region's growing list of protected lands. Preserving the natural beauty and unique habitats of Bethany has always been at the heart of our mission, and with your support, we can continue to protect the open spaces that make our town so special.

You may give by mailing your donation via the envelope enclosed with the mailing or visiting the donation page of the Land Trust website: <https://bethanylandtrust.org/become-a-member/>

## **Assessor Notice**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Bethany, Connecticut:

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., at 40 Peck Road, Bethany, CT, to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Bethany, Connecticut on December 15, 2025.  
Bethany Democratic Town Committee  
Amy Rushlow, Chairperson

**Bob Harrison, Bethany Land Trust Trails Chair**

By Robin Glowa

# Bethany Seniority

January 2026

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."*

*-Albert Einstein*

**BETHANY SENIOR BUS TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE FRIDAYS  
8:30 AM-3:30 PM FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ONLY.**

**To reserve call 203-393-2100 x1324**

(First time riders must call 203-393-2100 x1124 or x1113 to register before making reservations)

Additional ride service is available with the Greater New Haven Transit District ENCOMPASS program. Call 203-393-2100 x1113 for more details.

## **SENIOR LUNCH!**

Senior Lunch is held every *Wednesday at Noon* at Bethany Town Hall. Reservations Required by the Wednesday prior at 203-393-2100 x1124.

**\$9.00 per person.**

**(Please pay in exact cash when you arrive.)**

## **JANUARY ENTREES:**

**Jan. 7th: ELDERLY TAX ABATEMENT TALK**  
Blueberry Pancakes

**Jan. 14th: LIVE COOKING DEMO w/ Chef Jessica Dorner** Sweet Potato Black Bean Chili and a special dessert

**Jan. 21st: Maple Glazed Salmon**

**Jan. 28th: BIRDS OF AMERICA-OWLS of CT TALK**  
Herbed Turkey with Gravy

## **FREE AAA SENIOR SAFE DRIVING COURSE**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026 11 AM - 3 PM**

**Bethany SR Room**

Participants, age 60 and older, are eligible for a two-year insurance discount on liability, collision, and personal protection insurance premiums All material provided. Certificate of completions will be mailed to you.

**Reserve your seat no later than**  
**Jan. 5th 203-393-2100 x1124**

## **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Are you experiencing grief or loss of any kind? Join us for a special 4 session series with Diane Puterski, Griffin Hospital Chaplain, who will share coping methods for life's challenging times.

**First Session: Monday, January 12th 11:30 AM**  
**Bethany SR Room**  
**RSVP 203-393-2100 x1124**

**CANASTA CLUB**      **Jan. 13th and 27th**  
**11 AM Bethany Senior Room**

## **KICK OFF TO AMERICA's 250th! FRIDAY CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL**

**Friday, Jan. 9th 11 AM Bethany SR Room**

### **"DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK"**

Don't miss this historical drama set during the American Revolutionary War Starring Henry Fonda, Claudette Colbert, and John Carradine

**RSVP by Jan. 2nd 203-393-2100 x1124**

**Next Film: "The Sound of Music" Fri., February 13th**

## **SENIOR ART CLASS**

**Jan. 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**

**11 AM Bethany Senior Room**

Learn to work with watercolor to create beautiful artwork. No experience necessary. All materials supplied. \$9 per class paid directly to instructor Mary Lou Narowski  
**Call to reserve your seat 203-393-2100 x1124**

## **SENIOR CRAFT CORNER**

Create your own personal Coat of Arms. Learn the history of coats of arms and have fun creating your own motto!

**MONDAY, Jan. 26th 11 AM Bethany SR Room**

Reserve your seat no later than January 15th  
203-393-2100 x1124

## **FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE** **2025 Tax Returns are due April 15, 2026**

In partnership with the IRS and CT Association for Human Services (CAHS) the Woodbridge Center, 4 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT, offers free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program beginning February 3-April 14, 2026. This service is for those with limited income, over 65, English as a second language, or disabled individuals. Appointments are available on Tuesdays only from 9 am-1 pm.

**Call Woodbridge Human Services 203-389-3429** for a list of required documents and to schedule an appointment

# Sustainable Bethany

## No. 61. Letter from Sustainable Bethany.

**COP30:** The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) goal is to “stabilize greenhouse atmosphere gas concentrations to levels that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” This idea allows ecosystems to adapt naturally, secure food production, and continue sustainable development. It distinguishes between developed and developing countries under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Although November’s meeting had achievements e.g., increase of adaptive financing, outcomes were disappointing. No roadmap to phase out fossil fuels was drafted, in fact the final document never mentioned fossils fuels. Further, most nations are missing their own targets for reductions in emissions. Simon Stiell (executive secretary), stated in his closing speech, “For the first time, 194 nations said in unison: ‘...the global transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilience is irreversible and the trend of the future.’ Notably, the US did not participate.

**Recommended reading:** *Here Comes the Sun* by Bill McGibben. A leader in the environmental movement for 40 years, McGibben documents successes in renewable energy, and acceleration of adoption worldwide. Consider, in 2004 it took a year to install one gigawatt of solar panels, in 2024, it took 18 hours! In 2024, 96% of new electric generation in the US came from renewables; renewables are now cheaper to build and deploy than fossil fuels; 80% of the world’s population live in fossil fuel importing countries. McKibben provides facts, anecdotes, and glances at new technologies which begs the question, “why would anyone hitch their horse to a fossil fuel economy?”

**January night-skies:** It’s stargazing prime time, away from city lights

- Jupiter reaches its peak visibility for the year in opposition to the sun on January 10th .
- First supermoon (wolf moon), January 3rd.
- The rare interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS is the third known object to pass through our solar system. Uniquely, its trajectory follows a hyperbolic orbit and is not gravitationally bound to the Sun confirming its origin from another star system. It’s moving too fast at ~137,000 mph for the Sun’s gravity to capture into a permanent orbit; a velocity not achieved if it originated within our solar system. During January, the comet leaves our solar system after passing the Sun in late 2025. It is not visible to the naked eye. During Spring, a small telescope allows observation during pre-dawn hours as it passes Jupiter’s orbit. Look for Orion the Hunter, the Pleiades, and Jupiter shining brightly with the New Moon, January 18th .

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

## RECYCLING CENTER NEWS

Welcome to our recurring Recycling Center column, where each column will highlight helpful tips, updates, and behind-the-scenes insights from the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. Whether it’s clarifying what can and should be recycled, spotlighting new sustainability initiatives, or sharing practical ways to reduce waste at home, this column is designed to make recycling simpler, smarter, and more accessible for everyone in our community.

Changes are afoot at the Recycling Center, some of which you may have seen, some not. Over the next few months, we will keep you informed of these changes. Watch this space for updates on textiles, metals, tires, bulky waste, gas cylinders, electronics and more. When we all work together, we can reduce the costs of disposing of our trash, while at the same time earning some revenue for the town, which leads to lowered taxes for all of us.

There is currently an opening on the Solid Waste and Recycle Committee. If you are interested, please contact First Selectman Carol Goldberg at [cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com](mailto:cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com)

If there are topics that you would like to see addressed, let us know at [BethanySWARC@gmail.com](mailto:BethanySWARC@gmail.com)

Recycle Center Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 7:30AM to 3:00PM

755 Amity Road

## TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS

### Bethany Salutes Our Resident Veterans

#### VIETNAM ERA

Paul Fede	Gerald Ginnow
Thomas Fleming	Kevin Graham
Richard Fox	Roland Gandreau
Glenn Dougan	Martin Hannon
Gene Frolich	Thomas Hicks
Gerald Gervasio	Edward Hirsch

**Thank you for your patriotism and efforts to keep us safe and free!**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



## Bethany Conservation Commission

The Bethany Conservation Commission is seeking nominees for the annual Conservationist of the Year Award. Nomination forms are available at Town Hall and are due by March 9, 2026.

***It Happened in Bethany***  
***A Brief History of Simpson/Veterans Park/  
Bethany Bog Properties***  
**By Will Brinton**

This vicinity was primarily farmland before 1900, much of it owned by members of the Lounsbury family, who lived along Beacon Road. At one point, relatives occupied four separate homesteads with 35 children, and the road was known as Lounsbury Street. According to old maps, there was also at least one house (owned by Collins) along the abandoned section of Northrop Road and another (owned by Chatfield) on the old part of Lebanon Road.

Land west of the old section of Lebanon Road was part of the Milford Colony, and earlier the Paugussett tribe. East of Lebanon was part of the New Haven Colony, and before that the Quinnipiac tribe. The northern boundary of the town-owned Simpson property is Hockanum Brook, which is the same line dividing the 1700s One-Bit and Two-Bit Native American purchases. On the New Haven side, Alexander Bryan of Milford bought Lebanon Swamp in 1664 from Ne-hantond, a Naugatuck Indian, for 30 shillings.

The Bethany Bog was formerly known as Lebanon Swamp. The term originated from the cedars surrounding swamp, which reminded early settlers of the famous Cedars of Lebanon mentioned in biblical accounts. These conifer trees also inspired the name for nearby Lebanon Hill, site of the old Bethany Airport, and Lebanon Brook, now known as Hockanum Brook, which flows west from the bog through Veterans Park, Simpson Property and Mendell's Folly.

John Thomas owned Lebanon Swamp in the early 1800s and at the time there was still open water in the middle of the marsh. He kept a sailboat on the pond and used it for pleasure parties. The pond was said to be very deep and attempts to plumb the depths were unsuccessful. One of the last Native American inhabitants of Bethany lived in the vicinity of Lebanon Swamp. One day he went missing and his dog led neighbors to the open water of the bog, leading them to believe he was lost there.

In addition to farming, this area was used for charcoal and lumber production in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The American Brass Company owned a large tract of land here prior to selling to Norman Simpson in 1945. Presumably they utilized the property for charcoal production, which is essential in brass manufacturing. The Lounsburys also made charcoal for the New Haven market, and lumber was harvested, especially cedars growing around the Bethany Bog. In the late 1890s, cedars were also cut to provide poles for the Davidson Telephone Exchange.

In 1917, George Simpson purchased 102 acres in this area. His son Arthur acquired some of the land and the pond was constructed in the early 1950s. Arthur and his wife

Edith ran the Beacon Outing Club for many years which featured Simpson Pond for swimming, a clubhouse and a ski slope with tow line.

The Simpsons sold the property in 1983, and it was run as the Bethany West Recreational Club until the town acquired the 55-acre tract in 1997. The town added the 94-acre Monument Stables property in 1999 and later two other smaller parcels, creating a 163-acre greenbelt. In 2001, the town renamed the property as Veterans Memorial Park, the clubhouse as Lakeview Lodge and the pond as Hockanum Lake.

The Bethany Bog was largely abandoned for active use in the 20th century, and by the 1960s Yale University acquired 63 acres to protect and study this unique land. The property is not open to the public.

**Historical Society**  
**200 pics for 200 years of Bethany History**

The Historical Society is seeking a picture taken in Bethany for each 200 years of town history. Photos may be of any town location, event, or residents.

Please identify the photo and email to [ljwooster@gmail.com](mailto:ljwooster@gmail.com) or send to: Historical Society, 512 Amity Road, Bethany, CT 06524. Questions? 203-393-1832



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# Parks & Recreation Department & Commission Update

Nicolle D. Vigneron, Director and  
Jennifer Galik, Chairwoman

**Summer Camp:** We're excited to share that registration for our 2026 Summer Camp season opens January 5th! Camp will run June 22nd – August 14th, with specialty camps available the weeks of June 15th, August 17th, and August 24th.

Our popular summer day camp is back and better than ever, offering fun-filled days from 9 AM to 3 PM for \$265 per week, with before and after care options available at an additional cost. Campers can look forward to a summer full of games, crafts, special events, outdoor adventures, and plenty of fun and laughter! An open house is scheduled for May 28th from 3:30-6:30.

**Winter Children's Programming:** Don't miss out on our fantastic new winter programs for kids of all ages:

- Yoga (Grades K-5) – Stretch, breathe, and build balance.
- Watercolor Painting (Grades K-6) – Explore color and creativity.
- Baking (Grades K-2 & 3-6) – Whip up delicious treats while learning kitchen basics.
- Mad Science: Winter Wonderlab (Grades 1-6) – Discover the science of snow, ice, and seasonal wonders.
- Multisport Camp (Grades K-2 & 3-6) – Stay active and learn teamwork through a mix of fun sports.

Be sure to visit our website ([bethanyct.myrec.com](http://bethanyct.myrec.com)) for full details and registration links.

**Adult Programming Survey:** Many thanks to all those who submitted feedback for future programming ideas for adults and families! We are exploring opportunities to provide adult yoga offerings, as well as baking, painting, and pickleball. Stay tuned for finalized details!

## NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

To: Enrolled Members of the Republican Party of the Town of Bethany, Connecticut.

Pursuant to the Rules of the Republican Party and Connecticut General Statutes 9-390, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026, in the Bethany Town Hall Commission Room, located at 40 Peck Road in Bethany, Connecticut, to endorse party members for the Republican Town Committee.

Bethany Republican Town Committee

Linda Bates, Chairperson

Date of Notice: January 2, 2026

## BETHANY LIONS UPDATE

### BETHANY LIONS CHARITY AUCTION

Our annual online auction will be running from March 15th - March 26th. We are looking for donations of quality items such as:

Artwork, Sports and Entertainment Tickets, Antiques, Jewelry, Designer Clothing and Handbags, Collectibles, Books, Gift Certificates – Restaurants, Personal Services, Gently Used Home Décor, Kitchen and Serving Items and Unique Finds

If you are downsizing, moving or just cleaning out your attic, garage or closets and find items that don't bring you joy any more but may be someone else's treasure, please consider donating.

Contact Lion Janet at (203) 231-3694 or email her at [brunwin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brunwin@sbcglobal.net).

### BETHANY LIONS COMEDY NIGHT

By February we will all be going a little stir crazy! Our ever-popular Lions Comedy Night will be held on Valentine's Day – Saturday, February 14th. We'll have two top headliners – Linda Belt and Paul Higgins will keep you laughing all night. Tickets are \$25. Doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. You're welcome to bring your own food and beverage. We'll supply the coffee/tea/dessert.

Call/text Lion Linda at (203) 530-5287 or email her at [blccomedynight@gmail.com](mailto:blccomedynight@gmail.com) for tickets or questions.

Give the Gift of Laughter!

## Volunteers needed for Grant Committee

Have experience in grant writing and want to make a difference in Bethany?

The Town is moving forward on establishing a Grant Committee and is looking for interested residents to get involved. If you'd like to participate, please reach out to First Selectwoman, Carol Goldberg at [cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com](mailto:cgoldberg@bethany-ct.com).

## The Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission currently has a vacancy.

If interested in enhancing the quality of life while preserving Bethany's rural character, please reach out to Steve Winter at [fdsteve911@yahoo.com](mailto:fdsteve911@yahoo.com).

# 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, 2026, thru May 15, 2026.

**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, 2025, and meet certain income guidelines. Those guidelines require that annual income for single people, including Social Security benefits, should not exceed \$46,300. Married couples can be eligible if their income, including Social Security benefits, does not exceed \$56,500. Applicants should bring all proof of their 2025 income including a copy of their 2025 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, 2026. Applicants must meet an income requirement of not more than \$46,300 if single, and \$56,500 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 \$71,300 for single applicants and \$81,500 for married applicants. Income includes adjusted gross income plus any other income, including Social Security benefits. Income is based upon the 2025 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 2025 calendar year, must be submitted by September 30, 2026, 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 15th day of December 2025.

Betsy Quist – Assessor for the Town of Bethany

## REMINDER FROM THE RECYCLING CENTER

During the holiday season:  
Holiday gift wrap and gift bags should be considered curbside municipal solid waste and NOT recyclable mixed paper. You can check [www.recyclect.com](http://www.recyclect.com) for a list of "what's in/what's out" for recyclables (click on Get to Know Recycling) and learn so much more



## A Message From Officer Mark Jazwinski:

I want to thank the citizens of Bethany for allowing me to work here as a part-time police officer for the past 13 years. The cooperative spirit in this town is different from any other community I served in during my 40-year career in law enforcement. During those nasty storms, I was amazed to see neighbors helping neighbors clear snow or trees that fell into driveways and roadways. I am grateful for how all of you were willing to do the same for me while I responded to medical assist calls or returning a wayward horse, cow, or dog to their rightful owner. You were so kind towards me. To be invited into your homes for a meal or family celebrations were such cherished moments. While I worked here, after I finished work, I had the great fortune to visit my children while they were undergraduates at Yale. Now that they have graduated and live in different regions of the world, it's time to hang up the gun belt and redeem those airline miles. Later in 2026, if you see me walking your neighbor's dog, please lower your window and wave hello!



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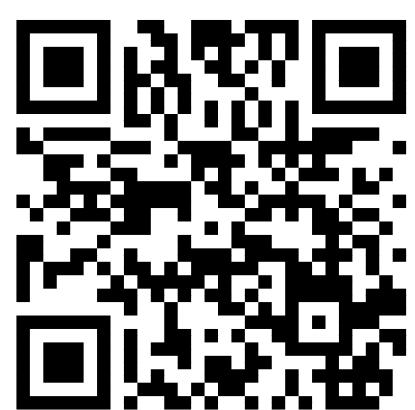
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CONTINUATION  
TOWN OF BETHANY  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

A public hearing continuation will be held at the regular Planning and Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**, in the Commission Meeting Room of the Bethany Town Hall, 40 Peck Road, Bethany, Connecticut. The regular Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is regularly scheduled to commence at 7 p.m. The Public Hearing is scheduled to commence at 7:15 p.m. to consider the following applications:

***Application #2025-011*** – TSC Properties LLC – 211 Cheshire Road – B&I Zone- MBL 120-22A. The permit submission for the construction of two 10,000 square feet commercial buildings and associated improvements for a construction company.

***Application #2025-012*** – Kevin Cox – 65 Emerald Lane – R-65 Zone – MBL 107-27-5. The permit submission for a plant nursery, a cut & pick your own, and other related activities.

The applications and plans are available in the Land Use Department for review during business hours.

Veronica Novack  
Town of Bethany  
Building & Land Use Clerk

**From the desk of the Fire Marshal**

This month the State Fire Marshal's Office has sent out a bulletin to all Fire Marshal's about the recent uptick in fires being caused by people improperly disposing of ashes from their fireplace or wood stoves. They have asked that we educate our Towns' people of the dangers caused by this.

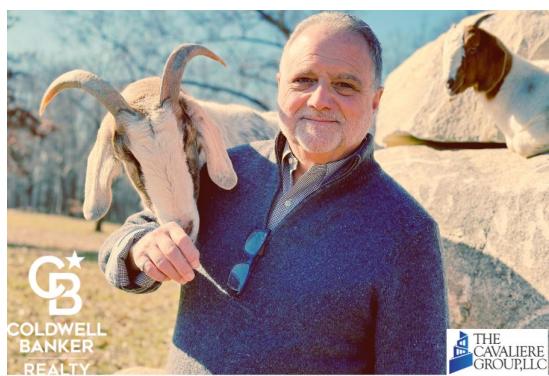
Ashes from your fireplace or wood stove can burn and stay hot for several up to a week or longer stored in a container. They should be dumped in an area that is away from any houses or other structures and at least fifty feet from any wooded area. Do not put hot ashes in compost piles. There is a potential for the leaves and grass or hay to catch fire and start a bigger fire. Ashes from your fireplace or wood stove should be kept in a metal container, mixed with water and stirred to a point where there is no smoke or steam and then can be disposed of in the yard. Your metal container must be stored outside on the earth ground and not on any decks, stairs, or other combustible materials when hot ashes are in it.

Following these safety recommendations will keep you and family safe and happy during the cold season. Happy Holidays.

**Town of Bethany  
Monthly Meeting Schedule**

Jan. 5th	Housing Advisory Committee	7:00PM
Jan. 6th	Democratic Town Committee Caucus	7:30PM
Jan. 7th	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
Jan. 7th	Planning & Zoning Commission	7:00PM
Jan. 8th	Republican Town Committee Caucus	7:00PM
Jan. 8th	Conservation Commission	7:30PM
Jan. 12th	Amity Board of Education	6:30PM
Jan. 12th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00PM
Jan. 13th	Board of Finance	7:00PM
Jan. 14th	Bethany Board of Education	6:30PM
Jan. 14th	Economic Development Commission	6:30PM
Jan. 15th	Cemetery Commission	7:00PM
Jan. 19th	Solid Waste & Recycling Committee	5:30PM
Jan. 20th	Inland Wetlands Commission	7:30PM
Jan. 21st	Board of Selectmen	6:30PM
Jan. 28th	Parks & Recreation Commission	6:30PM

Meetings may change: Check [Bethany-ct.com/virtual-bulletin-board](http://Bethany-ct.com/virtual-bulletin-board) for up-to-date information.



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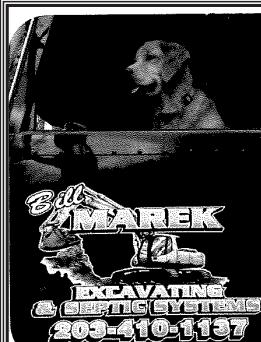
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