



**Town of
Bethel,
Connecticut**

**Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center - 1 School
Street Bethel, CT 06801**

AUGUST 2013

WELCOME TO BETHEL'S NEWSLETTER

From First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker—

It seems like summer gets shorter every year. Already, our high school sports teams have started their early workouts, marching band camp is in session and back-to-school shopping is just around the corner. The summer of 2013 continues to be a particularly busy one for all town departments, too. Here's a recap of some of the things going on in and around town hall.

Road Update: The crews got a little bit of a late start this season due to the heavy and frequent early summer rains, but doing their best to make up for lost time now. Diamond, Fawn and Gretchen have been fully repaved with new storm drains installed. New drains are currently being installed on Oak Ridge, Evergreen, North and East with repaving to begin in September. The crews will move on to Rockwell (Plumtrees to 302), the remainder of Walnut Hill (Old Hawleyville to the town line), then over to Bethpage, Fairchild and Oven Rock. Weather permitting, they'll add Long Meadow and a few others. Let's hope there are no late season hurricanes or Halloween snowstorms this year so our highway crew can stay on schedule.

Library Completed: All but for a meeting room or two, the library is done, including the historic Seeley Room for Bethel historical and genealogical research. And since its reopening, we've seen library usage soar to new all-time highs! Many, many thanks to the Bethel families and businesses whose generous contributions made it possible to complete the renovation at no additional cost to Bethel taxpayers.



New Grant Money: We just received notice that the town was awarded a grant of \$250,000 to use on sidewalk repair and safety improvements at town hall. This brings the total amount of grant monies awarded to Bethel over the past four years to over three million dollars, and has allowed us to make a lot of improvements while saving tax dollars. Projects completed at no cost to Bethel taxpayers include several miles of road construction, new boilers for Johnson School and conversion from oil heat to gas for three schools (which will lower fuel costs), removal of Old Town Hall to allow completion of the library renovation, Small Cities grants for no-interest loans for home improvement and safety equipment for our police officers.

New Tennis Courts: After a short delay during the earlier wet weather, the renovations of the town's tennis courts at the school complex that we started last year are done, and the new courts are beautiful!



Update on Bridges: Work is progressing smoothly on the Walnut Hill Bridge over Limekiln Brook. The north abutment is completed and construction of the south side is under way. So far the project remains on schedule for the road to reopen in December. Site work will also begin soon on the bridge reconstruction and realignment of Plumtrees, Walnut Hill and Whittlesey, expected to begin in 2014. This long overdue project (almost 15 years!) will widen the bridge and create a standard four-way intersection with a left turn lane to relieve the morning traffic jams when school is in session.

Volume 42, Issue 1



Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman

MUNICIPAL CENTER HOURS

*The hours of the
CJH Municipal Center are
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

*Town website is:
www.bethel-ct.gov*

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BETHEL COMMUNITY MARKET

Bethel will be the place to be every Thursday evening (4-7 p.m.) starting on June 13th through September 26th for our 3rd season. Our Community Market takes place on the lawn of the CJH Municipal Center– Rain or Shine!

We have lots of great vendors– returning favorites and new ones to tempt your palate and expand your shopping opportunities. Vendors are signing on weekly– so far we have Billy’s Southern Style BBQ, Holbrook Farms, Daily Fare, Stone’s Throw Farm, Ma & Pa’s Traveling Kitchen, Send A Smile Cards, Percy Thompson Farms, Meetinghouse Farm, Byrd’s Books, Olive Oils of the World, Mitchell Farm, Gemini Jewelry Designs, Scentsational Scrubs, Contented Critters and many more.

New this year will be Pancifico Navona, Biscotti Etc., Maura & Nuccia, LuLu Bella Children’s Boutique, Take Time Relaxation Center, Carrot Top Kitchens, The Toy Room, Sunset Meadows Vineyard, Lawlor Graphics and many more are anticipated.

The Community Market will have a full program of events including musical entertainment, movie nights, demonstrations and more. Shop our vendors, have dinner and show your support to the Bethel Community!

For more information on the market or vending opportunities– please contact farmersmarket@bethel-ct.gov





FRANC PROPERTY

The Franc Committee has been working over the last few months on rules and potential uses for the Franc property that was recently purchased by the Town in 2012.

The Franc property is a 72 acre parcel of land located on the right hand corner of the intersection of Plumtrees Road and Old Hawleyville Road as you head towards Newtown.

We are an enthusiastic and diverse group of volunteers that are interested in exploring a variety of idea's for the property that can be enjoyed by many. A Community Garden, Disc Golf and trails are among the potential uses being considered.

If you have any ideas or comments, please join us on September 12th at 7:00 pm for a Public Input Meeting to be held in meeting Room D of the Municipal Center or email Landuse @Bethel-ct.gov

State of Connecticut Renter's Rebate Program

The State of Connecticut provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are 65 years of age (by the end of 2012) or Totally Disabled and whose incomes do not exceed \$33,500 if Single or \$40,900 if married. Due to a recent change you can only apply for this program if you received a benefit check during calendar year 2012.

In order to file an application for the Renters Rebate Program, please schedule an appointment with the Bethel Tax Benefit Coordinator, John Sarver by calling (203) 794-8594. Applications for the Renters' rebate program must be made between **April 1 and September 30, 2013.**



HOUSING REHAB LOAN GRANT

In 2011, the Town of Bethel received its second Housing Rehab Loan Grant in the amount of \$300,000. This grant, as with the first, provides financial assistance to rehabilitate and renovate housing units occupied by income eligible individuals or families. The grant is scheduled to terminate in September and the Town still has approximately \$100,000 remaining to rehab homes.

Loans would be available at a 0% interest rate to repair/replace roofs, plumbing, electrical, heating system replacement, siding and window replacement, and general rehabilitation and renovations. Projects such as family room additions, decks, etc. are not permitted under this program.

Income eligibility is based on household size, for example – family of one \$42,250; family of two \$54,000; family of three \$60,750; family of four \$67,450, etc.



Small Business Express Program

Small businesses with operations in Connecticut, registered to conduct business for not less than twelve months, in good standing with all state agencies and with the payment of all state taxes, and employing not more than 100 employees, are eligible to apply for the **Small Business Express Program** through the Department of Economic and Community Development. Priority for available funding will be given to those eligible applicants who (1) are creating new jobs and (2) are within Connecticut's economic base industries, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 32-222, including but not limited to: precision manufacturing, business services, green and sustainable technology, bioscience, and information technology sectors.

The Small Business Express Program (EXP) provides loans and grants to Connecticut's small business to spur job creation and growth. Assistance focuses on access to capital, and incentive loan and grant funds to create jobs.

For more information on this program, visit

<http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=3931&q=489792>

or

contact Janice Chrzescijanek, Director of Economic Development,
at eddirector@bethel-ct.gov or 203.794.2822

Summer Concert Series

Our summer concert series is winding down, but we still have some wonderful bands performing over the next couple of weeks.

Sunday, August 18, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

Cinnamon Sky

Performing for the first time at the Gazebo, Cinnamon Sky takes its name from the Willie Nelson song, “A Horse Called Music.” Dating back to the 80’ s, the group disbanded in the early 90’ s. It was in Bethel in the mid 90’ s that founding member and lead vocalist Brad Lewis met guitarist/mandolinist Bob Willaum at a Fiddler’ s Brawl at the old Front Street Restaurant. They relaunched Cinnamon Sky and, over the years, original bassist Ted Ervin and original keyboard player Dave Golden of WPKN radio returned to the band. The group is rounded out by drummer and soundman Bill Fedorko. Brad likes to classify the band as Americana, since the repertoire includes Country, Western, Rockabilly, Folk Bluegrass and Southern Rock. Do sit back and imagine that you are driving your Hot Rod Lincoln, Searching for a Rainbow Under the Desert.

Sponsored by State Senator Michael McLachlan, Selectman Paul Szatkowski, and Caraluzzi’s Markets.

Sunday, August 25, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

The Austrian Boys

Another first at the Gazebo, and what a way to end the Concert Series! The Austrian Boys with their renditions of traditional Austrian-German Style and Alpine-American Rock Music will have your feet tapping and your hands clapping! Frank Billowitz Sr. founded the band in 1970 and is featured on the accordion, steinsche, and harmonica. His sons, Frank Jr. (trumpet, percussion, drums) and Michael (guitar, bass guitar, baritone, horn), join with Patrick Roster (guitar, drums, percussion). All contribute to the rousing vocals. The Gazebo will rock as the Concert Series comes to a close!

Sponsored by Union Savings Bank, Smitty’s Auto Body, and Bob and Claudia Kozlowski.



***For your convenience, restrooms are available
inside the CJH Municipal Center.***

*Thank you for joining us for our SEVENTEENTH
Consecutive Summer Concert Season. A very warm
thank you to all our wonderful sponsors.*

TOWN CLERK

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Register to vote for the November 5th, 2013 election. If you are not going to be in town, file an absentee ballot application with the Bethel Town Clerk, One School Street, Bethel, CT 06801. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at [203-794-8505](tel:203-794-8505) between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.



Transfer Station Permits

The fees for the permits remain the same: \$50.00 annually, there is a \$10.00 Senior Citizen Discount for those patrons over the age of 65. A second vehicle at the same address requiring a permit will be an additional \$10.00. A day pass is also available for \$10.00.

Should there be any questions, please call either the Town Clerk's Office at [203-794-8505](tel:203-794-8505) or Transfer Station at [203-778-7436](tel:203-778-7436).



TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station is located off Route 53 on Sympaug Road.

The **NEW** hours of operation are as follows:
 Tuesday and Thursday open 7:00 am to 12:00 pm then 12:45 pm to 3:00 pm.
 Friday open 7:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 Saturday open 7:00 am to 12:00 pm then 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

203-778-7436. The price of the **annual permit is \$50.00 each vehicle.**

You can purchase the permit from the Town Clerk's office, Bethel Municipal Center, 1 School Street.

Annual Permit Fee \$50.00 per vehicle / 2nd car rate for vehicle in same household /same address \$10.00 fee

ITEMS	FEES
Solid Waste Disposal	\$0.20 per lb.
Recyclable Materials	No Charge

BULKY WASTE	FEES
Tables, Chairs, End Tables, Lamps, Bed Frames, Headboards and Other Small Miscellaneous Items	considered small bulk waste \$ 0.20 per lb.
Mattress and Box Spring	twin \$10 Each Double \$15.00 each Queen \$ 20.00 each King \$ 25.00 each Sleeper sofa \$25.00
Floor Model Television and Stereos	\$15 Each
Couches (All Sizes), Desks and Dressers, Etc...	\$25 Each

SCRAP METAL	FEES
Loose Scrap Metal	\$0.20 per lb.
Lawn Mowers	\$10Each
Lawn Tractors and Other Large Metal Objects	\$ 20Each
Other large scrap metal	\$20.00

APPLIANCES	FEES
Household Appliances without CFC's (Freon)	\$20
Household Appliances with CFC's (Freon)	\$30

ORGANIC MATERIALS	FEES
Leaves by Carload	No Charge
Trees and Brush Material by Carload	\$ 10 per car
ALL ORGANIC MATERIAL in Standard Pickup Truck-filled To Tops of Bed Sides	\$35 per truck

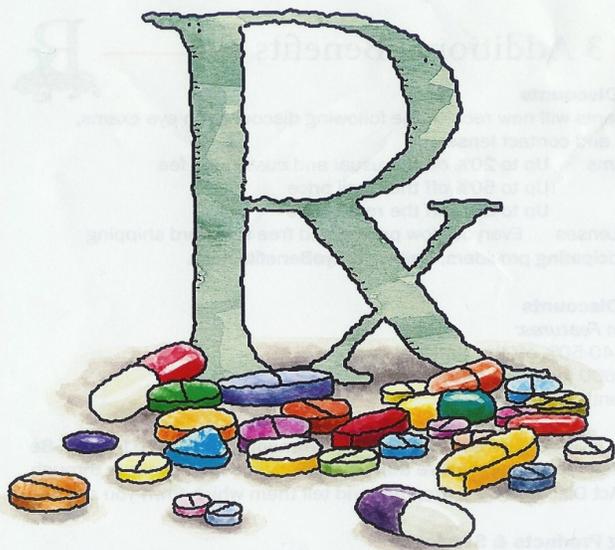
ALL ORGANIC MATERIAL Delivered in Modified Pickup-
**Additional Sideboards or Filled Above the Standard
 Bed Height (This Includes Homeowner Trailers)** \$50 per truck
****NO CONSTRUCTION or DEMOLITION MATERIAL WILL BE ACCEPTED****

FREE TABLE ITEMS

Items on the free table are free to take, NOT LEAVE, to leave an item see fee schedule

E-WASTE MATERIALS FREE

Key pads-cell phones-stereos-printers-flashlights-computer monitors
 Additional information about E-Waste can be found WWW.BethelCT.org under Departments go to Public Works then
 Transfer station



Introducing the Town of Bethel Prescription Drug Card

FREE
to Town Residents

Americans are paying more for prescription drugs than ever before. Without prescription coverage, staying healthy can come at a high price. With the free Town of Bethel Prescription Discount Card, you can save money on many of your prescription purchases

Any town resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription drugs, you may still benefit from the discount card, since it may save you money on prescription drugs your existing plan does not cover

Everyone is eligible!

- No income requirements
- No age requirements
- Unlimited use for the whole family



The Town of Bethel Prescription Discount Card is:

Valuable Save an average of 45% off the pharmacy's regular price on all common prescriptions

Simple No claim forms or annual fees are needed

Convenient More than 55,000 participating retail pharmacies nationwide including all national pharmacies: CVS, Rite-Aid, Stop and Shop, Big Y, Wal-Mart, and Walgreens. Local pharmacies can also participate

This plan is not insurance. Savings are only available at participating retail pharmacies.



As the First Selectman of Bethel, I am very happy to share with you a free prescription discount card program. It's a pleasure that local government can bring our citizens a benefit without a cost connected to it.

The Town of Bethel can do this by partnering with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and ProAct, Inc. By using the ProAct Discount Prescription Card, it is estimated that you can save about 20% on brand name drugs and up to 70% on your generic prescription purchases when using this discount card. If you already have prescription drug coverage, you can use this card for discounts on prescriptions not covered by your insurance plan.

- It can be used as often as needed.
- It can be used for veterinary prescriptions for your pet.

Sincerely,
Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman

Plus 3 Additional Benefits



Vision Discounts

Participants will now receive the following discounts on eye exams, frames, and contact lenses.

Eye Exams	Up to 20% off the usual and customary fee
Frames	Up to 50% off the retail price
Lenses	Up to 50% off the retail price
Online Lenses	Everyday low pricing and free standard shipping

For participating providers, visit www.EyeBenefits.com.

LASIK Discounts

Program Features:

- Save 40-50% off the National Average
- Over 600 locations nationwide
- Credentialed physicians

To find a provider and schedule an appointment, call 877-201-3852. Be sure to tell the representative that you are eligible for discounts through the ProAct Discount Card Program and tell them which town you are from.

Hearing Products & Services

Program Features:

- Savings of 35-65%
- National network of local ear physicians and audiologists
- Brand name hearing aids and products

To find a provider and schedule an appointment, call 866-956-5400. Be sure to tell the representative that you are eligible for discounts through ProAct's Discount Card Program and tell them which town you are from.

Should you need more information, please call the toll free number at 877-776-2285 or visit our website at www.connecticutrxdiscountcard.com



