



Town of
Bethel,
Connecticut

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

APRIL 2013

WELCOME TO BETHEL'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Issue 1

Road Recovery Plan enters Year #3:

As spring approaches (finally!), Bethel's Highway Department is gearing up to begin the third and second-to-last phase of the Selectmen's 2011 accelerated road reconstruction plan. Diamond Avenue will be first on the list, which was originally scheduled for last fall, but was "bumped" due to the Halloween 2012 snowstorm. Following that, this season's tentative list includes (not necessarily in order of construction) Judd, Governor's Lane, Rockwell (Plumtrees to Rte-302), Winthrop, Grandview, Walnut Hill (Old Hawleyville to Newtown), Long Meadow, Bethpage, Oven Rock, Fairchild, Cherry Lane and Cindy Lane. Other roads will be added if costs remain low and work can be performed under budget. Please note: The list above is subject to approval of funding. Voters will be asked to approve a \$1.2 million capital plan as part of the annual budget vote to support this work.

Selectmen's Budget Summary:

The 2013-2014 budget proposal has been crafted to keep expenses as low as possible without reducing town services. The "town side" operating budget, including debt service, will increase by \$519,103 for a total of \$25,624,905, an increase of 2.06% (excluding Board of Education operating and maintenance).

The increase is related to several factors, the most significant of which is health insurance, which increased by \$252,080 (10%). Workers compensation, property and liability and health insurance together rose by \$140,374 (15%). The original estimates were even worse, calling for a sharp 30% increase. However, by using the competitive bidding process aggressively and signing a new three-year contract with a new carrier, we were able to cut down the increase in this budget, as well as cap future increases for the next two years.

Another factor is the employee pension line, and increase of \$213,782, which is being increased gradually each year to bring the pension funding ratios back up to a healthy level. This is a critical component that requires adequate funding to ensure the town's future financial health as well as protect our current excellent bond rating today. On the plus side, we have been able to reduce the town's debt load significantly, which will save the town over \$485,000 in this budget. Over the past three years we have aggressively retired old debt and refinanced existing bonds to take advantage of today's lower interest rates.

The request to increase one current employee in the Assessor's office from part time to full time status to relieve a staffing shortage was not approved. Therefore, until further notice, residents should be aware that the Assessor's office will remain closed to the public on Fridays to accommodate the work load. It will be open to the public during regular town hall office hours Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please call or stop by for a cup of coffee.

Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman



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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*

The Municipal Center

Will be closed

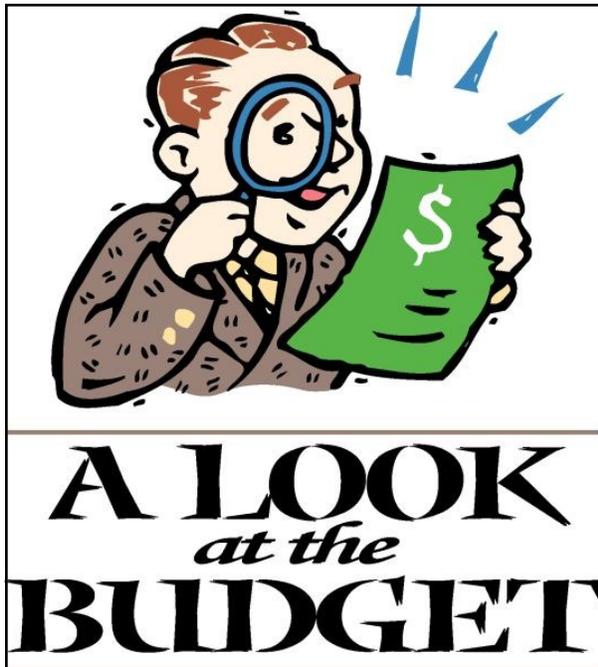
Monday, May 27th

**For
Memorial Day**

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Annual Town Budget Meeting



Monday,
May 6th
7:30PM

Bethel High School
Auditorium

BETHEL SENIOR CENTER

Our mission - Our mission at the Bethel Senior Center is to come together for friendship, knowledge and social activities. We hope to encourage positive attitudes and preserve individual dignity for all ages.



Contact the Senior Center at 203-794-8593 for all the new things going on this year!

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 7:00am to 12:00pm.
 Saturday open 7:00am to 12:00pm then 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

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

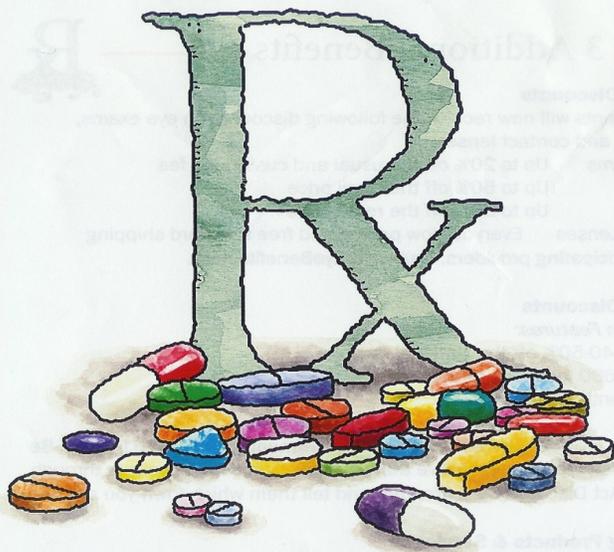
ALL ORGANIC MATERIAL Delivered in Modified Pickup-
**Additional Sideboards or Filled Above the Standard
 Bed Height (This Includes Homeowner Trailers)** \$50 per truck
****NO CONSTRUCTION or DEMOLITION MATERIAL WILL BE ACCEPTED****

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



BETHEL PARK AND RECREATION

Summer Playground Camp 2013

Registration begins Tuesday, April 23, 2013 for Bethel Residents at the Parks & Recreation office during regular office hours from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Non Residents may register starting May 3, 2013.

Playground camps are for Bethel Residents and Non Residents for an extra non-resident fee of \$15.00 per session. A camp day may consist of indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, games, offsite trips, as well as onsite entertainment and activities. All participants will receive a schedule of events, permission slips and information about the program through email.

THERE IS NO CAMP ON THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

PRESCHOOL CAMP FEE: \$175.00 per session – one week fee: \$90 - SESSION I: Fee is \$160 to reflect the July 4th holiday.

JUNIOR, SENIOR & YOUTH CAMP FEE: \$250 per session – one week fee: \$150

SESSION I: Fee is \$225 to reflect the July 4th holiday.

FAMILY FEE: A \$25 discount will be applied for multiple sessions and each additional child in Preschool, Junior, Senior or Youth Camps.

****The discount does not apply for split sessions****

PRESCHOOL CAMP

Preschool Camp is for children ages 3–5 by December 31, 2013, and is held at **JOHNSON SCHOOL**. Special events and trips will be available for all children. **IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT ATTEND THE OFF-SITE TRIPS, HE/SHE WILL NOT HAVE CAMP THOSE DAYS.** All campers should bring a daily snack. **MUST BE POTTY TRAINED.**

#5515 SESSION I* JUNE 24 – JULY 5

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#5516 SESSION II JULY 8 – JULY 19

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#5517 SESSION III JULY 22 – AUGUST 2

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**** Extended hours will be available Mondays & Wednesdays from 12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m. for a cost of \$30 per week****

JUNIOR CAMP

Junior Camp is for children entering grades 1 through 3, and is held at **ROCKWELL SCHOOL**.

#5506 SESSION I* JUNE 24 – JULY 5

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#5507 SESSION II JULY 8 – JULY 19

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#5508 SESSION III JULY 22 – AUGUST 2

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SENIOR CAMP

Senior Camp is for children entering grades 4 through 6, and is held at **MIDDLE SCHOOL**.

#5532 SESSION I* JUNE 24 – JULY 5

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#5533 SESSION II JULY 8 – JULY 19

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#5534 SESSION III JULY 22 – AUGUST 2

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

YOUTH CAMP

Youth Camp is for boys and girls entering grades 7 through 9, and is held at the **MUNICIPAL CENTER**.

#5549 SESSION I* JUNE 24 – JULY 5

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#5550 SESSION II JULY 8 – JULY 19

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE SANDY HOOK SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND

**Bethel
5K
For
Sandy
Hook**



*First 250 registrants will receive
their guaranteed t-shirt size!*

Sunday, May 26th 2013

Bethel Municipal Center

1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801

8:15AM Registration/Package Pickup

9:00AM 5K Start

Entry Fee \$25 by May 19th

\$30 after May 19th

To register please visit: www.fasttracktiming.com
For more info contact Samantha Contorno at Samantha.josie@gmail.com

BENNETT PARK

The **non-refundable** rate schedule has been updated to reflect the increasing costs to run the facility and is as follows:



Weekday Rental	M-F	\$100.00- Bethel Residents
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$125.00- Bethel Residents (over 125 in attendance)*
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$175.00- non resident
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$225.00- non resident (over 125 in attendance)*
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$35.00- (SCOUTS ONLY)
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$150.00 – Bethel Residents
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$175.00 – Bethel residents (over 125 in attendance) *
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$275.00 – non residents
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$325.00 – non residents (over 125 in attendance)*

Please note that there is the option to add the new building addition to your rental for an additional \$75.00 weekday/\$125.00 weekend.

A CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE in the amount of \$500,000 naming the Town of Bethel as an additional insured is required. Failure to obtain appropriate insurance will result in the loss of your rental fee and reserved date.



Bennett Memorial Park will be open to the public to reserve after March, 15,2013.

For more information please visit the town website at www.bethel-ct.gov. Click the "Town Government" tab on the top of the main page and then click "Bennett Memorial Park".

BETHEL HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF

The dates for filling an application for the Bethel Homeowners Tax Relief Program are from February 1 to May 15, 2013.

To qualify, you (or your spouse) must have either have reached age 65 by December 31, 2012 or be Social Security Disabled, and your household income must be \$48,000 or less.

Applications are taken by appointment only. If you would like to schedule an appointment to submit an application or if you have questions about the program please call John Sarver, Bethel Tax Benefit Coordinator, at (203) 794-8594.

Bethel Supercross BMX

Mitchell Park - Old Hawleyville Road.....go to www.bethelbmx.com for more information

Behind the baseball fields



RACING

RIGHT IN BETHEL

Sanctioned by **USABMX**

Our 31st Season Starts

April 20th

Sat - April 20 & 27

Rider Registration and
Orientation - 1-3 pm

Membership in USABMX is required
Cost is \$45. Come and learn

Copy of Birth Certificate and parent attendance

More Dates:

Sat - Apr 20 Workday 10 - 4

Wed - Apr 24 Practice 6-8 pm

Sat - Apr 27 Workday 10 - 4

Mon - Apr 29 Practice 6-8 p m

WED - MAY 1 - first race

Racing will be held every WEDNESDAY from May 1st through August 28th.

Race Day registration: 4:30—6:00 ★ Race Day practice: 5:00—6:45 ★ Races begin 7:00

Beginners may sign-up at the track any time during the season. Copy of Birth Certificate is required.

Parent(s)/legal guardians of minors must be present.

All racers will need sneakers, helmet with mouth guard, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and BMX bike.

Bethel has one of the best BMX tracks in New England. Riders of all ages, 3-60+, compete for trophies and other awards. Track, state, regional and national recognition is given. Our program is fully supervised.

Information: Don or Kathy Olson - 203-744-7962 (home) 203-798-6373 (track)

Spectators are always welcome at no charge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION : www.bethelbmx.com.

5K Memorial Tribute Run



Saturday May 18th

Events begin at 7:49am - Race starts at 8:00am

Bethel Cycle- 5 Depot Place, Bethel CT 06801

Register and find more info at

<http://www.bethelfitness.com/5k.htm>

Throughout our nation's history brave men and women have fought against the threat of oppression and tyranny so that we may reap the benefits of freedom and liberty. Join us as we pay tribute to those who gave all.