

Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

April 10th, 2026



Budget Vote

Residents who attended the Town Meeting this week approved sending the FY 2027 Budget to the voters. The referendum will take place on Tuesday, April 21st at your normal voting location between 6 am and 8 pm. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office. Any citizen of the United States, 18 years or older who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town for taxes on a \$1,000 or more assessment on the October 1, 2025 grand list can vote in the referendum. For more information on your voting location and a link to the budget, visit <https://bethel-ct.gov/elections>.

Road Work on Old Hawleyville Rd.

Sorry for the late notice. Expect some construction on Old Hawleyville Rd. through the middle of next week while our highway crews make preparations for portions of the road to be paved between April 20th and April 24th. Our contractor moved up the schedule. Please keep an eye out for our crews and Police Officers who will do their best to keep a lane open and traffic moving, especially near Hollandia Nursery for their big week.

Healthcare for Small Businesses

Healthcare costs are a huge hurdle for small businesses in Bethel. If you are an owner or employee of a small business, check out [HB 5378 - An Act Concerning Self-Funded Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements](#). MEWAs one that allows businesses to pool their resources to lower administrative costs and increase negotiating power with healthcare providers. There are also concerns that employers will leave the existing marketplace and some poorly managed MEWAs have gone bankrupt. Click on the "[Public Hearing Testimony](#)" box to see the support and opposition.

Office Hours

The next Office Hours is Wednesday, April 15th from 7:30 am to 8:30 am at the Town Hall in the First Selectman's office. Feel free to stop by with questions or just to catch up. If it's not a convenient time, consider making an appointment at firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov or by calling 203-794-8540.

Food Truck Friday Sponsors

Food Truck Friday's and the Summer Concert Series are right around the corner! We are looking for interested businesses or groups who would like to sponsor a band or donate for "Food Truck Loot" to be shared by Bethel Social Services with residents who may need a little help attending the events. \$Band sponsorships are \$500 and can be split between business. Food Truck Friday's: 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24, 8/14, and 8/28. Summer Concert Series: 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, and 8/30. Email firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov if you are interested.

Hollandia Spring Garden Expo

Whether you're a seasoned pro who talks to your hydrangeas or a total beginner who just realized that "succulent" isn't a type of steak, you won't want to miss the Hollandia Nursery Spring Garden Expo! The fun kicks off tomorrow, April 11th, and runs through Sunday, April 19th between 8 am and 5 pm daily. This isn't just your run-of-the-mill plant sale; and it's more than a party for people who get excited about high-quality mulch. Stroll through the gardens or attend one of the seminars or workshops and you will see whether you have a legitimate green thumb or a "thumb of death" that makes even plastic cacti wither, there's something for every experience level! Dig up the details at <https://ctgrown.com/spring-garden-expo/>.

Hazardous Waste

Last call for the Hazardous Waste Dropoff next tomorrow, April 11th from 9 am to 2 pm at Danbury Public Works. There are currently 6 opportunities this year for Bethel residents to rid homes of hazardous chemicals that shouldn't be tossed in the garbage. Visit <https://hrra.org/household-hazardous-waste/> and look at the flyer to see what can be dropped off.

Friends of The Library

Join the Friends of the Bethel Public Library for their annual meeting on Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m. Learn about the work the Friends do to support the Bethel Library, enjoy light refreshments, then stay for a presentation of Newport Cottages with Toni McKeen, register at <https://bethellibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/friends-of-the-library-meeting-3/>

St. Thomas' Chicken/Eggplant Parm

The next St. Thomas' Chicken/Eggplant Parm Dinner is Saturday, April 18th. Reservations for close on Friday, April 17th. Dining-in and Take-Out pick-ups start at 5 pm. Adults are \$15, kids under 16 are \$8 with a family maximum of \$45. Dinners include chicken or eggplant, pasta, salad, bread, dessert, coffee, tea, or water. Visit <https://www.stthomasbethel.org/> for more information!

Community Event

Substance abuse and addiction are a public health crisis in Connecticut. Please join the Town of Bethel and Bethel High School for a FREE community night with Chris Herren on Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Bethel High School Auditorium. This is an opportunity to hear an incredible story about a journey from addiction to sobriety as only former NBA player, Chris Herren, can tell it. Addiction can affect anyone and this is a FREE presentation that you may never hear again, so please pre-register [HERE](#). This program is sponsored by funds received from the [National Opioid Settlements](#).

Shoutouts

A shout out to Logan Fesh, All-State Bethel baseball player and his father Sean Fesh, Bethel baseball assistant coach, for the great article in the [NewsTimes](#) this week! Bethel baseball is 2-1 in the season so far! Good luck at Danbury HS tomorrow at noon!

Congrats to the Lady Wildcats Lacrosse team on their 15-3 win this week over Notre Dame Prep! They are 1-1 and take on Stamford away tomorrow. Good Luck!

Boys lacrosse is off to a good start this year at 2-1 with a win and a loss this week. Good luck at home tomorrow at home against Fairfield Warde! JV at 10 am and varsity at 12 pm.

2-2 Lady Wildcat softball takes on Stamford away on Monday, April 14th. Good Luck!

A shoutout to the cast of Mean Girls Jr. who are practicing in Town Hall! You sound amazing! Mark calendars for May 15th at 7 pm and may 16th at 2 pm and 7 pm at BHS.

A huge congrats to: Bethel Middle School 2026 Pillar of the Year, Osbaldo Oliva, and Teacher of the Year, Shellie Zancan! RMT Johnson School 2026 Pillar of the Year Pamela Kim and Teacher of the Year, Kali Sierra! Berry School 2026 Pillar of the Year Brittany Pizzano and Teacher of the Year Gina McKenzie! Rockwell School 2026 Pillar of the Year Claire Macchi and Teacher of the Year, Jayde Eggert!

Have a great weekend!

