

Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

April 17th, 2026



Budget Referendum

The referendum for the 2026-2027 budget will take place this Tuesday, April 21st at your normal voting location between 6 am and 8 pm. For more information on your voting location and a link to the budget, visit <https://bethel-ct.gov/elections>. Non-residents of Bethel who are citizens of the United States, 18 years or older who, jointly or severally, are liable to the Town of Bethel for taxes on a \$1,000 or more assessment on the October 1, 2025 grand list, you can vote in the referendum at Town Hall in the General Purpose Room. Your liability must be in your name, not a business. When you speak with the person checking in voters, you will be directed to speak with a moderator.

Burn Permits

Bethel experiences high danger for forest fires and brushfires in the spring and our Fire Departments have already responded to a few this year. Connecticut DEEP requires permits for open burning and only twigs, small branches, and logs less than 3" in diameter can be burned in a pile that is 5 ft long, 3 ft wide, and 3 ft high. Burning will be authorized only between 10 am and 5 pm. Find info and request burn permits online at <https://bethel-ct.gov/fire-permits>.

Get the Lead Out

Bethel Water customers: Be on the lookout for a letter from Public Utilities notifying some customers of a door-to-door campaign to identify water service pipe materials entering homes and businesses. You can also schedule an appointment or follow the instructions provided in the letter to perform a self-evaluation. Check out <https://bethel-ct.gov/leadinfo> for more information. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Wildcat Summer Adventures!

Summer Camp Registration begins this Monday, April 20th at 9 am! Learn more and register at <https://bethelct.myrec.com/>. Select "Programs" and "Summer Day Camp" for information and a link to the camp flyer. Spots fill up fast, so register ONLINE or call 203-794-8531.

Roadwork

Use caution for paving on Monday, April 20th and 21st on Old Hawleyville Rd. Dates may change due to our contractor and weather. The next two projects are Taylor Rd. and South Street, so stay tuned for dates. April 20th to 24th is also National Work Zone Safety Week. PLEASE lookout for our road workers all the time!

Hollandia Spring Garden Expo

Hollandia Nursery Spring Garden Expo continues this weekend between 8 am and 5 pm daily. Check out the gardens or attend one of the seminars or workshops. There's something for every experience level! Details at <https://ctgrown.com/spring-garden-expo/>.

Taverns - Life in Colonial America

Join the Bethel Historical Society (40 Main Street in Bethel) this Sunday April 19th from 1 pm to 3 pm, for "Taverns - Life in Colonial America," presented by our own John Schmuecker who owns property on Greenwood Avenue that dates to the American Revolutionary War. Celebrate Life in Colonial America and America's 250th anniversary with the warmth and charm of a colonial tavern along with refreshments, music, conversation, and period games! Reservations are required. For more information and to reserve seating, visit bethelhistoricalsociety.com.

Battle of Charcoal Run

Join the Bethel Public Library for the next installment of the Celebrating 250 program series with The Battle of Charcoal Run on Monday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m. Learn about a significant encounter in Connecticut at the early stages of the Civil War. Find out more at <https://www.bethellibrary.org/celebrating250/>

Kind Works After School

Kind Works' next Free After School Program starts Tuesday, April 21 and runs through May 14th on Tuesday's and Thursdays. 6th through 8th Grade meet from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 4th and 5th grade from 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm. Learn more at <https://www.kind-works.org/events>.

Highway/Transit Project Forum

A public information meeting for the HVMPO Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st at the Danbury Library (170 Main Street) from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm to receive input on regional transportation projects. The TIP is essentially a list of proposed highway and public transit projects utilizing Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funding during federal fiscal years 2027-2030 in our area. There will also be a Virtual Public Information Meeting on Thursday, April 23rd from 12pm to 1 pm Zoom. Visit Westcog.org or access the meeting link [HERE](#). The 30-day public comment period runs from April 1 to May 1, 2026, with draft documents available [HERE](#). To register to make a comment at meeting, please email plan@westcog.org and provide your name as well as the subject matter you are commenting on. Comments will be addressed on a first come, first served basis.

SMS Family Night Out

Attention St. Mary School families, friends, and alumni: Don't miss the SMS Family Night Out at Texas Roadhouse on Wednesday, April 22nd between 3 pm and 10 pm. 10% of the total food purchase goes to SMS when you mention the promotion!

STEAM Expo

Don't miss the Bethel Public Schools STEAM Expo on Wednesday, April 22nd at the Bethel High School from 6 pm to 8 pm. Check out student STEAM exhibitions, research presentations, art demonstrations, and more! Thank you, Ingersoll Auto, for your generous STEM grant to Bethel High School and to the Bethel Education Foundation for making it happen!

Medication Take Back

Mark your calendars for an opportunity to turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal on Saturday, April 25th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Bethel Police Department. Discarding medications properly can save lives. Visit DEATakeback.com to see additional locations in our area.

Shoutouts

Congrats to the Bethel's Food Scraps Recycling Program participants! By diverting food scraps from the trash, you've helped reduce disposal costs and turn this valuable resource into finished compost. Remember to check your email for your compost voucher and stop by the Transfer Station between 7 am and 3 pm tomorrow with your three 5 gallon buckets for your free compost!

A shoutout to the Avocado Toast at Soulber! Learning there are protein add on options available for carnivores raises Soulber Kitchen to a whole new level! Just sayin'.

A shout out to Lady Wildcat Lacrosse who are 4-2 with a 3 game spring break winning streak! The ladies are away for the next three games and home on April 28th against Newtown. Good Luck!

Boys lacrosse are 3-2 with a win over Bunnell this week! The boys have home games against Masuk on Tuesday, April 21st at 6 pm and New Milford on Thursday, April 23rd at 6 pm. Go Wildcats!

Wildcat Baseball advanced to 5-1 with wins over Pomperaug and Stratford this week. Good luck Monday at home 4 pm against Weston!

Boys Tennis is 3-1 and have home matches on Monday April 20th and Friday April 24th at 3:45pm. Girls Tennis is 3-2 and has a home match Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:45 pm.

Bethel Softball is 3-3 with a win over Stratford and a loss to Pomperaug this week. They are home against Weston on Monday, April 20th and they take on Bunnell at home on Wednesday, April 22nd. Both games are 4 pm.

A shoutout to our Bethel 911 dispatchers for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week! This amazing group of people behind the calls act quickly to gather critical information when every second counts to understand the nature of emergencies and safety risks, and they simultaneously dispatch police, fire, and EMS units. Thank you for all you do to keep our community safe!

A shoutout for the big save on Rector Street last night by [Bethel Fire & EMS](#) and [Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Company](#), as well as mutual aid responders. The fire was contained to the room of origin and there were no injuries!

Have a great weekend!

