

Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

April 3rd, 2026



Town Meeting

Anyone wondering why the April 21st date published in the Friday Update for the machine vote on our budget is a "likely date?" With Bethel having a Town Meeting form of government, the Town Meeting is the primary legislative body of Bethel and is made up of all registered voters in Bethel. In addition to the Budget, the Town Meeting has to vote on the referendum date at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 7th at 7 pm. Thanks to the charter changes approved by voters last November, the places and times of our referendum set in our charter and this meeting is the final step before the budget goes to a machine vote. The budget is available HERE. See you Tuesday!

Elevator Update

Public Works has reviewed replacement options for the elevator at the Bethel Public Library and the front elevator in Town Hall and should be releasing a Request for Proposal soon. We will attempt to have as little disruption to the library and Town Hall operations as possible. We are planning to replace the elevator in the library first.

BOS Meeting Cancelled

The Board of Selectmen has cancelled the regular meeting for next Tuesday since the entire town will obviously be at the Town Meeting. We are working on having a special meeting later in the week. You can find meeting agendas and minutes at <https://bethel-ct.gov/meetings> for the Board of Selectmen and other meetings.

New Superintendent

The Bethel Board of Education appointed Dr. Albert N.L. Sackey as superintendent during a special meeting this week! Sackey will officially start on July 1st. While Dr. Sackey has big shoes to fill with Dr. Carver retiring, he has a ton of experience and made it through a rigorous selection process! Congratulations Dr. Sackey!

P&Z Special Meeting

Planning and Zoning will hold a special meeting next Wednesday, April 8th to discuss changes to Zoning Regulations related to Public Act 25-1 (aka HB 8002) passed by the legislature last November in a special session. The law, which none of the Bethel delegation of Representatives and Senators supported, will require, among other things, for Bethel to create a process that allows mixed use residential developments on commercial lots by "summary review," which means there is no discretionary process, such as a special permit, variance, a zoning amendment or a hearing. There are similar requirements for parking.

Off The Streets

Off The Streets provides essential support to neighbors who have recently moved off the streets and into permanent housing by offering security deposits, furniture, household items, welcome baskets, and more. They have a donation drop off tomorrow, April 4th between 10 am and 12 pm at South Street Storage in Danbury. CLICK HERE for information on acceptable donations. Remember, if it's not on the list, they can't take it! Please text Mike at 203 249 3586 if you would like more information.

Brotherhood In Action Food Delivery

Help some our neighbors have a better holiday! Brotherhood in Action is making food deliveries tomorrow, April 4th starting at 9 am. Grab your morning coffee and head over to the lot behind the United Methodist Church, entering from the driveway between 137 and 139 Greenwood Ave. (Across from Jacqueline's) Volunteers will load your car and give you instructions. Show up or let them know you are coming at <https://www.bethelbrotherhoodinaction.org/>.

HatTricks for Post Prom

Check out the Danbury HatTricks Ice Hockey game tomorrow, April 4th at 7pm. Visit <https://www.danburyhattricks.com/> and use the code "BHSPROM" for a discount. Tickets support the senior class post prom!

Holy Week and Easter Services

Regardless of your faith, all of our places of worship in Bethel offer an opportunity to be part of a community, especially for those who might be feeling disconnected during a holiday. Check out services in Bethel below. Of course, Happy Passover to all who are celebrating!

Luso-Brasileira SDA Church: Last Supper Service tonight, April 3rd at 7:30 pm. Easter Service tomorrow, April 4th at 9 am. Services are in Portuguese with translation available.

Walnut Hill Community Church: Easter Service: Tomorrow, April 4th at 3 pm and Sunday April 5th at 8:30 am, 9 am and 11 am.

St. Mary's: Vigil Mass at 8 pm tomorrow, April 4th, Sunrise Mass at 5:45 am on Sunday, April 5th at Blue Jay Orchard, and "Regular" Easter Masses on Sunday at 7 am, 8:30 am, and 11 am

First Congregational Church of Bethel, UCC: Sunrise Service Sunday, April 5th at Putnam Park Pond at 6:30 am and Easter Sunday Service 10 am.

Bethel United Methodist Church: Easter Service on Sunday, April 5th at 9:30 am

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church: Easter Service on Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 am.

Our Lady of Aparecida Parish: Holy Mass on Sunday, April 5th at 7:30 am (Brazilian Portuguese), 9:30 am (Brazilian Portuguese), 11:30 am (English), and 6 pm (Brazilian Portuguese).

USS Hunley

Did you know that submarines were used during the American Civil War? Check out the Bethel Public Library's next "Celebrating 250 program" on Monday, April 6th at 6:30 pm and learn about the CSS Hunley, the very first submarine to sink a ship in combat, and the 140-year search to recover it! Thank you, Friends of the Bethel Public Library, for this amazing program! Learn more and register at

<https://www.bethellibrary.org/celebrating250/>

Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Don't miss the Hazardous Waste Dropoff next Saturday, 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.

Shoutouts

A huge shoutout to the performers and crew of this year's Bethel Jazz Fest at BHS! The performance was fantastic!

Congratulations to Isabella Valenti and Annabelle Grace McPartland, our 2026 CAS Arts Award winners! The Connecticut High School Outstanding Arts Awards honors two seniors from each Connecticut Association of Schools member school who excel in the performing or visual arts and possess qualities of scholarship and leadership.

Another well deserved shoutout for Victor Oloke, a senior captain. for being named a 2025-26 All State in Boys Basketball!

Congratulations Braydon Capone, Riley Lambert, and Max Salvestrini for the top 4 finish in the state in the Connecticut Personal Finance Challenge!

Good luck Wildcats in home openers tomorrow! Bethel baseball takes on against Masuk and boys lacrosse take on Stamford. Boys Baseball: 11 am, JV Lax: 11 am, and Varsity Lax: 1 pm.

Have a great weekend!

