

# Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

March 13th, 2026



## Budget Update

The Board of Finance has considered the recommendations by the Board of Selectmen and prepared a general town budget that sets the Town Operating Budget and the Board of Education Budget. The recommendation by the BOF to the residents is a total Town Operating Budget of \$40,475,162, which represents an increase of \$1,369,007 (3.5%) over last year. The BOF is recommending a Board of Education budget of \$62,112,295, an increase of \$5,003,813 (6.40%). Based on the recommended budget and estimated revenue projections, our estimated mill rate will be 31.71, a 4.2% increase over the current mill rate of 30.41.

The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on the budget on March 24th at 7pm in the Bethel High School auditorium. This is the opportunity to understand what drives the changes in the budget. After the hearing, the BOF will consider any final changes and the budget will go before the residents at the Town Meeting on April 7th. See the budget details at <https://bethel-ct.gov/>. (Select the FY 27 Budget tile in the middle of the page.)

## Wells Fargo Purchase

We are pleased to announce that the Town has officially entered into a contract to purchase the former Wells Fargo building on Greenwood Ave. This landmark acquisition is a strategic investment in our future, intended to provide options for future expansion opportunities for the town and library and also much needed parking. The Board of Selectmen will begin the conversation regarding the intended use of the building and what the process for that decision might look like at the regular meeting next Tuesday, March 17th at 7pm in Meeting Room A at Town Hall. If you have thoughts on the subject, there is public comment at the beginning of the meeting or email [firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov).

## Spring Flyer

The Bethel Parks and Recreation Spring Flyer has been released! There are a ton of great programs available. Registration began yesterday, March 12th! Check it out at <https://bethelct.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

## Winter Guard

Last call for the Bethel Winter Guard Annual Friends and Family event this Sunday, March 15th. Doors open at 2 pm and teams begin performing their award-winning shows at 2:30 pm. Juniors present "Dust and Denim," JV presents "The Lovely Ladies," and Varsity brings us "Madness." This is a great way to support months of hard work and admission is Free! Of course, donations are appreciated, especially since costs are a bit higher for this year's event. Visit <https://bethelwinterguardct.com/> for more info. Use the Zeffy link to contribute. Remember, "no one sits on the bench!"

## Office Hours

The next Office Hours are Wednesday, March 18th from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. Stop by the First Selectman office in the lobby of Town Hall with questions, concerns, or just to say hello. Of course, appointments are available by emailing [firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov](mailto:firstselectman@bethel-ct.gov) or calling 203-794-8540.

## Bethel Toastmasters

Bethel Toastmasters is hosting a free open house on Monday, March 16th at the Bethel Public Library from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Guests will observe live speeches, hear feedback from experienced speakers, and learn how Toastmasters helps people communicate more clearly and confidently in professional and personal settings. The evening will feature keynote speaker Thomas Farrelly, a two-time Distinguished Toastmaster with more than a decade of Toastmasters leadership experience. Door prizes and light refreshments will be provided. Learn more and register at <https://betheltoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

## Pasta Dinner

Join the Knights of Columbus for a Lenten Pasta Dinner on Friday, March 20th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at St. Mary School in the Gym, where we help you create your own "all-you-can-eat" pasta plate, choosing from a few different pastas and sauces and toppings. Comes with salad, bread and dessert.

## Penguin Plunge

It's that time of year where the Bethel UNIFIED Wildcats are "FREEZIN' For a REASON" in support of Special Olympics Connecticut! This year's annual Penguin Plunge takes place at Brookfield Town Beach (460 Candlewood Lake Rd. Brookfield) on Saturday, March 21st. Registration from 10 am to 11:15 am and plunge at 11:30 am. Of course, those who would like to support the cause and our Bethel UNIFIED team and remain warm and dry should check out <https://give.soct.org/team/801648>. United Methodist Church at 141 Greenwood Ave. is hosting a 50's Sock Hop on Saturday, March 21st from 7pm to 9 pm. What a great opportunity for the community to come together for a fun-filled evening of dance, games, treats and prize opportunities in a lively sock hop vibe. DJ, milkshakes, snacks. \$15 at the door; additional \$5 for a dance lesson at 6:30 pm!

## BPL Mini Golf

Bethel Public Library Board of Directors invites you to "Beer, Wine and Mini Golf 'fore' the Library" fundraiser on Friday, March 27th from 6 pm to 9 pm. Adults ages 21 and over will enjoy beer, wine, and food from local restaurants and businesses while playing a round of mini golf. On Saturday, March 28th all ages are invited to play 18 holes. Tickets are now on sale. Check out [www.bethellibrary.org/minigolf/](http://www.bethellibrary.org/minigolf/) for all the details, sponsors, and tickets!

## Chicago

Don't forget the Bethel High School presentation of Chicago: Teen Edition on March 20th and 21st at 7 pm and March 22nd at 2 pm. Expect surprise guests and a fantastic show! Visit <https://www.bhstheaterboosters.com/> for tickets and information!

## Shoutouts

Congrats Bethel Softball Association, along with BHS Varsity Softball Team players and coaches, who hosted a clinic with over 40 youth players at Danbury Sports Dome! Thank you to Caraluzzi's for sponsoring this wonderful event! Miss sign-up for this Spring? It's not too late, hurry on over to: [www.bethelctsoftball.com](http://www.bethelctsoftball.com).

Congrats to the BHS Debate Team for strong showing in the Farmington tournament! The varsity team of Radha Sinha and Trisha Sharma placed 3rd overall and went undefeated! They also qualified for the State Championships! Avni Shah and Peter Gardella came in 8th, Aidan Badia and Seamus Knauff placed 12th, and Max Salvestrini and Shravya Mankala placed 15th. As individual speakers, Aidan placed 7th, Peter was 12th, Joey Corigliano placed 13th, Seamus was 14th, Trisha was 16th, and Radha was 19th. In the Novice division, Arnab Karmokar and Pranav Ramanathan placed 20th. Bethel will be hosting the State Championship on March 28th.

Congrats to our Athlete of the Week Drew Luchsinger with the BBDI IceCats! Drew scored the winning goal in overtime of the SWC Championship game.

Congratulations to Elliot Hellmann on scoring 1000PTs during his BHS career!

Since last Friday, the Wildcat boys basketball team had two major wins over Simsbury and St. Joe's! Good luck away tonight against North Haven!

A huge congrats to Bethel High School's 2026 Pillar of the Year, Master Sergeant Meehan! Oorah! Congrats Mr. El Moustakim, Bethel High School's 2026 teacher of the year! Way to go!

**Have a great weekend!**

