

Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

March 20th, 2026



Budget Hearing

The Board of Finance (BOF) will hold a public hearing on the 2026-2027 budget next Tuesday, March 24th at 7pm in the Bethel High School auditorium. After the hearing, the BOF will consider any final changes and the budget will go before the residents at the Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 7th and a referendum tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st. See the budget details at <https://bethel-ct.gov/>. (Select the FY 27 Budget tile in the middle of the page.)

Protect Your Internet

The Connecticut Intelligence Center keeps us informed of some of the threats that could affect our community. They provided an interesting Public Safety from the FBI this week. Imagine someone using your home internet to commit crimes. Use the link to learn more about residential proxies, the risks they pose, and steps you can take to safeguard your devices: <https://www.ic3.gov/PSA/2026/PSA260312>

Affordable Housing Bill

House Bill 5502 is moving forward in Hartford. The bill will move the town's deadline from July 2026 to January 2027 to create a process to allow transit-oriented middle housing or mixed-use development on commercially zoned lots through a summary review process that would not allow public hearings, which will limiting local zoning discretion. It will also expand the requirement to industrial lots within 1,000 feet of our train station and industrial properties previously zoned for residential use. Learn more and check out the public hearing testimony [HERE](#)

P&Z Hearing

On Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 pm at Town Hall in Conference Room D, the Planning & Zoning Commission will continue a public hearing for a text amendment change to add pet daycare and boarding to the RT6 zone in Stony Hill and begin a hearing that was tabled for 23 PT Barnum Sq. (Special permit and site plan).

Chris Herren Returns to Bethel

BHS and the Town of Bethel is hosting a community night with Chris Herren on Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Bethel High School Auditorium. In this very personal presentation, Chris will share his recovery journey in a brutally honest format with just a microphone. The event will start with a 5-minute film introducing Herren and showing highlights of his basketball career and his dream to play in the NBA which began to unravel by making a few bad decisions. From growing up in Fall River, MA to playing Division 1 basketball and in the NBA, he will take the audience on his journey from addiction to sobriety. Additionally, he will relate his story to the audience addressing themes of gateway drugs, prescription drug use, vaping and the responsibility of prevention starting with us all. To conclude the event Chris will field questions from the audience. If you would like to attend this free presentation, please preregister with the Google link below. This is an incredible opportunity. Don't miss it! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUavb411uZEKaaHIYWxCdejxopT5w7b7vvWSvjK9leIMs9Fg/viewform?usp=header>

Bethel Chamber Axe Throwing

Join the Bethel Chamber of Commerce for a "Network, Play, and Connect" event on Wednesday, March 25th from 4 pm to 7 pm at The Cave in Stony Hill. Enjoy Mini golf, laser tag, ax throwing, and Bowling! Tickets are \$12.00 and Chamber members are free. For tickets visit: <https://bethelchamberofcommerce.com/event/the-cave-networking-event>

Companion Planting Program

Join the Bethel Library and Bethel Garden Club on Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. for the Companion Planting Program with Master Gardener Karen Brown. To register and for more information go to <https://bethellibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/companion-planting/>

Sell Your Gold

Bethel United Methodist Church is hosting a "Sell Your Old Gold Fundraiser." Look through your jewelry boxes for broken gold chains, bracelets, single earrings, old school rings, non-working watches, platinum, sterling silver jewelry, flatware and hollowware. Bob, the "Gold Man," will buy your old gold and hand you a check. Call 203-743-6835 to schedule a private and secure appointment at the Bethel United Methodist Church on March 27th, 28th, or 29th from 10 am to 4 pm.

BPL Mini Golf

Don't forget the Bethel Public Library will close at 2 pm next Friday, March 27th to set up for their "Beer, Wine and Mini Golf 'fore' the Library" fundraiser. The event takes place 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 from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets are now on sale. Check out www.bethellibrary.org/minigolf/ for all the details, sponsors, and tickets!

No Kings Event

There will be a "No Kings" event on the Town Hall lawn next Saturday, March 28th from 11 am to 12:45 pm. We ask that event attendees please use the Bethel Train Station at 13 Durant to the max extent possible and use lot behind Town Hall for attendees that may have a harder time walking. Note that the Library Board coordinated with the event organizers to reserve the parking at the Bethel Public Library will for families attending the Mini Golf fundraiser for the library.

Scotty Fund Dueling Piano Night

Join the SCOTTY Fund to kick-off 30 years of hope and giving at The SCOTTY Fund Dueling Piano Night on Saturday, March 28 from 7 pm to 11 pm at the Summit in Danbury. A casual, super fun evening featuring great music and great friends to benefit a great cause! Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Desserts will be served. Cash bar. <https://cbo.io/sfpiano26/tix>

Our First Spring Weekend

Chicago: Teen Edition tonight, March 20th, tomorrow, March 21st at 7 pm and Sunday, March 22nd at 2 pm. Expect a fantastic show with a few special guests! Visit <https://www.bhstheaterboosters.com/> for tickets and information!

In celebration of the Spring Equinox, check out the Drum Circle tomorrow from 3 pm to 4:30 pm at the Bethel Municipal Center.

United Methodist Church. is hosting a 50's Sock Hop tomorrow from 7pm to 9 pm. \$15 at the door; additional \$5 for a dance lesson at 6:30 pm!

St. Thomas' Chicken/Egplant Parm dinner tomorrow from 5 pm to 7 pm. Eat-in and take-out option. Reservations close **today**, so please visit <https://www.stthomasbethel.org/Dinner>.

Shoutouts

Congrats Sam Salvestrini from Scout Troop 54! Sam earned his Eagle Scout rank this week! Sam's leadership and community service has earned him a recognition that only 4% of all Scouts have earned since 1911. Great job Sam, and all the Bethel Eagle Scouts!

Each year the Bethel Public Schools honor individuals who have significantly impacted our schools and programs. A huge shoutout to the 2026 CHAMP award recipient, Lt. Matt Zavatsky from the Bethel PD! This is well deserved!

A shoutout to Ayla Kamen, a 5th grader at RMT Johnson, Bethel's winner of the annual Fire Prevention Poster contest! Thanks for helping Bethel families to be more aware of the dangers from fire and the steps we can take to protect our community!

Congrats to Kevin Ly for placing 28th Nike Indoor Nationals with a long jump of 21' and for an amazing showing by Adrian Vasquez in the New Balance Indoor Track Nationals in Boston!

A huge shoutout to the Bethel Winter Guard for their amazing Friends and Family Night! The hard work and dedication really made you shine!

To the award-winning BHS NJROTC, your Military Ball was one of the best EVER! Congrats on artfully navigating the last-minute changes!

Have a great weekend!

