

Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

March 6th, 2026



Budget Update

Budget recommendations and comments from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) will be presented to the Board of Finance next Tuesday, March 10th at 7 pm in Meeting Room A at Town Hall. The BOS recommends that the Board of Finance reduce the town request from a 5.11% increase to a 3.5% increase and reduce the Board of Ed budget from a 7.14% increase to 6.23%. The recommendations would reduce the total budget increase from 6.33% (an estimated mill rate increase of 5.54% to 32.10) to 5.13% (an estimated mill rate increase of 4.15% to 31.67). To follow the budget process and updates to the budget, visit <https://bethel-ct.gov/depts-finance> and select the "Budget" link. The BOF will hold a public hearing on the budget on March 24th at 7pm in the Bethel High School auditorium. Send budget comments to: budget@bethel-ct.gov. For comments to be available to the BOF at a meeting, they must be received by 4 pm of the day of the meeting.

Any discussion about the mill rate currently relies on existing revenue estimates. The Board of Finance sets the mill rate after the budget is approved by referendum. To understand the impact of the proposed budget on your real estate taxes, find your home's net assessment on your 2025 Real Estate Tax bill. Divide the assessment by 1000 and multiply by the current mill rate of 30.41. Do the same for a projected mill rate and calculate the difference.

Elevators

Public Works is working as quickly as possible to replace the elevator in the at the Bethel Public Library. We have reached a point where the repairs are costly and will not guarantee the elevator will be reliable. We have similar issues with the elevator in Town Hall that provides access to the Probate Court, which will also be replaced. Stay tuned for updates.

Drought

Attention Aquarion Water Customers: With piles of snow still around town, it may not seem believable that we have had more than 13 inches less rainfall than last year and we are actually in drought conditions. Aquarion is asking Bethel customers to voluntarily conserve water. We are routinely communicating with Aquarion to monitor the situation.

Off The Streets

Off The Streets is a great organization that helps local homeless residents transition into a home or apartment. Start your spring cleaning early and stop by the OTS Donation Drop Off tomorrow, March 7th from 10 am to 12 pm at the [South Street Storage](#) in Danbury. Please check out what they accept [HERE](#). Note that OTS usually has a drop-off event the first Saturday of each month.

Corned Beef Dinner

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the First Congregational Church Drive-By Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 14th. Dinner includes corned beef, Irish style potatoes, cabbage, root vegetables, a wedge of soda bread, and a signature dessert! Dinner is available for pickup between 4 pm and 5 pm, or sit down the church's Fellowship Hall (lower level) between 5:30 and 7 pm. Dinners must be ordered by Thursday, March 12th. Dinners are \$25 each, and you can request tickets for purchase by calling the church office at 203-743-1877.

Winter Guard Show

The Bethel Winter Guard is hosting its annual Friends and Family event on 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!"

Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Mark your calendars for another spring cleaning opportunity on Saturday, April 11th from 9 am to 2 pm at Danbury Public works for the first HRRRA Hazardous Waste Drop-Off of 2026! If you miss it, don't panic. 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.

Chicago

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

Shoutouts

A shoutout to our Voter Registrars who conducted voter registration with the Bethel High School Seniors today, and to the fifty-eight new voters who registered online using their smart phones or Chromebooks during the 30 minute period! Visit <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/> if you would like to register to vote!

Congrats to our boys and girls Indoor Track All SWC winners! 1st Team Girls: Roisin Spellmen, Sofia Allen, Amina, Macchiarulo, and Delaney Grace. 1st Team Boys: Seamus Knauff, George Habshey, Kevin Ly, Vincent Tan, Cameron Duncan, Christopher Troetti, Caiden D'Alessandro, Miguel Desouza, and Adrian Vasquez. 2nd Team Girls: Hana Yuen and Aziza Macchiarulo. 2nd Team Boys: Calum Binder, Christian Dubois, and Riley Lambert. Way to go Wildcats!

Good luck to our girls and boys basketball teams in the state playoffs tomorrow, March 6th at BHS! Our Lady Wildcats are ranked #13 and take on 20th ranked Farmington at 4pm. Our Wildcat Boys are #10 and take on #23 Simsbury at 6pm.

Victor Oloke, senior captain of the boys basketball team, has been selected to the 2025-2026 All Conference team. Way to go Victor!

A huge shoutout to our Director of Economic Development and the Economic Development Commission for the newly released video that markets our amazing community. Check out [Bethe!, CT. Positioned for Growth. Powered by Community.](#)

As this Friday Update is sent out, the BBDI IceCats have just won the SWC Championship against Masuk in overtime! Rest up boys and good luck in the State Championships starting on Monday! Go IceCats!

Have a great weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan". The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'D' and a cursive 'an'.