

# Dear Bethel

First Selectman's Update

May 17th, 2024



## Durant and Wooster Sidewalks

The Connecticut Department of Transportation authorized Bethel to award a bid from our Community Connectivity Grant for improvements to sidewalks on Durant Avenue and Wooster Street. Stay tuned for more information once we have a schedule from the contractor.

## Bethel Seniors

Thank you to the Bethel Senior Center for hosting a coffee with our seniors! Their concerns included roads, development in Bethel, parking, traffic, outdoor burning, and taxes. #1 issue – making town affordable for seniors.

## Correspondence Box

Please do not forget we have a Correspondence Box in front of the main entrance to Town Hall. If you need to drop off something after hours, just make sure you include the department on the envelope!

## Office Hours

The next Office Hours is on Wednesday, May 22nd from 5 pm to 6 pm at the Town Hall in the First Selectman office.

## Conservation and Development

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management released the draft of the 2025-2030 CT Conservation and Development Policies Plan and they are accepting public comment through June 30th. Learn more at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/7ce949e7bd341c689f2cee82d34f3f8>

## St. Mary School Carnival

Come down to the Town Hall green for the Saint Mary School Carnival. Enjoy food, rides and more! Tonight 6 pm to 10 pm, tomorrow 4 pm to 10 pm, and Sunday 4 pm to 7 pm.

## Garden Club Plant Sale

Many of the beautiful plants and flowers around town owned properties are maintained by the Bethel Garden Club. Tomorrow, May 18th is our opportunity to support them! Stop by their Plant Sale between 9 am and 1 pm in the lot behind the United Methodist Church. You will find locally grown perennials, organic tomato plants, Master Gardener advice, garden decor, raffle prizes, and more.

## Bethel Walk Audit

Don't forget the Sustainable Bethel for the Bethel Walk Audit tomorrow, May 18th at the intersection of Stony Hill Rd and Old Hawleyville Rd. at 1 pm. You will help document and capture the experiences of pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation riders to find and recommend to the town more sustainable transit-oriented development options.

## DAWS Kitten Shower

Visit the Kitten Shower in front of the Toy Room to Benefit the Danbury Animal Welfare Society tomorrow, May 18th from 11 am to 2 pm. Raffles, kittens, and more!

## Live Music in Bethel

It is the season for live music in Bethel: Notch 8 – Beatnicks on May 17th at 8pm and Bluseyland on May 18th at 8 pm. Putnam House – Jam on May 17th. Shakedown Street Eats - Don Lowe on May 17th at 6:30 pm and Comet & Crown on May 18th at 6:30 pm. Don't miss our own Cynthia McCorkindale and her All-Star Quartet at LaZingara on Wednesday, May 22nd at 7 pm. Visit Visit the Kitten Shower in front of the Toy Room to Benefit the Danbury Animal Welfare Society tomorrow, May 18th from 11 am to 2 pm. Raffles, kittens, and more! for tickets.

## Memorial Day

It's our tradition in Bethel to celebrate Memorial Day on the Sunday a week prior to Memorial Day. Our celebration kicks off on Sunday, May 19th with a veteran's breakfast from 8 am to 10 am hosted by our American Legion Post 100 at 7 Elizabeth St. Bethel veterans are welcome!

Join the American Legion at 12 pm for a wreath laying at the Bethel World War I Monument, aka the Doughboy, on PT Barnum Square. Erected May 30th, 1928, The Spirit of the American Doughboy is a pressed bronze alloy sculpture by E. M. Viquesney, designed to honor the veterans and casualties of World War I. Mass-produced during the 1920s and 1930s, our Doughboy is one of only two known Doughboy statues in Connecticut.

Proceed to Center Cemetery on South Street and lay a wreath at the Solders' Monument. Dedicated on May, 30th 1892, the monument commemorates "the deeds of our men on land and sea" during the Civil War. The 14' stone monument "bears the names of thirteen men whose graves, so far as known, are unmarked, who were buried in the trench, in prison yards, or without camp."

Join our first responders for Memorial Day observances: Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Company, 59 Stony Hill Rd., at 11 am. The Bethel Police Department, 12 Judd Ave., at 12 pm. The Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, 36 South St., at 1 pm.

The Bethel Memorial Day parade steps off at 2 pm in front of Whitlock's Restaurant and heads east on Greenwood, turning left (north) at PT Barnum Sq., left (west) on School Street, and end in front of the town hall.

There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the Bethel Veterans Monument in front of town hall. The Bethel Veterans Monument was dedicated on May 21st, 2000 "to the brave men and women of the town of Bethel who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully served their country."

## Shoutouts

Congrats Alicia Ali and Kratos Gymnastics in Bethel! 2 years into gymnastics, this 6-year-old has rocked the USA Gymnastics Developmental Program with multiple gold medals, including 4 in the Connecticut State Championships. Way to go Alicia!

A shout out to our Bethel Community Partnership Program students who worked with the Bethel Garden Club to beautify our Blue Star Memorial by the Sycamore!

Congrats to our CABE Student Leadership Award winners who were recognized for their leadership achievement and potential. From Bethel High School: Sophia Ochs and Vincent Greto. From Bethel Middle School: Lizzy Cullinan and Trisha Sharma. Great job!

**Town offices are open on May 20th.**

**Offices are closed on May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.**

**Have a great weekend!**

