



Town of Bethel,
Connecticut

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center - 1 School Street—
Bethel, CT 06801

January 2012 Newsletter

WELCOME TO BETHEL'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 1

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

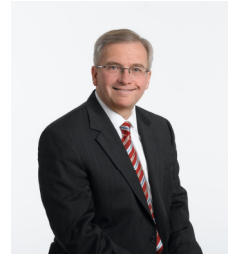
I am very pleased to announce a new service for all Bethel residents. Beginning Wednesday, January 4th, a mobile health care van will begin visiting Bethel, and will park by the back entrances to the Senior and Teen Centers beginning at 9:30am until noon.

The van will be fully equipped to handle all routine medical needs. Advance appointments are not necessary, but follow up appointments may be scheduled as needed. The program will accept all patients as well as most health care insurance plans, without regard to employment status. Those without insurance will be charged on a sliding scale according to income.

The health van is provided by the Greater Danbury Community Health Center and is funded by a grant from the Federal Government.

For more information, contact Mary Pina at CIFIC Community Health Center of Greater Danbury. She can be reached at 203-743-0100, ext. 342, or via email at PinaM@CT-Institute.Org.

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman*



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First Selectman

MUNICIPAL CENTER HOURS

*The hours of the
CJH Municipal Center are
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

*Town website is:
www.bethelct.org*

Municipal Center

*Will be **closed***

MONDAY, 1/16

*In honor of
Martin Luther King Jr.'s
Birthday*

2012 Reservoir Permits now available

Bethel residents can now stop by the First Selectman's Office to get the 2012 fishing permits for

Chestnut Ridge and Eureka (part of Tarrywile Park)
You must show a valid fishing permit and a photo id



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at wendy@betheltownhall.org or call 203-794-8501



**Town of Bethel,
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TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station is located off Route 53 on Sympaug Road. The hours of operation are as follows:
 Tuesday—Thursday –Friday—Saturday open 7:00 am to 12:00 pm then 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm # 203-778-7436. The price of the **annual permit is \$50.00 each vehicle**. You can purchase the permit from the Town Clerk’s office, Bethel Municipal Center, 1 School Street.
 Effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Annual Permit Fee \$50.00 per vehicle / 2nd car rate for vehicle in same household /same address \$10.00 fee

ITEMS	FEEES
Solid Waste Disposal	\$0.20 per lb.
Recyclable Materials	No Charge

BULKY WASTE	FEEES
Tables, Chairs, End Tables, Lamps, Bed Frames, Headboards and Other Small Miscellaneous Items considered small bulk waste	\$ 0.20 per lb.
Mattress and Box Spring twin \$10 Each Double \$15.00 each Queen \$ 20.00 each King \$ 25.00 each Sleeper sofa \$25.00	\$15 Each
Floor Model Television and Stereos	\$25 Each
Couches (All Sizes), Desks and Dressers, Etc...	\$25 Each

SCRAP METAL	FEEES
Loose Scrap Metal	\$0.20 per lb.
Lawn Mowers	\$10Each
Lawn Tractors and Other Large Metal Objects	\$ 20Each
Other large scrap metal	\$20.00

APPLIANCES	FEEES
Household Appliances without CFC’s (Freon)	\$20
Household Appliances with CFC’s (Freon)	\$30

ORGANIC MATERIALS	FEEES
Leaves by Carload	No Charge
Trees and Brush Material by Carload	\$ 10 per car
ALL ORGANIC MATERIAL in Standard Pickup Truck-filled To Tops of Bed Sides	\$35 per truck
ALL ORGANIC MATERIAL Delivered in Modified Pickup- Additional Sideboards or Filled Above the Standard Bed Height (This Includes Homeowner Trailers)	\$50 per truck

****NO CONSTRUCTION or DEMOLITION MATERIAL WILL BE ACCEPTED****

FREE TABLE ITEMS

Items on the free table are free to take, NOT LEAVE, to leave an item see fee schedule

E-WASTE MATERIALS FREE

Key pads-cell phones-stereos-printers-flashlights-computer monitors

Additional information about E-Waste can be found WWW.BethelCT.org under Departments go to Public Works then Transfer station

- Seniors who are **ELIGIBLE** to receive benefits under the Town program, permit rate is \$40.00, otherwise there is no Senior Discount
- There is **no charge to recycle**, however; *an Annual Permit is necessary*.



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MUNICIPAL CENTER FARMER'S MARKET

The MCFM Committee would like to thank everyone who participated as a vendor and as a consumer, in the first season of our Farmer's Market. Look for the next season to start at the end of June 2012, with more vendors and entertainment. If you are interested in having a space in the Market or know of someone who would be interested, email us at farmersmarket@betheltownhall.org

Highway Department



Public Works Department

Town Engineer /Public Works
Director
Andrew Morosky
203-794-8549

Please note that work is still going on at the Walnut Hill Road and Weed Road bridge. Take caution when driving, Walnut Hill Road is still closed in that area.

Reminder, the leaf program has ended for the year 2011.

Winter has arrived, please be careful driving during bad weather, as the Town trucks will be out clearing roads.

Emergency Alert System

www.bethelct.org/preparedness/preparedness.html

Sign up for Bethel's **new and improved** Emergency Alert System to be notified of important local emergency messages and alerts. If you previously signed up or faxed your information, you must input your information again. Go to the address above to sign up.



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BETHEL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Body by Bethel—A new program for the spring will begin on January 17th and registration is open. BHD is sponsoring a free 12 week exercise program for Bethel residents at the Bethel Municipal Center Gym starting Tuesday, January 17th. The fitness program meets 2 evenings per week Tuesday / Thursday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm. Class size is limited. *Medical approval and health insurance are required.*

Contact BHD at #203-794-8539 between 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm for information or to obtain an application before January 13, 2012.



SOCIAL SERVICES

Bethel Homeowners Tax Relief Application

The dates for filling an application for the Bethel Homeowners Tax Relief Program are from February 1 to May 15, 2012.

To qualify, you (or your spouse) must have either have reached age 65 by December 31, 2011 or be Social Security Disabled, and your household income must be \$48,000 or less. You must also have been a homeowner in Bethel prior to October 1, 2011.

If you would like to schedule an appointment to submit an application or if you have questions about the program please call John Sarver, Bethel Tax Benefit Coordinator, at (203) 794-8594.

If you are filing a Federal Income Tax return for calendar year 2011 you should not schedule your appointment until after your Federal Income Tax return is completed as you will need it for the application process.

REQUESTED ITEMS FOR THE BETHEL FOOD PANTRY

Cereal

Mayonnaise

Tuna

COOKING OIL

MAIN DISH SOUPS

CANNED PASTA

PAPER PRODUCTS

Pasta sauce

Toothbrushes

Hairbrushes

Shaving supplies

Denture cream

Boxed macaroni and cheese

DEODORANT

LAUNDRY SOAP

DISH DETERGENT

crackers

WATERPROOF WINTER GLOVES

ADULT UNDERWEAR AND SOX

Diapers in sz 2, 4, 5

Diaper wipes



Radon is Second Leading Cause of Lung Cancer in the U.S.

January is **NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH: *This means its time to test for radon and reduce levels, if necessary.***

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advise us that Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the U.S and is the second highest cause of lung cancer deaths after smoking.

For most Americans, their greatest exposure to radon is in their homes; especially in rooms that are below grade (basements), other rooms in contact with the ground, and those rooms immediately above them.

Per the EPA, nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have an elevated radon level which is 4 picocuries per Liter or more of air or pCi/L

Testing is recommended by the U.S. Surgeon General and the EPA and reducing levels confirmed to be 4 picocuries or higher.

There is no known safe level of exposure to radon so the EPA also recommends that Americans consider fixing their home for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

Based on a national residential radon survey in 1991, the average indoor radon level is about 1.3 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) in air in the U.S. The average outdoor level is 0.4pCi/L.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas generated from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil, rock, and water which enters homes through cracks and crevices in floors and walls that are in contact with the ground and private well water supplies. Radon can have a serious impact on the health of our families and friends. The natural venting of radon gas into the open air environment does not affect human health, but the gasses trapped in our homes increases our exposure to radon levels in areas we spend a majority of our time. Radon gas can infiltrate the groundwater flowing through ledge rock and disperse through plumbing in showers and faucets in our home from our private drilled well water supplies.

Testing your home for radon is simple and inexpensive to do. **Testing is the only way to know if Radon is in your home.** You can test yourself and/or hire a professional to do it for you.

Bethel Health Department (BHD) has a limited supply of radon test kits from the CT Department of Public Health for distribution to Bethel residents who commit to testing their homes for radon. These free kits are available on a first come first serve basis. Residents complete a simple form and agree to test during January 2012. Free radon educational material is also available for residents. Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware and /or retail home building supply stores for around \$15-\$25 or ordered on line from the National Radon Program Services for Kansas State University at <http://sosradon.org/test-kits> or Airchek, Inc., www.radon.com. Test kits can also be purchased from the American Lung Association of Northeast - phone No.: 203-800-LUNG USA or (860)289-5401 East Hartford, CT.

Follow the instructions that come with the test kit. If you're doing a short term test, close your windows and outside doors at least 12 hours before beginning the test and keep them closed as much as possible during the test. Heating and air conditioning system fans that re-circulate air may be operated. The small charcoal filled test kits are placed in the lowest frequently occupied level of the home for 2 to 3 days, packaged up, and returned to the company for analysis in postage paid envelopes. If people spend more than 3 hours per day in the basement, test in that location. If the basement is used only for laundry/storage, then the test should be deployed on the first floor. The results are generally available within a week. No action is required if the levels are less than 4 pCi/L. However, EPA recommends that Americans consider fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. A confirmation test should be done within 30 days in the same location if the test result is greater than 2 pCi/L. If the levels are higher than 4 pCi/L then remediation (lowering the level) can be considered. It is possible to remove 99% of radon gas trapped in the basement in many homes, simply by venting. Installation of a fan or other radon reduction (ventilation) system to reduce gas levels may cost as little as \$300 and up to \$1,000 to \$2,000 dollars. EPA's Consumer Guide to radon reduction is available online at www.epa.gov/radon/pubs.

The second, generally less critical, source of radon could be your private water supply if you rely upon a well drilled into bedrock. If you are served by public water supplies, routine testing by the regulated suppliers assures that radon levels are satisfactory. If you have a private well, testing of your water supply for radon can be done by most local private licensed water testing laboratories. Test kits available on line cost about \$25 and may not include return postage. The danger in water containing radon is not necessarily ingestion of the gas but breathing in the vapors during showering, at the clothes washing machine or from aerators at the kitchen and bathroom sink plumbing fixtures. There are ways to lower radon levels in drinking water supplies by aeration and re-pressurization. At the present time, there is no Federal Minimum Contamination Level (MCL) for radon in drinking water. Some New England States have provided guidance and recommended actions when radon in water levels exceed 4,000 pCi/L. That number is considerably higher than allowed compared to air radon levels because the EPA estimates that only 1-2% of radon is released from water. The CT Department of Public Health website (www.ct.gov/dph/radon) has a list of laboratories approved to analyze radon in water. Most of the labs sell water kits to residents.

To find out more about radon, you can visit:

EPA's web page: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf> and type in *A Citizen's Guide to Radon* in the search window. The 16 page document available is very informative on the subject of radon.

Radon Hotlines"

1-800-SOS-RADON (767-7236)*- Purchase radon test kits by phone

1-800-55RADON (557-2366)* - Get live help with radon questions

* Operated by the National Safety Council in partnership with EPA

Bethel Health Department 203-794-8539