

February 2012 Newsletter

WELCOME TO BETHEL'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 24, Issue 1

Congratulations and good luck to Dr. Gary Chesley

February 1st marks the first official day of retirement for Dr. Gary Chesley, Bethel's outgoing Superintendent of Schools. Gary and his wife Diane will be moving to their retirement home on Sanibel Island, Florida later this month. On behalf of the people of Bethel, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and best wishes to Gary and Diane as they transition to a new phase of their lives.

Dr. Chesley has led a remarkable turnaround in Bethel Public Schools over his fourteen-year career here in Bethel. Back in 1998, when Gary first interviewed for the job, our schools were facing some very serious and difficult challenges. He had to find a way to modernize the entire curriculum from top to bottom, address the accreditation of the high school, renovate two school buildings and bring daily maintenance up to par on the remaining three accelerate the process of building an outstanding staff and leadership team as teachers and administrators retired, just to name a few. To say he has done all this and more is somewhat of an understatement.

During Dr. Chesley's tenure we've seen many improvements in our schools, including the renovation of both Berry Elementary and Bethel High schools, expanded availability of Advanced Placement classes, creation of a nationally recognized music program and a nationally recognized, highly decorated Naval Jr. ROTC program, followed by a decade of steadily rising scores on virtually all performance measures. Today Bethel Schools are recognized as one of the top performing school districts in Connecticut.

While it is appropriate to thank Dr. Chesley for all he has done, we need to remember that with support from the community, his achievements became our achievements and directly benefitted our students. Our students are the product of what we as a community provide for them. All their future successes are Bethel successes.

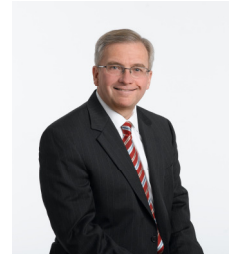
Perhaps one of Dr. Chesley's best achievements has been recruiting and developing talented school leaders to keep our schools moving forward and always improving, and I'm pleased to also congratulate **Dr. Kevin Smith** on his new position of Superintendent of Schools, and **Mr. Derek Muharem** on his appointment to the position of Principal of Bethel Middle School. The fact that both positions, Superintendent and Principal could be filled from within our own ranks speaks volumes about the talent Bethel has in its school leadership.

Congratulations to Dr. Chesley, Dr. Smith and Mr. Muharem, and best of luck!

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman*

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



Matthew S. Knickerbocker
First Selectman

MUNICIPAL CENTER HOURS

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

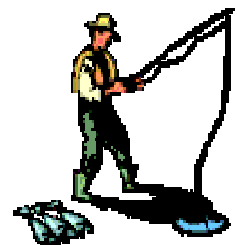
*Town website is:
www.bethelct.org*

Municipal Center

*Will be **closed***

MONDAY, 2/20

*In honor of
President's Day*





**Town of Bethel,
Connecticut**

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	FEES
Solid Waste Disposal	\$0.20 per lb.
Recyclable Materials	No Charge
BULKY WASTE	
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	
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	
Household Appliances without CFC’s (Freon)	\$20
Household Appliances with CFC’s (Freon)	\$30
ORGANIC MATERIALS	
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*.

Notice of a Public Workshop

Curb Cut Management Plan
For Routes 6, 53, 58 and 302
Bethel, Connecticut

The Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO), the Town of Bethel, and KWH Enterprise, LLC (Traffic Consultant) are preparing a Curb Cut Management Plan for Routes 6, 53, 58, and 302 in Bethel to ensure safe and efficient driveway access along these roadways.

The Public Workshop is designed to inform the public and to solicit feedback to the draft curb cut management plan. All are welcome to attend and participate at this workshop. The plan can be viewed on the Town website at

<http://www.bethelct.org>

Where: Stony Hill Fire Station, 59 Stony Hill Road
When: Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Time: 7:00-9:00PM



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 has stopped for the winter, on Walnut Hill Road and Weed Road it will start up again when the weather warms up. Stop signs have been put up on each side of the new bridge, so please take care when driving on Walnut Hill Road by Weed Road.

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 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.



**Town of Bethel,
Connecticut**

Registrar of Voters

The Registrar of Voters are in the process of completing the Annual Voter Canvass required by the State Statute. More than 4000 postcards were mailed to voters who failed to vote in the November Municipal election. They ask that anyone receiving a postcard return the postage paid form as soon as possible to the Registrar Office, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801

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





**Town of Bethel,
Connecticut**

BETHEL SENIOR CENTER



Friday, February 10, 12 pm Celebrate friendship and love with us this day at our annual Valentine's Party. We will then have a wonderful luncheon with dessert. This year we will be entertained by Chris Merwin. Chris is a very talented singer and musician. Cost is \$5. Please sign up in the office.

It's your Life, Live It Well – Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions –FREE Seminar – Starting Monday, March 26, 9-11:30 am. Kathy and Ana will conduct a six-week program on the self-management of chronic conditions such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and others. (Yes, they have been trained for it.) This course is limited to 10 people. Please give us a call and let us know if you are interested. It is open to anyone over 55 with ongoing health conditions or their caregivers. You will get the support you need, find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, understand new treatment choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health. **It will help you take charge of your life!**

Music From The Movies The show will be on June 8. We really need your special talents and all you shower singers to make this our best show.

Congratulations to our raffle winners.

1st place – quilt: Michael Thomas

2nd place – trees: Jensen DeRosier

3rd place – afghan: Bill Scollon

4th place – wreath: Janet Foss

AARP Driving Course will now be done in a one-day, four-hour course. We will be offering this class five times this year. Sign up in the office for one of the following:

April 10, 9 am to 1 pm

June 19, 9 am to 1 pm

August 14, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

October 16, 9 am to 1 pm

December 4, 9 am to 1 pm

Registration fee is \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members. Please bring your AARP card to the first day of class. Connecticut law states that you will receive at least a 5% discount on your car insurance after completing this class.

A **Visiting Nurse** will be at the Center, generally the second Friday of the month at 10:30 am for a **Blood Pressure Clinic**. The next clinic will be Friday, February 10.

ATTENTION

BETHEL PARK & RECREATION

The Park and Recreation flyer will be distributed to the schools this

week!!

Registration will be

Saturday, February 4th

from

9:00am-12:00pm

in the Municipal Center.

The flyer is currently online at www.bethelparksandrec.com

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Registration for Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Lacrosse and Women's Softball will take place on Wednesday, February 1st from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center G.P. Room. (Snow date is February 2nd). **DO NOT** fill out a Parks & Rec. registration form for these spring sports as they each have a special form of their own, available at registration.