

Happy New Year 2010!
Town of Bethel
January E-Mail Newsletter

Town Schedule

January 18th - Closed (Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday)

January Meeting Schedule

Town Board	2010 Re-organizational Meeting – January 6 th - 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Sr Center
Planning Board	January 12 th 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Senior Center
Zoning Board	January 25 th 7:30 p.m. at Justice Court
Youth Board	January 19 th 7:30 p.m. – Bethel Justice Court

Sullivan County Solid Waste User Fee

On the January 2010 Property Tax Bills for all of Sullivan County is a line item “Solid Waste User Fee”. The Fee is being charged to all of Sullivan County based on property classification (i.e., single family, multi-family, commercial, etc.). This is being collected by Sullivan County and is not a Town Tax. If you have any questions you can call the County Treasurer's Office at 845-807-0212 or your County Legislator's Office at 845-807-0435.

Sullivan County Solid Waste Report

See the link on the Sullivan County Website at www.co.sullivan.ny.us for their Solid Waste Report.

New Sullivan County Landfill and Transfer Station Hours and Fees

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with the new Sullivan County Landfill and Transfer Station Hours and Fees.

Please remember that the [Town of Bethel Transfer and Recycling Station](#) located at 636 Old White Turnpike is owned and operated by the Town of Bethel. There are no changes in our fees or policies at this time.

Message from Debra Gabriel, Bethel Tax Collector

Exciting news you can make installment payments again this year! If you choose to pay in installments, 50% of your bill must be paid by January 31st, with no interest. Then you can pay 25% of the bill in February with the 1% interest and 25% in March with the 2% interest. You must make the first payment of 50% by January 31st to be in the payment plan otherwise no partial payments will be accepted.

You can view and print your property tax bill information at this web page: www.taxlookup.net
The Property Tax Bills for 2010 will be sent out on January 4th. Everyone should receive a tax bill whether your have an escrow or not. Escrow Account Holders: This bill is for your records only; your bill has been forwarded to the bank electronically. You should contact your bank to be sure they received your tax bill, as it is your responsibility to be sure your Tax Bill is paid. Everyone will get a **pink receipt** whether they are escrow or not after their payment has cleared.

I can be reached at one of the following; phone number (845) 583-4740 ext. 18, fax number (845) 583 4710 and my e-mail betheltaxcollector@hvc.rr.com

Make checks payable to Debra Gabriel Bethel Tax Collector, please make sure you have made out your check for the correct amount, checks will be returned if incorrect.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 561, White Lake, NY 12786
Physical address: 3454 Route 55, White Lake, NY 12786

Taxes paid by January 31st will receive no interest. Tax bills paid in February will receive a 1% interest, March will receive a 2% interest. All bills must be paid by March 31, 2010 to avoid further penalty by the County. An additional \$2.00 penalty will be added on or before March 1st. All unpaid 2009 School tax bills will be added to the January 2010 Property Tax Bill.

You may be eligible for the **STAR school tax exemption** if your primary residence is the Town of Bethel. You have until March 1, to apply for exemptions. If you are turning 65 and qualify for STAR you must see the Assessor for the Enhanced Exemption. The STAR exemption is for school taxes only (bill comes out in September). For more information on exemptions contact the Assessor's Office at 583-4713 ext. 13 or 14.

If you have questions about your Assessment please contact the Assessor's Office. 845-583-4350 ext 14. Grievance Day is the 4th Tuesday of May. Contact the Assessor for further information. .

Family night swim for Town of Bethel residents only

Friday 1/22/10 - Villa Roma 7-9 pm. Transportation provided - leave Duggan School promptly at 6:30 No charge. Call Jannetta MacArthur @ 292-4025

Skiing Registration

\$25. for late registration at the Ski Hill. Registration form can be downloaded off the Town Website at www.town.bethel.ny.us under the recreation page. If you have any questions, or for cancellation information, please call Jannetta MacArthur @ 292-4025 or email @ jmacarthur1@hvc.rr.com

Skiing Dates are for Big Bear at Masthope:

January 9 th	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
January 23 rd	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
January 30 th	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
February 7 th	9:30 am - 4:00 pm
February 21 st	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Fees for Youth 21 and under:

Saturday evenings:

Rental	\$15.00
Lift	Free

Sundays afternoons:

Rental	\$16.00
Lift	Free

Fees for Adults over 21:

Saturday: Lift \$15.00 and Rental \$15.00

Sunday: Lift \$25.00 and Rental \$16.00

Dogs!!! What Should You Do???? What We Do!!!!

We love our pets!! But when it comes to finding them when they are lost you may not know what to do. First thing, call the Town Hall, Animal and Control Officer if you have lost or found a dog. If the dog has been picked up we may have it or some one may have found it. Call the radio stations for a free announcement. If you leave near the border of another Town we will attempt to call the Animal Control of that Town.

All dogs are required to have rabies at the age of four months and licenses in the Town you live in, this is State Law. When licensed you will receive a tag that is issued by the New York State Agriculture and Markets with a unique number that is registered and can be tracked by us on the Internet through a secure State website to find ownership if your dog is lost or found. Licenses are renewed yearly.

If your dog is picked up by Animal Control, by State Law we are only required to hold the dog for seven days. After the seven days your dog could be surrendered to the Humane Society for adoption or euthanasia, the unclaimed dog could also be adopted directly from the Town of Bethel pound. We go to strenuous lengths to find owners when animals are found, but if they are not licensed it is impossible! Please make our jobs easier and for the welfare of your animal, license your dog!

Bethel-Smallwood Senior Club

Meetings are held 1st Wednesday monthly. Two play days a month. Open All Year. Dues are \$2.00 at January meeting. Nutrition site on every Monday, Wednesday exercise and Thursday art. Cancellations will be announced on radio station 102.1.

Here's What's Happening At Consumer and Financial Ed. Cornell Cooperative Extension of SC

“When Your Income Drops” - January 28th, at 12:00-3:00 at CCE – Unemployment isn't just a financial strain, it can affect the entire family. Minimize the stress of job loss with tips discussed in this workshop. Learn how to take action, so you don't feel so victimized. A light lunch will be provided. Presenters: Sean Welsh and Susan Dollard. This class is free and open to the public, but you must pre-register with Linda at 845-292-5250. There must be a minimum of 10 pre-registered participants for this class to be held.

Income Tax Season Is Quickly Approaching

We are an AARP tax preparation site, with a focus on senior citizens and low income families and individuals by appointment only. You may call Susan Dollard to set up an appointment at 845-292-5250

Buying a New or Used Car: Learn how to budget for and finance a car. The pros and cons of new vs. used, leasing vs. buying, APR vs. rebates are all discussed. Understand warranties and service contracts. An excellent class for anyone thinking about buying a car, especially for the first time.

Financial Education 101: This class will teach you how to establish a realistic budget, emergency fund and strategies for limiting your debt.

Consumer Smarts: Learn how to be a savvy consumer, how to protect yourself from scams and check your own credit. This class also covers what to do when a consumer problem arises, including identity theft. Lots of helpful tips!

First Time Home Buyers Club: You can learn how to navigate the home buying process. This six class series includes several guest speakers. Get helpful information from a real estate agent/broker, banker and lawyer. Discussions also include grant resources for first time home buyers.

Working with Home Improvement Contractors: If you are considering hiring a contractor to do work on your home, this class is a must for you. Learn all about the contracting professionals, how to check references, payment options, contracts and job checklists. Avoid the pitfalls that so many consumers make.

Money Management: Become a responsible borrower and avoid going into debt. This a great class for first time credit card holders. You will get strategies for obtaining the best credit card for you. Also covered is credit card vs. student loan, debit cards, identity theft, credit scores/reports and recognizing warning signs for credit trouble. This is an excellent class for anyone just starting out on their own.

Empower Class Series: Developed by Cornell University, these classes provide energy and financial information for households with limited resources faced with higher energy costs.

- a. **Save Energy, Save Dollars:** Learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy and reduce your energy bills. Also, learn about programs that can help you afford energy- efficiency

improvements with subsidies, low-interest loans or free services to qualifying households. Participants receive a kit of energy saving items.

- b. **Making Ends Meet:** This workshop provides an overview of the process for developing and using a household spending plan. Also, explore ways to maximize resources and reduce energy use. Participants receive a free money management kit.
- c. **Exploring Credit/Debt Management Issues:** This workshop provides information on selecting and using credit wisely, strategies for paying down debt, obtaining and reviewing a credit report, and understanding a credit score. Participants receive free credit management tools.

How to Balance a Check Book: This is a basic course in how to open a checking account, write checks and keep a register. Learn how to match your bank statement to your register and balance sheet.

Long Term Care: Are you trying to decide whether you need long term insurance? This is the course for you. It covers all the ins and outs of long term insurance. Learn what can effect your premium, as well as what NYS Partnership is.

Energy Efficiency: Save money by making your home more energy efficient. Learn about programs designed to lower your utility costs. Become a smart energy consumer. Great tips for warm or cold weather.

Smart Money, Smart Seniors: This workshop is tailored to the needs of seniors. You will get money management guidelines and spending plans. Learn how to organize all your important personal information and records. Make care plans for the future.

Indoor Air Quality: Learn about indoor air problems including radon, mold and many common household sources that can affect your health. Proper ventilation, infiltration and radon testing are explained. Many helpful tips are given to identify and avoid indoor air pollutants.

Stop –Think-Click: The internet can give you access to information, entertainment, financial offers and countless other services. At the same time, it can leave you vulnerable to online scammers or identity thieves. Learn experts’ top seven practices for safer computing, as well as some terms and remedies.

Get Organized: Learn how to organize an efficient system for paying bills and keeping track of important papers. Setting up a home office, temporary and permanent files, budgeting and credit will also be covered.

“Empower yourself with Consumer Education!”

Some of these classes are free others have a nominal fee to cover materials and supplies. For more information please contact; Sean Welsh or Susan Dollard at Consumer Education, Cornell Cooperative Extension at 845-292-5250 or sw288@cornell.edu; smd243@cornell.edu

Citizens’ Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

This winter the Bethel Local Development Corporation (BLDC) is offering energy assistance to Bethel residents who are in need and do not qualify for the County HEAP program. This effort was initiated by a group of Bethel residents and is fully funded by private citizen donations. The program is named Citizens’ Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). “We are concerned for the well-being of our residents and this is one thing we can do to help our neighbors during these difficult times,” said Town Supervisor Daniel Sturm. The program will provide a one-time supplement for heating needs to qualifying Bethel residents.

Applications are currently being accepted and are available through the Town of Bethel website at www.town.bethel.ny.us or can be picked up at the Bethel Town Hall, 3454 Route 55, White Lake. Mail completed application and supporting documentation to BLDC, Attn: CEAP, P.O. Box 300, White Lake, NY 12786 or drop-off at Town Hall. Applications will be confidentially reviewed by the CEAP program administrators. Supervisor Sturm will arrange for the assistance to qualified applicants.

Food Drive

The Town of Bethel Clerk's Office will continue to accept food donations throughout the winter. All donations received will go directly to the Shepard's Pantry at the White Lake Reformed Presbyterian Church for their food pantry distribution. Thank you to all who have been dropping off groceries.

Websites of the Month:

www.catskillchronicles.com – New Sullivan County online newspaper.

[Expressions from the Heart](#) - Poetry book written Eda LaPolt, our Records Clerk! This is Eda's second book. Congratulations Eda!

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

From the Desk of

Rita Sheehan, Bethel Town Clerk