



Welcome!

I always find May to be a hectic month. The grass is growing faster than I can mow it, the lawn needs picking up, my daughter's school seems to have another event every other day....

On the other hand, May is the month for getting our projects and plans organized and started. Getting our "ducks in a row".

Bethel is also in full force getting itself on the move for another summer season. Green Up Day was a big success. The hanging basket project is gearing up (please donate!!) to making our streets beautiful again. The town hall committee has been busy readying for the next construction season. And our various clubs and organizations are doing what they can to make Bethel the best it can be.

Please give them your support – time, money, even just a "thanks". It doesn't take much work on any one person's part if everyone pitches in.

A Reminder:

Geneva Gaiko has graciously volunteered to print and distribute hard copies of the Courier to local businesses who want them. If you would like her to drop some by, give her a call at: 234-9876.

I would like to encourage more of our citizens and friends to sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. To do so, just drop me an email at: Laurelin@sover.net

As always, I'd love to get even more submissions from town organizations, committees, businesses and individuals. Even an article about some topic of interest to you. Tell your friends and organizations! **The submission deadline is the 25th of every month. Please consider sending something in.**

Kirk White, Editor

Organization News:

Rotary Club Calendar

Rotary meets every Monday night from 6 PM to 7:25 PM in the Bethel White Church. Dinner is catered by Maybelle Dumont and costs \$11.

Monday, May 4th

Monthly club assembly (business meeting) but we always have a great meal!

Monday, May 11th

Ola O'Dell will talk about her work with the Peace Corps.

Monday, May 18th

Kathy Kinter will speak about the work of Windsor County Partners.

Monday, May 25th

No meeting due to Memorial Day.

We are always looking for good speakers and topics of local, national and international interest. If you would like to come and tell us about your organization, club, company, hobby, or whatever else is your passion, please contact president Kirk White at 234-9670.

Organization News:

Bethel Business Association

The BBA meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Contact Matt Washburn at 234-5188 for more information.

Organization News:

Bethel Historical Society

May 17, 2009 2 PM

The Italian Invasion of Bethel

At: Paradigm Consulting, 245 Main Street, Bethel

Back by popular demand! Bill Johansen will give us an update with slide show on his research about Italian families in Bethel around the turn of the century. He has been gathering much information since his last presentation and is working on a book about the Italian families who came to Bethel primarily to work in the granite industry.

May 23, 2009 9 AM – 3 PM

Third Annual Postcard and History Fair

At: Whitcomb High School.

New addition to the Fair this year will be “The Bethel Antique Roadshow”, plus a flea market outside of the school.

A variety of dealers will be on hand with postcards, stamps, ephemera, books, sports memorabilia, and other material.

Food will be available from Bethel sports boosters. There is no admission fee for this event.

Space is limited.

For information please call Nick Nikolaidis, 234-5064, evenings, or email at, nick@nikolaidis.com

The Bethel Historical Society’s regular Meetings are on the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. Next meetings are:

Monday, May 4, 2009, 7 PM

Monday, June 1, 2009, 7 PM

Meetings are held at: Paradigm Consulting building, 245 Main Street, Bethel, VT.

Organization News:

United Church of Bethel

HOLY JOE'S CAFE

The Coffee Ministry: UCC coffee project partners with Holy Joe's Café to support chaplains & troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

A number of UCC congregations and many other institutions, corporations, and individuals, are supporting Holy Joe's Café ministry conducted by military chaplains in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. These are places where troops can come to relax and get away from the war for awhile, get a good cup of coffee, and talk with a chaplain in a casual coffee house setting.

The United Church of Bethel also supports this ministry by collecting money on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009. This money is then used to purchase coffee through the UCC coffee project, which is partners with Equal Exchange to provide Fair Trade Coffee for our troops.

Through Holy Joe's Café Ministry, the support that is offered to them, is so effective and well received, that the outreach program has grown to assist over 60 chaplains.

Coffee Totals

182,000 Cups served weekly

819,000 Cups served monthly

42,583,000 Cups served yearly

Anyone interested in donating to this coffee ministry for our troops send your donation to:

United Church Treasurer

c/o Larry Nobile

63 Bicentennial Lane

Bethel, Vermont 05032

NO LATER THAN JUNE 13, 2009

Local Advertising:

**Put your FREE
advertisement here!!!**

Article Of Interest:

BETHEL SCHOOL BUDGET REJECTED

Submitted by Jamal Kheiry

More than 120 voters showed up at the Bethel School gymnasium on May 6 for the re-vote of the school budget. The budget, which reflects a 5.9 percent increase over last year's budget, was the source of much discussion from the floor, and a motion was made by Davis Dimock to reduce it by about \$250,000. That motion was defeated, 66 to 57. After additional discussion, the budget as a whole was turned down by a vote of 68 to 54. The school board will now set a new date for another re-vote of the budget.

Prior to discussion from attending voters, Bethel School Board Chair Kristin LaFromboise made opening remarks. Below is a summary of her statement:

1. Over the past couple of years the Bethel School Board has made an concerted effort to open the lines of communication with the community:
 - in February, with our business manager in attendance, two members of the board attended a Selectboard Meeting to present, explain and answer questions about the budet
 - we hosted our annual budget information night, attended for the most part by parents and teachers
2. In March our budget was voted down and as a Board we understood this to be for 2 reasons. First, the 5.9% expenditure increase was viewed as too high. Second, was to send a message to Montpelier about school funding.
3. Since that town vote, we have had two School Board meetings, and didn't receive feedback with regard to what the target number should be for decreasing our expenditure budget. As we looked for places to trim, as a board we felt that the potential cuts we would make would have a significant impact on children and families, and that these decisions shouldn't be made in the absence of a firm understanding of what our community is looking for in terms of a number.
4. Most of you are wondering why we would return with the very same budget. The bottom line is that we feel this is a sound budget. In our excitement about the new administrative structure that was introduced in March, we feel that we may not have given the budget discussion it's due.

A few points I'd like to make about the budget:

This budget reflects an expenditure increase of 5.9%. If you consider that last year our budget was level funded, this average two year increase is 2.9%. The Vermont State average for the last two years is 3.8%

The town budget that was passed in March reflected a 4% increase.

School Budget (Continued)

While proposed expenditures have increased, revenue has also increased as well. There is no significant impact on the tax rate.

5. Currently we do not have a settlement with the teachers. There was a tentative agreement in January. The board rejected that agreement because we feel it is too costly. We are currently deciding what steps to take next. As a board, we are mindful of the state of the economy. The decline of the economy happened so quickly that the negotiators did not have an opportunity to deal with the impact it had on negotiating a fair agreement. The negotiators are mindful of the current state of affairs as they move forward.

6. With a new administrative structure which teams us with Rochester in the coming year, we are actively looking at ways to leverage this and save both schools money. Specifically, we are looking at ways of streamlining transportation and possibly the lunch program. Our target for the next budget would be a net effect of 0 in terms of an increase. If there is an increase in the budget, we plan to match it with revenue.

7. At almost every budget meeting since I've been on the Board, we are asked about how the community can help the school through volunteer efforts that might save money. Today there are a number of parents missing from this group. They are with the approximately 30 children, grades 4-12 who are marching in the All State Parade in Essex. These kids are well-practiced and look incredibly sharp in their Whitcomb Band uniforms. They gave a terrific performance to the school this morning and I'm sure that they are representing our town well. The marching band was made possible by our terrific band teacher. Those uniforms? They were dug out of storage, where they have lived for about 10 years. Parents donated money for dry cleaning, and another group of parents tailored each one of those uniforms to fit each child. This is just one example of how the community has pitched in and it has a significant cost savings and impact on the children in our district.

8. I am first and foremost asking that you reconsider this budget, in light of the fact that the bottom line impact to the taxpayer is negligible. If that is not something that is possible, I would ask that the community provide feedback -- as a Board, having a guideline for what these cuts should look like would be helpful.

Green Team Meeting Agenda

Friday, May 8th, 2009

Where: Bethel School Cafeteria Time: 5:00 PM

Time	Topic:
5:00	Elementary School Recycling, Composting, and Gardening Initiatives -Education Campaign -Recycling Tote Acquisition -Solar Automatic Irrigation system. -Other
5:15	Grant Initiatives - Safe Routes - VCF grant feedback. - Energy Grants - Other Grants -501c.3
5:30	Accounting and Fundrasing - Green Team account status - Fundraising efforts
5:45	Elementary Assembly - Dates and presentation
6:00	Dismiss

Randolph 4th of July Parade

The theme for this year is "Making It In Vermont". Float entries/questions should be directed to the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 9, Randolph, Vermont.

Question with regard to entries, etc., may call Deb Jones at 802-728-9027.

Business News:

For Rent: "The Bundy Farm"

Off Camp Brook Road - Bethel, Vermont Large, modernized 5 bedroom farmhouse for rent with cable internet, office, appliances, porches and swimming pond on 300 acres. 15 min. to I-89 in Bethel, 15 minutes to Randolph.

Available May 15, 2009

<http://www.edelsteintech.com/etech/bundyfarmrental2009.htm>

Contact:

Jennifer and Eric
Ankner-Edelstein
family@edelsteintech.com
(802) 392-4595

Please support your local Bethel Business Association members:

Automotive

Dean's Auto Service
 Ted Green Ford, Inc.
 Valley Motor Sales

Banks and Money

AM Turk Tax Associates
 Grn Mtn Economic Development Corp.
 Randolph National Bank
 Mascoma Savings Bank
 Northfield Savings Bank
 White River Credit Union

Gardening and Flowers

Dandelion Acres
 Purple Iris Florists

Health and Beauty

Kathy's House of Styles
 Kirk White, Licensed Acupuncturist
 Massage by Kathleen

Home and Building

Bethel Mills
 Chuck Adams Builder
 Control Systems Services, LLC
 Eric Richardson Painting
 Hutchinson's Interiors
 Mills Hardware
 Rural Appliance
 Up Country Chimney Sweep
 Vallee Improvements

Markets, Stores and Supplies

Bethel Central Market
 Locust Creek Country Store
 Logan Enterprises
 Lukana's Dream

Restaurants and Caterers

Black Forest Cafe and Caterers
 Cockadoodle Restaurant
 Ketner's Second Cup Café
 Locust Creek Diner
 Toziers Restaurant
 Travelin' Willy B's Catering

Professional Services

Ellis Music Co.
 Eric Benson Appraisal Co.
 Herald of Randolph
 Mills Laundromat
 Mountain View Technologies
 My Little Jessie Press
 Paradigm Consulting Co.
 Ruth Clough, Attorney
 Debra Leahy, Attorney
 Spaulding Press
 Washburn & Wilson Insurance
 Clarity Strategic Communications

Local Industry

Power and Tel
 Rock of Ages
 Ultramotive Corporation

Friends

Jay Caruso	Chris Costanzo
Felicia Dieffenbach	Geneva Gaiko
Robert Gaiko	Carroll Ketchum
Ellen Nobile	Ola O'Dell
Richard Perry	Joyce Richardson
Margarete Viera	