

BBA OFFICERS

Pres: Nick Nikolaidis
VP: Bev Washburn
Sec: Heidi Nikolaidis
Treas: Carroll Ketchum

BBA NEWS

July 2005

Bethel Business Association

BASKET RECEPTION ON JULY 21!!!

On July 1, Heidi Nikolaidis and Ola O'Dell supervised the hanging of beautiful flower baskets on the lampposts all along Main Street. It was part of the BBA's Hanging Basket Project carried out in conjunction with the town's Parks and Public Spaces Committee.

The project was made possible by an initial donation from the BBA, followed by about forty donations from area businesses and individuals, all eager to improve the appearance of our village. The donations were used to purchase the baskets and the crossbars on which to hang them, and to provide for their maintenance and upkeep.

As a way of saying "thank you," the BBA, in conjunction with BBA member firm The Black Forest Café and Caterers, is holding a reception for all those who donated funds and effort to this project. It will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, July 21, at the offices of BBA member Paradigm Consulting Company on Main Street (in the old Imagination Building).

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 21

6:30 PM

Hanging Basket
Thank You Reception
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Wednesday, August 3

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Wednesday, September 7

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Thursday, September 22

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

JOIN THE BBA !!!

The BBA is a non-profit, unincorporated association of professional and business people dedicated to improving the commercial, aesthetic, civic and environmental aspects of the town of Bethel. We want YOU to join the BBA. Come to our meetings and see what we are all about. You may write us at: **BBA, PO Box 342, Bethel, VT 05032**, or call the membership chairperson Geneva Gaiko at 234-9876.



Heidi steadies a basket while Ola adjusts It

BETHEL VOTERS ONCE AGAIN TURN DOWN SCHOOL BUDGET; NEXT VOTE ON JULY 26

On Tuesday evening, June 21, Bethel residents for the second time this year defeated the proposed school budget by 64 to 53 despite significant reductions in expenditures from an earlier proposal, and despite last minute increases in revenues.

The new expenditure budget would have been \$4,596,972, or \$124,555 lower than the \$4,721,527 budget that the voters had rejected 125 to 45 at the earlier Bethel school district meeting on May 10. The lower budget was made possible primarily by the reduction of 2.5 teaching positions, and would have generated a school tax rate of \$2.26 per \$100 of residential property valuation, versus the \$2.40 from the original budget proposal. Unexpected year end-revenues and savings lowered the new figure to about \$2.22.

On the day following the budget defeat, the Bethel school board approved a revised budget proposal that would lead to a school property tax rate of \$2.16 per \$100 of property tax valuation. The proposal, will be presented to the voters for approval at a new school district meeting set for Tuesday, July 26, at 7:00 PM at the school.

But the agenda of the forthcoming July 26 meeting will also, contain a separate article to appropriate an additional \$33,000 for the removal of asbestos tiles that have recently become exposed in some of the classrooms. If the voters approve, it will be added to the expenditure budget although there will be a partial reimbursement of \$11,000 from the state. If the voters add the asbestos funds into the budget, the result will be a tax rate closer to \$2.19.

The BBA urges all voters to come out on July 26 to help decide the school budget. It is a matter that will affect the town's school policy and its school funding philosophy, and is simply too important for anyone to abdicate to a low-voter turnout.

**THE BBA WEB SITE IS GROWING
CHECK IT OUT!!**

www.bethelvermont.com

BETHEL'S VENERABLE THEATER CURTAIN

Expert conservators from the Vermont Painted Theater Curtains Project will appear at the old town hall building on July 25 at around 9:30 AM, and will work every day through most of the week to repair, clean and preserve the building's "grand drape." It is about 75 years old, and was used as the front curtain for theater productions. Bethel's "grand drape" is the only known Vermont drape imported from the Midwest. As such, it has been described as being on the "leading edge" of the traditional old theater curtains in Vermont in terms of rarity, and as "irreplaceable." It depicts a scene on the Venetian lagoon.

Although some funds are available to pay the conservators, volunteers will be needed to help peel off backing from the drape, to clean it, and of course to roll and preserve it. If you didn't show up to help construct Bethel's canoe and kayak launch last month, here is a golden opportunity to assuage those bitter pangs of guilt. For any questions, call Janet Burnham who is coordinating the volunteer effort. She is at 234-5676.

TOWN HALL PROBLEMS WITH DRAINAGE AND BRICK VENEER

The town's engineering consultant, Tim Schaal, has found that a foundation drainpipe buried along the rear of the Old Town Hall building actually lies about one foot above the basement floor, probably accounting for the excessive moisture that has been seeping below it into the basement and onto the foundation.

Schaal also noted the need for restoring the exterior brick veneer and carrying out repairs to the exterior of the stone foundation. The veneer is bulging out at some points near the foundation and could crumble at any time, with adverse effects on the bricks further up.

At the selectboard's request, Schaal is working out the cost to remedy the situation.



BETHEL

