

BBA OFFICERS

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

BBA NEWS

June 2005

Bethel Business Association

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!

Do you sometimes feel guilty that you haven't done as much for Bethel as you would like?? Have the pressures of finances, family, job, and inelastic commitments kept you from contributing your share to the welfare of the Community? Are you thereby wracked with guilt? If so, a wonderful solution is at hand.

Two Saturdays, June 18 and June 25, offer a superb opportunity to make up for any past fecklessness in this regard. The BBA is asking for volunteers to appear around 9:00 AM on Peavine Boulevard, between Peavine Park and the sand pit to help build a canoe and kayak launch. The project is being funded by part of a fine that the town had to pay for the appearance of *e.coli* bacteria in the river in the year 2000, which was assumed (without conclusive evidence) to have come from Bethel's wastewater treatment facility.

The funds available are not sufficient to cover the entire project, so volunteers are desperately needed. The work will consist of digging post holes for the steps leading to the canoe launch, putting in the steps themselves, installing the canoe slide, and possibly putting in a gate. Don't worry. It will not be strenuous and will require absolutely no talent whatsoever, since it will be ably supervised by Ken Hafner of the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council, which is overseeing the project.

Please come. We're not asking for an organ donation, a major economic sacrifice, ongoing responsibility, or back-breaking manual labor---only for a few hours of your time for a not very strenuous effort. So come on down!! Assuage your guilt!! Place your own little grain of sand onto the pile of community effort!!

If you're willing to avail yourself of this magnificent chance, it would be helpful to call Town Manager Dell Cloud during the week at 234-9340, so he can judge how many will show up.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 16

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Saturday, June 18

9:00 AM

Canoe Launch Project
Next to Peavine Park

Saturday, June 25

9:00 AM

Canoe Launch Project
Next to Peavine Park

Wednesday, July 6

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Wednesday, August 3

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.

CHECK IT OUT!!

BBA WEB SITE: www.bethelvermont.com

ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!

Bethel's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund

You can well serve the mutual interests of your business and the town by tapping into Bethel's economic development revolving loan fund, which currently has about \$178,850. Last month, the Bethel selectboard, chaired by BBA member Neal Fox, approved specific guidelines for accessing the fund for community and economic development, available in the town manager's office.

BBA vice president Bev Washburn, who is on the town committee that reviews all the fund's loan applications, has provided the following background:

“The Bethel Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund is to serve public projects, interests and businesses located within the Town of Bethel. Loans financed through this fund are to be used for projects that comply with all applicable regulations governing the use of HUD funds, when such monies are used as part of any approvals and which have impact on job creation and retention, especially for low and moderate-income people.

“The Board of Selectmen has appointed a loan committee to review all applications for loans from eligible applicants. Those who are eligible and interested in applying should request an application from the office of the Town Manager. The Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund committee on a case-by-case basis in a timely fashion will review all applications. The committee will reach a decision and the chair of this committee will advise both the applicant and the selectboard of that decision.”

The revolving loan fund is tapped infrequently, but represents an important resource for the town's growth. The BBA urges businesses to explore the opportunity that it offers.

WE HAVE A CONSTABLE!

The selectboard has appointed former Bethel second constable and recent Iraq veteran Jim Bennett as first constable to succeed long-time incumbent Wendell Wills who stepped down this spring.

Bennett's appointment gives him law enforcement authority in animal control matters, and at functions carried out by the Bethel schools. His other duties, which do not carry law enforcement powers, are serving civil or criminal processes, destruction of animals and killing of injured deer in accordance with certain provisions of Vermont law, assisting the health officer, serving as district court officer, and removing disorderly people from town meetings.

The selectboard's charge to Bennett authorizes him to use the town's cruiser in performing his duties, provide a visible, uniformed presence in the town, and function as “extra eyes and ears” for other law enforcement entities such as the state police.



JIM BENNETT

WASTEWATER DISINFECTION PROBLEM

If anyone is dumping anything other than normal household waste into the town's sewer system, please don't!!! Only a few gallons of industrial chemicals can destroy the beneficial organisms that Bethel's wastewater treatment plant uses to break down sludge in the treatment process.

Late last month, these beneficial bacteria began dying and their residue created a murkiness that could potentially block the final ultra-violet disinfection of the water before it is discharged in the river. As a precaution, the town asked for and got permission from the state's Agency of Natural Resources to treat the discharge with chlorine until the problem is resolved.

Wastewater treatment in Bethel has been the subject of some concern for the past few years, ever since elevated *e. coli* levels were detected in the river in 2000. Although the cause of that elevated count was never determined nor conclusively sourced to the Bethel facility, the state levied a hefty fine on the town over the incident.

Although the recent problem is on the mend, everyone is cautioned about dumping such things as certain bleaches, photo lab chemicals, or other similar material into the system. If you have any doubts, call the town office to inquire.

Town Manager Dell Cloud, selectman Bill Richards, selectboard chair Neal Fox, facility manager Tim Wells, and selectman Rick Benson gaze meditatively into one of the wastewater facility's processing tanks





BETHEL'S EAGLE

Bethel town employee Bobbie Hyde displays Bethel's magnificent eagle that he retrieved last week from the weathervane on the very top of the old town hall building. The eagle will be available for viewing at the town offices as it waits refurbishing.