

Of the 2025 people who took BethelSurvey.com, 875 also spent extra time writing a final comment about issues in Bethel which the survey did not address, or did not cover adequately. These are strong opinions and we thank you for sharing them.

*For ease of use we are presenting the final comments by topic. This group includes comments about **recreational facilities and events** in Bethel. Rather than try to extract sections, we are listing the entire comment from each person who had something to say about these issues, though their comment may in fact address several topics.*

Typing and spelling errors have not been corrected - the comments are presented as written. The number represents the respondent number and is left here for ease of discussing the comments. The number is not linked to any personal information.

12 There's not much to do on weekends in town. A fair would be nice to have in fall. Outdoor shows would be fun in summer. Sponsor field trips. Provide bike paths on roads, so more people can ride bikes, and provide bike stands to park.

64 Would like a level rollerblading, biking, walking type path for strollers, etc. Meckauer is too hilly and bumpy to roller blade on. New Milford and Brookfield have them.

95 There was a question in this survey that touched on the subject of what we would like to see in our town and it drives me nuts to think that there were plans to put in a public pool in our town and it never got done. I do not know the specifics of why it never happened, I just really cannot figure out why it didn't happen. This is something that we could put in our town that would generate income unlike some of the other things that we have around town that just cost the tax payers money. Also why can we not find a place for a real recreational center. I think the town really needs to spend some time and look at our surrounding towns to see how they do it and I bet that these facilities are paying for themselves. And the sad thing is that many Bethel residents are going to other towns to use these facilities. So why can we not come up with something. I think one of the biggest things that our towns top people should be doing is thinking about what kind services they can bring to the public, and yes they may cost money to build but in the long run it will benefit everyone and will not cost the public a thing. What Bethel does not have is enough things that bring in revenue. Our commission has to become more creative instead of things just running the way they always do and that seems to be the way this town runs. I have now lived in Bethel for over 6 years and have heard nothing about a town pool. Why? Go to Ridgefield and see how they built a beautiful recreation facility. Why can't we. I could go on and on. But in the end I love living in Bethel but there is just so much more that we can do.

103 Too much condo development Too much disagreement on the budget Need more sidewalks: downtown (many are in disrepair), on Stony Hill (would improve business) and in neighborhoods. People like to walk!

108 This is a step in the right direction. From a business point of view for Bethel we need to come up with a better reason for people to come into our downtown area. I do not see why we do not close Greenwood Ave from the Green to The light at the library once a month to have a street festival- Parties could vary from Chili Cookoff's to Italian festivals etc. The key is to get people down here, and the rest will take care of itself. If you don't sell your self, you won't sell anything. I am more than willing

to participate in a discussion of possible events, or ways to improve our economic outlook here in Bethel Its bad, and getting worse. To the point where we are considering when our lease is up relocating to another town. I like to think that our candy store on Greenwood adds something to that Small "old fashioned" town feel that we like, but its not personal, just business.~Thanks for listening.

111 LACK OF RECYCLING!! the town should provide. polarization of political parties in town, Tax watch dog group that seems scandalous rather than constructive, people in town not willing to change or grow as society does, boe that seems to fight with each other rather than help the children. MORE income to the town from outside visitors... make bethel appealing place for others to spend money... Maybe a golf course

116 BETHEL needs to think outside of the box when it comes to providing sports and arts events. The activities that are provided are very narrow-minded and few. When the local coffee house is the basic, and pretty much only, form of entertainment, something needs to be done. A community-minded arts commission is needed.

135 Get rid of duplex zoning in neighborhoods. Need rules for neighborhoods to keep neighbors lawns/houses neat. Enhance the train system for more direct NYC trains with better cars. More family activities on weekends. Re-route traffic around Greenwood Ave (downtown) during the weekend. Town pool would be a very welcome addition! Need a central website with an up-to-date calendar with ALL Bethel events, not just Library events (schools, recreation, festivals, etc.). The Brookfield Library has an amazing children's program; the main reason I never even bring my kids into the Bethel Library.

156 I believe it is next to impossible to stop growth and deveopment. Those with political & financial clout will push their agenda through regardless of what is best for the town or it's people. People with children will always demand that not enough is being done, although as adults looking back most of us got what we needed to be sucessful from the school system of our time. Does driving up the cost of living here benefit the taxpayer or those collecting on the loans? Will this still be small town America when we submit to these increases and growth year after year? Will what we lose really matter? How can the town keep it's integrity and sell out to big deveopment at the same time? Is Bethel just a few good meals for the development machine to take what it wants before moving on? Maybe it's not important. Not enough people seem to vote or care. Bottom line for me is keep costs as low as possible, put in some environmental improvements, preserve the land, a few bike trails would be nice and heathier school lunches. Oh, South St. is in dire need of repavement. It feels like I'm driving down a crater filled war zone every time I go to Bethel Food Market. All in all, I'm very happy to be a Bethel resident and would just like the town to keep the charm that it has now.

160 The police officers take their jobs out of hand and treat the people of this town like they are nothing. I have heard more complaints from people that live outside of this town then I do inside when they come to visit about the officers and how horrible they arrange events, as well as how poor they treat people. There is an extreme amount of discomfort that comes to mind when Bethel citizens view the police officers of this town. It's to the point we do not feel safe or protected, but threatened.

166 I have a number of issues 1. The education system in Bethel has been on a consistent down hill slide for years....thanks to the BAC....It needs to be improved drastically Fixing the high school should be our number one priority 2. The teen center looks pathetic....clean up the appearance 3. The Library looks very nice but is huge and a total waste of money...the money should have been spent to fix the high school....maybe the additional space could be used as rental conf room space for use by small companies or organizations. 4. We missed the boat on turning Meckauer into a community swimming pool....instead we spend the money to put a rock wall around it and a walking path....whoopie 5. We also missed the boat on the golf course. Clearly with the amount of play it

would have gotten it would have paid for itself and produced revenue for the town in ten years. Funny....we won't float a bond for a golf course which would have cost us minimal, BUT we will raise taxes to build this HUGE library (that no one can figure out what to do with) and a huge fire house on Stony Hill!! 6. Finally....have you tried to make a left hand turn from Greenwood Ave onto Chestnut/Maple around 5PM?? Why there isn't a left turn signal on that traffic light is mind boggling...it might help relieve congestion.

187 The Bethel town roads need attention! Many of the roads should be repaved. Sand and leaves should be removed from the streets by street cleaners after each season ends and not left to clog street drains. The town definitely needs a town pool. I would like to see better stores in the downtown. The downtown Bethel Post Office is the slowest in the area. We need to build a bigger post office or somehow add more windows or staff. The new First Selectman needs to take a stand on the budget and be more proactive.

192 Well I have told you how I feel about Terre Haute. It is the one gem we have. Bethel offers virtually NO recreation for anyone over the age of 18 except for Tennis and Soft Ball. I sell Real estate. It is extremely difficult to convince people to live in Bethel with taxes so high and virtually NO services except for Police. I realize the Library is a service but let's face it, my taxes exceed \$15,000. I sure would like someone to tell me what I get?

238 A lot of money is being put into the town's parks and a lot of work is being done, but there are some things that can and should be improved on. Many people go to Meckauer and Parloa park every day, but the equipment there needs to be improved. Children play on inadequate swings and slides. Many people play basketball at these parks. Any day you will see at least 20 people trying to fit on these small courts. At Meckauer park the court is too small to play a normal game of five on five basketball, and the courts don't have the necessary lines for free throws and three point shots. Also, while playing at these parks get hungry and thirsty, but there is no where to get something to eat or drink. Personally, I would turn the empty building next to the bathrooms into a snack stand, or at the very least put vending machines at the park. A snack shed could make money for the town and create job opportunities for people in Bethel.

248 I would really like to see more single parent friendly scheduling for activities or some form of a carpool availability. I would like to know of opportunities to share with other parents of pick-up/drop-offs and more weekend scheduled activities available.

253 The town needs recreational facilities like a pool golf course a place families could go and community events can be held. We also need to renovate the High School ASAP or all our property values will decline. Pay to Play should NEVER exist. The Board of Ed should always pay for sports. Sports are an important part of our children's education and EVERYONE should be able to participate.

258 I think there's too much focus on the library and the town could benefit from a pool, sprinkler park, skating area, golf course. I also think that local businesses would attract more people if they were more friendly. I've walked into downtown shops several times and it wasn't welcoming at all, and then I hear fuss that we should support local businesses. Owners have a responsibility to make people want to come to their shops. It's also a big turn off and unprofessional for owners to be smoking in front of or inside their businesses.

262 In the TV you didn't have SPORTS or ESPN. I would like to see a 3 on 3 basketball tournament to support a cause.

271 We need more recreational opportunities in Bethel, such as a public swimming pool or a bowling alley. Also, we are looking forward to the completion of the Library's second floor.

276 I think Bethel is a lovely town & I would like to see it improve, particularly in the educational, recreational & cultural areas. Thank you.

331 Bethel should strive to add a municipal golf course for its citizens.

342 I think that Bethel has a big opportunity to further develop the downtown area to incorporate additional businesses including restaurants, bars and shops. While most of the downtown area is very appealing, there are quite a few buildings that need work - starting with the property that now houses the Free Masons (across from the Food Bag gas station) and going right through the opposite end of 302. Bethel also needs more recreation options for adults - from outdoor activities during the summer to activities for the winter, to nightlife. Community events/fundraisers would also be a great addition.

354 would love to have a recreation center located in Bethel - Ridgefield has a great recreation facility. Great for children as well as for adults. Thanks!!

365 Well, after taking the survey, I see the town of Bethel has not changed in anyway with the new government officials. They are more interested in the amount of money their citizens make, as indicated by all the personal monetary questions on income, credit cards, types of cars driven etc... so that they can gauge the tax increase for next year. My answer is this: freeze the tax increases, check all your budgets prior to year end to see where there is unused money and cut back on the budgets. By checking before the year end closing date I'm sure you'll find the extra money! Do an internal audit without warning and I'm sure you'll be surprised at the funds you'll find. Additionally, and just as important, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment of its land before it destroys the small town charm. Terre Haute needs to be preserved AS IS - no golf course and no "harvesting." Make it passive recreational with trails for all. Likewise, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment by outside construction firms/developers, such as Ovenrock partners, from creating more urban sprawl. Reservoir Street and its surrounding neighborhoods do not need any more traffic thru them. Similar projects throughout Bethel are taxing (literally) the people, the infrastructure and supply system of Bethel. Causing power fluctuations, water main breaks, flooding, traffic concerns and stressing all departments at the increased demands. Furthermore, The town swimming pool and golf courses should NEVER have been in this survey. They should NEVER have been brought up! Both were shot down for various reasons by the citizens of Bethel - why are they still here? Because the town is led by a select group of cronies who continue to beat a dead horse. The town spoke out numerous times against both projects, was anyone listening to them? Let me refresh your memory the answer was a resounding: NO WE DON'T WANT THEM. The Library project was just a precursor to the horrendous mismanagement of the Bethel High School project. The library is oversized and underutilized. The High School is heading in the same direction. Stop where you are, look at what can be cut in the new addition and renovated in the old building. Most importantly, keep within the approved amount of bonding/loans that the citizens originally approved - do not request more money, the town citizens can not afford anymore.

371 Revisit the public golf course proposal as it can have an immediate impact in improving property values in Bethel.

376 I'm not sure of what my tax dollars go for from a perspective of town services. I'd like to see Mechauer park turned into a town park with a pool.

394 I would like more shopping stores festivals parties raffles contests in Bethel

405 Bethel is a lovely little town with great potential. We have to conserve ALL of the historical properties/Landmarks in Bethel!!!- Keep the town center manicured/ clean and freshly painted with New England colors. Lets bring in more high end shops to attract people to the town center. Town concerts would be a delight. Bethel needs a historical museum and a quaint New England Inn/ B&B to attract traveling vistors.

413 As a young professional living in Bethel and working in Danbury, it would be great to see the community facilitate more oppotunities for individuals like myself gather, network, and learn more about the community.

417 We would love to see the Parks & Recreation Dept. create a 4th of July firework celebration as they do in Wilton. Businesses and individuals are asked to contribute to the financing of the display, and a parking fee is charged also to help cover the cost. It could be held at the High School athletic field. We also should have a public swimming pool or pools.

419 We need a place to SWIM! The Brookfield beach is too expensive and far away. What happened with Meckauer? Stop building condos! They bring too many kids into the schools, without the taxes to help pay for their education--its taxing the budget.

427 Bethel Film Festival??

430 Some of the questions didn't seem relevant to the town of Bethel. If you want to improve things about the town, why ask about credit cards? Why didn't you ask how we can help to market the town of Bethel to attract businesses and the like to help impact aout tax base? Why don't we have a public recreational facility? Why don't we see how businesses like Canondale can use the town to help their business and help the town as well? To me the relivance of some of these questions was a waste of time. The survey idea is a good one so long as the BAC isn't behind it.

432 Thank you for making this survey available. I live in the down town area on South St. As the surrounding area is growing our streets are becoming difficult to travel in the downtown area. I am not sure what can be done, but this is the biggest issue that my family has with our great town. The concerts on the green are great. Thank you.

435 I believe that not having a golf course in Bethel is a mistake. They are income producers and prevent additional town resourse usage. I think that the charter should be revised to keep the municipal and educational budgets separate. The Sunday evening concerts season should be lengthened. I realize that it takes sponsor dollars to accomplish this. Are more businesses being asked to contribute. Perhaps more business can mean less dollars contributed per business. Annual fireworks. The sesquencentennial celebration in 2005 was a resounding success. Many were disappointed that we didn't have it again this year and further to make it an annual event.

444 The town needs more public facilities (Town Pool, better park facilities). This is one of the only towns around that has nothing to offer (Wolfe park monroe) to its residents. Big minus for families moving in and looking to stay long term. Education needs to be improved or else families will look to towns that have better schooling for their tax dollars.

458 I have been living in Bethel over 10 years now and would like to see Bethel remain a small town. I do not like all these Condos being built all over town. I would hate to see the woods taken away along Reservoir street. I would like to see more stores open up that will bring more families to the town to spend an afternoon walking around. More historical events to learn more about our town.

More events that will bring us together. Also, more advertising of these events. I usually find out about it a week later in the Bethel Beacon.

460 There is barely anything for the teens and kids to do in Bethel. The teen center needs a lot of work and improvement, and there are never any activities or events going on that kids can participate in. It would be nice to have a bowling alley or something along those lines

472 Bethel is a unique town with a lot of potential. I've lived here for 2 years and, despite that I am a renter, not a homeowner, care tremendously about this town. Greenwood Ave. needs a shot of energy, culture. We need to preserve our open space and promote outdoor and cultural activities.

476 Bethel needs parking, couldn't we move the teen center into the Municipal Center where they could have use of a gym? Then turn that spot into a nice parking lot for the town? The powerline project has been messy as expected... after getting stepped on so many times can we at least step up and make them fix up their mess a little better than a pavement patch that will sink and cause us problems to fix down the road? Also what's the deal on Judd Ave. where they cut into these poor people's yards and once they hit the town property went out into the road?? We need to protect our residents from treatment like that. Overall Bethel is a great place to live and own a business, if taxes keep going up myself and others I know plan to live elsewhere though. It is hard to justify needing so much more money and then saying oh by the way here's our new library, here's the plans for a new police station AND a newly fixed up high school, oh Berry school just got re-done too... Too many projects, fix and use what we have first. It seems we can't wait to do things or try other ways to fix them, it's always new this or upgrade that. The high school is working just fine, instead of upgrading it how about we cut all of the BS that is going on there out of it and it will run much smoother. We need better PR help as well, people usually don't like it much when a walking trail is paved at a park but their kid has to pay to play basketball in school. Also think about cause and effect, surely there will be some kids who now won't play sports because we couldn't NOT charge them. What will they do? This isn't a fairy tale, of course some and maybe a lot of them will get in trouble and be arrested and what not. Now take some of the money set aside for the police station and pay for sports, therefore stopping the increase in youth crime and lowering the need for a new police station. Sure it's not all as simple as I have laid it out to be but the general concepts are on par. All I ask is that we think before we DO, we have a falling apart HS remodeling plan, a half finished library, we stuck the teen center in an outdated building, we as Bethel make mistakes so sometimes we need to anticipate an oncoming one. Think about the dogs being walked the kids flying kites, HS Cross Country Practice, Remote control planes, people just enjoying the day, all of that and more will be gone from the property on Whittlesey and Judd if we stick a police station there, and what will happen to this supposedly old run down police station that we have now?? Will it just be another eye sore like the unfinished Library?? If the old building isn't good enough for our police who is it good enough for? Think about it... Thanks for the great idea with this survey and I hope to see more things like it in the future!

478 Bethel's elderly need serious tax relief. Should become fixed at some point. Prescription costs are killing them all. Bethel's youth need more activities that adults are willing to be involved with. Not just the parents of the youth. Organized sports is great for some but what about the kids that are not as motivated. Outdoor seating at the library, community center, etc. would encourage more foot traffic. Continued improvements on sidewalks in many areas, especially around the school complex where the students need to walk to school i.e. no crosswalk at Judd and Milwaukee. I'm sure I will think of more and fill out the survey again with just that part filled out. Thanks for the effort!

492 Some buildings downtown stand out as needing renovations, both major and minor, although there has been great improvements. More activities on weekends for the community would be ideal, and better advertising, I never know when street fairs, ext... are going on.

500 I work in a down town business and have to live with two other people in order to stay in the town I grew up in, and I am so sad that as of now I will never be able to afford to buy a home in this town. I want to stay here forever and every day it is becoming more impossible, there needs to be more programs to keep those who love this town and deserve to stay here to keep the values that our school system taught us. Give the tweens and teenagers something to do. Give the twenty-somethings something to be involved in together.

503 Our family and neighbors would LOVE to see Bethel put in a town pool. It's a great way for kids and neighbors to socialize and get to know one another. It would be wonderful to see this happen, especially since so many of our neighboring towns have town pools of their own.

509 I WANT A POOL!!!

516 When you asked about recreation, you left out horseback riding. There are many, many horses in Bethel, and the needs of horse people are always overlooked when planning trail systems and open space uses. We are banned from all Land trust properties. We pay extra taxes for the land we need for our animals, and on our barns. We spend a lot of money locally for our animals' needs as well.

531 I have owned a home in Bethel for over 10 years and I have 2 young children. I have no issue with my taxes... but I wish we had a pool in town for the kids (like every other town does....) The constant bickering about school budgets and required improvements to educational facilities makes me think that maybe this is not the best town to raise my kids and pay taxes. I also don't understand why we need a new police station ??? Can't we use some of the ENORMOUS stony hill fire department building as additional office space for the PD?

561 (1) Bethel stores should be opened later than they are especially during the summer. On Saturday night by 10pm all stores are closed - if you want to take a walk in town it's like a ghost town. (2) Why would the library hold its book sale the weekend before the sidewalk sale? Couldn't it have been the same weekend to bring more people into town? It seems like the town planning isn't very well coordinated. (3) I firmly believe the town needs to have more activities that cater to all ages. I also think it would be great to bring a New York street style fair to Greenwood ave - close down the street and have the stores open with some booths in the street too.

574 I'd love to see more recreational activities for kids ie: a pool or sprinkler park, outdoor ice skating, etc. I'd also like to see some foreign language classes for elementary school ie: french and spanish.

601 The survey seems unintentionally slanted to obtain certain answers in some instances. For example, I am concerned about drinking water, but not about global warming. In addition, other questions are not specific, particularly the open space questions. We all need a certain amount of open space, but when only a handful of residents are making use of , for example, the Terre Haute property, this is not a well-utilized preservation benefitting residents. A golf course with community pool would have had much greater use to residents. Bottom line is - great questions, but more specificity could be had, especially related to the shopping questions.

602 I would love for there to be more community based activities. I would like to maybe see online forums/blog sites where people can read up on and comment on issues related to the town and government. I would really like to see meetings and events in the community calendar. I feel like there's stuff missing from that. Something else I'd like to see is maybe the government website be more informative. I've gone on to look for information on planning and zoning and can't seem to find

anything. I love the town and would love to see it maintain it's small town feel and not get over crowded like every other town seems to be doing. I know that's hard to do because populations are just growing, but it's frustrating. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my voice and I hope that in the future I can get more involved in the town.

655 Let's try to get more 'events' in Bethel, like fourth of July fireworks, so people don't have to travel into Danbury and surrounding areas. We could collect donations during the Memorial Day parade to fund the fireworks. The ones we had for our sesquicentennial at the High School last year were phenomenal and so much fun! A town pool would also be a great asset to the community and keep us in town during the summer :-). P.S. Thanks for this survey - it was a great idea!

674 Bethel is a wonderful town, in so many ways. The schools and downtown area are terrific and we all should be proud. Bethel does, however, seriously lack recreational facilities and budget season is simply an embarrassment.

688 Build a golf course. It adds Revenue to the Town and insures that the land will not be further developed in the future for housing.

699 I am concerned about the support our teachers/schools receive. There is a lot of turn over in staff and even the administration in individual buildings. We are not keeping them and making our community appealing enough. The talk I hear is how our teachers feel unappreciated and apathetic towards our town. We must take action steps to change the circumstances. People who teach our kids should not be looking for a way out soon after they get here. Recognition and praise, teamwork and support...all essential, and professional development. Find out from THEM also, what they need. How do we fare compared to the benefits and support teachers have in other districts. We moved here in 1993. I remember our realtor saying we would have a town pool within a year or two. That was one reason why we chose Bethel. A great place for community, socialization, recreation too. We feel misled and let down and don't give too much weight to what people say. Why our budget fails so often, I find distressing. It's all for the good of our citizens. Again I feel we do not come together like other communities soon enough. If we had the means and it wasn't such an effort, moving might be a consideration. Our educators leave often, our budget fails often, doesn't scream a lot of support. Would I recommend someone with children move to Bethel? I would have to think twice about that one. Another thought. We need more parking for the library. Why don't we get rid of the teen center and create space for people to park when they visit this beautiful, expansive building, the focal point of our town. It's like you have to take tickets to park there now, or why bother going there. Who does the teen center attract. From what I hear it is for troubled teens. That is just the gossip. Doesn't seem appealing for me to want to send my middle schooler there. Thanks for asking.

716 Seems to have a lot of "green" questions. I am a frugal yankee, not a lefty blue state transplant. This town is wrought with overdevelopment. How many condos and junky single family homes can we sustain without proper commercial development to offset the tax burden? I was for the golf course, and I think it is time to discuss this issue again. Many of the naysayers and unsophisticates have either moved or died since the misinformation campaign to kill the proposal went forth. The only adult activities we have in town are to feed our faces on the fare of a few restaurants, become sh_t-faced at a local bar, or complain about Bethel and its perceived slights and woes at the ballfields.

718 we need a golf course that will benefit men women and childre in bethel. The land adjacent to the Industrial park off route 53 was ideal and turned down a few years ago. It is now a junk yard where people dump alot of stuff.....Just build it.....

720 A community swimming pool is a wonderful idea and would make our town more Bethel oriented...I am looking forward to this improvement in our community. I am praying that Bethel will not become the home to many condo developments...this creates our town to look messy and would rid us of the lovely small town charm we possess. The teen center seems old and could use some renovation. The high school project has not started yet and this upsets me. Instead of raising more money we should actually start!

781 I think that Bethel needs to take a larger, more global, view of its Terre Haute property and make it part of the undisturbed land that runs through Western CT. We don't need to buy it, or find ways to pay for it (Which is a REALLY big plus), we just need to leave it alone, or at most develop it for passive recreation. If the town just absolutely has to develop it, we better be prepared for the potentially devastating effects due to flooding on the western part of town, as well as possible problems that could develop in the watershed area (such as loss of potable drinking water). Then the town will have to come up with a lot of money and the land tracts that are undeveloped with which to replace this valuable asset. I think that overdevelopment is the single largest problem that Bethel is currently facing, on both an environmental front as well as an aesthetic one. I feel that the town is powerless against these ruthless developers, but perhaps if the town offered tax-relief incentives to developers who make minimal impact on the existing landscape, we would see more responsible and attractive development. We should be promoting the small-town character of the town much much more. I would like to see broader promotion for the town (I see in NY papers) to be used as an arts center (even seasonal), crafts center (more summertime crafts fairs and workshops) and for bicycling, or other non-invasive sporting events. It would even be nice to see an old-time town fair in the late summer or early fall as a means to create town unity, and also to draw out-of-state tourists. I think we also need to encourage the development of bed-and-breakfast type places as opposed to the awful hotels along Rte. 6. In summary, I think that one of our biggest challenges, both locally and nationally, is the preservation of our natural resources, our architectural heritage and our small-town flavor which makes Bethel such a unique and wonderful place to live. We really must, as the stewards of the town, make sure that we don't pave Paradise for all future generations of Bethelites!!!!!! I think the town needs to stop further residential development until such time as the town has a larger business/corporate tax base to pay for the discrepancy between residential tax revenues and the drain of residences on city services and educational needs. That being said, I think we must very carefully look at further business development to limit the negative impact it will have on the water supplies in the western part of town and the Stony Hill area, and also how it will negatively affect the traffic

835 There's not enough to do in this small town, that's why every one leaves and hangs out in Danbury or Litchfield or the other surrounding towns. You need to have more entertainment. And don't kick kids out of Pt Barnum Square at night. It's like the only place to go because you get kicked out of the other places in town if you don't buy anything. The teen centers are good but there's a lot of sketchy people that I guess you can't really change. The library is nice but it's just so small. I like the Newtown library. It really is the center of town. They have a bulletin board with all the stuff going on in town, and just other things that make it more appealing. And you should really look into a public country club like Long Shore. We actually drive all the way to Westport to go there. If you're thinking no, no one would respect it. I think they would once they see how good it is. Do it at Meckour or however you spell it. There's a lake there and everything.

837 1) I am sad to see how hard it was to get the new BPL completed (or partially completed) and opened. It is great (although I think, as a community landmark it would have been nice to have an entrance to the library on the main road) and I am anxious to see the second floor completed. 2) I understand that there was a discussion re: a public golf course in Bethel. I think that serious consideration should be given to this idea again. 3) This survey is encouraging. I would like to see how the results will be used.

851 *Our town concerns: *Completion of the high school project *Completion of the library expansion *Maintenance and expansion of recreational opportunities for people of all ages

867 I think that the town should relook at the golf course idea. It sounded like a wonderful project. I believe they proposed hiking trails as well. A town pool would be nice too. The golf course fees for out of town residents could be paid to the town. These family recreational areas would increase property values. Local businesses could possibly be asked to set up food stands to help the local economy. The local businesses and small town charm are what makes Bethel a beautiful place to live. I like the development of the Stony Hill route 6 area in terms of the Big Y supermarket and Target. That area needed a supermarket but I feel that downtown Bethel should be preserved for local businesses. It is part of the charm that brings our out-towners to Bethel to visit.

870 Keep bicyclists out of the road. Add a dog park or someplace people with dogs can take them to exercise. Promote the cleaning up of the downtown area.

872 I think we really need a town pool. Not everyone owns their own and there is certainly room somewhere in town. My five year old twins love to swim but we have no pool to go to!

897 Bethel is my favorite town in the world! I have always loved its character and small town charm. Please keep franchised businesses away! I love the new sidewalks and street lamps installed a few years ago, and also love the recent development of Meckauer Park. I wish there were activities at the library for children under 2 years. Would love to see a town pool and golf course added. I recently hooked up to the sewer, and am still trying to understand why I have to start paying for my own well water!

903 Bethel is rather boring and we find ourselves leaving everytime we do something. We need a town pool, and more fun things for families to do. Consider a children's museum like Stepping Stones. The administration for Circle of Friends needs an overhaul. Extreme incompetence and withholding of services. Look into it ASAP.

948 More money invested in Parks & Recreation facilities. Schools/BOE needs to limit the specials and concentrate on the basics to keep costs down. Parents need to pay for the specials if they want them.

955 Use the trust land to develop some revenue as well as a place for local Bethel residents to enjoy. Let's start with a golf course. Later add a town pool. Nothing for FREE. Needs to pay for itself and turn a modest profit to the town. Develop RT for Tax relief to the locals and keep Downtown Bethel as it is. Small and charming.

956 I would like the golf course project to be put back on the table. It would benefit the town financially, educationally and recreationally.

957 I'd really like to see a community theater here in Bethel.

979 Bethel should do what can to get a golf course and other recreational areas ie; pool, golf, trails.

982 You did not ask about a golf course at Terre Haute it would provide a lot more than golf. Because in 10 years there will all new businesses there.

1019 1. enhance the capability of Bethel public library, includes Chinese items, such as Video, books and DVDs, please. 2. public swimming pool

1043 We could use a Town pool or spray park, municipal golf course, and to do a better job of preserving open space. Bethel has a wonderful charm about it, and more thought needs to be given to sizing things right rather than building bigger developments and buildings.

1055 Need to address speeding problem on Greenwood heading towards Sycamore. I live on Elizabeth St and there are WAY too many people that use the street as a drag strip; cars go WAY too fast down our street, and many homes have small children. Put in some speed bumps or start handing out \$300 tickets, or restrict traffic. Put up a concrete barrier next to the strip mall to prevent people from using Elizabeth as a route from the Spot at night. Is there a vehicle noise ordinance? Too many loud motorcycles driving around. Complete the Ives Trail. Property taxes are crazy and need to be lowered. Bethel should have its own garbage service and also include recycling pickup. Designate in-town streets (like Elizabeth) or areas as historic and prohibit any commercial development. Ex. call the area around Blackman/Elizabeth/South St 'The Sealy District' and make it historic. I hate to see homes being turned into businesses. If you do not act soon, there will be no more down-town residential. Ridgefield uses Ballard Park for free concerts. Why not do something similar with the space in front of the Municipal center?

1067 The only real negative about where we live is that people speed down our street. We live on Benedict Ave. I did not know when I moved in that it was such a busy road. It is important to me that I be able to walk and ride a bike on my street. You have to be very careful on our road. I know it is impossible but I would love a speed bump or stop sign at the end of my drive way to make people slow down. I am not sure there is anything else that would work. Since that will never happen it is very important to me that there is a community bike path. While living in Westchester we had a bike path (blacktop) that ran through miles of the county. It was great to go biking and rollerblading or even walking on. It would be great to have classes during the day for stay at home moms such as photography, garden club, book clubs, yoga, cooking classes, (basic continuing ed stuff) but during the day so we would not have to rely on our husbands getting home in time to take a class. I love the idea of a community pool. I would love to find out more about many of the parks etc. in this survey. I had no idea they existed. I would love to know more about my elected officials. Where do you get this info? And I would love a jazz radio station since you asked. The music in this area is horrible. I use my mp3 player. and finally, We moved to Bethel because it was the only small town in the area that had a town center where you could walk and shop. It reminded us of Cold Springs, NY. We want to keep it that way.

1095 I believe that Bethel needs better public transportation systems. I also think that there needs to be a place accessible by teenagers in town that has a smoothie/coffee bar multiple video game systems, massage chairs, tables, pinball machines, air hockey tables, and computers. (NOT LIKE THE TEEN CENTER, which is full of kids that are, well, not great examples of an average student)

1104 Please reconsider the value of developing the Terre Haute property as a golf course and recreational facility. The value in jobs, opportunities for families and kids would be invaluable. The town has little to offer the youth of the community as far as entertainment (no lake, pool, etc. Such an endeavor would add revenue to the town as well.

1109 The area of land next to the post office and across the street from town hall should be taken advantage of, either for a new business or for community use. After all this survey mentions a lot about community activities and in Bethel I do not think that there is enough. I have grown up in this town and the kids in high school just do not find the town as much fun. Granted the "green" was turned into a park which deters kids from hanging out downtown which is not a bad thing, however

many are weary of going into molten java which many would like to replace the former Doctor Java, but it has not. Famous pizza is a popular place to go, but it can only fit so many people just like many other businesses. I think a Starbucks might be a good business to put downtown, even though we already have a dunkin donuts. I think a gym would be a great thing to have considering there is a Curves, yet there is no place for men to workout, also i heard rumor of a Pancho's and Gringo's that will be on the backside of William Sotheby, that would be a great restaurant to have, especially to bring more to the night life. Another bar or pub would also be good this way people could walk from the Spot, to Greenwood's, to Putnam House and then another to finish off their walking/drinking tour of Bethel. I myself cannot think of much else to say, I am going off to school in the fall and Bethel will just be that place i go back to for the holidays and for the summer. FIX THE HIGH SCHOOL

1123 Recruit more volunteerism in town to help with the cost and reduce tax increases Continue to support the Town's Garden Club to beautify Bethel Unite Bethel Center with Stony Hill area Support the Teen and Senior Centers to increase pride and support of Bethel and a working relationship between the two centers Support the Historical Society and develop the Historical Museum for residents and visitors to learn more about Bethel as well as the Veterans Hall in Town Hall Develop an updated video as public relations effort with the town's realtors about Bethel and its history(The Teen Center may also help here) Promote weekly events throughout Bethel Promote more Holiday Events throughout the year to support the town's businesses Change the Sidewalk Days to mid June when the weather is not so HOT in mid July Promote a Town Tag Sale on the MC Lawn to bring customers downtown in May Continue the Town's Birthday Celebration yearly Develop T-Shirts to promote Bethel and sell in town hall and businesses. Involve BHS ROTC in more town events and causes Develop the Veterans Day Ceremony to encourage more resident and school participation,as well as all Bethel Businesses Thank you for this opportunity to give my input, please do it yearly.

1146 When I moved here 19 years ago my I told my Realtor that I had to buy a house in a town with a Public pool. She promised me that one was going to be built in Bethel....I have raised two children here with no place to swim and a High School we are embarassed to show our family and friends. Town politics is a joke, too much noise and not enough action. The only really important job we have is to raise our children well. Bethel Politics have sent a clear message to our kids...they don't care about them. There are some fabulous teachers in Bethel and many fabulous teachers have left. We are lucky for the ones who choose to stick it out inspite of the lack of community support. The number one issue that must be addressed is the highschool. I personally don't care that much about the Library. It was fine the way it was. We have never used it very much. Now it is a big white elephant, too big and out of scale for the town, and half finished. I think the second floor should be rented out for office space. The only activity I usually see in the library is kids playing games on the computers.

1154 I think a golf course for the town would be a worth while and attractive addition.

1163 The town of Bethel is enjoyable to live in. To improve on this, I would suggest changing the driveways exiting the CVS plaza and the Video House plaza. It can be difficult to make the left out of either of the exits. Unfortunately I have also seen a car/motorcycle accident here. Any improvements on this (possible stop sign or light) would be welcomed. For another suggestion, I enjoy playing tennis at the high school courts, it would be nice to add lights to the courts to play past dusk.

1194 1. Improving the high school should be the town's top priority. 2. After the high school would like to see sensible and earnest discussion on a town pool. 3. All new residential development should require the developers to compensate the town on future education and infrastructure costs. 4. Town sports have been pretty good but this year girl's softball made a HUGE mistake by not having a winner. Sports teach kids how to work in a team and the joy of winning. It also, very importantly, teaches them how to graciously lose. By not having a champion we are not giving our kids the chance to compete, win or lose.

1223 I really enjoy living in Bethel due to it being a small town. I would like to see even more community events.

1226 Please note this survey was completed as a married couple. We believe that education and quality of life are the two biggest issues in any town. These should NEVER be sacrificed due to financial constraints within any budget proposal. The long term benefits of a towns school system far outweigh the short term decision to save a few dollars. We believe that the Educational Park should be the focal part of the town, to be used by the town and to generate revenues for the town. Obviously, we have children, but the major factor for attracting new families to any town is education and safety. Please see other towns use of "field houses" that can be used not only for athletic means but also cultural and community events.

1236 Fix BHS, allow a municipal golf course, speed up the sewer project, continue to re-vitalize downtown, limit new residential development to single family homes. Lastly, enable more balanced answers

1240 Bethel is a great small town, but in order to keep it affordable to current residents and at the same time, keep an excellent school system, the town needs to generate more tax revenue from businesses. We can NOT have a 5% increase in property taxes every year. A town pool would be nice for residents at the same time could generate much needed revenue. Although it would be an up front cost, it would pay for itself and more in several years. Plus it would be nice for families to go to in the summer time since Bethel does not have a beach or lake.

1243 We need more for the teenagers to do and to hang out. They need structure and they are not getting it because people in this town don't think they are important and cast them aside. They forget that they are our future and it is the responsibility of the people in this time to take the time to invest in our future and stop thinking about their own petty lives.

1249 Not a very well constructed survey. Heavily skewed towards certain issues and not a fairly weighted scale. Doesn't really take into account those respondents that live in the surrounding area. And why no mention of the Bethel Film Festival? That was a wonderful event.

1278 Our town should have a pool plus more sports for the middle school like swim and football middle school teams. We should have more restaurants that are nationwide and sports fields and basketball courts and more businesses that are nationwide.

1284 1. BETHEL NEEDS A DOG PARK! I frequently drive to Ridgefield or Southbury to take my dog to socialize with other dogs. Dogs are part of the community too and a dog park brings people together. 2. STOP THE SPEEDERS! Reservoir St. area is out of control

1285 Would like to see the downtown continue to expand, while keeping the small town charm. Restaurants/food places are great, we frequent them all the time. Allowing more mainstream stores that will be able to pay the high rents and last. Such as Starbucks, mainstream clothing stores, Gap and Banana Republic etc., instead of the smaller mom and pop stores. Hauser Chocolates is great, bike shop and hobby shop I use. It's all of the used book stores and Chamber of Commerce and not so quite antique stores that we don't use. I would like to be able to walk downtown and walk into almost every store. Right now there are just too many places that we walk right by. The new Dolan Plaza building looks great. Would like to see more of the other dilapidated buildings get a remake. The police need to be given more attention. The building is inadequate. They are dealing with a lot more people in this town, and need the resources and money to continue to keep it a safe town. Are we looking into a full time fire dept.? We keep building more homes and buildings, it isn't uncommon to

see a million dollar home now. Mekauer Park looks good, but it can continue to be made even nicer. Thank you for the survey. But lets not stop here, this is a good start to make Bethel into a great little town for everyone.

1311 I would like to be better informed about the sewer project in Stony Hill. When will phase two begin? I also think the roads are atrocious and need repair. I,m sick and tired of Matt Paulsen and the BAC, who do nothing but give this town a bad reputation. There are lots of families in this town who are willing to invest more into making Bethel a better place to live. A town pool would be a wonderful improvement to the quality of life. I also believe that the Board of Ed should be fiscally responsible when developing budgets. Teachers should be evalusted more frequently and without warning, to determine if they are really doing their jobs. I also think that teachers are being taken out of their classes far more than they need to be, causing disruption in learning. The high school needs to be updated immediately, it's a disgrace to this town. It really should have been renovated before Berry School. We need to start this project over again and do it correctly, regardless of the cost. The high school is the showpiece of a town. It should be something we can all be proud of. We need to improve the morale and the reputation of this town. If we don't feel good about living here, it will be difficult to convince outsiders to want to live here. Bethel should be a town that people want to live in.

1315 More indoor recreational space allotted for teenage children especially during the winter months. Another in-town grocery store as an alternative to Bethel Food. Come up with ways to lessen the traffic flow through town, especially during the 5:00 pm hour. Prohibit large trucks from using Greenwood Avenue at any time. Keep all trucks off Bethel streets until after 9:00 am. Create bicycle lanes for the increase in bicyclers. Decorate the town Christmas tree in a truly professional manner, and not as if it took ten minutes to do, so residents can have some pride in it and make the annual tree lighting a can't miss event. Encourage builders to build more affordable housing and not just homes only the rich can purchase. There are not enough full size baseball fields in Bethel. Improve the baseball field at Parloa so more teams can regularly participate and play there on a regular basis. Add lights for night games. Encourage Bethel baseball to add a 16-18 yr. old Babe Ruth league for those young men of average talent who wish to continue to play baseball but have no alternative to play after 15 yrs. of age.

1343 * I would love to see Bethel Library plugged into the Yale University system so that I can inter-library loan books from there. * I don't like your question about how many times per month do I visit Bethel businesses. I have eaten at most of the restaurants and have visited most of the shops, but there's a huge gap between "never" and "once per month." * I also don't like your question on downtown Bethel traffic and parking. I think the traffic is slow, there's plenty of parking, and I feel safe crossing at the crosswalks. * I have been here for about 3 years, and really feel out of the loop. I haven't been able to get "plugged in" to Bethel happenings yet. When I first arrived, I bought a "Bethel Beacon", and it did not have any information about a Bethel town event that I saw advertised elsewhere, so I did not subscribe. I signed up for the "Welcome Wagon," and got coupons for businesses from Bridgeport to Westport and hardly any information about Bethel. I also called the "Bethel Neighbors and Newcomers" group, but their club title is a real misnomer. It was no help to newcomers! I think a real asset to Bethel would be making newcomers to Bethel feel welcome to the town. * I attended the Sesquicentennial, and thought that was great. I would like to see more community events. I also like the summer concert series. * How would I have found out about the 4th of July fireworks? They were not actually on the 4th of July!?

1346 Traffic flow needs improvement, too heavy in downtown- cars travel too fast, heavily congested-especially on weekends. Possible solution, a parking garage w/ a shuttle bus on weekends. Also, corner lot by Citgo station on Greenwood avenue is abandoned/overgrown/and an eyesore. Please have the owners maintain it- or the town should act and bill the owners. Healthwise, a walking/exercise trail would be great. They have several of these in Fl. You can walk or run on the trail and there are stations throughout the trail where you can do exercises (Chin up bars/large logs

for situps/monkey bars/balance beams etc.) Economically, the ever increasing price of gas is making it difficult for people to go to work/travel etc.- all issues that affect the economic health of the town. I don't understand how it can be 10 cents higher at one gas station 1 street away from another gas station. I understand the impact of the middle east issues- however, the gas companies can't be reporting record quarterly profits and expect consumers to be happy with the increases. More public transportation would help w/ this issue as well as alternative energy sources. Thank you for providing the survey as a way to voice ideas.

1362 a pool would generate town funding and could be used with interest to gain more for the towns future. similar to capital budget. in addition would gain confidence in the community by making it community property.

1368 Please add a separate lane at the Bethel Transfer station for recycling use only. More community/cultural events downtown

1416 Bethel is a great town, but we are lacking in the recreation area. Unlike the surrounding towns we do not have designated town swimming areas or a golf course. It would be nice to see a town swimming pool built for residents. I remember when I first moved to Bethel there was talk of a 9 hole Golf Course that was eventually voted down, which was too bad. I feel that these amenities would be nice additions to Bethel, and would make Bethel more desirable.

1421 One thing that could be a great focal point for Bethel is to have a annual street fair. Trumbull has had a successful "Trumbull Day" celebration for years. Norwalk & Milford with their own "oyster festival" or other similar events. Its something that could attract more economic development and civic pride in Bethel. The "sidewalk days" is a good start but limited to merchants on greewood ave. Another idea is to reroute traffic to make PT barnum square open to only foot traffic on weekends in the summer. allow sidewalk cafe's & music in the park.

1431 I feel this town needs to provide more recreational services to the families. A aswimming pool and a golf course would lure people to Bethel. Support of the educational budget would help maintain our property values. We are watching surrounding town become more desireable and that is a crime.

1436 The town should consider building an all inclusive recreational park, with golf course, tennis courts, community pool, play ground and picnic area. That would increase the visibility level of the town and would attract more well to do families.

1455 1)For the children: a town pool, establishing a scholship for pay/to play sports--anonomously. 2) have local leaders welcome outsiders (some have been in Bethel a long time,) 3) don't vote by the party, but what you think is right, 4)the baby boomers are retiring--seek them out to be residents in Bethel for their retirement, encourage them to volunteer to help pre school, grade school and hi school students; english as a second language--we have so many immigrants who are contributing to our town--lets share our lives.5)Just because the baby boomers are retiring does not mean they are disabled or elderly. Offer opportunities for able people to reach the needy for friendship and help.6) The downtown merchants--don't be chatting with your friends--talk to your customers. I love Bethel. And, I realize I have to change my ways to make what I want to happen. Do you know how many times I tried to participate and been told everything is taken care of?

1469 Bethel Summer concerts on the lawn would be more appealing if they had a better mix of music. I would like to see them keep some that appeal to the older crowd and add some that would appeal to younger crowds and families.

1503 I think the town has been very late at getting a town pool. There is really no-where for families to go and meet new people outside of church and sports.

1531 It is dissapointing that there are always a few loud people in Bethel that turn everything down. A town pool and a Municipal golf course would have been wonderful in town and not cost must money. The pool would have enourage a better community spirit and the golf couse would have been a money maker. The HS really needs to be fixed. We need to stop nit picking and just do it. The town is lovely. I shop more at larges stores because of time and generally there are better deals. I am at CVS and Bethel Food often. Other then that, I don't frequent the stores to often. However, when I do, I alway enjoy them. The employees at the library are so lovely and helpful.

1550 Ithink we need to have more community gatherings and everyone should get mail telling us when to be there. We also need more grocery shopping stores also we need shopping stores and a movie theatre. We should also have more gatherings and we should do more fun things as a community!!!!!!

1554 The village area can be a lovely and valued area but it needs to complete the Streetscape project and have more events/entertainment for shoppers i.e. musicians, clowns, etc. to attract attention and amuse shoppers...Chamber of Commerce can do a lot more to improve the visual aspects...

1581 The town REALLY needs to improve the way it promotes itself. It is a growing town and accumulating in population. We need a more youthful and creative way to expand our town and NOT by big stores or brand names. Small cute towns can stay small and cute and attract many people. We are currently NOT trying hard enough and NOT doing a good job bringing in more people as well as NOT supporting our community businesses enough. If we bring in the big brand names into our town, we are telling people we NO LONGER CARE about the small businesses and about the quality of life. The town NEEDS to hear fresh ideas and let the community give their imput. Example: create town events downtown and simply ASK! and let us know our opinion COUNTS! The town also needs to accept that it is changing and we can't only hear the voices of the older generation who may be stale with their ideas. This town is NOT ONLY for the empty nester's age group. Also whatever the age group, we all want to FEEL ALIVE! I hate to feel that this cute town go down the tubes. At the moment, I've noticed that many and most of the time, it is a REAL BORE and DEAD QUIET! There is hardly any traffic in town for businesses. The ONLY traffic I see is rush hour traffic, working class going to and coming from their jobs yet parking for consumers is still HORRIFIC. There are many locations in town where we can share and create innovative and enjoyable ideas for the families and youth as well as for the community. ONE EVENT PER YEAR IS HARDLY AN EVENT! Sorry for sounding so hasty, but so far I REALLY DON'T THINK THE TOWN IS LISTENING! The younger generation CARES TOO! We want to see the future of our town and the quality of our lives to grow for the better. We NEED someone to better market us. You can drive through the town and completely miss us right now. We need to be recognized and others to RECOGNIZE US! Quite often do I hear people say I never or hardly come down to Bethel incuding the people that already live right in town. The town DOESN'T INTEREST people enough and market itself AT ALL! I've also known of people who have tried to give their opinions to better us and NOTHING is done about it. This is also the fault of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. All the advertising the local businesses do does NOT help when there IS NO REAL SUPPORT from its own community and chamber. There is also a LACK OF CARE about its appearrances. For example; people litter, town garbage receptacles are not maintained and cleaned. Bethel DOES NOT give anyone any a reason to come to town. A small town like Bethel has SO MUCH potential UNUSED!!!! IT'S SUCH A SHAME!!!! I HOPE OUR VOICES DO NOT GO UNHEARD OR IGNORED!!!! I HOPE EVEN MORE THAT SOMETHING IS DONE ABOUT ALL THIS!!!!

1635 Please keep open space preservation on the top of your "to do" list. Bethel is lovely community. while I don't live there, I enjoy leisure activities there. It would be a shame to see your quality of life suffer due to urban sprawl and big box development.

1645 would like to see an organic farmers market or a famers market in downtown bethel on the green. Would also like to see more block parties or sidewalk sales in down town to draw business. Public library should have more activies outside on thier lawn. I would like to see more volunteer type services geared for children and teens. Would also like to see more public activities structured for adults in the community, ie organized, publicized and advertized walking trail event, bike event, scavenger hunt with a local business awarding a prize. I think a large scale scavenger hunt for adults with an area business award prize would bring many people into this town for commerce etc.. local business should compete to be the one chosen to give the award. THE EVENT SHOULD BE ADVERTISED thank you

1702 Economic Development - Bethel is a very nice place to live but senior citizens and lower income families are being priced out and people are unable to find gainful employment in order to stay in the area. Professionals from New York and other areas have more or less "taken over" the town. There should be a way for people to afford decent homes - smaller perhaps, but these people might be able to help maintain by helping out each other in maintenance etc. Also, Bethel's Transfer Station fees are higher than any town I know of - Norwalk has garbage collection as I've heard do many other places such as Stratford, Huntington, Shelton. Ridgefield has NO yearly fee and a carload of trash is \$5 per. I do enjoy the Outdoor Concerts at the Municipal Center on Sundays and hope to be able to attend once again as soon as I move and am settled.

1720 Bethel is beginning work on its 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development. I was happy to learn that at least one of the consultants from Planimetrics is an advocate of Christopher Alexander's "pattern language" which aims at creating an environment which is human-friendly, supportive of social interaction, and beautiful to be in. Talk to architect Peter Eckert on Greenwood Avenue for more details about Alexander's very practical philosophy about architecture and town planning. Downtown Bethel is an ideal place for community events, festivals, block parties etc. The negative factor is traffic, especially truck traffic on Greenwood Avenue. The noise level can be overwhelming. Traffic is the main physical condition that ruins Bethel's small-town charm. Bethel also needs to find a way to have more affordable housing - real affordable housing, not the \$300,000 condo units proposed by developers under the "affordable housing statute." We need small houses, not McMansions, and we need neighborhoods where neighbors know each other, socialize, help each other, and work together. That creates "small-town charm" even more than old fashioned architecture. A town should be a community of people, not just a physical collection of buildings inhabited by people who don't know each other, or care about each other's needs. Bethel used to be a close-knit community. In the past few years the political scene has become very devisive. Boards and Commissions have to include members of both major parties. It used to be that once on a board or commission, members left their politics outside and worked together. Now the meetings are battlegrounds between the parties, and venues for a few crackpots who crave attention and get it by deliberately pushing people's buttons and making people upset about false issues. The town meeting form of government has deteriorated to the point that it is dominated by a few people who have no solutions, or even interest in finding solutions, but who desperately want a forum with an audience and a microphone. Town meetings are supposed to be an open, productive discussion of issues. If we cannot restore that system, we should change our structure of government.

1725 Overall, I think we need a much greater emphasis on environmental issues (open space, global warming, energy conservation) and more programs (festivals, classes, etc) regarding different cultures. Thanks!

1726 The most important thing to remember about Bethel is that it is NOT trying to compete with affluent neighbors in all categories. #1 Yes, we need to be competitive with our education, but teaching goes beyond the classroom. We expect the teaching will happen wherever and whenever. We missed the window of opportunity to provide more space when the bubble was coming through the high school. The renovating process should have started 7 years ago, it should have been complete the fall of 2003. Having said that, we need to move on. But with the same plan????? I'm not convinced. We have to keep the juices flowing with ideas and this survey is a fabulous start!!! #2 I believe people in Bethel would like more recreational options and would be willing to spend \$\$\$ if the right plan was presented. The Educational Park we have is absolutely the best, we need to maintain it. Our downtown area has had many recent facelifts..... we need to support our merchants. We lack a location for community health and sports activities beyond team sports. Maybe our land of 650+ acres can be used for a municipal golf course, a resident only pool, trails for cross country running/skiing, etc. I believe the residents of this town are thirsting for a chance to be creative. Our Educational Park was once a vision and look at it now, we all love it. Let's create and execute a vision for community based activities which includes everyone, in BETHEL, only. We should not compare ourselves to other towns because we are different, and I mean that in a very positive manner. Remember, 'good things come in small packages.' We just have to look at what we want in the package. It's not about the wrapping, it is about what's inside. #3 The people who support education will also support this concept. So, we need to include the two concepts together and present the advantages of a 'total picture'. For the good of the community. #4 Unfortunately most individuals are disappointed in the library. I believe this is due to the fact that it is incomplete and the current lay out is not appealing. I hear the phrase, 'it is way to big, cold and impersonal'. Let's not make the same mistake for the high school. I know this community deserves better than to be hasty. Late is late, we don't have the same urgencies as when the referendum was passed..... #5 Thanks for taking the time to listen and read and think about everyone in the town who resides here and who will want to remain here in the future.

1739 Lost interest...survey too long. Your infrastructure is terrible. Fix the roads. Also put up a municipal golf course and have Scott Ward from Stony Hill Long Drive run it if you would like to turn a profit.

1781 Bethel has a considerably sized bicycling community. These are well educated involved citizens and with that being said we should have the roads to support this usage. I have visited many cycling friendly communities over the years and we are way behind in making roads safe for bicycles and car shared usage. We make home to one of the best bicycle companies in the world and having the bike lanes and wide shoulders on our roads would help in many ways. It is healthier for people, cycle commuters save energy and local business get a boost from the groups that meet here to ride. I would commute to work more if the roads were Friendlier and more suited to safe cycling. Also if the Electric company is going to rip our roads apart then they should replace them in good order, not patch and leave a mess. How did this benefit us besides paralyzing our daily commutes? For a while it took less time to ride my bike to work than it did to drive my car. We chose to live in Bethel because we see it as the next great town in Fairfield county. It has great parks and a nice downtown. We felt that by the time our children are ready for school the facilities will be in order and therefore we should continue to invest in town facilities and people. Let's make Bethel Great

1803 i would really like to see the downtown closed to traffic completely- or at least on sundays- for people to walk freely, meet other people, shop, sit on sidewalks having coffee, ice cream...kids running around, with family attractions, concerts....at winter time just walk in the snow... the traffic is a nightmare, i wish it could be rerouted elsewhere and keep the road open to walk & for bicycles

1806 We love living in Bethel! I love the Bethel Film fest.

1828 there's nothing to do or see in Bethel. everything closes by 9. is there a singles club. i've read articles in the paper about groups for mothers and children. there needs to be a group for single people to get together and hang out.

1841 My house is in Newtown but I live in a region - chiefly Bethel. The taxes in Newtown are too high, but I think we pay too high a price in all regional towns for "home rule". Too few people really inform themselves & then go to vote. There should be regional planning and taxing. How many "big boxes" do we need? The entire tax system of the country needs modernizing. I think we pay too high a price for "home rule" in which too few participate! Traffic - I find drivers to be very courteous at crosswalks. I think Bethel is blessed with parking behind shops, School Street etc. Outdoor activities - I walk regularly for exercise, especially in "downtown" Bethel. Library use - I do not use libraries. Economic Development - Too many of the same types of stores competing with each other. Bicycle Transportation - Impractical?

1853 I wish your community provided more support for the schools. I don't understand why the taxpayers don't realize how important this is in order to maintain their real estate values. Other than that, Bethel seems like a wonderful town. I hope your Greenwood Avenue businesses prosper. We love Bethel Cinema!!

1856 I would like to see more adult recreation in the town, e.g. swimmingpool, walking and exercising trails and bike trails I also would like to see some musical entertainment in town, especially classical. And, please, fix those sidewalks, people in town love to walk and risk breaking their necks doing so.

1858 I truly believe that in order to move forward as a town, we will need to deal with some possible inconveniences. It is extremely important that we have the best education available. This means improving Bethel High School. Bethel's citizens continue to grumble about the cost of such improvements to our town. However, one possibility for town revenue would be the proposed and denied golf course which would bring in people from all over who would shop at our stores, lunch at our restaurants and pay to play. This would also be a source of afterschool activities and job opportunities. It would be a way to preserve our land but get the best out of it. The library needs to be finished. Like the school, the library affects the type of people moving into our town. Seeing that our school and library are in such bad state, who would want to move to Bethel? In short, I am a huge support of the renovation of BHS, The Bethel Library, A town golf course, a public pool and any events which would bring people and revenue to our town. Sometimes, change is not only necessary but beneficial.

1864 I thought this survey was great! I hope we get to see the results published. I really like signs and posters around town informing me on the issues or maybe how I can get involved. I go to the library at least once a week so having information posted there or the town hall would be great. I like the idea of a bike trail, festivals, downtown farmers market and a pool. I can't wait! I'll help out any way I can.

1870 Most important on our family's wish list: 1) PUBLIC POOL 2) PUBLIC GOLF COURSE (18 HOLES)

1877 As an added suggestion for the use of the Terre Haute property, a town recreational center with an attached public golf course is a noble idea. The kids in this town really don't get enough fresh air or do not get enough exercise while they're out. The rec center should include public fields, e.g. soccer fields, baseball fields, etc. much like Kids' Kingdom in Brookfield. On to the golf course, golf is awesome, people like it. People also pay lots of money to do it; therefore, it's a good thing for the town

to have another place for people to spend their money. It also provides a place where teenagers can get fairly decent jobs and learn good work ethic, manners, etc. Next and final point: this survey was a bit too long.

1882 Although I don't follow the issues with the High School renovation I worry about the added tax burden. I feel property taxes, both auto and property, are high enough as it is. I do support the essential improvements- High School, Police Station, etc - I do not support the luxury improvements such as a Golf course.

1906 Improving the town by improving the recreational facilities (trails, parks, etc) and promoting more fairs/markets/concerts would help to showcase the town and have its residents more involved. Funding the school system adequately is essential to keeping the younger families in town and bringing in new families. This will also keep property values higher and make Bethel a more desirable town

1907 A Parks and Rec Facility similar to Ridgefield. It houses a gym,fitness center,pool,seiner center, and day care facility. It would have meaning to all ages in the community.

1923 We moved to Bethel about 7 years ago and to be honest we are pretty happy here. The only thing I would like to see is a bit more activity in down town Bethel. It's a beautiful little town with a lot of charm. It just seems so dead when you take a walk in the summer time. When Molten Java opened up I thought it was the greatest thing! I wish we could have more cafe's and meeting places where you could sit with a friend and have a cup of coffee - and in the summer time you can hang out outside. I am a full time working mother and just to be able to go out and sit outside and have a coffee with my girlfriends is such a treat ! So one or two more venues like Molten Java may make Bethel a bit more cosmopolitan! Also, if you could throw in maybe one small store such as a Gap or an Old Navy it would really help!

1928 Overall, I think Bethel is a pretty nice place to live and raise a family. I do think the library is important but it cannot be all things to everyone. Bethel is a small town in terms of population and I do not think it needs to meet the needs of every individual. Rather it should find a few things to be focused on and not require a large amount of financial resources to support it at the expense of funding other town enhancing projects. Let's keep Bethel a well-rounded place to live that offers a variety of things to all. I do feel a town pool is absolutely necessary for a land-locked town that does not have a YMCA. Every age group could use it. Someone should look into the communiy center in Shelton where my 85 year old uncle swims everyday. Also, more recreational activities like golf (again something for all ages) should be provided to the community. I think anything that gets people moving and addresses the nation's obesity issue would be great! One other thing I would like to mention, Bethel Food is one of the best businesses in this town. I do not want to see a Trader Joe's or any other grocery store come to the downtown area. It will really change the character of the downtown area.

1939 The concerts at Town Hall on Sunday are great ! Bethel has the chance to remain a small town within a growing metropolitan (Danbury) area and should make every effort to keep the charm.

1951 If Bethel cannot provide a public swimming pool, then the quarry or an existing pond should be maintained and available for public use. This could entail a small fee (e.g. Danbury Town Park), and could be used for Parks & Receptions swim meets.

1960 I just hope something is actually done with the data. I want to see the results and an action plan (that gets implemented) addressing the concerns. The biggest thing on my mind is improving the

educational system. I am confronted with the possibility of moving from Bethel if I can't afford to continue to send my child to private school. I am uncomfortable sending her to this system (I went to public school my whole life -- but they were good schools). I wish there was better management and accountability of the education funds...and votes weren't bundled with town concerns. We should be able to do what other towns have done with similar resources. I love my house, my property, and the downtown area, but the politics have to change! Also, I hope we can get a town pool...that is the other single issue I am unhappy with...no place to swim in the summer -- it is HOT!! Thank you so much for this opportunity. I am impressed by the survey and town's inquiry... very much so... now let's see results! :)

1962 Bethel can have fund raisers. Oldies Concerts, Safe fireworks sales, more concerts at the municipale building

1988 a town pool.

2003 Post office parking needs to be improved, more spaces are needed. New business is fine but would rather see the reuse of existing buildings than building new buildings that may stay vacant for months/years. Would be nice if Parloa park get a nicer play set like Meckauer Park got. An cabana with a few picnic tables would be nice but not necessary or a good shade tree may be nice that a picnic table could go under unlike the small ornamental ones that were planted. Would prefer a rail trail like bike path at some of the parks that could be used for biking and walking...bike routes may be nice on some of the roads but some are so busy it's scary to bike for leasure, hense the bike path in parks...such paths would be good for jogging and rollerbladers too..

2004 1. Straight forward road connecting Rt 7 and possibly Grassy Plain Road. It would decrease commuter travel time, increase connectivity to Bethel and bolster economic growth from out of towners. 2. Provide free San Francisco-style trolley car connecting Caraluzzi's section of town with Dunkin' Donuts side. Just loop continously, stopping wherever people need to get off. 3. Public Rec Center with pool is a must (possible water park included). 4. Side walks on roads like Nashville Road, to enhance foot traffic to town, in lieu of driving into town. 5. Stay true to down town style...keep ordinances consistant. 6. Work with furiture store owner, located next to old Bethel Train Depot, to gut and renew that area...revitalize. 7. Entice all downtown owners to stay open late 1 night per week, on the same night. 8. Don't build on new ground...utilize existing, extinct structures to rebuild (like the Danbury-Best Buy/Lowes area) 9. Public Golf Course 10. Leave pick-up on side of road. Bring all downed trees to dump for public usage...create a pick-up day. Also, create a hazardous waste pick-up day, and a bulk pick-up day. 11. POST ALL ELECTION DATE INFORMATION...local elections, budget meetings, town referendum dates. 12. Dis-allow franchises like Burger King, to continue. If needed, ensure they stay within ordinances. 13. Work with Bethel Cinema regarding film festivals.

2022 My family came to Bethel 39 years ago, attracted by the small town charm, where we quickly became acquainted with neighbors and friends. The Recreation department was very instrumental in helping our children to fit in. Church, school and volunteersing helped me and my husband to enjoy our lives here. I understand that progress is bound to happen, but it really pains me to see so much rapid growth over the past ten years, especially the condos which seem to be springing up all over town. I also believe that it is a shame that the pond at Meckauer Park can't be resurrected somehow to provide a public swimming area in that lovely park. These remarks are probably not what you are looking for but I do love this town and want to share these feelings.