



TWIB NOTES



firstselectman@bozrahct.org

Town Website

March 27, 2020

Townofbozrah.org

THE BOZRAH SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Meals on Wheels program is currently on hold for new sign-ups.

The program IS running for those currently signed up.

There is a waiting list for anyone who would like to sign-up.

Contact PAM CONTINO (860-917-5672) if you would like to be put on the waiting list.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Fields Memorial School is closed until further notice.

The Town Hall will be closed to public access starting Monday, March 30. If you have business requiring access to town hall records, or personnel you will be required to call and make an appointment to justify your access.

If you have asthma or COPD you should not come to the town hall or any other place if you can avoid it.

The Bozrah food bank is closed on Thursdays until further notice due to the town hall being closed to the public. Access to the food bank will be by phone request only, we are currently providing pre-packaged food bags. We cannot accommodate specific requests at this time. You may call the Town Clerk or First Selectman (860-889-2689) and leave a request. We will inform you of a pick up time or we can arrange delivery. Picks ups are drive up only. We will bring the food to your car.

We are currently not able to accept donations of food at this time as the Town Hall is closed to the public. We encourage everyone who would like to support the food bank to drop off gift cards to local stores such as Shop Rite, Stop & Shop and Big Y, etc. (*Smaller denomination gift cards (\$10, \$15, \$20 etc.) are helpful so we can easily distribute them as needed*)

Gift cards can be dropped off at town hall, just ring the bell and someone will get them from you. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions! We are trying to support everyone we can with health and safety being a top priority.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES

THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 2, 2020** FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AT FIELDS MEMORIAL SCHOOL.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MAY 12, 2020.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS AT: ROV@BOZRAHCT.ORG OR 860-889-2689 X 209

FIRST SELECTMAN'S CORNER

Cases of corona virus have started to escalate in eastern CT. There is now one in Franklin. We are closing the town hall to general public access to make sure that the employees aren't exposed and reduce the public exposure. If there is something that you have to do at the town hall, call first and make arrangements with the party needed. Almost everything can be done without coming to the town hall.

The number of the infected is going up in our region and now is the time to stay home and not expose yourself or others. It isn't clear how long it will take to return to normal. Having low infection numbers for the next two to three weeks will be the key to getting back to normal, so stay at home and be safe. If you have travelled out of state or been to Fairfield County, you should self-quarantine for 2 weeks so that someone else does not get the disease from you.

That is the idea behind the social distance request from the Governor. If you don't have to go out-don't. If you have to go somewhere stay six feet away from people. Wash your hands for 20 seconds multiple times a day, or use sanitizer. Use the bleach wipes to sanitize the things that get touched routinely.

If you are sick, call your doctor and see if you can get tested. If you are having trouble breathing or are in serious trouble call 911 and the EMT's will show up. There is a mobile test facility at Backus Hospital, but it requires a doctor's request for you to get tested.

BUDGET APPROVAL CYCLE

The Governor declared an emergency and this will have impact on the way the town budget process will be accomplished for the next fiscal year as we go through the next few months. The problem is that public meetings currently have restrictions that are not likely to clear by the end of the budget process. This means that board meetings, public hearings, and town meetings will look different. We will still have public involvement, input, and feedback on our actions for the budgets which has always helped to make our fiscal health stronger.

1. The Board of Finance meeting on April 13th will review the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman budgets over one of the computer meeting services. The public will be able to watch/listen. There will be opportunities for public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting. We do not want to exclude anyone so if you don't have computer access to the meeting you will be able to call in and participate over the phone.
2. The budgets for the Board of Education, Board of Selectman, and Capital Expenditures will be posted on the town's website along with town finance data and mill rate history, and there will be at least two weeks for the public to comment by email before the finance board meets again. This is how the Board of Finance will get public input at a time when a public hearing will not be conducted to prevent having a gathering of people in accordance with the emergency orders.
3. There will likely be several finance meetings conducted in an online format so that the members can assess and comment on the budget requests, the fiscal health of the town, and the impact to the property tax payers. There is also the potential for additional meetings by the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman to adjust budgets based on feedback from the public and the Board of Finance.
4. During this process the Board of Selectman will meet, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, and they will authorize the Board of Finance to approve the budgets instead of a town meeting or referendum. This is required to avoid large gatherings of people, again for everyone's safety.
5. Once the Board of Finance has considered all of the variables and are satisfied with the budgets they will approve the budget.
6. The Board of Finance will approve a mill rate for property taxes in the upcoming year. The current mill rate of 27.5 mills has been in place for the last two fiscal years. Three years ago it was 28.5 mills and four years ago it was 27.5 mills.

2020 BOZRAH SCIENCE FAIR AWARD RESULTS

The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF) was held for the first time in an online format with over 485 projects representing over 100 schools. Fields Memorial sent 4 projects to the fair in Grade 8 Physical Science. FMS mentors are Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Leask. Awards received at FMS and the state level based on finalist interviews and special awards judging are as follows:

Lily Benedict- How Does Moisture Affect the Performance of a Wooden Bridge?

- *2nd level honors – CSEF- Grade 8 Physical Science
- *FMS Awards: BVFD Safety award & Leask STEM award-\$35

Rylee Benway- Domino Toppling

- *2nd level honors – CSEF- Grade 8 Physical Science
- *FMS Awards: Student Choice award & Leask STEM award-\$25

Felicia Silva- The Power of a Wind Turbine

- *2nd level honors – CSEF- Grade 8 Physical Science *1st place Middle School Math Award-ATOMIC & People's Bank- trophy; \$450
- * Fran Coeur Memorial Award in Engineering or Computer Science-\$200
- *Petit Women in Engineering Award- 2nd place Middle School- trophy; \$200
- *US Metric Association award-\$25 gift card
- *Collins Aerospace award medalist
- *FMS Awards: Leask STEM award, Backboard award & Math award-\$45

Elle Okoney- Producing Renewable Energy With Rainwater Gutter Systems Using Micro Hydro-turbines

- *1st level honors – CSEF- 4th place Grade 8 Physical-Trophy & Broadcam Invite
- *3rd place Middle School- Alternative/Renewable Energy Award- \$100 & trophy
- *2nd place Middle School- Applied Technology Award- \$200 & trophy
- *2nd place Middle School- Engineering Award- \$200 & trophy
- *CT Architecture Award-W.M.Mack-AIA-\$250 Gift Card* UTC Award for Excellence in Engineering- \$500 in Stock, backpack & plaque*IEEE Award- Junior level- certificate & \$250
- *JA Augustine award for Excellence in Physical Science- \$100
- *Smith Award for Innovative Concepts- \$100
- *Invention Convention trophy & Invite to Compete on May 2
- *FMS Awards: PTO Parents Choice, STEM award, Backboard & Earth Materials- \$65

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE YOUNG BOZRAH SCIENTISTS!!!!

Thank you to the organizations & individuals who sponsor & mentor our science students and their project work!! Special thanks to Gilman Brothers for their long-standing backboard support!! For more details about science fair in CT, go to ctsciencefair.org.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER **860-774-1253**

<u>TOWN MEETINGS</u>		
Committee	Date	Time and Place
IWCC CANCELED	April 2, 2020	CANCELED
BOF	April 13, 2020	COMPUTER MEETING
Have a great week		Carl Zorn