



# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

March 2007

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

[www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org)

## Town Board

Terri Egan, Supervisor  
Dan Plummer, Board Member  
Sam Messina, Board Member  
Kyle Kotary, Board Member  
Joann Dawson, Board Member

## March Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

**Move Clocks Ahead One Hour - Check  
Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors**  
**Sunday, March 11**

**Waterfront - Economic Development Focus  
Group Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 6, 5:00 p.m.

**Planning Board**  
Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Route 9W Study Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, March 8, 4:30 p.m.

**CACC**  
Monday, March 12, cancelled

**Waterfront - Open Space, Recreation,  
Culture Focus Group Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 13, 5:00 p.m.

**Town Board**  
Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 p.m.

**Development Planning Committee**  
Thursday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.

**Industrial Development Agency**  
Tuesday, March 20 8:00 a.m.

**Planning Board**  
Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

**Route 9W Study - Public Workshop at AW  
Becker Elementary School**  
Thursday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.

**Waterfront Advisory Committee**  
Tuesday, March 27, 5:00 p.m.

**Town Board**  
Wednesday, March 28, 5:30 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

[www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp)

## From the Supervisor

Dear Residents-

Our e-newsletter is off to an exciting start with over 120 people subscribing in just the first few weeks! One of our goals with the e-newsletter is to keep you apprised of the many initiatives taking place in Town and hopefully to get you involved. We welcome your thoughts, comments and participation and hope to see you at the many meetings, events and tours scheduled in the coming months.

The Highway Department did an excellent job clearing our streets during the "Valentine's Day" snowstorm and I appreciate all of the kudos extended to the men and women of the Highway Department. They certainly did not lose their touch even though the last time they plowed was January 23, 2006.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Bethlehem Town Hall sponsored its first blood drive in almost two decades. Thank you to Susan Alexander, Joyce Becker and Elizabeth Mosier who organized the drive on behalf of the Town and thank you to all those who donated. The blood collected was enough to impact 132 lives.



The [Trolley Tours](#) have started - the Revolutionary War Tour and the Historic Bethlehem Tour-both of which have met with much success. There is still time to take a tour, have lunch and learn about the historical significance of our town.

We continue to implement the recommendations approved by the Town Board in the [Comprehensive Plan](#) in August of 2005. On March 22nd, the [9W Advisory Committee](#) will conduct a [public workshop](#) at 6:30 p.m. at the Becker Elementary School which will focus exclusively on a discussion of alternatives for the construction of a "Selkirk By-Pass" (for more information, see Economic Development and Planning News, below.) The Town started to grapple with this issue starting back in 1989 and we hope to arrive at some consensus as to the best route for such transportation improvement. The issues of safety along Maple Avenue, relocation of tractor trailer traffic, possible economic development opportunities in the corridor with additional access and a new Thruway interchange, among other things, will all be discussed.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were extremely pleased to join with DOT and others to announce the contract award for the construction of the Route 85 extension, which road improvement will start at the intersection of New Scotland Road and Cherry Avenue Extension and proceed around and behind the Price Chopper and intersect with Route 85 near the old Blue Cross/Blue Shield Building at Mahar Road. Some form of this project has been in the planning stage for decades. We are excited to have this project off the drawing board and into construction with a planned completion date of Summer of 2008.

In addition to this e-newsletter, please take a moment to look at the Town website and the information contained therein. Please feel free to contact me with any question, inquiry or suggestion-it is with your help that we will make our Town an even better place to live,



work and play.

**Terri Egan**

## Town Has Implemented a New Telephone System

On Tuesday, February 20, the Town of Bethlehem debuted an upgraded phone system. All town offices are now included in one phone system, one telephone number (439-4955); incoming callers will select options from a new, expanded menu to reach a desired department. Phone calls currently received by the Police Department dispatchers are not affected by these changes.

A Call Center has been created to answer [frequently asked questions](#) and to direct callers to the appropriate department. A caller may dial "0" at any time to speak to a Call Center representative.

All existing town extension numbers have been changed to four digits; the digit one has been added to the front of the old extensions. If you know your party's four digit extension number, you may dial it at any time. Residents who need assistance from the fire or police departments should continue to dial 439-9973 or 911 if it is an emergency.

## Economic Development and Planning News

### Route 9W Study Advisory Committee Meetings to Focus on Selkirk By-Pass Alternative

The [Route 9W Study Advisory Committee \(SAC\)](#) will hold a regular committee meeting on Thursday March 8 at 4:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101. In conjunction with the study consulting team and Town staff, the SAC will review background information related to the Selkirk By-Pass construction. The committee will discuss alternative routes as well as the proposed agenda for a public workshop it will hold on Thursday March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at [Becker Elementary School on Route 9W](#). This interactive public workshop will focus exclusively on a discussion of alternatives for construction of the Selkirk By-Pass as the SAC begins to hone in on its recommendations in this regard. This important workshop is a critical step in the process of selecting a preferred alternative for the By-Pass and all interested citizens are strongly encouraged to attend.



### Slingerlands Pedestrian Network Plan to be presented to Town Board on March 14

The [Department of Economic Development and Planning](#) and the [Citizen's Advisory Committee on Conservation \(CACC\)](#) have collaborated with the consulting firm of Edwards & Kelcey to develop a pedestrian mobility plan for the greater Slingerlands hamlet area. The pedestrian network plan is intended to assist the Town in achieving its comprehensive plan vision of vibrant hamlets, attractive residential neighborhoods and successful mixed use centers served by public transportation and linked by a network of sidewalks and shared use paths. With the imminent construction of the Slingerlands By-Pass Extension and the Vista Technology Campus, this plan will provide the Town with an early stage guide to ensuring a successful pedestrian environment in this area of Town. A brief presentation of the plan will be made to the Town Board at its March 14 meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.

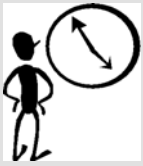
### Waterfront Advisory Committee to hold focus group discussions on March 6 and 13

The [Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan \(LWRP\) Waterfront Advisory Committee \(WAC\)](#) and its consultant, Saratoga Associates, held a well-attended public workshop on January 23, 2007. The workshop helped to confirm and prioritize major issues, concerns and opportunities in the river corridor. As a follow up, the WAC will host two focus groups in March to get more in-depth input on two major issues identified at the workshop. The first focus group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. and will cover the topic of economic development in the corridor. The 10-15 invited participants in this meeting will include individuals who have a specific interest or stake in future development opportunities within the waterfront area. This might include area economic development agencies, businesspersons, property owners and real estate developers. The second focus group will be held on Tuesday March 13 at 5:00 p.m. and will consider open space, recreation and cultural resources in the corridor. The 10-15 invited participants in this meeting will include individuals who have an interest in preserving and enhancing open space, recreation and cultural assets of the river corridor. Both meetings will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium. In addition to the two focus group meetings, the WAC will hold a regular committee meeting on Tuesday, March 27 at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101.

### Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) assigned new task at Town Board Meeting set for April 9

At its January 24, 2007 meeting, the Town Board assigned a new task to the [CACC](#), the development of a map to document existing recreation and conserved lands in the Town. The CACC discussed this task in great length at its February 12 meeting and also learned that its Chairman, John Smolinsky, was resigning to accept an appointment to the Town Planning Board. To enable time for the Town Board to name a new Chair, the CACC meeting originally scheduled for March 12 has been cancelled and the next meeting will be held on Monday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101.





**REMINDER: Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 a.m.** Move your clocks **AHEAD** one hour. This is also a great time to test and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.**

**Elsmere Fire Company Donates to Bethlehem Food Pantry**

Bill Webb, Chief of the Elsmere Fire Company presents a check to [Bethlehem Senior Services](#) employees Karen Pellettier and Jane Sanders for the Bethlehem Food Pantry. The Bethlehem Food Pantry is located in the Bethlehem Town Hall and is run through Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. with help from Bethlehem Senior Services Social Workers.



The Bethlehem Food Pantry is available to all town residents and is located in the Town Hall at 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar. If you live in town (proof of address/residency required) and feel you could use the help, call 439-4955, extension 1173 or 1174 for a confidential appointment.

**Home Energy Assistance Program (H.E.A.P.)**

H.E.A.P. Application Assistance available for **all** Albany County residents **regardless of age** on the following dates:  
Mondays, March 12th and April 9th  
(Appointments preferred, but not required)



The Home Energy Assistance Program helps individuals on fixed or low incomes (approximately \$1,764 per month for 1 individual or \$2,307 for 2 individuals) with energy related bills. Lora Ricketts, with Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be available to assist you with H.E.A.P. applications in Room 110 of Bethlehem Town Hall from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not required.

Please bring all of the following:

**Income:** Proof of **all** household income for 4 most recent weeks

**Address:** Rent receipt, or lease, or mortgage, or water-sewer bill

**Household Composition:** Social Security Card for all applicants, Birth Certificate for children under 6

**Fuel/Utility Bill:** Most recent fuel or utility bill, or statement from landlord if utilities included in rent

**Resources:** (For emergency applications only) Statement claiming zero resources, bank statement showing current balance, IRA's on day you apply

**If you are age 60 or over,** Outreach workers Jane Sanders or Will Vail are available to assist you with H.E.A.P applications Monday through Friday by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 439-4955, option #4

**Did You Know?**

- Safety Alerts, including recalls, are available via a link on the Town's [Emergency Management Office web page](#). The Office of Fire Prevention and Control within the Department of State issue New York State Safety Alerts.

**Department of Public Works News**

Did you know that in 2006 the [Public Works](#) Water plants used 1,759,000 KWh of electricity to produce and pump approximately 2,100,000,000 gallons of water?

People often think that water should be inexpensive. The regulations and requirements to make water drinkable are rigorous and the necessary testing to insure your drinking water is safe is continuous. The cost of bottled water can range from \$1 to \$2 a pint while one gallon of water from your tap costs 4 tenths of one cent to produce. Some people filter their tap water to remove chlorine, which process costs less than one cent a gallon. Chlorine is added to insure that the water remains disinfected between the water plant and your home.

While the uses of water are numerous, it is interesting to note that we drink only 1% of the water we purchase. The remainder is used for bathing, washing clothes, flushing toilets and watering lawns in the summer. On a typical summer day, Bethlehem residents use over 1,000,000 gallons of water **per day** for lawn irrigation. If we were to reduce the number of gallons of water we used, not only could we save money but also we could reduce the negative impact on the climate. Using less water will result in the water plant using less electricity and causing less fossil fuel to be consumed in the production of electricity.



### Tax Information

#### Income Tax Record Keeping

By now everyone that paid (or their bank paid) their 2007 Property taxes should have received their receipt. Please put these important documents in a safe place so that when income tax preparation time comes next year you can find these deductions.

In case you cannot find your property tax or school tax receipts from 2006, please call the [Tax Department](#) at 518-439-4955, ext 1177. We can easily find your paid tax amounts and either give you the dates and amounts paid over the phone, by fax or mail a duplicate receipt to you. As always, give us a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes

### Parks and Recreation Department News

#### Spring Program Registration

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for all spring programs. Most spring programs still have open enrollment and will begin mid-March. Please call for further program details and registration at 439-4131 or visit

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2007WinterSpring.pdf>.

#### Registration for Camp Whatablast has Begun

Sign-up NOW for this summer's Camp Whatablast. The program begins June 25 and runs until August 10; register for as many weeks as you want. Camp Whatablast is sponsored by the Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department and is held daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information and registration forms, see the [Park's Special Programs page](#). Flyers will also be distributed and sent home through the Bethlehem School District. For best chances to get in the program, mail-in your registration. Placement begins with a lottery style drawing on March 21 from mail-in registrations.

#### SCREAMS Rock N Bowl, March 25

This event is open to Middle School age students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District. Flyers will be distributed through the school and posted on the town web site in mid-March.

#### March Ski Club Trips for Middle School and High School Age Students

Conditions permitting:

Saturday, March 10 - Jiminy Peak

Saturday, March 24 - Okemo

Ski Club Information and Permission Slips are available from Mr. Tyler at the Middle School or Mr. Mooney at the High School or on our website at [www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks).

#### Seasonal Part-Time Gardener Needed

Seeking gardener to plant and maintain all flower beds in facilities operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. For more information and an application, please see [the Town's Human Resources web page](#).

#### Seasonal Staff Needed for Colonial Acres Golf Course

With the expected operation of Colonial Acres Golf Course to be taken over by the Town, seasonal staff will be needed such as laborers and clubhouse attendants. Workers will be needed from April through October. Interested applicants should apply to the Parks and Recreation office or visit

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2007ParksSummerApp.pdf>.



#### Apply For Summer Jobs Now

Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office or on our website, [www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2007ParksSummerApp.pdf](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2007ParksSummerApp.pdf). All applications must be received by March 30, 2007. Job opportunities include: Lifeguard, Pool Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance, Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk, and many other program leaders and supervisors.



#### Did You Know?

- If you have a question that may pertain to Town government or operations, you can visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) on our web site to look for quick references.



#### We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what you think of this newsletter. Please use the feedback form on the Town's web site, [www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/about/contact.asp](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/about/contact.asp)