



Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

May 2007

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.4955

www.townofbethlehem.org

Town Board

Jack Cunningham, Supervisor
Dan Plummer, Board Member
Sam Messina, Board Member
Kyle Kotary, Board Member
Joann Dawson, Board Member

May Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 p.m.

CACC

Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Tuesday, May 15, 8:00 a.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp

From the Supervisor

It is a tremendous honor for me to be given the opportunity to serve Bethlehem as Town Supervisor in the coming months. I have spent my first two weeks in office working with the various town government departments on the specifics regarding issues and initiatives on which they are currently working. I am pleased to report that the highly dedicated staff of town employees are fully engaged in addressing the major issues which this town faces and are moving forward with initiatives that will help to improve the quality of life we all enjoy.



During my first two days on the job, we were forced to deal with the torrential rainstorms of April 16th and 17th and the issue that this much rain presents for a municipality and our residents. Town Departments including DPW, Police, Highway and our Building Department quickly responded to issues that resulted from the flooding we experienced. Moreover, our town's volunteer fire companies were working overtime to help residents and business with flooded basements and other concerns that presented themselves as a result of the rain. Bethlehem is very fortunate to have such a large force of dedicated individuals who are willing to give so much of their time to support and protect our community. Our Senior Services Department was also on high alert, working with our seniors to ensure their safety and protection during the storms. As a result of all their efforts, I am happy to report that we survived the storms relatively unscathed.

We are now seeing the Route 85 corridor expansion in full swing. An [aerial map](#) of the proposed work can be seen on the Town's web site on the [Planning Division](#) page. Although this construction work may create some short-term inconveniences to our residents, the long-term benefits of this project will benefit the whole community. I met with the developers and was told that the Vista Technology Park will be moving forward in conjunction with this project and we will be hearing and seeing more about Vista in the coming weeks. I am very excited about the prospects of what this development will mean for the community and the region.

A group of residents joined together on Sunday, April 22, 2007 to commemorate Earth Day and do some clean up work long Route 32. The clean up was very successful and we are now planning additional community clean up days around town. The initiative brought to my attention the inordinate amount of litter that exists in our public areas and the need for attention to the litter problem here in town. We will be working with organizations throughout the town to encourage the sponsorship of community clean up days during the spring, summer and fall. You can sign up to participate in one of these events at our Community Clean Up web page (coming soon). The Town of Bethlehem will support this program with garbage bags, gloves, vests and water. Each event will run 2 hours and will target specific areas in town that require our close attention.

On Friday, April 27, 2007 we recognized the 135th celebration of Arbor Day by planting a tree at Maple Ridge Park in Selkirk. Arbor day was started in Nebraska by Julius Sterling Morton in order to improve the Nebraska landscape and ensure supplies of wood for future housing needs. Jim Plummer and Price Greenleaf donated the tree, a Sugar Maple, to the Town of Bethlehem for this celebration. It should be noted that the Sugar Maple is the official tree for New York State and was a welcome addition to the Maple Ridge Park.

There will continue to be many activities and initiatives here at Town Hall that you can read about on our Town web site www.TownofBethlehem.org. Please feel free to call my office or stop by if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Jack Cunningham



Donation of Maple Tree for Arbor Day

Pictured above are Don Glastetter, Rob Rarick, LJ, Kyle, William, Eva and Madeline Kotary, Jack Cunningham, Howard Shafer and Nan Lanahan

Economic Development and Planning News

Planning for Route 9W Continues



Since the study began last summer, substantial progress has been made toward identifying an appropriate, sustainable transportation strategy for the Route 9W corridor. The Study began with the creation of a corridor "profile," describing the existing characteristics of the roadway as well as the surrounding land uses, environmental conditions, and other useful information. The Town held an initial public work session to collect residents' thoughts on an overall vision for what Route 9W should be into the future. The study team, in collaboration with the [Route 9W Advisory Committee](#), published two technical reports, both posted on the Town's website, that include a thorough review of land use and traffic conditions, corridor walk-ability and bike-ability, transit accessibility, and an overview of the previous engineering work for the proposed Selkirk Bypass. Several possible alignments were presented for public review at a second public workshop held on March 22. The workshop continued the examination of the previous Selkirk Bypass work and sought community input to help develop consensus on the most appropriate course of action. The Town, in conjunction with the [Capital District Transportation Committee \(CDTC\)](#) and [Wilbur Smith Associates](#), is now examining alternate methods of how the preferred Selkirk Bypass alignment and possible alternatives for reaching the future vision for Route 9W can work together to create a sustainable corridor management plan. The Study Advisory Committee, made up of local residents and business owners, has been assisting the Town, the CDTC and the consultant at each step in the Study. The study team is hard at work compiling the results of a survey administered as part of the workshop, that will be posted on the Town's website in early May. A special public meeting on roundabout opportunities for the corridor was conducted by the [NYS DOT](#). Discussions with trucking companies and the [New York State Thruway Authority](#) were held as well.

In the coming weeks, the study team will examine the traffic impacts of continued land development in the corridor, focusing especially on mixed economic development opportunities called for under the [Comprehensive Plan](#). Transportation and land use actions needed to support planned development in the corridor will be discussed with the Advisory Committee. Special attention will be given to operational and management actions, including advanced traffic signal technology, service roads, shared access, roundabouts, bicycle and pedestrian links to neighborhoods, and other relatively low-cost actions. Opportunities to improve the look of the roadway and curb appeal of commercial properties through refinement of site and urban design guidelines outlined in the Comprehensive Plan will be looked at as well. In addition, a concept-level plan and financial strategy for the Selkirk Bypass will be identified. Additional opportunities for public discussion will be offered before a plan is completed this fall. Study Advisory Committee meetings in May, June, and September, and at least one public workshop in October, are planned.

For more information on the Route 9W Corridor Study, [visit the Town Website](#).



All Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day

The annual Memorial Day parade will kick off at 11:00 a.m. at the Elsmere Fire House and will proceed down Elsmere Avenue to a right on to Kenwood Avenue to a left on to Adams Place to a right on to Adams Street to a right on to Delaware Avenue and will end with a ceremony at the [Bethlehem Veterans Memorial Park](#)



Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Computer Recycling Day, Saturday, May 5

Each spring, the Town of Bethlehem holds a household hazardous waste (HHW) and computer recycling collection day. Residents can bring unwanted paints, thinners, and solvents, unused pesticides and lawn chemicals, as well as properly bagged asbestos, used florescent tubes, and outdated computers and their components.

Household Hazardous Waste and Computer Recycling Collection Day will take place on Saturday, May 5, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Town Highway Garage, 74 Elm Avenue East, Selkirk, rain or shine.

Residents who attend this program must bring proof of residency such as a driver's license or current tax bill. Please make sure all lids are secure and cans and bottles or containers are in boxes to prevent spills. Do not smoke near chemicals or leave these products in a hot, unventilated vehicle for an extended period of time. For your safety please remain in your vehicle. Workers will unload the wastes. For more information, contact the Town's Recycling Coordinator at 439-4955, extension 1510, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon or see [2007 Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Computer Recycling Day Information](#)

The town has a [Donating Reusables Brochure](#) listing organizations that welcome donations of good reusable appliances, furniture, clothing, books, toys, eyeglasses and hearing aids. Copies of the brochure are available at all town facilities or by [clicking here](#).

Proper disposal of home "sharps" (needles, syringes, and lancets) is available through St. Peter's Hospital (525-1163), Albany County Nursing Home (869-2231 x240) or Albany Medical Center (262-8000).

For up-to-date recycling and waste reduction information, watch for articles and advertisements in the *Spotlight* and *News Herald* newspapers and on *TV Channel 18*, Bethlehem's public access cable station.

[Recycling brochure](#)



Did You Know?



Did you know that Bethlehem has a [food pantry](#)? The Food Pantry is sponsored by [Bethlehem Senior Projects](#) and is available for use by people of any age who live within the Town of Bethlehem. The Pantry is located at the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue. In order to use the Party, it is necessary to make an appointment by calling 439-4955, ext. 1173 or 1174.

Jeffrey Dammeyer Receives the 2007 Frank C. Moore Award from the American Society for Public Administration

Jeffrey Dammeyer, Director of MIS, was awarded the 2007 Frank C. Moore Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). The Frank C. Moore Award is presented in recognition of outstanding service by an individual that has exemplified superior management and administration within local government, and which has contributed significantly to the resolution of a major governmental problem, to the development of a major governmental program, or that has affected major economies and/or efficiencies in the governmental process. The service rendered may be recent and singular or may encompass a series of accomplishments over a period of time. Such achievements should be far in excess of the normal expectations of the duties of the nominee's position and the level of the position within the organization.

Pictured to the right are Presenter Judith Kehoe, Town of Bethlehem Comptroller, Jeff Dammeyer and Dr. Michael Christakis, President of the Empire State Capital Area Chapter of ASPA.



"Jeffrey Dammeyer has forged new pathways for operations in the Town of Bethlehem by eliminating manual processes and implementing new technologies for twelve operating divisions to enable the town to 'do more, with less.' Mr. Dammeyer has created and maintained the Town's Web site in a format that is both user-friendly and reflects positively on the community. In 2007, Mr. Dammeyer and his staff launched an e-newsletter to subscribers, which has been lauded for its relevant content and its format. He is vigilant about security and protects system integrity against external threats by updating the hardware with the latest security software. He is a leader who can provide formal training for all users on new applications to continuously promote growth of their skills. Mr. Dammeyer, as a key member of the Town's senior management staff, provides invaluable perspectives on operational and technology issues." Immediate past Town Supervisor Theresa Egan nominated Mr. Dammeyer.

Pool passes may be obtained or updated beginning May 29. See the [Summer Parks brochure](#), page 4, for more information. Please note: old laminated passes will no longer be updated. Avoid the long lines on hot, sticky days and get your passes early!

Department of Public Works News



NOTICE WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM 2007

AREA #2 – 4/23 to 5/11
Delmar, Elsmere
AREA #3 – 5/4 to 5/25
Glenmont, Selkirk

*Some discoloration may be seen during this flushing program, which could result in staining of laundry.
Run water until it clears before doing laundry*

**Property Assessment Grievance Day
Tuesday, May 22, 2007**

HOURS

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon AND 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Town Hall Auditorium
445 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

The Tentative Assessment Roll will be available in the [Assessor's Office](#) in Room 114 at Town Hall and will be filed on May 1st

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Telephone: 518-439-4955, ext. 1101

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16th 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays May 12th and May 19th 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Sunday, May 13 is Mothers' Day



Parks and Recreation Department News

Spring Program Registration

Summer program registration will begin this month. Please review the important registration dates & deadlines listed below. Remember, your best chance to get into a desired program is to submit your registration by the lottery drawing date. To view the Summer Brochure visit:

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

May 9: Learn to Swim & Tiny Tot registration lottery drawing.

May 16: General program registration lottery drawing.

May 25: Phone & in person registration will begin for all programs.

May 25: Camp Whatablast payment is due in full by this date. Camp Whatablast registration is currently underway.

Registration for Camp Whatablast has Begun

You can access a camp registration flyer by clicking the following link:

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

Flyers are also available at the Park Office. Camp begins June 25 and runs until August 10, register for as many weeks as you want. Camp Whatablast is held daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Elsmere Elementary School. Camp Whatablast is inspected twice a season by the Albany County Department of Health.

SCREAMS - White Water Rafting, May 19

This event is open to all 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 website in the first week of May. For the complete SCREAMS schedule visit:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parks/parksPgms.asp#SCREAMS>

Update Pool Passes Beginning May 29

Mark your calendars now! The ID room will open May 29. Residents are encouraged to update or obtain their pool pass early to avoid waiting in line on hot days! Details on residency requirements, fees and hours are available in the recently mailed Bethlehem Report or online at:

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

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer applications are currently being accepted for summer programs. Applicants are required to be at minimum entering 8th grade. All volunteers are giving extra consideration when applying for future employment with the Parks and Recreation Department. Pick up an application at the park office or download it at:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2007ParksVolunteerApp.pdf>

Delmar Resident Receives 2007 Albany County Executive's Volunteer Award



Each year, Albany County recognizes Capital Region volunteers for their dedication and commitment to our communities through their volunteer efforts. This year, Delmar resident Anne Donahue received the County Executive's Volunteer Award. Pictured at left is Albany County Executive Michael Breslin with Anne Donahue.

Anne Donahue is a 91 year old volunteer who has been coming to the Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center in Delmar since 1976. At Good Samaritan, she helps to transport wheelchair residents to our Chapel for Rosary and Mass every Thursday. She visits with our residents not only at the Nursing Home but also at the Assisted Living Facility, as well as with residents of our community who are homebound or ill. Ann has also volunteered at St. Joseph's Academy as a reading tutor and volunteer librarian, was a volunteer director of students for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Capital District and worked as a volunteer employment counselor at St. John's/St. Ann's, where she was also a volunteer packer at their food pantry. Ann has published several articles in religious papers, worked on WTEN television, wrote scripts and helped direct a Christmas program about St. Coleman's Home and St. Peter's Hospital on WRGB television. Although Ann has had to give up driving, she continues to volunteer by walking to our facility and can be seen walking around Delmar or taking a bus to Albany. She has a life-time pass to Mount Van Hoevenberg in Lake Placid where she still skies in the winter. Ann has traveled to many places and enjoys sharing her experiences with everyone, is always cheerful and very enjoyable to have around.



**Rabies Vaccination Clinic
Tuesday, June 5
Elm Avenue Park**

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 for cats and ferrets
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 for dogs

Donation is \$5.00 per animal



It's the Law! All Dogs, Cats and Ferrets in NYS MUST Have a Current Rabies Vaccination

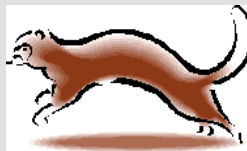
The Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets has been arranged by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society. All dogs, cats and ferrets must be on leashes or in carriers. A record of prior vaccination will be required for a three year immunization. If no record is presented, a one year vaccination certification will be issued. All clinics are open to any Albany County resident. Any inquiry can be directed to Division of Environmental Health Services, (518) 447-4620 or 447-4625.

The remaining Albany County clinics will be held as follows:

Saturday, September 8
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets, 2:30-4 for dogs)
Colonie Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Colonie

Saturday November 3
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets, 2:30-4 for dogs)
Public Works Garage, Cohoes Road, Green Island

[Go to the Albany County Department of Health web site for more information](#)





Bethlehem Senior Volunteer Corps Award Recipients

Bethlehem Senior Volunteer Corps celebrated twenty five years of service for older residents of the Town of Bethlehem at a gathering at Normanside County Club on April 17. Pictured to the left are volunteers Austin Cline, a Senior Transportation driver, his wife Marilyn Cline, a Meals On Wheels driver, their daughter Lori Morelli and their granddaughter Liz Morelli, a Meals On Wheels assistant. Marilyn and Liz received an award for their volunteer hours.

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.



The 59th Albany Tulip Festival will be held May 11 - 13, 2007 in Washington Park, Albany, New York

For more information, please visit http://www.albanyevents.org/tulip_festival/index.cfm



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

[Click here for a printable version of this e-Newsletter](#)

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