



Volume I Issue 5

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

June 2007

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

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

## Town Board

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

## June Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

### Planning Board

Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.

### CACC

Monday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

### Town Board

Wednesday, June 13, 6:00 p.m.

### Industrial Development Agency

Tuesday, June 19, 8:00 a.m.

### Planning Board

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 p.m.

### Waterfront Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 26, 5:00 p.m.

### Town Board

Wednesday, June 27, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

Please note: Town Board meetings now begin at 6:00 p.m.



June 14 is Flag Day

## From the Supervisor

May has been a busy month here at Bethlehem Town Hall. We began this month on a sad note when we hosted over 6000 police officials for the funeral of Trooper David Brinkerhoff. This event took significant coordination between our Police, Highway and Parks departments and went extremely well. Despite the solemn nature of this occasion, the event was executed flawlessly due to the planning and preparedness of our town departments.

The Highway Department held its annual Household Hazardous Waste Day again this month and it was our largest event ever. The department handled over 900 vehicles and sent 50 pallets of computer equipment for recycling. Interestingly, when the Town first held its hazardous waste day, computers were not even on the list of items to be delivered for recycling. This year, computers were our biggest item. We also had a multitude of other recyclables including, but not limited to 1,585 gallons of paint, 1,864 pounds of fluorescent bulbs and 4,950 automotive batteries.



The Town Hall Garden was dedicated in memory of Ruth Voorhees. We are honored to have our garden featured in the Bethlehem Garden Club Tour coming up on June 13th.

Beginning this month, and the last Saturday of each month through October, we will be having Community Clean-up Days around our town. Individuals and groups who are interested participating in any of the dates, please call my office to sign-up.

Technology is amazing and far-reaching. I recently had the opportunity to join our [Emergency Management Director, Jack Brennan](#), and a

representative of the US Veteran's Affairs Office of Information and Technology to make a 50 thousand mile telephone call to the Bethlehem Town Hall from the grounds of the Town's Fire Training Center on Center Lane. Using the latest in satellite technology, the call traveled 23 thousand miles to a geostationary satellite in the earth's orbit and back to Denver, Colorado before ringing in at the Bethlehem Town Hall. In the event of an emergency where regular telecommunications access is interrupted by the disaster, this equipment would allow uninterrupted communications and computer system interfacing.



I am sad to report that Bethlehem lost one of its dedicated employees this week. Dr. Ray Houghton, [our Town Historian](#), died on Wednesday, May 30th. He will be sorely missed. His expertise and his genuine desire to preserve our history and educate the community with his vast knowledge will not be easily duplicated. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The annual Memorial Day Parade was well attended. This is our town's largest annual event and all the marchers, from the very youngest to our more mature participants, had a wonderful time celebrating and remembering all those who have died fighting for the freedoms that we too often take for granted. Thank you to the American Legion Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post for continuing the planning of this event each year for our community.

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](http://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**

### Economic Development and Planning News

#### **CACC Continues to Seek Public Input on Funding Report**

In late 2006, the [Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation \(CACC\)](#) published its report [Open Space Protection Programs – Funding and Tools](#), which is available for review on the Town's web site at Departments/Services, Advisory Committees, [CACC](#) at the bottom of the page. The CACC then held a public workshop in January to obtain public comment and input on the report. More than 80 residents and property owners attended the workshop. The comments and questions raised by the workshop attendees have been compiled and can be found [at this link](#) or on the CACC page of the Town's web site. As the CACC proceeds with its current task of developing a base map of existing recreation and conserved lands in the Town, it remains very interested in obtaining public input and comments on the open space protection programs outlined in its report. Comments may be sent to the CACC by e-mail at [CACC@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:CACC@townofbethlehem.org) or by mail to the CACC c/o DEDP, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054.

The CACC emerged as a Tier I recommendation of the Town's [Comprehensive Plan \(Comp Plan\)](#). The Comp Plan directed the Town Board to appoint an advisory committee, which, at the direction of the Town Board, explores conservation projects and opportunities with willing landowners. The CACC is an advisory body that provides advice and recommendations to the Town Board. It does not have independent regulatory powers. Staff members of the Department of Economic Development and Planning (DEDP) provide staff support to the CACC.



#### **Did You Know?**



**To help avert potential tragedy, the Bethlehem Police are requesting that anyone who is aware of an underage drinking party taking place contact them at 439-1503. All calls received will be treated in the strictest of confidence so don't be afraid to call. *Your call could save a life.***



#### **Bethlehem Senior Services Department to be featured on Television Show**

On Wednesday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m., WMHT will premiere a new, locally produced series entitled "It's an Age Thing: Our Communities" which will feature the Town of Bethlehem Senior Services program, staff and volunteers. Check it out! This program, which will be broadcast every Wednesday night for 13 weeks, offers feature stories from around our community and expert interviews that highlight the creative and caring ways people in our Capital District are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. The series will air as follows:



Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning 6/20/07  
Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. beginning 6/23/07 and  
Sundays at 7:30 p.m. beginning 6/24/07



"It's an Age Thing: Our Communities" is informative and uplifting. It will make you think about what can be done where you live. For when we support our young old, middle old and oldest populations, we support and strengthen everyone who lives in our towns and neighborhoods.

As Executive Director of Albany Guardian Society, Rick Iannello networks with a vast array of organizations and individuals who are making a positive impact in our communities, particularly in the lives of our older citizens. In speaking about the new series, Iannello said, "There are phenomenal and devoted people here in our region whose good work deserves to be showcased on public television. These are 'can do' folks who have rolled up their sleeves and made great things happen. Albany Guardian Society is proud to once again collaborate with WMHT to tell their important stories."

## Department of Public Works News

### 10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

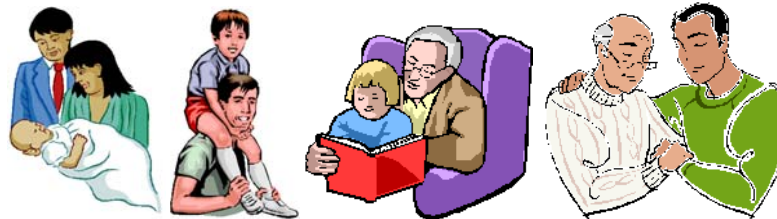
- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste.
- Use least toxic pesticide, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.



Bethlehem Police participate in statewide campaign **Buckle Up New York, Click It or Ticket.**

The dates of the Buckle Up New York Campaign are May 21 - June 03, 2007. During this period, the Bethlehem Police Department's goal is to increase compliance, prevent injuries and raise awareness. Seatbelt enforcement is the single most important traffic enforcement action we can take as police officers in order to save lives. A "Zero Tolerance" approach will be taken during this campaign. Remember, **Buckle Up New York, Click It or Ticket.**

### Sunday, June 17 is Fathers' Day



## Parks and Recreation Department News

### Town Park Pools and Splash Islands will open Saturday, June 9

The Elm Ave. Park Pool complex will open for the summer season on Saturday, June 9 at 10am. Come join the fun!

### Summer Program Registration

Summer program registration has begun. Most programs begin in June so don't wait... Register now!! We are currently taking registrations over the phone at 439-4955 option 3. To view the Summer Brochure visit: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2007SummerParks.pdf>

### 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 - Teen Luau, June 15

Our end of the school year *Teen Luau* will be held at the Town Park Pool, 8:00 – 10:00 PM. Festivities will include late night swimming, DJ music and games. The snack bar will remain open for this event. Parents who wish to volunteer please call Jason Gallo, at 439-4955 x 1604. This event is open to all Middle School students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District.

### Update Your Pool Passes Now!

The ID room has opened and you may now update your pool passes. 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 on line 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>

### Special Events

#### Har-Har-Harry's Magical Clown Show – FREE!



Thursday, June 28, 7:00 PM Elm Avenue Park  
(in case of rain, this event will be held under the large pavilion)

Not your average clown, not your average clown show. Harry sings, dances, performs magic and leads games. Harry does it all!!

#### Playin' With Fire – FREE!

Concert (rock genre) at Henry Hudson Park.  
Saturday, June 30, 2:00 PM

Elsmere firefighters perform all of your favorites. Bring a picnic and a chair, and kick back for a concert by the river. Please, NO alcoholic beverages. Held Rain or Shine.



### Did You Know?

- Albany County has passed a law requiring notification when **commercial or residential lawn pesticides** are used. The Albany County Department of Health has outlined the new pesticide usage law as it applies to you. Please visit their web page [http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/programs\\_services.asp?id=641](http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/programs_services.asp?id=641) for more details, printable lawn markers and informational pamphlets.

### Tax Office Information

#### Tax Exemption

You may be eligible for the Basic STAR, Enhanced STAR, veterans and/or senior citizen tax exemptions. The Basic STAR applies to most homeowners and saves approximately \$600+. Please call the Assessor's office for more information at 518-439-4955, ext. 1103. The Tax Office will be able to point you in the right direction to find the Assessor's Office.

#### Escrow Accounts

Information on **refinances**, creation of your escrow, bank mergers or changes in your escrow account, need to be given to the Tax Office. Please call Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes, at 439-4955, ext 1177, with any change in the mailing of your tax bill.



#### 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

Donation is \$5.00 per animal.

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





**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)

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

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Town of Bethlehem | 445 Delaware Avenue | Delmar | NY | 12054

web: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org>