



Volume I Issue 11

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

December 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

From the Supervisor

A few weeks ago you voted to give me a full term as Town Supervisor. It is an extraordinary honor and privilege for me to serve you and our community. I will continue to work each day to help keep our Town one of the best places in the nation to live, and to provide the level of responsiveness and service we all have come to expect from our local government. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me and for the support of our mission and goals.

Jack Cunningham

December Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 p.m.

Route 9W Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 13, 4:30 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Tuesday, December 18, 8:00 a.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.

Town Offices close at noon

Monday, December 24

Town Offices closed

Tuesday, December 25

Town Offices closed

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

Planning Board

Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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



**Town Offices Close at
Noon on Monday,
December 24**

**Town Offices are Closed
on Tuesday, December 25
and Tuesday, January 1,
2008**



**Best Wishes To Our Residents For A Safe And Joyous
Holiday Season**

~~From All Of Us At The Town Of Bethlehem~~

Economic Development and Planning News

Waterfront Advisory Committee Holds Public Meeting on Draft LWRP Recommendations

Approximately twelve months from the date of its first meeting, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program's (LWRP) Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) convened a public meeting on Wednesday, November 7 to obtain public comment on the draft LWRP recommendations. Approximately fifty citizens attended the meeting and provided excellent feedback to the WAC and the planning consultant, Saratoga Associates.

Development of an LWRP emerged as a Tier I recommendation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) adopted in 2005. The Town was successful in applying for a grant from the New York State Department of State (DOS), the State agency that has planning jurisdiction over the State's coastal zones including the Hudson River. The purpose of the study is to develop recommendations and policy guidance related to future land use in the riverfront corridor.

Major components of the study include the following:

- Inventory and Analysis of natural and man-made resources in the waterfront area
- Identification of issues, conflicts and opportunities in the study area
- Identification of management plan objectives in the study area
- Development of waterfront revitalization policies
- Description of proposed land and water uses necessary to implement the LWRP
- Identification of implementation techniques and methods that can be used to address identified issues
- Determination of Significance and Compliance with the State Environmental Quality review Act (SEQRA)
- Development of a Master Plan for Henry Hudson Park

The following individuals are members of the WAC:

Charlotte Buchanan
 Ken Daves
 David DeCancio
 Tom Donovan
 Lisa Evans
 Ted Jennings
 Paul Murray
 Theresa Pillittere
 Howie Vagele

The following Town employees have also provided support to the planning effort:

Nan Lanahan, Parks and Recreation Administrator
 George Leveille, Director, Economic Development and Planning
 Kathy Newkirk, Town Clerk

With the meeting input in hand, the draft recommendations will be revised and circulated to the Department of State for its review of the plan. It is anticipated that the Town Board will consider adoption of the LWRP in early 2008. The draft recommendations are available for public review on the Town's website.



REMINDER: Every year, the town has a "NO PARKING" ordinance that begins on November 1 and continues through April 15. The law prohibits vehicles from parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Vehicles parked in violation of the "NO PARKING" ordinance may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.



CACC Corner



In an effort to provide information about the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) to Town residents, news of our activities will now appear in the monthly e-Newsletter in a series called "CACC Corner". Currently, we are providing articles that discuss open space protection funding opportunities and tools that are applicable to the Town of Bethlehem. The articles are derived from the CACC's, "Open Space Protection Programs – Funding and Tools Report to the Town Board", prepared in October 2006 and can be found at the bottom of the following web page:



<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/AdvisoryComs/advCACC.asp>. Drafting

and refining the report was a careful and methodical process driven by many exchanges of ideas and facts; and therefore, each topic article will appear as originated in the Report.

This month the Corner discusses Lease of Development Rights (LDR) and Term Conservation Easements (TCE.)

Lease of Development Rights (LDR) and Term Conservation Easements (TCE)

A lease of development rights ("LDR") program is one in which a municipality acquires the development rights of a parcel for a period of years rather than in perpetuity. In exchange for restricting development on his or her property and using best management practices, the landowner receives preferential tax treatment in the form of further reduced property taxes (beyond the reduction already allowed for farm operations and open space), and/or a yearly rental payment. A benefit to the Town of this approach is that it is a stopgap measure that can help slow the loss of farmland and open space until permanent protection can be obtained.

A benefit to the landowner is that he or she retains the possibility of developing the land in the future and thus maintains the property's long-term equity value. The Town could use its municipal authority to issue installment sale obligations, which is discussed further in section V-A of the Funding Report.

To date, no community in the state has enacted an LDR program where lease payments are made to the landowner for not developing land. However, at least two communities (including Clifton Park) have created TCE programs where, in exchange for preferential tax treatment, a landowner agrees to restrict development on his or her property by entering into a conservation easement with the municipality for a specified period of years.

Advantages to Town of LDR/TCE:

1. Less expensive than outright purchase or purchase of development rights of property.
2. Property remains on the tax rolls of the Town, albeit assessed for a reduced amount.

Disadvantages to Town of LDR/TCE

1. Does not preserve land in perpetuity.

CACC Corner is an ongoing series of articles by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) discussing its recent activities. Look here each month for a new conservation topic of interest.



Did You Know?



In a medical emergency can you remember the prescriptions and health history of your child, spouse or yourself off the top of your head? What if you or your loved one is unconscious and cannot answer these questions? The **File of Life** is a magnetized red pocket with a clear plastic window that is attached to the outside of your refrigerator where it is visible and accessible to medical personnel. The pocket contains an insert that lists health problems, prescribed medications, allergies, recent surgeries and other pertinent medical information. Files of Life are available at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. Those wishing more information on the File of Life program and how Files of Life can be distributed to Bethlehem community organizations can call Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. at 439-4955, ext. 1168.

News from BEMO Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

For vital hazard information, please visit the town's Emergency Management Office's web page at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/emergencyMan.asp>.

Life Support/Critical Care is a program available to National Grid customers who submit written documentation from their physician confirming that they or another member of the household requires electrically operated "life sustaining" medical equipment to maintain life. Examples of such life support medical equipment are:

- Apnea monitors
- Kidney dialysis devices
- Continuous ventilation devices
- Suction/aspiration equipment

Once National Grid receives written medical certification from the physician the company will conduct a home visit to verify the medical status and contact information. Once completed, National Grid will then take steps within its system to appropriately identify the customer's meter, the Customer Services System database and the company's Storm Board Operations and Regional Control Operations database, called NewLife. All Life Support customers are notified on a regular basis to verify correct program information and continued need.

For information and/or enrollment in National Grid Life Support program call: **1-800-932-0301**



Please go to

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/Fire%20Prevention%20Bureau/Holidaysafety.pdf> for **Holiday Fire Safety**, A Fire Safety Message from the New York State Office of Prevention and Control.



Letters to Santa Program Has Begun



Bethlehem's annual "Letters to Santa" program began on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 and will end on Wednesday, December 12, 2007.

The Bethlehem Police Family Services Unit and volunteer Senior Services elves promise that all letters received on or before December 12 will be answered before Christmas.

Letters can be placed in "Santa Boxes" located at the Bethlehem School District's seven elementary schools, Bethlehem Town Hall, the children's section of the Bethlehem Library and the Stewart's stores in Glenmont, Feura Bush, Cottage Lane in Selkirk and on Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

Parents, grandparents and relatives who have young children in the family are encouraged to write letters and place them in the "Santa Boxes." **Please make sure you include the child's name and address.**

Senior Services News

Please note the changes in the transportation schedule due to holidays in December! There will be no transportation from December 24th, 2007 through and including January 1st, 2008.

To see all of the interesting activities, events, programs and services provided by Town's Senior Services department, pick up a copy of the bi-monthly Senior Services newsletter at the Senior Services Department, Room 110 at the Town Hall, on Senior Services transportation vehicles or on the Town's web site at

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/seniorServices.asp#Brochures> .

Not just for Seniors!

Some programs may have age restrictions, many do not (for example, Food Pantry, LawHelp/NY, volunteers, Caregiver programs), please call for specifics, 439-4955. In order to participate in any programs or to volunteer, an [Intake Form](#) MUST be filled out first. Intake forms are available in the Senior Services office or [on the Town's web site](#).

Parks and Recreation Department News

Winter / Spring Program Registration

We are currently accepting mail-in program registrations for our lottery style registration drawing to be held on Thursday, December 13. Phone-in & in-person registration will begin on Wednesday, December 19. Inside the Parks & Recreation brochure you will find the complete winter & spring schedule of programs, activities and special events. The winter / spring brochure can also be accessed thru the town web site at: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008WinterSpring.pdf>

Please remember, mail-in registration is the best way to secure your participation in a program

SCREAMS – Snowflake Dance

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School



Come join us at our "Snow Flake Dance Party" on Friday, December 7 at the Elm Avenue Park Warming Area from 7:00PM – 9:30PM. This event is free and will include a DJ, Dance contests, Prizes, Refreshments and More! No pre-registration is necessary. This event is for all middle school students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. Look for flyers distributed at the Middle School in early December, flyers will also be available at the Park office or visit the town website, <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parks/parksPgms.asp#SCREAMS>



Need a Holiday Gift Idea...Colonial Acres Gift Certificates!



How about a gift certificate or punch card for golf at Colonial Acres during the 2008 season? Call or visit the Park office for details, 439-4955 option 3

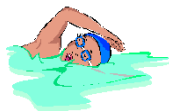
Pavilion Reservations for 2008

Residents of the Town or Town based organizations may reserve the pavilions at Elm Avenue Park, Henry Hudson Park and Maple Ridge Park for recreational functions beginning January 2nd, call the Park office at 439-4955 option 3 to determine availability and obtain a permit request form / fee information. Permits for all users will be issued on a first come, first paid basis.



Winter Lifeguard Positions Available

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking for lifeguards for two morning aquatic programs, Adult Water Workout and Lunchtime Lap Swim. These programs meet at the High School pool on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9 AM – 12 noon, Beginning January thru March. For further information please contact Jason Gallo, at 439-4955 x 1604 or email at jgallo@townofbethlehem.org.



Middle School and High School Ski Club trips begin



The Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a Ski Club for high school and middle school aged students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District. From December to March, the Ski Club is making two trips per month to area slopes.



Ski or snowboard at many ski resorts this winter with your friends - beginners are welcome! Trip destinations vary so watch for posters at the Middle School and High School and listen to announcements at school. The schedule of trips, informational packet, permission slips, advance sign-up sheet and descriptions of each trip are available on the town web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parks/parksPgms.asp#SchoolSkiClub>.



Did You Know?



Bethlehem Police have partnered with project ChildSafe, an expansion of project HomeSafe, as part of a nationwide initiative to raise awareness about safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage. Designed to make homes with firearms safer, Bethlehem Police will be offering, at no charge, gunlocks to those who want them. Project ChildSafe is funded by a \$5 million grant from the United States Department of Justice and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Gun locks are available at the Bethlehem Police Station, 447 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, or by calling the Police Department Family Services Unit at

439-9973.

Those requesting gunlocks will not be asked to fill out or sign any documents. For more information on the Project ChildSafe program, please visit their website at <http://www.projectchildsafesafe.org>

Tax Office Information

Property Tax Bills

Property Tax Bills are mailed in early January. No penalty will be added if U.S. postmarked or paid in person on or before January 31. Postage meter indicia or foreign postmarks are not acceptable for determining timeliness of mailing. On taxes remaining unpaid after January 31, please note that a 1% penalty for payments made in February and a 2% penalty for payments made in March will be added. Bills cover January 1 to December 31st.

Be aware that tax payments, or any payments, made from your home computer usually do not have a postmark stamp when they are received by us. These payments should be made mid month to hope that they are received before the deadline. The postmark determines the timeliness of payments. Envelopes received with no postmark are considered paid on the date they are delivered to us per New York State law.

The back of the tax statement contains important information on exemptions, deadlines and third-party notification. Taxpayers are urged to carefully review the back of the tax bill. In the event you did not receive a tax bill, if you have an escrow account and you received the tax bill or a bill was sent to you in error, please call Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes at 439-4955, extension 1178.



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

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

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