



Volume 2 Issue 1

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

February 2008

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.4955

www.townofbethlehem.org

Town Board

Jack Cunningham, Supervisor
Joann Dawson, Board Member
Mark Hennessey, Board Member
Kyle Kotary, Board Member
Sam Messina, Board Member

February Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

CACC

Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

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

Town Offices closed

Monday, February 18

Industrial Development Agency

Tuesday, February 19 8:00 a.m.

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.

Town Board

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

For agendas, please see:

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

Blue Friday, 2/8

People are encouraged to wear the color blue on the second Friday of February each year to commemorate "Blue Friday." This day has been set aside to show respect for those killed in the line of duty and to show how grateful we are for the service of the brave men and women who are currently serving in law enforcement.



Locally, there will be a gathering at Appletini's on Central Avenue in Albany on Friday, February 1 from 7 -9 p.m. Register to win great giveaways all night long including the chance at tickets to Carrie Underwood and Josh Turner at the Times Union Center on February 19. Beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, February 8, Denoyer Chevrolet on Wolf Road and Pizzeria Uno located at exit 15 of the Northway will be selling blue carnations for \$5 each.

For more information, you may visit the Capital Region Concerns of Police Survivors' web site at http://www.crcops.com/Home_Page.html.

Annual Review for Agricultural Districts 2/1-3/1

Please be advised that the 30-day annual review period for Albany County Agricultural Districts begins on February 1. During this period, landowners can apply to have predominantly viable agricultural land included in a certified Agricultural District. At the end of the 30-day open period, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will review the applications and report its recommendations to the County Legislature. Based on these recommendations and comments received from a public hearing, the Legislature will forward proposed modifications to the Districts to the Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for approval. Municipalities whose territory encompasses the lands which are proposed to be included in an agricultural district will receive a map with parcel numbers of the proposed inclusions and will be notified directly in writing of the time, date and location of the public hearing.

If you have any questions about the Agricultural District review process, you may go to the County's website at <http://albanycounty.com> and visit the County's Planning Department page or <http://albanycounty.com/departments/edcp/agDistricts.asp?id=1165>.

Trolley Tours of Historic Bethlehem



Your guides on the Trolley Tour, Susan Leath, Town Historian or Kathy McCarthy, Editor in Chief of Spotlight Newspapers, will give an overview of Bethlehem history, pointing out our town's many historic areas along the way. The tour winds through the hamlets of Delmar, Slingerlands, Elsmere, Glenmont, Cedar Hill and Van Wies Point covering history from 6000 BC to 2008. What a journey it will be.

Tour dates are January 29, February 8, 19 & 23, March 14 & 18, and April 6. All tours begin at 9:45 am and end at 12 noon, except the Sunday, April 6 tour is at 12:45 to 3:00 pm. Tours will begin and end at the public parking lot at the Four Corners in Delmar.

Tours include heated trolleys from the Albany Aqua Ducks & Trolleys, a stop at the Bethlehem Historical Museum, some treats provided by Perfect Blend, and

discount coupons for lunches at Bethlehem restaurants for before or after the tour. The price is \$23 per person, regardless of age and includes a donation to the Bethlehem Historical Association. Reservations can be made on line at <http://www.albanyquadducks.com> or by calling 462-3825.

The tour experience has been made possible by the Town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Historical Association, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Perfect Blend, and Albany Aqua Ducks & Trolleys.

Economic Development and Planning News

Farm and Open Space Protection Program Update

In September 2007 the Town Board accepting recommendations from the DEDP regarding the approach to the development of a farm and open space protection program, a Tier II recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan established that Town residents support initiatives to encourage open space protection. It provides many new tools and incentives to encourage implementation of open space and natural resource protection projects. It also established that Town residents are concerned about the increasing burden of public services that has been exacerbated by steady residential growth. And, it establishes and respects the concerns of many large landowners that restrictions and regulations can adversely affect the economic value and use of their land. While there is a strong desire to move forward with open space protection programs, it is guided by respect for the rights of land owners, the need for fiscal responsibility, and the need for the property owners to be willing to participate in open space protection projects. The framework of the Comp Plan can very much be summed up in the following goal:

“Work with willing landowners to conserve quality open spaces throughout the Town and create a network of open lands to provide wildlife habitat and potential recreational trail corridors”

Based on the recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan, the DEDP prepared a Request for Qualifications for Open Space Planning Services in November 2007 to solicit interest from consulting firms who desire to assist the Department. In addition to consultant assistance, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) will serve as the advisory committee to the DEDP on the Plan. The DEDP has currently received statements of qualifications from four consulting firms and are currently conducting an evaluation of the qualified responses that have been submitted. Over the next month the Department will be making a consultant selection decision, and will either contact qualified firms to schedule an interview, request additional information, or inform them of our progress. It is anticipated that a recommended consultant will be submitted to the Town Board for approval at a February meeting.

DEDP Applies for New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Grant

The Department of Economic Development and Planning has applied for a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to fund a Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, a component of the Open Space and Farmland Protection Plan. At its December meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution for the submittal of the grant application. According to the State Agency, the purpose of the grant program is to provide economic incentive to municipalities to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans that will maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Municipalities located in a county that has established an agricultural and farmland protection board are eligible to submit an application. The Town of Bethlehem is eligible for funding up to \$25,000 or 75 percent of the cost of developing a local protection plan, whichever is less. The overall goal of the plan is to develop strategies and programs to promote and maintain the economic viability of the Town's agricultural industry and its agricultural land base.

Currently, nineteen municipalities across the State have received awards through the Agency's first round of funding. The Agency has indicated a second round of funding will be awarded in a few months.



Vehicles and bicyclists in a roundabout have right-of-way over vehicles entering or exiting the roundabout.

CACC Corner



CACC to Serve as Advisory Committee to DEDP for the Development of a Farm and Open Space Protection Program



Currently, the CACC is assisting the Department of Economic Development and Planning (DEDP) in the development of an Open Space Planning process for the Town. A Tier II recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan, and a recommendation of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee is for the creation of a Farm and Open Space Protection Program. The CACC will serve the advisory committee responsibility that is often associated with major Town planning

efforts.

The CACC has assisted the DEDP in developing several guiding principles regarding the Open Space Planning process that will provide key values to guide decision-making during the development of the Plan. In addition, the CACC has assisted in drafting a scope of work, which will include an outline of tasks to be undertaken, an implementation schedule, budget, recommendations regarding consulting services, and a description of public meetings and potential topical areas. It is anticipated that the guiding principles and scope of work will be submitted to the Town Board in early 2008.

Town Offices are Closed on Monday, February 18

Albany County holds Immunization Clinics twice a month

Albany County's Immunization Program provides vaccines against childhood diseases for infants and children which are needed to meet school requirements. Evening appointments are available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4-6 p.m. For more information or appointments, please call. College immunizations are also available for a fee.



Services for Infants and Children: (518) 447-4602

College Immunizations: (518) 447-4589



Did You Know?



New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 375.30, which says "it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle with any object placed or hung in or upon the vehicle . . . in some manner as to obstruct or interfere with the view of the operator through the windshield or to prevent him from having a clear and full view of the road and condition of traffic behind such vehicle." **This includes Handicap Parking hangars.** The hangars are designed to allow quick and easy placement and removal on one's rear view mirror and should be taken down when the vehicle is in motion.

Senior Services News

Health and Wellness Series

On Fridays during the months of January through March, Senior Services will explore various health and wellness issues. A brochure is available in the Senior Services office outlining the entire 2008 program. The following selected programs are listed in chronological order. They include a lunch-out component available by signup in person in the senior office or by telephone at 439-4955, extension 1176. All programs in the Health and Wellness Series are sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Services, Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. and supported by the Albany County Department for Aging, the New York State Office for the Aging and the Administration on Aging. The programs are FREE and are held from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Town Hall.

"Low Fat Cooking", February 1 - Learn how to cook and bake delicious food without the fat. The program is a hands-on workshop in which you can participate and enjoy seeing how to bake and to cook foods without fat. There will be samples of recipes of low fat foods that you can take home



"Accessibility", February 8 - Physical therapist Jean Huta will talk about the aging process and how it impacts your ability to live comfortably at home by defining accessibility and aging in place. Jean will give solutions on how to make your home comfortable by showing examples of equipment, structural modifications and training you may need. Case study examples will be presented to show why living comfortably at home will help you age in place.

"Senior Sexuality", February 15 - Enjoy physical closeness at any age? What you need to know about a healthy senior sexual relationship. Information on age related issues.



"Fishing for Health", February 22 - Learn the health benefits of including more fish in your diet. You will prepare and sample some easy recipes that will make a fish lover out of you.

"Living with Arthritis", February 29 - Twenty-one million Americans live with osteoarthritis. This is a chronic condition characterized by the breakdown of the joints. Learn some tips for managing this disease. We will discuss the causes of osteoarthritis, who is at risk, and what treatments are available.

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](#).

Town Clerk's Office News

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY February 5, 2008 at regular polling locations for Republican and Democratic enrolled voters. Districts 5 and 19 will vote at the Bethlehem Central High School for this election only.

Reminder - Dogs are required to be licensed at 4 months of age. Dog park permits are effective January to December of each calendar year and must be renewed each year.

Parks and Recreation Department News

Winter / Spring 2008 Program Registration Continues

Program registration is underway for all winter and spring programs. While most winter programs have already begun, spring programs still have open enrollment and have yet to start. Included are many adult fitness classes, adult athletics, youth play/exercise programs, youth aquatic programs and many others. Check out our complete program brochure on our web site <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008WinterSpring.pdf>

Hurry! Programs start soon!

SCREAMS – Valentine Dance/Skating Party **Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School**

A Valentine Dance / Skating Party will be held Friday, February 15 at the Elm Avenue Park Skating Rink and Warming Area. This event is open to all middle school students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. The evening will feature a DJ, dancing and skating (weather permitting.) The snack bar will be open. Chaperones are needed. Please call Jason Gallo at 439-4955, extension 1604 if you can help. Look for flyers distributed at the Middle School, flyers will also be available at the Park office or visit the town website, <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parks/parksPgms.asp#SCREAMS>



February Ski Club Trip for Middle School and High School Students

February 2 - Pico
February 9 - Okemo

To sign up, see Mr. Tyler (Room 109) at the Middle School or Mr. Mooney (Room B111) at the High School. Club dues are \$10.00 and a signed permission slip is required.



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>.



Lifeguard Training Course



The Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the YMCA, will be holding an American Red Cross Lifeguarding class at the Bethlehem YMCA. The class will be held on February 20, 21, 22 and 23, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$215.00. For more information, please contact Kate Voce, Aquatics Director at the YMCA, 439-4394, extension 1430.

Colonial Acres Season Passes and Gift Certificates

Season passes and punch cards are now available for golf at Colonial Acres during the 2008 season! Call or visit the Park office for details, 439-4955 option 3.

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008GolfCourseSeasonPassApplication.pdf>



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.

Apply for Summer Jobs Now

Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office (261 Elm Avenue) or on our web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2008ParksSummerApp.pdf>

All applications must be received by April 1, 2008. Job opportunities include Lifeguard, Pool or Golf Course Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance (park and golf course), Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk and many other program leaders and supervisors.



Did You Know?



Law Regarding Appropriate Shelter for Dogs



There is a New York State law that requires that dogs kept outdoors be provided with a waterproof, structurally sound and adequately insulated shelter that must allow freedom of movement and normal postural adjustments. The shelter and the area immediately surrounding it must be regularly cleaned.

For more information regarding the law, please see <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugtf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS>, select AGM for Agriculture and Markets, then Article 26 - Animals, and then Article 353-B "Appropriate shelter for dogs left outdoors."



News from BEMO Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

U.S. Fire Administration Kicks Off Public Safety Campaign to End #1 Cause of Preventable Home Fire Deaths – Fires Caused By Smoking Materials

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced today a **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign** to put an end to the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths – fires started by smoking materials. The campaign is designed to alert smokers and those who live with smokers about simple steps they can take to stop the fire before it starts in their home. The USFA, which is a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is encouraging smokers to "Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time."



"What's important to remember is that smoking home fires can easily be prevented. It just takes a few seconds to light up – and a few seconds to make sure that cigarette is really out."

"Most smoking-related home fires happen on beds, furniture, or in trash when smokers do not put cigarettes all the way out, toss hot ashes in the trash or fall asleep while smoking," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "What's important to remember is that smoking home fires can easily be prevented. It just takes a few seconds to light up – and a few seconds to make sure that cigarette is really out."

Chief Cade pointed out that nationally, 23% (46 million) of adults are smokers, and in some states that percentage is as high as 28.7%.

Every year, about 1,000 people are killed in smoking-related home fires. According to the USFA, one-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. In fact, 34% were children of the smokers and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers. Too often, the victim is the firefighter trying to save them. On January 12, 1992, a seven-year-old Maryland boy died as a result of a fire caused by smoking-related materials, as well as Kenny Hedrick, a volunteer firefighter, who was trapped and died in the basement of that home. Kenny's mother Cathy Hedrick, Director of Survivor Programs for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation said, "The cause of this tragic fire that took the lives of two innocent victims was a smoldering cigarette in the family room."

To demonstrate how quickly a smoldering cigarette can turn into a raging fire, Chief Cade showed a video demonstration at the campaign launch in Washington D.C. The video can be seen at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking.

The **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign** warns about the dangers of careless smoking and urges smokers to do it outside if they need to smoke. Inside the home, people should use big ashtrays with a stable base and really put the cigarette out, don't just tap it into the ashtray. People should especially make sure their cigarette is fully out if they are drowsy due to medicine or alcohol.



The USFA's **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign** is working in partnership with 13 national organizations to spread the message about fire safety including the American Fire Sprinkler Association, BIFMA International (Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association), Burn Foundation, The Center for Campus Fire Safety, Fire and Life Safety Section (part of IAFC), Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators (FAFLSE), Home Safety Council, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of Hispanic Firefighters, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Polyurethane Foam Association, Residential Fire Safety Institute, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

The campaign materials include a CD Toolkit with English and Spanish posters, brochures, fact sheets, public service announcements, PowerPoint presentations, an engaging video of a smoking-home fire demonstration, and more. The materials are available online and can be ordered by visiting www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking. Fire departments and community organizations are encouraged to use these free materials.

A [video PSA](#) for the web is also available.

To arrange an interview with a USFA official, please contact Kim Varner at (202) 842-3600 x254 (kvarner@hagersharp.com) or David Neidlinger at (202) 842-3600 x241 (dneidlinger@hagersharp.com).

The U.S. Fire Administration has a mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support. It is the federal leader in public fire education and awareness, fire service training, fire-related technology and data collection.



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.



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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