



Volume 2 Issue 2

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

March 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

March Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

**Move Clocks Ahead One Hour - Check
Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
Sunday, March 9**

CACC

Monday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Route 9W - Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m.

Town Board

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

20/20 Advisory Committee

Friday, March 14

at the Elsmere Fire Dept.

Industrial Development Agency

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

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Development Planning Committee

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

Town Board

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 p.m.

Wild Animals

By law, everyone who owns, possesses or harbors certain wild animals must report the location of the animal to his or her municipal clerk ([Town Clerk's Office](http://www.townofbethlehem.org)) on or before April 1 of each year. For more information, please visit <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/wildanimalslaw.html>



For a list of animals that are required to be reported, see <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/wildanimalslist.html>. For a copy of the form that must be used to report the animal(s), see <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/WARF.pdf>

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 9

Spring ahead! Move your clocks forward one hour on March 9. This is also a great time to test and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Attention Elementary School Teachers

Bring local history into your classroom. *Native Americans in Bethlehem* and *Cutting Ice: Big Business in Bethlehem* address the needs of Social Studies Standard 1: History of the United States and New York. Contact Susan Leath at sleath@townofbethlehem.org for more information. Your ideas for other topics are also appreciated.

Not just for Seniors!

Some programs the Senior Services Department may have age restrictions, many do not (for example, Food Pantry, LawHelp/NY, volunteers, Caregiver programs), please call for specifics, 439-4955.

IRS Warns of New E-Mail and Telephone Scams Using the IRS Name; Advance Payment Scams Starting

For more information, please visit the Internal Revenue Service web site at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=178061,00.html>

Albany County Clerk Advises Property Owners to Beware of Deed Copy Scam

For more information, please visit the Albany County web site at <http://www.albanycounty.com/county-notice.asp?id=1951>

For agendas, please see:

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



TOWN of **Bethlehem** *Economic Developments*

What's New?

In conjunction with the Bethlehem IDA and the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Bethlehem, NY has initiated a monthly electronic bulletin to communicate information related to economic development activity in the Town.

[E-mail subscribers](#) will receive regular monthly bulletins-and special edition bulletins-that contain timely and newsworthy economic development news. Look forward to reports on the 9W Linkage Study (will there be a Selkirk Bypass and where will it be located?) and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (what is the Master Plan for Henry Hudson Park?) Keep up to date on open space and farmland protection and the work of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation and the work of the Planning Board. When will Beacon Pointe Harbour and Vista Technology Campus move forward? Stay tuned.

Why did Town Supervisor Jack Cunningham establish the Bethlehem 2020 Advisory Committee? What will the Delaware Avenue Linkage Study propose for the retail heart of Delmar? Look for the stories behind the headlines:

Glenmont Plaza Shopping Center
McDonalds
Van Dyke Spinney
Verstandig Condominiums
Vista Technology Campus
and more.

This is the tip of the iceberg. [Subscribe](#) and keep up with economic development in the Town.

[Click here to link to a map of the latest developments in Slingerlands](#)

A Bulletin provided by the Town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and the Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency

For more information contact:

edb@townofbethlehem.org / 518-439-4955, ext. 1159

Is your child safe?

With the wide variety of child restraint systems, belt systems and passenger vehicles, correctly installing a child restraint system can be challenging. To help keep our children safe, the Bethlehem Police Department Traffic Safety Unit holds monthly child passenger safety seat inspections and assistance with proper installation. The inspection station is located at the Delmar Fire House at 145 Adams Street, Delmar and is held on the second Tuesday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Appointments are required and can be made by calling the Traffic Safety Unit at (518) 439-9973. If you are unable to attend during the scheduled times, please call the Unit to schedule an alternate appointment.



Children ages 4, 5, and 6 years of age, riding in any seating position of a motor vehicle are required to be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system. For more information, please see the Occupant Protection section of the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee's web site at <http://www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us/ts-place.htm> or the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles web site at <http://www.nysdmv.com/dmvfaq.htm#carseat>

For additional information, see The National Highway Safety Administration website at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa>



Did You Know?



As of January 1, 2008, the installation of a fence or re-shingling of a roof requires a permit from the [Building Division](#).



Senior Services News

Health and Wellness Series

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.

"Express Lane Meals", March 7 - This program will teach you how to get in and out of your kitchen fast. Learn to prepare a healthy meal quickly, using six ingredients or less.

"Medication Management", March 14 - Come learn how to take your medications properly at the right times and the way your physician wants you to do it. Bring your questions for the pharmacist during this interactive discussion.

"Emergency Disaster Preparedness for Seniors", March 28 - This program describes a variety of disasters, including natural disasters that may occur in this area, as well as man-made disasters. Valuable information will be provided to enable the participants to be prepared for disasters. There is also information about identifying out-of-town contacts, papers you should have available. Handouts will be available and there will be time for specific questions at the end of the program.

"Low Fat Cooking", April 4 - 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.

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>.

Parks and Recreation Department News

Spring 2008 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 by mid March. For further program details or registration please call, 439-4955 opt. 3. Or visit: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008Spring.pdf>

SCREAMS – River Rats Hockey Game, Saturday, March 15 Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School

Come and join us as we head out to the Times Union Center for a River Rats Hockey Game on Saturday, March 15 at 7PM. This event is open to all Middle School age students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District. For further details, including permission slip, please check out our program flyer:

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



March Ski Club Trips for Middle School and High School Students

Saturday, March 1 (night) - Jiminy Peak
Saturday, March 15 - 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.

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>.

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>



"Paws" for Dog Park Safety Workshop

Thursday, March 13 at the Elm Avenue Park Office, 7:30 p.m.



Certified dog trainer and behavior consultant Jody Diehl will provide valuable information to prepare you for the Dog Park. This workshop will help you decide if the Dog Park is right for you and your dog. Pre-register by calling the Park Office at 439-4955, option 3. This workshop is free but donations will be accepted to benefit [Homeward Bound Dog Rescue](#). Please leave your dogs at home for this workshop.

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?



Protecting Pets During Winter Months

Winter is a time we should pay close attention to the safety of our pets. Here are some safety tips to follow:



- **Ingesting anti-freeze can be fatal** for your dog or cat. It has a sweet taste and even a tiny amount can cause severe kidney damage and even death. If you spill some, soak it up immediately. (Clay kitty litter works well. Discard the litter once the anti-freeze has been absorbed.)
- Pets that live outdoors should be fed a bit more in the winter because they need the extra calories to stay warm. They also should have fresh water put out a couple of times a day, or consider a special bowl that prevents the water from freezing.
- If your pet goes outdoors, be aware of the temperature. **Pets can get frostbite very easily on the ears, tail and paws.**
- When walking your dog, check the paws to make sure that ice is not building up between the toes and that salt from the roads is not irritating the skin.
- If your dog is a swimmer, keep it on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
- **Before you start your car, you should honk the horn** to make sure that a cat has not decided to nap in a warm spot under the hood of the vehicle.

Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and other plants can be toxic if ingested.

News from BEMO Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

Safety Alerts and Recalls can be found...

Safety Alerts, including recalls, are now available on the Town's web site, see the link on the [Emergency Management Office web page](#). NYS Safety Alerts are issued by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control within the Department of State.

NY-Alert is a free emergency notification system

NY-Alert is a free emergency notification system made available to private citizens by the State Emergency Management Office. By signing up for NY-Alert you can choose to receive warnings and emergency notifications by phone, email, text message, and instant message. The types of warnings include severe weather, significant highway closures, hazardous materials spills, and many other emergency situations.



You may sign up for this service by clicking on "Sign Up for NY-Alerts" on the NY-Alert website at www.nyalert.gov. Or go directly to the "Sign Up for NY-Alerts" at <https://users.nyalert.gov/>

You will be requested to enter your contact information, along with the geographic area for which you would like to receive alerts, and the types and severity of alerts you would like to receive. Once you have signed up for the notification service you can modify the type of information you receive or unsubscribe at any time.

Tax Information

Income Tax Record Keeping



By now everyone that paid (or their bank paid) their 2008 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 2007, 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

The [Trolley Tours](#) have three dates remaining, Friday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 18 from 9:45 a.m. to 12 noon, and Sunday, April 6 from 12:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is still time to take a tour, have lunch and learn about the historical significance of our town.



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.



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:
Wednesdays, March 19th and April 16th
(Appointments preferred, but not required)



The Home Energy Assistance Program helps individuals on fixed or low incomes (approximately \$1,876 per month for 1 individual or \$2,454 for 2 individuals) with energy related bills. A representative 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(s) 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 the 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, extension 1173.



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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