



# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

**December 2008**

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

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

### Town Board

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

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

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

### December Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Delaware Ave. Hamlet Enhancement  
Community Workshop  
Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board  
Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Noise Ordinance Task Force  
Wednesday, December 5, 8:00 a.m.

Citizens Advisory Committee on  
Conservation  
Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

Route 9W Study Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Simmons Road Parkland Community Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board  
Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency  
Tuesday, December 16, 8:00 a.m.

Planning Board  
Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee  
Thursday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

20/20 Advisory Committee  
Friday, December 19, 7:30 a.m.  
at the Elsmere Fire Dept.

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

**Town Offices are Closed on  
Thursday, December 25  
and Thursday, January 1,  
2009**



For agendas, please see:

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

Town Board meetings can be seen on public access channel TV-18 every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., every Friday at 7:30 p.m. and every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

#### Upcoming Dates to Remember

The Town's No Parking Ordinance is in effect until April 15, 2009

Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study Community Workshop, Monday, December 1 (see below)

Town Holiday Parade, Friday, December 5

American Red Cross Babysitting Course, Saturday, December 6 (see below)

LAST day to submit Letters to Santa, Wednesday, December 10 (see below)

SCREAMS trip to the Great Escape Indoor Water Park, Friday, December 12 (see below)

Town Offices close at noon on Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Town Offices closed on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

Town Offices closed on Thursday, January 1, 2009, New Year's Day

### Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study

#### Community Workshop

The Town of Bethlehem and the [Capital District Transportation Committee](#) will hold a community workshop to discuss the future of the Delaware Avenue corridor in the Delmar Hamlet. The Capital District Transportation Committee has provided a grant to the Town through their Transportation and Linkage Planning program to develop an [enhancement plan for the Delmar Hamlet](#). We need your help to develop a vision for the area and identify projects that improve the hamlet as a place to live, work and shop. Please join us. ([Click here for a printable flyer.](#))

7:00 TO 9:00 PM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008  
at The Delmar Reformed Church  
386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

Please use the rear entrance from the rear parking lot. The church is handicapped accessible.

For more information, please contact:

Mike Morelli  
Assistant Director  
Town of Bethlehem  
Department of Economic Development and Planning  
445 Delaware Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Delmar, NY 12054  
Tele. (518) 439-4955, Ext. 1189  
[mmorelli@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:mmorelli@townofbethlehem.org)

### Parker Mathusa



Parker Mathusa served the Town of Bethlehem in various capacities throughout the years, most recently and prominently as the Bethlehem Planning Board Chairman. Unofficially, he served as an advisor and supporter to several Town Supervisors and he had the respect of all those with whom he worked here at Town Hall. His knowledge, skills and his ability to get things accomplished were invaluable. He will be remembered as someone who not only offered to help and "serve" but as someone who actually followed through. Parker worked in many leadership roles during his career, but it was not uncommon to see Parker serving dinners at the Grange or helping out with an event at the Bethlehem Historical Association.

His death on November 16, 2008 has saddened all of us here at Town Hall. I recall the words from President Reagan's eulogy which remain true regarding our friend Parker D. Mathusa. [He] belongs to the ages now, but we preferred it when he belonged to us.

### Did You Know?

#### **New York State has a law regarding the appropriate shelter for dogs?**



New York State law 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/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS>, select AGM for Agriculture and Markets, then Article 26 - Animals, and then Article 353-B "Appropriate shelter for dogs left outdoors."



### Holiday Parade



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade will be held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and continuing to the Four Corners. Join us for lots of fun to start the season and an appearance from Santa at the end of the parade.





**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.



### **News from BEMO** **Bethlehem Emergency Management Office**



To learn about heating safely this winter, check out these fire safety fact sheets from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

- [Home Heating Fire Safety](#)
- [Chimney Fire Safety](#)
- [Home Fire Safety Tips](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide](#)
- [Home Fire Safety Checklist](#)

Sixty percent of residential heating related fires are the result of misuse or failure to properly maintain the heating equipment. With the high cost of fuels, many New Yorkers might be tempted to skimp on preventive maintenance, but that could be penny wise and pound foolish.

Furnaces and chimneys should be checked by a professional every year before the start of the heating season. Wood, pellet and coal stoves must be installed safely and correctly to order to ensure they properly and safely function. Space heaters may provide a little extra warmth in a cold or drafty corner or shop, but are not designed to replace household heating systems – use them sparingly.



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. Please also see, [http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/brochures/holiday\\_bro.pdf](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/pdfs/brochures/holiday_bro.pdf), a Holiday Safety Brochure from the New York State Department of State.



### **Town Historian News**

#### **Article regarding the Cedar Hill Army Observatory Post during World War II added to Town Historian's web page**

As part of Bethlehem's civil defense measures during World War II, an aircraft warning station was organized at Cedar Hill in 1942. Chief Observer was Thomas Finley and Esther Hillman was Assistant Chief. The archive is fortunate to have recently received Esther Hillman's scrapbook from that time donated by her daughter Elizabeth Hillman Zeronda.

To view a sampling of these photos, please visit the [Town Historian's web page](#).





### Did You Know?



From the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

#### What are the dangerous substances pets should avoid during the December holidays?

Holiday hazards include:

- Christmas tree water, which may contain fertilizers and bacteria that can upset the stomach if ingested
- Electrical cords
- Ribbons or tinsel, which can become lodged in the intestines and cause intestinal obstruction—this most often occurs with kittens
- Batteries
- Glass ornaments

Of course, there are usually a lot of delicious goodies floating around during the holidays, too — be sure to keep human treats inaccessible to your pets.

#### What are some dangers pets face during the cold winter weather?

The cold weather can bring about some surprising chemical dangers involving ice-melting products and antifreeze.

- After your cat or dog's been outside in the sleet, snow or ice, thoroughly wipe off his legs and stomach. If he licks his paws, he could ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals. His paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.
- Antifreeze, while essential to a car's cooling system, is very dangerous to your pets if they are exposed to it. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.

[For more helpful information, please check the ASPCA's Top Ten Cold Weather Tips.](#)

### Parks and Recreation Department News

#### American Red Cross Babysitting Course Saturday, December 6

If you are age 11 or older, registration is still open for the December 6th ARC babysitting course in the Town Hall Auditorium, 9:00 AM – 5:00PM. Certification is received upon completion of the course. Bring a bag lunch. Please call the Park office to register, 439-4955 option 3.

#### S.C.R.E.A.M.S. – Great Escape Indoor Water Park Friday, December 12



Prepare to get wet as the [SCREAMS](#) Club will head to the [Great Escape Indoor Water Park](#) on Friday, December 12th. This event is for all middle school students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. If you are not a current member of the SCREAMS Club and would like more information, you can access a flyer at the Town Park Office or visit the Town website,



[http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008SCREAMS\\_GreatEscapeIndoorWaterPark.pdf](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2008SCREAMS_GreatEscapeIndoorWaterPark.pdf)

## **2009 Winter / Spring Activity Registration**

We are currently accepting 2009 winter / spring registrations for our lottery spin registration drawing. Registrations can be submitted in person or by our *new online registration process* (*read below*).

Deadline for residents to participate in the lottery spin is Tuesday, December 16, 4:30 p.m.

In-person and phone-in registration will begin on Thursday, December 18.

Non-residents will also be eligible to register for any remaining activities beginning December 18.

The Parks and Recreation 2009 winter / spring brochure (inside the Bethlehem Report) will provide you with our complete schedule of activities and special events. This brochure can also be accessed through the town web site.

***Please remember, participation in the lottery spin is the best way for residents to secure your participation in an activity.***

### **Dog Park Tag Price Reduced**

For the remainder of the year, the fee for a Dog Park tag is \$15 and is valid through December 31, 2008. Tags for 2009 (\$30) will be available in late December. 2009 tags are mandatory beginning January 1, 2009. Tags are only available at the [Town Clerk's office](#) in the Town Hall.

### **Youth Employment Service**



**Youth Employment Service (YES)** is a FREE referral program that helps community residents find reliable workers throughout the year. YES has a large database of enthusiastic teens (ages 14-21) eager for part-time work. They can baby sit and tutor your children, rake your leaves, walk your dog, clean your house, shovel your snow, staff your business. Call Julie Sasso at 439-4955 x1608 for more information.

### **Middle School and High School Ski Club trips begin**

Saturday, December 13 - Okemo  
Saturday, December 20 - Gore



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. Ski Club information and permission slips are available from Mr. Tyler at the Middle School (Room 109) or Mr. Mooney at the High School (Room B111). You can also print the required permission slips and information by visiting the Town's web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksSkiClub.asp> where you can also get the schedule of trips, informational packet and advance sign-up sheet.

### **Pavilion Reservations for 2009**

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 2<sup>nd</sup>. Permit forms and fee information are available on the town website. Permits for all users will be issued on a first come, first paid basis. Pavilion availability may be viewed online via our new system <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline/>.

**New Online Activity Registration System Begins Now!**

***ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION***

\*If you have a current household set up in our system you were emailed your **Household ID number** and a **Password** in early November. If you did not receive them that means:

- ~We do not have an email address for you **OR**
- ~The email address we have is incorrect

\*If you do not have a Household ID number and Password, call the Parks and Recreation Office (439-4955 Option 3).

**This ID number will be your permanent User Name for all future online registrations. You will now be able to:**

- ~Search to find the activities and classes you are looking for
- ~Enter the Lottery Spin if you are a Town of Bethlehem resident
- ~Register for activities from your home or office
- ~Receive e-mail confirmations of online registrations
- ~View facility calendars to check date availability of rental pavilions (coming January 2009)

**Go to [www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org).** Links are available from the home page of the Town website under Online Services as well as from Departments, Parks and Recreation Department, Activity Information and Registration. See also the recently mailed Bethlehem Report for further details.

**Simmons Road Parkland Public Planning Meeting**

A public planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9 to develop a vision for this beautiful passive recreation area off Route 144. Location of the meeting to be determined. More information will be available on the town website. For more information contact Nan Lanahan ([nlanahan@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:nlanahan@townofbethlehem.org))

**HOLE-IN-ONEs at Colonial Acres!**

<u>Golfer</u>	<u>Hole</u>	<u>Yardage</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Witnesses</u>
Matt Henning	#9	120	9 iron	October 4	Zach Frese, Brennan Buhr, Peter Africano and Sean Corrigan
Jim Green	#2	106	pitching wedge	October 8	Hap Siary
James Arrington	#1	86	sand wedge	October 24	Norman Cohen

### Committee Develops Goals for the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

At its November meeting, the Agriculture and Farmland Study Advisory Committee developed draft goals for the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The October 23 Open Space Plan Public meeting provided an opportunity for attendees to identify goals the plan should address for the agriculture industry in Bethlehem. Utilizing this information and their vision for the future of agriculture in Bethlehem, the Committee developed six draft goals which included:



- Assist and support in resolving issues causing adverse impacts on agriculture and farmland
- Support economic opportunities for farms and businesses that complement agriculture
- Encourage flexible town policies and regulations that are supportive of agriculture
- Give farmers a voice; include members of the agricultural community on town boards and committees
- Provide voluntary incentives for landowners to continue agricultural activities
- Encourage educational opportunities to enable the public to better understand the benefits of and need for agriculture

The Committee will reconvene on Monday January 26, 2009 at which time American Farmland Trust (AFT), the Plan's consultant, will present a review of current land use planning documents and local policies for consistency with the draft goals. AFT will also discuss with the Committee agriculture and farmland protection strategies and tools and identify those that are appropriate to meet the stated goals. To stay current on the status of the Study and Committee tasks please periodically visit the SAC webpage at:

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



The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan emerged from the 2005 Comprehensive Plan's recommendation for the development of a Farm and Open Space Protection Plan. The Town was successful in applying for a grant from New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) in the amount of \$25,000 to fund the development of the Protection Plan. The purpose of the study is to work with individuals involved in the Town's agricultural industry to establish strategies that will result in the enhancement, management and continued viability of agriculture and farmland areas and in the Town of Bethlehem.

### **Letters to Santa Program Will End on December 10!**



Bethlehem's annual "Letters to Santa" program began on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 and will end on Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

The Bethlehem Police Family Services Unit and volunteer Senior Services elves promise that all letters received on or before December 10 will be answered before Christmas.

Letters can be placed in "Santa Boxes" located at the Bethlehem School District's eight 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.**

## Information from Our Recycling Coordinator

### Healthy Holiday Tips

Practice waste prevention and reuse during the holidays, it's simple and easy.

Start by unpacking the cloth tablecloths and napkins. Polish the good silverware non-toxically by this method. Place a piece of aluminum foil in the bottom of the sink. Add enough very hot tap water to cover the silver pieces. For each quart of water, add one teaspoon of salt and one teaspoon of baking soda. Add the silver pieces, soak for five minutes, and then remove the silver, rinse and buff dry with a soft cloth. This will make the holiday home look festive, you will be using an alternative to toxics, and you will be practicing reuse, the first order of the 3 Rs.

Reuse items that you thought were trash. Turn leftover stale breads into crumbs for a favorite dish or feed the backyard birds. Turn leftover salad dressings into marinades by adding vegetable or olive oil to make the right quantity. Leftover ice cubes should water your plants, rather than melt in the sink.

Popcorn and cookie tins can be used to package homemade gifts such as cookies or to carry items to a party. Some tins are large enough to become a wastebasket, recycling bin, or storage container. Repaint to coordinate. After reuse or if you have too many, they can be recycled curbside with commingled containers. Please crush the large ones so that they fit into the recycling truck.



Reuse plastic store bags for grocery shopping or garbage but remember to recycle the extra bags in Price Chopper, Hannaford, Wal-Mart, Staples and many stores that now have recycling bins for plastic bags. A better idea would be to reuse cloth tote bags everywhere you shop. Most cloth bags can be washed and reused for years.

Paper shopping bags are handed out in mall stores. They can have a further life by reusing for carrying items to and from places or as a paper recycling bin. When they tear remove plastic handles, flatten, and place with flattened corrugated cardboard for recycling curbside.

A live Christmas tree, once all ornaments are removed, can be left curbside for yard waste pickup. As per all yard waste pickup, plastic bags are not acceptable. The trees will be composted in the mix of yard waste at the [Town's Compost Facility](#).

Save wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to reuse the following year. If you consolidate, they should fit into one large paper shopping bag.

Recycle used holiday cards with the paper mix placed curbside or send the fronts only to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, [www.stjudesranch.org](http://www.stjudesranch.org)

Teach your kids to donate their used good toys they have outgrown to a charitable organization. (Do not put them in the clothing bins that are located around the town. Those bins are for shoes and wearable clothing only.) Many charitable organizations are listed on the [Town's Donating Reusables Brochure](#) or call 439-4955 x 1510 or e-mail [recycle@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:recycle@townofbethlehem.org) for other solutions.



## Senior Services News

Please note the changes in the transportation schedule due to holidays in December! There will be no transportation from December 24th, 2008 through and including January 1st, 2009.



The **Senior Legal Services Program** provides legal services for residents of Albany County who are 60 years of age or older. The program is funded by the Albany County Department for Aging and is staffed through the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. There is **NO COST** for this program. A representative will be at the Bethlehem Town Hall on Thursday, December 11. Please call Bethlehem Senior Services at 439-4955, extension 1176 for an appointment.

On Monday, December 8, a representative from the Legal Aid Society and a Albany County Department of Social Services **Medicaid Representative** will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Bethlehem Town Hall to answer your food stamp questions and help with your **food stamp** application. To make an appointment or to get further information, please call 439-4955, extension 1176.

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> .

All Town offices will close at noon on Wednesday,  
December 24.

All Town offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25



### Town Clerk News

#### Great Holiday Gift Ideas!

Keep your loved ones safe in these dark winter months - purchase a reflective safety vest and/or blinkers.

Think of your furry canine companion and purchase a 2009 dog park tag for your pup.

Quadracentennial neckties now available at Town Clerk's office, \$30, cash only, in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's historic 1609 voyage up the Hudson River to be held in 2009.

### Town and CACC Hold Open Space Plan Public Meeting



The Town, in association with the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC), held a public meeting for the Open Space Plan on October 23, 2008 at the Bethlehem Town Hall. The meeting was a follow-up to input residents provided at the May 2008 public orientation meeting where residents identified Recreation and Pathways, Natural Systems and Agriculture and Farming as topic areas to be addressed in the Open Space Plan. The meeting presented an overview of the existing conditions of these topics, and provided an opportunity for community discussion on the Plan's goals.

Following this meeting, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) developed draft goals from the community input. The Committees next steps are to formalize the goals and begin to identify recommendations. The CACC meets on the second Monday of each month and the next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2008 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101. Please visit the CACC webpage at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/AdvisoryComs/advCACC.asp> for a summary of the comments provided at the public meeting.





### Did You Know?



2008 Community Clean-up Events were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month between April & October. A total of 59 volunteers participated and collectively gathered more than one ton of trash along Route 9W, Frontage Road, Delmar By-pass, Delaware Avenue, Elm Avenue, Hudson Avenue, and two municipal parking lots in Delmar.

The efforts of each volunteer went a long way toward keeping our community clean as well as protecting the tributaries that feed the Onesquethaw and Normans Kill Creeks.

Community Clean-up events will be held again next year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month – starting April 18, 2009. If you would like to assist in the effort to protect our vital resources and prevent roadside litter from entering into our water system and polluting our environment please contact Debbie Kitchen at 439-4955 x 1159 or [dkitchen@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:dkitchen@townofbethlehem.org) to provide your name and contact information.



## TOWN of Bethlehem *Economic Developments*

[Subscribe](#) and keep up with economic development in the Town.

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.

### Albany County News



[Albany County Department of Health](#) Immunization Clinics, 4-6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, call for appointment or more information, 447-4602 for infants and children, 447-4589 for college immunizations. For this month, the clinic dates are December 3 and December 17.

Foster and Adoption Families Needed! For more information go to the [Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families web site](#).



### 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)

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