



Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

October 2009

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

TOWN BOARD PROPOSES 2010 BUDGET

The Bethlehem Town Board has held five meetings this summer to plan for the 2010 Town Budget. The process started with public meetings in August when Board members met with department heads to discuss their proposed projects and expenditures for the coming year. The Board also worked with our Comptroller, Suzanne Traylor, to review revenue expectations. On September 23, 2009 at the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, the Board presented the proposed budget for 2010.

Although the 2010 Budget provides for a 3.2% increase in spending, a large portion of that increase is attributed to the increase in pension contributions mandated by New York State. The State Comptroller's Office notified the Town that our levy was increased 34% or \$498,000 over our 2009 contribution. Health insurance costs are expected to rise as well by 8.2% or more than \$238,000 over the 2009 cost. These two increases alone account for more than 60% of the total increase in spending from 2009 to 2010. Many other expenses for which the Town is responsible often increase at rates much faster than that of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and are for goods and services that are not factored into the CPI. This is why we often see municipal spending increase at a rate greater than the published inflation rate.

Additionally, the Town has deferred purchases and expenditures over the past several years which we will need to begin addressing in 2010. We are taking steps to update our heavy equipment fleet to replace pieces that are as much as 20 years old, and have exceeded their useful life making them inefficient to operate. We are continuing our program to address infrastructure and capital needs by moving forward with a plan to build a new water plant at our Vly Creek Reservoir. The Town is continuing to develop a Capital Plan that will provide a roadmap for all future capital projects and help to outline how these projects will be financed over time.

In order to move forward with these projects and keep taxes in balance with our

October Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, October 7, 8:00 a.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Town Offices Closed

Monday, October 12

Town Board

Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.

Community Clean Up Day

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m.

Citizens Advisory Committee on
Conservation

Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, October 20, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee

Saturday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, October 28, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see: www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp

Opal (or Tourmaline) is the birthstone for October and the flower, Cosmos or Calendula.

economy, the Town will be using various means to finance some of our major capital expenses such as heavy equipment and road paving. This approach is similar to that which we all use to fund our own major purchases like a home or an automobile. By paying over time, we can meet our immediate needs and pay for capital expenses over the life of the asset.

The Town has accessed less than 2% of its allowable debt and with our excellent credit rating and the opportunities for financing that are currently available under the Federal Stimulus Package; this is a good time for the Town to fund some major expenditures through financing. This approach will also allow the Town to reduce its dependency on fund balances while keeping tax rates low. The proposed budget includes a town property tax increase of only 2% or 5.4¢. This increase is lower than our historical average and is consistent with economic growth over the past 18 months.

The next step in the Budget process is our annual Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget which is scheduled for October 28, 2009 at 6:00 PM. At this meeting the public is invited to speak to the Town Board about the proposed budget and the community's needs for 2010. The proposed Budget is available to the public for review at the reference desk of the Bethlehem, Guilderland and RCS Public Libraries as well as on the Town's web site at www.TownofBethlehem.org.

SIDEWALK WORK PROGRESSES

The Town has begun construction on one of two sidewalk projects we committed to for 2009. The sidewalk on Elsmere Avenue is being constructed as well as a sidewalk on Feura Bush Road between Elsmere Avenue and Wemple Road. This project is expected to be complete before the end of October.

A second sidewalk project that was scheduled for Orchard Street from Cherry Avenue has been postponed until spring of 2010. This project was part of a Safe Routes to School grant which was awarded to the Town last year.

Earlier this year the Town created the PATHS 4 Bethlehem Advisory Committee that is focusing on sidewalks and bike paths. This group of resident volunteers is providing input on prioritization, maintenance and other issues related to our network for non-motorized travel throughout the Town. The Town will be working closely with this advisory group to move our sidewalk and bike route initiatives forward in 2010.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Water main flushing throughout October (see below)

Saturday, October 3 - Colonial Acres hosts the 2nd Annual Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Youth Golf Tournament

Monday, October 5 - Justice Court Offices closed for training

Tuesday, October 6 - Justice Court Offices closed for training

Monday, October 12 - Town Offices Closed

Friday, October 16 - Albany County Tire Recycling Day (see below)

Saturday, October 17 - Community Clean-Up Day

Sunday, October 18 - 19th Annual Halloween Hay Day at Elm Avenue Park (see below)

Wednesday, October 28 - Public Hearing on the preliminary 2010 town budget at the Town Board meeting

Sunday, November 1 - Daylight Savings ends, turn clocks BACK one hour

Please note: the two Town Board meetings in November will be held on TUESDAYS, November 10 and November 24

Friday, November 13 - Community Health Fair at Town Hall, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; all ages welcome



Linda Blattner, of Delmar, passed away suddenly on September 21. Linda always had a booming hello to the customers she assisted in the Tax and Public Works departments. She was very thoughtful and considerate, always making home-made brownies for the birthdays of fellow employees as well as supplying plenty of smiles and laughs. She certainly will be missed by her work family.

Linda was raised in Delmar and after earning her degree in Buffalo and teaching in the Williamsville School System, she returned to Delmar where she was a teacher in the elementary schools of the Bethlehem School District. Linda was on the board and an active member of Five Rivers in Delmar as well as being very active in the First United Methodist Church in Delmar, serving as Christian education director, staff parish committee, nomination committee and the bell choir.



Linda is survived by her children Christopher and Melissa and brother-in-law, Paul Blattner II; she was the widow of Michael Blattner.

Contributions may be made to either the First United Methodist Church or to Five Rivers Environmental Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054.



Town Hall Blood Drive was a Great Success!



Bethlehem employees and the American Red Cross sponsored a blood drive at Town Hall on Wednesday, September 16. The drive was organized by employee Susan Alexander who wants to extend thank-yous to employees Joyce Becker and Elizabeth Mosier for all of their coordination of volunteers and to Adele Nucci, Marilyn Hauss, Pat Antonucci, Peggy Budzyna and Elizabeth Mosier who assisted with sign-ins and the food canteen and thank you to all those who donated. We had 6 first time donors! What kind of impact did this one drive have? Enough blood was collected to potentially save 186 lives!

See the Red Cross web site, <http://www.donatebloodnow.org/DonateBlood/Listings.asp?co=Albany>, for more upcoming blood drives in the area (click on Refresh if the page doesn't appear the first time).

The following files may help answer any questions you may have as well as amaze you what you do by donating.

[Blood Donation - Common Questions](#)

[Why Give Blood? What Happens to Donated Blood?](#)

[The Blood Donation Process](#)

[Double Red Cell Donation Information](#)

[Tips for Blood Donors](#)

[50 Facts About Donating Blood](#)

Thank you to all who took the time to help us to help others.

Department of Public Works News

NOTICE
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
WATER-MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM
2009

AREA #1 – 9/28 to 10/6
Slingerlands, North Bethlehem, Town of New Scotland

AREA #2 – 10/5 to 10/20
Delmar, Elsmere

AREA #3 – 10/19 to 10/27
Glenmont, Selkirk

Some discoloration may be seen during this flushing program, which could result in staining of laundry.
Run water until it clears before doing laundry.

Parks and Recreation Department News

Youth Golf Tournament

Sign up for our 2nd Annual Youth Golf Tournament at [Colonial Acres](#) for boys and girls in grades 4-12. There will be prizes for Low Gross (3 age groups), Closest to the Pin (holes #2 and #9) and Longest Drive (boys and girls). The \$25 dollar fee includes 9 holes of tournament play, prizes, pizza and beverage. Please arrive and check in by 2:30 p.m. Shotgun start begins at 3:00 sharp. All golfers will be placed in a foursome predetermined by the Parks and Recreation Department. All golfers must have their own clubs and bag. Rain date is Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call the Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department at 439-4955, option 3 or to download a registration form visit:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org./images/parks/2009CAYouthGolfTournament.pdf>

19th Annual Halloween Hay Day

On Sunday, October 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., the 19th Annual Halloween Hay Day will be held at Elm Avenue Park. Come out in costume for hayrides, trick or treat bag decorating, face painting, games and much more. This event is FREE for the whole family!

SCREAMS – Corn Maze

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School

[SCREAMS](#) will be going to Liberty Ridge Farm to visit their Haunted Corn Maze on Friday, October 16. Registration is available to all students in grades 6 - 8 who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. For more information or for a registration form, please visit

Dog Park Tag Price Reduced

Beginning October 1 the fee for a [Dog Park](#) tag is \$15 and is valid through December 31, 2009. Tags are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Gift Cards Are Here!

Give the gift of fun! Gift Cards can be used them for golf passes, recreation activities, pool passes, and all your recreation needs.

Tire Recycling Day

Sponsored by Albany County SWCD

Every day, millions of vehicles are on the road and all of them operate on tires. In 2005, 290 million new tires were manufactured and 259 million tires were deemed scrap material.

One of most important aspects of recycling and reusing waste tires is keeping them out of landfills. With their rounded, hollow shape, tires quickly consume a landfill's most precious commodity—space. Additionally, stored tires pose an enormous environmental risk if they are ignited:

- Tire fires can burn for months (or years).
- They are difficult to extinguish.
- They can release harmful toxins into the air, soil and water.



Stored tires are a breeding ground for disease vectors such as mosquitoes and rodents. By keeping tires out of landfills, we leave room for other wastes, reduce the risk of potentially dangerous fires and help prevent the spread of vermin.

Additionally, recycling and reusing tires helps to beautify our neighborhoods and cities. Rather than being tossed in empty lots or left on the side of the road, tires can be reused in a number of ways from playground equipment to planters. They also can be used to create quieter highways through rubberized asphalt or maintain a landscape through erosion control.

Utilizing NYS Conservation Project Financial Assistance funds, the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a Tire Recycling event to Albany County residents. The event will take place on Friday, October 16th from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Albany County Department of Public Works, 449 New Salem Road, Voorheesville. Only car and light truck tires will be accepted, no rims please. [Registrations](#) are required and are being accepted until Tuesday, October 13th on a first come first served basis. Due to current regulations the District is limited to collecting 999 tires and we will not accept more than 20 tires per household. For more information please visit our website at www.albanycounty.com/swcd or call us at 518-765-7923.

Upcoming Quadricentennial Events



Photographic Memories: Bethlehem

A display of historic photographs from the collection of the Bethlehem Historical Association and the Town Archives. **When:** October 1-31 **Where:** Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar **Contact:** Susan Leath, sleath@townofbethlehem.org, 439-4955 ext 1160.

Bethlehem's Hudson River Heritage

[Bethlehem Historical Association](#) Museum

The summer 2009 exhibit features Native American artifacts, ice harvesting, steam ships and other small industries on the Hudson. **When:** Opening Day June 14, the exhibit continues Sunday afternoons through October 25 **Where:** Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, 1003 River Road, Selkirk **Contact:** 767-9432

The Hudson Mohawk Region: Silicon Valley of the 19th Century

Friday October 2, 2:00 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library

Dr. Thomas Carroll will present a slideshow highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit that led to what some call the birth of the American Industrial Revolution in the Hudson Valley. Like today's Silicon Valley movers and shakers, 19th-century New York State entrepreneurs made the cutting-edge technology of their day the focus for regional prosperity, cultivating infrastructure developments (the Erie Canal), education (RPI), and invention of such everyday modernities as effective labor organizations and mass produced food. Dr. Carroll is an American cultural historian specializing in the history of American science and technology. He has served as Executive Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway since 1997. **When:** Friday, October 2, 2:00 p.m. **Where:** [Bethlehem Public Library](#), 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar **Contact:** [Louise Grieco](#), 439-9314.

Walking/Trolley Tour. [Historic Cherry Hill](#), located in the Town of Bethlehem until 1870, presents a program series funded by the New York Council for the Humanities on the theme of history versus nostalgia. This combination trolley and walking tour, the last in the program series, will focus on the landscape changes from 1787-1963 as Cherry Hill evolved from a 900 acre farm to an urban home on five acres surrounded by immigrant housing. Participants will also visit the site of the family's 18th century dwelling and merchant storehouse in Albany. Using evidence from family manuscripts and other primary sources, the tour will emphasize the family's changing attitudes towards their environment. Free admission. **Where:** Historic Cherry Hill, 523 ½ South Pearl Street, Albany. **When:** Saturdays, October 3 and October 10, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. **Contact:** 434-4791 or info@historiccherryhill.org.

Award-winning author, Frances Dunwell, presents an inspiring lecture about the Hudson River

Join author Frances Dunwell for an inspiring lecture about the transformative role of the Hudson River in American history and culture — how its unique geography, scenic beauty, and culture of entrepreneurship have influenced the shaping of Manhattan, given rise to the Empire State, and impacted the trajectory of world trade and global politics. Beginning with the age of Dutch exploration and concluding with the environmental cleanup initiatives that set a national precedent for conservation, Dunwell will present a portrait of the river that is as varied as its own landscape. A lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, Dunwell is the author of the award-winning book, The Hudson River Highlands, and The Hudson: America's River. She has spent over thirty years in a number of nonprofit and governmental positions dedicated to conserving the natural, scenic and historic heritage of the Hudson River. **When:** Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Bethlehem Public Library **Contact:** Louise Grieco, 439-9314.

Fall Concert

Friday, October 30
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Delmar Reformed Church - 386 Delaware Avenue - Delmar

The (Knox) Traditional Strings
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Traditional music, folk, hornpipes, jigs, reels, waltzes, even some bluegrass and gospel!

Delmar Desperadoes
Ron Tweedie and Will Vail
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

A medley of songs reminiscent of yesteryear and the wild west. Let's sing along with your favorite western tunes.

Suggested concert donations: \$10 adults/\$5 children. Donations will be used to replace vehicles in the Bethlehem Senior Transportation fleet. Questions, call 439-4955, x1176.



**Did You
Know?**



For flu information, including seasonal as well as H1N1 influenzas, vaccinations and area clinics, please see
<http://www.albanycounty.com/health/flu.asp?id=2526>

Attention Veterans

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau



A Veterans Service Officer will be available by appointment, the third Tuesday of each month between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, to meet with veterans and/or family members to present information about various veterans' benefits such as

Disability & Education Benefits, Burial Allowances, Headstones and Flags, Pension and/or Compensation Benefits, Aid and Attendance Benefits, Upgrading Military Discharges, Certificates of Eligibility for VA loans to purchase homes or business needs, Obtaining copies of lost discharges (DD-214) and medical records

For October, the officer will be at Town Hall Tuesday, October 20. Please call for an appointment 439-4955, ext. 1176

News from BEMO

Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

Special Needs Registry Program

This program is designed to assist the special needs community during an emergency that requires an evacuation within Albany County. Registrants must be physically unable to evacuate themselves from their residence without assistance. Applicant information will be entered into the County's E-911 system for retrieval during an emergency.

The File of Life – A Personal Medical History In An Emergency

An in-home stored personal medical history for use by emergency responders during a medical crisis at your home.

File of Life is a readily identified red plastic magnetized “pocket”, which attaches to your refrigerator and is easily recognized by emergency responders during an emergency. This file will contain, after being completed by you, your family's personal medical history, including prescription drugs, allergies and other critical and pertinent medical information which may very well be life-saving in an emergency.

The File of Life pockets are available through either the [Senior Services Office](#) or [Emergency Management Office](#) at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054, or by calling 518-439-4955, extension 1176.

National Grid Company - Life Support/Critical Care Program

A listing of persons who would be at risk during extended power outages or evacuations.

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**

Before an emergency happens

- Review your insurance policy.
- Make plans now on what to do with your pets should you be required to evacuate your home because public health regulations do not allow pets in public shelters and most hotels/motels do not allow them.



Did You Know?



The Town of Bethlehem diverts over 50% of the town’s wastes from landfills, either by recycling, composting, taking part in hazardous waste and electronic collections, practicing reuse or reducing purchases.

News from Our Recycling Coordinator

YARD WASTE PREPARATION PLACED CURBSIDE FOR COMPOSTING

The [Town of Bethlehem Highway Department](#) picks up yard waste that is left curbside by residents.

Until the leaves all turn their vibrant colors and fall or after October 15 arrives, all yard waste must be placed in either paper bags or reusable containers such as a garbage can. Neither bags nor containers should weigh over 50 pounds. Remember that plastic bags with yard waste are unacceptable. The leaf vacuum trucks rarely start until after October 15.

The Town sells 30-gallon yard waste paper bags at 3 for \$1.00 at the Elm Avenue Park, Town Hall, Highway Garage and the [Rupert Road Transfer Station](#).

Tree branches or holiday trees can be left curbside on your property year round, not in the road where traffic could be obstructed. Branches should not weigh over 50 pounds and stacked neatly curbside. Very small branches can be placed in a paper bag or container. Stumps are not acceptable unless broken down.

The Town of Bethlehem has a New York State DEC permit to compost yard waste only. Sometimes flower pots, plastic items and other trash is found in the mix from resident's yard waste. These items do not compost, or break down like grass, leaves and wood. Please keep ALL NON-COMPOSTABLE garbage out of the yard waste stream. Place flower pots, plant trays, plastic labels, food, and other items into the TRASH. Place beverage bottles into your recycling bin.

The [Town's Yard Waste Compost Facility](#) located at 1244 Feura Bush Road (Route 32) is open Monday – Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday, 8:00am to 12 noon until about November 15. Watch the town website for updates.

Town residents can get up to 1 cubic yard of compost or wood chips per week or can drop off 4 cubic yards of yard waste at the compost facility per week, at no charge. Compost is not only a good fertilizer but also maintains moisture if mixed into garden soil or placed thinly on lawns. Wood chips not only decorate a garden or tree but also provide a moisture barrier to water evaporation.

If there are further questions about compost or you want to compost in the backyard, contact [Sharon Fisher, Recycling Coordinator](#), 439-4955 x 1510, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 12noon.

Youth Employment Service

Need part-time help?

The [Youth Employment Service \(YES\)](#) has a large database of reliable teens eager for part-time work. Town of Bethlehem residents needing help with housework, yard work, baby-sitting, animal care or handyman work should contact YES. Bethlehem businesses can also contact the service for help finding part-time staff.

Want some extra cash?

The [Youth Employment Service \(YES\)](#) is a free, year round job matching program for teens. Town of Bethlehem residents, ages 14-21, can register with YES at the Parks and Recreation office located at Elm Avenue Park. Office hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30-4:30pm

For more information, contact Julie Sasso, YES Director at 439-4955 ext. 1608 or jsasso@townofbethlehem.org



A tentative leaf pickup schedule is available on our web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/highwayDept.asp#FallLeaves>

Straight From the Storm Drain...

Stormwater Tips: **Pet Waste**



Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters since it is readily transported by rainfall into storm drains. Pet waste is full of coli form bacteria and poses a health risk to pets and people.

- When walking your pet, pick up the waste and dispose of it properly (flushing pet waste is the best disposal method).
- Compost pet waste properly.
- Don't dispose of pet waste near storm drains, culverts, ditches, or water bodies —storms drains discharge directly to water bodies and are not treated!

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rain or melted snow that, instead of seeping into the ground, runs off into the storm sewer and into our waterways. It runs across rooftops, paved areas, bare soil, and sloped yards. On its way, the runoff picks up and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other potential pollutants. This polluted runoff degrades our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and other waterways.

For more information, please see the Town of Bethlehem's Stormwater Management web page:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Stormwater/dpwSWStormwater.asp>

Senior Services News

Senior Legal Services Program

Thursday, October 8

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall
Appointments: 439-4955 #1176

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. If you cannot make the October 8 date, this program generally has dates once per month, contact one of the Outreach workers for more information.

There is no cost for this program.

Medicare Basics

Wednesday, October 21
10:30 a.m. to Noon

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall - Room 101
Reservations: 439-4955 #1176

Come learn about the basics of Medicare and EPIC, New York State's Senior Prescription Plan presented on various days throughout the year. What does Medicare cover? Do I need additional insurance? What is Medicare Part D?

Presented by Janet Kiffney, HIICAP Volunteer for Albany County (Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program) and Candy Rivera-Whitehead, EPIC Outreach Representative.

EPIC

(Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Program)

Help with prescription costs

EPIC is New York State's elderly pharmaceutical insurance program for people age 65 or older. There are two types of EPIC coverage, the fee plan and the deductible plan. If you qualify for this program, you can get three months of medications for \$20.00 or less. EPIC may cover your drug costs during the "doughnut hole" or "gap" in Medicare Part D. If you are single and your income is less than \$35,000, or married and your income is less than \$50,000, please contact one of the Outreach workers for more information.

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](#).

Highway Department Frequently Asked Questions regarding fall pick-up

Q. When can I rake leaves to the side of the road for pick up?

A. Leaves can be raked neatly to the side of the road from mid-October to mid-November or until all leaves are picked up pending no significant snowfall.

Q. What is the schedule for leaves to be picked up that are raked alongside the road?

A. Leaves are picked up by zones within the Town. Pick up starts in Zone 1 and works through each street until all the leaves are picked up in that zone. We then move to the next zone and continue the process until all zones have been picked up. To see which zone you are in, [click here](#).

Please note that weather conditions play a major role in the adherence to the schedule.

Q. What size tree limbs/branches can I put out for the Highway Department to pick up?

A. The Highway Department can pick up branches no bigger than 8" round in diameter and no longer than 6-7 feet long. They cannot weight more than 50 pounds each. They must be stacked neatly alongside the curb.

Yard Waste Paper Bags can be purchased, 3 for \$1 at the Highway Department, Elm Avenue Park, Town Hall, and Rupert Road Transfer Station.

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/highwayDept.asp#FAQs>

The Town's Fall Pick-up Program, more commonly referred to as Leaf Collection, begins in mid-October and runs through mid-November. The Highway Department collects fallen leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches (four feet or less). Leaves must be placed in reusable containers or paper bags (sold at Town Hall, the Highway Department, Elm Avenue Park and the Rupert Road Transfer Station) or piled neatly along the sides of the road, not so high or so wide as to obstruct roadways or line of sight and not in the roadway itself. Placing debris into the roadway constitutes a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic law as well as creates a hazardous situation for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. Please make sure that storm sewer inlets are also kept clean of leaves and branches to ensure proper drainage. To help give residents a general idea of when to expect leaf collection in their area of Town, a tentative pick-up schedule is posted on



our web site and is updated daily, please see "Tentative Leaf Pickup Schedule" on the [Highway Department's web page](#). Please note that weather conditions play a major role in the adherence to the schedule.

Tax Office Information

If you have not yet paid your school tax bill

This year's school taxes were due on or before September 30, 2009. If you did not pay your school taxes by the due date, you have incurred a penalty of 2% of the tax bill. Payments (with the penalty included) can still be made in person at the Town Hall, mailed, or placed in the Drop Box by the bicycle rack by the Town Hall - NO cash payments in the drop box, please. The drop box will be emptied at 4:30 p.m. on the due date. If your school tax bill still remains unpaid after 4:30 p.m. on October 31, the amount due will be re-levied on your January property tax bill and will include additional percentage penalties. Please call Nancy Mendick, [Receiver of Taxes](#), 439-4955, ext. 1178, if you have any questions.



RAVENA ★ COEYMANS ★ SELKIRK Central School District



TOWN of **Bethlehem** *Economic Developments*

In conjunction with the Bethlehem IDA and the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Bethlehem, NY has 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.



Elsmere Fire Department, Friday, October 9

1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

15 West Poplar Drive, Delmar

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School, Wednesday, November 12

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

2025 Route 9W, Ravena

Bethlehem Public Library, Saturday, November 14

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

Selkirk Fire Company 2, Saturday, November 14

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

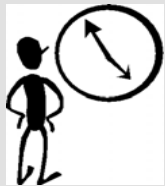
301 Glenmont Road, Glenmont

Appointments appreciated, 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Walk-ins will be taken as time allows. Positive ID, such as a driver's license, is required.

If you choose and are eligible, you may donate double red cells at these drives.

See the Red Cross web site for more information or to schedule an appointment (click on Refresh if the page doesn't appear the first time)

<http://www.donatebloodnow.org/DonateBlood/Listings.asp?co=Albany>



REMINDER: Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m.** Move your clocks **BACK** one hour. This is also a great time to test and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Albany County News

Property Tax Amnesty Program

September 1 - November 30, 2009

Albany County is offering a **one-time only** amnesty program **CUTTING IN HALF** the amount of interest due on delinquent real property taxes owed to the County, which are paid from September 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009.

Interest will return to the full amount due on December 1st.

Payment must be received by the County within the program time period to qualify. This program applies to interest only. No reduction of principal, penalties or other fees will be made.

Act now! This program will not be extended or repeated.

Installment Plans will be suspended during this period to allow taxpayers to take advantage of these reduced rates.

County foreclosure deed filings will be suspended until December 1, 2009. In December, foreclosure actions will resume. All taxes older than 2007 will be foreclosed in 2010.

This is NOT a TAX LIEN SALE!

For more information, visit http://www.albanycounty.com/finance/_tax-amnesty.asp

Albany County Rabies Clinics 2009

Saturday	Village of Green Island Public Works	cats/ferrets 1:00-2:30
November 7	Garage	dogs 2:30-4:00
1:00-4:00pm	Cohoes Road - Green Island	

Low cost immunizations. All dogs, cats and ferrets in New York State are required, by law, to have current rabies vaccinations. Donation is \$8.00 per animal. For more information, visit the Albany County Department of Health web page at http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/programs_services.asp?id=747



[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. College immunizations are available for a fee. For this month, the clinic dates should be October 7 and October 21, call ahead for confirmation of date and time.

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

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

You are receiving this e-mail because you have subscribed to our e-newsletter. If you wish to be taken off our monthly mailing, click here to [unsubscribe](#).

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

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

disclaimer: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/includes/disclaimer.asp>

For the best viewing of the Town's e-Newsletter in **gmail**, scroll all the way down the page and click on "basic HTML" next to "Gmail view:" at the bottom of the screen.