



Volume I Issue 1

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

February 2007

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.4955

www.townofbethlehem.org

Town Board

Terri Egan, Supervisor
Dan Plummer, Board Member
Sam Messina, Board Member
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From the Supervisor

The Town of Bethlehem adopted its first ever [Comprehensive Plan](#) in 2005 and is actively implementing its recommendations. There are several initiatives underway. Residents, property owners, business owners and all interested parties are encouraged to participate in related public meetings.

The [Citizen's Advisory Committee on Conservation \(CACC\)](#) is an advisory committee that is tasked by the Town Board to explore conservation projects and opportunities with willing landowners. The CACC holds monthly meetings to discuss open space protection tasks assigned to it by the Town Board. The CACC will be working on a comprehensive map of all parkland, trails and otherwise conserved land that is now owned by the town or other not-for-profit entities.

Our Comp Plan speaks volumes about the need for the Town to grow responsibly without compromising the community character that is uniquely ours. Towards this end, the Town recognizes the need for a strong and diverse tax base and the need for quality nonresidential development in appropriate locations. On January 17, the [Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency \(BIDA\)](#) hosted an informational meeting on the Vista Technology Campus that is proposed for development along the Route 85 extension that will be under construction in the near future. On January 24, the Town Board held a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Attendees got a first hand look at the development plans for the site. Written comments will be accepted by the Town through February 5, 2007.

Many Town residents don't realize that the Town has almost ten miles of Hudson River shoreline. Along this corridor are pristine natural areas, recreational assets, large tracts of undeveloped land, quaint residential neighborhoods and several major industrial facilities. The development of a [Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan \(LWRP\)](#) will help to build consensus on the policies and land uses that will help guide the future of this corridor. A January 23 public workshop was the first of several public meetings to be held during the development of the plan as we further refine our collective vision for this corridor.



In 2005, the Town was awarded a grant to study the Route 9W corridor. The [advisory committee](#) has met several times and conducted a public meeting on December 11, 2006, to discuss the residents' views for this corridor. The committee will be considering alternatives to the previously proposed Selkirk by-pass and a new possible Thruway interchange.

Terri Egan

February Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

All Town Offices Closed

Monday, February 19

Blood Drive at Town Hall

Monday, February 5, 1-7 pm

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

CACC

Monday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.

Route 9W Corridor Study

Wednesday, February 14, 4:30 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 p.m.

Planning Board

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

NYS DOT Roundabouts - Route 9W

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, February 22, 10:00 a.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

Town Will Be Implementing a New Phone System

The Town of Bethlehem will be upgrading its communication with the public with a new expanded telephone system. The Town Hall, the Town Highway Department, DPW Service Garage and the Parks and Recreation Department will be accessed by calling one number, 439-4955.

The new phone system will allow the implementation of a call center for the Town providing a centralized answering point for callers. Menu option access will be available as well as direct dial to an extension. Please note that as part of the new phone system installation it will be necessary to renumber the existing phone extensions to allow for a four-digit extension. In most cases you will be able to reach the old extension number by adding a 1 in front of the old extension number or you may press 0 to reach a Call Center Service Agent.

Economic Development and Planning News

CACC to Meet February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The [Citizen's Advisory Committee on Conservation \(CACC\)](#) holds monthly meetings to discuss open space protection tasks assigned to it by the Town Board. Committee meetings are open to the public. The February meeting will consider public comments received at the recent CACC sponsored workshop on its publication, [Open Space Protection Programs - Funding and Tools](#) and will be held on Monday, February 12, 2007 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 101 of the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

Route 9W Study Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 14 at 4:30 p.m.

The [Route 9W Study Advisory Committee \(SAC\)](#) will hold a regular meeting with the consulting team and staff to review comments received at the December 11 workshop and to discuss and begin organizing subsequent public meetings, including but not limited to, alternatives to the proposed Selkirk by-pass and possible new Thruway interchange. The meeting will be held in Room 101 of the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

New York State DOT Roundabout Presentation and Discussion, Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.

The [Route 9W Study Advisory Committee](#) is sponsoring an interactive workshop with representatives of the NYS Department of Transportation regarding the use of roundabouts as a traffic improvement device for key intersections in the corridor. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Bethlehem Town Hall.



Keep that holiday cheer going - give the gift of life. Bethlehem Town Hall will be sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, February 5, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 439-4955. Walk-ins will be accommodated as time allows. Positive ID, such as a driver's license, is required.

Is Your House or Business Street Number Legible and Visible?

According to the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Codes, all new and existing residential and commercial buildings are required to display a legible street number that is visible from the street fronting the property.

These numbers shall be of a contrasting color from the background on which they are mounted. Each number must be a minimum of four inches in height and one-half inch in width but the larger the better. For more information, please contact the Building Department or visit [Community News](#) on the Town's web site.

A.A.R.P Free Tax Counseling Service for Seniors

[Bethlehem Senior Services](#) has begun accepting reservations for A.A.R.P.'s Income Tax Assistance Program to be held on Tuesdays through April 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

Appointments may be made by calling 439-4955, extension 4. Please bring copies of your 2006 Federal and State returns with your W-2, 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills, property and school tax receipts.

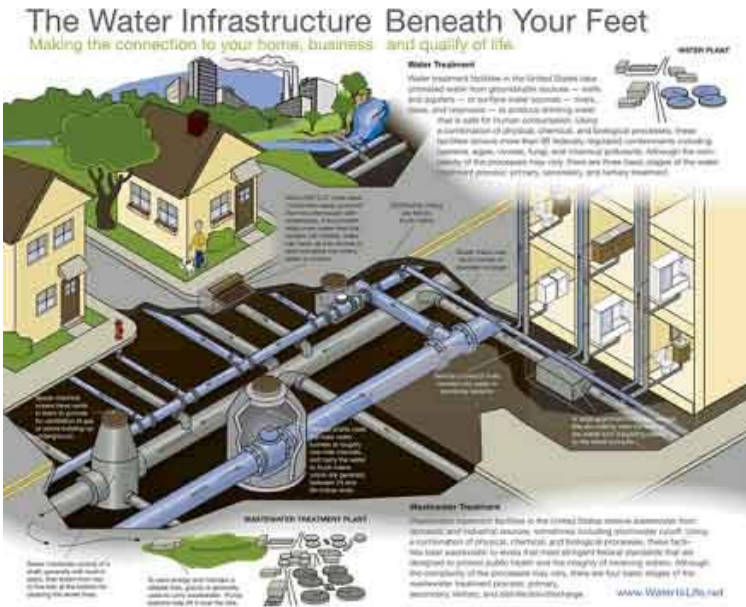
There is no cost for this program.

Reminder: In order to use the Dog Park, you must get a new permit for the new year. For more information, please see our web site,

www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/townClerk.asp#Dogs



Department of Public Works News



Much like the vast number of baby boomers who are now approaching retirement age, the public water and sewer infrastructure across the country has also aged considerably. It is one of those out of sight and out of mind activities that we have not had to pay much attention to. At the national level considerable concern is being generated on how communities will repair or replace this important asset. The [Town of Bethlehem Public Works Department](#) has been actively reviewing its infrastructure assets and we closely parallel the national trend. Over thirty percent or 55 miles of the town's water supply piping is at or beyond its useful life. Another ten percent will be in the same category within the next ten years. We presently have thirty-nine sewage pumping stations and most of them are at least twenty years old. Only two stations have been replaced in recent years.

In order to begin to catch up with this growing problem DPW has developed a capital improvement plan that will address this infrastructure replacement. In order to stay ahead of the failure curve a considerable financial investment will be necessary.

Historically water and sewer rates were set by the annual fixed and variable costs associated with operating the plants and were not used to prepare for the hidden costs associated with infrastructure replacement. We must now begin the financial planning that will insure that the infrastructure is able to continue to support residents' needs.

In the months of February and March of 2007, DPW will be providing information on this topic to give a comprehensive understanding of the infrastructure condition and the plans to begin the rehabilitation necessary.

Parks and Recreation Department News

SCREAMS Valentines Day Dance Party

A Valentines Dance/Skating Party will be held Friday, February 9 at the Elm Avenue Park Skating Rink and Warming Area. The event is open to Middle School age students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District. The evening will feature a DJ, dancing, skating (weather permitting).

The snack bar will be open. Chaperones are needed. Call Jason Gallo at 439-4131 if you can help.

February Ski Club Trip for Middle School and High School Age Students

Conditions permitting:

Saturday, February 10 - Gore

Ski Club Information and Permission Slips are available from Mr. Tyler at the Middle School or Mr. Mooney at the High School or on our website at www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks.



Apply For Summer Jobs Now

Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office or on our website, www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2007ParksSummerApp.pdf. All applications must be received by March 30, 2007. Job opportunities include: Lifeguard, Pool Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance, Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk, and many other program leaders and supervisors.



Did You Know?

- In 1990, the Bethlehem Police Department was only the fourth department in New York State to achieve accreditation; the Department earned re-accreditation for a fourth consecutive five-year term in 2005.



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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