



Volume I Issue 8

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

September 2007

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

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

## Town Board

Jack Cunningham, Supervisor  
Dan Plummer, Board Member  
Sam Messina, Board Member  
Kyle Kotary, Board Member  
Joann Dawson, Board Member

## September Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

**Planning Board**  
Tuesday, 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Wednesday, 5, 7:00 p.m.

**2008 Budget Workshop**  
Monday, 10, 6:00 p.m.

**Town Board**  
Wednesday, 12, 6:00 p.m.

**Industrial Development Agency**  
Tuesday, 18, 8:00 a.m.

**Planning Board**  
Tuesday, 18, 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Wednesday, 19, 7:00 p.m.

**Waterfront Advisory Committee**  
Tuesday, 25, 5:00 p.m.

**Town Board**  
Wednesday, 26, 6:00 p.m.

**National Grid Community Meeting**  
Thursday, 27, 7:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

## Supervisor Cunningham, Town Board and New York State Open Space Institute Collaborate to Save Colonial Acres Golf Course



On Monday, August 27th, Town Supervisor Jack Cunningham and Town Board members Joann Dawson, Dan Plummer, Sam Messina and Kyle Kotary were joined by Albany County Executive Michael Breslin and over sixty town residents, to announce the acquisition and preservation of the Colonial Acres Golf Course in Glenmont through a partnership with the Open Space Institute of New York.

The Open Space Conservancy (OSC), an entity of the Open Space Institute, purchased the national award winning and Audubon certified nine-hole course from a group of local owners and will lease the course back to the Town of Bethlehem for one dollar per year. The purchase price included a significant amount of financial assistance from New York State including a \$375,000 state grant and \$525,000 through OSC.

"With the purchase of the Colonial Acres Golf Course, we are forever preserving and protecting one of Bethlehem's most prized environmental and recreational resources," said Supervisor Cunningham. "On behalf of our community, we'd like to thank Joe Martens and the Open Space Institute, the former Colonial Acres ownership group and all those who worked tirelessly towards making this historic day a reality."

"The Colonial Acres Golf Course is a local, open space treasure," said Open Space Institute/OSC President and Bethlehem resident Joe Martens. "Thanks to the collective efforts of the Open Space Conservancy, the Town of Bethlehem, New York State and the long-time owners of Colonial Acres, this treasure is now permanently protected and will continue to be part of the community's recreational and open space assets."

Town officials, led by Town Councilman Dan Plummer, worked tirelessly for nearly a year with the Open Space Institute and the administrations of former Gov. George Pataki and current Gov. Eliot Spitzer to create an innovative partnership that enables the Town to lease and manage the golf course and keep a total of over 33 acres preserved for environmental protection and community use.

Supervisor Cunningham said, "It's through this innovative partnership that we were able to make this transaction happen. We're supporting open space protection, enhancing our town recreational facilities and achieving the community's overwhelming desire to keep Colonial Acres from development. We also expect the annual revenue from the golf course to more than cover annual operating expenses. That's great deal for the environment and an even better deal for the taxpayers."

Supervisor Cunningham also thanked course manager Pat Blum for his leadership and nationally-recognized work in environmental protection, former Supervisor Terri Egan and other town staff who worked hard through the acquisition and transition period. Those important participants included but were not limited to Nan Lanahan, Parks & Recreation Administrator, and George Leveille, Director of Economic Development and Planning.



"Colonial Acres is widely respected and compared to some of the best maintained golf courses in New York and the Northeast," said Supervisor Cunningham. "Under the Town's management and with Pat Blum's expert guidance, Colonial Acres will continue as an Audubon certified course and a leader in environmental awareness and stewardship."

### Bethlehem Hosts Moving Vietnam Wall Memorial at Bethlehem Town Park August 9th-12th

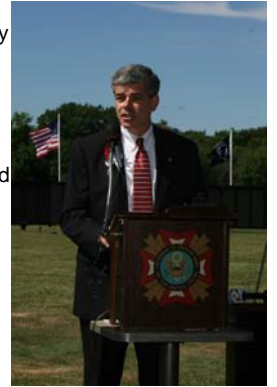


Supervisor Jack Cunningham, the Sheehy-Palmer VFW Post 6776, and dozens of veterans and local elected officials welcomed the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica with an opening day ceremony at the Bethlehem Town Park, Elm Avenue, on Thursday, August 9th.

"The Wall That Heals," a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was on display in Bethlehem from August 9th-12th. On August 10th and 11th, volunteers participated in the "Reading of the Names" and Closing Day ceremonies took place on Sunday, August 12th. The exhibition was organized by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and designed to recognize those who sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War.

Supervisor Cunningham thanked all who participated in the four-day event which attracted hundreds of visitors from all over the Capital Region and beyond.

"We are so very proud to have hosted the traveling Wall and so thankful to all those veterans, volunteers and community businesses and organizations that worked hard to make this memorable event possible," said Cunningham. "Listening to local veterans and family members who lost loved ones in Vietnam really brought the experience, with all its emotion, back to our community. To that end, the event served its purpose which was to help us remember, reflect and heal."



### Town of Bethlehem and the Red Cross Team-up for Emergency Preparedness Day

On Saturday, September 29th from noon to 4:00PM the Red Cross and the Town will host an Emergency Preparedness Day at Town Hall.

Local fire and EMS companies, the Town police department, Town highway department and other local first-responders will participate in the event which will focus on personal and community emergency preparedness.

Public safety equipment from fire trucks to mobile command centers to emergency communications equipment will be on display for the public.

Supervisor Cunningham thanked the Red Cross for bringing this exciting program to Bethlehem and Jack Brennan, director of the Town's Emergency Management Office, for helping to organize the event. "Jack Brennan, the Red Cross and several town officials and residents have worked hard to put together what we expect to be a fun and educational afternoon for our community. We'd like to see lot's of people come out to support our first responders and learn how they can all help in a crisis situation."

Town employees and officials will also join local first-responders in discussions on personal and public safety in emergency situations and emergency equipment demonstrations.

The public is welcome to attend.

### **Blessing Road at Route 85 closed for approximately 8 weeks, hoping to reopen in September**

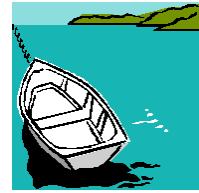


Beginning Friday, July 27, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., Blessing Road at Route 85 was closed with the closure expected to last for approximately 8 weeks. A signed detour is in place that uses the Krumkill Road exit of Route 85 and follows Krumkill Road to Blessing Road. Through traffic is not permitted on Blessing Road. See [Community News](#) on the Town's web site for a printable copy of the detour map. Please note, this is a NYS DOT project, not the Town's. For more information on the project, please visit the [Links page](#) on the Town's web site, select Road/Weather Conditions, and then select NYS Department of Transportation - Road Construction. This will take you to the NYS DOT's web site where you can get more detailed information on this, and other, area road projects. Please note: the Bypass project is listed under Region 1, Road Work.

### CACC Corner



In an effort to provide information about the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) to Town residents, news of our activities will now appear in the monthly e-Newsletter in a series called "CACC Corner". Currently, we are providing articles that discuss open space protection funding opportunities and tools that are applicable to the Town of Bethlehem. The articles are derived from the CACC's, "Open Space Protection Programs – Funding and Tools Report to the Town Board", prepared in October 2006 and can be found at the bottom of the following web page: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/AdvisoryComs/advCACC.asp>. Drafting and refining the report was a careful and methodical process driven by many exchanges of ideas and facts; and therefore, each topic article will appear as originated in the Report. This month the Corner discusses



Not-for-Profit Land Trusts.

#### **NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAND TRUSTS**

Land conservation organizations, or land trusts, are non-profit organizations that actively work to conserve land by undertaking or assisting in acquiring land for conservation by acquiring easements, or by its stewardship of such land or easements. Land trusts work with willing landowners who are interested in protecting their undeveloped properties. Land trusts often work cooperatively with government agencies by acquiring or managing land, researching open space needs and priorities, or assisting in the development of open space plans. While many frequently work cooperatively and with high standards, care should be taken to be sure that no impropriety or conflict of interest exists between the private organization and the Town.

Local and regional land trusts (including, but not limited to, the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy, Open Space Institute, Scenic Hudson and The Nature Conservancy), organized as charitable organizations under federal tax laws, are directly involved in conserving land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical and productive values. Land trusts may purchase land for permanent protection, or they may use one of several other methods, including but not limited to: accepting donations of land or funds, accepting a bequest, or accepting the donation of a conservation easement, which permanently limits the type and scope of development and in some cases the activities that can take place on that land. In some instances, land trusts also purchase conservation easements. There can be tax advantages to a willing landowner, who should consult with their tax professional regarding same. Additionally, as this is a serious legal obligation, it would be in the best interest of an interested party to consult with a legal professional regarding the loss of their property rights and encumbrances on activities, which may occur under this option.

There are currently several preserved land trust sites in Bethlehem. The land trusts operating in the area tend to have priority preservation policies and general areas within which they would like to direct future preservation efforts. This provides an opportunity to coordinate Town and land trust efforts for maximum effectiveness and potential cost savings.

#### **Advantages to Town of Land Trusts:**

1. May be closely tied to the communities in which they operate.
2. Can accept, hold, and maintain lands with conservation values.
3. As private organizations, land trusts can be more flexible and creative than public agencies and can act more quickly.

#### **Disadvantages to Town of Land Trusts:**

1. Land trusts usually have broader service areas than one municipality, and thus need to address land protection issues through their service areas to remain viable.
2. Some smaller land trusts that have a local focus have limited funds and staff.
3. Properties acquired via "fee simple" are removed from tax rolls.
4. Criteria of some trusts may not be congruent with those of a municipality.
5. Conservation easements, if used, require monitoring.

*CACC Corner is an ongoing series of articles by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) discussing its recent activities. Look here each month for a new conservation topic of interest.*

#### **Mark your calendars**



**There will be an American Red Cross blood drive at the Bethlehem Town Hall on Monday, September 10 from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**



**Please call 439-4955, extension 1176 to make an appointment.**



#### **Did You Know?**



The New York State Department of Transportation has a web site dedicated to information and education regarding roundabouts. Please visit <https://www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/main/roundabouts>

## Senior Services News

### Roundabout Navigation Education

Mr. Rob Cherry, Director of Transportation Planning for the NYS Department Of Transportation Region 1, will speak to several senior groups regarding navigating roundabouts.

Bethlehem Senior Citizens Organization and Sunshine Senior Citizens Group, Thursday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

Second Milers Men's Group, Monday, October 10 at 12:20 p.m. at the Normanside Country Club, 165 Salisbury Road, Delmar.

The booklet, "A Citizen's Guide to Roundabouts", is available in the Senior Services Office at the Town Hall.

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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>.

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](#).

## Department of Public Works News

On August 22, the Town Board unanimously approved the appointment of Joseph Cansler as the Town's new Department of Public Work's Commissioner. Cansler will start in his new position on September 9th.

"We are very pleased and fortunate to have found someone of Joseph Cansler's caliber," said Supervisor Jack Cunningham. "We were really looking for a senior-level manager with extensive project management and supervisory experience. We have found that and more in Mr. Cansler."

Cansler recently served in senior project manager positions at Foiltec North America in Cohoes and BBL Construction. He also served as Senior Army ROTC Officer at RPI and spent three years as Director of Public Works at the U.S. Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, where he supervised a workforce of nearly 300 and managed a \$70 million budget. Mr. Cansler also spent two years as the Senior Army Engineer Advisor for Reserve components in Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

"We lost an excellent commissioner when Oliver Holmes retired but we found another exceptional leader in Joseph Cansler," said Supervisor Cunningham. "We were not only impressed with his extensive experience managing a huge DPW department but we really were impressed with his commitment to our community."



### **Did You Know?**

#### **Cell Phone Tip - In Case of Emergency**

Since no one programs the word "husband" or "sibling" into a cell phone, rescue workers can waste precious time sifting through a patient's phone book in cases of emergency. British paramedic Bob Brotchie helped launch a national campaign to get fellow Brits to add the acronym "ICE" (for "in case of emergency") before the name of their closest friend or relative (for backups, use ICE1 and ICE2). Now it is catching on in America. Matt Levy, a U.S. director at the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, says to make sure your contacts know your medical conditions, allergies and what medications you're on.

### Concert Series to Benefit Fund-raising for Senior Vans

"Music In the Key of Friendship", a series of three concerts to benefit Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.'s fund-raising efforts to replace two vans, kicked off on August 21 at the Delmar Reformed Church.

The second concert, on Friday September 28 at 7:00 p.m., will feature Brian Kaplan, guitarist, and Erin Slater, lead singer, for the first half of the evening and Phil Teumin, guitar, Will Vail, vocal, Mike Weiler, bass, and Gary Sanders, keyboard, for the second part of the evening.

The third concert, on Friday October 26, 2007 features the Pacemakers, an eight piece local dance band that plays "swing music", WWII songs, plus some country western tunes.

Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, partners with the Town of Bethlehem Senior Services Department to supplement programs and services for older residents within the community. For more information, call 439-4955 x 1168.



### **Town Clerk's Office News**

PRIMARY ELECTION Day is September 18, 2007 from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. at regular polling locations. Persons must be registered in either the Democratic, Independence or Conservative political party in order to vote in this Primary Election.

The 2007 - 2008 Game License Sales Season is underway as of August 13, 2007. Licenses may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office. Previous hunting license or hunter training certificate required.

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

**Town Offices Will Be Closed on  
Monday, September 3 and Monday, October 8**

### Parks and Recreation Department News

**The Town pool complex at Elm Avenue Park will close for the season on Monday, September 3.**

#### **Fall Lifeguard Positions Available**

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking for lifeguards for two morning aquatic programs, Adult Water Workout and Lunchtime Lap Swim. These programs meet at the High School pool Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon, beginning September 17 through mid-December. For further information, please contact Jason Gallo at 439-4955 x 1604 or email at [jgallo@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:jgallo@townofbethlehem.org).

#### **Aquatic Fitness Instructor Needed**

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking for an experienced aquatic fitness instructor to lead our Adult Water Workout program. This program meets at the High School pool Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 – 10:00 a.m., beginning September 17 through mid-December. For further information please contact Jason Gallo, at 439-4955 x 1604 or email at [jgallo@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:jgallo@townofbethlehem.org).

**New Picnic Pavilion at Maple Ridge Park**

The Parks and Recreation Department has a new pavilion at the Maple Ridge Park that is available for rental. Town of Bethlehem residents may call 439-4955, option 3, to check availability this fall. The pavilion seats approximately 50 people and has a large hibachi-type grill. The fee is \$50.

**Fall Program Registration**

We are currently accepting mail-in program registrations for our lottery style registration drawing that will be held on Friday, September 7. Phone-in registration will begin on Wednesday, September 12. Inside the Parks & Recreation brochure you will find the complete fall schedule of programs, activities and special events. The fall brochure can also be accessed thru the town web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2007FALL.pdf>.

Please remember, mail-in registration is the best way to secure you participation in a given class.

**Special Events**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Hay Day**

On Sunday, October 21 from 1-3:30 PM the 17th Annual Halloween Hay Day will be held at Elm Avenue Park. Come out in costume for hayrides, trick or treat bag decorating, games and much more. This event is FREE for the whole family!

**SCREAMS – Fun Sunday**

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School (SCREAMS) will be hosting its first event for the 2007-2008 school year on Sunday, September 30, 5:00 – 7:00PM. Activities will include a DJ, Basketball, Rock Climbing, Refreshments and much more! SCREAMS is for all students grade 6-8 who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. This Event is FREE!

See the summer brochure, on-line at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2007FALL.pdf> or the Parks and Recreation web calendar at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/news/showParksCal.asp> for more information



**Did You Know?**

**The Town's Assessor's Office processed 314 grievances in 2007 vs. 1480 for 2006.**

**Tax Office Information**

**New Tax Payment Drop Box now at Town Hall**

Receiver of Taxes, Nancy Mendick of the Bethlehem Tax Office has added another option for paying in person - but without the wait. A Drop Box is now available for tax and water payments. The drop box is located by the bicycle rack and drinking fountain, near the playground of the Town Hall at 445 Delaware Ave, Delmar.

Payments can be deposited in this secure drop box 24 hours a day. You can stop by after work and early in the morning to deposit your payments in the drop box. Please follow these Guidelines:

- 1: Absolutely **No Cash** payments will be accepted.
- 2. The box will be emptied at 4:30 pm on the due date. Any payments placed in the box after 4:30 pm will be subject to the penalty.

Payments should be placed in an envelope. Please put your property location or account number on your check.

Avoid the lines and save the stamp. Please contact Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes, for any questions or concerns at 439-4955, extension 1177.



**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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