

Volume IV Issue 2

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

March 2010

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.4955

www.townofbethlehem.org



Town Board

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

March Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, March 16, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

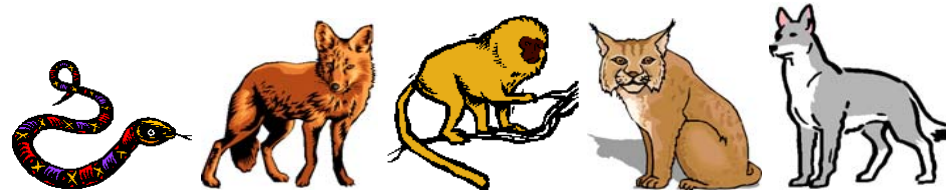
Thursday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.

PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

Wild Animals

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

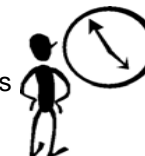


For a list of animals that are required to be reported, see <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/wildanimalslist.html>

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

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14

Spring ahead! Move your clocks forward one hour on March 14. This is also a great time to test and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



Industrial Development Agency
Monday, March 22, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board
Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 p.m.

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



Aquamarine is the birthstone for March and the flower, Daffodils or Jonquil.

From the Supervisor

Let me take this opportunity to report to you in three primary areas.

First, I am more impressed than ever with the dedication and professionalism of our Town's staff. I can assure you that your Town government is working diligently on your behalf. And I appreciate more than I can say here that everyone has been so welcoming and supportive of me.

Second, progress is being made on many issues, some large and some small, and I wanted to touch on some of those here.

- Capital Plan: We have established a work process to define specific capital needs, rank projects and develop financial options in order to make recommendations to the Town Board by July of 2010.
- 2020 Report: Work has commenced to drive forward to implement 2020 Advisory Committee Recommendations on fiscal sustainability, economic development, modernizing town government and optimizing cooperation among Bethlehem's taxing jurisdictions.
- Focus on Business Forums: We will initiate a program with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, to address issues of importance to Bethlehem's current and new businesses.
- Application for Energy Conservation Grant Funds: We have submitted three applications to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for projects to: replace inefficient boilers and water heaters, introduce a solar panel heat source for the Elm Avenue Park office, and provide funds for other ongoing energy initiatives. Energy savings from our initial projects would amount to more than \$17,000 per year. Payback on these investments will be realized in one to three years.
- Town Board Forums Around Town: We have begun to develop a program to have 6 to 8 community meetings in different parts of Town each year, in addition to our regular official Town Board meetings. This will be part of our ongoing commitment to expand accessibility and transparency to your Town government.
- Additionally, on the important process activities of your Town government: We have begun such things as: getting the

agenda and attachments out a day earlier than in the past to allow more time for internal and public review and discussion; initiating a plan to begin the budget process in May (two months earlier than in the past) to enable increased analysis on savings, efficiency and program service improvements, and; reconsidering opportunities to webcast Board meetings and implement additional efficiencies in the generation of Board minutes.

Much more has happened in the first six weeks that I could highlight here, and these matters will be reported to you in the future, but it is important now to turn to a third topic, the issue of Town Board meetings and governance of our Town going forward.

Anyone who has attended any of our last three Town Board meetings, watched a Board meeting on Bethlehem TV Channel 18, or read Spotlight coverage of these meetings or related editorials, may be wondering when cooperation, collegial debate and positive direction will become the norm. A number of people have asked if their elected officials are truly working on behalf of the whole town.

My response to the residents and business owners of Bethlehem is this: As Bethlehem Town Supervisor, for the next two years I will do what is needed to provide the best leadership and management I can to our Town. I will do this in a way that will not compromise the values and principles I hold about good government, and the responsibilities and conduct of elected officials. I can and will maintain my core values and principles while at the same time communicating with my colleagues on the Town board and negotiating to find middle ground so that, as a Town Board, working together for the community good, we can drive forward to make Bethlehem the best local government anywhere.

The power to enable Bethlehem to be the best it can be does not rest solely, or even primarily with the Supervisor. Its foundation is built on the will of the people and it is achieved by the legislative and executive authority and responsibility that statute vests in the Town Board. Acting as a board, the five Town Board members hold equal authority in these critical areas. This is why it is absolutely essential that we work together in the full spirit of professionalism and cooperation, to build consensus where we can, and to discuss matters professionally, where we have different points of view.

Beyond that, on a personal note, I firmly believe that Bethlehem is best served by having the combined and individual talents, perspectives and involvement of all of its elected Town Board members in the process of governance. My experience and beliefs about leadership require me to feel and act this way, even if that were not the way that Town Law is structured, which it is. Therefore, both in this article, and in my actions going forward, you will see that inclusiveness will continue to be my guiding principle. It will be so because I know of no better way for me, as your Town Supervisor, and your Town Board to serve our Town. I believe that we are all up to the challenge.

You know, "I Have a Dream" is rightfully connected with the hope and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King. That should not prevent you and me from having and pursuing our own dreams. Mine, as Bethlehem Town Supervisor, is clear and it is this: We will clearly define the community we want to become and pursue that goal with all of our hearts and minds; We will excel in the ways the people want their government and their elected officials to be; We will innovate and dare to be different when it serves our community best. I would summarize this dream by believing that we will honor and find strength in the diversity of our community and use the collective power and experience of the community to come together as one Bethlehem.

If you are at Bethlehem Town Hall for any reason, stop in to say hello. It will be my pleasure to see you.

Sincerely,
Sam Messina

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Enhanced STAR enrollees must renew by March 1

Agricultural Assessment Applications are due by March 1

Friday, March 5 - Historic Trolley Tour of Bethlehem

Monday, March 8 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Thursday, March 11 - Free Senior Legal Services Program at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Sunday, March 14 - Move Clocks AHEAD one hour; change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Tuesday, March 16 - Albany County Veteran Services Representative at Town Hall, reservation required

Saturday, March 20 - Historic Trolley Tour of Bethlehem

Saturday, March 20 - American Red Cross Babysitting Course at Town Hall

Saturday, March 27 - "EGG"stravaganza Special Event

Thursday, April 1 - Last day for anyone who owns, possesses or harbors a wild animal, to report its location to the Town Clerk's Office

Town's No Parking Ordinance is in effect until 4/15



Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 a.m.

Spring ahead! Move your clocks forward one hour on March 14. This is also a great time to test and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



Winter Activities at Our Parks



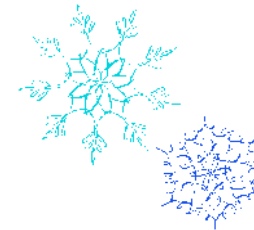
Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are allowed at all of the Town's parks including the [Colonial Acres golf course](#).



Sledding is allowed in [Elm Avenue](#) and [Maple Ridge](#) Parks only.



Snowmobiling is permitted only at Elm Avenue Park in the field area south of the Park office building along Route 32. Open during the daylight hours only.



The [ice skating rink at Elm Avenue Park](#) is open daily for general skating when the ice is four inches thick with a good surface. Skating hours are 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and during school vacations. Call 439-4955, option 3, for current conditions and updates, 24 hours a day. When the green flag is flying, the skating rink is OPEN. If the red flag is flying, the skating rink is closed.



News from the Town Historian

Do your Boy or Girl Scouts have an interest in history? Your Town Historian can tailor a local history program to meet your badge requirements. Possibilities include American heritage, architecture and changing communities. Perhaps a visit to the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse Museum? Please feel free to contact Susan Leath, Bethlehem's Town Historian, sleath@townofbethlehem.org, 439-4955, ext 1160.

Trolley Tours of Historic Bethlehem Continue

The March 5 trolley tour of historic Bethlehem features special guest guide Town Supervisor Sam Messina. Mr. Messina will share his love for the town of Bethlehem and historic highlights from just about every hamlet in town.

Tours led by Susan Leath, Town Historian continue on March 20, April 16 and April 30. Ms. Leath tells the story of Bethlehem's history, noting the many architectural styles found in Bethlehem.

All tours begin at 10 a.m. at the Town parking lot on Kenwood Avenue at the Four Corners, Delmar. Many Four Corners merchants have provided coupons and specials to trolley tour riders. The cost of the tours is \$23 and includes a donation to the Bethlehem Historical Association, a stop on the tour. Reservations are required and can be made with the Albany Aquaducks and Trolleys, 462-3825, www.albanyaquaducks.com.

For questions of a historical nature, you are welcome to contact Susan Leath, Bethlehem's Town Historian, sleath@townofbethlehem.org, 439-4955 ext. 1160.

News from the Assessor

The Assessor's office is responsible for assessing all town property and administering property tax exemptions. Assessment rolls are open for public inspection during weekday working hours.

Check our web page for potential exemptions on your taxes, <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/assessor.asp>

News from the Comptroller

Financial reports for the Town are available on our web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Comptroller/comptroller.asp>



News from the Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works (DPW) services customers throughout the Town of Bethlehem, and parts of the Town of New Scotland. DPW is broken down into five divisions. The Town Engineer also serves as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and is responsible for review of all planning projects, design and construction of town infrastructure projects, and support of other town departments with necessary engineering expertise. The Administrative Division of DPW operates the Customer Call Center for the Town and processes all water and sewer bills. The Field Operations Division maintains 190 miles of water system pipeline, 160 miles of sewer collection pipeline, 37 sewer lift stations, and eight water storage tanks. The Water Treatment Division maintains and operates the Vly Creek Reservoir, two water purification plants, and two water interconnections with the City of Albany. The Wastewater Treatment Division maintains and operates the Town's wastewater treatment plant. The Department of Public Works employs 60 people.

Straight From the Storm Drain...

Stormwater Tips: **Litter**

Anything that is thrown on the ground, whether it is a cigarette butt or a soda can, can be transported by stormwater into storm drains. This water polluted with litter will eventually end up in streams and rivers.

- Put your cigarette butts and other litter in garbage bins.
- If there is no garbage bin handy, hold onto your litter until you are able to find one.
- Pitch in and help clean up littered areas.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.



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>

News from the Economic Development and Planning Department

The Department of Economic Development and Planning is responsible for planning, economic development, building permit and code enforcement services. The Department includes the Building and Planning divisions and provides staff services and administrative support to the Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning Board as well as other advisory groups and committees from time to time.

The Planning Division provides assistance to the Planning Board and Town Board in the review of proposed new developments. They identify issues that need to be addressed during the course of a project's review, including environmental, traffic and design matters.

The Building Division is responsible for routine inspections, residential and business construction, and general fire safety.

News from BEMO

Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

SEMO OFFERS SAFETY TIPS TO FOLLOW DURING ELECTRIC OUTAGES

The New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) reminded New Yorkers of steps they should take to remain safe during electric power outages caused by winter storms.

“Our biggest concern is the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty alternative heating sources or by not following common sense,” said John R. Gibb, Director of SEMO. “Approximately 1,000 lives are lost each year in the United States due to carbon monoxide poisoning, also known as the silent killer.”

A colorless, odorless gas, carbon monoxide can be produced by faulty home heating systems, automotive exhaust, and obstructed chimneys. The gas can also be produced by poorly vented generators, kerosene heaters, gas grills and other items used for cooking and heating when used improperly during the winter months.

“By now, residents should have had a professional check out the furnace, woodstove and chimney to ensure that they are in good working order and that the flue is clear,” Gibb said. He then offered these safety tips:

- Only operate electric generators outdoors and downwind from the residence. Generators should never be run indoors, even in a garage with the door open. The motor emits deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Do not use charcoal to cook indoors. It, too, can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide.
- Do not use a gas oven to heat a residence – prolonged use of an open oven in a closed house can create carbon monoxide gas.
- Make sure fuel space heaters are used with proper ventilation.
- Motor vehicles should never be run in a closed garage no matter how cold it is outside.

“Make sure that carbon monoxide, smoke and heat detectors are properly installed in your home,” Gibb advised, “and test the batteries to ensure reliability.”

Gibb said that people should stay away from any downed electrical wires. "Always treat a downed wire as being live. If you see a downed wire, contact your utility."

If you lose electrical power, the SEMO Director advised following these tips:

- **Call your utility first** ([National Grid](#), 1-800-867-5222) to determine area repair schedules. Turn off or unplug lights and appliances to prevent a circuit overload when service is restored. Leave one light on to indicate power has been restored.
- To help prevent freezing pipes, turn on faucets slightly. Running water will not freeze as quickly.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to help reduce food spoilage.
- If your heat goes out, you can keep warm by closing off rooms you do not need.
- Use only safe sources of alternative heat such as a fireplace, small well-vented wood or coal stove or portable space heaters. Always follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Dress in layers of lightweight clothing and wear a cap.
- Eat well-balanced meals.

Gibb urged New Yorkers to review their emergency plans at home and at work and have a portable cache of emergency supplies on hand. "Everyone in your family should know who to call and where to go in case of emergency," Gibb said. "Monitor your local weather conditions closely. Stay tuned to local radio and television stations, NOAA Weather Radio or NY-ALERT at www.nyalert.gov for the latest weather information, and plan your activities accordingly."

Gibb also stressed the importance of caring for the elderly and physically disabled during winter storm events. "Keep an eye on your neighbors and be prepared to lend a helping hand," he said.

For more information on how individuals can be better prepared for emergencies and for winter safety tips, visit the SEMO website at www.nysemo.state.ny.us. Follow SEMO on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NYSEMO.

News from the Highway Department

Plowing operations are generally initiated after 2 to 4 inches of snow have fallen and may continue until the storm has concluded. It is expected that each plow route will take 4 hours or less to complete. Currently eighteen six-wheel dump trucks, three ten-wheel dump trucks, two three-ton dump trucks, and 3 loaders are used for plowing the 176 miles of highway and various municipal parking lots. Three Trackless sidewalk plows are used for maintaining 40 miles of sidewalk.

For more information, please visit <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Highway/highwayDeptWinter.asp>

News from the Justice Court

Payments of fines or filing of small claim and civil cases may be done at the Town Court Clerk's office on weekdays, Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Payments must be made in the form of cash, money order, Visa, Master Card or certified check, *no other checks will be accepted*. For more information, call the Court Clerk's office or visit our web page at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/justiceCourt.asp>

Parks and Recreation Department News

“EGG”stravaganza Special Event!

Saturday, March 27 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

This new special event will feature live clown/comedic entertainment followed by an egg hunt on the Park grounds. Recommended ages for participation, ages 2-grade 5. Children will be broken up into 3 age groups for the hunt, 2-4, 5-7, 8-11. This event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion. In case of rain or poor field conditions, this event will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium. Come join the “egg”citement!!!

This event is FREE!

Spring 2010 Activity Registration

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for all spring activities. Most spring activities still have open enrollment and will begin by mid March. For further activity details or registration please call, 439-4955 opt. 3.

Or visit the Park Playbook: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2010WinterSpringActivityPlayBook.pdf>

Don't forget, if you have obtained your user Password and ID you can register for any of our programs on line, simply visit: <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline>

Middle School and High School Ski Club trips

Saturday, March 13 (night trip) - [Jiminy Peak](#)

Saturday, March 27 - [Okemo](#)



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. Ski Club information and permission slips are available from Mr. Tyler at the Middle School (Room 142), Mr. Mooney at the High School (Room B111) or on the Town's web site at

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksSkiClub.asp>.



SCREAMS Club Going to see the Albany River Rats – for the last time

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School

SCREAMS is going to see the Albany River Rats hockey team on Saturday, March 13. After the current season, the River Rats will be leaving the Capital District so this is your last chance to see the *Albany* River Rats. The event is open to all Middle School students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District.

For further even details, please check our SCREAMS page on the town web site,

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksScreams>.

American Red Cross Babysitting Course

On Saturday, March 20, there will be an 8-hour American Red Cross Babysitting Course taught at the Town Hall Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are age 11 or older, registration is still open for the course. Certification is received by the attendees upon completion of the course. Bring a bag lunch. Please call the Parks and Recreation office to register at 439-4955 option 3.

Pavilion Reservations for 2010

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. 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 www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline.

Colonial Acres Season Passes

Season Passes are now available for golf at Colonial Acres for the 2010 season. Renew your 2009 pass or apply for a 2010 pass by completing the application link below. Photo passes can be issued at the park office now or at the golf course when it opens. Punch cards and gift cards are available too! Call or visit the Park office for details, 439-4955 option 3.

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2010GolfCourseSeasonPassApplication.pdf>

Renew Your 2009 Pool Pass for the 2010 Season by Mail Now!

It's not too early to renew your 2009 pool pass. Take advantage of our "renew by Mail" opportunity! It's easy and you can avoid waiting in line. Town of Bethlehem residency will be verified using 2009 property tax rolls. If you are not a Bethlehem property owner, you must provide proof of residency. Complete the form following the link:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2010PoolPassRenewalForm.pdf>

Apply For Summer Jobs Now

Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office (261 Elm Avenue) or on our web site at: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2010ParksSummerApplication.asp>

All applications must be received by April 1, 2010. Job opportunities include: Lifeguard, Pool or Golf Course Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance (park and golf course), Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk, and many other program leaders and supervisors.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer applications are currently being accepted for summer programs. Applicants are required to be at minimum entering 8th grade. All volunteers are giving extra consideration when applying for future employment with the Parks and Recreation Department. Pick up an application at the park office or download it by clicking the link below. ***Please note that in order to secure a volunteer opportunity, applications are due by May 1st.***

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2010ParksVolunteerApp.pdf>

Additional volunteer information can also accessed by clicking the link below.

http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/YES_StudentGuideToVolunteerOpportunities.pdf



Did You Know?



Paying Tickets or Fines

Payments must be made in the form of cash, money order, Visa, Master Card or certified check, *no other checks will be accepted.* The Town Court and offices are located at 447 Delaware Avenue in Delmar. This is the same building as Town Hall but has its own entrance on Borthwick Avenue - you can NOT get to the Court or offices from inside Town Hall. The entrance for the Court is the same entrance as that for the Police Department.

News from the Police Department

Designed to make homes with firearms safer, the [Bethlehem Police Department](#) offers, at no charge, gunlocks to those who want them. Gunlocks are available at the Police Station at 447 Delaware Avenue, the Town Clerk's Office at 445 Delaware Avenue (Town Hall) or by calling the Police Department's Family Services Unit at 439-9973. Those requesting gunlocks will not be asked to fill out or sign any documents

News from Our Recycling Coordinator

Recycling of certain items is mandatory for all businesses and residents in the Town of Bethlehem (see [the brochure](#).) Glass bottles, plastic bottles (#1 and #2), and metal cans must be placed loose in the recycling bin provided by private waste haulers. Newspapers, corrugated cardboard (flattened), kraft paper bags, magazines/catalogs, paperboard, single layer boxes (flattened) and office paper should be bagged or tied according to the hauler's instructions. It is important to FLATTEN all boxes before putting curbside for recycling. Those who use the [Rupert Road Transfer Station](#) are also required to separate the above-mentioned items from trash for recycling. Paperboard boxes (single layer cardboard) can be recycled all year round at the Elm Avenue Park 'n' Ride.

Senior Services News

There will be no Senior transportation on Friday, April 2. The Bethlehem Town Hall is open regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2.

Senior Legal Services Program

Thursday, March 11 and April 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 this month's 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.

A.A.R.P. Tax Counseling Service

Bethlehem Senior Services will offer A.A.R.P.'s Income Tax Assistance Program on Tuesdays from February 2nd through April 13th 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, ext. #1176. Please bring copies of your 2009 Federal and State returns with your W-2, 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills and property/school tax receipts.



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](#).

News from the Receiver of Taxes

Property Tax Bills

Property Tax Bills were mailed in early January and were due on or before Monday, February 1. Postage meter indicia or foreign postmarks are **not** acceptable for determining timeliness of mailing. **On taxes remaining unpaid after February 1, please note that a 1% penalty for payments made in February and a 2% penalty for payments made in March will be added.** Bills cover January 1 to December 31st.

Be aware that tax payments, or any payments, made from your home computer usually do not have a postmark stamp when they are received by us. These payments should be made mid month to hope that they are received before the deadline. The postmark determines the timeliness of payments. Envelopes received with no postmark are considered paid on the date they are delivered to us per New York State law.

The back of the tax statement contains important information on exemptions, deadlines and third-party notification. Taxpayers are urged to carefully review the back of the tax bill. In the event you did not receive a tax bill, if you have an escrow account and you received the tax bill or a bill was sent to you in error, please call [Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes](#) at 439-4955, extension 1178.

Town Clerk News

Free Gunlocks still available for hunters or handguns.

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

Attention Veterans



Albany County Veterans Service Bureau at Town Hall

A Veterans Service Officer will be available by appointment, the third Tuesday of each month between 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 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

The officer will be at Town Hall Tuesday, March 16 and April 20. For an appointment, please call 439-4955, extension 1176

Upcoming Local American Red Cross Blood Drives

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School, Thursday, March 4, 2010
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2025 Route 9W, Ravena

Bethlehem Masonic Lodge 85, Saturday, March 20, 2010
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
421 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar

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.redcrossblood.org/make-donation?distance%5Bpostal_code%5D=12054&distance%5Bsearch_distance%5D=10&date%5Bmin%5D%5Bdate%5D=&date%5Bmax%5D%5Bdate%5D=&distance%5Bsearch_units%5D=mile

or

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/NYP>

Blood can also be donated at almost any time at the American Red Cross Donor Center, 33 Everett Road, Albany





**Rabies Vaccination Clinic
Saturday, March 20
Town of Berne Highway Garage
Route 443 (Helderberg Trail)
Berne**



1:00 p.m. - 2:30 for cats and ferrets
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 for dogs

Donation is \$8.00 per animal

It's the Law! All Dogs, Cats and Ferrets in NYS MUST Have a Current Rabies Vaccination

The Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets has been arranged by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society. All dogs, cats and ferrets must be on leashes or in carriers. A record of prior vaccination will be required for a three year immunization. If no record is presented, a one year vaccination certification will be issued. All clinics are open to any Albany County resident. Any inquiry can be directed to Division of Environmental Health Services, (518) 447-4620 or 447-4625.

The remaining Albany County clinics will be held as follows:

Tuesday, June 1

4:00 - 7:00 p.m. (4-5:30 cats and ferrets, 5:30-7 for dogs)
Elm Avenue Park, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar

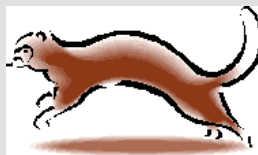
Saturday, September 18

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets, 2:30-4 for dogs)
Colonie Village Municipal Garage, 2 Thunder Road, Colonie

Saturday November 6

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets, 2:30-4 for dogs)
Public Works Garage, Cohoes Road, Green Island

[Go to the Albany County Department of Health web site for more information and directions.](#)




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. College immunizations are available for a fee. For this month, the clinic dates should be March 3 and March 17, 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

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