

Volume IV Issue 6

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

July 2010

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

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



## Town Board

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

## July Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

### Planning Board

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

### Zoning Board of Appeals

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

### Town Board

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

### Development Planning Committee

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

### Planning Board

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

### Zoning Board of Appeals

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

### PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

July is National Parks and Recreation Month!

Sunday, July 4 - Reading of the Declaration of Independence and more at Town Hall

Sunday, July 4 - Family Day at Elm Avenue Park - chicken bbq, entertainment and free watermelon

Monday, July 5 - all Town Offices closed

Thursday, July 8 - Senior Legal Services Program, free but appointment required, 439-4955, x1176

Thursday, July 8 - Amazing Magic by Joey D at Elm Avenue Park

Saturday, July 10 - Andy "The Music Man" and Air Bounce at Elm Avenue Park

Monday, July 12 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, for an appointment call 439-4955, x1176

Tuesday, July 13 - From 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., 15% of all proceeds from sales at the McDonalds restaurant located on Delaware Avenue in Delmar will go to the Bethlehem Food Pantry

Friday, July 16 - Playin' with Fire Concert and Late Night Swim at Elm Avenue Park

Saturday, July 17 - Community Clean-up Day

Industrial Development Agency  
Wednesday, July 28, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board  
Wednesday, July 28, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see: [www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/agenda/agenda.asp)

Thursday, July 22 - The Merry-Go-Round Theater Group's presentation of "Alice in Wonderland" at the Elm Avenue park

Saturday, July 24 - Big Adventure Concert at Henry Hudson Park gazebo

Friday, August 6 - "Dive-In" Movie at the Elm Avenue large pool

Monday, August 9 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, for an appointment, call 439-4955, x1176

Wednesday, August 18 - Last day to drop off donations to the Bethlehem Food Pantry School Supply Drive

## From the Supervisor



Your Bethlehem Town government serves you best when we get beyond the day-to-day stuff that is always there, when we try to be different, and when we excel. In that regard I just wanted to mention some noteworthy items that are helping us become a better community.

We've had several very visible efforts that are very nice partnerships with town government:

You can't help but notice the numerous gardens around town, planted and maintained by the Bethlehem Garden Club together with Town highway crew assistance.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy held its first Trail Day with informative events at each of its five nature preserves in Bethlehem. Town departments provided advice to ensure a safe and successful event.

While it is already history, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the impressive turnout at the Memorial Day Parade. Whether a participant, or a viewer, the parade was an honor to our veterans and their families, and another expression of community spirit and unity.

Partnerships and outreach doesn't end with those things. At Town hall we are busy implementing commitments to engage the community in important ways.

**Bethlehem Community Meetings Around Town** – For the first time in Bethlehem's history, your Town board and staff have gone out into the community to provide information that is important for neighborhoods to know, and even more important, for us to listen. [The meeting we had in Selkirk](#), at Fire District # 1, attended by 45 people, the first of many quarterly meetings that we will have to bring a sort of "New England Town Hall" concept to Bethlehem. Our next meeting will be on August 26th at 7:00 P.M. at the North Bethlehem Fire House, 589 Russell Road, Albany, NY. If you have issues you want to discuss, join us and let us know.

**Focus on Business Forums** – Another first, Bethlehem Town government, the [Chamber of Commerce](#), business persons and the public came together for presentations from Town staff and others on initiatives important to businesses, and then to learn about the concerns and hopes of businesses directly. About 35 people attended [this meeting](#) at Town Hall, and the next one will be on August 11th at 7:45 A.M. at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue. This is exciting work, and our goal is to be supportive of businesses, large and small, because businesses are a vital part of the fabric of our community, going well beyond financial and employment considerations.

**Awards for Service** – This past month, officers in our Police Department received various awards for Gallantry, Achievement and Life Saving. It is a wonderful part of Bethlehem that our officers serve the public so well, and individual recognition will be appropriately described in our upcoming Bethlehem Report, and is already included on our [Bethlehem Town website](#). There is more to mention and I am proud of the work that has been accomplished by our Town staff, and guided by the Town Board, but I need to move on to what I see as a Road Map for the next few months. A Road Map that will have a positive impact on our Town for years to come. The driving force behind all of the crucial Destinations (which are opportunities) should be that Bethlehem needs to be a sustainable community. Sustainability means that costs need to be in balance with revenues, and growth and development need to be in balance with desired community character.

<b>Destination</b>	<b>The Road We Should Take</b>
2011 Budget	In light of likely reduced County sales tax and mortgage transfer tax revenues coming to Bethlehem, Town leaders need to make the hard decisions to reduce expenditures without impacting essential services. Revenues define and limit expenditures
Economic Development	Town Government and the <a href="#">Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency</a> (BIDA), working together, need to be proactive and use creative approaches to achieve taxpaying economic development in the Vista Technology Park and in the Selkirk Rail Yard area.
Planning	Town Government needs to set priorities within and among various initiatives and show increased progress in such areas as: the Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study; 9W Corridor Study; the Hudson River Local Waterfront Revitalization Proposal (LWRP); Paths 4 Bethlehem Committee; Citizen Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC).
Capital Program	Complete the analysis and Town Board decision making that needs to be accomplished to approve and implement a plan and investment strategy for infrastructure for water supply, waste water and facility needs.
Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness	Implementing the recommendations from the <a href="#">20/20 Committee Report</a> , particularly to: a) Improve the Town's organization and operations, and b) Work together with all taxing jurisdictions (the Town, School District, Fire Districts, etc.) to provide services to Town residents.
Good Government	With the Town Board working as a team there are a number of things that could advance, such as public access to Board meetings from personal computers, provision of public access to Town Board meeting electronic agenda attachments and streamlining Board minute preparation.

So, your Supervisor, Town Board, Town staff, other Boards, and volunteers have a lot of important work to do over the next couple of months – and I am confident that we will do it, and do it well, for the residents and businesses of Bethlehem.

Let me also encourage everyone to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities in our Town.

Check out some of the happenings at Elm Avenue Town Park, Henry Hudson Park, Colonial Acres Golf Course and other facilities by visiting our Town website ([www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org)) and then clicking on the Parks and Recreation link.

If you are a senior, visit our Town website and click on [Senior Services](#) to see how our services could help you this summer, including local shopping center trips. There are also a number of useful informational sessions dealing with such things as senior discussion groups, legal service programs, and social and recreational programs to see the New York City Ballet at SPAC and a Mystery Play and dinner at the Cyprus Shrine Center in Glenmont.

Finally, I hope everyone has a great summer. Be safe, and know that all of us here at Town Hall will do our very best to serve you and our entire community well!

Sincerely,

*Sam Messina*



**Did You Know?**

**July is National Parks and Recreation Month!!**

[Click here for a calendar](#) of suggested activities for the month of July.

There are a [variety of parks](#) located in Bethlehem and they are open to all Town of Bethlehem residents and their guests. Most facilities are open every day from 9 a.m. until dusk. The parks provide designated parking, and some with accessible rest rooms and picnic tables for disabled individuals.

**Bethlehem Supervisor Sam Messina Announces July 4th Celebration and Reading of the Declaration of Independence**

Join Town Supervisor Sam Messina for the reading of the Declaration of Independence with the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. Bring your lawn chair or blanket.



What: July 4th Celebration - Reading of the Declaration of Independence

When: Sunday, July 4th, 11:00am

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall (front lawn), 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054 (inside in case of rain)

**News from the Town Historian**

Two new articles, with photos, have been added to the Town Historian's web pages. Please see <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/History/historyArticles.asp> for the articles "What was Bethlehem like during the American Revolution?" and "A Look at Normansville."

**News from the Assessor**

Approximately 200 grievances were processed in May.

**Sunday, July 4 is Independence Day**



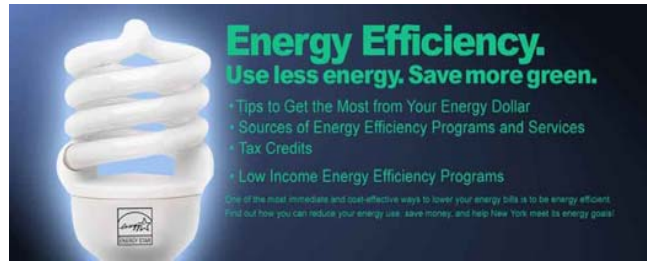
**News from the Department of Public Works**

NOTICE  
**MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION**  
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 1

The use of water for sprinkling of lawns and shrubs, filling pools, etc. shall be allowed **only before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.**

**“Energy Efficiency: Use less energy. Save more green.”**

The Town of Bethlehem, together with The State of New York Department of Public Service, is asking for your help with the “Energy Efficiency: Use less energy. Save more green.” summer public awareness campaign. We want you to be informed about the steps you can take to use less electricity but still keep cool this summer. Energy efficiency measures will help both residential and business customers control their summer energy costs, protect the environment, and assist the state in meeting peak electricity demand.



Check out the comprehensive energy efficiency Website that provides one-stop shopping for consumers interested in information on energy efficiency programs and services, how to get the most out of our energy dollar, and energy-related financial assistance and tax credits. The site is accessible through a prominent, attention-getting banner found on the [www.AskPSC.com](http://www.AskPSC.com) Web site.



**On Tuesday, July 13, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., 15% of all proceeds from sales at the McDonalds restaurant located on Delaware Avenue in Delmar will go to the Bethlehem Food Pantry**

## **Parks and Recreation Department News**

### **July is National Parks and Recreation Month!**

#### **Renew Your 2009 Pool Pass by Mail or Visit the ID Room**

Take advantage of our new “renew by Mail” opportunity if you have a 2008 or 2009 pass (with a bar code)! It’s easy and you can avoid waiting in line. Town of Bethlehem residency will be verified using 2010 property tax rolls. If you are not a Bethlehem property owner, you must provide proof of residency. Complete the form at the following link:

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

The ID room at the Parks office is also open for in-person renewal and for all those with a pass from 2007 or before who need a new pass. Proof of residency is required (see link below for details). Residents are encouraged to obtain their pool pass early to avoid waiting in line on hot days! Details on residency requirements, fees, and hours are available in the recently mailed Park Playbook or on line at:

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

#### **Colonial Acres Golf Course is Open!**

Season Passes and Punch Cards are available for golf at Colonial Acres for the 2010 season. For a season pass, complete the application by clicking on the following link and returning the completed application to the park office:

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

Punch cards are also available for \$125 and are good for 10 rounds!

#### **Gift Cards Are Here!**

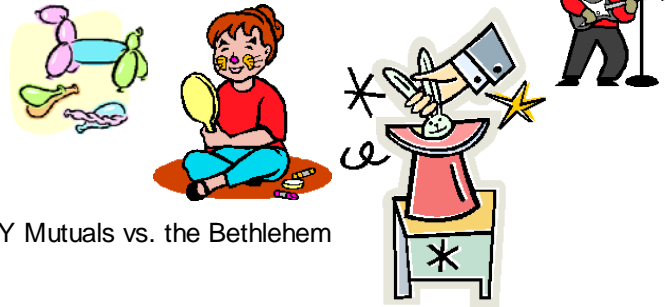
Give the gift of fun! Gift Cards can be used for golf passes, recreation activities, pool passes, and all your recreation needs.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## July 4th is Family Fun Day! Mark your calendars now!

Events inside the pool complex (regular pool fees apply & 2010 pool pass required - ID Room will be open 11am-6pm)

- 12:30 p.m. - Magic Show by Skeeter the Clown
- 1:30 p.m. - J. Ernie McHale Balloon art
- 2:00 p.m. - About Face air brush face painting
- 2:00 p.m. - Live Music by Mixed Company



Events outside the pool area (pool admission not required)

- 12:00 noon - Geurtze's famous chicken BBQ
- 1:30 p.m. - Bounces by Bounce Alot
- 4:00 p.m. - Old Time Base Ball Game with the 1864 NY Mutuals vs. the Bethlehem BRAVES Team, Elm Ave Park Field #5

FREE Watermelon!

## Amazing Magic by Joey D

Thursday, July 8, 2010  
Elm Avenue Park, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar  
Start Time: 7:00 p.m.



This amazing magic and unique style comes from years of audience tested performances. Half magician, half comedian and entirely entertaining.

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion.

This event is FREE!



**Andy "The Music Man" and Air Bounce**

Saturday, July 10, 2010

Henry Hudson Park Gazebo, Barent Winne Road, Selkirk

Start Time: 2:00 p.m.



Bring a picnic and chair and enjoy the concert at the Gazebo at Henry Hudson Park. Andy "The Music Man" Morse, a Delmar resident, is the "peanut butter and jelly" of kids' music. For 16 years he has delighted children with his performances of highly interactive songs that get the kids up dancing and singing. To add to the fun, there will also be an Air Bounce to hop around in! No alcoholic beverages allowed.



**Playin' with Fire Concert and Late Night Swim**

Friday, July 16, 2010

Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



The pool complex and snack bar will be open! No alcoholic beverages. Children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult. Free admission after 7:30 p.m.

Your parents' always told you to never play with fire. That rule no longer applies when we're talking about a great local band. (<http://blog.timesunion.com/localmusic/band-interview-playin-with-fire/2816/>)

**The Merry-Go-Round Youth Theater Group**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Elm Avenue Park, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.



Come and join us for another family oriented production performed by the Merry-Go-Round Theater group. This year, enjoy "Alice in Wonderland."

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion. This event is FREE!

**Big Adventure Concert**

Saturday, July 24, 2010

Henry Hudson Park Gazebo, Barent Winne Road, Selkirk

Start Time: 2:00 p.m.



Bring a picnic and chair and enjoy the concert at the Gazebo at Henry Hudson Park. Playing hits from the 50's to the 80's, if it's Rock N Roll, it's got to be good! This group of local guys love getting the crowd involved and singing their hearts out. No alcoholic beverages allowed.



**"Dive-In" Movie at the Elm Avenue Pool**

Friday, August 06, 2010

Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar

Start Time: 8:15 p.m.



Come join us for a late night swim and movie under the stars on the big screen. This year's movie is "Finding Nemo." Just bring your blanket or chair, kick back and enjoy the fun. Snack bar will be open! Sorry, no floats in the pool. Children under 9 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. FREE admission after 7:30 p.m.

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion.



**Did You Know?**



**Fireworks can Foil Family Fun**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) warn that careless handling of fireworks and outdoor grills can ruin parties and picnics – and entire summers. ...More than 30,000 fires are attributed to fireworks every year, and more than half of those occur the first week in July.

## News from the Police Department

### Power Outages



The Bethlehem Police Department will not know the scheduled return of power to areas within town, only National Grid can answer those questions. National Grid's web site has a link designed specifically for this, see <https://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/stormcenter/>. On that page are such helpful items as what to do in a power outage, how to prepare your home for possible power outages, storm safety and recovery and a list of frequently asked questions. If you have access to the Internet (for example, from work, by calling a friend with power or via a wireless connection to your battery powered PC), **you can even report a power outage from that same page as well view your estimated restoration date and time.**

If you cannot access National Grid's web site, call 1-800-867-5222 for the quickest, most reliable responses to your power outage questions.

The above information and link are available on the Town's web site under [Community News](#).

### Lost Animals

To report a lost animal, please call the Bethlehem Police at 439-9973. Please note, dogs seized and impounded are taken to Reigning Cats and Dogs, 759 Route 9W, Glenmont, NY 12077, (518) 767-9718.

When searching for a lost animal and after contacting the Bethlehem Police at 518-439-9973, please also think about how close you live to one (or more) of the town's borders. If you think it is possible your animal wandered into another jurisdiction, contact them as well; Albany 518-434-5091, Coeymans 518-756-2059, Guilderland 518-861-6855 or New Scotland 518-475-0385.

## News from Our Recycling Coordinator



### **TOWN'S RECYCLING COORDINATOR RETIRES**

After more than 20 years of government service, Sharon Fisher, the Town of Bethlehem's Recycling Coordinator retired on June 23.

Thanks to Sharon's efforts, between the years 1995 and 2000, Bethlehem's reduction and recycling diversion rates grew from 16 percent to 50 percent. The town's Compost Facility, the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection days, and fall Electronics Collection days contributed greatly to the increase.

Pictured left, Sharon Fisher with the State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty receiving the 2003 Governor's Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Achievement of Excellence Award.

## **Volunteers for Community Clean-up Days Needed**

Cleanup events will be held on the third Saturday of each month through October 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. In the event of rain, cleanup will be cancelled. The next cleanup date is July 17, the tentative dates for the remaining cleanup days are as follows: August 21, September 18 and October 16.

Volunteers will meet at Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. prior to departing for the selected cleanup location so that volunteers can meet, receive instructions and cleanup supplies can be distributed, including safety vests, rubber gloves, trash bags and pick-up sticks. Please remember to sign-in upon arrival. Certificates of participation will be made available for individuals wishing to receive them.

Participants should bring water to drink and wear slacks and long sleeve shirts for protection from cuts, scrapes and insect bites. Individuals under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

Please visit the Town's website at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/CleanupDays/cleanupdays.asp> for more information.

This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Community Service Project and demonstrate your concern for your Town and the environment. Your assistance is needed even if you can only participate for part of the event.





## Did You Know?



**The 4th of July is dangerous for dog and cats—more pets go missing this day than any other day of the year.**

The main threat for pets comes from fireworks. All of those noises and flashing lights can send your cats or dogs into a fight-or-flight response so strong they take off at first blast.

## Straight From the Storm Drain...

### Stormwater Tips: Auto Care



Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents, as well as other contaminants, through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same effect as dumping the materials directly into a water body.



- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater.
- Wash your car on a grassy area so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, machinery, and equipment for leaks and spills.
- Repair leaks and dispose of auto fluids/batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle. If a spill occurs, clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand

### 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

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### **The Savvy Caregiver Program**

(A **free**, six-week course designed to enhance your care giving skills)

Thursdays, July 15 - August 19, 2010  
10:00 a.m.-Noon

Bethlehem Senior Services Department, 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar  
Call 439-4955 x 1176  
Register today!

The Savvy Caregiver course is designed to provide persons caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia with some of the skills necessary to cope with the various states of the illness. It will also emphasize the many rewards associated with care giving.

The program will give caregivers a degree of competence that should prove helpful in dealing with the stress factor that often accompanies his or her role in dealing with a loved one afflicted with a long-term illness.

The program is sponsored by the Eddy Alzheimer's Services through Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center and taught by Diane Van Dusen, LMSW.

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### **Senior Legal Services Program**

Thursday, July 8 and Thursday, August August 12

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.**

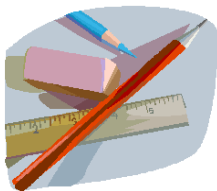
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To see all of the interesting activities, events, programs and services provided by Town's Senior Services department, pick up a copy of the bi-monthly Senior Services newsletter at the Senior Services Department, Room 110 at the Town Hall, on Senior Services transportation vehicles or on the Town's web site at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/depServices/seniorServices.asp#Brochures>.

## 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](#).

### Bethlehem School Supply Drive



The Bethlehem Food Pantry collects school supplies for children in the Bethlehem Central, RCS and Guilderland School Districts whose families live in our town and are eligible to use a local Food Pantry.

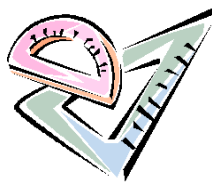
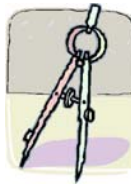
Donations of school supplies may be dropped off at the Bethlehem Area YMCA or at the Town Hall Senior Services Department at 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday before August 18, 2010.



Supplies needed include: Locker Stockers, Washable Markers, Composition Notebooks, 1 1/2" Binders, Calculators TI-30, Subject Dividers, 3 x 5 Index Cards, Pencil Sharpeners, Two-Pocket Folders, Notebooks (single & 3 subject), Post-It Notes, Back Packs, Highlighters, Master Locks, Pink Erasers, Pencil-Pouches/Boxes, Boxes of Tissues, Plastic Compasses/Protractors, Dull & Sharp Scissors, Wide Rule-Paper, Glue Sticks, Black/Blue Pens, Sharpie Markers

Questions? Call Senior Services, Outreach Department 439-4955, extension 1173, 1174 or 1175.

Sponsored by: Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. and The Bethlehem Food Pantry



### Youth Employment Service

The [Youth Employment Service \(Y.E.S.\)](#) is a free, year round job matching program for teens and young adults.

#### **Want some extra cash?**

Town of Bethlehem residents, ages 14-21, can register with Y.E.S. in several ways:

- Download the [form from the Town website](#) (Online Services - Forms) and e-mail it to the Y.E.S. Director
- Mail the form to *Y.E.S. Director, 261 Elm Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054*
- Drop the form off at the Parks and Recreation office

#### **Need part-time help?**

The [Youth Employment Service \(Y.E.S.\)](#) 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 Y.E.S. Businesses can also contact the service for help finding part-time staff.

For more information, contact Julie Sasso, Y.E.S. Director at 439-4955 ext. 1608 or [jsasso@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:jsasso@townofbethlehem.org)

While Y.E.S. does not have scheduled office hours, e-mails and phone messages are checked regularly and mail is picked up at the [Parks and Recreation](#) office once a week.

Student registration form: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/forms/showforms.asp#Parks>

### **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, July 20. For an appointment, please call 439-4955, extension 1176



## Did You Know?

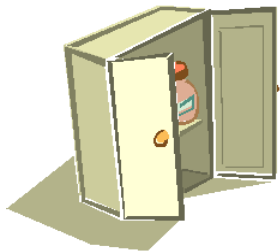
### Consumer Fireworks: Dangerous and Illegal

Fireworks and the month of July are two things that seem to go hand in hand. This summer, the [New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control](#) would like to remind all New Yorkers that **the use and possession of all consumer fireworks is illegal in our state**. A warning about the dangers of fireworks and the injuries they cause each year is, theoretically, unnecessary. However, we all know that many people across New York State will choose to overlook the law and use them illegally during various private celebrations. Due to this simple fact, OFPC believes it is essential to remind New Yorkers of the state law, and bring awareness to the many potential dangers of fireworks.

Fact: the safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals. Annually, thousands of people are treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained from the usage of fireworks, the highest rate of injury being to children under 15 years of age. The most common injuries that occur are to the hands and fingers, eyes, and the head and face.

Fireworks can cause blindness, severe burns, permanent scarring, and may also cause life threatening fires.

The majority of firework related injuries are caused by firecrackers, sparklers, and bottle rockets. Sparklers are associated with more than half of the estimated injuries for children under five. Parents, many of whom are aware of the dangers of firecrackers, bottle rockets, and roman candles, have an illusion that sparklers are safe for young children. Because sparklers can reach temperatures of over 1000°F.; they are dangerous to handle by anyone, not just children.



During the months of July and August, the Bethlehem Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

jelly/jams, canned tuna fish, canned fruits, mustard, ketchup, toilet paper, toothpaste, cleaning products and laundry detergent.

For information about donating to or using the Bethlehem Food Pantry, please call 439-4955, ext. 1175.



### Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Blood Drive at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monday, July 19  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
16 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar

Blood Drive at St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Saturday, AUGUST 7  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
35 Adams Place, 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>

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### Albany County News

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**Albany County Offers Free Prescription Discount Card to All County Residents**  
Program Provides Discounts Up to 20% on Brand Name Drugs, Up to 70% on Generic

Please see <http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/executive/news.asp?id=2644> for more information.

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[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 July 7 and July 21, call ahead for confirmation of date and time.

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

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

New York State Emergency Management Office  
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 22, Albany, NY 12226-2251  
June 9, 2010

**How To Develop A Family Disaster Plan**

ALBANY, N.Y. – State and Federal emergency management professionals encourage individuals and families to be ready in case there is an emergency. Every one should have a plan – know what to do and when to do it during an emergency – and have a fully-equipped emergency supply kit packed and ready-to-go.

You should be prepared to take care of yourself and family members for the first 72 hours – that's three days – following a disaster, such as a severe storm or hurricane. An emergency preparedness kit should include food and water for each family member, a battery-powered or hand-held radio, flashlight, spare batteries, first aid kit, non-electric can opener, dry clothes, bedding, toilet paper, and garbage bags for personal sanitation. Don't forget extra eye glasses, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, the elderly and medically fragile or disabled family members.

Other items to consider include sleeping bags or blankets, paper towels, books, puzzles and games for children and food for family pets. It's helpful to have cash in case banks are closed and ATMs are not open. Have important insurance information and other important documents readily available.

Make an evacuation plan and learn the evacuation routes in your neighborhood. Traffic congestion is inevitable. Plan for a significantly longer travel time to reach your destination. If possible, evacuate using only one vehicle. Have a communication plan with phone numbers of family members in case people get separated. Identify a friend or family member in another town, who can be contacted during an emergency.

Store the emergency supplies in an easy-to-carry plastic storage container or duffel bag, so that you can grab it quickly and go when an emergency forces you to leave your home. Putting together an emergency kit isn't expensive. Many of the items are probably in your home already. Any additional supplies you may need can be purchased over a period of time.

More information on emergency preparedness, including how to put together a family communication plan, can be found on FEMA's Web site (in English and Spanish): [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) , <http://www.liston.gov/> and [www.semo.state.ny.us](http://www.semo.state.ny.us).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

# Summer Pet Care



Summertime is fun time, but hot weather makes for some unique pet care challenges. Both dogs and cats are at risk to heat and sun exposure, and need a little extra TLC to keep their coats primed and protected. But other dangers, like bugs and lawn fertilizers, pose additional risks for pets. So throughout the season, adapt your pet care routine to protect your pet from summer's safety threats.

Humans aren't the only animals that can find a hot summer day overwhelming. Unlike you, however, your pet has a limited ability to deal with the heat. Dogs and cats release heat through their paw pads and by panting—yes, cats pant, just more subtly. Dogs tend to drool as they keep cool, and cats lick themselves to lower body temperature. Dehydration can be a big problem. Make certain that pets always have access to plenty of clean, cool water, and avoid letting them outside during the hottest parts of the day.

Providing your animals with a cool, shady place to rest is essential to summer pet care. Dogs and cats, particularly those with short, fine hair and pink skin, are susceptible to sunburn. Prolonged sun exposure for any pet can result in sun burn and skin cancer, so it's important to manage their time in the sun. Dogs and cats are most susceptible to sun damage at their ears, nose, and lips, where less fur protects the skin. Short summer haircuts are essential to keeping your pet comfortable, but they increase sun exposure. Talk to your veterinarian before applying any type of sunscreen—some are not safe for pets! When you find the right one, apply before exposure, and reapply often.

Another summer pet safety issue is the presence of ticks and other insects. Not only can bugs carry disease, but the ways people ward them off can cause problems for your indoor-outdoor pet's health. Fertilizers and pesticides may help keep a lawn looking great, but they can be very dangerous for your pet. In areas where your pets play, it's better to keep the grass cut short to reduce ticks and other insects. Talk to your vet about how to protect your pet from fleas, ticks, and other insects more prevalent during summer months.

Keep an eye out for toxic hazards when you're outside with your pets. Fertilizer warnings on the edge of a lawn are a good signal to stay away, and you should also keep an eye out under cars. Anti-freeze can leak when cars overheat, leaving puddles that your dog or cat can easily lap up. The sweet taste of anti-freeze is tempting to pets and, but this toxic substance is potentially lethal.

Finally, although it can be an enormous amount of fun to bring your dog to the beach or pool, always keep a close eye when he's in or near the water. Even a strong swimmer could have trouble getting out of a pool or get trapped in ropes and other obstacles.

Enjoying a safe summer with your pets is all about thinking ahead. Watch over them the way you would a small child—protect them from too much heat, sun, and other summer dangers—and everything should be just fine. Summer pet safety isn't hard. It just requires some thought and attention.

**Quick Tip for Dogs:** Buy a doggie life preserver! If you are going to take your dog boating or swimming, a dog life preserver is an excellent investment for his safety.

**Quick Tip for Cats:** Break out the kitty brush and get busy! Cats shed more in hot weather. Regular brushing gets rid of loose hair and helps control hairballs.

# Happy Pet-Safe 4th of July!

Independence Day is almost here: Camping, BBQs, and of course, fireworks! But while you're getting ready to celebrate with the rest of the country, don't forget about your pets. The 4th of July is dangerous for dog and cats—more pets go missing this day than any other day of the year.

The main threat for pets comes from fireworks. All of those noises and flashing lights can send your cats or dogs into a fight-or-flight response so strong they take off at first blast. One minute your beloved Corgi, Moxie, is sitting in your lap, and the next she bolts through an open gate into the night.

With a little preparation, you can help your pets avoid this scenario, and even protect them if they do get loose.

## Plan ahead for the festivities

Know where you'll be this 4th of July and who you'll be with. Then you'll know if the environment is right to bring your pets. Are there going to be a lot of people around? Do your pets do well in crowds? Will you be too distracted having fun to keep a good eye on them? Holidays were designed for people to have a good time together, but don't get caught up and forget about your pets' whereabouts.

It's okay to leave pets at home. Although they'd rather come along, we're certain they don't want to spend a harrowing night running from fireworks, possibly ending up at a shelter or worse. Give them a free pass to stay at home, cozy with the AC, and away from the overwhelming excitement.

You've got to take some precautions when leaving pets at home, though; the 4th of July isn't just another night. The evening can be a real shock, and it's common to come home to shredded pillows, scratched furniture, and love puddles on the floor. Rise to the occasion by following these tips for keeping pets home alone on the 4th of July:

- Find a safe and quiet room for each pet.
- Cover the windows and do your best to dampen outside sounds.
- Make sure pets have plenty of fresh food and water.
- Leave your pets' favorite toys out, so they can play.
- Before you leave for the celebrations, take your pets for a walk.
- Turn the radio or television on at a low volume for distraction and comfort.
- Remove anything you don't want chewed, scratched, or damaged—anxiety draws out survival instincts in pets, leaving your property at risk.

Make any pet-sitting arrangements ahead of time, too, because many people go out of town and leave their pets at home. Your local pet sitter may already be booked up!

## Tips for 4th of July vacationers

Not only is the 4th a fabulous holiday, it's also a great time for your family vacation. And a family vacation without your pets just isn't a family vacation. Anyone travelling with pets over the holiday should be extra cautious to keep them safe.

A new environment—your summer cabin, a beach rental, or a pet-friendly hotel—can be intimidating enough for your pets.

It's full of new smells and unfamiliar areas. But add loud explosions from fireworks, and that new environment becomes downright hostile. Keep your pets with you and on a leash at all times. It's too dangerous to let them hang out sans leash even if that's the norm. Pay attention to their behavior. Watch for signs they're scared, and act quickly to remove them from stressful situations. If your pet runs off in an area that is unfamiliar to both of you, it's going to be that much harder to find them.

None of this means you have to leave your pets at home. Just keep a close watch and understand the risks the holiday poses. A little awareness ought to do the trick.

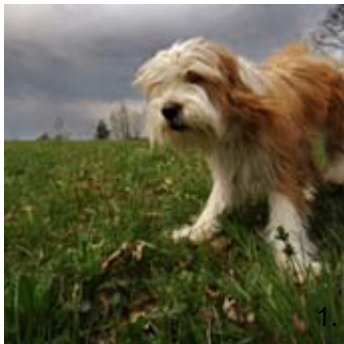
## Amp up your pet safety routine

Double up on your pet identification during this week. In addition to your microchip, make sure your pets are wearing visible ID that displays your phone number, or that of your pet recovery service or veterinarian. Consider a bright, attention-grabbing color for the ID tag, so people don't have to search for it. Rescuers are much more likely to approach an animal they see has visible ID, because they know it belongs to someone who cares!

Remember, even though the 4th of July is just one day, the fireworks often start before then and continue a few days after. Don't leave your pets alone outside during this time. It only takes one unexpected blast to send them into a scared frenzy. Do take them outside for a walk. They can release some pent up energy, and you can avoid in-the-house accidents.

Lastly, it's helpful to understand what pets are going through. Cats and dogs hear with a much keener sense than humans do, and at that magnitude, fireworks sound terrifying. Just like us, they're hard-wired for self-preservation. It's your job to help your pets avoid that adrenaline roller coaster. Control their exposure to the noise and take necessary precautions to keep them calm during the celebrations.

## Prepare for Summer Storms



With storm season here, it's important for cat and dog owners to realize that storm safety involves additional planning. When you have a pet, emergency preparedness becomes a great deal more complex.

1. Make a pet evacuation plan. If you have to leave home, you'll want your pets to go with you. If you don't have a car, find out if local emergency services will help transport your pet.

Research which evacuation shelters allow pets, and find additional pet-friendly shelters outside the immediate area in case you have to flee further afield.

2. Keep a full list of animal shelters, boarding facilities, and even hotels that accept pets during emergency evacuations. Think ahead and make contact with these places before disaster strikes so that you understand their emergency protocol.

Remember that disasters are busy times for animal shelters. Having a complete list of emergency resources is a smart way to protect your pet. This way, you'll have different options for places that can help your pet when you need it most!

3. Identify your pet clearly. Make certain your pet's tags are up to date, and be prepared with medical tape and a permanent marker to label your pet's collar with the location of your emergency shelter.

Pets should also be micro-chipped, and make sure your contact information is up to date: current address, phone number, and a reliable alternate contact in case you can't be reached. Microchips, in contrast to tags, never fall off or become scuffed, marred, or otherwise unreadable. Any animal shelter or veterinarian with a scanner can identify your pet and get in touch with you!

4. Put together a pet emergency preparedness kit. This should not only include food, water, dishes, medication, and necessary supplies, such as leashes and litter, but also your pet's medical records.

If you need to be away from home for an extended period, and it becomes necessary to board your pets, having their medical records will help you find a place willing to take them.

5. Make certain you have secure transport. If a pet carrier is impractical, then a good leash and harness will do.

In an emergency, it will probably be harder to control your pet than usual. Animals may become frightened and aggressive, and could endanger both of you by panicking or running away.

6. Some people think that when disaster strikes, the best thing to do for their dog or cat is to turn them loose outside to take care of themselves. They're wrong. Most pets are unable to survive on their own under such conditions, and even if they did, it might be impossible to find them again.

It is never a good idea to leave your pet at home during emergency evacuations. However, there are times when evacuation organizations mandate that you leave pets behind for safety reasons. In those circumstances, protect your pet by taking some basic precautions. Leave them in a safe area of the house and provide them with sufficient food and water to last twice as long as you think you might be gone. Prop open or remove the toilet seat and bathroom door, so pets will have a good source of clean water. Finally, post a notice on your doors that there are pets inside and include contact information for both you and your vet.

Having a pet as part of your family can be a wonderful experience, but it's one that comes with a great deal of responsibility. Developing a pet emergency preparedness kit and a pet evacuation plan may seem like a lot of work, but in a disaster, it could save your beloved animal's life.

**Quick Tip:** Call your local animal shelters to find out which ones might take your pet in an emergency. If you live in an area particularly prone to large-scale disasters, such as hurricanes, consider finding an out-of-town friend who will take care of your pet if you face long-term displacement.

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

## **Thousands of Injuries with Sparklers, Firecrackers, and Aerials; CPSC Urges Consumers To Put Safety In Play During the Fourth of July**

Washington, DC — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants consumers to put safety in play if fireworks are part of your Fourth of July celebrations. A new CPSC study indicates that in 2009 there were two deaths and nearly 9,000 emergency room visits for injuries resulting from fireworks related incidents. Most fireworks injuries occurred to consumers younger than 20 and resulted in the loss of a limb in many cases.

In a press event held on The National Mall, Chairman Inez Tenenbaum announced that during the 30 days surrounding last year's Independence Day holiday, there were nearly 6,000 reports of injuries involving fireworks. Burns and lacerations to the hands, the face and the head were the most frequently reported injuries. More than half of the injuries during this time period were related to firecrackers, bottle rockets, and sparklers.

"Consumers need to heed our warning: fireworks related incidents, especially those involving illegal fireworks, can be fatal," said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "Only use legal fireworks and follow CPSC's tips to ensure your holiday remains festive and safe."

Chairman Tenenbaum was joined on The Mall by Chief Glenn Gaines, Acting Fire Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Daniel Baldwin, Assistant Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); and Arthur Herbert, Assistant Director, Enforcement Programs and Services, for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Also joining CPSC on the Mall was Jason Henderson. Mr. Henderson lost both hands and sight in his right eye during a fireworks-related incident.

CPSC is working closely with our federal partners to enforce fireworks regulations, protect our ports, prosecute manufacturers and distributors of illegal explosives, and educate the public about the risks associated with fireworks.

"Fireworks not only create significant dangers to citizens when used improperly or illegally but also increase the demands on fire departments and firefighters," said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. "This nation has lost four firefighters as a result of the use of illegal fireworks. Calls to EMS and Fire departments increased as individuals continue to be injured and burned. Almost 9,000 people were injured last year as a result of civilian use of fireworks. With these increased demands the risks to firefighters and EMS personnel needlessly increase when fireworks play gets out of control."



The federal government is committed to stopping the manufacture and sale of illegal fireworks.

"ATF is committed to protecting the public by finding and stopping those who endanger our communities by illegally making and selling explosives devices," said ATF Assistant Director Arthur Herbert. "If you become aware of an illegal manufacturing operation, or see someone selling devices or fireworks illegally, report it immediately to your local law enforcement or to ATF at (888) 283-2662."

Consumers who decide to purchase legal fireworks are encouraged to take the following safety steps:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

- Avoid buying fireworks that come in brown paper packaging, as this can often be a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities. Parents often don't realize that there are many injuries from sparklers to children under five. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move back to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Never point or throw fireworks at anyone or anything but the sky.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light one item at a time then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks fully complete their functioning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding to prevent a trash fire.

	<b>Did You Know?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have a question that may pertain to Town government or operations, you can visit our <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions page</a> on our web site to look for quick references.</li></ul>		



### 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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