



Volume IV Issue 7

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

August 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

August Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, August 3, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, August 11, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, August 17, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, August 19, 10:00 a.m.

PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, August 25, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, August 25, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

Thursday, August 12 - Senior Legal Services Program, free but appointment required, 439-4955, x1176

Saturday, August 14 - Elm Avenue Park pool complex hours change, see below

Tuesday, August 17 - Albany County Veterans Service Officer available by appointment

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

Saturday, August 21 - Community Clean-up Day

Monday, September 6 - all Town Offices closed

Wednesday, September 15 - Blood Drive at Town Hall

From the Deputy Supervisor

Town government offers opportunities for all of us! First impressions of government usually focus on services provided to residents and taxes and fees levied to provide those services. Of course, there is a lot more to it than those simple characteristics. Over the last six months, Supervisor Messina has provided us with reports of what we have accomplished, what we still need to accomplish and how we will move our Town to a higher level of governmental excellence and continue to improve the "quality of life" in Bethlehem. He has also spoken of the skilled professional and dedicated staff at Town Hall that constitutes the team that moves our initiatives forward.

When Sam offered me the opportunity to write this month's report, we agreed that I would write about something a little different, to give you a different perspective. It did not take long to choose two aspects of local government that may be a little different but certainly relate to services we provide and, in fact, even help ease the cost of services. These aspects of Town government involve many of us and, in different ways, benefit all residents. **Volunteerism** is an expression of community support and **Public Participation** is an important element of government communication.

Let's look at volunteerism. Bethlehem certainly does have an excellent Town staff and they are often recognized for their individual and collective achievements. In addition to our fine department heads and staff is an incredible and not so well known resource, volunteers! As I was gathering information and statistics for this report, I realized that I couldn't calculate a precise level of volunteer effort, but I'll try to give you an appreciation of the scope of volunteerism that is seen at Town Hall. Bethlehem's Office of Senior Services, along with Bethlehem Seniors, Inc. engages the largest group of volunteers. In a given year they have a roster of 225+ volunteers available to drive seniors to shopping, professional appointments, deliver meals, manage the food pantry, prepare taxes and perform many other helpful, friendly and compassionate tasks. These volunteers range from caring teens to adults; all of them sacrifice their time to help senior programs! In 2009, they donated 17,550+ hours!

As you know, our Department of Parks and Recreation employs teens and college students, especially during the summer season, but they also welcome a cadre of young volunteers to help with a variety of programs. They help at special events and work at the PIT, Eagle Scouts build projects at the parks and Job Corps helps with clean-ups at Henry Hudson Park. In 2009, these volunteers donated 2700+ hours! Their Bethlehem experience often is the seed of volunteerism for the future.

Bethlehem Youth Court involves volunteer adults providing guidance and instruction for this important function while volunteer teens staff the operation of the court, filling roles of judge, jury, clerks and lawyers.

Community cleanup often attracts 10-15 volunteers once a month.

Volunteering takes interest, sometimes a passion, and a person willing to adjust a busy personal schedule to accommodate others. Another large (80-90) category of volunteers consists of those appointed or asked to serve on the various advisory committees. Sam has talked about the 20/20 Implementation Committee, (focused on efficiencies in town operations, economic development and cooperation among taxing jurisdictions) and the various planning committees; each committee has Town staff involved in leadership roles but the core workings of the committees consist of volunteers, invited to participate, because of their expertise, experience, familiarity and passion for the particular mission of that committee.

These volunteers are not only a Town resource; they are an expression of an involved community. Their work and time are highly valued and there is no doubt that the services the Town provides are enhanced with their help; there is also no doubt that the value of volunteerism translates into cost savings or cost avoidance.

One final comment relates to recognition; our volunteers don't do what they do for recognition or notoriety; they donate their time because they believe it is the right thing to do!

(In this article I have written only about volunteerism related to the Bethlehem Town government. It would take many, many pages to describe the exceptional volunteer activities of fire and emergency management services, the many other wonderful civic organizations in our Town, those who volunteer in the school system and the many volunteers helping with the charitable causes that are personally important to them.)

A sense of community can also be gauged by citizen participation in local government. When we need a local government service, want to air a complaint or simply gather information, we usually don't hesitate to call Town Hall. But public participation can also be a way that citizens contribute to better decisions and, generally, to better government. Some residents take the opportunities to attend Town Board meetings as well as other official Town meetings and they use the opportunity to comment or take part in the advisory committee meetings. As a member of the Planning Board, I can cite numerous examples of informed public input that made a difference to the final project and the final Board decisions.

Town meetings are regularly attended by some residents, whose participation is admirable, thoughtful, and informed and sometimes, because of a different perspective, enlightening. If one person can have a great idea, the ideas of more than one can even be greater.

Of course, not all of us agree on all things, but we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable and try to move toward solutions that satisfy all parties. Public participation is not just an idealistic concept; it is a critical tool for building and improving the kind of local government that is responsive to its citizens. It is a practice that encompasses gathering facts and knowledge, formulating opinions, and communicating them to others. Sounds simple, but oftentimes we don't participate until we're directly affected, which makes it more difficult to keep emotions in check, balance facts and communicate effectively.

Throughout the year, 20 or 30 Bethlehem High School seniors will attend Town Board meetings to satisfy the requirements of the Participation in Government class. That experience begins to instill the essence of local government and public participation into our future leaders. It is not unusual for a student, along with the regular attendees and others, to make a comment or two. Yes, we do rely on our elected and appointed officials to lead the Town to higher and more cost-effective levels of government but the Town will get there sooner and in more innovative ways with your public participation.

I appreciate the opportunity Supervisor Messina provided to me to write this piece about two aspects of local government that aren't mandates, nor are there laws or rules and regulations requiring them. These are actions that citizens take because they care about our future and choose to make a positive contribution to the quality of life and local government in Bethlehem.

John Smolinsky
Deputy Supervisor
Town of Bethlehem

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.**

New Technology Saves Town Money on Earthen Dam Study

NYS Environmental Conservation Law requires all dam owners to operate and maintain them in a safe condition. In addition, dam owners must prepare safety programs including emergency plans.

The Town has several earthen dams, the largest of which is at the Vly Creek Reservoir, one of the Town's drinking water sources. After the high-profile failure of several earthen dams around the State, such as the Hadlock Pond Dam and the Gilboa Dam, attention was brought to the need to strengthen New York's dam safety program. DEC's enforcement increased, and now communities all over the State are complying with directives to inspect their dams and prepare emergency plans. These emergency plans can be expensive, partially because of the work involved with determining the elevation of the surrounding area for the purposes of the emergency plan.

The Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Engineering Divisions cooperated to do a portion of this work in-house using the latest technology and data available. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was provided for free by Albany County and the NYS Office of Cyber Security through the Town's GIS data sharing agreement. LiDAR is accurate elevation data acquired by a low flying airplane. The files were used to produce elevation data in-house. The elevation data was verified in the field by Town staff using our GPS equipment. Depth and the verification of volume in the reservoir was completed by using the GPS equipment in a boat with a depthfinder. The GIS data was sent to our engineering consultant for use in producing the engineering study for the dam emergency plan.

The Town cooperated with State and local government in data sharing, and completed as much work as possible in-house. These efforts saved the Town approximately \$17,000 in consulting engineering fees in the production of the emergency plan.



Did You Know?



Receive instant alerts from the Bethlehem Police Department

Citizen Observer is a privately run, web-based e-mail and/or text message alert notification system. The Bethlehem Police Department currently participates with Citizen Observer and subscribers to the service are able to receive timely alerts from the Bethlehem Police Department the instant any important information is released to the public. The information may consist of major events, case updates, press releases, and any other information deemed appropriate.

To become a participant and receive alerts from the Bethlehem Police Department

- Go to <http://www.citizenobserver.com>
- Click on **Sign up for alerts**
- Fill out the registration form
- You're done

Parks and Recreation Department News



NEW South Bethlehem Park playground is open and ready for play!



Colonial Acres Specials!!!

Back to school special!!! Students (age 6-18) - Buy one greens fee and get one free if you bring another student. Good from August 2 - September 3.

Seniors - Now seniors can play on Thursdays as well as Mondays for \$11. Rate is good until the end of the season.

Pool Hours change August 14

From August 14 to August 29 the pool hours will be Monday-Friday 11:30am-7:30pm AND Saturday and Sunday 11am-7pm

A new or renewed 2010 pool pass is required to enter the pool complex

The ID room at the Parks office is open Monday-Friday until August 20 from 8:30am-4:30pm 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. Details on residency requirements, fees, and hours are available in the recently mailed Park Playbook or on line at:

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

Camp Adventure Registration Continues

You can access a list of the camp trips by clicking the following link:

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

Camp will run until August 13, register for as many 1 week sessions as you want. Camp Adventure is held daily from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Elm Avenue Park Large Pavilion. Camp Adventure is inspected twice a season by the Albany County Department of Health.

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.



The Colonial Acres Hole-in-One Club - 2010

<u>Golfer</u>	<u>Hole</u>	<u>Yardage</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Witnesses</u>
Eric VanDenburgh	#8	152	July 12	Doug Lambert
Sue Paul	#9	115	July 17	Donald Paul

Fall Program Registration

Be sure to look for the Park 'Playbook' which will be mailed out to all residents by mid August. Inside you will find the fall schedule of activities and special events. Please remember, online or mail-in registration prior to the lottery spin deadline is the best way to secure your participation in a given activity.

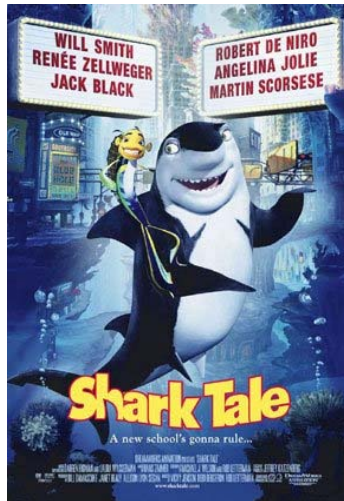
SPECIAL EVENTS

"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 "Shark Tale", rated PG. 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.

News from the Town Historian

Currently, two projects have captured the interest of your Town Historian.

The first is about Slingerlands. With a history that stretches back to the earliest settlement era, continues through colonial and revolutionary times and on into the railroad suburbanization period of the mid to late 1800's, Slingerlands has preserved a unique landscape of historic buildings. I am working with a group of New Scotland Road property owners and the New York State Historic Preservation Office to propose a Slingerlands National Historic District to honor and recognize that history and the degree of preservation found along New Scotland Road.

Secondly, I am beginning to put together a book of old Bethlehem photographs. At the moment, I am particularly interested in photos from Bethlehem Center, Cedar Hill and Van Wies Point. Have you got any stashed away from before 1960? I'd love to see them.

I welcome your questions and comments about either of these projects. Please feel free to email me at sleath@townofbethlehem.org.



Did You Know?



The Town now offers a listing of almost 100 area animal shelters and rescue groups? See <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/police/AnimalControl.asp#ACLostAdopt>

News from the Police Department

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.

Recycling News

REDUCING, REUSING, RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING SAVES.....

Energy, landfill space, natural resources and makes less pollution than if raw materials are used.

Visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's recycling web site for more information on Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Composting and the Environment at <http://www.nyrecycles.org>.

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 August 21, the tentative dates for the remaining cleanup days are as follows: 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?



Here are some things to consider to safeguard your online identity and reputation:

Safeguard your passwords and change them frequently. If someone logs on to a site and pretends to be you, they can trash your identity. Pick passwords that no one will guess (don't use your favorite band or your dog's birthday; try thinking of two utterly random nouns and mixing in a random number), and change them often. Never share them with anyone other than your parents or a trusted adult. Not even your best friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend should know your private passwords!

Remember that nothing is temporary online. The virtual world is full of opportunities to interact and share with people around the world. It's also a place where nothing is temporary and there are no "take-backs." A lot of what you do and say online can be retrieved online even if you delete it — and it's a breeze for others to copy, save, and forward your information.

Mark your profiles as private. Anyone who accesses your profile on a social networking site can copy or screen-capture information and photos that you may not want the world to see. Don't rely on the site's default settings. Read each site's instructions or guidelines to make sure you're doing everything you can to keep your material private.

Source: kidshealth.org

Senior Services News



Senior Special at Colonial Acres Golf Course!

Now seniors can play on Thursdays as well as Mondays for \$11. Rate is good until the end of the season.

Eyecare America

The Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

Seniors EyeCare

1-800-222-3937

Helping People Over 65 Preserve Sight

The Seniors EyeCare Program ensures that every senior has access to medical eye care and promotes annual, dilated eye exams. It raises awareness about age related eye disease, including cataracts, provides free eye care educational materials and facilitates access to eye care.



Qualifications:

The Seniors EyeCare Program is designed for people who:

- Are US citizens or legal residents
- Are age 65 or older
- Have **not** seen an ophthalmologist in three years or more
- Do **not** belong to an HMO or the VA

To determine if you or a family member or friend qualify for a referral through this program, call 1-800-222-3937.

Senior Legal Services Program
Thursday, 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.

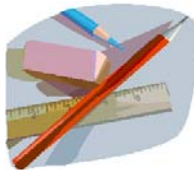
There is no cost for this program.

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/Seniors/SeniorsBrochures.asp>.

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

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, August 17. For an appointment, please call 439-4955, extension 1176

Straight From the Storm Drain...



Stormwater Tips: Roadwork and Paving

Roadwork paving, surfacing and pavement removal activities can contribute to stormwater pollution because these activities take place on roads. Saw-cut slurry, asphalt or excavated material can contaminate the stormwater runoff flowing into the storm drains. Storm drains discharge directly into nearby water bodies.

- Store wet and dry materials under a cover away from storm drains
- Schedule work for dry weather
- Use approved erosion and sediment control measures
- Remove all pieces of broken up pavement and recycle at a crushing company or throw away
- Cover catch basins when applying seal coat, slurry seal or fog seal
- Never wash excess materials into a street, gutter or storm drain
- Avoid over-application by water trucks for dust control

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>



Did You Know?



Warm Weather Tips from the [ASPCA](#)

Know the Warning Signs

According to Dr. Lila Miller, ASPCA Vice President of Veterinary Outreach, "symptoms of overheating in pets include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees." Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with the elderly, the overweight, and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

Street Smarts

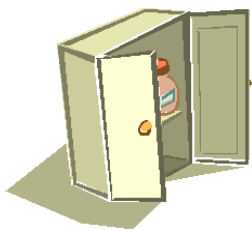
When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.

No Parking!

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. "On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time—even with the windows open—which could lead to fatal heat stroke," says Dr. Louise Murray, Director of Medicine at ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital. Also, leaving pets unattended in cars in extreme weather is illegal in several states.

Avoid Chemicals

Commonly used flea and tick products, rodenticides (mouse and rat baits), and lawn and garden insecticides can be harmful to cats and dogs if ingested, so keep them out of reach. When walking your dog, steer clear of areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. Keep citronella candles, oil products and insect coils out of pets' reach as well. Call your veterinarian or the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) at (888) 426-4435 if you suspect your animal has ingested a poisonous substance.



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.

News from BEMO **Bethlehem Emergency Management Office**

Town Receives FEMA and New York State Reimbursement Funding

The Town has received the final payment due from the Department of Homeland Security's, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the New York State Office of Emergency Management for disaster reimbursement funding for the December 2008 winter storm. The final payment brings the total Town reimbursement amount to \$519,894.

The storm's impact on the Capital Region was substantial and did considerable damage within the Town of Bethlehem. These FEMA and NY State funds reimbursed the Town and local fire departments, for a portion of their expenses dealing with emergency response measures and repairs for damages to the Town's infrastructure.

The bulk of the funding reimbursement received was for highway clearing and repairs, but other amounts were for work performed by the Town's fire departments, police department, parks department, DPW and the Senior's sheltering effort. The success of the Town's effort in responding to and recovering from storms of this nature rest, in great part, with the dedicated Town employees and the many volunteers within the Town's emergency response agencies.

It is important that the residents are aware of the efforts by the Town and its responding agencies to not only safeguard life and property during storms of this nature; but to also search for grants and funds that help mitigate the cost of these efforts.

7/28/10 News from BEMO



Upcoming Local Blood Drives

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

Blood Drive at Bethlehem Town Hall, Wednesday, September 15
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
445 Delaware 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>

Albany County News

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.



[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 August 4 and August 18, 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](#).

Albany City News

Last Alive at Five Concert August 5

Concert begins at 5:00 p.m. at Albany Riverfront Park. For more information, please see <http://www.albanyevents.org/events/schedule.cfm?ID=3>

City of Albany Public Auction August 18

The City of Albany announces a Public Auction scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2010 at 9:00 AM. Inspection begins at 8:00 AM. The Auction will be held at the Department of General Services, 1 Conners Blvd., Albany, New York 12204. For more information, visit http://www.albanyny.org/newsarticles/10-07-21/public_auction.aspx

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.

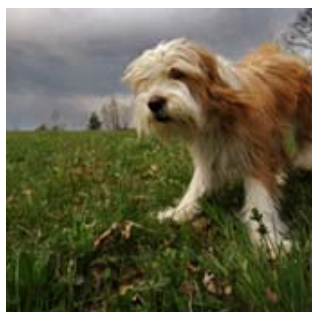
Finally, although it can be an enormous amount of fun to bring your dog to the beach or pool, always keep a close eye when he's in or near the water. Even a strong swimmer could have trouble getting out of a pool or get trapped in ropes and other obstacles.

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.

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.

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.
- 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.

	Did You Know?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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Albany County Agricultural District No. 3 Open Period of Review

Notice of a thirty-day period of review and comment concerning Albany County Agricultural District No. 3 pursuant to the eighth year review of an Agricultural District

Please take notice that Agricultural District No. 3, within the County of Albany, comprising the towns of Bethlehem, Coeymans, Colonie, Guilderland, and New Scotland, was established February 22, 1977 pursuant to Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. In addition, under section 303(8) of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the County is required to review an agricultural district eight years after its creation and every eight years thereafter, and is now beginning the process of reviewing Agricultural District No. 3.

A map of Agricultural District No. 3 will be on file and open to inspection at the office of the Albany County Clerk and the office of Cornell Cooperative Extension at 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville.

Landowners wishing to include parcels in, or remove parcels from Agriculture District No. 3, contact Tom Gallagher, Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County at 765-3500 or by email at tjg3@cornell.edu or Laura DeGaetano, County Office of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning at 447-5670. If your land is already enrolled in the district and you wish it to remain so, you need do nothing. Land can be added or removed in whole tax parcels only.

The thirty-day review period begins August 1, 2010 and runs continuous for thirty days. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom Gallagher or Laura DeGaetano.

A form to place your land in Albany County Agriculture District No. 3 can be found on the Albany County Website at Albanycounty.com/edcp/ or the Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County website at ccealbany.com.