



Volume IV Issue 11

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

December 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

## December Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Board

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

### Town Board

Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

### 20/20 Implementation Committee

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 a.m.

### Development Planning Committee

Thursday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.

### Planning Board

Tuesday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

### Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, December 22, 8:00 a.m.

### Town Board

Wednesday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.

### PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, December 28, 7:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Leaf pick-up, see [web site for tentative schedule](#)

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

Friday, December 3 - Annual Holiday Parade from Town Hall to the Four Corners beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 10 - "Letters to Santa" ENDS

Saturday, December 11 - First ski trip of the season for the Middle and High School Ski Club (see below)

Friday, December 17 - SCREAMS trip to the Great Escape Indoor Water Park

Monday, December 20 before NOON - **Last** day for the Parks Winter/Spring activity registrations in order to participate in the lottery spin

Tuesday, December 21 - Albany County Veterans Service Officer available by appointment

Tuesday, December 21 - In-person and phone-in registration for the Parks Winter/Spring activities' remaining openings will begin on Tuesday, December 21; non-resident registrations will be taken as well

Friday, December 24 - Town Offices closed

Friday, December 31 - Town Offices closed

**Best Wishes To Our Readers For A Safe And Joyous Holiday Season**

*~~From All Of Us At  
The Town Of Bethlehem~~*

## From the Supervisor

As Bethlehem Town Supervisor I believe that it is good for the residents and business persons of our Town to hear from my colleagues on the Town Board during the year. Therefore, I am pleased that Councilman Mark Jordan has agreed to write the following column for December. But I did not want the month to go by without taking this opportunity to thank everyone for all that they have done to help me and our Town, and to wish everyone my very best at this wonderful holiday time.

Sincerely,

*Sam Messina*

Supervisor Sam Messina

## Guest Article from Councilman Mark Jordan

Since taking office in January of this year, it has been my privilege to work with Supervisor Messina, Town Board members and department heads to enhance the already superlative quality of life we enjoy in Bethlehem. As Town Board liaison to the Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Justice Department, I thought it appropriate to highlight the work of the many dedicated men and women in those departments.

Our Police Department is lead by Chief Louis Corsi, who grew up in Selkirk and began his career in law enforcement in 1979 with the Town of Coeymans. He moved to the Sheriff's Department and then came to Bethlehem as an Officer in 1985, where he worked his way up through the ranks as Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief and now Chief for the past 8 years. Of the men and women he commands, Chief Corsi describes them as "some of the finest professionals in the world – truly special people who are hardworking and care about our community."

For the past 6 months our Police Department has been computer linked to the Crime Analysis Center, which provides real-time sharing of information concerning criminal activity among law enforcement agencies in the Capital Region. The ability to access real-time information of this nature further enables our Police Department to protect the residents and businesses of Bethlehem by enhancing its ability to react to criminal activity, to stop criminal activity and to prevent criminal activity in the first place. It also enables law enforcement agencies throughout the Capital Region to assist one another in those efforts.

Offender Watch and Citizen Observer are two programs accessible on the town's website under the Police Department that provide valuable information to residents regarding potential concerns of a criminal nature. Offender Watch offers information about registered sex offenders in the neighborhood based upon a zip code search. It is not just limited to Bethlehem, however, but provides information for any zip code, including travel destinations, so that families going on vacation can find out information about registered sex offenders in and around their travel routes and vacation destinations. Citizen Observer allows residents and business owners to sign up to receive e-mail bulletins and alerts regarding criminal activity in town. For instance, reports of fake currency being circulated would be sent on to businesses who sign up for the alerts in order to better protect them from falling victim to the crime.

Bethlehem is known for its outstanding parks. The Administrator of our Parks and Recreation Department is Nan Lanahan. She notes that winter activities include skating at Elm Avenue Park, sledding at Elm Avenue and Maple Ridge Parks, and snowshoeing in any park including Colonial Acres Golf Course. The Winter/Spring Park Playbook should be mailed to residents by December 3, and it offers many recreation activities and information regarding pool and golf passes, pavilion reservations, and upcoming events.

A key priority in the park master plan is the Shoreline Stabilization Study for Henry Hudson Park, which will examine our Hudson River shoreline and make recommendations for stabilization using various techniques. Consultants will also research permits required for each technique, estimated costs, and possible funding options available to the Town. The study is slated to begin in December of this year.

New initiatives for 2011 include construction of an ADA-compliant fishing platform at Henry Hudson Park. The contract has been awarded and installation should take place in the spring. In addition, beginning in 2011 pool and golf season passes may be renewed online. Mail-in and in-person renewals will also still be available, but residents will be able to renew from the comfort of their homes if they choose.

The Summer Park Playbook will be mailed to residents in early April, and will include information on many recreational activities, including pool parties. Space in the pool area at the Town Park may be reserved for birthday parties, team parties, graduation parties, etc. Packages will include green space, picnic tables and admission to the pool complex for the day.

The Town of Bethlehem Justice Department is responsible for administering Bethlehem's Town Court and implementing up-to-date case law in accordance with New York State and Federal Law. The following are some of the different types of cases handled at the Town Court level: vehicle and traffic, criminal, civil and small claims, environmental conservation and town ordinances. The Court handles both violations and misdemeanors. Felony matters usually begin at the Town Court level and

then are often transferred to County Court.

The Court has two Town Justices who preside over all Court proceedings, the Honorable Paul F. Dwyer and the Honorable Ryan T. Donovan. Both Judges are practicing attorneys. The Justice Department also has two town attorneys and an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) who handle negotiating plea bargains in individual cases. The Town Court also has a professional court clerk staff supervised by the Clerk of the Court, Karen Creed.

In addition to trials, conferences and hearings, the Justice Department also handles the collection of fines and surcharges imposed on defendants based upon the individual charge the defendant is faced with. Surcharges are mandated by New York State and vary depending on the severity of the crime or violation. The Court is required to report to the Department of Motor Vehicles on all traffic violations, and is required to maintain reliable and accurate records of all proceedings. The Town of Bethlehem Justice Court became a Court of Record in 2006, which means that all Court proceedings are recorded and can therefore be sent out for transcription as the need arises. As with any Court, the Town of Bethlehem Justice Department's main function is to uphold and enforce justice.

It was my pleasure to provide you with some information on three important departments on your Town Government, and I suggest that you visit our Town's website at [www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org) if you would like more information, or just stop into Town Hall and the Supervisor and other folks there would be pleased to serve you.

Let me close by wishing you and yours Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

*Mark Jordan*

### Sharon Fisher Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) honored Sharon Fisher, the Town of Bethlehem's former Recycling Coordinator, with a special Lifetime Achievement Award at their Annual Conference on November 18, 2010. Fisher served as the Town's first Recycling Coordinator from 1990 until her retirement in mid-2010.

In presenting the award, NYSAR3 President, Dianne Woske, stated "Sharon was a significant asset to recycling in her town, the Capital region, and New York State. She started working for the Town of Bethlehem over 20 years ago, becoming one of the pioneers of recycling; her work embodied the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' mantra that all recyclers espouse."



"Thanks to Sharon's efforts, Bethlehem's reduction and recycling diversion rates grew from 16 to 50 percent by the year 2000," Woske added.

"Bethlehem residents and businesses were fortunate to have Sharon Fisher as the Recycling Coordinator," said Bethlehem Town Supervisor Sam Messina. "Her two decades of dedicated service helped build Bethlehem's recycling program to the point where it is now widely recognized as among the most successful in the state" Messina added.

## Holiday Parade



The Fourth Annual Holiday Parade will be held on Friday, December 3rd beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, down Delaware Avenue to the Four Corners. Join us for lots of fun to start the season and an appearance from Santa at the end of the parade.

Groups wishing to participate call: Diana Jacon 439-4955 x1164 or [djacon @ townofbethlehem.org](mailto:djacon@townofbethlehem.org)

[Participant application form](#)

### Letters to Santa Program Will END December 10



Bethlehem's annual "Letters to Santa" program will on Friday, December 10, 2010.

The Bethlehem Police Family Services Unit and volunteer Senior Services elves promise that all letters received on or before December 10 will be answered before Christmas.

Letters can be placed in "Santa Boxes" located at the Bethlehem School District's eight elementary schools, Bethlehem Town Hall, the children's section of the Bethlehem Library and the Stewart's stores in Glenmont, Feura Bush, Cottage Lane in Selkirk and on Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

Parents, grandparents and relatives who have young children in the family are encouraged to write letters and place them in the "Santa Boxes." **Please make sure you include the child's name and address.**

### News from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office will **not** have extended hours on Thursday, December 16, 23 and 30. The office will close at regular hours, 4:30pm.

Thursday extended hours will resume on January 6, 2011.



### **Great Holiday Gift Ideas!**

Keep your loved ones safe in these dark winter months - purchase a reflective safety vest and/or blinkers.

Think of your furry canine companion and purchase a 2011 dog park tag for your pup.

### Parks and Recreation Department News

#### 2011 Winter/Spring Activity Registration

We are currently accepting 2011 winter / spring registrations into our lottery spin registration drawing. Registrations can be submitted in person or through our *online registration process*.

- Deadline for residents to participate in the lottery spin is Monday, December 20, 12 noon.
- In-person and phone-in registration for remaining openings will begin on Tuesday, December 21.
- Non-residents will also be eligible to register for any remaining openings beginning December 21.

The 2011 Winter / Spring Park "Playbook" will provide you with our complete schedule of activities and special events. This brochure can also be accessed thru the town web site at: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksBroch.asp>

***Please remember, participation in the lottery spin is the best way for residents to secure your participation in an activity.***

#### NEW!! Renew Your Pool or Golf Pass Online

**NEW** for 2011 - Once you receive the Park Playbook you may renew your pool or golf pass online. This option is only available to those residents who own property in the Town of Bethlehem. You may also complete our pool pass renewal form from the park playbook and mail it in. Please note that this renewal option is only for passes from 2008 and on.

#### **ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION**

\*Use your **Household ID #** and a **Password** to register for activities AND renew your pool and/or golf passes.

\*If you do not have a Household ID # and Password, call the Parks and Recreation Office (439-4955 X 2131).

**This ID # will be your permanent User Name for all future online registrations. You will now be able to:**

- Register for activities from your home or office.
- Renew your pool and golf passes
- Receive e-mail confirmations of online registrations.
- View facility calendars to check date availability of rental pavilions

Go to [www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org). Links are available from the homepages of the Town website under Online Services and the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **SCREAMS Club – Great Escape Indoor Water Park**

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School (SCREAMS)

Prepare to get wet as the SCREAMS Club will head to the Great Escape Indoor Water Park on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. This event is for all middle school students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem School District. If you are not a current member of the Screams Club and would like more information, you can access a flyer at the Town Park Office or visit the SCREAMS page on the town website, link below. To become a member of the SCREAMS Club simply register for any one of our monthly events or call the Park Office at 439-4955 x 2131 to sign up. Membership is free and will provide you with up to date trip information through our direct email system.



For more information or to download the flyer:

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

### **Pavilion Reservations for 2011**

Residents of the Town or Town based organizations may reserve the pavilions at Elm Avenue Park, Henry Hudson Park and Maple Ridge Park for recreational functions beginning January 3rd. Permit forms and fee information are available on the town website. Permits for all users will be issued on a first come, first paid basis. Pavilion availability may be viewed online via our new system [www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline).

### **Middle and High School Ski Club**

Saturday, December 11 - Okemo

Saturday, December 18 - Gore

Ski or snowboard at many ski resorts this winter. Beginners are welcome! Trip destinations vary so watch for flyers this month for information!

Ski Club Information and Permission Slips are available from Mr. Tyler at the Bethlehem Middle School (Room 142) or Mr. Mooney at the Bethlehem High School (Room B 113). You can also print the required permission slips and information by visiting the town website at:

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

- Permission slips & dues are required prior to attending your first trip.
- Bus fees are required prior to attending each trip.
- Lift ticket, rentals & lessons are paid for the morning of, prior to departure.



### **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.





### **Dog Park Tag Price Reduced**

For the remainder of the year, the fee for a Dog Park tag is \$15 and is valid through December 31, 2010. Tags for 2011 (\$30) will be available in late December. 2011 tags are mandatory beginning January 1. Tags are only available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall (open until 6:00 p.m. on most Thursday evenings).

**The Colonial Acres Golf Course is now closed for the season.**



### **Did You Know?**



The average bathroom faucet runs at a rate of about 2 gallons of water per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you floss and brush your teeth.

Source: American Water Works Association, [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

### **Depending on the weather, leaf pick-up continues**

#### **Tentative Schedule Available on the Town's web site**

Vacuum trucks will be coming off the road soon. The Highway Department will continue to pick up loose leaf piles until the loose leaves are picked up or the weather stops this service.

The Highway Department suggests that leaves and grass clippings be bagged to ensure timely pick up. Bags cannot weigh more than 50 pounds each. Bagged leaves and branches will continue to be picked up on your scheduled pick-up day throughout the winter, weather permitting. Tree branches should be stacked neatly at curbside.

Placing debris into the roadway constitutes a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic law as well as creates a hazardous situation for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. Please make sure that storm sewer inlets are also kept clean of leaves and branches to ensure proper drainage.

To help give residents a general idea of when to expect leaf collection in their area of Town, a tentative pick-up schedule is posted on our web site and is updated daily, please see "Tentative Leaf Pickup Schedule" on the [Highway Department's web page](#). Please note that weather conditions play a major role in the adherence to the schedule.

**Yard Waste Paper Bags can be purchased, 3 for \$1 at the Highway Department, Elm Avenue Park, Town Hall, and Rupert Road Transfer Station.**



### News from the Receiver of Taxes

#### **Paying Town of Bethlehem Bills Using Your Home Computer**

New York State law states that the US Postmark on an envelope determines the timeliness of a payment. If a payment envelope arrives with no US postmark, the law tells us that we must go by the date of when the envelope reaches us as the date of payment. Many of the bill paying companies mail by bulk mail and do not put a US Postmark on their envelopes. Many homeowners are now paying their bills using their home computer. The lack of a US postmark on many of these payments can cause the homeowner to incur a penalty on their tax or water accounts.

If the due date has passed when a payment is received, penalties are assessed. Local law was changed a number of years ago to allow the Tax Office to accept partial payments for water payments. After the due date, if we receive a water payment with no US postmark, we process your check and assess the late penalty onto your next bill. For a tax payment, the law does not allow us to process a partial payment for taxes. If we were to receive a tax payment with no US postmark after the deadline, we need to return that payment and request the new amount which would include a penalty payment.

I encourage people paying their bills through these bill-paying systems to call their bank and see if the bank mails by bulk mail. If so, encourage them to mail these envelopes so that the PO adds a US postmark. If your bank uses bulk mail, we suggest you process your payment early to make sure that we receive it before the deadline (and hope it doesn't get lost in the mail). Water and tax payments that are received before the deadline are no problem and no penalties are assessed. With this knowledge, we hope that you never are charged a penalty.

To avoid ever paying a penalty, homeowners have the option to sign up for auto-pay program for payment for water/sewer and/or school and property taxes. Bill payments are automatically deducted from your designated bank account, instead of writing out a check each time the payment is due. The enrollment form may be printed from the [Town's web site](#), obtained from the [Receiver of Tax office](#) or from the back of the water bill for water auto-pay. If you want to use auto-pay for your next payment, you need to enroll 30 days before the bills are generated. After you enroll, you'll never have to worry about a deadline or penalty.

Please call Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes, at 439-4955, ext. 1177 if you'd like more information on these topics.

### News from the Town Historian



Work is underway for a book of old photographs in Arcadia Publishing's [Images of America](#) series. Do you have old pictures of Bethlehem to share? Keep in mind, old doesn't have to be that old. I am looking for pre-1960 images that show something of town. Right now I am particularly interested in North Bethlehem. I've got a few but could always use more. Feel free to contact me at sleath @ townofbethlehem.org.



Susan Leath, Town Historian.



## Senior Services News

There will be **no senior transportation** Friday, December 24 through and including, Friday, December 31, 2010  
Transportation services resume on Monday, January 3, 2011



During the transportation holiday recess, Bethlehem Senior Services office volunteers will be available to take reservations on December 27, 28, 29 and 30 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Senior Services office will be open on these dates from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### December Grocery Shopping Schedule Change

Because of the holidays, the December grocery shopping will change as follows: the trip that would normally fall on Friday, December 24th will be changed to TUESDAY, December 21

**Did you know that you can change your health insurance coverage between November 15th and December 31st?**

**And** - you can pick a different Medicare Plan D (for your drugs) as the monthly costs and the co-pay amounts have changed from the previous year. Look at the different Medicare Advantage Plans and find out what works best for you. Please be aware that each plan has different benefits!

If you need more information as to what may be best for you, please call our Outreach workers to make an appointment. Please dial 439-4955 and then extension 1174 for Jane Sanders, 1173 for Will Vail or 1175 for Alice Parker.

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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/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](#).

## 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 [student registration 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 the Y.E.S. Director at 439-4955 ext. 1608 or [YES@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:YES@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>

**Upcoming Local Blood Drives**



Bethlehem Masonic Lodge 85, Saturday, December 11  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
421 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Thursday, December 30  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
16 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar

Voorheesville Fire Department, Wednesday, January 8  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
12 Altamont Road, Voorheesville

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>



**Did You Know?**



**Town's No Parking Ordinance in effect 11/1 - 4/15**

REMINDER: Every year, the town has a "NO PARKING" ordinance that begins on November 1 and continues through April 15. The law prohibits vehicles from parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Vehicles parked in violation of the "NO PARKING" ordinance may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.



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

Holidays are times that all of us enjoy spending with family and friends. During this time, many of us decorate our homes and places of work to further cherish the holiday feeling. Also, many of us travel or have visitors. There are a number of helpful [pamphlets and flyers](#) from the NYS Office of Fire Safety available on-line.

[Holiday Safety](#)  
[Candle Fire Safety](#)  
[Home Fire Extinguishers](#)  
[Carbon Monoxide](#)  
[Christmas Tree Safety](#)  
[Home Fire Safety Tips](#)  
[Home Heating Fire Safety](#)  
[Chimney Fire Safety](#)  
[Holiday Fire Safety](#)  
[Cooking Fire Safety](#)  
[Home Fire Safety Checklist](#)  
[Hotel/Motel Safety](#)



And some safety tips from the [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)

[Holiday Safety Tips](#)  
[Animal Poison Control Center](#) (1-888-426-4435)  
[Autumn Safety Tips](#)  
[Winter Exercise Guidelines](#)

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**Albany County News**

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For 2010-2011 Flu Information, visit the Albany County Department of Health's web site at <http://www.albanycounty.com/health/flu.asp?id=2526>

[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 December 1 and December 15, call ahead for confirmation of date and time.

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

The following are helpful ideas from [PCWorld](#) magazine:

## Bank Online Safely

By [Lincoln Spector](#), [PCWorld](#) Nov 29, 2010 10:52 am

There's no perfect guarantee that hackers won't gain access to your accounts, just as there's no perfect guarantee that a pickpocket won't steal your wallet, either. Even if you never bank or make purchases online, your information can be stolen from a store or restaurant you've done business with.

But following these precautions will significantly lower the risk:

**Keep your PC clean.** Install effective security software and **keep it up to date**. See [Remove a Virus or Other Malicious Infection](#), [One or Two Anti-Malware Programs](#), and [The Cleanest Malware Scan](#) for recommendations.

**Be careful of e-mail.** Someone may be phishing. At the same time every month, my bank e-mails me a notice that my statement is available online. Although there is nothing suspicious about that e-mail, I don't click the link it provides. I independently go to my banks' web site.

**Don't log on if it's not secure.** Make sure the bank's web site is secure before you enter your password. The URL should begin with https: rather than the more common http:. Both Firefox and Chrome put a green label at the beginning of the address line if the page is secure.

**Use a strong password.** The best passwords are random strings of numbers and letters. Avoid words and names. If your browser asks if you want to save the password, you don't. And don't use the same password for any two Web sites. If you don't think you can remember all those random strings of gobbledygook, get a good, encrypted password manager. I recommend the free and open source [Password Safe](#).

**Avoid public networks.** Don't visit your online bank, credit card company, or retailer from the public WiFi network at your favorite café or library. Stick with a private home network.

**Protect sensitive data.** If you keep any financial data on your hard drive, encrypt it. See [Avoid Windows Encryption](#) to find out what to do and not do.

## Should I Turn Off My Router?

By [Lincoln Spector](#), [PCWorld](#) Sep 23, 2010 10:51 am

*Keith Stanley asked if turning off his router will protect his computer from malware.*



If there's a router between your cable or DSL modem and your PC, and the router is turned off, you cannot possibly get an infection over the Internet. Of course, you can't possibly get email, web pages, or anything else, either. Chances are, if you want your PC on, you want the router on, as well.

And if the computer is off, a live router isn't going to cause an infection. Effectively speaking, there's no PC to infect.

But what if you're using your computer in a totally local way, with no need for Internet access? In that case, turning off the router will eliminate any chance of getting an infection. But if you have a properly-configured router and a good software firewall, your chances of getting an infection when you're not using the Internet are already slight.

Plugging your PC directly into the modem and avoiding the router altogether makes your PC considerably less safe.

Shutting off electrical devices when they're not in use is always a good idea; it will save you money and help the environment. But with routers, doing so is seldom convenient--especially if you're sharing that Internet connection with other people. You may not be using the Internet at that moment, but someone else could be.

	<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>		

**When you changed your clock, did you change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?**



#### **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)

[Click here for a printable version of this e-Newsletter](#)

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Town of Bethlehem | 445 Delaware Avenue | Delmar | NY | 12054

web: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org>

disclaimer: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/includes/disclaimer.asp>

For the best viewing of the Town's e-Newsletter in **gmail**, scroll all the way down the page and click on "basic HTML" next to "Gmail view:" at the bottom of the screen.