



Volume IV Issue 12

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

**January 2011**

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

## **January Meeting Schedule**

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

### **Planning Board**

Tuesday, January 4, 6:00 p.m.

### **State of the Town Address**

Wednesday, January 5, 8:30 a.m.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.

### **Town Board**

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

### **20/20 Implementation Committee**

Thursday, January 13, 7:30 a.m.

### **Planning Board**

Tuesday, January 18, 6:00 p.m.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

### **Development Planning Committee**

Thursday, January 20, 10:00 a.m.

### **State of the Town Address at the Little Red/Cedar Hill Schoolhouse**

Thursday, January 20, 11:30 a.m.

### **PaTHs Committee**

Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.

### **Industrial Development Agency**

Wednesday, January 26, 8:00 a.m.

### **Town Board**

Wednesday, January 26, 6:00 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**

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

Friday, December 31 - Town Offices closed

Wednesday, January 5 - State of the Town Address at Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 8 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Bromley

Thursday, January 13 - Senior Legal Services Program, FREE, by appointment

Monday, January 17 - Town Offices closed

Thursday, January 20 - State of the Town Address at the Cedar Hill/ Little Red Schoolhouse in Selkirk, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 22 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Gore

Saturday, January 22 - SCREAMS goes to the Bethlehem YMCA



**Best Wishes To Our Readers For A Safe And Happy New Year**

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

## From the Supervisor

Looking back to January, 2010 and my first year as Supervisor, we have come a long way. I say "we" because my role as supervisor has been, and will continue to be, to work with my colleagues on the Town Board, department heads, other staff, chairs and members of boards, volunteers and the public to help guide Bethlehem now and into the future.

A year ago I told you that "if we get the Process of government right, results and achievement for the good of the community will follow." From my perspective, we got the Process right!

2010 was a year marked by accomplishments, sometimes beyond my expectations.

### THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT:

- Department heads, deputies and staff have demonstrated their professionalism and dedication to this community. We have been successful because Town staff and the Boards have done their jobs well!
- The Town Board; Councilwoman Dawson, and Councilmen Hennessey, Jordan and Kotary and I have come together as a team on budget, legislative and policy initiatives.
- Other elected officials in town government: Highway Superintendent Sagendorph, Receiver of Taxes Mendick, and Town Clerk Moquin have contributed much to the success of 2010 by their professional and dedicated work.
- And, I cannot forget the fine people of our Town who have volunteered in so many ways to make Bethlehem great, as well as those that attend Town Board meetings, raise issues, call or write. Such help and input is valuable and results in better decisions and services.

### THE SUBSTANCE OF GOVERNMENT

We set forth a plan to achieve results for fiscal responsibility, quality-of-life and excellence in government. Below are items that are representative of our achievements.

- **Unifying the water system** and maximizing the Clapper Road Water Treatment Plant saved \$1.3 Million annually, provided a new source of excellent drinking water, sent a strong pro-business message, reduced future dependency on Albany water and increased Bethlehem's independence. (This was also the most politically courageous decision I have seen in my 35-five years in Town.)
- **Our 2011 Budget** is a balanced and progressive guide for Bethlehem: nearly zero tax levy increase (6 cents on \$100,000 of assessed value, or 16 cents per year on the average home of \$267,000); cut permanent costs by \$1.3 Million; incorporated new revenue of \$227,000; avoided water supply costs of \$1.6 Million; maintained 15% or more in fund balances; 1% Cost-of-Living (COLA) for non-unionized employees.
- **\$1.4 Million** invested in capital equipment, pavement and replacement police vehicles.
- **Reached out to the Community** with Town Government Meetings Around Town, and Town Government and Chamber of Commerce Focus on Business Forums.
- **Energy Conservation** grants of \$291,000 awarded for green initiatives: photovoltaic panels for the Elm Avenue Park administrative building, and a staff person to provide energy efficiency analysis for Bethlehem.
- **Recaptured \$529,000** from Federal Emergency Management Office (FEMO) for costs for the December 2008 storm and, \$135,000 resulting from an audit of the Time Warner cable franchise fees.
- **The PaTHs 4 Bethlehem and Delaware Avenue Corridor Hamlet Enhancement Studies** were completed and implementation can now proceed.
- **Taxpaying economic development** projects approved at Kendall Square, Blessings Corners, The Eddy at Beverwyck, Phillipinkill and The Gables at Verstandigs. In addition, the streetscapes and storefronts at Glenmont Plaza and Town Squire Plaza have been significantly upgraded and occupancy is nearly full.
- **Project approvals** resulted in protection of over 80 acres of open space.
- **New sidewalks** have been constructed on Feura Bush Road and Orchard Street.
- **Town Board agenda attachments** are now available to the public on line.
- **Posting of paid and volunteer positions** are placed on the Town's website.
- **Advocated for:** keeping Thatcher Park open; no New Scotland "Big Box" development, and; a progressive Albany County Economic Development Program.

### THE FUTURE

It is because of what we have done together in 2010 that we can all be encouraged and enthusiastic about the potential of what we can, and, I believe will do in the future. Three quotes that I have read lately seem to me to ring true: "New York State's fiscal plight requires new ways of thinking." ... "Elected leaders must make politically challenging and difficult decisions.", and ... "If the work force doesn't feel valued, nothing else will change."

These thoughts will be on my mind as we take on 2011 (Next month's Our Towne will have more detail, but I'll give you a preview of our direction).

**Stick to My Principles:** With the Support of the Town Board, our staff and all partners, I will remain committed to key principles:

- Team Approach; Openness; Participation, and; Building Capacity
- Sustainability in Bethlehem: Excellence in Government; Fiscal Responsibility, and; Quality-of-Life

**The Plans for 2011:****Drive Forward With 20/20 Advisory Implementation Committee Recommendations to Consider:**

√ Modernization, Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness in Bethlehem

- Consider reorganization and unification of the Public Works and Highway Department
- Strengthen the Town's Financial and Administrative Management
- Consider Changes in Terms for Elected and Appointed Officials

√ Economic Development

Implement a Town-wide Economic Development Strategy and Partnership

Vista Technology Campus  
 Selkirk Rail Yard Area  
 Continue Focus on Town Retail  
 Creative Financing to Support Greenspace Initiatives

√ Intergovernmental Cooperation

Intergovernmental Agreements and Sharing With Other Governments, School Districts, Fire Departments and the Library  
 Closer Working Relationship with Fire Services and Emergency Management Services

**Take Action to Accomplish Recommendation in the Major Planning and Development Recommendations Provided to the Town Board on December 22, 2010:**

Our Advisory committees and Planning staff have delivered excellent recommendations to us and many are ready for action. Next month I'll detail these exciting initiatives.

**Develop and Implement Department Work Plans To Accomplish Other Initiatives:**

√ Work Plans will be driven by projects identified as essential by Department Heads and be defined by Leadership; Purpose; Action; Timetable, and; Desired Outcomes.

√ Other initiatives that I believe should be considered in 2011 include:

- Town Board discussion and support of a 4- year Capital Program
- Action to reduce the use of fund balances in 2011
- Work with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and Albany County to open up 1.8 miles of the Proposed Rail Trail from Veterans Park on Delaware Avenue to Fireman's Park on New Scotland Road
- Expand the Veteran's Park on Delaware Avenue to both sides of the rail trail
- Achieve agreement with Verizon to offer FIOS video services in Bethlehem
- Begin an innovative program with NYSERDA, RPI and DOT on cost-effective illumination at the Slingerlands Route 85 roundabout
- Begin work on a property valuation assessment to be effective in 2013
- Establish a tobacco-free environment on all Town athletic fields and playgrounds
- Evaluate Town Board Rules of Procedure and an Expanded Ethics Law
- Expansion of citizen involvement in Town activities and awareness
- Identify special needs in our community
- Assist families and individuals with challenging financial situations
- Evaluate other initiatives proposed by my Town Board colleagues


For your information, I will present the State of the Town message at Town Hall on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 8:30 AM in the auditorium, and on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 11:30 AM at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse (Bethlehem Historical Association Museum) at 1003 River Road, Selkirk (corner of Clapper Road and Route 144/River Road). You are most welcome to join us for these presentations. Also, you will be able to access the posted presentation on Bethlehem's Website at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/news/showNews.asp>.

As a Town Board member and now as your Supervisor, I have always believed that by working together we can make a positive difference in Bethlehem. I look forward to the challenges of 2011 and working with you to make Bethlehem an even better place to live and work!

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.  
Sincerely,

*Sam Messina*

Supervisor Sam Messina

?	Did You Know?	?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please don't drink and drive.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Don't Drive Impaired New Year's Eve</u></p> <p>Ask a friend to drive or call Safe-Ride, a <b>free</b> service, at 720-8100 - no questions asked. Calls will be accepted from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. only. Rides will be available from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. The program is run through a partnership with restaurant and tavern association and the law firm of Martin, Harding and Mazzotti.</p> <p>This program will be available on the following holidays:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Super Bowl Sunday, St Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve</p> <p>If you have any questions, please call Martin, Harding &amp; Mazzotti at 1-800-LAW-1010 or visit their web site at <a href="http://www.1800law1010.com/free_taxi_rides.php">http://www.1800law1010.com/free_taxi_rides.php</a>.</p>		

## Parks and Recreation Department News

### 2011 Winter/Spring Activity Registration

We are currently accepting 2011 winter / spring registrations. They can be submitted in person, over the telephone or through our *online registration process*. 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>

### Renew Your Pool Pass Online

**NEW** this year is the option to renew your pool pass online. Avoid waiting in lines and renew at your convenience. 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.

**Renew or Purchase your Colonial Acres Season Pass now and receive 2 **FREE** guest passes!**

Hurry! This offer is only valid until March 31, 2011. Renew online or mail in the application form found at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2011GolfCourseSeasonPassApplication.pdf>

***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.

**Middle and High School Ski Club**

Saturday, January 8 - Bromley

Saturday, January 22 - 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). Club dues are \$10 and permission slip is required. You can also print the required permission slips and get 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.



### **SCREAMS Club – Bethlehem YMCA**

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

Join SCREAMS on Saturday, January 22 from 7:15 - 10:00 p.m. for an evening at the [Bethlehem Area YMCA](#) - FREE! Activities include swimming, indoor ice skating and basketball.

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).

### **Apply for Summer Jobs Now**

Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office or you can download one from the town website at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksEmploy.asp>

All applications must be received by April 1, 2011. Job opportunities include: Lifeguard, Pool or Golf Course Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance (park and golf course), Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk, and many other program leaders and supervisors.

### **2011 Dog Park Tags are here**



Tags for 2011 (\$30) are now available. 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).



### Did You Know?



A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10 to 25 gallons.

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

### News from the Receiver of Taxes

#### **Will Your Tax Bill Be Paid On Time? Some things to check...**

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. 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. 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. 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.

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 Clerk

Thursday extended hours will resume on January 6, 2011.

---

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.

### News from Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



The Northeast Water/Wastewater GIS User Group was hosted at Town Hall on December 8th by the Town's GIS Division. This group focuses on using geographic information systems (GIS) for water, sewer, and stormwater systems in the northeastern United States. The group was organized by ESRI and its customers in 2004, and meets at various locations about twice per year. Topics included

- Hydraulic Modeling at the Mohawk Valley Regional Water Authority , New York
- Approaching Sustainable GIS-Integrated Hydraulic Modeling: an American Water Case Study
- Using GIS and Risk-Based Analysis for Water and Sewer Rehabilitation Planning
- Capacity Assurance - A GIS Based Application to Manage Your Utility's Capacity Assurance Program
- ArcHydro: Software Tools for Stormwater Management



### News from the Tax Department

Former employee and volunteer, M. Alfhild Merritt, stopped by Town Hall to celebrate her 101st birthday with some of her former co-workers. "Al" worked into her late 90's and credits her longevity to prayer.

**101!**



## News from Our Recycling Coordinator

### Holiday Recycling Guide and Frequently Asked Questions:

**Christmas tree recycling:** Set real trees out curbside after the holiday, remove all ornaments and tinsel. No plastic bags please. The Town picks up trees after the holidays.

**Wrapping paper and cardboard tubes:** Consider reusing wrapping paper and gift bags! To recycle, all types of wrapping paper (unless it's made of plastic rather than paper) and cardboard tubes may be placed in your Single Stream curbside recycling. If you do not have this service, brown wrapping paper, such as kraft paper bags, and paper tubes from wrapping paper can be recycled with cardboard boxes. Wrapping paper with colors can be recycled with office, home papers as long as they are not shiny. All types of wrapping paper and cardboard (unless it's made of plastic) may also be recycled in the Green Fiber bins at the Elm Avenue CDTA Park and Ride.

**Cardboard boxes:** Single or triple layer cardboard must be flattened, and either recycled curbside with your waste hauler, at the Rupert Road Transfer Station, or placed in the two big green cardboard bins in the center of the Elm Avenue CDTA Park and Ride.

**Gift packaging:** Hard plastic packaging which is clean and free of contaminants, such as the clear plastic clamshell containers, can be recycled with your Single Stream curbside recycling, or with the comingled plastic/glass/metal containers at the Rupert Road Transfer Station.

**Plastic Bags and Film:** Plastic shrink wrap, plastic bags, and other types of clean, dry "plastic film" can be recycled with store bags at your local grocery store, or stores like Target, CVS, Lowes or Walmart.

**Polystyrene/Styrofoam packaging:** Packing peanuts can be given to shipping companies like Ship, Copy and More in Delmar. Clean, white "Expanded Polystyrene" blocks or forms that are clean and contain no paint or tape, etc. can be saved until you have a quantity, then taken to Shelter Enterprises for recycling (you can identify polystyrene as expanded foam if is composed of numerous tiny foam "beads" and will separate into beads when broken apart). You need to contact Don Bertolucci first to make an appointment to drop it off: Phone: 237-4100 extension 16. Address: 8 Saratoga Street, Cohoes (at the north end of Route 787).

**Old Electronics:** Bring unwanted electronics to the Rupert Road Transfer Station for recycling (a small fee applies for some items), or save them to bring to the Town's free Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling event, Saturday May 7, 2011. Cell phones and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Town Hall or the Town Highway Garage, M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. except holidays.

**Holiday lights:** Store for next year, or recycle your holiday lights: [HolidayLEDs](#) offers customers a chance to recycle their old incandescent holiday lights and receive a 25% coupon discount on any purchase of new, energy efficient LED holiday lights off their website. The program will run through January 2011.

**Shopping recycled can be done year-round:** Not only at the grocery store but at the toy or department store as well. Look for recyclable packaging, items with less packaging or less non-recyclable packaging. Remember to bring your cloth bags to the store with you when shopping.

## Senior Services News

Senior Transportation services resume on Monday, January 3, 2011

### A.A.R.P. Tax Counseling Service

Bethlehem Senior Services will offer A.A.R.P.'s Income Tax Assistance Program on Tuesdays from February 8 through April 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., by appointment, at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

After January 3, 2011, appointments may be made by calling 439-4955, extension 1176. Please bring copies of your 2009 Federal and State returns along with your W-2, 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills, and property and school tax receipts.



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

## [A Great New Year's Resolution!](#)

Every year, more than 1,500 people receive kidneys, livers, and hearts that have been donated for transplantation. However, with more than 8,000 New Yorkers still on waiting lists, the need for organ donations far exceeds the supply. One person who donates organs (hearts, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and intestines) can save up to eight lives, while a tissue donor (corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, tendons, veins, etc.) can improve 12 or more lives by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients and preventing the loss of mobility and disability.

By enrolling in the [Donate Life Registry](#), you are giving legal consent for the recovery of your organs, tissues and eyes for the purposes of transplantation and research at the time of your death. For more information, call an organ procurement organization or the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at 1-866-NYDONOR (1-866-693-6667).



### **Facts About Donation**

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. The medical condition of the donor at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

Organ and tissue donation becomes an option only after all life-saving measures have been taken and death has been declared. The decision to donate does not interfere with your medical care.

Consent for donation is confirmed, and the family is asked to participate in the process by providing a medical history.

Surgical procedures are used to recover donated organs and tissues. Donation does not delay or change funeral arrangements, and an open casket is possible.

All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

There is no cost to a donor's family or estate for organ and tissue donation.

Organs are distributed based on medical information like blood type, body size and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). It is illegal to distribute organs based on non-medical information such as wealth, citizenship or celebrity status.

It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue in the United States.

Donated organs, including the heart, pancreas, kidneys, liver, lungs, and intestines restore life.

Tissue is needed to replace bone, tendons, and ligaments lost to trauma, cancer and other diseases in order to improve strength, mobility and independence. Corneas are needed to restore sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal, and often mean the difference between life and death. Heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.

It is possible to donate a kidney, partial liver, lung or pancreas as a living donor.

source: <http://www.donatelifenewyork.com/facts.php>





### Upcoming Local Blood Drives

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

Academy of the Holy Names, Friday, January 14  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
1075 New Scotland Avenue, Albany

Delmar Reformed Church, Saturday, January 15  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
386 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>

## Snow Emergency

Blood donors of all types are needed now.  
Critical need for type O negative.



- The severe winter storm causing hazardous snow conditions in the Northeast has impacted the American Red Cross blood collection efforts. Multiple blood drives were cancelled or delayed and low turnout has been seen at many drives that were able to run. The current weather and forced cancellations comes at a challenging time to collect blood, as donations typically decline during the winter holiday season.
- Each day the Northeast Division needs to collect 3,000 units of blood for patients in need. To prevent the blood supply from falling even further, we need your help.
- All blood types are needed. **There is a critical need for type O negative donors.**
- **Type O negative blood donors are especially needed as the inventory has dropped to critical levels. Since Type O negative blood can be used for all patients in need, it is critical that there is a sufficient supply.**
- With the losses due to the weather and type O negative blood currently at a critical level, we need your help to ensure that we maintain a stable supply of all blood types

## News from Bethlehem Police Department

### Checking on Power Restoration After an Outage

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.



### Did You Know?

#### Law Regarding Appropriate Shelter for Dogs



There is a New York State law that requires that dogs kept outdoors be provided with a waterproof, structurally sound and adequately insulated shelter that must allow freedom of movement and normal postural adjustments. The shelter and the area immediately surrounding it must be regularly cleaned.

For more information regarding the law, please see <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS>, select AGM for Agriculture and Markets on the left, then scroll down and select Article 26 - Animals, and then select Article 353-B "Appropriate shelter for dogs left outdoors."



### News from BEMO

#### Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

#### **All homes in New York are required by law to have a carbon monoxide detector**

Carbon monoxide is called the silent killer. It's odorless, tasteless and colorless. Breathe in a large enough amount and it can kill you.

So where's the best place to put a CO detector? If your appliances are in the basement, people think that's where a detector should go; don't put them there - put them in the living areas, officials say. Put carbon monoxide detectors in the same place you put your smoke detectors.

The United States already requires smoke detectors on every level of every residence near all sleeping areas.

So many things in your home can emit carbon monoxide, including hot water heaters. If the power goes out and you choose to use a kerosene heater, that can do it too.



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

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

2010 Holiday Parade





The Fourth Annual Holiday Parade was held on Friday, December 3rd. The event was a huge success thanks to organizer Terrence Ritz.



**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.

---

## Albany County News

---



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 January 5 and January 19, call ahead for confirmation of date and time.

---

### 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.

---

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 [PC Magazine](#):

### How to Buy a Bluetooth Headset

Isn't it time you went hands-free with a Bluetooth headset? Here's what you need to look for when choosing the perfect companion for your mobile phone.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2341399,00.asp>

### A Beginner's Guide to Buying a Bargain Laptop



Shopping for a laptop can be a daunting task. Even if you spend a lot of time online and know your way around e-mail, chances are still high that you feel a bit intimidated when sales people start throwing around complicated computer terminology.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2373830,00.asp>

### How to Stay Anonymous Online

If you want to stay inconspicuous while online, here are some products, services, and best practices to put to use.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2363302,00.asp>

	<b>Did You Know?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have a question pertaining 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)

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

You are receiving this e-mail because you have subscribed to our e-newsletter. If you wish to be taken off our monthly mailing, click here to [unsubscribe](#) or reply to this e-mail with Unsubscribe as the subject.

To change your e-mail address, please send a message to webmaster @ townofbethlehem.org with both your old and new addresses.

If you were forwarded this e-newsletter and would like to receive this monthly information at your own e-mail address, please fill out the form at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Newsletter/newsletter.asp>.

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.