



Volume V Issue 1

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

February 2011

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

February Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Planning Board

Tuesday, February 1, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, February 9, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

20/20 Implementation Committee

Thursday, February 17, 7:30 a.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.

PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, February 23, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, February 23, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas, please see:

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

LAST DAY to pay your property taxes without any penalty is Monday, January 31

Tuesday, February 1 - Thirty day annual review period for Albany County Agricultural Districts begins

Wednesday, February 2 - Groundhog Day

Saturday, February 5 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Mt. Snow

Thursday, February 10 - Senior Legal Services Program, FREE, by appointment

Friday, February 11 - SCREAMS Valentine Dance/Skating Party

Monday, February 14 - St. Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 16 - Home Energy Assistance Program application assistance at Town Hall, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 19 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Okemo

Monday, February 21 - Town Offices closed

Enhanced STAR enrollees must renew by March 1

Agricultural Assessment Applications are due by March 1

Saturday, March 26 - Red Cross Babysitting Course at Town Hall

From the Supervisor

Dear Bethlehem Residents and Business Persons:

In my State of the Town address I presented what we have accomplished together as a Town over the past year – and where our community should make strides forward in 2011. (You can view the PowerPoint presentation of the State of the Town by going to www.townofbethlehem.org, then clicking News and Events.

Future accomplishments needed to make Bethlehem a truly sustainable community in terms of fiscal responsibility, quality-of-life and government excellence are:

- Development of the Vista Technology Park in Slingerlands now – to achieve new revenues for tax abatement economic development and in a broader sense, job creation.
- Further expenditure reductions in the 2012 Budget.
- Continued effective working relationships at all levels and in all directions to do the very best we can to always put Bethlehem first.
- To make robust and responsible financial investments in our deteriorating water, sewer and facility infrastructure to reduce current and future costs and service delays.
- Encourage and, if appropriate, adopt the recommendations of the 20/20 Implementation Advisory Committee regarding: economic development; Town modernization and cost savings, and; intergovernmental cooperation.

I am proud of what we (Town Residents and business people, your elected officials, the Planning and Zoning Boards, Town staff and volunteers) have accomplished, and I know we can more than meet the challenges ahead and turn them into opportunities.

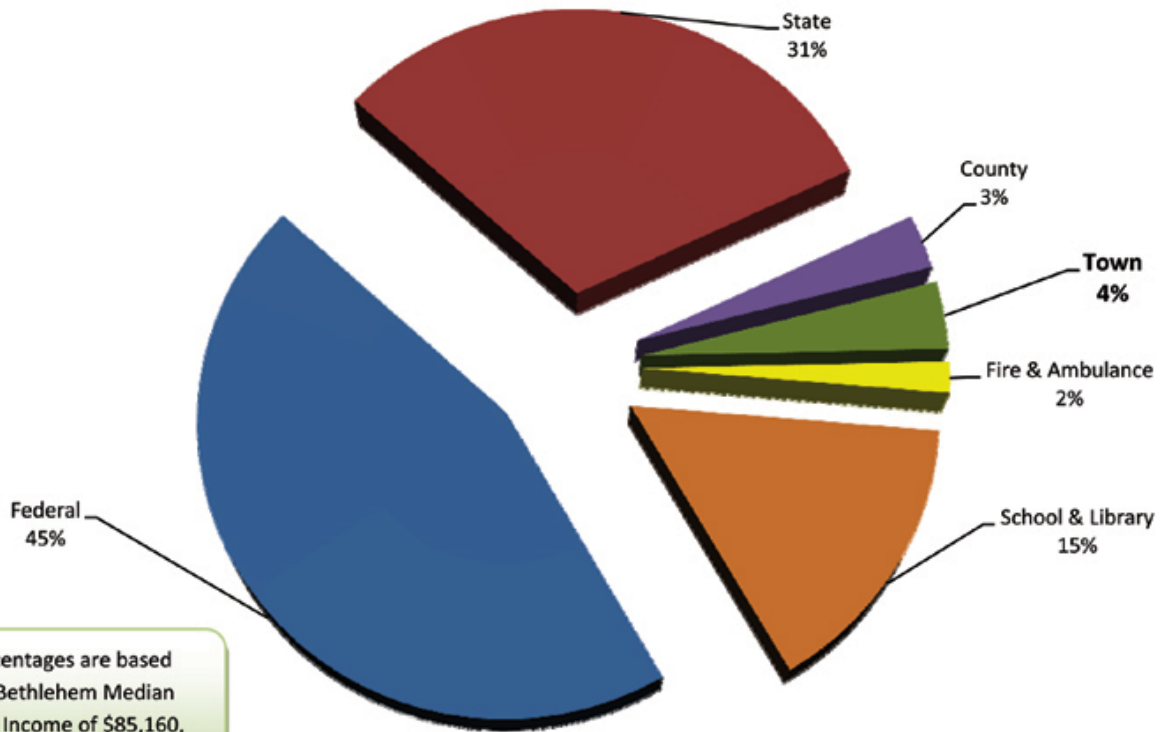
The notion of opportunity brings me to the following Town of Bethlehem Resident's Approximate Tax Allocation Chart. Sometimes it is not understood or recognized that local government, your local government - Bethlehem, provides the public services that directly and extensively impact your lives on a daily basis. And the Town of Bethlehem does that in an outstanding manner and at low cost. On average, 4 percent of your total tax dollars go to town government services: highway, sewer, water, public safety, senior services, parks and recreation and so much more.

Sincerely,

Sam Messina

Supervisor Sam Messina

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM RESIDENT'S APPROXIMATE TAX ALLOCATION



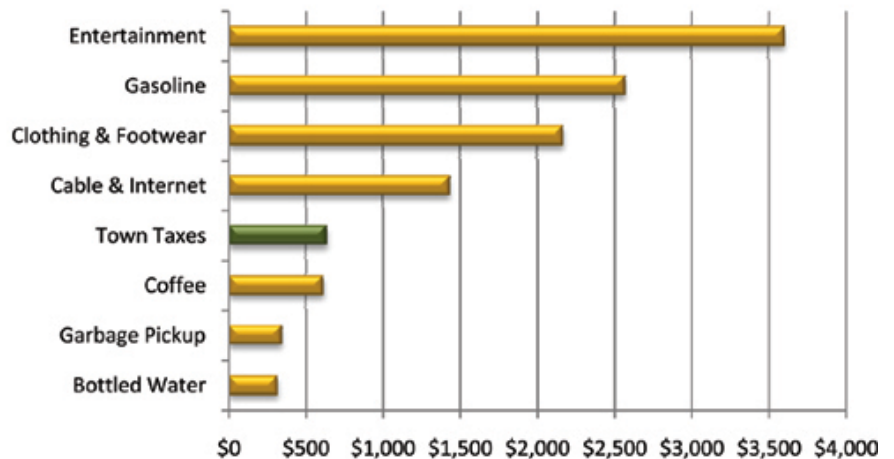
Note: Percentages are based on a 2009 Bethlehem Median Household Income of \$85,160, as reported by the U.S. Census

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR TOWN TAX DOLLAR?

Operational Area	Program Responsibility
Highway	Road & sidewalk maintenance, paving, snow & ice control, leaf/brush pickup and drainage
Sewer	Sanitary sewer collection and treatment
Water	Water distribution, storage and treatment
Public Safety	Police, 911 telecommunications and animal control
Senior Services	Senior programs, recreation and transportation
Parks and Recreation	Recreation activities and parks maintenance services
Engineering, Planning and Zoning	Engineering, economic development, code enforcement and plan reviews
General Gov't & Admin. Support	Financial management, other government and business functions
Average Portion of Tax Bill for Town Services (General, Highway, Water, Sewer Funds) \$ 641	

COMPARISON TO COMMON ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

The Town of Bethlehem provides its residents and businesses with high-value quality of life services like public safety, drinking water, sanitary sewer, safe highways, parks, recreational activities and senior programs...for about the cost of a cup of coffee a day.



Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009



Did You Know?



Snow

You must NOT plow or throw snow back into the street after plows have cleared the roadway (State Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1219.)

Placing debris into the roadway constitutes a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic law as well as creates a hazardous situation for others.

Please make sure that storm sewer inlets are also kept clean to ensure proper drainage.

Winter Activities at Our Parks



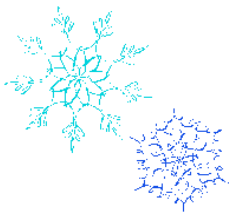
Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are allowed at all of the Town's parks including the [Colonial Acres golf course](#).



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



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



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



News from the Receiver of Taxes

Property Tax Bills

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

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

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

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 through 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. 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, February 5 - Mt. Snow
Saturday, February 19 - Okemo

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 – Valentine's Dance/Skating Party

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

Join SCREAMS on Friday, February 11 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. for a Valentine's Dance/Skating Party at the [Elm Avenue Park Skating Rink and Warming Area](#) - FREE!

The evening will feature a DJ, dancing and skating (weather permitting.) The snack bar will be open.

Chaperones are needed. Call Jason Gallo at 439-4955, extension 1604 if you can help.

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.

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. All dogs visiting the Dog Park are required to wear this tag. Tags are only available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

News from the Assessor

Enhanced STAR enrollees must renew by March 1. The Enhanced STAR exemption is for all owner-occupied residents that are at least 65 years of age and meet the adjusted gross income criteria. Those enrolled in the Basic STAR program, open to homeowners of all ages with an income limit of \$500,000, are not required to renew in order to maintain eligibility.

Agricultural Assessment Applications are due by March 1. The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District staff will be, once again, completing Soil Group Worksheets (SGW) for landowners who are going to file for an Agricultural Assessment. To qualify, the land must be used for the production of sales crops, livestock, or livestock products and meet other criteria. Rented land can also qualify. Please check our web page for more information.

For more information on these and potential exemptions on your taxes, visit our web pages at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/assessor/assessor.asp>



Did You Know?

It's a good idea to replace dishwasher and clothes washer hoses every five years. Hoses don't last forever and can create devastating damage - and waste lots of water - if they fail.

Source: American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org

News from PaTHs

Pathways to Homes, Hamlets and Healthy Hearts Advisory Committee

The application materials for the 2011 Capital Region Bike Rack Program are now available on the CDTA website. The direct link is http://www.cdfa.org/iride_projects_detail.php?id=153.

The program can provide

- Free bike racks for the public and non-profit sectors, up to \$1,000 value,
- 50/50 cost sharing for the private sector, up to \$1,000 total value (up to \$500 from the Bike Rack Program)

Shelters and lockers are also available this year.

Applications are due at the address below or to bikerackprogram@cdfa.org by February 25, 2011.

Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA)
110 Watervliet Avenue
Albany, NY 12206



News from Our Recycling Coordinator

Town Announces Expansion of Plastics Recycling for 2011

The Town of Bethlehem announced that it is expanding its recycling program to include many new types of plastic containers. According to Bethlehem Town Supervisor Sam Messina, "this expansion of plastic recycling will make Bethlehem's outstanding recycling program even stronger."

"We have previously accepted only #1 and #2 plastic bottles, but changes at local recycling facilities now allow us to recycle almost all plastic containers," said Dan Rain, the Town of Bethlehem's Recycling Coordinator. "So in addition to things like soft drink and water bottles, milk and juice jugs, and detergent containers, we can now accept plastics such as butter and yogurt containers, drinking cups, prescription medicine containers, and even cat litter containers and flower pots. Plastic lids and plastic bottle caps are now recyclable too, but the containers should be washed or rinsed well, and air should be squeezed out of flexible plastic bottles, before replacing the caps and recycling the items curbside or at the Town's Transfer Station," Rain added.

There are a few notable exceptions: No polystyrene/Styrofoam containers, no very small plastic items (e.g., straws, utensils) as they tend to "fall through the cracks" of the recycling process, and no "bio-degradable" or "compostable" plastics (as labeled). Rain notes that clean and dry Styrofoam packing peanuts and blocks, bubble wrap, and other packing materials can be taken to local shipping stores like Ship, Copy & More.

Bethlehem Town Supervisor Sam Messina said, "This change will be significant, as plastics account for at least 12 percent by weight of the waste stream (according to 2008 EPA figures), but take up an even greater percentage of landfill space by volume because of their relatively light weight."

Plastic store bags and other types of clean and dry plastic bags and plastic film—including cereal bags, sandwich bags, plastic wrap, shrink wrap, etc.—should be recycled at large retail or chain stores, which are required by state law to have plastic bag recycling programs, according to Rain.

The change will take effect immediately at the Town's Rupert Road Transfer Station, and it will officially go into effect by mid-March for all waste haulers that operate in town, "though some haulers are already accepting these plastics on a voluntary basis," Rain added.

For more information on Town recycling, please contact Dan Rain at 439-4955 ext. 1510, or by email: recycle@townofbethlehem.org.

News from the Economic Development and Planning Department

Annual Review for Agricultural Districts 2/1-3/1



Please be advised that the 30-day annual review period for Albany County Agricultural Districts begins on **February 1**. During this period, landowners can apply to have predominantly viable agricultural land included in a certified Agricultural District. At the end of the 30-day open period, the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will review the applications and report its recommendations to the County Legislature. Based on these recommendations and comments received from a public hearing, the Legislature will forward proposed modifications to the Districts to the Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for approval.

Municipalities whose territory encompasses the lands which are proposed to be included in an agricultural district will receive a map with parcel numbers of the proposed inclusions and will be notified directly in writing of the time, date and location of the public hearing.

If you have any questions about the Agricultural District review process, you may go to the County's website at <http://albanycounty.com> and visit the County's Planning Department page.

Senior Services News

It's that time of year again!

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.

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.



H.E.A.P. Application Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program helps individuals, regardless of age, on fixed or lower incomes (financial guidelines of \$2,129 per month for 1 individual or \$2,784 for 2 individuals) with energy-related bills.

Outreach workers Jane Sanders, Will Vail and Alice Parker are available to assist you with H.E.A.P applications Monday through Friday by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 439-4955, #1173, #1174 or #1175. Documents to bring: ID, Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificate (if applicable), Social Security Cards, Shelter Expenses, and Proof of Income (last 4 weeks, 2 biweekly).

For persons under age 60, representatives are available to do HEAP applications on Wednesday, February 16th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 116 at the Bethlehem Town Hall.

H.E.A.P. is available for all County residents regardless of age. (Appointments preferred, but not required)

If you live in the Glenmont or Selkirk area, Choices in Faith Plaza on Rt. 9W in Ravena may be more convenient. To schedule an appointment, call 756-8650.

If you have a "shut-off" notice and are applying for Emergency H.E.A.P., proof of resources should include bank accounts, stocks, bonds, etc.



Housing Options for Senior Adults in the Capital Region

A listing of subsidized and non-subsidized housing, adult homes, retirement homes, assisted living and nursing homes in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. This is a joint publication of the Albany Guardian Society and Senior Services of Albany and can be found at <http://www.albanyguardiansociety.org/publications.html>. Also available, **Adult Day Services in the Capital Region**. These publications can be found from links on <http://www.albanycounty.com/Departments/Aging/housing.asp>

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, HEAP, 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

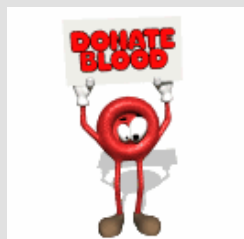
While Y.E.S. does not have scheduled office hours, e-mails and phone messages are checked regularly and mail is picked up at the [Parks and Recreation](#) office once a week.

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

News from the Town Clerk

Please note: The fees for dog licenses have changed. Please see <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/TownClerk/ClerkFees.asp>





Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Lt. Finn Memorial Blood Drive
Albany Police Department, Friday, February 11
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
165 Henry Johnson Boulevard, Albany

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monday, February 21
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
16 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar

Guilderland YMCA, Saturday, February 26
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
250 Winding Brook Drive, Guilderland

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School, Thursday, March 3
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2025 Route 9W, Ravena

Guilderland High School, Friday, March 4
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
8 School Road, Guilderland Center

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 storms causing hazardous snow conditions in the Northeast have 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



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

January 12, 2011

News from the State Office of Emergency Management

NEW YORKERS URGED TO FOLLOW WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS

A major winter storm that dumped 8-20 inches of snow in areas of eastern New York State is moving out of the state. Although the snow is ending, strong winds this afternoon will lead to drifting and blowing snow this evening in many places, causing treacherous driving conditions and forcing many to clear roads, driveways and rooftops of additional snow.

Andrew X. Feeney, Director of the State Office of Emergency Management, today encouraged the public to use extra caution when traveling. "If you must travel, slow down and give yourself extra time to reach your destination," Feeney said. "Be especially careful to watch for pedestrians and children playing near snow banks."

Feeney also advised travelers to ensure their vehicles are stocked with survival gear such as blankets, shovel, flashlight and extra batteries, extra warm clothing, set of tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods, and a brightly-colored cloth to use as a distress flag in case motorists are stranded on snow-covered roads. "The best thing you can do when stranded in a vehicle is wait for help," Feeney said. "Run the engine for short periods, make sure the vehicle's exhaust pipe is clear of snow, and hang a brightly-colored cloth from your window to alert rescuers."

In addition, Feeney urged the public to take precautions when clearing snow from driveways and rooftops. "Cold temperatures can put an extra strain on the heart, and heavy exertion caused by shoveling snow, clearing debris or pushing a car, can increase the risk of heart attack. Remember to dress warm and slow down when working outdoors. Take frequent rests to avoid overexertion. If you feel chest pain, stop and seek help immediately."

Feeney also warned the public about the potential dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. "Carbon monoxide claims approximately 1,000 lives each year in the United States. It is produced by common items such as automobile exhaust, home heating systems, poorly vented generators, and kerosene heaters. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, do not run generators indoors and do not run motor vehicles in a garage. If you use a kerosene heater, open a window slightly to vent the fumes. If you lose power, do not use charcoal to cook indoors and do not use a gas oven to heat your home." Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, ventilate the area and get to a hospital.



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 February 2 and February 16, 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](#).

SPCA gives tips for winter pet care



Bitter cold conditions are expected to cruise into the Capital Region over the next few days. Forecasters are predicting temperatures will drop well below zero this weekend. In anticipation of the Arctic air mass, the Schenectady County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SC SPCA) is issuing a friendly reminder about the importance of winter weather pet safety.

"First and foremost, fur only goes so far in protecting cats and dogs from the elements," says SC SPCA Spokesperson Windy Wyczawski. "When you're talking about temperatures at 10 below zero, really no pet should be left alone outside for any period of time." Wyczawski says pets, like humans, can suffer from frostbite and hypothermia. She suggests limiting walk times and providing sweaters for shorthaired, small, young or old dogs. Wyczawski says cats should always remain indoors this time of year.


Other hazards associated with the winter months include antifreeze. "Cats and dogs are attracted to the sweet smell and taste of antifreeze," says Wyczawski. This chemical, used to cool automobile engines, is highly toxic and rapidly absorbed. Wyczawski advises pet owner to consider using safe alternatives like ethylene glycol, also called propylene glycol. Warning signs that an animal has ingested antifreeze include stumbling, vomiting and depression. If your pet displays any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

As with humans, it's important to ensure your pet gets adequate exercise during the winter months. If your dog is having difficulty due to deep snow, slick or icy surfaces, shorten the exercise times. Also, check your pet's paws for ice balls and rinse feet to ensure that salt and other deicers don't remain on paws that are likely to be licked.


Finally, keep fresh water accessible at all times. Make sure water is not frozen. Heated pet bowls are available in stainless steel or plastic for pets that spend significant time outside or in a garage.

For more information about keeping your pet happy and healthy during the winter months or to speak with Windy Wyczawski, please contact Ali Skinner at (518) 640-1248 or at press@schenectadyspca.org.

Source: http://niskayuna.wnyt.com/content/spca-gives-tips-winter-pet-care?utm_base=storylink



Did You Know?



- If you have a question 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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