



Volume V Issue 3

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

April 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

April Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Intergovernmental Subcommittee of 20/20 Implementation
Monday, April 4, 8:00 a.m.

Planning Board
Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m.

20/20 Implementation Committee
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 a.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development Subcommittee of 20/20 Implementation
Friday, April 8, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board
Wednesday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board
Tuesday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee
Thursday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.

PaTHs Committee
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency
Wednesday, April 27, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board
Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.

20/20 Implementation Committee
Thursday, April 28, 7:30 a.m.

For agendas and to verify locations and times, see:

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Report Wild Animals BEFORE April 1 - required by law

Water Main Flushing - 3/28-4/6 - Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Town of New Scotland

Saturday, April 2 - FREE Shredding Event at Elm Avenue Park

Water Main Flushing - 4/4-4/20 - Delmar and Elsmere

Saturday, April 9 - "EGG"-stravaganza event at Elm Avenue Park

Tuesday, April 12 - Free Child Safety Seat Inspections and Installations, appointment required

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

Friday, April 15 - LAST day to show proof of income if you received "Exemption Removal Notice" or "Unable to Verify Notice" for **BASIC** Star

Saturday, April 16 - First Community Clean-up day of the year

Water Main Flushing - 4/18-4/29 - Glenmont and Selkirk

Wednesday, April 20 - Home Energy Assistance Program application assistance at Town Hall, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22 - Earth Day

Saturday, April 23 - WNYT's Electronics and Room Air Conditioner Collection Day at Taft Furniture

Monday, April 25 - last day to order discounted rain barrels and composters from Albany County

Friday, April 29 - SCREAMS Spring Fling

Friday, April 29 - Arbor Day

Saturday, April 30 - Family-Friendly Go Green Day - Exhibits, Services, Demonstrations, Give-Aways and more

Applications for Summer Volunteer Positions in the Parks and Recreation Department are due no later than **May 1**

Saturday, May 7 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Computer Recycling Day

From the Supervisor

Dear Bethlehem Residents and Business Persons:

Over the past fifteen months I have reported to the residents and business persons of Bethlehem on my hopes and vision for our Town's future, the importance of the process of government, budget issues, the extensive services received for the Bethlehem tax dollar; the progress of our many volunteer based committees, economic development, planning and a number of other areas.

This month I believe it is important to provide some perspective on achievements and problems that have been addressed. Achievements and problems are often just opposite sides of the same coin. Your town government's job is to, as best it can, anticipate problems and solve them in the best interests of the Bethlehem community. And, sometimes in life, as well as on the job, things happen and then the question is how should you react.

Then too, sometimes the problems and solutions are subtle rather than clear. But you can be sure that they exist whenever elected officials and staff go about doing its job to serve the people. Consider the following:

CREATION OF A TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BOARD OF AMBULANCE COMMISSIONERS: Issue/Problem: For years there has been a definite need to provide Town government oversight to the two Ambulance Departments in Town: the Delmar Ambulance Department and the Bethlehem Ambulance Department. Most people are probably not aware that ambulance services in our Town are a Town government responsibility. And now, with the increased complexity of medical care options, contracts, financing, rising costs of care, dependency on a primarily voluntary service, and the logistics of having two ambulance departments, action was necessary. Solution: On March 23, 2011 the Town Board approved a Town Law creating a Volunteer Board of Ambulance Commissioners that would report to the Town Board and have responsibility for making recommendations related to financial improvements, contracts, approaches to top quality ambulance care and the consistent delivery of ambulance care for the entire Town of Bethlehem. Our next step is to post notices for these volunteer positions and appoint individuals with the appropriate expertise and professionalism. (We understand that other communities are now considering the model we created.)

VISTA TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS: Issue/Problem: For seven years, this major new Bethlehem Central School District and Town revenue and job generating source, encompassing 428 acres and 1.4 million square feet of buildable space, did not advance due to the slowed down economy and, perhaps, other factors. This is a tremendous economic development project for the Town of Bethlehem and at build out will generate millions of dollars in new revenue for the Bethlehem School District and the Bethlehem community. Solution: Through the persistent and creative diligence of the Town, the Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency (BIDA) and the developer, significant progress is now being made. A creative financing mechanism for road, sewer and water infrastructure is being advanced, building projects have now been submitted to the Planning Board, and applications have been submitted to the BIDA for consideration. With a continuing effort and a little luck, road construction and vertical building construction will begin together this Spring.

NO SMOKING ZONE IN BETHLEHEM TOWN PARKS: Issue/Problem: The negative health impact of passive smoke on people, and particularly young people, has now been well documented, yet, except for Elm Avenue Pool areas', smoking was permitted at Bethlehem Town Parks and Recreation field, pavilion and playground facilities. Solution: The Town Board adopted a resolution on March 9, 2011 that prohibits smoking on Town Parks and Recreation facilities, except for the Colonial Acres Golf Course. There will be no additional expenses for the Town, no smoking signs are being provided by the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition, and experiences of other communities have indicated that the program works and is self-enforcing. Sometimes, the most subtle changes in policy, like the adoption of a No-Smoking Zone in Bethlehem town Parks, are the ones most important to do and the ones that can have a lasting and positive impact on a community.

THE PARAPET WALL COLLAPSE AT TOWN HALL: Issue/Problem: Going back to April 28, 2010, and even before that, it was recognized that work needed to be done on the parapet wall at the roof line at Town Hall. Regular inspection of the wall did not uncover any advancing deterioration or change in the wall. Unfortunately, the wall collapsed on March 1, 2011, damaging four cars parked against the building. We know that this has also created inconveniences for the owners of the cars. No one could have anticipated this occurrence, and the most important thing is that no one was injured. Solution: The Town Board and staff moved forward quickly to authorize emergency action, financing, request-for-proposals and contracting to perform the necessary repair work. It is possible that this work could have begun before the autumn of 2010 rainy season, but it did not. Fall and Winter weather were not acceptable for parapet repair. Therefore, the work was to begin in the Spring of 2011. Unfortunately, the wall came down before the work commenced. I am proud of the attention and care everyone at Town Hall gave to the four persons who had their cars damaged from the moment the incident occurred, up to the present time when we are still working with the insurance company to try to do the best we can for vehicle replacement or repair coverage.

This reality is that in public service we are always dealing with issues and problems – and seeking solutions. We try to anticipate as best we can and act early. As we move forward, we use what we've learned, and strive to do better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Sam Messina

Supervisor Sam Messina

News from the Town Clerk

Wild Animals

By law, everyone who owns, possesses or harbors certain wild animals must report the location of the animal to his or her municipal clerk ([Town Clerk's Office](#)) **on or before April 1 of each year**. For more information, a list of animals (for example, certain cats, dogs, monkeys, snakes) that are required to be reported or a copy of the form that must be used to report the animal(s), please visit <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/laws/wildanimals.cfm>



Did You Know?



New York State is third in the nation in dairy production as well as in wine grape and grape juice production, second in apples, fourth in cucumbers and snap beans.

Source: From the February 28, 2011 Times Union newspaper Commentary by Fred LeBrun,
<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Starving-a-vital-industry-1032545.php>

News from the Assessor's Office

Basic STAR Recipients

If you have received an "Exemption Removal Notice" or "Unable to Verify Notice" due to the new \$500,000 income level and your income is actually under that limit, you **MUST** show proof of income to the [Assessor's Office](#) no later than April 15, 2011.

News from Our Recycling Coordinator

Saturday, April 2! FREE Shredding Event

**Elm Avenue Park
261 Elm Avenue, Delmar
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(arrive no later than 12:40 p.m.)**

Clean out those old papers!

Shred your outdated taxes, files, paper documents, checks, envelopes, file folders, bank statements, etc.

Fasteners are acceptable including paper clips, staples and rubber bands

LIMIT: 3 boxes of documents per vehicle

You may stay to witness the destruction of your documents if you wish

Secure shredding will be provided on site by 3N Document Destruction of Clifton Park, NY

This event is FREE but please consider donating a paper product (e.g., paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, bath tissue, personal care items). The voluntary donations will benefit the Bethlehem Food Pantry.




No registration is necessary.

Co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects

If you are over the age of 60, Bethlehem Senior Transportation may be able to help you with home pickup on this day. For more information or to schedule a pre-arranged pickup time, please call 439-4955, x1176.

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



	Did You Know?	
<p>The American Red Cross Blood Services 2010 Life Share Program Silver Level Award was presented to the Town of Bethlehem in recognition of the employees' achievement and ongoing efforts in support of the American Red Cross Blood Services Program.</p>		<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Certificate of Achievement</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">American Red Cross Blood Services Life Share Program SILVER Level Award presented to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Town of Bethlehem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">in recognition of the organization's achievement and its ongoing efforts in support of the American Red Cross Blood Services Program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2010</p>

Spring 2011 Water Main Flushing Program

NOTICE
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM
SPRING 2011

AREA #1 – 3/28 to 4/6
Slingerlands, North Bethlehem,
Town of New Scotland

AREA #2 – 4/4 to 4/20
Delmar, Elsmere

AREA #3 – 4/18 to 4/29
Glenmont, Selkirk

Some discoloration may be seen during this flushing program, which could result in staining of laundry.

Run water until it clears before doing laundry.

[Printable notice](#)

Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District Discounted Rain Barrels and Composters Program

Through the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District, you can get a New Englander Rain Barrel, normally priced at \$119.95, for only \$79.95.

Also available:

- Adjust-A-Spout - direct water into or away from your rain barrel
- Connector Kit - designed to fill two rain barrels from one downspout
- Bio-Orb Composter - discounted price, tumbling composter with a 13 cu. ft. capacity

To place an order, visit <http://www.nerainbarrel.com/Albany.html> or call 1-877-977-3135.

Order deadline is Monday, April 25

Pickup date is Saturday, April 30, noon until 3:00 p.m. at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville



Rainwater offers advantages in water quality for both irrigation and domestic use. Rainwater is naturally soft, contains almost no dissolved minerals or salts, is free of chemical treatment and is a relatively reliable source of water for households. Rainwater collected and used on site can supplement or replace other sources of household water.

Source: <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsletters/TexasWaterSavers/tws-v3n2.pdf>

With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing much of the United States during the summer months, more and more homeowners in our own modern society are turning to the harvesting of rainwater to save money and protect this precious natural resource.

Source: <http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>

Attach a hose to the spigot at the bottom of the barrel. Water is supplied as needed by adjusting the spigot. A soaker hose that snakes through a garden will disperse stored water throughout the garden over a prolonged period of time. A 55-gallon rain barrel with a soaker hose takes about 12 hours to drain. A spigot in the middle of the barrel can be used to fill a watering can.

Source: <http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/stormwater/toolkit/rainbarrels.html>

Compost can be used to enrich the flower or vegetable garden and improve the soil around trees and shrubs. It also makes an excellent soil amendment for house plants and, when screened, as part of a seed starting mix or lawn top-dressing. If you have potted plants, trees, shrubs, or any sort of garden, compost can add natural organic nutrients to the soil without paying for expensive chemical fertilizers. Many people pay for bags of compost to add to their garden, when they can easily make it themselves!

Source: <http://nerainbarrel.com/BioOrbFacts.html>



Parks and Recreation Department News

2011 Summer Park Playbook coming soon!

The Park "PLAYBOOK" is your guide to all your recreation needs. It will be mailed to all Bethlehem residents in early April. Watch for NEW great activities, NEW special events and more this summer, including:

- 2010 pool pass renewal online & by mail!
- Party reservations at Elm Avenue Park Pool
- On-line registration for all activities!

"EGG"stravaganza Special Event!

Saturday, April 9 10 a.m.

(Raindate: April 16)



This special event will feature live clown/comedic entertainment followed by an egg hunt on the Park grounds. Recommended ages for participation, ages 2-grade 5. Children will be broken up into 3 age groups for the hunt, 2-4, 5-7, 8-11. This event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion. Come join the "egg"citement!!!



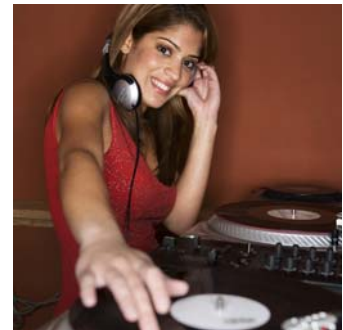
SCREAMS Club – Spring Fling

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School (SCREAMS)
Friday, April 29 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Come meet us at the Bethlehem Middle School lower gym for an evening of DJ music, open gym basketball and games. This event is open to all Middle School students who reside in the Town of Bethlehem or Bethlehem Central School District. For more detailed information regarding this SCREAMS event visit the following link:

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

If interested in chaperoning, please call Jason Gallo at 439-4955, extension 1604.



Renew Your Pool Pass Online

NEW this year... 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 the renewal option is only for passes from 2008 and on.

Colonial Acres Season Passes & Punch Cards!

Season Passes and Punch Cards are now available for golf at Colonial Acres for the 2011 season. For a season pass complete the application by clicking on the following link and returning it to the park office:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2011GolfCourseSeasonPassApplication.pdf>

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

Watch the town website for course opening information in early April. For more information call or visit the Park office, 439-4955 option 3.

Gift Cards now Available for all Your Recreation Needs

Gift cards in any denomination are now available at the Park office and Colonial Acres Golf Course. They may be used for any Parks and Recreation purchase including pool fees, activity fees, pavilion rentals, golf course fees, etc. Give the gift of FUN!!

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer applications are currently being accepted for summer programs. Applicants are required to be at minimum entering 8th grade. All volunteers are giving extra consideration when applying for future employment with the Parks and Recreation Department. Pick up an application at the park office or download it by clicking the link below. ***Please note that in order to secure a volunteer opportunity, applications are due by May 1st.***

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/Parks/2011ParksVolunteerApp.pdf>

Tobacco Free Zones in Parks

Playgrounds, athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, and the pool complex are off limits to the use of any tobacco products. Thank you for your compliance.



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. 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.

Dogs in Parks



Please remember that for the safety of our residents and the cleanliness of our parks, dogs are not permitted in any park or playing field area. The Dog Park located on the bypass extension is the perfect place for dogs to run and socialize. A permit from the Town Clerk is required. For more information follow this link: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parkElm/parkElmDog.asp>

Senior Services News

Saturday, April 2 - FREE Shredding Event

See Recycling News, above, for more information.

If you are over the age of 60, Bethlehem Senior Transportation may be able to help you with home pickup on this day. For more information or to schedule a pre-arranged pickup time, please call 439-4955, x1176.



Senior Services Newsletter

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](#).

Sergeant Robert Helligrass named Officer of the Year

During 2009 and into 2010 the Bethlehem Police Department was recognized by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police for best practices in sex offender management. A total revamping of agency orders and protocols were introduced and new computerized application was installed to address the new and emerging trends in the management of sex offenders. Sergeant Helligrass took a leading role in the development of these departmental changes. As a result the Bethlehem Police Department has one of the most sophisticated computer applications "Offender Watch" in place for use by the public and our department to monitor each and every sex offender residing in the Town of Bethlehem with unparalleled accuracy and oversight. My congratulations to Sergeant Helligrass and the entire department for their continuous efforts to make our community one of the safest in the State of New York.



Pictured from left to right, Chief Lou Corsi, Sgt. Helligrass, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin

News from Our Recycling Coordinator

Saturday, April 23
WNYT Electronics and Room Air Conditioner Collection Day
Taft Furniture
1960 Central Avenue
1 mile west of Route 155
7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(the program will end at 1:00 sharp!)

WHAT IS ACCEPTED:

Computers & Computer parts and peripherals, TVs, Phones, VCR/DVD/CD players, Room Air Conditioners*, Radios, PDAs, Calculators, Hand Held Games, Game Consoles

PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS:

NO Small Consumer Appliances • NO Boxes or Form Packaging
NO Batteries or Fluids • NO Computer software, CDs, disks
NO Computer manuals or mouse pads • NO Fans, Vacuums, Lights

*Air Conditioners will cost \$15.00 each for recycling. There is no fee for other items.

FREE* A voluntary donation to the ALS Center in Albany (\$2 suggested per vehicle) is requested of event attendees.

NOTE: NO COUPONS NEEDED THIS YEAR.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Please stay in your vehicle when volunteers remove items.

NOTE: This program will end at 1:00 pm sharp.

The 8th Annual Capital Region Electronic and Room Air Conditioner Collection is being sponsored by WNYT, Maven Technologies, LLC., Interstate Refrigerant Recovery, NYS DEC, NYSAR3, and other volunteers.

MORE INFORMATION ON www.wnyt.com or <http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S828642.shtml?cat=11878>
or email safrecycle@hotmail.com or Jhodgens@wnyt.com

***NOTE:** Event proceeds benefit the ALS Center in Albany this year. As many of you know, **Sharon Fisher** organized and ran the WNYT electronic collection event as a volunteer for many years. She served as Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Bethlehem for 20 years, and retired last year due to health issues related to ALS, so it's particularly fitting that this event benefits the ALS Center. Please volunteer, and spread the word to help make this year's event successful!

More News from Our Recycling Coordinator

**Saturday, April 30
GO GREEN DAY!
at the
Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine**

Join us for Family-Friendly Go Green Day!

A first-time joint event between the Town and 14 other municipalities

Kids' Zone, information, ideas, and hands-on activities about recycling, reusing, reducing and more!

Exhibits/Services:

Document Shredding Truck,
Book Collection Bin,
CFL/Fluorescent Light Bulb Collection,
Master Gardeners/[Rain Gardens](#),
[EMPOWER](#) (Save Energy/Save Dollars),
Rain Barrels (available to pre-order at
<http://www.nerainbarrel.com/Albany.html>)



Demonstrations

[Backyard Composting](#),
Food Preservation/Canning,
[Worm Composting](#),
5-gallon Bucket Planters



Give-Aways

Tree Seedlings (Arbor Day is April 29!),
Rain Barrel
and other door prizes

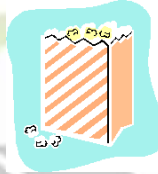


Hands-On Activities for Kids

Energy Bicycle,
Enviroscape,
Green Shopping Challenge,
Rock Painting



Food Concessions/Vendors



AND MUCH MORE!

For more information, contact Pat Geurtze at 518-475-0385

Brought to you by the Capital Region Recycling Partnership (www.capitalregionrecycling.com):
Cities of Albany, Rensselaer and Watervliet, Towns of Berne, Bethlehem, East Greenbush, Guilderland, Knox, New Scotland, Rensselaerville and Westerlo, Villages of Altamont, Green Island and Voorheesville



Do you have any pre-1960's photos of Bethlehem?

The deadline is approaching for my book Bethlehem and I am on the hunt for pre-1960 photographs of our town. Chapters on North and South Bethlehem, and anywhere along the Hudson River, could use more photographs. Won't you look through your albums and shoeboxes and see what you might have? Pictures of people at work or play that show a bit of their Bethlehem surroundings are appreciated. Feel free to contact me at [sleath @ townofbethlehem.org](mailto:sleath@townofbethlehem.org).

Susan Leath, Town Historian

Bethlehem Town Board receives award for Exemplary Service from State Chapter of American Public Works Association

The State Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) has awarded the Town of Bethlehem's Town Board their annual Award for Exemplary Service in Support of Public Works for 2010. The award was presented at the annual APWA State Conference in Geneva, New York on March 24, 2011. Sam Messina, Town Supervisor, received the award on behalf of the Town and the rest of the Town Board members; Kyle Kotary, Joann Dawson, Mark Hennessey, and Mark Jordan. The Capital District Branch of APWA nominated the Bethlehem Town Board for the State Award after the local chapter recognized the Bethlehem Town Board at their Annual Awards Luncheon on March 11, 2011. Supervisor Messina and Councilman Jordan represented the Town at that Awards Luncheon.



Councilman Mark Jordan (left) and Supervisor Sam Messina (center) receive Award for Exemplary Service at the APWA Capital District Awards Luncheon from Branch Chairman John Reardon on March 11th. The Board later received the same award from the State Chapter in Geneva, NY.

This award honors an active legislative or administrative entity that supports the needs of public works organizations and their programs. This past year the Bethlehem Town Board made several critical legislative decisions that will have significant impact on the operation and efficiency of the Town's Department of Public Works for many years.

The most significant decision that the Bethlehem Town Board made in many years was to combine the two water distribution systems in town. Since the Clapper Road Water Treatment Facility opened in 1996 it has served primarily industrial customers due to concerns about the proximity of the supporting wellfield to the Hudson River. Most residential customers received their water from the New Salem plant, which was built in the 1950's. Last year, faced with an aging New Salem plant in serious need of replacement and new EPA regulations, the DPW began to thoroughly analyze the long-range future of delivering water in town. Integrating the Clapper Road plant into the Town water system was approved by the Town Board after DPW evaluated many options, provided the analysis to the public, and presented a thorough and convincing long-range analysis to support the recommendation. This alternative will save the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars over the next 15 years.

The award was also based on the Town Board's decision to support DPW's analysis of aging equipment and vehicles that had long been deferred and to approve the purchase of replacements, as well as support the Comptroller's recommendation to bond the new acquisitions.

Although the Bethlehem DPW, like most municipal departments, has had to cut their budget significantly over the past few years, they have diligently evaluated many different processes to achieve better efficiencies within the department in an effort to basically "do more with less". The Town Board will now be nominated for recognition at the national level during the APWA's National Convention to be held in Denver, Colorado later this summer.



Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Selkirk Fire Company 2, Saturday, April 9
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
301 Glenmont Road, Glenmont

Guilderland Public Library, Tuesday, April 19
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland

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?



Last US veteran of WWI dies in West Virginia at age 110

Frank Buckles enlisted for World War I at 16 after lying about his age. He made it home again and ultimately became that war's last surviving U.S. veteran, campaigning for greater recognition for his comrades-in-arms before dying at 110.

Buckles, who also survived being a civilian POW in the Philippines in World War II, died of natural causes February 27, 2011 at his home in Charles Town, West Virginia.

More than 4.7 million people joined the U.S. military from 1917-18. The last known Canadian veteran of the war, John Babcock of Spokane, Wash., died in February 2010. There are no French or German veterans of the war left alive.

Source: <http://www.ap.org/>

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

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>

Community Clean-Up Days are here!

Help keep our Town clean and beautiful - sign-up to volunteer at one or more of the Town's monthly Community Clean-up Days. For more information or to sign-up, please <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/CleanupDays/cleanupdays.asp>

Albany County News



[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 April 6 and April 20, call ahead for confirmation of date and time.

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 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](#).

10 Things Gas Stations Won't Tell You

Excerpt:

What's more, your local Chevron station may sell gas refined by Shell or Exxon Mobil. Suppliers share pipelines, so they all use the same fuel. And the difference between the most expensive brand-name gas and the lowliest gallon of no-brand fuel? Often just a quart of detergent added to an 8,000-gallon tanker truck.

Read more: 10 Things Gas Stations Won't Tell You - Spending - Rip-offs - SmartMoney.com
<http://www.smartmoney.com/spending/rip-offs/what-gas-stations-wont-tell-you-19750/#ixzz1GDnyoHbs>

6 Gas-Saving Myths

Sure you want to save gas, but there's a lot of bad advice on how to do it. Some of it makes no difference, and some of it can wind up costing you.

With gasoline prices hitting record levels, it seems everyone has a tip on how to save fuel. Much of the advice is well-intentioned, but in the end, much of it won't lower your gas bill.

Here's a look at a few misconceptions:

#1. Fill Your Tank in the Morning

You may have heard that it's best to fill your gas tank in the early morning while the fuel is cold. The theory goes that fluids are more dense at lower temperatures, so a gallon of cold gas actually has more gas molecules than a gallon of warmer gas.

But the temperature of the gasoline as it comes out of the nozzle varies little during the course of the day, according to Consumer Reports, so there's little, if any, benefit, to getting up early to pump gas.

#2. Change Your Air Filter

Maintaining your car is important, but a clean air filter isn't going to save you any gas. Modern engines have computer sensors that automatically adjust the fuel-air mixture as an increasingly clogged air filter chokes off the engine's air supply.

While engine power will decrease slightly as the air filter becomes clogged, a lack of performance or an increase in fuel consumption will be negligible, Consumer Reports says.

#3. Use Premium Fuel

With prices already over \$4.00 a gallon, premium gasoline is a hard sell these days. But a lot of drivers think because their owners' manual recommends premium, they'll get better fuel economy if they stick with it. Really, they're paying more money for nothing.

Even cars for which premium is recommended won't suffer with regular fuel. Modern engine technology comes to the rescue again. When sensors detect regular instead of premium fuel, the system automatically adjusts spark plug timing. The result is a slight reduction in peak horsepower - really, you'll never notice - but no reduction in fuel economy.

#4. Pump Up Your Tires

Proper tire inflation is important for a number of reasons. Under-inflated tires are bad for handling and can even cause a crash. Improper tire inflation also causes tires to wear out faster and to heat up more, which could trigger a dangerous high-speed blow-out.

According to on-the-road driving tests by both Consumer Reports and auto information site Edmunds.com, underinflated tires reduce fuel economy, so proper inflation is key.

But you should never over-inflate your tires. They'll get you slightly better fuel economy because there will be less tread touching the road, reducing friction. But that means less grip for braking and turning. The added risk of a crash isn't worth the extra mile a gallon you might gain.

#5. To A/C or Not A/C

There's no question air-conditioning makes extra work for the engine, increasing fuel use. But car air conditioners are much more efficient today than they used to be. In around-town driving, using the A/C will drop fuel economy by about a mile a gallon.

Meanwhile, driving at higher speeds with the windows down greatly increases aerodynamic drag. As speed increases, drag becomes more of an issue, making A/C use the more efficient choice at high speeds.

At most speeds and in most vehicles, A/C use drains slightly more fuel than driving with the windows down, contends David Champion, head of auto testing for Consumer Reports. "My final take on is that it's very close," says Phil Reed, consumer advice editor for Edmunds.com. "It's hard to measure the difference and every vehicle is different."

The best choice - if temperature and humidity allow - is to keep the windows rolled up and to turn the A/C compressor off. You can keep the fans running to blow in air from the outside, but your car will be as aerodynamic as possible while still letting you breathe. You will save gas, but the fuel economy improvement will be slight.

#6. Bolt-Ons and Pour-Ins

Before you buy a device that's supposed to make your car more fuel-efficient or pour in an allegedly gas-saving additive, ask yourself this: Don't you think oil and car companies aren't doing everything they can to beat their competitors?

If BP could add something to its gasoline that made cars go farther on a gallon, cars would be lining up at the company's pumps. Sure, people would burn their fuel-saving BP gas more slowly, but then they'd drive right past rivals' gas stations to come back to BP for more. BP stations could even charge more for their gas and still sell tons of the stuff.

So if there really was an additive that made gas burn up more slowly, it wouldn't be sold over the Internet one bottle at a time.

Likewise, car companies are already spending big bucks to increase fuel mileage. If General Motors could make its cars go significantly farther on a gallon simply by putting a device into the fuel line, don't think for a second it wouldn't be doing that. GM's car sales would go through the roof.

"There are a number of these gas-saving devices that are generally useless," says Champion.

But drivers who try them will swear they work. In reality, it's probably an automotive placebo effect, says Reed. Buy one of these devices or additives, and you're like to pay extreme attention to your fuel economy and how you drive.

Of course it can't hurt to keep a close eye on your driving habits -- and what kind of car you drive. In the end, that can make the most difference in saving gas.

source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/family-home/article/105077/6-Gas-Saving-Myths>



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