



Volume V Issue 6

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

July 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

July Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Town Offices closed
Monday, July 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20/20 Implementation Committee
Thursday, July 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

Monday, July 4 - Town Offices closed

Monday, July 4 - Reading of the Declaration of Independence and more at the Bethlehem Public Library, see below

Monday, July 4 - Family Day at Elm Avenue Park, see below

Public comments on the Henry Hudson Shoreline Stabilization Study welcome through July 8, see below

Saturday, July 9 - Andy "The Music Man" and Air Bounce at Henry Hudson Park, see below

Monday, July 11 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Thursday, July 14 - Free Senior Legal Services Program at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Thursday, July 14 - Red's Recycle-o-Rama at Elm Avenue Park, see below

Tuesday, July 12 - Car Seat Check, free, reservation required, 439-9973

Saturday, July 16 - **Community Clean-up Day**, see below

Monday, July 18 - Portion of Fuera Bush Road closed until 8/8, see below

Monday, July 18 - Adult Golf Clinic at Colonial Acres begins

Friday, July 22 - Tequila Mockingbirds and Late Night Swim at Elm Avenue Pool, see below

Thursday, July 28 - Zucchini Brothers at Elm Avenue Park, see below

Monday, August 1 - Youth Golf Clinic at Colonial Acres begins

Friday, August 5 - "Dive-in" Movie at the Elm Avenue Pool

From the Supervisor

It is appropriate that I mention that I will not be running for a second term as Town of Bethlehem Supervisor.

Loving this job as I do, and believing that we have accomplished a lot of good work together, I can tell you that this has been a difficult decision, involving both personal and professional considerations.



What I will continue to offer you and the Town at this time is my full commitment to these beliefs and hopes for the future:

I have always strongly believed that public service, and particularly holding elected office has been my privilege, not a right – and I have been honored to serve you and our wonderful community for four years as a Councilman and now for two years as Supervisor.

The strength of our electoral system needs to be in you, the voting public and your involvement and informed choice to support elected officials to serve Bethlehem, now and into the future.

In our Town of 33,656 residents, in my judgment we are fortunate to have a wealth of individuals who have the experience, training and, most important, the values and principles to put public service first, to serve the public admirably as Bethlehem Town Supervisor and in other elected capacities. Looking back, I am very pleased that we have accomplished a great deal of the agenda I set forth in my two State of the Town addresses.

Looking to the future, there is more to do over the next six months. That will be where I direct all of the energies and abilities on the job!

The vision I have shared with you for Bethlehem remains the same: Fiscal Well-being; Openness and Transparency; and Quality of Life.

Here is a thumb-nail sketch of the major work that will be advanced over the next six months:

I. FISCAL WELL-BEING

- a. **Develop a fiscally responsible 2012 budget** that: continues to evaluate the largest budget items and departments; reduces town expenditures further; keeps tax increases for operations at zero or less; and significantly reduces or even eliminates the use of reserve fund balances - while maintaining the high quality of essential services in our Town.
- b. **Implement a strong capital plan** for guiding the Town's investment to replace deteriorating and costly water, sewer and facility infrastructure for 2012-16. The plan will define: priorities, costs and taxpayer impact.
- c. **Continue to advance the 2020 Implementation Committee initiatives.** It is important that we all keep our eye on the future regarding what is best for Bethlehem, and not be fearful of questioning the status quo. In today's world, if any organization stands still, that organization is actually falling behind. Therefore, with fiscal considerations being of paramount importance, and with quality-of-life factors considered too, the 2020 Implementation Committee work in the following key areas need to be carefully considered:
 - i. Modernization of Bethlehem Town Government, including terms of office, effective leadership structures and other matters.
 - ii. Expanded Economic Development With the Vista Technology Campus in Slingerlands obtaining final Bethlehem Industrial Agency [BIDA] approval, 2020 is now positioned to be a partner with the Town and BIDA to pursue further revenue generating economic development in the Slingerlands Hamlet along New Scotland Road from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield building to the intersection of the Timothy Mosher Highway (Route 140), and in the Selkirk Rail Yard District.
 - iii. Shared Services with the goal of maximizing the opportunity for internal Town savings, where possible, in large departments and small ones too.
 - iv. Intergovernmental Cooperation with the Bethlehem Central School District, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District, the Library and the Bethlehem Fire Districts to achieve a number of goals, ranging from innovative economic development compacts, to consolidation to the sharing of facilities. All opportunities need to be aimed at reducing taxpayer costs, becoming more efficient and generating revenue.

II. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

- a. **Providing streaming videos of Town Board meetings** to resident and businessperson personal computers to offer the choice of viewing and hearing Town Board meetings at their convenience.
- b. **Adopt a new and greatly expanded Ethics Policy** for Bethlehem Town government.

III. QUALITY OF LIFE IN BETHLEHEM

- a. **Completion of several implementation projects** including: photovoltaic solar panel system at the Elm Avenue Park administration building; new fishing dock at Henry Hudson Park, and several other capital initiatives.
- b. **Expand ongoing dialogue** between the Police Department and residents. And, implement a Bethlehem Police Bicycle Patrol program.
- c. **Planning Initiatives:**
 - i. Implement next step actions to foster more open space planning, including the creation of an Open Space Program.

- ii. Obtain full passage of the Town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program from the NYS Department of State for for the 7 mile length of Hudson River shoreline in Bethlehem.
- iii. Finalize the Delaware Avenue enhancement study.
- iv. Appoint a member of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection committee to be the contact person to the Town's Development Planning Committee (DPC).
- v. Analyze and approve all appropriate Zoning revisions as a follow up to the June 22, 2011 Public Hearing.

We have a lot of work ahead of us for next six month. It is focused on the issues that Bethlehem must address to remain a strong and vibrant community and I look forward to addressing these and many other challenges as your Town's Supervisor.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Sam Messina

Bethlehem Supervisor Sam Messina Announces July 4th Celebration and Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Town Supervisor Sam Messina announced the Town of Bethlehem will again hold a July 4th celebration and reading of the Declaration of Independence by Congressman Paul Tonko, Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin and Troop #58 Boy Scouts Joseph Garry and Benjamin Weinstein.

On Monday, July 4th, 11:00 AM at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY, Supervisor Messina, Master of Ceremonies, together with Congressman Paul Tonko, Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, Bethlehem Town Board Members and community leaders, will join together for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. (In the event of inclement weather, the reading will take place in the Community Room in the library.)



The program will also include: the presentation of Colors by Elsmere Boy Scout Troop #58 Color Guard; Pledge of Allegiance; National Anthem and God Bless America performed by Elissa Ebersold and Laura Baboulis.

As in previous years, the Independence Day celebration has become a tradition which demonstrates our strong sense of community within the Town of Bethlehem. Supervisor Messina stated, "We are all honored to celebrate this important national holiday, Independence Day, and we are thankful for the independence which is the bedrock of our wonderful country, and our solemn pledge and hope for future generations."

Town Offices will be closed Monday, July 4

More dogs run away on the Fourth of July than on any other day of the year

The sounds of fireworks – the artificial squeal followed by the giant burst of explosives and subsequent whimper – drives dogs nuts! And for many, it triggers their innate flight instinct.

Many people equate the sights and sounds of Independence Day fireworks with the trauma that dogs can experience in thunderstorms. But there's a difference. For one, thunderstorms are Mother Nature. Two, fireworks are closer to the ground and more vibrant. And three, dogs are not prepared for the sudden booms and flashes and burnt aromas that come with what is one of many Americans' favorite holidays. Remember, dogs experience the world through their senses – nose, eyes, ears.

So what do you do? Do you take your dog to the fireworks with you? Do you leave him home alone? Can you prepare him for this?



My suggestion is to take your dog away from areas where there will be a fireworks display nearby. Take them to your parents, grandparents, brother's or sister's house, or to a day care center they are familiar with and comfortable at. Plan ahead -- if you are taking them to a new place they haven't been, expose them to the home or center in the days and weeks before the holiday, so when you take them for the Fourth, it's not a surprise and for them, it's just like any other day of the year.



Don't think of this in terms of your dog as your child who is missing out on a great, fun time. That's human guilt and trust me, the dog won't know what he's missing. You're being a good pack leader by not exposing him to a situation that will trigger his flight instinct in a negative way.

If you leave the dog at home, you can do so in a travel kennel. Make sure there is someone who can let him out to relieve himself every four hours and provide a little companionship until you're home. Please do not leave your dog in the kennel full of physical energy. Without a doubt, give him the longest walk of his life before you leave. A tired dog equals a happy owner.

Some dogs can deal with the sights and sounds of fireworks if they've been desensitized, like hunting dogs for example, who are familiar with the sounds and smells of gunshots and gunpowder. But for most people, they cannot prepare a dog for this.

You can try to play sounds for your dog that simulates fireworks before he eats, before a walk, before affection and play, and condition him to hear the sound and interpret it as something good. But keep in mind, the soundtrack cannot replace the actual power of real fireworks. If you must have your dog near fireworks, then make sure he is properly leashed and close to you, so you don't become one of the devastating statistics.

Source: [Cesar Millan's web site "Cesar's Way"](#)



Did You Know?



To help avert potential tragedy, the Bethlehem Police are requesting that anyone who is aware of an underage drinking party taking place contact them at 439-1503. All calls received will be treated in the strictest of confidence so don't be afraid to call. *Your call could save a life.*

Outside the Town, call 1-866-UNDER-21 (1-866-863-3721)



July is Park and Recreation Month



[Click here for suggested ideas in July](#)

Portion of Feura Bush Road closed 7/18 - 8/8

On July 18, 2011, Route 910A (Feura Bush Road) will be closing approximately 50 feet west of Ackerman Avenue to replace a culvert. The road will remain closed until August 8 with traffic directed to a signed detour route. The detour route will utilize State Routes 335 (Elsmere Avenue) and 32 (the Delmar Bypass and Elm Avenue.) During the closure, all properties in the area will remain accessible to residents and emergency responders; however, no travel through the project site will be allowed until the road is officially reopened. If you have any questions regarding this work, please contact the [NYS Department of Transportation](#) - Region One, at 439-3774.



Public comments on the Henry Hudson Shoreline Stabilization Study welcome through July 8

In March 2006, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), in partnership with the Hudson River Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, completed the report, Hudson River Shoreline Restoration Alternatives Analysis. This report analyzed five locations along the Hudson River for development of preliminary "soft engineering" designs, the HHP being one of the five locations evaluated.

Also in 2006 and 2007, the Town completed its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) and Master Plan. In 2007, the Town of Bethlehem was awarded a grant from the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program for funding to conduct a shoreline stabilization study in the Henry Hudson Park. This grant for \$24,750, along with the Town's match of \$8,550, provided the \$33,300 total budget for the Shoreline Stabilization Study.

Public comments on the Shoreline Stabilization Study are welcome through July 8, 2011. E-mail Nan Lanahan at nlanahan@townofbethlehem.org

[Henry Hudson Park Shoreline Stabilization Study Presentation of June 22, 2011](#)

[Henry Hudson Park Shoreline Stabilization Study](#)



Bethlehem School Supply Drive

The Bethlehem Food Pantry collects school supplies for children in the **Bethlehem Central**, **RCS** and **Guilderland** School Districts whose families live in our town and are eligible to use a local Food Pantry

Donations of school supplies may be dropped off at the Bethlehem Area YMCA or at the Senior Services Department at Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday **before August 8, 2011**.

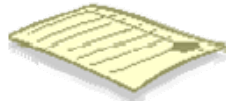
Supplies needed include:

Locker Stockers, Composition Notebooks, Calculators TI-30, 3 x 5 Index Cards, Two-pocket Folders, Post-It Notes, Washable Markers, 1 1/2 inch Binders, Subject Dividers, Pencil Sharpeners, Notebooks (single and 3-subject), Back Packs, Master Locks, Pencil Pouches/Boxes, Plastic Compasses and Protractors, Scissors (dull and sharp), Highlighters, Pink Erasers, Boxes of Facial Tissues, Wide-Rule Paper, Glue Sticks, Black/Blue Pens, Sharpie Markers

Questions?

Call Senior Services, Outreach Department at 439-4955, extension # 1173, #1174 or #1175.

Sponsored by: Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. and the Town of Bethlehem



Parks and Recreation Department News

Summer Program Registration!

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registrations for all summer activities, most activities still have open enrollment. For further activity details or registration please call, 439-4955 opt. 3. Or visit: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2011SummerActivityPlayBook.pdf>.

Don't forget, if you have obtained your user Password and ID you can register for any of our programs on line, simply visit: <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline/>. If you need a user ID and Password, please call the Parks Office.

Camp Adventure Registration Has Begun

Camp Adventure starts on Tuesday, July 5 and will run until August 12, register for as many weeks as you want. Camp Adventure is held daily from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Elm Avenue Park Large Pavilion. Camp Adventure is inspected twice a season by the Albany County Department of Health. Campers go on two off-site trips per week, swim at the Elm Avenue Park pool 3 times per week and enjoy weekly BBQs, special events, games, activities and more.

You can access a list of camp trips by clicking the following link: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksCampCorner.asp>.

Don't forget, if you have obtained your user Password and ID you can register for any of our programs on line, simply visit: <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline/>. If you need a user ID and password, please call the Parks Office.

The POOL is OPEN

The Elm Avenue Park pool complex is open . Hours are 11am-8pm daily. Don't forget to obtain or renew your pool pass prior to your visit. **A 2011 pool pass is required to enter the pool complex.**

POOL COMPLEX RULES

Renew Your 2010 Pool Pass On-line, by Mail or Visit the ID Room

Avoid the long lines on hot, sticky days and get your passes early!!

NEW this year... renew your pool pass online. Renew at your convenience. This option is only available to those residents who own property in the Town of Bethlehem.

Renew by mail if you have a 2008, 2009 or 2010 pass (with a bar code)! Town of Bethlehem residency will be verified using 2011 property tax rolls. If you are not a Bethlehem property owner, you must provide proof of residency. Complete the form following the link: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2011PoolPassRenewalForm.pdf>.

The ID room at the Parks office is also open for in-person renewal and for all those with a pass from 2007 or before who need a new pass. Proof of residency is required (see link below for details). Residents are encouraged to obtain their pool pass early to avoid waiting in line on hot days! Details on residency requirements, fees, and hours are available in the recently mailed Park Playbook or on line at:

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

Party Reservations at the Elm Avenue Park Pool

Residents may now reserve the "arts and crafts" shelter and surrounding grass area near Splash Islands for parties. Reserve your date now! Form available at the Parks Office or at http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/Form_PoolParty.pdf.



Colonial Acres Golf Course is Open!



Season Passes and Punch Cards are 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 the completed application to the park office:

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

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

Gift Cards Are Here!

Give the gift of fun! Gift Cards can be used for golf passes, recreation activities, pool passes and all your recreation needs. **GREAT FATHERS' DAY GIFT!**

Fishing Platform at Henry Hudson Park

The long awaited fishing platform is expected to be constructed in mid July. Please use caution around any fenced areas during construction.

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.

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.



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>

Summer Program Registration!

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registration for all summer activities, most activities still have open enrollment. For further activity details or registration please call, 439-4955, option 3. Or visit: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/parks/2011SummerActivityPlayBook.pdf>.

Don't forget, if you have obtained your user Password and ID you can register for any of our programs on line, simply visit: <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline>. If you need a user ID and password, please call the Parks Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Use your User ID and password and log on to our online registration system to view the new Event Calendar.

July 4th is Family Day! Mark Your Calendars Now!

Free Watermelon!

Events inside the pool complex - regular pool fees apply

12:00 noon - Geurtze's Famous Chicken BBQ

12:15 p.m. - Magic Show

1:00 p.m. - Old Time Base Ball Game with the 1864 NY Mutuals vs. the Bethlehem BRAVES Team
Elm Ave Park Field #5

1:30 p.m. - Balloonist and Air Bounce rides

2:00 p.m. - About Face air brush face painting

2:00 p.m. - Live Music by The GTOs

Events outside the pool area - pool admission not required

** Join Supervisor Messina for a reading of the Declaration of Independence at 11:00 a.m. at the Bethlehem Library **

Andy "The Music Man" and Air Bounce Ride**Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m. - Henry Hudson Park Gazebo**

Andy "The Music Man" Morse, a Delmar resident, is the "peanut butter & jelly" of kids' music. For 17 years he has delighted children with his performances of highly interactive songs that get the kids up dancing and singing. To add to the fun there will be an Air Bounce to hop around in!!

Red's Recycle-o-Rama**Thursday, July 14, 7:00 p.m. - Elm Avenue Park by Warming Area**

Assisted by Rusty the Recycling dog, Red uses audience participation, storytelling, magic, juggling and Red's original one-man junk band to offer fun loving tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle to become more planet friendly.

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion.

Tequila Mockingbirds and Late Night Swim**Friday, July 22, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. - Elm Avenue Park Pool****Free admission into the pool after 7:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a late night dip in the pool and some good tunes by the Tequila Mockingbirds. Voted Capital Region's "Best Acoustic Duo" by Metroland Magazine, for their unique blend of blues, jazz and classic rock. All pools and Splash Islands will be open.

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion.

Zucchini Brothers**Thursday, July 28, 7:00 p.m. - Elm Avenue Park**

Often called "The Beatles of kid's music", this zany trio will present an unforgettable musical show which will keep you on your feet and dancing. FREE of charge!

In case of rain, this event will be held at the Elm Avenue Park large pavilion.



Did You Know?



Link to Unclaimed Funds added to Town's web site

For your protection, banks, insurance companies, utilities, investment companies and many other businesses are required by State law to surrender inactive accounts to the State. These accounts are known as "lost," "abandoned," or "unclaimed" funds.

The Office of the State Comptroller serves as custodian of this money. **If you can prove you are entitled to the money, it will be returned to you, at any time, without charge.** Until the money is claimed, it is used by the State's General Funds, serving the citizens and taxpayers of the State of New York.

To see if you have any unclaimed money, please visit our Links - Government web site page at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/links/government.asp>

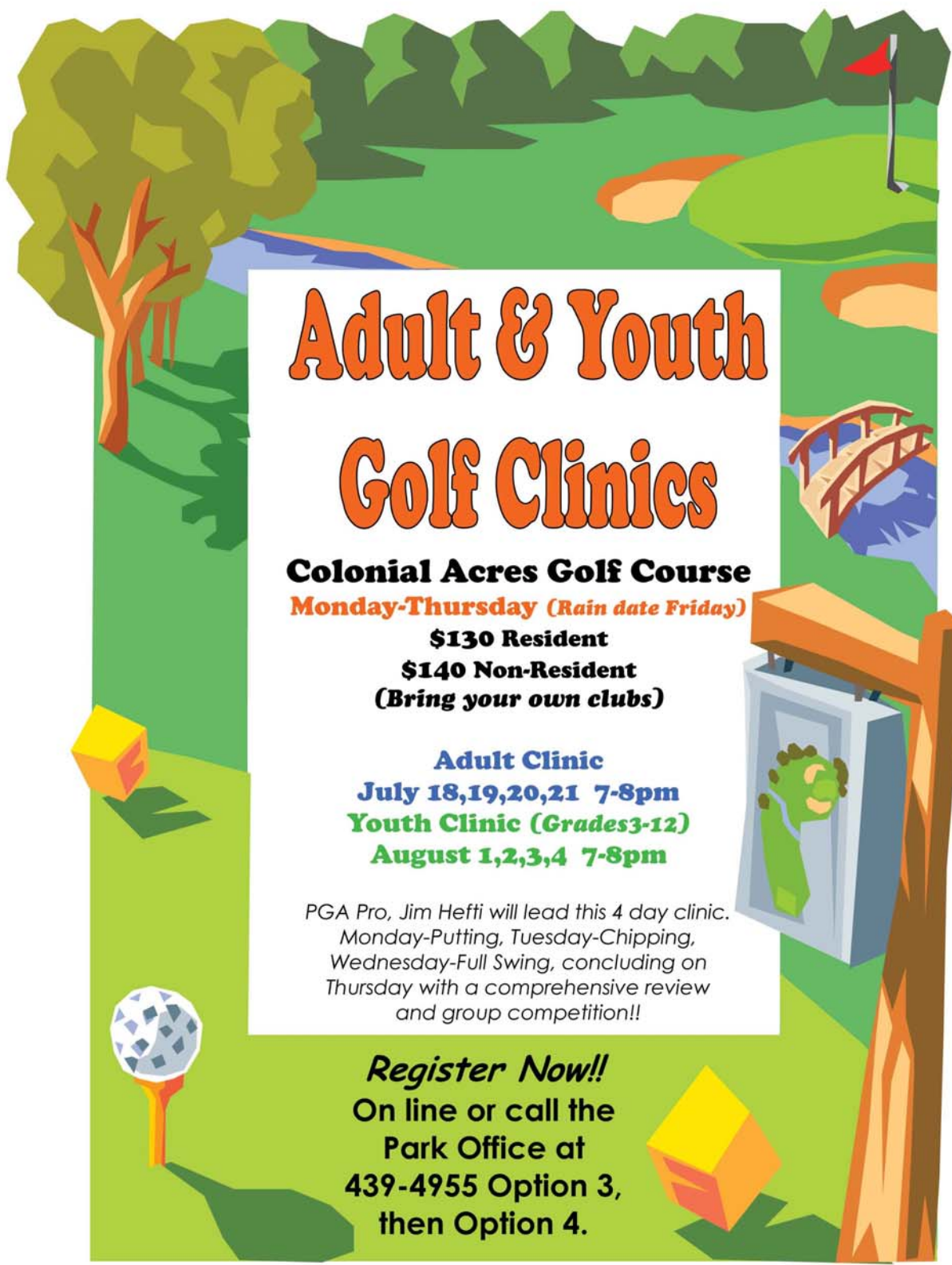
How to Contact the Police Department when you want to have a Block Party

Please call the Police Department with at least one week's notice with the following information:

- Have the location and time of the event (beginning to end).
- Contact person - name and phone number(s).
- Address of where the barricades are to be dropped off.
- Where the barricades will be located.

Call the police non-emergency number at 439-9973.





Adult & Youth Golf Clinics

Colonial Acres Golf Course

Monday-Thursday (Rain date Friday)

\$130 Resident

\$140 Non-Resident

(Bring your own clubs)

Adult Clinic

July 18,19,20,21 7-8pm

Youth Clinic (Grades3-12)

August 1,2,3,4 7-8pm

PGA Pro, Jim Hefti will lead this 4 day clinic.
Monday-Putting, Tuesday-Chipping,
Wednesday-Full Swing, concluding on
Thursday with a comprehensive review
and group competition!!

Register Now!!
On line or call the
Park Office at
439-4955 Option 3,
then Option 4.



Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Guilderland Public Library, Wednesday, July 6
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monday, July 11
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
16 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar

Coeymans Fire Company, Tuesday, July 12
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
67 Church Street, Coeymans

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>

Blood Drive at Town Hall, Wednesday, September 7 from 1-6 p.m.

Youth Employment Service

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.

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

For more information, contact the Y.E.S. Director, Rachel Promutico, at 439-4955 ext. 1608 or YES@townofbethlehem.org

[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>

Volunteers will meet at Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. prior to departing for the selected cleanup location so that volunteers can meet, receive instructions and cleanup supplies can be distributed, including safety vests, rubber gloves, trash bags and pick-up sticks. Please remember to sign-in upon arrival. Certificates of participation will be made available for individuals wishing to receive them.

Participants should bring water to drink and wear slacks and long sleeve shirts for protection from cuts, scrapes and insect bites. Individuals under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Community Service Project and demonstrate your concern for your Town and the environment. Your assistance is needed even if you can only participate for part of the event. To speak with a Town representative regarding Community Cleanup – contact Deborah Kitchen at 439-4955 x 1159 or Jeanette Whitbeck at 439-4955 x 1164.

Bethlehem Fire Districts Request Public's Participation in Citizen Survey

In the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, the Town of Bethlehem has been requested to help distribute a citizen survey being conducted by the Bethlehem Fire Districts Collaborative Planning Task Force. The task force is comprised of members of the five volunteer fire districts serving the Town of Bethlehem.

The survey seeks to gather public input on the possibilities of greater collaboration among the five fire districts in Town. Manitou Incorporated is partnering with the Bethlehem Fire Districts Collaborative Planning Task Force to conduct the survey.

[See the Bethlehem Fire Districts Collaborative Planning Task Force's press release](#) for further information. For questions or comments on the survey, please contact firestudy@elsmerefire.org

[Please click here to complete the survey.](#) The survey should only require a minute or two to complete. Thank you for your input!



Senior Services News

Senior Legal Services Program

Thursday, July 14

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall
Appointments: 439-4955 #1176

The Senior Legal Services Program provides legal services for residents of Albany County who are 60 years of age or older. The program is funded by the Albany County Department for Aging and is staffed through the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. If you cannot make this month's date, this program generally has dates once per month, contact one of the Outreach workers for more information.

There is no cost for this program.

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>.

There will be no Senior transportation and all Town Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4.

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](#).

News from BEMO **Bethlehem Emergency Management Office**

Jack Brennan, the Town of Bethlehem's Emergency Management Coordinator recently completed the NYS Office of Emergency Management Basic Public Information Officer Course.



Town loses former Recycling Coordinator Sharon Fisher



Sharon receiving the 2003 Governor's Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Achievement of Excellence Award

Sharon VanHensbergen Fisher, 62, died on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at home with her husband by her side. She was diagnosed with ALS on December 23, 2009 and bravely fought this battle with determination, elegance and courage. Sharon was born in Albany to Edwin VanHensbergen and the late Marion Dennis VanHensbergen. She married Kenneth Fisher in 1970. They raised three children in their home on Van Wies Point in Glenmont. Although always committed first and foremost to raising her three boys, Sharon spent over 20 years as the recycling coordinator for the Town of Bethlehem. She was also a member of Delta Phi Sigma Sorority, as a graduate of the college of Saint Rose. Sharon received many awards ranging from a Lifetime Achievement Award from the NYS Association of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling, Inc. to being the best euchre player in town. Sharon is survived by her dedicated and loving husband, Kenneth; her father Edwin VanHensbergen; her cherished children, David and Diane Fisher, Matthew Fisher and Zoe McKee, and Jonathan and Annie Fisher. She is also survived by her very special grandchildren, Abby, Zachary, Austin and Emelia; her sisters, Margaret Massas and Jean Naples; and her brothers, Robert VanHensbergen and Thomas Van Hensbergen. Donations be made to the ALS Center, 19 Warehouse Row, Albany, NY 12205.

Source: www.applebeefuneralhome.com

In late 2010, The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3) honored Sharon Fisher with a special Lifetime Achievement Award.

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

"Thanks to Sharon's efforts, Bethlehem's reduction and recycling diversion rates grew from 16 to 50 percent by the year 2000," Woske added. The town's Compost Facility, the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection days, and fall Electronics Collection days all contributed to the increase.

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

Albany County Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting



Did You Know?



With summer storms upon us, power outages can occur. 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/storm/storm.aspx>. 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.



Straight From the Storm Drain...

Stormwater Tips: **Hazardous Waste and Solvents**

When hazardous substances such as paints, solvents, and cleaners are used, it is important to make sure that appropriate precautions are taken to avoid spills. If these substances are allowed to flow into the storm drain, it has the same effect as dumping them directly into a water body.

- Use hazardous substances in the smallest amounts possible.
- Store substances properly.
- Do not clean up painting supplies over a storm drain.
- Filter and reuse paint thinner.
- Clean up spills *immediately*.
- Dispose of solvent waste by following the instructions printed on the label.
- Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids—*Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains!*
- Participate in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day to properly dispose of waste.



What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rain or melted snow that, instead of seeping into the ground, runs off into the storm sewer and into our waterways. It runs across rooftops, paved areas, bare soil, and sloped yards. On its way, the runoff picks up and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other potential pollutants. This polluted runoff degrades our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and other waterways.

For more information, please see the Town of Bethlehem's Stormwater Management web page:
<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Stormwater/dpwSWStormwater.asp>

It's the Law! All Dogs, Cats and Ferrets in NYS MUST Have a Current Rabies Vaccination

If you missed the Low Cost Vaccination Clinic at Elm Avenue Park, Albany County offers two more such clinics this year

The remaining Albany County clinics will be held as follows:

Saturday, September 17
 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets,
 2:30-4 for dogs)
 Village of Colonie Municipal Garage, 2
 Thunder Road, Colonie

Saturday November 5
 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (1-2:30 cats and ferrets,
 2:30-4 for dogs)
 Village of Green Island Public Works
 Garage, Cohoes Avenue, Green Island

[Goto the Albany County Department of Health web site for more information and directions.](#)

Know What's Below BEFORE You Dig

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

See this link for more info: <http://www.call811.com/>



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 July 6 and July 20, 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](#).

Tick-borne diseases on the rise



Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases are an important health concern in New York State. Lyme disease remains endemic in Albany County and, also being seen are a small, but significant, increase in other tick-borne diseases each year.

The good news is that Lyme disease can be prevented. A FREE tick removal kit is available for Albany County residents as well as information on repellants, Lyme disease in pets and more by visiting the County's Department of Health web page at <http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/lyme.asp> or by calling 447-4648.

GREEN ALBANY COUNTY

An online resource to help residents and businesses lower energy use and save money on their utility bills

[Green Albany County](#) is a one stop information resource for energy saving tips, rebates, incentives and tax credits and green products and services. The website also highlights the County's energy efficiency projects and other green initiatives.

A monthly newsletter will also be available to residents who wish to provide their email addresses on the [GreenAlbanyCounty.org](#) website. The newsletter will provide information relating to clean energy grants and incentives, as well as ongoing projects and tips on how to become more energy efficient.

SUN AND WATER SAFETY TIPS

Sun Safety Tips

- Children receive 3 times more ultraviolet (UV) radiation than adults do each year and can benefit most from sun protection. For tips on how to protect kids from the sun, visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13151714/>
- Apply sunscreen and lip balm with an SPF 15 or higher at least 20-30 minutes before going outdoors or into the water. Re-apply sunscreen every 2 hours or after swimming or physical activity. No sunscreen provides all day protection.
- The harmful effects of UV radiation accumulate over time; therefore, sun protection should be a lifelong habit, not just an occasional activity.
- Along with sunscreen, wear protective clothing, hat, shirt, shorts or pants, and sunglasses when not swimming. The more cover, the better!
- For sunscreen facts and myths, please visit the American Academy of Dermatology web site at <http://www.aad.org/public/News/DermInfo/DInfoSunscreenFAQ.htm>, the American Cancer Society web site at <http://www.cancer.org/healthy/toolsandcalculators/quizzes/app/sun-safety-quiz>, and/or http://pediatrics.about.com/od/sunscreen/a/sunscreen_myths.htm
- FDA Announces New Rules for Sunscreen Labels - <http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/news/News/fda-announces-new-rules-for-sunscreen-labels>

Water Safety Tips

- Never leave young children alone – even for one minute!
- Never consider children WATER SAFE despite swimming skills!
- Never dive in shallow water or water of unknown depth
- Never run, always walk, around a pool deck
- Water skiing, tubing or the like requires TWO persons (one driving and one spotting) in the boat or on the personal watercraft doing the towing
- New York State law requires any person between the ages of 10 and 18 to possess a boating safety certificate to operate any mechanically powered vessel, HOWEVER, ALL personal watercraft operators (jet skis, e.g.) MUST possess a safety certificate AND must be at least 14 years of age; for more information, please see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/environmentdec/19127.html>

WEATHER RELATED HEALTH TIPS

When the weather heats up, try to limit heavy physical activities like walking, jogging, or lawn mowing to the cooler hours of the day. Dress appropriately and drink plenty of water. Over-exertion in hot, humid weather can lead to medical conditions related to heat - heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Children, elderly persons and those with weight or alcohol problems along with persons on certain medications or drugs very susceptible to heat reactions.

Never leave children, pets, or those who require special care in a parked car or vehicle during periods of intense summer heat even with the windows partially opened. Temperatures inside a vehicle can reach over 140 degrees Fahrenheit quickly. Exposure to such high temperatures can kill within a matter of minutes.

Recognizing Heat Exhaustion

- Skin - pale, moist, clammy, cool
- Body Temperature - normal
- Other signs - dizzy, nauseated, weak

Treating Heat Exhaustion

- Have victim lie down in a cool spot, out of the sun
- Give the victim plenty of fluids especially water
- Offer a salty snack such as pretzels or saltines

With **heat stroke**, the body loses its ability to sweat even though the body's temperature continues to rise. It is a life-threatening medical emergency, the victim may suffer serious complications or even die if first aid measures are not immediately carried out.

Recognizing Heat Stroke

- Skin - red, dry, hot
- Body temperature - above normal (104+ degrees)
- Other signs - confused, unconscious, convulsions

Treating Heat Stroke

- Call for emergency help at once
- Get the victim out of the sun and in a cool spot
- Remove the victim's clothing
- Cool the victim's body by applying cool water in the form of wet towels, sponges, spray from a hose or ice packs
- Monitor the victim's body temperature (stop cooling when it reaches 102 degrees F)
- Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER!

Drink plenty of fluids, particularly water (at least 2-4 glasses of water per hour during extreme heat), even if you do not feel thirsty. If you wait until you are thirsty, you are already dehydrating. Your body needs water to keep cool. Avoid beverages containing alcohol or caffeine.

For more information on weather safety, see the New York State Emergency Management Office's weather page at <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/weather/>



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

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

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