



Volume V Issue 11

# Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

December 2011

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054  
518.439.4955

[www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org)

## Town Board

Sam Messina, Supervisor  
Joann Dawson, Board Member  
Mark Hennessey, Board Member  
Mark Jordan, Board Member  
Kyle Kotary, Board Member

## December Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

### Planning Board

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

### Zoning Board of Appeals

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

### Town Board

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m.

### 20/20 Implementation Committee

Thursday, December 15, 7:30 a.m.

### Development Planning Committee

Thursday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.

### Planning Board

Tuesday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

### Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, December 28, 8:00 a.m.

### Town Board

Wednesday, December 28, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas and to verify locations and times, see:

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

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Town's No Parking Ordinance is in effect until April 15, 2012

Friday, December 2 - Annual Holiday Parade

Wednesday, December 7 - **LAST** day for Medicare Open Enrollment / Changes

Thursday, December 8 - Free Senior Legal Services Program at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Friday, December 9 - **Last** day of Letters to Santa Program

Monday, December 12 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Tuesday, December 13 - Car Seat Check, free, reservation required, 439-9973

Tuesday, December 13 - Fire Districts' Annual Elections

Wednesday, December 16 (9:00 a.m.) - **Last** chance for the Parks Winter/Spring activity registrations in order to participate in the lottery spin

Friday, December 16 - SCREAMS trip to the Great Escape Indoor Water Park

Saturday, December 17 - First ski trip of the season for the Middle and High School Ski Club

Monday, December 26 - Town Offices closed

Sunday, January 1, 2012 - On-line registration begins for the Delmar Duathlon; see <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksEvents.asp>

Monday, January 2, 2012 - Town Offices closed

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

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

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



### From the Supervisor

Dear Bethlehem Residents,

You elected me to be Town Supervisor and I did the very best I could to serve our Town and all of its residents and businesspersons, because I believed Bethlehem should and could be better and different. Different in the ways politics and government are conducted - to be more about public service. To achieve this I believed that we needed to aspire to a higher level of civility, professionalism, transparency and public participation.



Looking back, I feel honored for the opportunity you have given me to serve you. And I am pleased with the progress we have made together. Living by and judging against the principles I have described, we have made significant and lasting progress in the essential areas of fiscal well-being, quality of life and government excellence.

Of course, there are some things that I hoped to complete and did not get done. I will continue to work on these matters until December 31, 2011, my last day on the job.

Looking to the future, I am confident that, together we have also built a solid foundation for the work of Supervisor-Elect John Clarkson, the Town Board, our Town staff, volunteers and all who care deeply about Bethlehem's future. In this regard I am now working on a daily basis with John Clarkson to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you for giving me the chance to serve you and our fine community, and for the valuable support so many gave along the way. The progress we have made to make Bethlehem different, in all the right ways, would not have happened without your help, guidance, trust and friendship. And for Bethlehem's future I ask you to give John Clarkson that same support and commitment.

Happy holidays to everyone and I look forward to seeing you around Town, where as I have always said, we will be neighbors and friends, first and foremost.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Sam Messina



### Annual Bethlehem Holiday Parade Friday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.



Begins at Bethlehem Town Hall continues down Delaware Avenue to the Four Corners.

Santa arrives by Fire Truck at the end of the parade.



### Letters to Santa Program **ENDS** December 9



Bethlehem's annual "Letters to Santa" program began on Monday, November 28, 2011 and will end on Friday, December 9, 2011.

The Bethlehem Police Family Services Unit and volunteer Senior Services elves promise that all letters received on or before December 9 will be answered before Christmas.

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

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

### Medicare Open Enrollment - Last day - **December 7, 2011**

If you are a resident of the Town of Bethlehem, you may call the Senior Services office and ask for an Outreach Worker at 439-4955, extension 1176. By appointment, the Outreach Workers will assist you in navigating the Medicare maze.

Every state has a Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program known as HIICAP. To help understand Medicare coverage, payments, Medicare Advantage plans and Medigap Insurance options, you can call 1-800-333-4114 or 1-800-333-4374. For more counseling, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).



### Did You Know?



#### The Senior Services Department helps more than Seniors

**Many programs do NOT have age restrictions**, for example, Food Pantry, HEAP, LawHelp/NY, volunteers, and Caregiver programs. Please call the Senior Services Offices 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](#).

### Highway Department Frequently Asked Questions regarding fall pick-up

The Town's Fall Loose Leaf Collection Program has begun. Highway Department crews will be working by zones in order to complete this monumental task. Please be sure to place loose leaves on the lawn at the edge of the road and not in the roadway itself. Placing brush and leaves in the road creates a hazardous condition for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic and is a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic law. Also make sure that storm water inlet grates are kept clear to ensure proper drainage.

Leaves and grass clippings placed in reusable containers or yard waste bags along with tree branches piled neatly at curbside will continue to be picked up on your regularly scheduled brush collection day. Yard waste bags can be purchased at Town Hall, the Highway Garage, Elm Avenue Park, the Compost Facility, and the Rupert Road Transfer Station.

Please see "Tentative Leaf Pickup Schedule" on the [Highway Department's web page](#); this schedule is updated frequently once the collection begins. Please note that weather conditions play a major role in our ability to adhere to the schedule.

Q. When can I rake leaves to the side of the road for pick up?

A. Leaves can be raked neatly to the side of the road from mid-October to mid-November or until all leaves are picked up pending no significant snowfall.

Q. What is the schedule for leaves to be picked up that are raked alongside the road?

A. Leaves are picked up by zones within the Town. Pick up starts in Zone 1 and works through each street until all the leaves are picked up in that zone. We then move to the next zone and continue the process until all zones have been picked up. To see which zone you are in, [click here](#).

Q. What size tree limbs/branches can I put out for the Highway Department to pick up?

A. The Highway Department can pick up branches no bigger than 8" round in diameter and no longer than 6-7 feet long. They cannot weight more than 50 pounds each. They must be stacked neatly alongside the curb.



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

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Highway/highwayDeptFAQ.asp>

## Recycling News

### Holiday Recycling Tips

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

**Cardboard boxes:** Single or triple layer cardboard must be flattened, and either recycled curbside with your waste hauler, at the Rupert Road Transfer Station, or placed in the 2 big green cardboard bins in the center of the Elm Avenue CDTA Park & Ride.

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

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

**Holiday lights:** Store for next year, or recycle your holiday lights: HolidayLEDs offers customers a chance to recycle their old incandescent holiday lights and receive a 25% coupon discount on any purchase of new, energy efficient LED holiday lights off their website. The program will run through January 2012. For more information, visit their web site at [http://www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom\\_christmas\\_light\\_recycling\\_program](http://www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom_christmas_light_recycling_program). Light strands are barely biodegradable (if at all). Plastic and wire can take hundreds or thousands of years to decompose. Not to mention the risk to the animals that rummage in and near our landfills. Just as the plastic rings that bind 6-packs of cola can strangle small creatures, so can Christmas lights, turning a thing of joy in our homes into a killer in nature.

**Plastic Bags and Film:** Plastic shrink wrap, plastic bags, and other types of clean, dry "plastic film" can be recycled with store bags at your local grocery store, or stores like Target, CVS, Lowes or Walmart. A statewide law requires certain retail and grocery stores to set up a plastic carry out bag recycling program for their customers. Stores with 10,000 square feet or more of retail space and chains which operate five or more stores with greater than 5,000 square feet of retail space, and which provide plastic carry out bags to customers, are required to comply with the law.

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

**Old Electronics:** Bring unwanted electronics to the Rupert Road Transfer Station for recycling (a small fee applies for some items), or save them to bring to the Town's free Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling event held each spring. Cell phones and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Town Hall or the Town Highway Garage during regular business hours.

**Green gift purchases:** Sustainable gift ideas include food, drink and house plants; home-made items; cleaning service, restaurants and other gift cards; and donations to non-profit organizations. See the Town's Donating Reusables Brochure for a list of local charities which accept donated items:  
<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/images/pagelimages/Recycling/DonatingReusables.pdf>

**Shopping recycled:** This can be done in the grocery store as well as the toy or department store. Look for recyclable packaging, items with less packaging or less non-recyclable packaging. Remember to bring your cloth bags to the store with you when shopping. Keep in mind, beware of "greenwashing" (false or misleading environmental claims about products).

For more ways to recycle unwanted clothing, items, etc., please see [Donating Reusables and Voluntary Recycling](#) and [Electronic Recycling at the Rupert Road Transfer Station](#).

## Parks and Recreation Department News

### 2012 Winter/Spring Activity Registration

We are currently accepting 2012 winter / spring registrations into our lottery spin registration drawing. Registrations can be submitted in person or through our *online registration process*.

- Deadline for residents to participate in the lottery spin is Friday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.
- In-person, phone-in and non-resident registration for remaining openings will begin approximately 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16.

The 2012 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>

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

### 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.

### **ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION**

\*If you have a current household set up in our system, you were e-mailed your **Household ID #** and a **Password**. If you did not receive them that means:

- ~We do not have an e-mail address for you **OR**
- ~The e-mail address we have is incorrect

\*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:**

- ~Search to find the activities and classes you are looking for
- ~Enter the lottery spin if you are a Town of Bethlehem resident
- ~Register for activities from your home or office.
- ~Renew your pool pass
- ~Receive e-mail confirmations of online registrations.
- ~View facility calendars to check date availability of rental pavilions

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

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

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School (SCREAMS)  
**Friday, December 16**



Prepare to get wet as the Screams Club will head to the [Great Escape Indoor Water Park](#) on Friday, December 16th. 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,



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

Club membership is \$10 and will provide you with a lower rate for each trip and up-to-date trip information through our direct e-mail system.

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



For the remainder of the year, the fee for a Dog Park tag is \$15 and is valid through December 31, 2011. Tags for 2012 are \$30 and \$15 for senior citizens; they will be available in late December. 2012 tags are mandatory beginning January 1. Tags are only available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

### **Pavilion Reservations for 2012**

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 on-line system at <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline>.



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

Saturday, December 17 - Okemo

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



All your Ski Club Information and Permission Slips are available on-line at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksSkiClub.asp>. Registration needs to be submitted to the Parks Office. Mr. Tyler leads the Middle School Club (Room 142) and Mr. Mooney leads the High School Club (Room A 107).

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

### **Gift Cards Are Here!**

Give the gift of fun! Gift Cards can be used for golf passes, recreation activities, pool passes, and all your recreation needs.



### News from the Town Historian

#### Slingerlands Printing Company Employees Photo Restoration



Photo number 1014 presented quite a challenge to volunteer photo restorer Mark G. The torn, ripped and taped photo was taken in the early 1900s at the Slingerland Printing Company. Digitally, without even seeing the original, fragile photograph, Mark was able to preserve the integrity of the historic image while improving the visual impact. Without the distraction of the damage to the center of the photo, it is easier to linger over the facial expressions and clothing of these early Bethlehem folk, and wonder about their experience working for a prominent local company.



### Did You Know?



#### From the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

##### Holiday Safety Tips

Holly, Jolly and Oh-So-Safe! Of course you want to include your furry companions in the festivities, pet parents, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. And be sure to steer them clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:

**O Christmas Tree** Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.

##### Tinsel-less Town

Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.

##### No Feasting for the Furrries

By now you know not to feed your pets [chocolate](#) and anything sweetened with [xylitol](#), but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising fur kid will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

##### Toy Joy

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Choose gifts that are safe.

- Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallowing the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible.

- Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer—and tons of play sessions together.

### Forget the Mistletoe & Holly

[Holly](#), when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. [Mistletoe](#) can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many [varieties of lilies](#), can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a [pet-safe bouquet](#).

### Leave the Leftovers

Fatty, spicy and [no-no human foods](#), as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills. Turkeys from the supermarket usually have a string in place to help lift them in and out of the roasting pan. These strings, post-roasting, are delicious to our pets. If your pet finds a string in the trash they WILL EAT THEM. Strings in the intestinal tract of a pet can be FATAL and require emergency surgery to save them. Keep your pets safe by disposing of these strings in a zip lock bag and then removing them from your home.

### That Holiday Glow

Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!

### Wired Up

Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.

### House Rules

If your animal-loving guests would like to give your pets a little extra attention and exercise while you're busy tending to the party, ask them to feel free to start a nice play or petting session.

### Put the Meds Away

Make sure all of your [medications](#) are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.

### Careful with Cocktails

If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

### A Room of Their Own

Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.

### New Year's Noise

As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.



### Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Bethlehem Masons, Saturday, December 10  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
421 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar

Selkirk Fire Company 2, Saturday, December 10  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
301 Glenmont Road, Glenmont

Clarksville Community Reformed Church, Wednesday, December 28  
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
1997 Delaware Turnpike, Clarksville

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Thursday, December 29  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
16 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar

Appointments appreciated, 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Walk-ins will be taken as time allows. Positive ID, such as a driver's license, is required.

If you choose and are eligible, you may donate double red cells at these drives.

See the Red Cross web site for more information or to schedule an appointment  
<http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation>

If you cannot donate at a local drive, consider using one of the local Red Cross Donor Centers  
33 Everett Road, Albany  
or  
Route 7 and Watt Street, Schenectady

### 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](mailto:YES@townofbethlehem.org)

## Community Christmas Day Dinner

Sunday, December 25

1:30 p.m. (hospitality)

2:00 p.m. (dinner served)

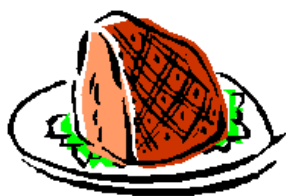
No cost - good will offerings accepted

The annual Community Christmas Day Dinner is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church, the Town of Bethlehem Senior Services, many area churches, organizations and individuals.

The turkey and ham dinner is open to all residents and church members of the Town who wish to participate. Festivities begin at 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day with dinner served at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Avenue in Delmar.

There is no fee for dinner, however, a goodwill offering will be accepted.

Transportation for Town of Bethlehem residents aged 60 and over will be provided by Bethlehem Senior Transportation Service by reservation. For information, meal and/or transportation reservations, call Elizabeth at Bethlehem Senior Services at 439-4955, extension 1176.



## Senior Services News

**Medicare.gov**

The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare

### **Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 - December 7, 2011**

If you are a resident of the Town of Bethlehem, you may call the Senior Services office and ask for an Outreach Worker at 439-4955, extension 1176. By appointment, the Outreach Workers will assist you in navigating the Medicare maze.

Every state has a Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program known as HIICAP. To help understand Medicare coverage, payments, Medicare Advantage plans and Medigap Insurance options, you can call 1-800-333-4114 or 1-800-333-4374. For more counseling, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).



### **Bethlehem's Senior Chorus presents... "Winter Dreams"**

Friday, December 2  
1:00 p.m.

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall Auditorium, 445 Delaware Avenue

Enjoy holiday melodies. This performance is free and open to the public.



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### Shopping Center Trip

Monday, December 5 to Colonie Center and Northway Mall



### Caregiver's Support Group

Wednesday, December 28

Are you caring for a loved one who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another dementia?

Join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - noon at Bethlehem Town Hall

Transportation can be arranged by calling 439-4955, extension 1176

The group is co-sponsored by the Bethlehem Senior Services and the Alzheimer's Association




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### Senior Legal Services Program

Thursday, December 8

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.**

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### 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>.




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### 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](#).

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### No Senior Transportation

Transportation is not available Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2. Transportation resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Bethlehem Senior Services office staff will be available to take reservations December 26 through December 30.



### News from the Town Clerk

#### Great Holiday Gift Ideas!




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

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Think of your furry canine companion and purchase a 2012 dog park tag for your pup.

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Besides the new book, *Bethlehem*, by Town Historian Susan E. Leath, there are other publications available

*Bethlehem Diary* -- resident Floyd Brewer's sequel to *Bethlehem Revisited*. For those who wish to know some of the history of the town, these make fine gifts. Copies are available at the reduced price of \$9.50. *People of Bethlehem* -- published by the Bethlehem Historical Association, available for \$20. This is a great genealogy tool and covers years 1698 through 1880. It also includes 15,000 name entries of over 1,400 families with church, government and private records used for the contents of the book.

### News from BEMO Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

## Holiday Cooking

Cooking fires continue to be the most common type of fires experienced by U.S. households. This is even more apparent during the holidays. **There is an increased incidence of cooking fires on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.** Cooking fires are also the leading cause of fire injuries in homes. These fires are preventable by simply being more attentive to the use of cooking materials and equipment.

Don't become a cooking fire casualty. [Learn the facts about cooking fire safety today!](#)

## Holiday Fire Safety

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 21 deaths and 43 injuries.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

## Christmas Trees



What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

### Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

### Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

## Holiday Lights

### Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.



### Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

### Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!

## Holiday Decorations

### Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.



### Don't Block Exits

Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.



### Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.



### Candle Care

#### Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

#### Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame – candles, lighters or matches.



Source: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/holiday.shtm>

**As in every season, have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors installed on every level of your home**, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan!

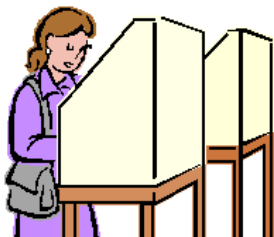
Winter is especially challenging for the elderly and physically disabled. Keep an eye on your neighbor and be prepared to lend a helping hand.

For more information on how individuals can be better prepared for emergencies and for winter safety tips, visit the State Office of Emergency Management website at [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm)

### News from the Fire Districts - Annual Elections

**Tuesday, December 13**

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**



**All voters registered with the Albany County Board of Elections on or before November 20th, 2011, who are residents of the fire district for thirty (30) days preceding the election, shall be eligible to vote.**

All individuals who wish to be candidates must file a petition with the Fire District Secretary with 25 signatures of resident electors of the district by November 23rd, 2011



#### Delmar Fire District

145 Adams Street, Delmar

The office of Commissioner for a five-year term, commencing on January 1, 2012 and ending on December 31, 2016. All candidates for this office shall file their names with the Secretary of the Fire District, John O. Smith, no later than November 23, 2011, and such nominations shall be submitted in petition form subscribed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District.

#### Elmwood Park / North Bethlehem Fire District

589 Russell Road, Albany

(1) fire district commissioner for a 5-year term commencing on January 1st, 2012 and ending on December 31st, 2016 and for electing one (1) fire district commissioner for a 2-year term commencing on January 1st, 2012 and ending on December 31st, 2013.

#### Elsmere Fire District

15 West Poplar Drive, Delmar

The election of Commissioner of the Elsmere Fire District for the term of five years, expiring December 31, 2016.

Selkirk Fire District

126 Maple Avenue at the Admin Offices behind Company 1, Selkirk  
 (1) Commissioner, for the term of five years commencing January 1, 2012

Slingerlands Fire District

1520 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands

- 1) Electing one Commissioner for a 5-year term commencing on January 1, 2012 and ending on December 31, 2016; and
- 2) Electing one Treasurer for a 3-year term commencing on January 1, 2012 and ending on December 31, 2014

All individuals who wish to be candidates must file a petition with the Fire District Secretary at 628 Kenwood Avenue, Delmar, New York, with 25 signatures of resident electors of the district by November 23rd, 2011

Special Referendum  
 PROPOSITION NO. 1

SHALL the bond resolution of Slingerlands Fire District, in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland, Albany County, New York entitled: "A BOND RESOLUTION, DATED OCTOBER 11, 2011, OF THE SLINGERLANDS FIRE DISTRICT, IN THE TOWNS OF BETHLEHEM AND NEW SCOTLAND, ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "FIRE DISTRICT"), AUTHORIZING THE UNDERTAKING OF A CAPITAL PROJECT CONSISTING OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING FIRE STATION OF THE FIRE DISTRICT LOCATED AT 1520 NEW SCOTLAND ROAD IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$1,800,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFORE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,800,000 OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE FIRE DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION, OFFSET BY ANY FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL FUNDS RECEIVED; AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE SUCH BONDS AND BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT TREASURER; AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS", be approved?

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Information, supplied by each district, regarding the Board of Commissioners meetings, Budget meetings, special notices, etc. can be found on the Town Calendar on the Town's website.



### Did You Know?



#### New Way for New Yorkers to find Jobs

In early November, Governor Cuomo announced the launch of "Jobs Express," a new website designed to help New Yorkers who are seeking employment.

The Jobs Express website makes it easier to learn about what jobs are available in the state and to know where to find them.

Visit the Jobs Express website at <http://www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regional.shtm>.

The site takes over 42,000 job openings and sorts them by region to help job seekers evaluate what industries are growing in their area and find out what opportunities are available in specific companies.

Complete with other helpful features – like video tutorials on resume writing, interview techniques, and transitioning to a new career – use Jobs Express to enhance your job search today.



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.



### Did You Know?



### Please don't drink and drive.

From 10:00 p.m. New Year's Eve to 2:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, New York's personal injury law firm [Martin, Harding & Mazzotti](#) is offering **free** cab rides home for local tavern and restaurant patrons who might have had too many holiday spirits.

By calling 1-800-LAW-1010, patrons in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Saratoga, Utica and Plattsburgh who might not be able to drive safely because of drinking will be treated to a free cab ride home. **There will be no charge, no obligation and no questions asked.** The Free Cab Ride Program is non-exclusive. Patrons enjoying themselves at a bar that doesn't have advertising for the program may also use the Free Cab Ride Program.

If you have any questions, please call Martin, Harding & Mazzotti at 1-800-LAW-1010

## 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 December 7 and December 21, 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](#).

## 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.

	<h3>Did You Know?</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have a question to Town government or operations, you can visit our <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions page</a> on our web site to look for quick references.</li> </ul>		



### We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what you think of this newsletter. Please use the feedback form on the Town's web site, [www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/about/contact.asp](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/about/contact.asp)

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

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