



Volume V Issue 12

Town of Bethlehem e-Newsletter

January 2012

445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.4955

www.townofbethlehem.org

Town Board

John Clarkson, Supervisor
Joann Dawson, Board Member
Kyle Kotary, Board Member
Jeffrey Kuhn, Board Member

January Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Town Hall unless otherwise indicated

Town Board

Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Tuesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Development Planning Committee

Thursday, January 19, 10:00 a.m.

PaTHs Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.

Industrial Development Agency

Wednesday, January 25, 8:00 a.m.

Town Board

Wednesday, January 25, 6:00 p.m.

For agendas and to verify locations and times, see:

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

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

Monday, January 2 - Town Offices closed

Monday, January 2 - Oath of Office ceremony at Town Hall

Saturday, January 7 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Bromley

Monday, January 9 - Food Stamp Assistance and Medicaid Representative at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Tuesday, January 10 - Car Seat Check, free, reservation required, 439-9973

Thursday, January 12 - Free Senior Legal Services Program at Town Hall, appointment 439-4955 x1176

Monday, January 16 - Town Offices closed

Saturday, January 21 - Middle and High School Ski Club trip to Gore

Saturday, January 28 - SCREAMS

Dog found in Town available for adoption 1/3, see below



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

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

Letter from Town Supervisor John Clarkson

This is my first letter to Bethlehem residents send via Town of Bethlehem E-news - a forum that I hope to use regularly to share information. Taking office has filled me with a great sense of responsibility, and I hope to serve you well. These are difficult times for many, and town government must find every conceivable economy so that we can preserve the quality services that Bethlehem residents deserve.

My life's work has well prepared me for this job. I bring to the Supervisor's office over 30 years in government management, budgeting and local government policy. With a professional focus on finance and efficiency, I have always tried to advance new ways to approach local responsibilities. My civic involvement through advisory groups and other channels has also been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. But despite this wonderful career, compelling desire to serve, and my freshman success in seeking local elective office, I remain humbled by the task at hand.

Humility is a good thing for those who seek and hold elective office, and it is reinforced by the process itself. You cannot win an office unless you first ask the voters for their support and trust. Let me tell you firsthand, walking from door to door across this town was a great experience, and I loved it. You talk to people about what you believe the issues are, where the answers may be found, about your qualifications and ideas for making things better. But most of all, you need to listen.

I did that, and I intend to keep doing it: listening. I will listen to the town employees who work hard to deliver vital services and certainly to my colleagues on the town board. I also want to have an open dialogue with those who serve on school boards, for the fire districts, and in all the governments the town interacts with. But most of all, I will listen to the residents and business people of Bethlehem.

As I take office, I offer three basic propositions: that Bethlehem should practice fiscal common sense and live within its means, that our town should be able to create an efficient, modern government that serves as a model for suburban towns across the State, and that we should also be a model for engaging politics and productive civic involvement. Many of these changes will not come easily, I acknowledge, but these times demand hard choices, productive change and forward movement.

I know from the thousands of doorstep conversations I've had that Bethlehem is ready. But change can only happen with your continued involvement. Everyone should have the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue on town issues, and that's something I'm going to focus on because I believe it is the key to making Bethlehem the best community we can be.

Together, we have to move forward with real solutions without delay. The challenges we face require us to be bold and not timid in the face of tough choices. Bethlehem is too good a community to fail at these tasks. We are also too good a town to be anything less than exemplary in every conceivable way. Together, we can see to it that Bethlehem leads the state in innovation, productivity, ethics and citizen participation. We are up to it.

On a personal note, from my family to you and yours, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

A Swearing in Ceremony for Town Officials will be held Monday, January 2, 2012 at Bethlehem Town Hall (Auditorium), from **4:00 - 6:00** p.m.

The reception will feature light refreshments, and the Swearing In Ceremony will take place at 5:00 PM, including newly elected Town Supervisor John Clarkson, Town Board members Joann Dawson and Jeffrey Kuhn, Town Justice Mark S. Jordan, Town Clerk Nanci Moquin, Receiver of Taxes Nancy Mendick, and Highway Superintendent Gregg Sagendorph.

The public is invited to attend.

The January 3, 2012 meeting of the Planning Board has been postponed until after the Town Board's Organizational Meeting which is scheduled for January 11, 2012. The next Planning Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

The January 4, 2012 meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals has been postponed. The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

2012 Transition Committee Meetings for January

All meetings are held at Town Hall located at 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

Tuesday	January 3	Governance	7:30 a.m.
Monday	January 9	Senior Issues	7:30 a.m.
Tuesday	January 17	Police / Public Safety	7:30 a.m.
Monday	January 23	Shared Services	7:30 a.m.
Tuesday	January 31	Wrap-Up	7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the 2012 Transition Committee web page at <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/AdvisoryComs/adv2012Transition.asp>

Chief Accountant Wanted

The Town of Bethlehem, New York is seeking a Chief Accountant. The preferred candidate will have a thorough knowledge of accounting principles and procedures and ability to apply such knowledge to accounting transactions. The candidate is responsible for one or more aspects of the governmental accounting functions of the Comptroller's office. The candidate will be expected to monitor and control expenditures of funds, and perform budget accounting functions, including internal auditing of Town operations to insure budgetary compliance.

Minimum Requirements include: Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with at least a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, economics, finance, or business administration with a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours in accounting and four (4) years of full-time satisfactory employment as a professional accountant or auditor, included or supplemented by two (2) years of experience supervising accounting staff. A CPA is not required but is preferred.

Benefits include paid vacation, holidays, sick time, full medical and dental insurance, and New York State Retirement Program.

Please send your cover letter and resume by January 13, 2012 to Mary Tremblay-Glassman, Human Resource manager, 445 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054. To learn more about us, visit our website at www.townofbethlehem.org.

Water Treatment Plant Laborer Wanted

The Town of Bethlehem Department of Public Works is seeking a entry-level candidates to work at the Town's water treatment facilities. Primary duties include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Perform a wide variety of manual tasks at the water treatment plants such as loading and unloading of water treatment chemical, filter media. Cleaning and pumping of backwash lagoons, scrapping and painting of pipes, etc.
- Cut brush and mow along roadways and water facilities. Collect road debris such as branches and leaves from roadsides.
- Assist maintenance person with repairs and installation of equipment.
- Assist plant personnel with delivery and pick up of parts, materials and other related items.
- Perform cleaning and maintenance duties at the water treatment plants and other Town facilities.
- Perform grounds maintenance work such as landscaping, mowing and trimming lawns, lawn repair, chipping brush with chipper, trimming trees with chain saw, and removing trees.
- Plow, shovel and clear snow and ice from crosswalks, culverts, parking lots and driveways at the Towns water treatment plants, pumping stations, tank sites and well fields.
- Other duties as assigned by supervisors which may include trash removal, sidewalk sweeping, herbicide dunks, erecting snow fences, operating small machinery, maintenance of signs, etc.

Town benefits include paid vacation, holidays, sick time, medical and dental insurance, and New York State Retirement Programs.

Please send resume, completed employment application, and cover letter by Friday, January 13, 2012 to Mary Tremblay-Glassman, Human Resources, Town of Bethlehem, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054.

Recent Town Retirements



After nearly 40 years with the Parks and Recreation Department, Maintenance Superintendent Jim Reagan decided to retire. His depth of knowledge and task mastering capabilities will be greatly missed. Jim began his career on May 28, 1973, opening day of the Elm Avenue Park pool! After several summers as a lifeguard, he began full time work in the Maintenance Department and has since overseen the development of all 7 town parks. He has worked for seven park directors and nine town supervisors! You'll still see Jim around town serving in the Elsmere Fire District and playing keyboards with the "Playin' with Fire" band.



After nearly 38 years with the Town, Diane Busick of the Assessor's Office at Town Hall has retired. Her specialty was dealing with questions regarding exemptions for Seniors with great patience and helpfulness. Diane will enjoy retirement spending time with her husband Jim, her 2 daughters (Kim and Linda), 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren along with her beloved cat Louie. "I loved every minute being at Town Hall" she said.

Parks and Recreation Department News

2012 Winter/Spring Activity Registration

We are currently accepting 2012 winter / spring registrations. They can be submitted in person, over the phone or through our *online registration process*.

The 2012 Winter / Spring Park "Playbook" will provide you with our complete schedule of activities and special events. This brochure can also be accessed thru the town web site at:

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

Renew Your Pool Pass Online

Avoid waiting in lines and renew online 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. Please note that this renewal option is only for passes issued from 2008 and on.

ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PASS RENEWAL

Use your Household ID # and password to register for activities and renew your pool/golf pass. If you are new to online registration or have forgotten your ID # and Password, a link is available in the Online Registration System.

This ID # will be your permanent User Name for all future online registrations. You will now be able to:

- ~Register for activities from your home or office.
- ~Renew your pool and golf passes
- ~Receive e-mail confirmations of online registrations.
- ~View facility calendars to check date availability of rental pavilions

Go to www.townofbethlehem.org. Links are available from the home page of the Town website under Online Services and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Delmar Duathlon - NEW in 2012!

Sunday, April 22, 8:00 a.m. at Elm Avenue Park

This first ever event in the Town of Bethlehem will feature a 2 mile run followed by a 10 mile bike ride concluding with another 2 mile run. This special event is co-sponsored by the Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department and the Bethlehem area YMCA. For complete race details and registration information visit the Town of Bethlehem Special Events web Page: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/parksMain/parksEvents.asp>

SCREAMS Club – Evening at the YMCA

Students Craving Really Exciting Activities at the Middle School (SCREAMS)
Saturday, January 28 - 7:30-9:30 p.m. - Bethlehem Area YMCA

The Bethlehem Area YMCA will open its doors after their normal closing for 2 hours of fun and games for our SCREAMS Club. You will be able to take advantage of the Ice Rink w/free skate rentals while open gym play and the pool are also be open. 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, [Club membership is \\$10 and will provide you with a lower rate for each trip and up to date trip information though our direct email system.](#)

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 system <https://www.townofbethlehem.org/parksonline>.

Middle and High School Ski Club

Saturday, January 7 - [Bromley](#)

Saturday, January 21 - [Gore](#)



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.

Dog Park Tags for 2012



Tags for 2012 are \$30 and \$15 for dog owners who are senior citizens and are mandatory beginning January 1. Tags are only available at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

Apply for Summer Jobs Now

Apply For Summer Jobs Now Applications for summer jobs are now available at the Parks and Recreation office or you can download one from the town website at: <http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/forms/showforms.asp#Parks> All applications must be received by April 1, 2012. Job opportunities include: Lifeguard, Pool or Golf Course Attendant, Swim Instructor, Maintenance (park and golf course), Camp Counselor, Ranger, Office Clerk, and many other program leaders and supervisors.

News from the Receiver of Taxes

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

New York State law states that the **US Postmark** on an envelope determines the timeliness of a payment. If a payment envelope arrives with no US postmark, the law tells us that we must go by the date of when the envelope reaches us as the date of payment. Many of the bill paying companies mail by bulk mail and do not put a US Postmark on their envelopes. The lack of a US postmark on many of these payments can cause the homeowner to incur a penalty on their tax or water accounts.

If the due date has passed when a payment is received, penalties are assessed. For a tax payment, the law does not allow us to process a partial payment for taxes. If we were to receive a tax payment with no US postmark after the deadline, we need to return that payment and request the new amount which would include a penalty payment. Local law was changed a number of years ago to allow the Tax Office to accept partial payments for water payments. After the due date, if we receive a water payment with no US postmark, we process your check and assess the late penalty onto your next bill.

I encourage people paying their bills through these bill-paying systems to call their bank and see if the bank mails by bulk mail. If so, encourage them to mail these envelopes so that the PO adds a US postmark. If your bank uses bulk mail, we suggest you process your payment early to make sure that we receive it before the deadline (and hope it doesn't get lost in the mail). Water and tax payments that are received before the deadline are no problem and no penalties are assessed. With this knowledge, we hope that you never are charged a penalty.

To avoid ever paying a penalty, homeowners have the option to sign up for auto-pay program for payment for water/sewer and/or school and property taxes. Bill payments are automatically deducted from your designated bank account, instead of writing out a check each time the payment is due. The enrollment form may be printed from the [Town's web site](#), obtained from the [Receiver of Tax office](#) or from the back of the water bill for water auto-pay. If you want to use auto-pay for your next payment, you need to enroll 30 days before the bills are generated. After you enroll, you'll never have to worry about a deadline or penalty.

Please call Nancy Mendick, Receiver of Taxes, at 439-4955, ext. 1177 if you'd like more information on these topics.



Upcoming Local Blood Drives

Academy of the Holy Names, Friday, January 13
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
1075 New Scotland Ave, Albany

Delmar Reformed Church, Saturday, January 14
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

Voorheesville Fire Department, Saturday, January 14
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
12 Altamont Road, Voorheesville

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

H.E.A.P. Application Assistance 2011-2012 Heating Season

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

Outreach workers Jane Sanders, Will Vail and Alice Parker are available to assist residents of the Town of Bethlehem age 60 and over with H.E.A.P applications Monday through Friday by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 439-4955, #1173, #1174 or #1175. Documents to bring: ID, Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificate (if applicable), Social Security Cards, Shelter Expenses, and Proof of Income (last 4 weeks, 2 biweekly).

For persons under age 60, representatives are available to do HEAP applications on the following dates: Wednesdays, January 18th and February 15th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Town Hall. Available for all County residents regardless of age. (Appointments preferred, but not required.)

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

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

Senior Services News

Shopping Center Trip

Tuesday, January 17 to Walmart in Glenmont

Caregiver's Support Group

Wednesday, January 25

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.

Senior Legal Services Program

Thursday, January 12

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.

A.A.R.P. Tax Counseling Service

Bethlehem Senior Services will offer A.A.R.P.'s Income Tax Assistance Program on Wednesdays from February 8th through April 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., **by appointment**, at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue in Delmar.

After January 3, 2012, appointments may be made by calling 439-4955, #1176. Please bring copies of your 2010 Federal and State returns, your 2011 W-2 and 1099 forms and receipts for contributions, interest, medical bills, property and school tax receipts.

Perhaps your New Year's resolution is to begin attending a new program series that focuses on various health and wellness issues. Programs will be held on Fridays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., January through March, at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

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](#).

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 2011.

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

Old Electronics: Bring unwanted electronics to the Rupert Road Transfer Station for recycling (a small fee applies for some items), or save them to bring to the Town's free Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling event 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 other Recycling pages on this web site for donating all sorts of items.)

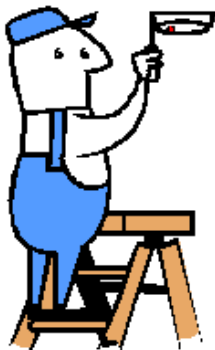
Shopping recycled: This can be done in the grocery store as well as the toy or department store. Look for recyclable packaging, items with less packaging or less non-recyclable packaging. Remember to bring your cloth bags to the store with you when shopping.

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](#).

News from BEMO
Bethlehem Emergency Management Office

The following is excerpted from a press release issued by the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). For a link to the SEMO web site along with other vital hazard information, please visit the [town's Emergency Management Office's web page](#).

NEW YORKERS WARNED OF DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent, deadly killer that claims about 1,000 lives each year in the United States.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can be produced by such common items as home heating systems, obstructed chimneys and automotive exhaust. The gas can also be produced by poorly vented generators, kerosene heaters, gas grills and other cooking and heating items when used improperly during the winter months.

Have a professional check out the furnace, woodstove and chimney to ensure that they are in good working order. Make sure the flue is clear.

Never run generators indoors and open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater.

Never use charcoal to cook indoors and never use a gas oven to heat the residence.

Most importantly, make sure that you have carbon monoxide, smoke and heat detectors properly installed in your home and test the batteries. The changing of the clocks on November 6 for the end of Daylight Saving Time is the perfect occasion to put new batteries in both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Also, have your motor vehicles thoroughly inspected before the start of the winter driving season, including their exhaust systems. As the weather turns colder, never run a motor vehicle in a closed garage.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, ventilate the area and get to a hospital.

It makes sense to prepare ourselves, our homes and our vehicles for winter now. That includes changing our mindset that we need to slow down on the road and drive according to the weather conditions.

Develop an emergency plan for home and at work, know who to call and where to go in case of emergency, prepare a portable cache of emergency supplies, and "winterize" vehicles.

Be aware of local weather conditions by listening to local television and radio stations or the NOAA Weather Radio and then plan activities accordingly.

When you go out, clean the vehicle completely of snow and ice, and always match your speed to road conditions.

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.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/safety-info/publicsafety/winter.cfm>.

Trees being trimmed by National Grid

National Grid will be working on their tree trimming from 12/19/11 through 4/1/2012 in the Bethlehem area.

National Grid has been reaching out, through mailers, and door-to-door (Nelson Tree Service) to residents who may be affected by this process, to address any concerns of the residents.

Bethlehem Police Animal Control finds Golden Retriever mix dog

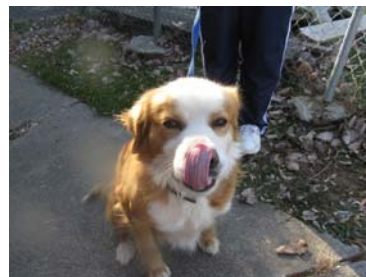
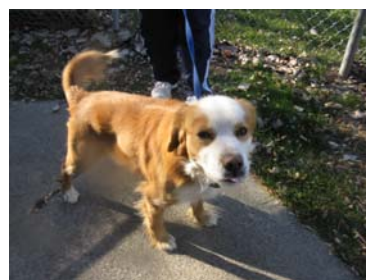
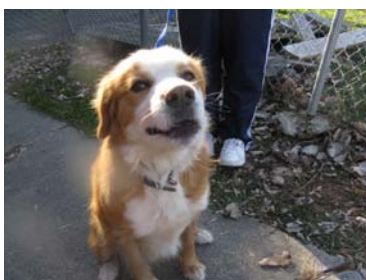
Looking for owner of found dog

Available for adoption on 1/3

Male, tan/white, approximately 1-3 years of age, golden retriever mix, found 12/28/2011 near 645 Elm Avenue in Selkirk

Very friendly, collar but no tags

If the owner does not claim the dog before January 3, 2012, he will be available for adoption. If you are or know the owner, please contact Bethlehem Animal Control at 439-9973. **If he is not adopted by 2/3/2012, he will be euthanized.**



A Great New Year's Resolution!

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

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



Facts About Donation

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

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

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

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

All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





REMINDER: Every year, the town has a "NO PARKING" ordinance that **begins on November 1** and continues through April 15. The law prohibits vehicles from parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Vehicles parked in violation of the "NO PARKING" ordinance may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.



Albany County News



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. 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.



Did You Know?



- If you have a question to Town government or operations, you can visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) on our web site to look for quick references.



We'd like to hear from you

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

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