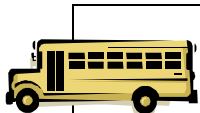




# Bethlehem Township Newsletter

March 2009



## SCHOOL ELECTION

Community Center  
April 21, 7:00 am to 9:00 pm

## PRIMARY ELECTION

Community Center  
June 2, 6:00 am to 8:00 pm



At the county level, four Board of Education (BoE) seats are open and four candidates have filed to run for election, three of them being incumbents. The budget, which decreases spending by \$98,000, will also be voted on. Bethlehem Township residents will save \$8.60 for every \$100,000 appraised value or their home. The budget can be reviewed online at [www.nhvweb.net/budget](http://www.nhvweb.net/budget) and will be presented at the following meetings:

- ü Tues., March 31, 7:00 pm in North Hunterdon High School Media Center
- ü Mon., April 6, 7:00 pm at Conley School (Bethlehem Township PTA)
- ü Wed., April 8, 2:00 pm at Valley View School (Lebanon Township PTA)
- ü Wed., April 8, 7:00 pm in the Voorhees High School cafeteria

At the township level, three BoE seats and the budget will be on the ballot: The BoE is proposing a \$280,000 budget increase. This would mean a \$52.70 increase in taxes for every \$100,000 of assessed home value. The budget proposal is not available online, though a brief flyer is available at [www.btschools.org/btsd/lib/btsd/Budget\\_Flyer\\_3\\_3\\_17\\_09.pdf](http://www.btschools.org/btsd/lib/btsd/Budget_Flyer_3_3_17_09.pdf). (Note the use of "\_" eight times in the address. If you have problems, navigate from [www.btschools.org/btsd](http://www.btschools.org/btsd).) To view the entire proposal, please go to the superintendent's office at Conley School (940 Iron Bridge Rd. in Asbury). For questions, you can call the superintendent at 537-4044. There will be a special BoE meeting March 30th at 8:00 pm in the Conley School Music Room to finalize the budget proposal.

Here are the dates you need to keep in mind when getting ready to vote at the school elections:

- ü Last Day to Register to Vote..... March 31
- ü Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot by Mail..... April 14
- ü Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot in Person ..... April 20, 3:00 pm

If you're not registered to vote, or if you are registered but need to change your name or address, download the form you need from [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/voterregapp.pdf](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/voterregapp.pdf). High school students who are turning 18 can register at school March 25 to 27 during lunch periods in Junior/Senior cafeteria.

In this election, we'll select candidates to run for Township Committee. In NJ, if you declared a party affiliation when you registered to vote, or if you have previously voted in a primary election, you can only vote the ballot for the party to which you committed. You can change your affiliation to "undeclared", and then, while at the polls, choose which ballot you want to vote. Keep in mind that selecting a ballot sets your affiliation, so you need to resubmit this form after every primary. Get the Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form online at [www.njelections.org/form\\_pdf/Party\\_Affiliation\\_form-2.15.08.pdf](http://www.njelections.org/form_pdf/Party_Affiliation_form-2.15.08.pdf). (You can also use this form to change your affiliation to one of the major parties.)

Here are the important dates you need to keep in mind:

- ü Last Day to Change Party Affiliation..... April 13
- ü Last Day to Register to Vote..... May 12
- ü Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot by Mail..... May 26
- ü Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot in Person ..... June 1, 3:00 pm



## THERE'S NO EXCUSE NOT TO VOTE!

"No Excuse" Absentee Voting

New Jersey has a "no excuse" absentee voting policy, so you don't need an "excuse" to vote by absentee ballot. Get an absentee ballot and return it, in person or by mail, at your convenience. You can get an absentee ballot application by downloading the form appropriate for you, either [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/civilian.pdf](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/civilian.pdf) if you're a civilian or [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/military.pdf](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/military.pdf) if you're in the military.

If you don't have computer access, or you can't print from your computer, there's still "no excuse"! Call the County Clerk at 788-1214 and have the appropriate form(s) mailed to you. You can submit the completed forms in person or mail them back. Just follow the instructions on each form and keep in mind the deadlines listed on this page. You will need one ballot for each election you vote absentee.



### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Hunterdon County Transfer Station  
Saturdays, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

The Hunterdon County Transfer Station, located at 10 Petticoat Lane in Annandale, is open to Hunterdon County residents to dispose of bulky household trash Saturdays from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. You must be a private individual, using a privately licensed passenger or farm vehicle under 8,000 pounds gross weight.

Keep in mind that the transfer station does not supply help with the off-loading. There is a fee (\$22 for cars, \$32 for trucks, and \$10 for trailers), which must be paid in cash

Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners need a Freon removal certification. Construction debris must be in 4' sections or shorter. Liquids, hazardous waste, leaves, and grass clippings are not accepted.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP

Hunterdon County Complex, Garage  
July 11 and November 14, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Hunterdon County is conducting hazardous waste cleanups at the County Complex, on Route 12 in Flemington. They will accept motor oil, anti-freeze, fire extinguishers, and batteries (automotive and household) without limit. They will accept the following up to 10 gallons or 80 pounds only:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Aerosol Cans       | Insecticides           |
| Anti-freeze        | Kerosene               |
| Asbestos Pipe Wrap | Latex Paint            |
| Batteries          | Mercury                |
| Diesel Fuel        | Oil Based Paint        |
| Drain Cleaner      | Paint Thinner          |
| Fluorescent tubes  | Pesticides             |
| Fuel Oil/Sludge    | Photographic Chemicals |
| Gas/Oil Mix        | Pool Chemicals         |
| Gasoline           | Varnish/Stains         |
| Herbicides         |                        |

Sorry, they will be unable to accept empty containers (which should be recycled), explosives, PCBs, pentachlorophenol, radioactive materials, or silvex. If you need more information, call 788-1110.

Attend a free seminar on estate planning and elder law, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at the North County Branch Library, 65 Halstead St. in Clinton. Register from [www.hclibrary.us/programpage.htm](http://www.hclibrary.us/programpage.htm).

### HOUSEHOLD WASTE CLEANUP



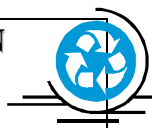
Municipal Garage  
April 25, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

In an effort to keep from raising taxes, we'll only have one cleanup this year, so start cleaning now! Bring your non-hazardous household waste and brush tied into 4' lengths to the Municipal Garage. We can also accept up to 4 tires per household, each removed from the rim. Sorry, no contractor's waste, auto parts, tree stumps, rock, or dirt can be accepted.

Remember that proof of residency is required. Handicapped residents and Senior Citizens living alone, please call the Municipal Clerk at 735-4107, ext. 101 to make special arrangements.


### RECYCLABLES COLLECTION

Municipal Garage  
Hunterdon County Transfer Station



The township Public Works Department collects aluminum cans; steel cans; clear, green, and brown glass; #1 and #2 plastics; dry cell/household batteries (bagged); newspaper (cross-tied with string); and corrugated cardboard (flattened). This service is provided free to Township residents. All you have to do is rinse your cans, glass, and plastic and deposit them in the appropriate bins at the Municipal Garage, Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The county collects aluminum cans only, cardboard (tied or boxed), chipboard, brown paper bags, glass bottles and jars, soft and hard covered books, phone books, junk mail, office paper, newspaper (tied with string), plastics bottles (#1 through #7), tin and bi-metal cans, and dry cell batteries (bagged). Bring all items to the Transfer Station, at 10 Petticoat Lane in Annandale, from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday or 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

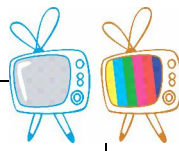


**USED CLOTHING ROUNDUP**  
Municipal Building Parking Lot  
April 29 and September 30, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pack up unwanted but wearable men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes, boots, ties, and handbags. Add your unneeded linens, stuffed animals, and baby gear to the roundup! Bring those strollers, car seats, bath inserts, tricycles, bouncers and small swings when you visit the Household Waste Cleanup! Our schools directly benefit from your donations, which help those less fortunate than you. Please pack everything that fits in plastic bags and ask for a tax receipt, if you need one. Contact Laurie Keefe at 479-1272 for more information.

## ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL

Hunterdon County Complex, Garage  
June 10, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Up to 10 pieces of electronics that contain circuit boards will be accepted. This includes items such as computers, monitors, speakers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, CD players, FAX machines, stereo equipment, radios, cell phones, and cordless phones.

## ELECTRONIC GEAR TRADE-IN

Get Credit for Your Unwanted Electronics



Now you can conscientiously dispose of your unwanted electronics and earn credit towards something new. Radio Shack has a program that allows consumers to appraise their unwanted items, ship them free of charge, and receive a gift card towards a future purchase. Items covered MP3 players, HDTVs, GPS devices, phones, cameras, camcorders, car audio components, laptops, game media, game consoles, and monitors. To participate, go to [www.radioshack.com/tradein](http://www.radioshack.com/tradein).

## PROPANE TANK DISPOSAL

Hunterdon County Complex, Garage



The date for the propane tank disposal has not been scheduled yet. Please check the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority website at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/solidwaste.htm) over the summer.

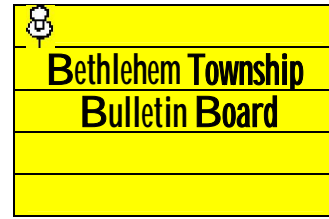
## RECHARGEABLE BATTERY RECYCLING

An Industry Sponsored Solution



The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) is a non-profit, public service organization, founded by the rechargeable battery industry in 1994. Its mission is to promote the recycling of used rechargeable batteries found in many cordless consumer products such as phones, laptop computers, power tools, camcorders, and two-way radios. In pursuit of its mission to prevent rechargeable batteries from entering the solid waste stream, RBRC also collects old cell phones. Recycling centers include stores like Home Depot, Lowes, Radio Schack, Sears, and Target. Most cell phone stores also participate. To find a recycling center near your home or office, go to [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org).

Batteries can be recycled at any Sears store. When you bring a riding mower battery for recycling, Sears will issue you a \$10 credit towards a replacement battery.



## Department of Public Works

Used motor oil can be disposed of at the Municipal Garage, where it will be used to generate heat. A sign is posted on the garage wall to indicate the drop-off location.

In front of the garage, you will find a large dumpster for collecting scrap steel items, such as old washers and dryers. There is no charge for this service.



## BT PTA

Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Tricky Tray will be held, Friday, May 1 at Conley School. Enjoy a night of fun, food, and friends. Bid on Longaberger, themed prizes, and golf and vacation packages

Our schools are taking part in a fundraising program sponsored by Tyson Foods. Each Tyson's label submitted is worth 24 cents! For more information, visit [ProjectAPlus.tyson.com](http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com).

Box Tops for Education, sponsored by General Mills, provides 10 cents per label submitted. They also have an online marketplace that benefits our schools and some nice family resources. Visit their website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and save those labels!

Scrip gift certificates and gift cards are available for hundreds of local merchants and our schools receive a portion of all purchases! Now you can purchase online and get a free Regal Movie certificate the first time you use the new Presto Pay system. Shop online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and use our code: E2L5CFE215315.



## Recreation Committee

Ladies, are you ready for a fun night out? Come and play some noncompetitive volleyball at Hoppock School. We play Wednesday nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm. You must be 18 or older to join us. If you're interested please contact Liz at 730-8593 or Sandi at 303-3134.



## School District

The School District has gone paperless! To get important information about our schools, follow the "Backpack Mail" link at [www.btschools.org](http://www.btschools.org).



### SPRING TIPS

- **Secure Garbage Can Lids**  
Make sure lids are on tight especially on windy pick up days. Garbage can blow for miles, and end up in our pristine streams and eventually the Musconetcong River.
- **Clean Up Roadsides**  
This spring, let's all make an effort to clean up the roadsides immediately near our own homes. Let's all keep Bethlehem Township clean!
- **Use Eco-Friendly Driveway Sealants**  
According to the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions ([www.anjec.org](http://www.anjec.org)), driveway sealers with coal tar contain volatile components which evaporate and, as the surface wears, harsh particles known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) wash into our waterways and damage aquatic ecosystems. If you seal your driveway, please use an asphalt-based product, which releases far fewer PAHs.
- **Be Bear Aware**  
Never feed bears; put garbage cans out the morning of collection – not the night before; avoid feeding birds between April 1 – December 1, when bears are more active; do not put meat or sweets in compost piles; do not feed pets outside; clean outdoor grills after use.
- **Use Less Pesticides And Fertilizers**  
Children and pets are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of pesticides and fertilizers. Remember that these products may be carried into your home by shoes, paws, and breezes. They also run off yards and enter our streams.
- **Support Local Agriculture**  
Shop for fresh produce at some of the many farm stands, located in and around our township. Edible Jersey ([www.ediblejersey.com](http://www.ediblejersey.com)) will soon contain lists of local farm markets and pick-your-own farms. Join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group and pick up a variety of fresh organic produce weekly from May to October. Local CSAs include Central Valley Farm ([www.centralvalleyfarm.org](http://www.centralvalleyfarm.org)), and Asbury's Natural Village Farm ([www.asburyfarm.org](http://www.asburyfarm.org)).

### RECYCLING UPDATES

Recycling is not only a good idea, it's the law. NJ mandates that 50% of solid waste from every municipality be recycled. Hunterdon County, with 26 municipalities and 26 approaches to recycling, currently achieves 21%. County officials are updating the Recycling Plan, established in 1987. Stay tuned for update. In the mean time, please recycle!



### SEPTIC SYSTEM REMINDERS

- Septic tanks must be pumped and/or inspected every 2 to 5 years, or they will eventually fail. Even if the system appears to be working well, sludge can build up and untreated wastewater can be released into the ground causing groundwater pollution. Solids entering the laterals can damage the system, leading to expensive repairs or even replacement. Costs of \$30,000 are common in these cases.
- Do not put coffee grounds, cigarette butts, feminine hygiene products, fats, oils, or anything that will not decompose into the system.
- Do not use septic system additives. They do not improve the system and can damage it by causing solids to flush out into the absorption field leading to expensive repairs/replacement of the septic system.
- Minimize or eliminate the use of bleaches and drain cleaners because they can kill the bacteria that help break down the solids in the tank.

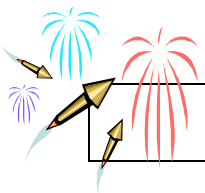
### NJ HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT



The Highlands Act was enacted to preserve the environmental characteristics which allow the area to supply over half of NJ's population with its drinking water. According to the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) ([www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/master/rmp/final/highlands\\_rmp\\_112008.pdf](http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/master/rmp/final/highlands_rmp_112008.pdf)) all of the township's 13,310 acres are within the Highlands designated area:

- 91% of the township is within the Highlands *Preservation Area*, which has regulations that limit the scale and type of development, which must conform with the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP). Proposed permits and plans are reviewed by the Highlands Council;
- 9% of the township (the land bounded by SR-173, D-Hull Rd, the Musconetcong River, and Asbury-West Portal Road) is designated as a Highlands *Planning Area*, where conformance to the RMP is voluntary and development is less restrictive.

Most of the township's *Planning Area* land has other environmental constraints, such as the 300' stream preservation buffer zones, or has been permanently preserved as Open Space or Farmland. To avoid having two sets of requirements, the Mayor has created a committee to review the issues and impacts of placing the entire township within the *Preservation Area*. The Planning Board is developing a revised Master Plan, which could be submitted to the Highlands Council. Public comment is welcome.



## RECREATION COMMITTEE

Expanding Its Horizons

The Recreation Committee is actively looking for members and volunteers. We plan events for people of all ages: sports programs, exercise programs, the fall festival with fireworks, the senior's organization luncheon, and more. This year we are looking to expand our programs. With the new pavilion being built at Heritage Park, we are anticipating more and larger events. We need organizers and help in running the following events: Movies in the Park, Bus Trips, Bingo, Car Show, Sports Camps, Adult Sports, Art Show, and more.

The Fall Festival with Fireworks is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009 with a rain date of Sunday, October 4, 2009. We plan to make it an even bigger event this year that in any previous year. As always, volunteers are welcome and needed.

Attend our monthly meetings, held the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00 pm in the Community. For more details, please contact [keefe397@embarqmail.com](mailto:keefe397@embarqmail.com) or visit our website [www.freewebs.com/btrec](http://www.freewebs.com/btrec) for more details.



## SPRING CAN MEAN POWER OUTAGES

Register Private Wells and Life-Support Equipment



Jersey Central Power & Light (JCPL) has two programs to assist customers during prolonged power outages. For more information, call 1-800-662-3115:

- ▲ If you depend on a private well, JCPL will notify you where to get water and ice if an outage is expected to last more than a day.
- ▲ If a household member uses an electric life-support device, JCPL will notify you and the township of projected extended outages.



## COMMUNITY ALERT NETWORK

Register Your Unlisted Phone Number

Hunterdon County is part of the Community Alert Network (CAN), an emergency notification system that provides the ability to get critical information to large numbers of people in a short period of time. If your phone number is listed, you're covered. If you have an unlisted number, send your name, address, and phone number to [hccan@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:hccan@co.hunterdon.nj.us) or call 788-1196 with your request. Get further details at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/hccan.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/hccan.htm).



## FORECLOSURE HELP

State Programs Available

The state has many programs to help homeowners and renters who could be impacted by a foreclosure. Now there's an organization that brings these resources together. They're called NJ Home Ownership Preservation Effort (NJ HOPE). Contact them at 1-888-995-HOPE or see their website at [www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope](http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope).

For an excellent overview of several programs, complete with phone numbers of people who can help, download NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency "Foreclosure Fast Facts" from [www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention\\_resources.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf). Finally, for homeowners currently in foreclosure proceedings, NJ has a Foreclosure Mediation Program.. You can visit their website at, [www.nj.gov/foreclosuremediation/resources.html](http://www.nj.gov/foreclosuremediation/resources.html) or contact them by phone at 1-888-989-5277.



## NJ RESCUE & RECOVERY K-9 UNIT

Providing Missing Person Response

The NJ Rescue & Recovery K-9 Unit (NJRRK9) functions as an integral part of the emergency response team. The dogs and handlers undergo continuous training to maintain "mission ready" status. They are able to respond to these searches:

- wilderness area, looking for victims, even after grid teams and neighbors have searched
- land cadaver, looking for victims above ground or buried
- water cadaver, looking for victims in rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks
- disaster and Urban Search & Rescue (USAR), looking for victims trapped in confined spaces

All K-9 handlers serve on a volunteer basis. If this sounds like a service you'd like to perform, or to get further information, please send an email to [dreniuk@comcast.net](mailto:dreniuk@comcast.net). (Donations are gratefully accepted. NJRRK9 is a tax-exempt organization and contributions are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.) Send donations to 211 Gross Dr., Glen Gardner, NJ 08826.

Dogs and cats must be licensed by January 31st. Send proof of rabies vaccine (valid through November 1<sup>st</sup>) and spaying/neutering if appropriate, with a self-addressed stamped envelope and the fee (\$11/\$8 if spayed/neutered) to License Official, 405 Mine Road, Asbury, NJ 08802.