



Bethlehem Township Newsletter

December 2009

TOWNSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Annual Appointments

The following positions are open for appointment in January. All interested residents are encouraged to forward a letter of interest, along with a resume (if available) to the Municipal Clerk, 405 Mine Road, Asbury, NJ 08802 by December 31. It's people like you who make this a great place to live. Please consider serving your community in one of these areas.

Board of Health	31 December 2012
Board of Health	31 December 2012
Board of Health, Alternate #1	31 December 2011
Board of Health, Alternate #2	31 December 2010
Clean Communities Coordinator	31 December 2010
Municipal Alliance Coordinator	31 December 2010
Planning Board, Alternate #3 (mayoral appt.)	31 December 2010
Planning Board, Alternate #4 (mayoral appt.)	31 December 2011
Public Information Committee	31 December 2010
Public Information Committee	31 December 2010
Recreation Commission	31 December 2012
Recreation Commission	31 December 2012
Recreation Commission, Alternate #2	31 December 2010
Recycling Committee, SWAC Liaison	31 December 2010
Board of Health	31 December 2012
Board of Health	31 December 2012
Board of Health, Alternate #1	31 December 2011
Board of Health, Alternate #2	31 December 2010
Clean Communities Coordinator	31 December 2010

LEAF AND SNOW REMOVAL

Township Employees on Our Roads

To keep our roadways safe, the Bethlehem Township Department of Public Works will remove leafs and snow from our roadways and drainage areas. When clearing your property, please refrain from placing leafs, snow, or ice onto our roads. Also, please keep our municipal employees safe by watching out for them while you drive!

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Public Meetings at the Community Center
1st Wednesday, Monthly at 7:30pm



The Recreation Committee plans events for all ages. We run sports programs for kids and adults. We have exercise programs, a senior's organization, and a Community Day with fireworks. We have a park that will have a pavilion soon for all to enjoy – picnics, card games, dances and maybe even bingo. We're hoping to have a Cruise Night, an Art Show, Movies in the Park, and maybe a flea market!

What are your suggestions? Grab your thoughts, ideas, friends, and family and attend any of the monthly discussions. For individual events, we welcome the help of scouts, confirmation students, and high school youth looking to perform a community service.

The Hunterdon County Office on Aging sponsors many programs to help seniors. For full details, visit their website at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/seniors.htm. For a list of "Hot Topics", visit the county's Division of Senior Services website at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/interest.htm.

THERE'S NO EXCUSE NOT TO VOTE!

Vote by Mail



The New Jersey 2009 Vote by Mail Law modifies our previous "no excuse" absentee voting policy. The Absentee Ballot has been renamed the Vote by Mail Ballot. Don't worry, you still don't need an "excuse" to vote by absentee ballot, but you now need to reapply every year, or every election, whichever you choose. Get your absentee ballot, with filing instructions, at njelections.org/form_pdf/application-for-vote-by-mail-ballot-102209-hunterdon.pdf.

If you don't have computer access, or you can't print from your computer, there's still "no excuse" to keep you from voting by mail! Call the County Clerk at 788-1214 and have the appropriate form mailed to you. You can submit the completed forms in person or mail them back. Instructions are contained on the form.



COMMUTERS TOOLS

Information to Keep Your Commute Under Control

Two free resources are available to you, made possible by the NJ Dept. of Transportation.

- HART provides bus and train schedules, carpool help, and real time commuter alerts. Check out their website at www.hart-tma.com. To start receiving customized alerts to your phone, PDA, or email, click on their "Sign Up for FREE Alert Here!" button. The LINK schedule changed in July, so you might want to click on their "FREE INFORMATION FORM" button to get a new one.
- NJ511: Just call 511 from any phone or browse www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/511/conditions.shtm?region=1 to find out about current road conditions. (Remember, it's now illegal to use your cell phone while you drive unless you have a hands-free device.) You can also subscribe to 511 Alerts to have alerts for up to 3 road segments sent to you.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REMINDERS

Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind

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, which could contaminate your well water. Solids entering the laterals can damage the system, leading to expensive repairs or even replacement. Keep these points in mind at all times:

- Do not put coffee grounds, cigarette butts, feminine hygiene products, fats, oils, or anything that will not decompose into the 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.

PARENT-TOT TIME

Community Center
3rd Wednesday, Monthly at 9:30am

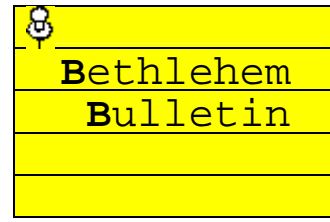
Come sing, dance, rhyme and listen to stories with Gail Coe former Conley Kindergarten Teacher. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month through June 2010. Children from birth to four and their parents are invited to attend. Bring a mat or a blanket. For more information email Gail Coe at mgailcoe@comcast.net or give her a call at 537-2525.

HUNTERDON HELPLINE

Celebrating 40 Years



The Hunterdon Helpline provides a multitude of services, including a suicide hotline, an emergency homeless shelter, and answers to government services questions. You can reach them at 800-272-4630 or online at www.helplinehc.org.



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

From December 28 to January 30, the Public Works Department will accept natural Christmas trees, free of ornaments and tinsel, for recycling. Sorry, wreaths and garland cannot be accepted at this time.



BT PTA

Please help our schools by saving labels. We're taking part in two fundraising programs. One is sponsored by Tyson Foods and each Tyson's label is worth 24 cents! For more information, visit www.tyson.com/projectaplus. The other is sponsored by General Mills. Each "Boxtop for Education" label provides our schools with 10 cents. General Mills has a website located at www.boxtops4education.com with many family resources and an online marketplace that also benefits our schools. Save those labels!



Zoning Official

A zoning permit is required for all new structures and exterior modifications to existing structures. To guide you through the process, the steps involved in the process is posted on our website at [bethlehemnj.org/Forms/Zoning Permit.pdf](http://bethlehemnj.org/Forms/Zoning%20Permit.pdf).

Licensing Official



Dogs and cats must be licensed by January 31st. Send proof of rabies vaccine (valid through next November 1st) 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. Check out the county's website for free rabies vaccinations clinics www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health/rabiesclinics.htm#clinics.



Tax Assessor

The Tax Assessor's office location and hours have changed. Eloise Hagaman's office is now located in the Community Center and her office hours are Tuesday 10 am - noon and by appointment.



RECYCLING UPDATE

Resources Available to Township Residents

Recycling is vital to our future, and it's the law. NJ mandates that 50% of solid waste from every municipality be recycled. Hunterdon County has yet to meet that goal. Please start or redouble your household recycling plan today! The best way to recycle is through the curbside collection from your trash service.

- Contact your collector for details on what they will accept and when.
- The Township Garage (405 Mine Road, Asbury) accepts recycling Monday to Saturday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Items collected are clear glass, brown glass, green glass, aluminum, tin, bundled newspapers, junk mail and magazines, cardboard, plastics with a number from 1 to 2 stamped next to the recycle symbol, clean waste oil, scrap steel. Please keep everything separated and rinse food and beverage containers.
- The County Transfer Station (10 Petticoat Lane, Annandale) accepts recycling weekdays from 7:00am to 4:30pm and Saturdays from 7:00am to 1:00pm. Items collected are aluminum beverage cans, corrugated cardboard (tied/boxed), chipboard, brown paper bags, plastic bottles with the number 1 to 7 stamped next to the recycle symbol, glass bottles and jars (rings/caps removed), all books, mail and unshredded office paper (tied/boxed), newspaper (tied), tin and bi-metal cans, and dry cell batteries



ADVANCED RECYCLING

Everything You Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask



Are you ready to take your recycling to the next level? Here are some ideas that go beyond bottles and cans. For example, when you take your Christmas tree down this year, bring it to the Municipal Garage to be chipped and shredded for re-use, then send in those incandescent lights for recycling and get 15% off a new set of LED lights, which are safer, last longer, and use less energy. How about getting money to recycle that old sewing machine taking up space in your basement? Scan this list and see if you can step up your recycling efforts!

- Smoke detectors: Check with your manufacturer. Some models can be returned, others need to be disposed of with hazardous materials because they contain americium 241.
- Fluorescent light bulbs: These contain mercury, which is a hazardous material. The new compact fluorescent lights (CFL) can be recycled through a program at Home Depot. Put them in a plastic bag and deposit the bag in the CFL recycle bin by the returns desk. Home Depot will recycle the bulbs and the bags! The old tubes need to be wrapped in newspaper or the original container and disposed of with hazardous waste.
- Propane tanks: Most refilling stations will use your old tank, so just keep reusing it. When you have to retire an old one, contact your natural gas supply company. They will take them free of charge, even if they are rusted or leaky.
- Sewing machines: You remember "Cash for Clunkers", with all of those old cars being turned into scrap metal? You can do the same with your old sewing machine. Bring it anywhere that takes scrap metal -- and you get paid for it!
- Plastic toiletries: Toothbrushes, razors, and soap dispensers can be recycled with all your other plastics. (Sorry, the plastic toothpaste tubes are not recyclable.)
- Aluminum toothpaste tubes: Put these in with your recycle cans. You don't even need to clean them out!
- Spiral notebooks: If the cover is plastic, remove it, otherwise, just toss your spiral notebooks in with your paper recyclables.
- Zippered plastic bags: As long as they are clean and dry, just cut off the zipper part and recycle them with your plastic grocery bags.
- Incandescent holiday lights: Send your old lights to HolidayLEDs.com, Attention: Recycling Program, 118 Rosehill Dr. - Suite 1, Jackson MI 49202. Include your name and email address and you will receive a coupon for 15% off a purchase of LED lights, which use 90% less energy, are safer, and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs! (This offer ends on Feb. 28, 2010.)
- Office envelopes: Standard envelopes, even with plastic windows, FedEx envelopes, FedEx Paks, and Jiffy Paks can be recycled with other papers. Only goldenrod (yellow) and padded envelopes cannot be recycled.
- Pizza boxes: Rip away any soiled areas and recycle the rest with your other corrugated cardboard.
- Prescription eyeglasses: The Lions Club provides eye exams and eyeglasses to 3rd world nations. Send your unused glasses to NJ Lions, P.O. Box 7263, West Trenton, NJ 08628
- Aluminum foil: Even if you call it tin foil, it is aluminum, so rinse it off and set it out with your cans.
- Umbrellas: If it's metal, take the fabric and handle off, then put it in with your cans.
- Refrigerators/Freezers: As Jersey Central Power & Light customers, we qualify for the Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program, an initiative from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. This program promotes responsible recycling of refrigerators and freezers in New Jersey and offers a \$30 cash incentive and pickup service. Visit Jaco Environmental at <https://www.jacoinc.net/weborder/rebatex.aspx?ProgramID=73> or call them at 877-270-3520.