

# City of Bethlehem



Photo by: Marty Desilets

## 275th Anniversary

It may be hard to believe, but in 2016 our prized City of Bethlehem will be celebrating 275 years of history and progress. We have been lucky to watch Bethlehem grow, change and develop since its founding in 1741 and we look forward to many more years of pride and success.

To honor our City's 275th year, the City is planning festivities and programs throughout 2016-2017.

We are hard at work developing ideas and programs to celebrate this milestone occasion. They include the Legacy Project which will honor the fallen soldiers who died

in our City during the Revolutionary War, a book of Bethlehem's history from the 1920s to the present, our Hall of Fame honoring living residents of Bethlehem who have risen to national or international fame, and other community events designed to celebrate Bethlehem and its people.

Please take a moment to browse through the website at [www.bethlehemanniversary.com](http://www.bethlehemanniversary.com) to get more information about the many upcoming events. We will be adding more information as the events develop.

### Community Celebration

At the SteelStacks Campus

Admission FREE

June 25, 2016

- 11:00 am— Opening Ceremonies
- 11:45 am—Debut of the PBS documentary about the Liberty High School Grenadier Band
- 12:30 pm - Community group performances and Hall of Fame
- 4:00 pm—Bethlehem's *National Achievement* Hall of Fame Ceremony
- 6:30 pm—Cunningham and Associates on the Levitt Stage
- 8:00 pm—Levitt Stage Main Show
- 9:30 pm—Fireworks



Photo credit: Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites

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# What's Happening in Bethlehem



Dear Friends,

It has been an eventful past year and I look forward to expanding on many of our successes.

## Open Door Policy

This year I have continued my Open Door Policy where I meet one-on-one with residents to discuss their concerns. Topics have ranged from streets, development projects and housing and code issues. Open Door Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 9 a.m.—11 a.m. and 1 p.m.—3 p.m. No appointment is required.

## Dare to Care

Three community walks are scheduled throughout the year bringing me and City staff to Bethlehem neighborhoods. It allows citizens to directly voice their concerns regarding their community.

We provide evaluations of their properties bringing attention to potential code violations and

distribute smoke detectors if needed. Each community walk is followed by a neighborhood block watch meeting where residents can again voice their concerns to me and the City's staff. Please keep an eye on the City's website for details.

## City's Website

The City's website [www.bethlehem-pa.gov](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov) has been updated. Citizens can sign up to receive email alerts about issues of public concern.

If you haven't already, please go to the City's website and register for these alerts.

Have a Safe and Healthy Summer!

Robert Donchez  
Mayor

## Northampton County DCED

### Household Hazardous Waste Events

May 21 & October 8, 2016, 8:30-2:00

Northampton County residents ONLY

Location: Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Rd, Bethlehem

No cost, except for tires. No electronics accepted

(Tire fees: \$2 / car tire including rim; \$7/ tractor-trailer tire; \$25/tractor tire )

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ACCEPTED

Adhesives	Flammables/ combustibles	Oil-based paint & stain
Aerosols	Fluorescent light bulbs	Old gasoline/oil mix- tures
Antifreeze	Herbicides/pesticides	Pool chemicals
Automotive fluids & cleaners	Household cleaners	Propane cylinders
Batteries (all types)	Mercury-containing products	Thermometers
Compressed gas	Motor oil/filters	Thermostats
Fire extinguishers		

Questions call Ken Zinis at 610-829-6313 / [kzinis@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:kzinis@northamptoncounty.org)

## Bethlehem Small Business Loan Fund

*The Rising Tide Community Loan Fund is a non-profit, federally certified Community Development Financial Institution which provides funding and technical assistance to eligible businesses. We offer a variety of loan products including the Bethlehem Small Business Loan Fund. We are often more flexible than traditional funding sources in terms of industry type, credit scores and collateral requirements. Start-ups are encouraged to apply.*

For information call  
484-893-1039

**2016 SPRING YARD  
WASTE COLLECTION  
MAY 9-13 & MAY 16-20**

Your material will be collected the same day of the week as your recycling but during the opposite week of your recycling.

**Materials accepted:**

leaves, small brush, hedge/shrub trimmings

**Materials not accepted:**

grass, hay, stumps, materials not bagged, bundled or containerized, or items exceeding length, width or weight restrictions listed below.

**Requirements:**

- All materials must be placed curbside the night before your collection day.
- Only one pass-thru will be made for each street.
- All items must be in either brown paper bags, rigid containers of 30 gallons or less or bundled with string (no tape or rope).
- No items over 4 inches in diameter or 4 feet in length.

RECYCLING DATE	YARD WASTE DATE
May 9	May 16
May 10	May 17
May 11	May 18
May 12	May 19
May 13	May 20
May 16	May 9
May 17	May 10
May 18	May 11
May 19	May 12
May 20	May 13

# City Safety Report

Every spring, when the flowers come out, so do SCAMS. Most of these scams are perpetrated on elderly citizens. The following is a brief list of the most common types.

**The Chimney Sweep Scam**

You will receive a call about getting your chimney cleaned. The suspect will then come to your house, telling you that your fuel company told them to clean the chimney. You are shown false photos of your broken chimney. You pay for work which is never done.

**The Distraction Burglary**

The most common types are the property line dispute and the utility company scam. The suspects will come to your house and tell you about a neighbor's home improvement or utility work in the neighborhood. The suspect will get you out of your house while another suspect enters and steals cash, jewelry, etc. Sometimes, the suspect will get the citizen to go down to the basement with them to check the pipes. While down there, another suspect will go through the house; either way you are robbed.

**The Phone Scam**

A suspect will call you late at night. They will say they are the Police, FBI, Bank, grandson, family member. A story will be told. You will be asked for credit info, Social Security Number, bank info, access codes, or to wire money somewhere to help.

**The Paving Scam**

A suspect will knock on your door. They will tell you they did a job on another street and have left over asphalt and will fix your driveway for cheap. They will spray the driveway with some type of black substance which does nothing. They charge hundreds of dollars for this.

**The Lottery Scam**

You receive a phone call or email that you have won millions in a lottery. All you have to do is contact a person and pay a few hundred dollars in taxes. Sometimes, you will receive a check, told to cash it and send a thousand dollars back to them for the taxes. In both cases, you lose by sending money to someone or by cashing a fake check, for which you are now responsible.

These SCAMS occur every year in Bethlehem by suspects who travel state to state with the warmer weather. They prey on the elderly and handicapped. The best way not to be a victim of a SCAM is to remember these two things: "if it is too good to be true, it probably is not true" and "if you did not enter, you can't win." If someone contacts you for a service you did not call about, or even think about, it could well be someone trying to SCAM you. Don't become a victim. Call the Bethlehem Police Department. Dial 911 or call 610-865-7187. We will gladly deal with them.

Mark A. DiLuzio  
Chief of Police

# Housing Rehabilitation Program

The City's Housing Rehabilitation program allows qualified homeowners to borrow up to \$20,000 in forgivable loans to make critical repairs to their homes. This program is funded with money from HUD and addresses inefficient windows, leaking roofs, substandard plumbing or electrical systems and deteriorating exteriors. The City also has a small portion of emergency grant funds for situations that jeopardize the health or safety of the residents. The Bureau of Community Development currently has 20 of these projects in process all over the City.

In the fall of 2015, the Bureau learned of a home that was on the verge of condemnation from one of our housing inspectors. Upon further investigation, the staff discovered the resident was an elderly veteran known to the Veteran's Service Office at the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, who was also concerned about the situation. The homeowner was overwhelmed by the amount of work the home needed and simply didn't have the funds to

accomplish it. The only solution he saw for himself was to abandon the home and become homeless in the near future. Over the course of many visits and by explaining the program in great detail, the resident agreed to pursue the program to make the repairs.

While income qualified for the program, the house wasn't insured, which is a condition of program participation. Rather than ending the process there, the staff started searching for ways to insure this home so it could undergo rehabilitation and prevent this veteran from becoming homeless. LVCIL offered to fund the insurance premium and was able to implement case management services through the Veteran's Community Support Coordinator. City Housing Rehabilitation staff continued to call agents, adjusters and others in the industry to find out if there were any insurance options. Finally, a program for almost uninsurable homes was identified. The conditions of the policy required the rehabilitation specifications be submitted with the application, so



with the help of one of our qualified contractors and his network of suppliers, the Housing Rehab Technical Specialist wrote the specs and included them with the application. Construction is well underway, keeping this property from becoming blighted and a veteran from becoming homeless. The Department of Community and Economic development is especially proud of our partnership with LVCIL on this project.

To find out more about the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program, please call 610-997-7095.

## Front Porch Project Protecting Children

The protection of children is the responsibility of everyone. Collectively we can prevent child abuse if we all get involved. That's why the Bethlehem Health Bureau has teamed up with the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance to offer the Front Porch Project.

The Front Porch Project is a community-based program based on the belief that everyone can and should become more aware of how to help protect children and support families in their own community. The training helps ordinary citizens know when and

how to safely step in when they are concerned about a child in their neighborhood or public place. Please contact the Bethlehem Health Bureau at 610-865-7083 to find out how you can register or host this free training.

Learn more about all of the programs and services that the Bethlehem Health Bureau has to offer:

Like us on Facebook at BethlehemHealth  
Follow us on Twitter @BethlehemHealth

# Clean Water Updates

The City of Bethlehem complies with EPA regulations commonly referred to as the “Lead and Copper Rule.” The primary objective of this rule is to control lead and copper levels in public drinking water systems through a sampling program and a treatment plan to prevent pipeline corrosion. (Refer to EPA’s website for additional information: <http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>.)

Homes built several decades ago may have lead service lines, lead interior plumbing, or copper piping with lead soldered joints. Homes built after 1991 are generally considered to have lead-free plumbing. That is when Pennsylvania banned the use of lead solder. The sampling program involves the voluntary participation of several homeowners in our service territory, especially those who have, or suspect they have, a lead service line or lead interior pipes or copper pipes with lead solder. The City is required to test a minimum of 50 homes every three years for lead and copper. Sampling is performed by the homeowner in order to get the “first draw” sample, i.e. water must

be standing for a minimum of 6 hours in the piping for it to be a valid sample. This allows whatever material that may leach from the piping to be collected in the sample. A detailed instruction sheet is provided for each homeowner along with a one liter collection bottle. The sample is picked up by one of the City’s technicians and it is sent to a DEP-certified lab for Lead and Copper Analysis. Homeowners are notified of the results.

Lead and copper levels in the City’s water system have been consistently below EPA’s action level of 15 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper since monitoring started in 1992. Results from the last round of sampling in 2013 showed a detection level of 2 ppb for lead and 0.1 ppm for copper, both well below the action levels. Results are published in the Consumer Confidence Report which is posted on the City web-site.

The other aspect of the Lead and Copper Rule is to prevent pipeline corrosion through a corrosion control plan. The City uses Zinc Orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor, in the water system to

prevent the leaching of lead and copper from the pipe wall into the water stream. Phosphate based corrosion inhibitors are very effective at maintaining lead and copper levels below EPA limits and are widely used in drinking water systems throughout the United States.

We will be sampling again in 2016 for lead and copper and invite any concerned water customer who may have a lead service line, lead interior pipes or copper pipes with lead solder to volunteer to be part of the City’s sampling program. Please contact Jodi Schnalzer, Quality Control Manager, (610) 865-7144 or [jschnalzer@bethlehem-pa.gov](mailto:jschnalzer@bethlehem-pa.gov) for more information.



## Recycling Report: Where to Recycle Plastic Bags and Film?

Please recycle only clean, dry plastic bags and film. Remove receipts or any other items from bags.

Examples include:

- Retail, Newspaper, Dry Cleaning, Bread, Produce, and also other Plastic Bags labeled #2 and #4
- Zip Close Food Storage bags (clean and dry)
- Furniture and Electronic wrap

- Plastic cereal box liners (if it tears like paper do not include)
- Plastic shipping envelopes, including Tyvek®, bubble wrap and air pillows (Remove labels and/or deflate)
- Product Wrap (used on paper towels, diapers, bathroom tissue, water bottles)
- Any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label

**NOT** accepted at drop-off locations: degradable/compostable film or bags, pre-washed salad mix bags, or frozen food bags.

Plastic bags and film are accepted for recycling at all Giant, Weis, Target, Wegmans, Lowes and Wal-Mart Stores in our area.

Visit [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org) for more information on recycling these products.

# Community Traffic Update

## Fahy Bridge

The Fahy Bridge Rehabilitation Project has begun. Currently, construction is in Stage 1 which diverts all traffic on the southbound lanes. One lane is maintained for both directions with a turn lane at the south end of the bridge. Pedestrians have access on the western side of the bridge and must utilize the detour to Northampton Street and 3rd Street to access the temporary walkway. During the next few months nighttime closures are expected (from 7pm-6am) with a possible weekend closure at some point for concrete pouring. The City will send email notices out on the nighttime and weekend closures, as will PennDOT.

This configuration will remain while the northbound side is under construction until late 2016. At that

point, traffic will be shifted to the newly constructed northbound side while the southbound side is reconstructed from late 2016 through summer of 2017. Final completion is anticipated for late 2017.

## Lynn Avenue Bridge

The City of Bethlehem's consultant is currently working with PennDOT to finalize the design, specifications and bid documents for the Lynn Ave bridge replacement. It is anticipated that the bids will be advertised in May with a projected bid opening of June. Once the bids are reviewed a contract can be awarded. It is anticipated that a Notice-to-Proceed can be issued and construction can begin in summer of 2016. The bridge is currently closed and will remain closed until the new bridge

is completed. A detour is currently in place utilizing William Street and E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Final completion of the new bridge is expected in summer of 2017.

## SR412 Improvements

PennDOT's contractor has begun working again after the winter months and will continue through the completion date of August / September 2016. Remaining items include median work, final wearing course in some areas, final signal work, curbing & sidewalk, and landscaping. For the most part, the travel lanes will remain as they are until completion, aside from temporary daily traffic patterns. Once the median work is completed, the additional lanes and turning lanes will be opened.

## Business Development Programs

Location. Financing. Incentives. These are the three most common requests that the Department of Community and Economic Development normally receives from businesses. The good news is that we can provide all of these services free of charge to start-up, existing, or relocating businesses.

First, let's focus on location. Businesses need a building, space, or land that they can convert into a suitable environment for their employees and customers. This much is obvious. Based on specifications given to our department by the business, we can sort through available properties within the City and hopefully present a couple of different opportunities.

Financing. If you are starting or expanding a business and are seeking financing, you may want

to consider Bethlehem's Small Business Loan Fund administered by the Rising Tide Community Loan Fund (see pg. 2). The amount is up to \$100,000 and the rate is currently set at 4%. This program is a combination of the former FRED & Façade loan programs.

Incentives. KIZ, CRIZ, LERTA, FTZ, EZ, TIF, etc.

There are numerous economic development zones within the City that you may or may not have heard of. If you have a business that is establishing, relocating, considering expansion/improvement, or an innovative start-up company that is less than 8 years old, please contact Asher Schiavone at 610-865-4347 to see if your business would be eligible for any of these programs.

## Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

Every year from April to October, city crews from the Utility Maintenance Bureau and Fire Department flush the water distribution mains through the use of fire hydrants. This program is a very important part of routine system maintenance.

During the flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration or cloudiness of their water. If you see a flushing operation in your neighborhood, we advise that you avoid using water to the extent possible. If you experience discolored or cloudy water, clear the pipes by running cold water faucets only for a few minutes at a time. If your water does not clear up within 24 hours, please contact Water Control at 610-865-7077 and ask the water department to investigate your situation.

A complete flushing schedule for year 2016 can be found on the City web-site: <http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/water/index.html#flushingMenu>

# Buy Local

## Support Bethlehem Businesses

In 2015, Bethlehem saw a rise in the number of businesses opening and expanding in the City. Local businesses are not only a place to shop and dine, but they provide employment and generate more than \$2.6 million in revenue annually in local taxes. The City uses those funds to support projects like the new overlay on Main Street or additional street trees on the Southside. For every \$100 spent at a locally-owned small business, \$73 remains in the local economy, compared to the \$43 that remains when someone spends the same amount in a non-locally owned business. Recent research from Civic Economics indicates that local eateries return nearly 79% of revenues to the community, compared to chain restaurants that return 30%.

Support your local businesses. Buy local.

### Bethlehem Yard Waste Facility

1480 Schoenersville Road

Hours of Operation: Mon. to Sat. 9am - 3pm  
Sun. 10am – 2pm

#### Materials Accepted:

Leaves (loose or in brown paper bags)	Hedge trimmings
Small brush up to 4" diameter (no longer than 6')	Garden plant residue
	Christmas trees (free of ornaments & tinsel)

#### Not Accepted:

Sod	Plastic Bags
Grass Clippings	Soil / Mulch
Tree Stump	Root Balls

**No Dumping:** Dumping is illegal and violators will be fined according to City Ordinances

**Loading Service:** \$10 Per Cubic Yard

*Accepting 1 lb. and 20 lb. propane tanks only—Fee to recycle applies as follows: .50 for 1 lb. & \$1.00 for 20 lb.*

*PLEASE NOTE: Materials may only be dropped off when the Center is open and operating. Only Residents and property owners in the City of Bethlehem may drop off materials at the Yard Waste Facility. You must show a valid drivers license and compost card on every visit.*

### Theis / Cornfeld Recycling Center

635 Illick's Mill Road

Hours of Operation: Mon. to Fri. 9am - 5pm  
Sat. 9am - 4pm  
Sun. 11am - 4pm

#### Materials Accepted:

Newspapers	Scrap metals
Mixed office paper	Aluminum
Junk mail	Appliances
Magazines/shiny paper	Textiles
Hard & soft books	Plastics #1 thru #7
Cardboard	Glass bottles & jars
Flatboard	Cans
Telephone books	Styrofoam

PLEASE NOTE: We CANNOT accept the following:  
Pressurized Tanks / Paint Cans (empty or full) / Electronics

**FREE SHREDDING SERVICE**  
**Monday thru Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
**Call 610-865-7082 for an appointment**

# Events

## May 5-16, 2016

Spring Yard Waste Collection.  
See page 3 for information.

## June 25, 2016

Bethlehem's 275th Anniversary  
Community Celebration

## May—June, 2016

Bethlehem by Design Exhibit at  
the Kemerer Museum  
<http://historicbethlehem.org>

## May 27—28, 2016

Festa Italiana Bethlehem  
[www.festaitalianabethlehem.com](http://www.festaitalianabethlehem.com)

## June 3, 2016

First Friday Events  
[www.southsideartsdistrict.com](http://www.southsideartsdistrict.com)

# Contact Information

<b>City Hall</b> 610.865.7000	<b>Parks and Public Property</b> 610.865.7081	<b>Streetlight Hotline</b> 610.865.7053
<b>Mayor's Office</b> 610.865.7100	<b>Planning and Zoning</b> 610.865.7088	<b>Recycling Dept.</b> 610.865.7082
<b>Community &amp; Economic Dev.</b> 610.865.7085	<b>Police House Sgt.</b> 610.865.7179	<b>Water and Sewer</b> 610.865.7207
<b>Construction and Permitting</b> 610.865.7091	<b>Pothole Hotline</b> 610.865.7053	<b>EMS / Fire / Police Non—Emergency</b> 610.865.7187
<b>Health Department</b> 610.865.7083	<b>Public Works</b> 610.865.7050	<b>EMS / Fire / Police Emergency</b> 911

**City of Bethlehem**  
10 E. Church St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
[www.bethlehem-pa.gov](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov)  
**Mayor, Robert J. Donchez**

A bi-annual  
newsletter of the  
City Bethlehem  
Spring 2016

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pass it on to a non-resident after you  
have read it!