

Township of

Bethlehem



FALL 2025

Hunterdon County, New Jersey

From the Mayor's Desk



“Independence Without Isolation: The Heart of Our Community”

Bethlehem Township has long been a place where people come to plant roots, raise families, and enjoy the natural beauty and quiet pace of rural life. Whether your family has been here for generations or you're a more recent arrival, one thing binds us all together: a shared appreciation for the unique balance that defines our township.

Many of us chose Bethlehem Township for its space, its peace, and its independence. We value the ability to live life a little more freely—on

wider land, under clearer skies, and with a deeper connection to the landscape. But with that independence comes something equally important: a strong, connected community.

Here in Bethlehem Township, we've proven that rural living doesn't mean living in isolation. It means knowing your neighbors by name, supporting local farms and businesses, and coming together for community events, town meetings, and shared causes. It's watching out for one another during a storm, lending a hand when someone needs help, and celebrating milestones—big and small—as one community.

As Mayor, I see examples of this spirit every day. Whether it's volunteers organizing a fundraiser, residents showing up to clean a park trail, or neighbors helping neighbors with everyday tasks, it's clear that our community thrives not just because of where we live, but how we live—together.

In a world that's becoming increasingly fast-paced and disconnected, Bethlehem Township stands out as a place where people still believe in the strength of local ties. We may have chosen this rural life for its independence, but what we've built—and continue to build—is a community rich with connection, trust, and mutual respect.

Thank you for being part of what makes Bethlehem Township such a special place. Let's continue to nurture that spirit of togetherness, ensuring our township remains a vibrant, welcoming home for all.

Paul J. Muir
Mayor

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or email her at Michelle@TheGingerTreeSchool.com



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Hillsborough, NJ 08844
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F: 908.359.1580
E-mail: tdecker@vancleefengineering.com



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Native Americans in Bethlehem Township

Before Bethlehem Township existed and before the first Europeans arrived in North America in the early 1600s, Native Americans lived here. Archeologists indicate that Native Americans were living in New Jersey 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, and possibly crossed into North America during the Ice Age, about 25,000 years ago, when they followed game animals across a land bridge between Russia and Alaska. These native populations lived on the landscape, relied on natural resources, and over time adapted to the changing environment.



Delaware or Lenape is the name given to the descendants of the culturally similar groups that occupied the Delaware River valley, including Bethlehem Township. With the arrival of the Europeans in the 17th century came diseases that wiped out much of the native populations. In addition, many were forced to migrate to the Midwest, New York State, and Canada, but some stayed and still live in New Jersey.

Bethlehem Township and the surrounding area provided many of the natural resources needed by Native Americans to survive and flourish. The Musconetcong River provided easy transportation by dugout canoe between their camps and to great fishing and hunting areas. The climate and fertile soil in the river valley was ideal for growing their favorite crops, the 3 sisters (beans, corn, and squash). The forests provided plentiful game, wood, nuts, fruits and medicinal plants. Their activities are reflected in the artifacts they left behind.

The Lenape camped at many locations along the Musconetcong River. One of the oldest and most famous is the Plenge site in Warren County where thousands of artifacts dating back nearly 13,000 years have been discovered. In Bethlehem Township several rock shelters containing Native American artifacts including pottery sherds dating back to 500 BC were discovered in the 1980s by former Bethlehem Township resident Bill Umbreit. Pottery, stone tools, and other artifacts from the rock shelters and vicinity are currently on display at the Bethlehem Township Municipal Building.

Do You Recognize This Historic Marker?



The **West Portal Historic Society** would like to ask Township residents if anyone has a memory or photo of the concrete obelisk street sign post that is at the intersection of Brunswick Pike and Asbury West Portal Road, across the street from the old West Portal Hotel. The concrete post still stands but the sign is missing.

We want to relocate the sign post to the property of the original historic “Township House”. This building served as Bethlehem Township’s municipal building from 1913 to 1967. It is located just up Asbury West Portal Road near where it intersects with Route 173.

We do not know what sign was on that post but we would like to re-create it or, failing that, have an appropriate sign re-attached to it.

Contact the West Portal Historic Society at: hfe20@icloud.com



Bethlehem Township Winter Reminder

KEEP ROADWAYS CLEAR DURING SNOWSTORMS

To all residents:

When snow is in the forecast or roads are being plowed:

Please **REMOVE** the following from all public roads and shoulders:

- Vehicles
- Garbage and recycling cans
- Any other obstructions

Why it matters:

Keeping the roads clear allows our snow plows to operate safely and efficiently - helping us get roads cleared faster and safer for everyone. Obstructions can delay service and create hazardous conditions.

This is a township requirement and may result in fines or towing if not followed.

Let's all do our part to keep Bethlehem Township safe and moving this winter!

Questions? Contact the Public Works Department

dpw@bethlehemnj.org | www.bethlehemnj.org



Election News



Voter Registration Deadline: October 14, 2025

Last day to register to vote in the November 2025 GENERAL Election.

Vote By Mail: September 20 to November 03, 2025.

Early Voting: October 25 to November 2, 2025.

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 - Election Day – Polls are Open 6AM to 8PM.

**Polling Location: Bethlehem Township Community Center
405 Mine Road, Asbury, NJ 08802**

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ADOPTED ORDINANCES – As of August 31, 2025

Ordinance #497.2025

(As Amended during Meeting of 02/20/2025)

ADOPTED: February 20, 2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM, IN HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND REVISING CHAPTER 102, "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE

Ordinance #498.2025

ADOPTED: April 17, 2025

CALENDAR YEAR 2025

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS

AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

5 TIPS for Exercising Safely in Cold Weather

Don't let falling temperatures stop you from exercising outdoors. By taking a few extra steps to stay safe, you can walk, run, ski, ice skate, and more.

- 1 Warm up and cool down.** Stretch or walk in place to prepare and restore your muscles before and after a workout.
- 2 Pick the right clothes.** Dress in several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air between them. Wear a waterproof coat or jacket if it's snowy or rainy, and don't forget a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- 3 Be extra careful in snow and ice.** Check sidewalks before using them. Wear nonskid, rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes to help prevent slipping.
- 4 Check the forecast.** If it's too windy, cold, icy, or wet outside, consider staying indoors and using an online workout video or your own routine.
- 5 Be prepared.** Know the signs of hypothermia, inform others of your outdoor whereabouts, and carry a fully charged mobile phone.



To learn more, visit www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors.



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Hunterdon Family Medicine at Riverfield
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Heart & Vascular Center
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Hunterdon Pediatric Associates
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Physical and Occupational Therapy
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Laboratory Services
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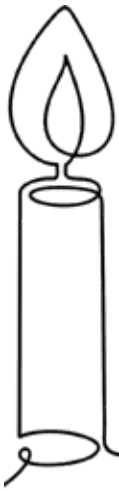


Hunterdon Health



Remembering those who made Bethlehem Township a great place to live.

It has been a year since Bethlehem Township experienced two significant losses to our community. The first was Carl Roth, our DPW Supervisor, who served Bethlehem for over 27 years and built many bonds as he made sure all was in order at Heritage Park and throughout the roads of the Township. This was followed all too quickly with the loss of Committeeman Steve Keefe who led a life of devotion to his neighbors beyond his service on the Township Committee.



IN LOVING
Memory

These two men deserve to be recognized and remembered in lasting ways. This summer the families of Carl and Steve gathered with friends, neighbors and township staff to dedicate unique places of lasting memory. Carl has watched as parents sat in the sun while their children played on the playground equipment and suggested the Township add a covered pavilion with picnic table for parents to gather. This pavilion now bears his name in recognition of his dedication and love for Bethlehem Township. Steve had a deep love for the park, spending much time there and helping care for the park, this love for the park may have only been matched by his love for his motorcycle. With that, the Township dedicated a parking space near the pavilion to motorcycles only with Steve's years of service on the Township Committee.

To further this legacy a second motorcycle only parking space will be added to the municipal building parking lot on Mine Road.

Many enjoy Heritage Park, when there they will be able to remember Carl and Steve who cared for the park and people who enjoyed it. Carl Roth and Steve Keefe will remain part of the Bethlehem Township legacy and will always be remembered.



A Special Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

This publication is produced at no cost to Bethlehem Township residents thanks to the generous sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout the newsletter. The Township recognizes these businesses as community supporters and encourages residents to also support these local businesses with their patronage.

Bob & Pamela Beatty

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Pamela Beatty

Sales Associates

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908.246.3477 (Pamela's Cell)

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BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP

405 Mine Road • Asbury, New Jersey 08802 • www.bethlehemnj.org

T: 735-4107 • F: 735-0485 • **Municipal Building Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Formed: 1730 • Square Miles: 21.38 • Acres: 13,683 • Incorporated: 1798

First Township Committee: 1763 • Population(2020 census): 3,745

Official Public Notices are published in the *Hunterdon Review Democrat*. Phone numbers are in area code 908 unless otherwise noted.

2025 DIRECTORY

GOVERNING BODY

Paul Muir, Mayor, 222-6158
pmuir@bethlehemnj.org
Judy Nelson, Deputy Mayor 370-7056
jnelson@bethlehemnj.org
Richard Cotton, Committee Member 732-558-7555
rcotton@bethlehemnj.org
Bob Kenny, Committee Member 908-507-3222
rkenny@bethlehemnj.org
Paul Lenzi, Jr., (908) 229-0436
plenzi@bethlehemnj.org
Meetings: First and Third Thursday @ 7:30 pm

MUNICIPAL CLERK/REGISTRAR

clerk@bethlehemnj.org
Christine Dispenza, RMC/CMR, 735-4107, ext. 101
Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

ANIMAL CONTROL

Laura Roerig, 537-7663

BOARD OF HEALTH

County Board of Health, 788-1351

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/ ADMINISTRATOR

finance@bethlehemnj.org
Jennifer Mooney, 735-4107, ext. 103
Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

COURT OF BETHLEHEM & BLOOMSBURY COURT OF LEBANON BOROUGH COURT OF GLEN GARDNER BOROUGH

Donna Surdich, Administrator, 735-4559
Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECYCLING

dpw@bethlehemnj.org
Jeffrey Lee, Supervisor
735-4107, ext. 110
Hours: Monday to Friday 7 am - 3:30 pm
Judy Nelson, Roads Commissioner, 908-370-7056

DOG/CAT LICENSING

petlicense@bethlehemnj.org
Monica Shilay, License Official, 735-4107, ext. 108
Hours: Tuesday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

environmental@bethlehemnj.org
Meetings: Third Tuesday @ 7:30 pm
Open Space Committee Meetings:
Fourth Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

MUNICIPAL DEPUTY CLERK

depclerk@bethlehemnj.org
Anita Weingart, 735-4107, ext. 102
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

oem@bethlehemnj.org
Paul Lenzi, Jr., Coordinator, 229-0436
Ken Baucom, Deputy Coordinator, 442-2355

PERC TEST WITNESS OFFICIAL

Lola C. Burd, (908) 319-5238

PLANNING BOARD

landuse@bethlehemnj.org
Kenneth Shilay, Chairperson, 400-5308
Office 735 - 4107, ext. 104
Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Meetings: Second and Fourth Monday @ 7:30 pm

SENIOR CITIZEN COORDINATOR

Bob Kenny, 908-507-3222

RECREATION SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB

Ryan Molchan, President
(732) 887-2675

STATE CONSTRUCTION CODE

713-0722

TAX ASSESSOR

taxassessor@bethlehemnj.org
Laura Whitaker, Cell # 295-4827
735-4107, ext. 107
Hours: Monday, 4pm - 6pm

TAX COLLECTOR

Karin Ughetta
(908) 735-4107 x106
taxcollector@bethlehemnj.org
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

WEST PORTAL HISTORIC SOCIETY

PO Box 134, Asbury, NJ 08802
Carol Behrens, President, 479-6323
Meetings: Third Thursday @ 1pm

ZONING OFFICIAL

zoning@bethlehemnj.org
Sara Knies 735 - 4107, ext. 111
Hours: Monday 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMPACTOR RECYCLING DAYS & HOURS

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US Senator Cory Booker 202-224-3224
US Senator Andy Kim 202-224-4744
Governor Phil Murphy 609-292-6000
State Senator Doug Steinhardt 908-835-0552
Assemblyman John DiMaio 908-722-1365
Assemblyman Erik C. Peterson 908-238-0251
County Commissioners:
Jeff Kuhl 908-788-1102
Susan Soloway 908-788-1102
Zach Rich 908-788-1102
John Lanza 908-788-1102
Shaun Van Doren 908-788-1102

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Emergency: 911

Police Department: NJ State Police 730 - 6100

Fire Companies: Bloomsbury, Franklin (Warren
City), Glen Gardner, Hampton, Pattenburg

Rescue Squads: South Branch, Pattenburg

Bethlehem Office of Emergency Management:

Paul Lenzi: 229-0436

Ken Baucom, Deputy Coordinator, 442-2355

Local Schools:

Thomas B. Conley Elementary School
537-4044 • www.btschools.org/Conley

Ethel Hoppock Middle School
479-6336 • www.btschools.org/EHMS/ehms.html

North Hunterdon High School
735-5191 • www.nhvweb.net/NHHS

Bethlehem Township Board of Education
537-4044 • www.btschools.org

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education
735-2846 • <http://www.nhvweb.net>

DOG/CAT LICENSES

Annual dog and cat licensing renewal is due in
January. As of February 1, a monthly late fee of
\$8 dollars per animal will apply. Please notify the
license official if you no longer have your dog or cat at
735-4107, ext. 108.

A dog license is \$12.00 if the animal is spayed/
neutered, \$15.00 if not spayed/neutered.

A cat license is \$12.00 if the animal is spayed/
neutered, \$15.00 if not spayed/neutered.

To acquire an animal license, please send the
following:

- proof of spaying/neutering, if applicable
- check made payable to the Township of Bethlehem
- proof of rabies vaccination (must be valid through
November 1st)
- a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of
the license



Jill (Robinson) Prakopcyk
Sales Associate



Richard Prakopcyk
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