

TOWN of Bethlehem *Economic Developments*

June 19, 2009

"The Town will grow in a manner that maintains and enhances its preeminent residential and semi-rural character through the attraction of high quality, clean, commercial development to carefully planned and strategically located sites. Residential neighborhoods in the Town will be enhanced by proximity to open space, pedestrian oriented facilities, high quality employment opportunities and neighborhood scale commercial services."

BIDA Vision Statement



[Town of Bethlehem
Planning Dept. Resources](#)



[BIDA Offers Financial
Assistance for Businesses](#)



[Local Waterfront
Revitalization](#)

LEVEILLE RECEIVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

New York State Economic Development Council named George Leveille as the 2009 Economic Developer of the Year. George is now the chair of the Town of Bethlehem Planning Board and was, until his resignation on December 31, 2008, the Director of the Town's Department of Economic Development and Planning and Executive Director and CEO of the Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency.

George is well known to the residents of the Town as the leader of numerous forward-thinking planning initiatives over the past five years. Using the building moratorium as a starting point, George spearheaded a Comprehensive Plan for land use, which led to a complete revamping of the zoning ordinance. George followed up with the Delaware Avenue Hamlet Study, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the New Scotland Road Hamlet Master Plan, the Route 9W Corridor Study, and the Town of Bethlehem Marketing Strategy. These studies and plans became the blueprint for growth in Bethlehem. Still in process and still led by George is the report of the Bethlehem 20/20 Committee which is looking at the needs of the Town in 2020 and how those needs may be financed. Reports by the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Conservation, the Agriculture and Farmland Study Committee are expected later this year.

In all of these initiatives the process involved asking residents about their vision for the Town, identifying long-term planning goals to achieve that vision, outlining action steps to accomplish the goals and communicating all this with Town leaders and residents. George also focused on strategies for expanding desirable commercial businesses within the Town and supporting commercial and industrial economic development with the goal of adding new capital investment, increased tax base and new employment opportunities in the Town. The Leveille process involved a seemingly endless series of work group and community meetings with residents which led to widespread community acceptance and endorsement by the Town Board.

Residents in Albany County, but outside Bethlehem, also know George as the Commissioner of Development and Planning for the City of Albany, President of the Albany Local Development Corporation and the Executive Director of the Albany IDA for many years. More recently, George was the



[9W Linkage Study](#)

Chairman of the Albany Convention Center Authority and now is a consultant in the private sector with HB Solutions LLC.

BIDA submitted George's nomination for the 2009 Developer of the Year award to New York State Economic Development Counsel, the industry association for public economic development in New York State representing industrial development agencies, local development corporations and various other economic development public authorities.

For More Information

Contact the
Bethlehem IDA at
439-4955 x 1159 or
info@bethlehemida.com

This Bulletin was provided by the Town of Bethlehem,
Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, and the
Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency.

