

LOOK INSIDE

to see **highlights**
of your town in action!

YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN 2023

TOWN SUPERVISOR

David VanLuven

TOWN BOARD

Joyce Becker

Dan Coffey

Maureen Cunningham

David DeCancio

TOWN JUSTICES

Ryan Donovan

Andrew Kirby

TOWN CLERK

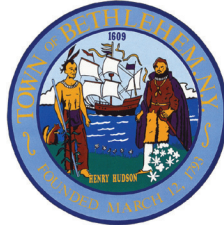
Nanci Moquin

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Marc Dorsey

RECEIVER OF TAXES

Alicia Roney



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Delmar, NY 12054
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WWW.TOWNOFBETHLEHEM.ORG

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THE TOWN DOESN'T DELIVER SERVICES, PEOPLE DO.

Over the last 5 years, I have steadily emphasized that the town doesn't deliver services, people do. People plow our roads. People patrol our neighborhoods. People maintain our water lines and run the plants that clean our sewage. People mow our parks, paint our fire hydrants, help businesses grow, support our older residents, guide development, and so much more.

As our town has grown, the number of town staff to support us has shrunk. Over the last 13 years, our town workforce has dropped from 241 in 2009 to 224 in 2023. That's 17 fewer people getting work done in a town with more physical infrastructure than ever before along with ever growing expectations for the types of services our town government should be delivering or is mandated to deliver – regardless of COVID-19, inflation, and supply chain challenges.

Fortunately, Bethlehem has incredible town employees who have adapted their work and shown great resiliency as they have continued to deliver so many services that are essential to our quality of life.



STATE OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - 2022-23

I find optimism and encouragement in Bethlehem whenever I start getting dragged down by vitriolic national discourse. And I still do even as we see that uncivil behavior seep into our local social media conversations.

If one spends much time on different social media platforms, they can easily come to believe the chatter that everyone and everything is terrible. But those narratives are wrong. In reality, we have so much to be positive about. That's because our town is real interactions between real people. And those real interactions strengthen our community and make our lives better.

We saw this in wonderful ways throughout 2022: hundreds of families enjoying the First Night fireworks and Summer Concert Series, Scouts gathering goods for the Food Pantry, neighbors laughing together during the Memorial Day Parade, friendly volunteers helping their neighbors.

These real interactions between real people together are what Bethlehem really is. **And Bethlehem truly is a remarkable town – in fact, one of the very best in all of New York State.**

I therefore encourage everyone to get offline, to have real interactions, and to appreciate how lucky we are to live in “our town” Bethlehem.



David VanLuven
Town Supervisor

PROPERTY TAXES

Did you know?

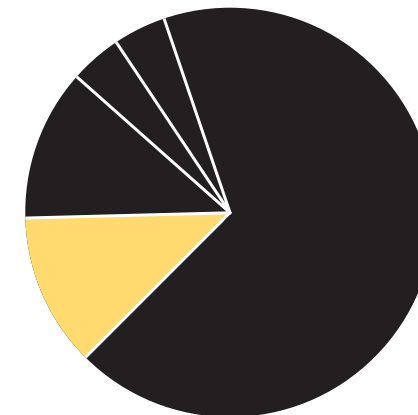
For every property tax dollar we pay in 2023, **the Town of Bethlehem will only see 12 cents.**

The remaining 88 cents go elsewhere.



We pay our property taxes in two installments: one bill in January, the second in September. These payments are collectively what people refer to when they say “I pay high taxes.”

When people say “I pay high taxes,” it almost always means “I pay high taxes and I'm not getting value for my dollar.” This is a serious misperception about value, because most of our property tax dollars never come to the Town. Instead, our property taxes are distributed between 5 completely independent taxation districts.



WHERE YOUR TAXES GO

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| SCHOOL DISTRICT | = | 67% |
| FIRE DISTRICT | = | 4% |
| LIBRARY | = | 4% |
| ALBANY COUNTY | = | 13% |
| TO OTHER DISTRICTS | = | 88% |
| TOWN OF BETHLEHEM | = | 12% |

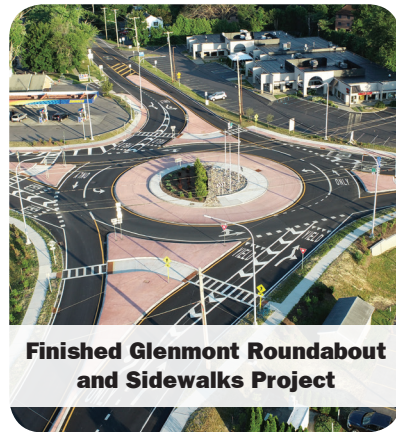
TOWN SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.6 billion gallons of clean drinking water delivered | 5,800 traffic and criminal court cases handled |
| 3.1 million grant & donation dollars landed for local projects | 5,360 kilowatts of new solar panels approved |
| 1.8 million cubic feet of yard waste collected | 4,318 calls for ambulance service supported |
| 561,000 cubic feet of compost/wood mulch produced | 4,000 building inspections conducted |
| 42,000 pool visitors welcomed | 3,500 participants in park programs & summer camps |
| 39,270 calls for police service supported | 1,670 fire hydrants maintained |
| 15,000 hours of volunteer ambulance service given | 1,600 dogs registered |
| 14,100 rides provided for seniors | 519 kids given swimming lessons |
| 12,600 meals distributed through the Food Pantry | 405 miles of water and sewer pipes maintained |
| 9,400 feet of sidewalks built and repaired | 125 marriage licenses issued |
| 8,000 cubic feet of food scraps composted | 14 miles of roads paved |

For more highlights and details, watch or read Supervisor VanLuven's State of the Town address at <http://bit.ly/3WXaJM7>



Conserved 307 acres of historic farmland forever



Finished Glenmont Roundabout and Sidewalks Project



Completed award-winning Comp Plan Update



Held 14 performances in 3 parks on the mobile stage



Expanded food scraps composting



Restored more sidewalks than ever before

BIG THINGS TO COME IN 2023

IMPROVING OUR PARKS

Parks are an integral part of Bethlehem, and we have a dozen spread across all 7 hamlets that collectively see many tens of thousands of visitors each year. Our parks are great, but we're working hard to make them even better.

- We are the only Capital Region municipality conducting an **ADA assessment** of our entire park system. This year, we will complete the plan and start implementing improvements to make our parks more accessible and welcoming to everyone.
- We are undertaking a range of infrastructure improvements, including a new playground in **Selkirk Park**, a formal trail system in the **Normans Kill Ravines Park**, and restoration of the Olympic Pool in **Elm Ave Park** (with construction starting after the summer pool season).



ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY

Our Police Department has been implementing a variety of recommendations including more community programs, continued intensive training in mental health services and de-escalation techniques, and easier ways for community members to share complaints and comments. These actions are helping make our great Police Department even better.

- In 2024, we are investing in new **body cameras** for our officers and replacing the car cameras in all of our police vehicles.



MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER

As with towns everywhere, Bethlehem has problems with people driving too fast and not respecting the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

- We are launching the **Bethlehem Safe Streets campaign** to get drivers to slow down and remind them that Bethlehem's roads are for everyone: drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- We will continue introducing **speed humps** into residential neighborhoods with particularly problematic traffic issues. Speed humps are different from speed bumps, as drivers can pass over them fairly smoothly at 25mph, but not 35mph.
- We are committed to establishing a **25mph speed limit** on residential town roads and are taking the necessary steps to ensure the lower speed limit actually results in slower speeds and safer streets.

