

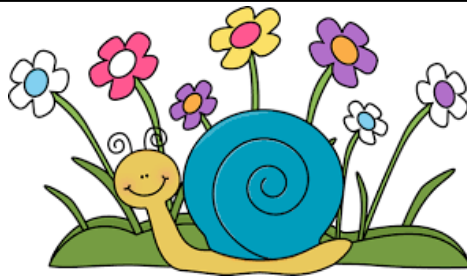
Town Talk



Issue 96

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL
279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903

May 2020



HELLO
Spring

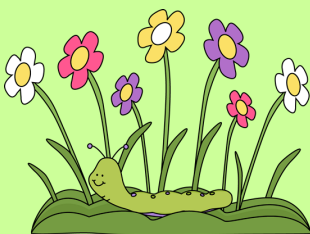


MESSAGE FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR, ELIZABETH ROUNDS

E-mail: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

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Hello, everyone. It seems as if all of our lives have been turned upside down as a result of a virus named COVID-19. The first pandemic since 1918 has possibly changed our lives forever. There is no doubt our Town, County, and State will eventually reopen, and we will start living our lives again but things may be different. With that being said, I thought I would focus on a few positive things that are currently happening in our Town.

I hope all of you are aware of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) the Town received last year. The grant objectives are achieved by supporting home improvement projects that benefit low- and moderate-income families. Year to date we have been able to assist 15 homeowners with new windows, furnaces, and a variety of other home improvements. If any of you are interested in more information, please check out our website or call Becky at (607) 772-0357, ext. 10 for more information.

Many of you may remember that we had our *Municipal Cleanup Days* last June. It was the first time in 11 years, and it was a HUGE success! This year, we're offering it again, and our "Cleanup Days" will be held on Thursday, May 14th and Friday, May 15th. All of the details are listed on Page 2 of this newsletter. We do have a few changes we needed to make as a result of COVID-19. Keep in mind that we will hold an electronic drop-off day in the near future. Watch our website for upcoming details.

Speaking of "Cleanup Days", I would like to personally thank Zach Soboleski and Tim Hawley for their hard work with picking up winter trash along Park Avenue and Hawleyton Rd. The Town of Binghamton is a beautiful place to live, and we all need to do our part in picking up our trash.

Also, I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU!" to the Town of Binghamton's Volunteer Fire Company. Since the closing of our local schools, the Fire Company has been delivering food to school-age children who live in households that have been unable to pick up meals for themselves.

One last bit of good news. Most of you know that many of our residents are unable to get cell phone service and high speed internet. I'm pleased to report that a group of residents on Hance Road persevered in getting Spectrum's high speed internet delivered to 22 homes on that road. If you don't have Spectrum but live on Hance Rd. and are interested in hooking up to Spectrum's service, call my office at 772-0357, ext. 11.

Finally, I'd like to remind you to visit our website at www.townofbinghamton.com for the most up-to-date information. Please be safe and don't forget . . . We're all in this together.



Elizabeth Rounds

ATTENTION!

This is a little different than last year. Please pay close attention to what is and what is not accepted.

MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS

Thurs., May 14, 2020

Fri., May 15, 2020

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day

Two Drop-Off Locations:

TOB Town Hall at 279 Park Avenue

TOB Highway Dept. at 865 Hawleyton Road

If you're unable to drop off acceptable items, please call Becky Smith at the Town Hall at 772-0357, ext. 10 to schedule a pickup. Thank you.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED.

**ITEMS ACCEPTED:****TIRES**

WHITE GOODS: washers, dryers, stoves, etc. (NO FREON APPLIANCES)

FURNITURE including wooden and metal cabinets

HOUSEHOLD TRASH (household items from cleaning basement, garage, etc.)

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED:

NO APPLIANCES WITH FREON!

NO CHEMICALS!

NO GARBAGE!

NO ELECTRONICS!

NO PAINTS!

NO CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS!

NO YARD WASTE OR LEAVES!

GREETINGS FROM THE BINGHAMTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

The Binghamton Township Historical Society has come out of winter hibernation. Weekly Wednesday meetings will begin just as soon as the powers-that-be say it is safe to reopen parks, museums, etc. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings (held at 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the museum, located at 923 Hawleyton Road), but please call an officer first to be sure we haven't had to reschedule for some reason. *Our officers include President Phyllis Hawley (669-4186); Vice-President Esther Pettengill (669-4151); Secretary, Fran Hibbard (669-4279); and Treasurer Kenna Lou Mills (669-4665).*

Please note that if the Memorial Day Parade is held, our museum will be open that day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, our Annual "Remember When" Covered Dish Luncheon will be held on Sat., September 19 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. (We'll eat at noon, and there will be a short program after that.) In addition, tours can be arranged at any time between whenever we're able to open and October. Please call one of the officers to arrange a convenient date and time. A historical society tour would be a fun family outing or party activity. By the way, it can get chilly in the museum building, so bring a sweater or light jacket along as the weather dictates. Thanks, everyone, and Happy Spring.



Highway Dept./Water & Sewer Dept.**Hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.****Mike Donahue, Highway Supt. - (607) 669-4323**

We were very lucky with a mild winter this year. It was nice to even experience a few spring-like days! Fortunately for us, we were able to start spring cleanup earlier than usual, so we were actually ahead of the game when the unexpected Coronavirus hit. We're now looking ahead to our brush and branch pickup (see below), getting back to filling in those pesky potholes, and soon we'll be sweeping the roads. As the season continues, we'll move on to ditch cleaning and paving throughout the summer.

We have some projects scheduled for late spring/early summer. Cynthia Drive and Laurie Brook Drive will be milled and repaved this year. We will also be doing sanitary pipe lining on East and West Hamton Rd. to Moore Avenue. NYSEG has also informed us that they will be continuing their work throughout the town replacing some gas services on Dogwood Drive and St. Clair Road.

Some of you may already know that winter can wreak havoc on your driveways and culvert pipes. If you notice that you're in need of a new pipe, the Town will install it at no cost to you, but you're responsible for the cost of the pipe. If you need a new culvert pipe, just give us a call at 669-4323, and we'll measure it and get a price for you.

SPRING TREE BRANCH & BRUSH PICKUP - JUNE 1 to JUNE 12, 2020

The Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. will be picking up branches beginning on Monday, June 1 and ending on Friday, June 12.

This pickup is for **TREE BRANCHES ONLY**. No cuttings from any kind of bush. Please call the Highway Dept. at 669-4323 to have your name placed on our list. Due to the overwhelming response to this service, you will not be given a specific time or day when your brush will be picked up.

In addition, there are certain guidelines to be followed:

1. Tree branches from your yard only;
2. Put branches neatly along the curb/roadside in front of your home;
3. Please place the large end of the branch towards the road, and leave the branches as long as possible;
4. No brush from clearing your lot;
5. No brush from contractors or landscapers. (This means if you hire someone to maintain your lawn, they need to dispose of the debris; we will not take it.)
6. Large piles must be approved.



The following items WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED and will be left behind: tree trunks; roots of any sort; clippings from lawns, flower beds, or vegetable gardens; thorny brush and small twigs; leaves and animal waste.



**The Water/Sewer Billing Schedule for 2020 is as follows:
(these are approximate mailing dates)**

November 1, 2019 (1st billing of a cycle); due in early Dec.

February 1, 2020 (2nd billing); due in early March

May 1, 2020 (3rd billing); due in early June

August 1, 2020(4th billing); due in early September

SPECIAL NOTICE:

**NO CASH PAYMENTS
NO IN-PERSON PAYMENTS
AT THIS TIME.**

On-line payments, checks, and money orders will be accepted. Outside drop boxes will continue to be utilized.

Thank you.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Vickie Conklin, Town Clerk - 772-0357, ext. 26
 Paula Edwards, Deputy Clerk - 772-0357, ext. 23



IMPORTANT -- NO CASH ACCEPTED AND NO IN-PERSON PAYMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Checks and money orders only.

For information on the current status of the Broome County Health Department Rabies Clinics, visit Broome County's website at <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/eh/rabies>

If you have a dog licensed in the Town of Binghamton and you plan to move, please inform the Town Clerk's Office so that we can make the change in our computer system. Also, please contact us upon the passing of your beloved dog so that we can update the status of the license and prevent a renewal notice being sent your way.

DID YOU KNOW THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE IS RECORDING BEAR SIGHTINGS?

Deputy Town Clerk Paula Edwards would like to encourage residents to share photos of any bears that have been "captured" on their trail or outdoor cams. Any bear photos that come in are being logged by date, road, and the name of sender, and photos are being displayed on the Town's website at www.townofbinghamton.com. We thought this would be a fun way to see where bear activity is in our town. Please send your pictures via e-mail to Paula at deputytownclerk@townofbinghamton.com Thanks, everyone, and stay safe out there.

WHAT IS "TAXABLE STATUS DATE"? Joseph Cook, Assessor

Here's just a bit of information about the tax year. The tax year, for assessment purposes, is a fiscal year that begins July 1 and runs through the following June 30. Each year the Assessor's Office establishes a new tentative tax roll on May 1 that goes into effect on July 1.

The assessment that is shown on that new July 1 tax roll reflects the status of the property on March 1, which is called "taxable status date". This becomes important information for you if you are building a new house, constructing an addition to your existing house, demolishing a building, etc.

As an example, if your home is 50% complete as of March 1, the July 1 tax roll reflects 50% of the finished value of the home. The assessment then does not change again until the following tax year, because once the July 1 tax roll becomes effective, it is frozen by law and cannot change (up or down).

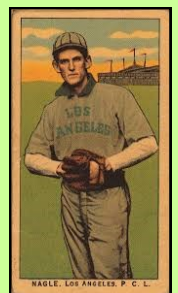
If you have any questions about "taxable status date" or any other assessment issue, please contact me or Amy at (607) 772-0357, ext. 13.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to noon - Monday through Friday

Assessor's Hours: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (Appointment suggested)

TOWN HISTORIAN SEEKS SPORTS MEMORABILIA FOR DISPLAY CASE

Thank you to the residents who loaned antique kitchen items for the glass case at the Town Hall. We have many items of interest currently on display! Please stop by to check out these interesting antique pieces. If residents have any antique sports memorabilia items they would like displayed, I will be rotating items in another month or so. To contact the Town Historian, please send an e-mail to Vickie Conklin at: historiantob@gmail.com



From the Office of Code Enforcement & Building Inspection - Nick Pappas**Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 12****Email: code@townofbinghamton.com**

Friendly Reminders

Property Maintenance issues are always at the top of my list in the spring because once winter is over and the snow has melted, junk is on view for the world to see. If you receive a violation letter from this office, you need to respond immediately. I'm always willing to work with the property owner as long as corrective action is taken within a reasonable amount of time. If the property owner doesn't respond to my letter by calling my office and speaking with me, my only option is to turn the matter over to

Town Court. If you're unsure as to what is or is not acceptable, the Town Code is available on our website (under "Building Codes & Permits"). It's a great way to familiarize yourself with what is and what is not allowed in our Town.

I'm assuming you've already read that the Town is once again participating in "Municipal Cleanup Days". This is a great opportunity to get rid of unwanted items that have been stored in your yard, garage, house, or basement. I highly encourage all of you to take advantage of this free service and clean up around your property. Where else can you get rid of your junk for *FREE*?

Finally, I'd like to remind residents of the importance of getting a building permit. Some projects require a permit and some don't. It's always a good idea to call my office before beginning any new building project. My phone is listed above. Thanks, everyone.

A Message From Rick Murray, Dog Control Officer**Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 22****Email: DCO@townofbinghamton.com**

I'm sure many of you have been spending a lot more time with your pets because of the Coronavirus. I know I have been. Hopefully, we'll be out of this long quarantine soon!

Here are a few tips to keep your pets healthy and safe this spring:

- Check with your veterinarian to see what's recommended for Heartworm and Lyme Disease. Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes and Lyme Disease is transmitted by ticks; both can be fatal. Be sure to also ask your vet about all-natural flea and tick treatments.
- If you enjoy taking your dog for a ride in a car or truck, if at all possible, confine it in a crate or use a seat belt safety harness. Never allow your dog to ride in the back of a truck or hang its head out a window. Also, don't leave your dog confined in a car on a hot day. It can be a deadly mistake!
- Make sure you license your dog with the Town Clerk's office. ID tags should be kept on your dog's collar at all times and will assist me when I try to reunite you and your dog. The best ID's are license tags and microchips. Most veterinarians can chip your dog. Just ask the next time you take your dog for a check-up. Most importantly, if your dog gets loose, call me on my cell at 217-8857. There's nothing better than to be able to reunite a pet with its owner. Thanks, and enjoy this time with your four-legged friends!

**THE CHIEF'S CORNER by Jerry Emmons, Fire Chief****TOB Vol. Fire Co.****Phone: (607) 761-1218****Email: tob.fire.chief@gmail.com**

Brush Burn Ban is currently in effect. Absolutely no burning through May 14th.



With spring now upon us, conditions for wildfires have become heightened and residential brush burning is prohibited through May 14 across New York State. While many people associate wildfires with the western part of the United States, spring weather and the potential for dry conditions increases the risk for wildfires. Garbage burning and leaf burning are always prohibited. Violators of the state's open burning regulation are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense. For further information visit the DEC's website at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>

NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY LEGISLATOR, KELLY WILDONER

Now that 2020 is well under way, I wanted to take a moment to update the residents of the Town of Binghamton on some exciting things the County Legislature has been doing.

The Legislature continues to look out for County taxpayers. In case you missed it, last fall we unanimously approved the 2020 County Budget with a 1% tax cut for County residents. We were able to double the proposed tax cut while improving vital services that taxpayers rely on. Even more good news, with this last budget we were able to continue cutting the County's short-term borrowing. This has been a major factor when receiving our credit rating and helps us get more favorable finance terms so that we can keep your taxes in check! This is the second tax cut in a row, and we're very proud to be able to continue providing results with common sense budgeting, keen financial oversight, and advocating for lower taxes.

The Legislature continues fighting against state mandates that affect our residents' wallets. We very recently approved a resolution urging New York State to increase the County share of DMV revenue for services that are provided by our local Department of Motor Vehicles. It is unfair that our local DMV and taxpayers are forced to carry the burden of providing these services while the State takes the large portion of the revenue. That's why I was proud to support this effort!

In January, I was very proud to have the opportunity to recognize the Susquehanna Valley Senior High School football team at the Legislature's monthly regular session for winning the 2019 New York State Class C Championship! This team has had back-to-back undefeated seasons and has taken home the title two years in a row. Being able to meet these impressive student athletes and to see the potential of our community's youth is one of my favorite parts of the job. I couldn't have been prouder to congratulate them on their achievements.

The County is working hard to keep our residents safe from the COVID-19 threat! Everyone in our nation and our community is being affected by the health and safety risks of the Coronavirus. Nothing is more important than the welfare of our residents, and the Legislature is working hard with Federal, State, and local officials to do everything we can for your protection. In the coming weeks, the County will be securing federal funding to help alleviate the emergency costs of the pandemic. Also, even though schools have closed to ensure the safety of our students, we've partnered with Broome-Tioga BOCES to set up meal pick-up sites where lunches can be collected for youth in need. We're also using our Transit buses to make stops at several of these sites to make them more accessible. You can find this information and more with our frequent updates at www.gobroomecounty.com/news. Also, be sure to check out the Health Department's page at www.gobroomecounty.com/hd for everything you need to know about keeping your friends, families, and loved ones safe.

Just recently, the federal government provided the County with 68,000 masks that are being distributed to the public at this very moment. Residents looking for information on mask distribution can visit www.gobroomecounty.com/hd/release/mask_distribution for additional details or dial 2-1-1 for any and all COVID-19 related questions. Essential businesses can also contact the County Emergency Operations Center at 607-778-1183 for information on how to access masks to keep your employees safe. I also want to personally thank each of the private business owners that have opened their doors to help feed our community's youth in this time of need along with the thousands of healthcare professionals and first responders fighting on the front lines to protect us all. As a lifelong resident of Broome County, I've seen this community at its best and its worst. One of the reasons I love and admire our area is because, in the worst of times, we band together and help one another to come through to the other side better and stronger for it. I trust that, in the face of the current pandemic, we will come together as a community once again to overcome the trials ahead. Always remember, it's not what one person can do on their own, it's more about what everyone can achieve together.

For now, my prayers for safety are with all the residents of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, and all of our fellow Americans. If you have any questions or concerns, or need anything in these trying times, please do not hesitate to call me at (607) 778-2129, send an e-mail to me at kelly.wildoner@broomecounty.us or find me on FB at "Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner."



A Message from Christopher Streno, Director of Youth Activities

Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 48
 E-mail: tobyouthsports@gmail.com

The members of the Youth Commission remain hopeful that we will be able to provide some sort of baseball & softball activity for our youth once we are clear of this current situation and are able to gather again. In a worse-case scenario of having no season, paid registration fees will be held as a credit toward future programs or refunded if necessary. Requests for refunds can be made via email to tobyouthsports@gmail.com. Please include the player(s) name, amount of fee paid and name and address of person to receive the refund. Our main priority is the safety & well-being of our youth and their families. Any and all decisions regarding the starting of programs will be made with that priority in mind. Please check the 2020 TOB Baseball/Softball Facebook page as well as the Town of Binghamton website (www.townofbinghamton.com) for updates. We are all on the same team as we work to get through this crisis. Stay safe and stay healthy.



The Town of Binghamton Neighborhood Watch met with Deputy Robert Stapleton of the Broome County Sheriff's Department on Thursday, March 12th. He stated there are no police concerns in the town at this time but cautioned to keep cars locked with warm weather starting. We discussed current scams circulating. He left flyers with tips to help recognize and to report a scam. They are available at Town Hall. The next neighborhood watch meeting will be in September. Check the town website for updates on program, time, and place.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS ARE LISTED BELOW

DISCLAIMER: The following activities may or may not be happening because of the pandemic. We're all anxiously awaiting to hear when restrictions may be lifted. To confirm events, we encourage you to visit the Town's website at www.townofbinghamton.com for the most up-to-date information.



A RABIES CLINIC: Wed., May 20, 2020

A rabies clinic has been scheduled for this date from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Binghamton Highway Garage, located at 865 Hawleyton Rd. \$5 donation per animal.



MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES: Monday, May 25, 2020

PARADE begins at 10 a.m. at the Fire Station in Hawleyton and will proceed to cemetery.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM is scheduled to be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Come take a tour with us. We're family friendly and have activities for all ages.



FREE FISHING WEEKEND: June 27 & 28, 2020

"Free Fishing Weekend" is the perfect time to take the kids or grandkids fishing because no license is required. "Free Fishing Weekend" applies to all fresh or marine waters in NY.

NOTICE CONCERNING BROOME COUNTY LANDFILL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

At the time of publication, the Broome County landfill suspended this service until further notice. The County may reverse the decision at any time. Call the BC Landfill at (607) 763-4450 or visit their website at <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/solidwaste/hazwaste/dates> for further updates.

Town of Binghamton

279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903

TOWN HALL MAIN PHONE
(607) 772-0357

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf:
1-800-662-1220 or 711

Check us out on the web at
www.TownofBinghamton.com

The Town of Binghamton is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write:



USDA — Director
Office of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave. - SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Assessor, Joseph Cook | Ext. 15 |
| Assessor's Clerk, Amy Ricci | Ext. 13 |
| Attorney for the Town, Alan Pope | Ext. 52 |
| Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler | Ext. 21 |
| Bldg. Inspector/Codes, Nick Pappas | Ext. 12 |
| Community Center Coordinator | Ext. 14 |
| Councilperson, Mike Bensley | Ext. 56 |
| Councilperson, Mark Leighton | Ext. 55 |
| Councilperson, Dean Nye | Ext. 54 |
| Councilperson, Vicky Xlander | Ext. 57 |
| Court Clerk, Martha Nuzzela | Ext. 19 |
| Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray | Ext. 22 |
| Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water | 778-1911 |
| Highway Supt., Mike Donahue | 669-4323 |
| Information Desk, Becky Smith | Ext. 10 |
| Plan. Bd. Chair., Christopher Streno | Ext. 50 |
| Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds | Ext. 11 |
| Tax Collection - Call Broome County | 778-2124 |
| Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin | Ext. 26 |
| Town Clerk's Deputy, Paula Edwards | Ext. 23 |
| Town Engineer, John Martin | Ext. 51 |
| Town Justice, Hon. Lawrence Brinker | Ext. 19 |
| Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper | 669-4323 |
| Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas | 669-4323 |
| Youth Activities, Christopher Streno | Ext. 48 |
| Zoning Bd. Chair, Gerardo Tagliaferri | Ext. 49 |

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON

DISCLAIMER: These activities may or may not be happening because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We're all anxiously awaiting to hear when restrictions will be lifted. We encourage you to visit the Town's website at www.townofbinghamton.com for the most up-to-date information.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Tue., May 5 | Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m. |
| Thurs., May 14 | MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 2 for details.) |
| Fri., May 15 | MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 2 for details.) |
| Tue., May 19 | Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m. |
| Wed., May 20 | Rabies Clinic @ Highway Dept., 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 865 Hawleyton Rd. \$5 donation. |
| Mon., May 25 | Memorial Day Parade in Hawleyton at 10 a.m./Museum open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Mon., May 25 | All Town offices are closed for the Memorial Day holiday. |
| June 1 to June 12 | Spring Tree Branch & Brush Pickup (See page 3 for details.) |
| Tue., June 2 | Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m. |
| Tue., June 16 | Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m. |
| Fri., July 3 | All Town offices are closed for the 4th of July holiday. |

