

TOWN TALK



Issue 97

Town of Binghamton
279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903

July 2020



hello
summer




A MESSAGE FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR, ELIZABETH ROUNDS

E-mail: Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com

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Hello, everyone! It's nice to be getting back into the routine of things, isn't it? We've got a couple of new protocols that need to be followed as you enter the Town Hall, including wearing a mask and checking in at the front desk, but other than that, things should feel pretty normal around here.

First, I'd like to say "THANKS!" to all the residents who participated in our "Municipal Cleanup Days" in May. This is the second year that we've offered our residents the opportunity to dispose of junk by dropping off unwanted items. We've received a lot of positive feedback from many of you saying how much you appreciated the service. Thank you for letting us know. You may have noticed that the Broome County Landfill changed their list of acceptable items from last year. This year, we were able to include a tire drop-off but electronics weren't allowed. We're hoping to possibly schedule an electronics drop-off sometime in the next few months but it all depends on the Broome County Landfill. Keep an eye on our website for information if (or when) it becomes available. The Town Board and I would like to send out a big **THANK YOU** to Nick Pappas, Zac Soboleski, and the Highway guys for their help, and to Becky Smith who fielded the phone calls and scheduled the pickups.

Many of you know that the Town was awarded a **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** last year which gave the Town funds to help qualified residents improve their homes. Those monies were used up, but because of the amount of interest shown, the Town will be submitting another application to New York State for additional funding. If awarded, the grant will provide financial assistance to owner-occupied, income-eligible homes throughout the Town for housing repairs such as roofing installation, siding, plumbing, heating, electric, masonry, windows, doors, and carpentry. Thoma Development Consultants of Cortland has once again been hired to prepare the CDBG application. Residents interested in being placed on the waiting list should contact Thoma Development Consultants at (607) 753-1433 to request a pre-application. It's a great opportunity for anyone who qualifies!

I think that's it for now. As always, please don't ever hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at the Town Hall at (607) 772-0357, ext. 11. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer! We'll talk again in the fall.

Elizabeth Rounds



TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

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

Read All About Our Bears! *Thank you to Mark & Ann Smith on Brinkman Road for submitting this photo.*



If you have been following the Town of Binghamton web page, you've probably been keeping up with our local bear sightings. During our short absence from the Town Hall, the bears of the Town of Binghamton were not only on the move searching for spring berries and other foodstuffs, but they were also bringing their new cubs out of their dens to wander and play.

Thanks to the many residents who have shared their trail cam photos and videos with us, we've been able to document the movement of our evergrowing furry friends that roam this area. Presently, the Town Clerk's office has a gallery of pictures hanging on the wall, showcasing our bears, along with a map noting the date, location, and name of the families that have spotted and reported the bears. As long as there is room for the gallery to grow, we welcome your photos!

Just a reminder, bears are beautiful but still wild and extremely protective of their cubs. If you see any signs of bear activity around your house, be vigilant to keep your eye open for them when outdoors. They will charge if they feel they or their cubs are threatened in any way. If you do happen upon a bear, never turn your back on it and run. You cannot outrun a bear. Your best bet is to speak in a loud clear voice and tell the bear to leave, while you back away from the bear slowly. Never leave small children and pets outside and unattended. While a barking dog may scare a bear away, it may also frighten it and cause it to charge.

If you happen to find scat piles, smashed bird feeders, tipped grills and trash bins, you can bet that you have had a visit from a local bear. Be vigilant in keeping possible food sources to a minimum if you can. Bears are attracted to scents so keep those grills cleaned after each use! Keep all trash in locked metal cans or large bins inside sheds, barns or garages where bears can't get in. If none of these are possible, tie it up at least 14 feet high between trees. Don't leave pet food bowls outside, and if you must, only put out a minimum amount that you know your pet will eat immediately, then remove all bowls and containers. And finally . . . whatever you do, NEVER, EVER leave food out intentionally for the bears! If you see a Town of Binghamton bear, enjoy the show, but do it from a distance!!!!

Happy bear sightings to you all, and I hope to see your pictures or videos soon!

Paula Edwards



A FRIENDLY REMINDER AS YOU ENJOY THE OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER!

Now that summer is here, we know many of you are out enjoying nature on your mountain bikes, dirt bikes, and four-wheelers. Please make sure you have the permission of a property owner to be on their property, and please be respectful of those landowners whose properties border the trails you enjoy. It's been a long quarantine, and we would all appreciate a stress-free summer. Thank you.

Highway Dept.**Water/Sewer Dept.****Mike Donahue****Phone: (607) 669-4323**

SUMMER HOURS
through Labor Day:
Tuesdays thru Fridays
6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED ON MONDAYS
through Labor Day.

SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE

You'll continue to see us around the town throughout the summer, patching roads, performing routine sign maintenance, and of course, doing road maintenance. We'll also be working on the sewer lining project on West Hamton Road and Moore Avenue to the city line. The purpose of this project is to repair any cracks or slight breaks in the clay pipes that have worn out over the years as well as to prevent any groundwater from seeping into the lines. We have also repaved Laurie Brooke and Cynthia Drive, and will soon be stone and oiling Peckham, Hance, Noyes, and Stevens. NYSEG is also finishing a gas line repair on Douglas Drive and St. Clair.

Summer weather has everyone thinking about house renovations, landscaping projects, and putting up pools and fences. If you're planning on doing any work like this, it's important to call Dig Safe New York (811) before you dig.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: We do not pick up leaves or brush/branches during the summer, so please DO NOT put these items out to the roadside because we won't pick them up. We do our annual brush and branch pickup during the month of September and will post the information on our website as soon as details become available. Also, we have FREE woodchips available from time to time. Watch our website for availability or give us a call at 669-4323.

**WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

These are approximate mailing dates:

November 1st (1st billing of a cycle); due in early December

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

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

August 1st (4th billing); due in early September (IMPORTANT NOTE BELOW!)

If the last bill (August) is not paid by October 15th, it is turned over to the Broome County Real Property Tax Office as unpaid and is then relieved onto next January's Town & County tax bill. If you have a question about your bill, please call Nadine at (607) 669-4323.

**PLEASE FOLLOW PROPER PROTOCOL WHEN MAKING IN-PERSON PAYMENTS
 (BEGINNING WITH AUGUST BILLING)**

Beginning in August, we'll accept in-person and cash payments once again. We ask that you continue to use social distancing rules and wear a face mask when entering our offices. As always, we would like you to know that all water/sewer bills can be paid online, over the phone, or by mobile app. [Paygov.us](https://www.paygov.us) charges a 3% convenience fee and offers the ease of not having to mail a check or to drop one off in person. Please check out the details on our website under the Water / Sewer Dept. Thanks.



A Message from Christopher Streno, Director of Youth Activities

Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 48

E-mail: tobyouthsports@gmail.com



With the announcement from New York State that "low-risk" youth sports may begin July 6, the Youth Commission has been working to provide some sort of baseball and softball program for the month of July. The clearance to move our region into Phase 3 of New York's reopening plan means that groups of 25 are now allowed to gather which paves the way for some youth practices in anticipation of the July 6 game date. After long discussions and communication with potential coaches, the following programs have been set to move forward:

Baseball - Majors and Minors will organize and play during the month of July. Coach-pitch and T-ball will not proceed.

Softball - Majors will be the only group to play, and it will be less formal than the baseball program. Players will be able to attend practice sessions/work-out drills and scrimmages.

Families who registered and do not get to play may either have their fees held as a credit for future programs or request a refund as previously discussed. To request a refund, please send an email to: tobyouthsports@gmail.com and list the player(s) registered, amount paid, and the name and address of the person receiving the refund.

The Southern Tier Youth Football Conference is proceeding as normal while still waiting to hear from NYS. Registrations for **football** will be available in early July. The form will be posted on the Town's website for downloading and printing, and it can be mailed or dropped off at the Town Hall. Online registration will also be available.

We will be following the COVID-19 guidelines of NYS, Broome County, and the Town of Binghamton. Hand sanitizer will be available in each dugout. The sharing of equipment such as bats and helmets will be limited. If equipment must be shared, it will be wiped down with disinfectant. There will be no sunflower seeds allowed, and we will not participate in the traditional handshake after games. Players and spectators will be encouraged to maintain safe distances from each other as much as possible, and umpires will be positioned behind the pitcher to support safe distancing as well. More rules? Yes, but I think we're all happy to be back playing sports! We hope to see you soon!



BROOME COUNTY LANDFILL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION HAS RESUMED!

Broome County Landfill is once again accepting hazardous waste (including household and auto batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealers, paints, solvents, stains, cleaners, pesticides, and pool and photography chemicals) AND old electronics (such as computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.). You can drop these at the landfill for FREE on the following days from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.:



Sat., July 11 / Sat., July 25 / Wed., Aug. 5 / Sat., Aug. 8
 Sat., Aug. 22 / Wed., Sept. 2 / Sat., Sept. 12
 Sat., Sept. 26 / Wed., Oct. 7 / Sat., Oct. 10 / Sat. Oct. 24

The Broome County Landfill is located at 286 Knapp Rd. (near the airport)
 Phone: (607) 763-4450



Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company

The Chief's Corner - Jerry Emmons

E-mail: tob.fire.chief@gmail.com

Phone: (607) 761-1218

Now that summer is here, most of us will be enjoying meals on the grill. Here are a few tips for outdoor grilling:

PROPANE GRILLS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use:

- Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



I hope you find this information useful and hope you have an enjoyable summer! Be sure to visit us on Saturday, August 15 at our Annual Chicken BBQ! We look forward to seeing you then!



THE FIREMEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, August 15 from NOON until gone.

Drive thru pickup will be at the Hawleyton United Methodist Church located at 901 Hawleyton Road

\$12 - Full Dinner includes 1/2 chicken with baked beans, salt potatoes, roll & butter

\$8 - Half Dinner is 1/2 chicken ONLY. No sides.

As a result of the COVID-19 and the state recommendations for social distancing, we will continue to ensure the safety of our members and most importantly, you. These new guidelines bring changes to how we will be doing our barbecue this year. You should have received an informational flyer in the mail recently pertaining to these changes.

As always, we thank you for your support!

Order online at <https://tobfire58.square.site/> (A processing fee may apply.)

Deadline for pre-orders is Mon., July 27th.

News from County Legislator Kelly Wildoner

As our community continues to move forward to overcome recent hardships, I wanted to take a moment to update the residents of the Town of Binghamton with news from the Broome County Legislature.

The County Office building is now open to the public. Due to COVID-19, the County was required to close our offices in order to help stop the spread of the pandemic. We've now reopened and are operating by summer hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In other good news, the Broome County Clerk's Office recently reopened both DMV sites in downtown Binghamton and in downtown Endicott. Both offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and are processing their last transactions at 3:45 p.m. The Broome County Clerk's Office, located in Government Plaza here in downtown Binghamton, has also reopened to the public by appointment only, which can be scheduled by contacting the office at (607) 778-2377 or by emailing clerkinfo@broomecounty.us. Masks are required upon entry to any County facility. I know people are also looking forward to the Rabies Clinics being back on track in order to protect their pets. The County's Health Department provides these amazing volunteers with supplies and vaccines to help keep our community safe. They are now looking for outdoor venues where the clinics can be held in order to follow social distancing guidelines, and we should see clinics being scheduled again in the coming weeks.

The Legislature has fought hard to protect our community from COVID-19. Over the past several months, County government has been working in overdrive to protect the residents and families of our community. The County Health Department has worked hard to conduct almost 20,000 tests in our area. The Office of Emergency Services has helped distribute over 1,000,000 PPE items to residents, local businesses, local healthcare providers, and others. We've held multiple free mask distributions at sites throughout the community and have been able to distribute well over 150,000 masks to residents alone. We were also happy to support the Broome County IDA's implementation of the Small Business Emergency Loan Fund to help area businesses overcome recent challenges. Now, my colleagues and I will look forward to the County's annual budget process where we will continue to look out for local taxpayers and fight to protect our community from the economic challenges of the epidemic. Rest assured, my colleagues and I will be working with our State and Federal officials to secure funding to help our community continue recovering.

Even during the shutdown, the Legislature upheld our tradition of honoring local Veterans. We held our 10th Annual Veterans of Distinction Ceremony remotely prior to our May Legislative Session. It was an absolute honor and privilege to be able to recognize Veteran Fred Urda, who served in the United States Army and was posthumously nominated by Ralph Luciani and the Korean War Veterans of the Southern Tier. This year, we were also able to connect students to their local Veteran community by having area students submit Veteran-themed artwork that was displayed during our remote ceremony to help recognize these heroes. You can find both of our Veterans of Distinction and the Veteran-themed Artwork videos on the Legislature's Facebook page at Facebook.com / BC Legislature or by searching and connecting with my own page. It's always important to remember and recognize Veterans in our community for their dedication and commitment to our Country and for the sacrifices they've made for our freedoms.

The Legislature wants to wish our local 2020 High School & College Seniors all the best in the future. We recently partnered with the County Administration to implement the *Southern Tier Athletic Recognition of Our Seniors* and the *Performing Arts Recognition of Our Seniors* programs. Each high school graduate from area school districts was featured on the Broome County Forum Theatre Marquee as a way of recognizing their hard work and ability to overcome the unprecedented challenges of their final year in high school.

Finally, I want to personally thank all the healthcare workers, first responders, police officers, firefighters, EMT's, paramedics and every frontline essential worker that has been out there each and every day fighting to help our community through these challenging times. Seeing the commitment of these workers and the fortitude of our community to be able to come together and help each other in recent months has been a privilege. As a lifelong resident of Broome County, I've seen the resilience of this area and its residents time and time again, and seeing us come together makes me proud to call Broome County my home.

As always, my prayers for safety are with all of the residents of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County and with all of our fellow Americans. If you have any questions or concerns or need anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact me at (607) 778-2129, kelly.wildoner@broomecounty.us or on Facebook by searching "Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner." Thank you.

*Kelly Wildoner is a County Legislator representing District 3
which includes the Towns of Binghamton and Conklin along with a part of Vestal.*

A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, Dog Control Officer**Phone: 772-0357, ext. 22****E-mail: DCO@townofbinghamton.com****LEAVING A DOG IN A HOT CAR CAN BE A DEADLY MISTAKE!**

On a warm day, the temperature in a parked car can reach 160 degrees in a matter of minutes, even with partially opened windows. With only hot air to breathe, your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heat stroke! Please don't ever assume your dog will be OK in your car with the windows partially rolled down. You could be making a deadly mistake.

HOW TO HELP A PET LEFT IN A HOT CAR

- Take down the car's make, model, and license plate number.
- If there are businesses nearby, notify their managers or security guards and ask them to make an announcement to find the car's owner. Many people are unaware of the danger of leaving pets in hot cars and will quickly return to their vehicle once they are alerted to the situation.
- If the owner can't be found, call 778-1911 (the non-emergency number for the BC Sheriff's office) or call the NYS Police at 775-1241 and wait for them by the car.



SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!
Binghamton Township Historical Society's
"Remembering When" Annual Luncheon
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020

Museum opens at 11 a.m. Covered dish luncheon begins at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and \$2 per person to help defray expenses. Our museum is located at 923 Hawleyton Rd. Call 669-4186 for a tour any time of year!

A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE by Jan Strnatka

Due to COVID-19 concerns, all Town of Binghamton Neighborhood Watch meetings will be cancelled for 2020. As far as safety concerns, secure your home while you're away and lock your car after removing any valuables.

A recent phone scam is offering a rebate on your NYSEG bill. The caller will seek to get banking information from you in order to deposit the so-called "rebate". **PLEASE BE AWARE** of giving personal information over the phone to an unsolicited caller. Unfortunately, there are many, many scams out there.

I don't know if you've heard, but bears are prevalent in the Town of Binghamton! Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk, has a nice article on Page 2 about the increasing sightings of bears in our area. I've also noticed that the Town's website has a lot of great information so be sure to check that out, too, at www.townofbinghamton.com. There are more bears around here than you would ever guess!

Finally, at the end of the year, I'll be stepping down as head of Neighborhood Watch. If anyone would like to pick up the leadership and keep the organization going, please call me at (607) 723-7244.

Town of Binghamton

**279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903**

TOWN HALL PHONE: (607) 772-0357

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf:

1-800-662-1220 or 711

TOWN HALL PHONE EXTENSIONS ARE LISTED BELOW

If you're interested in receiving Town news by e-mail, sign up at www.TownofBinghamton.com
Scroll down toward the bottom right on any page.

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 Avenue—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

Sat., July 11	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., July 13	Joint Meeting of Zoning Board & Planning Board @ Town Hall - 6:30 p.m.
Tue., July 21	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., July 25	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., August 4	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., August 5	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., August 8	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., August 15	Firemen's Annual Chicken BBQ @ Hawleyton UMC beginning @ NOON (see Page 5)
Tue., August 18	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., August 22	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., Sept. 1	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 2	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., Sept. 7	All Town offices are closed for the Labor Day holiday.
Sat., Sept. 12	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., Sept. 15	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 19	"Remembering When" @ Museum. Tours at 11 a.m. / Lunch at noon (see Page 7)
Sat., Sept. 26	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Wed., Oct. 7	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 10	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

