

Town Talk



Issue 98

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

October 2020



Elizabeth Rounds, Town Supervisor
E-mail: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

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Happy Fall, everyone! What a beautiful summer and early fall we've had this year. I hope you were all able to get out and take a leisurely drive through the countryside to peek at the leaves.

It's **budget time**, and it was a challenge to put together next year's budget considering all of the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. I'm pleased to report, however, that even with a decrease in sales tax revenue and even with the obstacle of staying under the 1.56% tax cap (which we did), not only did we not have to raise taxes but we didn't have to cut services, either. That's a win-win for everyone.

I know I've talked about this before, but it's an important topic that I want to make sure everyone knows about. The Town of Binghamton received a **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** last year that enabled seventeen Town of Binghamton homeowners to apply for and receive grant money for home improvement projects. I'm pleased to say that because of the amount of interest shown in the CDBG program, the Town will be submitting another application for another round of funding. If awarded, the grant will again provide financial assistance to owner-occupied, income-eligible homeowners throughout the Town, for housing repairs such as roofing, insulation, 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. Thoma's office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity if you're an income-eligible applicant.

In closing, I'd like to say that while 2020 has been an interesting year, it really has been a good year overall when you think of the lessons learned through the pandemic. We have learned to reflect on and value what really matters in life. Things like family and good health. It has also taught us the value of teamwork. Here at the Town of Binghamton, the Town Board, staff, and I have worked together as a team through this pandemic, and I believe we are now stronger and better than ever because of it.

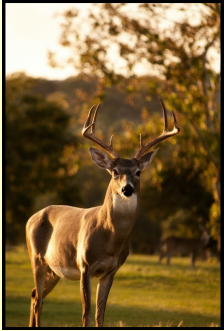
As always, feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at the Town Hall at 772-0357 x11. Enjoy the fall, and we'll talk again in January.

Elizabeth Rounds



A MESSAGE FROM VICKIE CONKLIN, TOWN CLERKE-mail: TownClerk@TownofBinghamton.com - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 26

Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 23

**OPENING DAY FOR DEER SEASON IN THE SOUTHERN ZONE IS:**

Nov. 21 and continues through Dec. 13, 2020

BOWHUNTING:

Oct. 1 through Nov. 20 then Dec. 14 through Dec. 22, 2020

MUZZLELOADING:

December 14 through December 22, 2020 (Deer of either sex)

REMINDER TO ALL HUNTERS: Make sure your blaze orange gear is visible along with your tags when you are on the hunt. If hunting on private property in the Town of Binghamton, make sure you have the owner's permission prior to entering their fields.

A MESSAGE FROM PAULA EDWARDS, DEPUTY TOWN CLERKE-mail: DeputyClerk@TownofBinghamton.com - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 23

Inclement weather is just around the corner, and we'll soon be waking up to heavy fog, slick, wet, leaf covered roads, and DEER ... loads and loads of DEER. In the event of a deer finding the attraction to your car or truck bumper too tempting to resist, please make sure to report any deer strikes to local law officials immediately. Deer can do massive damage to vehicles, and you'll need a report for your insurance carrier to cover damages. The Town Clerk's office would like to remind everyone to take a few extra minutes each morning and on your way home to drive a bit slower, to safely take in the bursting colors on the hillsides, and to enjoy a few moments of peace and serenity that the Town offers us each Autumn. Before you know it, the snow will be flying and the distant cacophony of crickets and migrating birds will turn into the sounds of the Highway Department trucks plowing roads, shovels digging out stranded cars, and the grumbings of those wishing for Spring to make her yearly loyal appearance. Stay safe (and warm), and enjoy the wonderful changing seasons in the Town of Binghamton.

This little snippet by George Cooper cleverly disguises the fickle weather that the Town of Binghamton residents will soon be experiencing:

**OCTOBER'S PARTY**

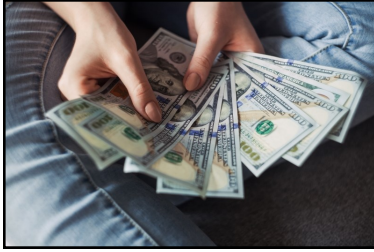
*October gave a party
The leaves by hundreds came.
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand.
Miss Weather lead the dancing,
Professor Wind lead the band.*



BROOME COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX OFFICE CHANGES PAYMENT LOCATIONS FOR TAX PAYMENTS. PAYMENTS CAN NO LONGER BE DROPPED OFF AT THE TOWN HALL.

NOTE: This information does not apply to Hickory Common School.

Please call (607) 766-3802 for questions regarding that district's taxes.



In an effort to control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect residents and employees, the Broome County Real Property Tax Office will no longer offer off-site collection for school or property tax payments in ANY of the towns throughout Broome County. (This means you can no longer drop tax payments off at the drop box at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall.)

Off-site tax collection locations will now be centralized to accommodate all towns and school districts that Broome County Real Property collects for. Collection will be for current taxes, school tax payments in September & October, and property tax payments January through March.

The following TWO off-site locations are now available, and both locations have a drop-box available for payments:

- The **OAKDALE MALL** (lower level/**backside** of the former SEARS building where the "lay-away" department and bathrooms were previously located). FREE parking!
Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **BROOME COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING** (60 Hawley Street - 2nd floor).
Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Payments can also be mailed to:

Broome County Real Property - Dept. TOB
PO Box 2087
Binghamton, NY 13902

If you have questions, please contact the B.C. Real Property Tax Office at 778-2124. This went into effect Sept. 1, 2020.



A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, DOG CONTROL OFFICER (607) 772-0357, ext. 22

If you have a non-emergency complaint, you're welcome to leave a message on my Town Hall extension (above) and I'll return your call in a timely fashion. If you're trying to reach me because you've found a stray dog that's in your possession and you'd like it picked up, please call my cell at 217-8857.

KNOW WHERE YOUR DOG IS DURING HUNTING SEASON!

Hunting season is soon approaching, and you may not realize that a dog chasing deer is considered a legal violation. Conservation Officers have the authority to destroy any dog found chasing a deer. If you love your pet, please keep it tied or penned up, especially during hunting season.

PLEASE PUT LICENSE TAGS ON DOGS

Dog tags or licenses are your lost dog's only hope for getting home. I will gladly bring your lost dog home if I find him, but if I can't identify him as yours, the dog will be taken to the Broome County Humane Society. Help me bring your dog home by putting the license tag on its collar. Thanks!

A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Bob Rolston, Highway Supt.
Phone: (607) 669-4323

E-mail: highway@townofbinghamton.com

HOURS: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FALL LEAF PICKUP: OCT. 15 THRU NOV. 25

Fall is the only time we collect leaves; we don't pick them up in the spring. Here are the details:

- Call the Highway Dept. at 669-4323 to be placed on a list for this service.
- Rake your leaves (with no debris) into a pile in front of your home by the curb line. No pinecones, rocks, branches, flowers, or animal waste can be mixed in with your leaves.
- Do not place leaves in bags!
- Do not rake leaves into your ditch or roadway because this can be very hazardous to traffic.
- NOTE: If you hire a landscaper or contractor to clean up your leaves, THEY are responsible to take the leaves away. If we see a landscaper or contractor raking or blowing leaves from your property to the curb or to the ditch, the Town will NOT remove them. It is the landscaper's or contractor's responsibility.

**Water/Sewer Rate Increase Is Coming In February**

A public hearing was held on Sept. 15, 2020, to discuss an increase in water/sewer rates. A rate increase will be in place starting with the February 2021 billing period.

WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE

(These are approximate mailing dates.)

November 1st (1st billing in an annual 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

If you have a question about your bill, please call Nadine at (607) 669-4323.

ATTENTION! All water/sewer bills should be paid in full (postmarked) no later than Thursday, October 15, 2020. Any bills not paid in full will go onto your January 2021 taxes.

A MESSAGE FROM NICK PAPPAS, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

E-mail: code@townofbinghamton.com

Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 12

WINTER IS COMING! IT'S TIME TO REVIEW OUR WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE.

We all know when a storm is coming. If you know a storm is on the way, don't park on the streets. The plows need to be able to navigate down the streets without dodging cars. We do put warnings on windshields but ONE time only. After that, you'll be ticketed. With that said, this is what the Town of Binghamton Winter Parking Ordinance states:

"No person shall park a vehicle on either side of any town or county highway within the Town of Binghamton between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. on each day from December 1 to the following April 1, inclusive. No owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall park the same unattended on any town street or highway within the Town of Binghamton following any snowfall of two inches or more until said street or highway shall have been plowed by, or at the direction of, the Highway Department of the Town of Binghamton. Any two-inch snowfall shall, for the purposes of this section, constitute a snow emergency. Failure by the operator of a motor vehicle to obey any of the signs erected pursuant to these provisions shall be construed as a violation and punishable upon conviction by a fine." Please abide by this ordinance. It is very difficult for the large snowplows to navigate down narrow streets when cars are parked along the roadways.



Broome County Landfill's Fall & Early Winter Hazardous Waste Collection Dates



The Broome County Landfill continues to accept 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 including computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.

You can drop these items off at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.:

**Sat., Oct. 10 / Sat., Oct. 24 / Wed., Nov. 4 / Sat., Nov. 7
Sat., Nov. 21 / Wed., Dec. 2 / Sat., Dec. 19**

Broome County Landfill is located at 286 Knapp Road (near the Binghamton Regional Airport)
Phone: (607) 763-4450



LAWRENCE PETERS' VFW POST 1611 NEWS

Dave Snitchler, Post Commander (607) 723-3214
John Zurenda, Quartermaster (607) 669-4243



PANCAKE BREAKFASTS ARE CANCELLED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON COMMUNITY CENTER. We apologize for the inconvenience.

MEMBERS WANTED! If you've had your feet on the ground in a foreign country, please call us. We need more members and would love to have you join our Post! Happy Fall, everyone.



The NYSDEC is offering a FREE FISHING DAY on Weds., Nov. 11, 2020 (Veterans Day). No fishing license is required, and you can fish in all fresh or marine waters in New York State.



**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2020
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

The following polling places will be open:

- TOB Town Hall - 279 Park Avenue
- TOB Community Ctr. - 1905 Coleman Rd.
- Hawleyton UMC - 901 Hawleyton Road

If you have questions, please call the BC Board of Elections at 778-2172 or visit <https://www.broomevotes.com>



COVID PROTOCOL WILL BE IN PLACE: Masks will be required, hand sanitizer on site, social distancing markers in place, and tabletop shield barriers will also be placed between the inspectors and the voters. All ballot marking pens, styluses for the electronic poll books, and the ballot privacy sleeves will be single use and disinfected between each use. Routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will also take place throughout the day.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE—772-0357, ext. 13
Joe Cook, Assessor / Amy Ricci, Assessor's Assistant



OUR OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED
Please Call Our Office Before Stopping In.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Assessor's office hours have changed. Days will be posted at www.townofbinghamton.com (under the Assessor's Dept.) and the hours will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the specific days listed. Phone messages and emails will be checked and returned promptly. Most information in question can be viewed electronically and discussed over the phone. There is a drop box at the front of the building for your convenience.

2021 RENEWAL EXEMPTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE

The 2021 exemptions and filing procedures have not yet been determined as we are awaiting guidance from NYS to properly inform residents. Please be assured that any renewal applications or change in filing procedures will be listed on the Town's website before January 1, 2021. All letters from the Town's Assessor's Office or NYS Tax and Finance should be opened, reviewed and returned, if required.



A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE by Jan Strnatka



As stated in the last newsletter, I will be stepping down as head of the Town of Binghamton Neighborhood Watch group at the end of this year. If anyone would like to take over leadership, please call me at 723-7244 by 12/31/2020.

Over the last few months, there have been troubling incidences in the Hawleyton area — a break-in early in the summer and road destruction more recently in the area of Progy Rd., Jackson Rd., and O'Connell Road. There have also been an abundance of bear sightings throughout our town. Be sure to check out the Town's website for interesting tidbits on each bear.



SCAM CALLS remain prevalent and annoying! Scam callers are advising people that money has been added to their Amazon account. If you have an account, check your online account to see a history of purchases but **DO NOT RESPOND**. Scam callers from supposedly Apple, Inc., are reporting that phones have been compromised. Also, scam callers are claiming that you are eligible for a free medical device. Many credit card reduction calls are also coming in. The most troublesome scam involves a letter from Social Security thanking you for your change of address or thanking you for setting up an online account. Contact Social Security if you have done neither and always check your bank account to make sure it hasn't been compromised. Some banks allow you to put a pin on the account which is always a good idea.

With this being my final article, I'd like to say, "THANK YOU!" to all who have supported our local Neighborhood Watch group over the years. Your attendance, reports of incidents, suggestions, and genuine caring have been greatly appreciated. I have also appreciated the wonderful presenters who have selflessly given of their time to teach and to inform. God bless you and stay safe!

Jan Strnatka

News From Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner



As we approach the colder weather and our community continues working 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 Legislature continues working to protect our community from COVID-19.

Over the past several months, Broome County has continued working in overdrive to protect the residents and families of our community. The County Health Department has conducted over 46,000 tests in the area. The Office of Emergency Services has helped to distribute over 1,000,000 PPE items to residents, local businesses, local healthcare providers, and others. We were also very proud to be able to locate \$150,000 in funding for gloves, masks, and other PPE for local healthcare professionals, first responders, and nursing home workers. You can always check out the latest COVID-related information and what the County is doing to help our schools, businesses, and community on our website at www.gobroomecounty.com/hd

Now that school has started, the Legislature will be looking for ways to continue to protect our students and youth in the community.

Working with OES and Broome Security, the Health Department created the School Reopening Task Force, which is constantly in communication with each school district through school liaisons so that our schools have the most updated information and resources available to them. Since the beginning of the school year, in fact, the County's Office of Emergency Services has worked tirelessly to distribute almost 375,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to local school districts to assist in combatting the COVID threat. Broome is also one of the first counties in NYS to create a School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety program which helps law enforcement keep kids safe from reckless drivers while kids are traveling to and from their schools. We will always work with local schools to keep our students safe!

The Legislature continues to support public health and safety investments in our community.

The County recently completely renovated its 911 call center and opened a new emergency services facility. They have both played key roles in the fight against COVID by helping County employees distribute personal protective equipment to various agencies in need throughout the area. Next Spring, the investments in public safety will be crystal clear when our new Emergency Services Communications System goes online, helping first responders all across the region communicate more effectively than ever when lives are on the line. Investing in public health and safety programs will continue to be a priority for the Legislature.

My colleagues and I look forward to the County's annual budget process where we will continue to look out for local families and businesses and fight to protect our community from the economic consequences of the epidemic.

As a member of the County Legislature Finance Committee, we will soon begin our exhaustive review of the administration's proposed 2021 County Budget. This will include going through the budgets of 43 different County departments, divisions, and contract agencies, line-by-line to ensure County tax dollars are being used responsibly and without extraneous spending. While the Federal Government works out their disaster relief packages, local governments across the country, like Broome County, have had to make difficult decisions in order to continue providing essential, and mostly mandated, services. The budget process is always a challenge, but this year's budget review process will be more important than ever. You can count on me and my colleagues on the Legislature to continue to ensure that our local families and businesses are being protected!

Finally, I again want to thank all the healthcare workers, first responders, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and every front-line essential worker that has been out there each and every day fighting to help our community reopen safely during these challenging times. I also want to thank the small business owners in our area who have put everything they have into restructuring in order to comply with the State's reopening guidelines. As I've said before, it is amazing to see the resiliency and grit of the residents and businesses of Broome County. Watching us all pull together to get through the current crisis has shown me, once again, how lucky we are to have such a great place to call home.

As always, my prayers for safety are with all the residents of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County and all our fellow Americans. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (607) 778-2129, kelly.wildoner@broomecounty.us or on Facebook by searching "Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner."

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

If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other important news items via e-mail, go to:



www.townofbinghamton.com

Scroll down and look to the bottom right on any page to sign up.

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	Ext. 14
Councilperson, Mike Bensley	Ext. 56
Councilperson, Mark Leighton	Ext. 55
Councilperson, Dean Nye	Ext. 54
Councilperson/Dep. Super. Vicky Xlander	Ext. 57
Court Clerk, Daniele Vick	Ext. 19
Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray	Ext. 22
Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water	778-1911
Highway Supt., Bob Rolston	669-4323
Information Desk, Becky Smith	Ext. 10
Plan. Bd. Chair., Christopher Streno	Ext. 50
Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 11
Tax Collector (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. Chairman, Gerardo Tagliaferri	Ext. 49

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

Sat., Oct. 10	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Thurs., Oct. 15	Fall Leaf Pickup Begins. See page 4 for details.
Thurs., Oct. 15	Deadline for delinquent water/sewer bills. Unpaid bills will be sent to the County.
Tues., Oct. 20	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting at Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 24	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Tues., Nov. 3	Election Day. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All Town offices will be open.
Wed., Nov. 4	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Thurs., Nov. 5	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 7	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Wed., Nov. 11	Veteran's Day: FREE Fishing Day in New York State. No license required!
Tues., Nov. 17	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 21	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Sat., Nov. 21	Opening Day for Deer Season in the Southern Zone. See page 2.
Thurs., Nov. 26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Town offices will be closed.
Fri., Nov. 27	Town Offices are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
Tues., Dec. 1	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall @ 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 2	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.
Tues., Dec. 15	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 19	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 5.

