# Town Talk



Issue 102

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Phone Directory & Event Calendar

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

October 2021





Elizabeth Rounds, Town Supervisor E-mail: <a href="mailto:supervisor@townofbinghamton.com">supervisor@townofbinghamton.com</a>

Happy Fall, everyone! I find it hard to believe that summer has ended already and fall has arrived, yet here we are. Time seems to fly by, and winter will be here before we know it. I hope you've all had an enjoyable summer.

It's **budget time** again, and I'm pleased to report that once again we were able to reduce the Town tax rate. We were able to accomplish that without cutting any services and still able to check some major projects off our "To-Do List". These projects include a new roof on the Highway Garage and a new roof on the original part of Town Hall.

I'm also pleased to report that the Town of Binghamton was recently awarded another round of funds from New York State to continue our successful housing rehabilitation program. The funds from this CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) will be used for the rehabilitation of substandard, single-family, owner-occupied properties located within the boundaries of the Town. This program may assist with, but is not limited to: electrical, plumbing, heating, roofing, insulation, masonry, windows, doors, painting, and interior and exterior carpentry. Applications are expected to become available by the end of 2021. This is a great opportunity if you're an income-eligible applicant. To view the income limits, please check out the Town's website at <a href="https://www.townofbinghamton.com">www.townofbinghamton.com</a> and look for "Community Development Block Grant Funds."

As my third year as your Supervisor comes to an end, I can honestly say I enjoy being the Town of Binghamton Supervisor more today than when I started. 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, ext. 11. Enjoy the fall, and we'll talk again in January.

Elizabeth Rounds







A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

**Bob Rolston, Highway Supt.** 

865 Hawleyton Road, Binghamton, NY 13903

E-mail: highway@townofbinghamton.com

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

Phone: (607) 669-4323

#### FALL LEAF PICKUP: OCT. 18 THRU NOV. 24, 2021

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.



#### WINTER TIPS TO REMEMBER

With winter approaching, we'd like to take this opportunity to review a few winter tips:

- Most of us have lived here long enough to know our weather can be very unpredictable so being prepared for upcoming snow storms is key! Be prepared, be aware, and please be patient.
- Have all your equipment in working order. Keep salt, batteries, and gas on hand at all times.
- Keep up to date with the latest weather forecast and possible road closings or re-routings.
- We want to remind you that we are not responsible for plowing the County roads. County roads include: Hawleyton, Park, Saddlemire, Murphy, Pierce Creek, Brady Hill, and Powers. If you see a problem on a County road, call the Broome County Highway Dept. at 778-2228.
- The Town's "Winter Parking Ordinance" is strongly enforced and violators WILL BE ticketed. It is imperative that our plow trucks be able to freely remove the snow off town roads with no obstructions. We do our best to remove snow as quickly and as efficiently as possible. With that being said, we do not lift our plows in front of driveways. As you plow your driveway, we suggest you shovel your snow to the RIGHT (facing the road). This way, our plows will catch your snow and shove it away from your driveway.



Parkwood Subdivision Will See A Water/Sewer Rate Increase In February

After a public hearing was held on Oct. 5, 2021, a rate increase was approved for this area. The rate increase will be initiated with the February 2022 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, 2021. Any bills not paid in full will go onto your January 2021 taxes.

#### A MESSAGE FROM VICKIE CONKLIN, TOWN CLERK

E-mail: <u>TownClerk@TownofBinghamton.com</u> - 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:**

Sat., Nov. 20 and continues through Sun., Dec. 12, 2021

#### **BOWHUNTING:**

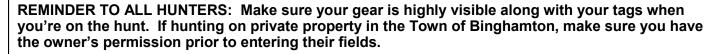
Fri., Oct. 1 through Fri., Nov. 19, 2021 Mon., Dec. 13 through Tues., Dec. 21, 2021 Sun., Dec. 26 through Sat., Jan. 1, 2022

#### **MUZZLELOADING:**

Mon., Dec. 13 through Fri., Dec. 17, 2021 (Deer of either sex)

#### **FREE FISHING:**

Thurs., November 11, 2021 (Veterans Day)



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

#### 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. Also, if you have a non-emergency complaint, please leave a message on my Town Hall extension (above) and I'll return your call. 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.



Thanksgiving Greetings

# BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GATHERING

The Town's Community Center is located in a beautiful country setting with ample parking. The facility accommodates up to 80 people and is perfect for your Thanksgiving gathering. We reserve on a first come, first served basis, and rental rates are as follows: A \$200 refundable security deposit is due at the time the application is submitted (which will secure your date), and a \$300 rental fee is expected at the time of key pickup. Call to secure your date today.

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATORS:**

Nick Pappas - 772-0357, ext. 12 or Zack Soboleski - 772-0357, ext. 14



Assessor's Office News Page 4

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

#### **Assessor's Office Hours:**

Assessor: Wednesday Afternoons (Appointments suggested)
Assessor's Assistant: Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Drop Box Available at Main Entrance



This is a reminder that all exemption applications and renewals must be filed with our office between January 1st and March 1st each year.

#### 2022 Renewal Exemptions – Low Income Seniors and Disability Exemptions

The 2022 renewal exemptions and filing procedures will require income verification. All letters from the Town's Assessor's Office and/or NYS Tax and Finance should be opened, reviewed and returned, if required.

#### STAR registration for new homeowners

Have you recently moved to a new home in the Town of Binghamton? You're probably eligible for the Basic STAR credit, which lowers your school taxes. Please visit <a href="www.tax.ny.gov/star">www.tax.ny.gov/star</a> or call (518) 457-2036.

#### **Enhanced STAR Exemption**

The Enhanced STAR Exemption, which also applies only to the school tax, is a special exemption designed for **seniors only**. A senior is defined as a person who is 65, or will be turning 65, anytime during the calendar year. This exemption is different from the Basic STAR in that seniors must show proof of income. For the 2022 tax roll year, the **maximum qualifying adjusted gross income is \$92,000**. Your 2020 tax return will be used as documentation when applying in 2022. **You must enroll in Income Verification with NYS**.

#### Veterans Exemption

In addition to the Low Income Senior Citizens Exemption and the Enhanced STAR Exemption, there is also a Veterans Exemption. The Veterans Exemption reduces Town & County (but not school) taxes and is for veterans who served during specific dates that are available at our office. Not only can the Veteran apply, but it is also available to unremarried widows of veterans. Applications will be available in our office or on the town's website. A copy of the Veteran's DD214 form must be submitted along with a completed application.

Please visit our website at <a href="https://www.townofbinghamton.com">https://www.townofbinghamton.com</a> for all applications and further information regarding all exemptions. As always, if you have any assessment questions, please call our office at 772-0357, ext. 13 or send an email to: assessor@townofbinghamton.com



#### 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 because 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.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARK TERRACE RESIDENTS

THERE IS NO PARKING ANYTIME ON ANY OF THE STREETS IN THE PARK TERRACE AREA.



### **TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

The Chief's Corner - Jerry Emmons E:mail: tob.fire.chief@gmail.com

Phone: (607) 761-1218

THANK YOU to all Town residents for your continued support of our Annual Chicken BBQ! It was a huge success, and we couldn't have done it without you!

I'd like to share some important tips as we enter into the winter season.

- Check or have your chimney inspected BEFORE the heating season begins. A clogged chimney can lead to a chimney fire and/or CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning. Remember that carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. Test your CO detectors when you're testing your smoke detectors. Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms are often described as "flu-like." Symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, vomiting, chest pain, confusion, etc. When in doubt, call 911! I don't care what time it is! Whether it's 3 a.m. or 3 p.m., we cannot help you if we are not called.
- Deer are more active at this time year. October through December is breeding season for deer. Do not swerve in an attempt to avoid hitting the animal. You could hit another vehicle head on, making the situation even worse. Use your brakes, depending on how close the cars are behind you, or take your foot off the gas. Be especially vigilant at dusk and dawn.

Thanks, everyone! Please be safe out there and have an enjoyable Autumn season!

#### HISTORIAN SEEKS ANTIQUE CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR DISPLAY CASE AT TOWN HALL

Town Historian Vickie Conklin regularly rotates memorabilia in the glass display case at the Town Hall, and she thought it would be fun to display some vintage and antique Christmas items this year. All items will be on loan from its owner and will be returned within a few months after being displayed. If you'd like to contact Vickie about displaying some of your special items, please send an email to her at: <a href="mailto:historiantob@gmail.com">historiantob@gmail.com</a> Thanks for your help!



#### A MESSAGE FROM NICK PAPPAS, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

E-mail: <a href="mailto:code@townofbinghamton.com">code@townofbinghamton.com</a> - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 12



I've noticed a lot of TVs and other electronic equipment setting at the curb in front of homes waiting for the garbage man to pick them up, and I've even seen many thrown in ditches along the road. I'm assuming at this point that many of you don't know that the garbage haulers will NOT pick these items up, but I'm here to let you know that there is another way to get rid of them. The Broome County Landfill takes them for FREE on specific days. You just need to take them to the landfill where you'll be directed to a specific drop off site, show them your driver's license, and they'll take them from you. The following information about "Hazardous Waste Collection Dates" is always posted in this newsletter, but I thought I would make a special reference to it in this issue:

## 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 for FREE on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.:

Sat., Oct. 23 / Wed., Nov. 3 / Sat., Nov. 6 / Sat., Nov. 20 / Wed., Dec. 1 / Sat., Dec. 18

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

#### CHICKENS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA

My office has received several calls over the summer months, from people inquiring about the rules and regulations concerning harboring chickens in a residential area. According to Town Code, you need at least three acres of land to harbor farm animals, including chickens. I don't go out of my way looking for violators, but if a complaint is received by this office, I will act on it, and some of you may have already gotten a letter from my office. Simply put . . . if you live in a residential area with less than three acres and have chickens, you need to relocate them.





The New York State
DEC is offering a FREE
FISHING DAY on
Thurs., Nov. 11, 2021
(Veterans Day).
No fishing license
is required, and you
can fish in all fresh
or marine waters in
New York State.

What a great way to enjoy fall in New York!

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 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 <a href="https://www.broomevotes.com">https://www.broomevotes.com</a>



In this edition, we're featuring Jen Edwards and the **EDWARDS PETTING FARM**, a local family farm and business located on Webb Road. Jen Edwards, aka Jen Hawley and most affectionately "Farmer Jen" is a well-known face around the Town of Binghamton. Jen's philosophy has always been to give back to her community, and it's something she has done selflessly and extremely well for decades!

Many of you probably know Jen from her famous annual **Easter Egg Hunts**. She devised the first Easter Egg Hunt over 20 years ago, and they have been a smashing hit ever since. It was cancelled only once in 20 years, and that of course was when COVID hit in the spring of 2020. Jen was eager to try it again this spring and was able to pull it off by holding it at the family farm rather than at the Town's Community Center. Holding it at the farm proved to be a great success because no transportation of the animals was needed, and she was able to set up her barn in such a way that allowed her to follow the necessary COVID protocol while giving the kids and parents that "down on the farm" experience she had always desired. Jen even came up with an online reservation system that allowed families to pick times to "hunt". When all was said and done, she had 348 kids this year. A lot of the visitors encouraged her to keep it on the farm, which she now plans to do.

Having her own **petting farm** has always been on Jen's radar, too. A seed was planted while visiting the Catskill Game Farm as a young child where she loved being near the animals and being able to interact with them. As she grew older, she wanted to pursue becoming a school teacher, but as life took its twists and turns, she married instead, had five kids of her own, and eventually ended up playing a very active role on her husband's farm. Jen never forgot her childhood dreams, and often talked to her husband, Scott, about opening a petting farm. He didn't share the vision, at least for awhile. Jen's first opportunity to show her animals was with the Conklin Preschool children, and the response was amazing. The kids and teachers loved it! Before she knew it, word spread like wildfire, and she was soon asked to take her furry farm friends to the Conklin Fair to set up a petting farm there. It turned into another smashing success! By now, Jen was having a blast, and Scott was starting to see the vision after watching adults and children connect with the farm animals. They began talking and were soon investing money into creating new pens and purchasing one of every kind of farm animal as the calls continued to come in. Things were falling into place and the **Edwards Petting Farm** soon became a reality in the spring of 2019.

In 2020, COVID hit and Jen was presented with a problem. How was she going to show her animals when everything was shut down? Jen decided to try ZOOM tours which would allow her to still "show" her animals without physical contact. She reached out to her Facebook followers who were teachers, and before she knew it, she had scheduled more than 40 hours of ZOOM tours. Jen used the opportunity to educate the audiences about each animal, providing fun facts and answering any questions. This even expanded to local nursing homes where she found the nursing home residents squealing with delight as the animals pressed their noses against the camera. One elderly lady who was watching via ZOOM gleefully exclaimed at the end of the 'tour', "I'll be back tomorrow!" It was as if she was right there on the farm. Jen said that showing the animals to the physically challenged is an added bonus for her. She encourages group homes or individual caregivers to bring them to the farm where they can touch, smell, and interact with the animals.











Looking back on her life, Jen said her dreams are being fulfilled, both as a teacher and as a petting farm owner. She bubbles over when talking about her life on the farm, saying that she LOVES teaching people and she LOVES serving the community. She said that many kids today don't know that food comes from farms, and she appreciates having the opportunity to teach them about the value of farms and farm animals.

Jen wanted you to know that she offers school field trips, private tours by appointment, and Birthday parties, complete with a top floor of the barn being utilized for parties. *Private birthday parties are \$150 for up to 50 kids and they last approximately three hours.* The farm also has a picnic area and playground, and the bathrooms are handicap accessible and include changing tables. She said that she will do her best to accommodate any requests, including private tours that can be a perfect outing for those who are easily over-stimulated. General tours are \$5 per person and pony rides can also be added for an extra \$5 per rider.

Finally, Jen wants you to know about a fun event she has planned for the **month of October**. She's calling it, "**Trick or Treating with the Animals**", and she'll be offering special Halloween "Trick or Treat" tours every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening beginning on Friday, October 15, and ending on Halloween night, October 31. Each tour includes special treats!

Please check out their website at <a href="https://edwardspettingfarm.com/">https://edwardspettingfarm.com/</a> or like them on Facebook (Edwards Petting Farm). You can also send her an email at 5titij@gmail.com or give her a call on her cell at (607) 343-1184.

### **BINGHAMTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS** by Esther Pettingill E-mail: pet10gill@gmail.com Phone: 669-4151

#### BREAKING NEWS! WE APPLIED FOR AND ARE GETTING OUR FIRST GRANT!



We have some very exciting news that we've been anxious to share with all of you, so I'll just begin by saying that back in June, Town Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds alerted us to a grant that she felt suited our Society perfectly. The deadline for applications was July 30<sup>th</sup> and after a somewhat hectic and very interesting educational process, we were able to file all of the paperwork before the deadline. I'd like to share with you how this grant money will help us greatly in preserving our local history.

Over the years our collections have grown to include tools, household items, quilts, and even some antique appliances. We also have a massive collection of paper items including books, school registers, photographs, and the like. We have struggled to preserve our artifacts to the best of our ability, but an on-going battle with the humidity, sunlight, and other natural occurrences has been a constant worry. A case for storing larger papers like maps has been on our bucket list for a long time. We've also needed tables to replace the old sagging models as well as extra ones to be used for additional workspace upstairs. We've also longed for new chairs that actually match and ones that can be stacked or placed on special racks when not in use. The grant will enable us to get these items.

In addition, we've also needed a computer system of our own. Right now, all of our computerized records are generated on our personal home computers with no allowance for access by anyone but the person whose computer contains the information. The grant money will enable us to have our own computer system for storing our oral histories and other documents digitally and will also enable us to keep track of our expanding collection of artifacts.

The Historical Society agreed to match the grant amount asked for, and if all goes well, by this time next year, we will have everything in place. This is an exciting time as we look forward to organizing and preserving our collections! Once again, THANK YOU, Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds for alerting us to this grant and for providing guidance in our application process.

### Town of Binghamton

279 Park Avenue Binghamton, NY 13903



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

#### **TOWN HALL MAIN PHONE**

(607) 772-0357

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

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

Fri., Oct. 15	Deadline for delinquent water/sewer bills. Unpaid bills will be sent to the County.
Mon., Oct. 18	Fall Leaf Pickup Begins. See page 2 for details.
Tues., Oct. 19	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting at Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 23	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Tues., Nov. 2	Election Day. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All Town offices will be open.
Wed., Nov. 3	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Thurs., Nov. 4	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 6	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Thurs., Nov. 11	Veteran's Day: FREE Fishing Day in New York State. No license required!
Tues., Nov. 16	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 20	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Sat., Nov. 20	Opening Day for Deer Season in the Southern Zone. See page 3.
Thurs., Nov. 25	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Town offices will be closed.
Fri., Nov. 26	Town Offices are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
Wed., Dec. 1	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Tues., Dec. 7	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall @ 5:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 18	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 6.
Tues., Dec. 21	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 24	MERRY CHRISTMAS! All Town offices will be closed.





