

# Town Talk



Issue 103

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

January 2022



## A Message from Town Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds

Email: [supervisor@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:supervisor@townofbinghamton.com)

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Highway News</b>	2
Christmas Tree	
Pickup Schedule	
Winter Parking	
Snow Removal	
<b>Water/Sewer News</b>	3
Billing Schedule	
Frozen Meters	
<b>Historical Society</b>	3
<b>CDBG (Grant)</b>	3
<b>Assessor's Office</b>	4
<b>Town Clerk's Corner</b>	5
<b>TOB Vol. Fire News</b>	5
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	6
Winter Parking	
Ordinance	
<b>Dog Control</b>	6
Dog Shelter Law	
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	6
Drop Off Days at	
BC Landfill	
<b>Phone Directory &amp;</b>	7
<b>What's Happening</b>	
<b>"In the Spotlight":</b>	7
Jim Cadden	



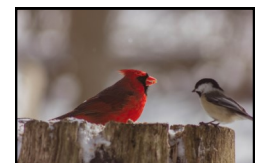
It's hard to believe that 2022 is the start of my fourth year in office. When I ran in 2018, I had no idea how much I would enjoy working for the residents of the Town of Binghamton. With the new year upon us, I thought I would take this opportunity to review the past three years and to highlight some of the issues I believe to be the most important accomplishments of the current Town Board.

- First and foremost is that the Town Board has not raised property taxes for the past three years. We scrutinize the Town's budget each year and have succeeded in lowering taxes consistently without sacrificing any of the services you have come to expect.
- "Municipal Clean-Up Days" started in May of 2019 and has continued each year. It has been a very successful service with a large number of our residents taking the opportunity to get rid of unwanted items. Our plan is to continue the service as long as the County offers it. Both the Highway staff and the Town Hall staff are heavily involved in assisting with this service, and they deserve a "Big Hand" in making the "Clean-Up Days" a continued success.
- In January of 2019 and then again in June 2021, the Town was awarded Community Development Block Grants. The grant was applied for by the Town to be able to assist qualified low-income residents with home improvement projects at no cost to them. It has been a humbling experience to see how this grant has made a difference in the lives of some of our residents.

These are just a sampling of what the Town Board has been able to accomplish. It has been my real honor to represent all of the Town of Binghamton residents for the last three years, and I look forward to continued service as your Town Supervisor.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My door is always open to you. I can be reached at (607) 772-0357, option 2. Thanks, and we'll talk in the spring.

*Elizabeth Rounds*





**CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP DATES:** You can put your tree to the curb anytime during the month of January. Please make sure your tree is completely bare of any decorations. There's no need to call. No pickups after January 31. Thanks.



**Bob Rolston - Highway Dept. / Water & Sewer Dept.**

**Phone: (607) 669-4323**

**Hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**E-mail: [highway@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:highway@townofbinghamton.com)**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE STREETS OR IN DEAD-END AREAS WITH SIGNIFICANT SNOWFALLS. MANY OF OUR STREETS ARE VERY NARROW, AND WITH PARKED CARS, IT MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT (SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE) TO PLOW THE ROADS AND TO REMOVE THE SNOW. WE HAVE A PARKING ORDINANCE FOR A REASON, AND RESIDENTS NEED TO ABIDE BY IT OR THEY'LL BE TICKETED.**

- Make sure your snow removal equipment is in good working order.
- Always carry a flashlight, blanket, snow scraper, jumper cables and even some snacks in your vehicle in case you get caught in a storm.
- Remember to slow down and allow extra travel time. The news media will announce approaching storms and will keep you updated on closings, cancellations, and re-routings so please pay attention. It is important to remember that snow accumulations and road conditions can vary in our higher elevated areas. We will continue to do our best to keep the roads clear for travel.
- Try not to go out during or immediately after a storm. The less traffic on the roads means we can clear the roads more quickly and completely. Our crews have designated routes so you can be assured that someone will be around to clear your area. Please be patient.



### HELPING YOU UNDERSTAND SNOW PLOWING PROTOCOLS

- We receive many calls each year asking us to pick up our plows when we come to driveways. That is not something we do. It is our responsibility to remove snow from the roads, not from driveways. That's the homeowner's responsibility. Please hire someone to remove the snow from your driveway if you are unable to. If you are a senior citizen, the *Office for the Aging* may be able to recommend someone to plow for you (for a price). You can reach the *Office for the Aging* at (607) 778-2411. If you are able to shovel your driveway manually, be sure to shovel your snow to the right which is the same direction our plows push the snow. Finally, keep in mind that pushing snow into the road can create a hazardous condition. Please don't do it.
- There are times when your mailbox may be knocked over by our plows. If this happens, please call Nadine at the office, and we'll try to fix it as soon as possible. As always, it is never our intention, but in hazardous conditions...it happens.



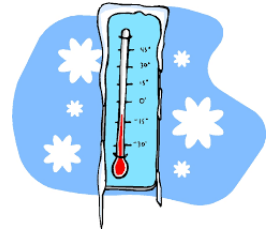
Your understanding and cooperation are an important part of our snow removal plan. We appreciate any help you can give us.

### FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY ROADS

The Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. IS NOT responsible for plowing, sanding, and routine maintenance of COUNTY roads in the Town of Binghamton (including plowing, ditch cleaning, mailbox repair, and animal removal). The COUNTY is solely responsible for COUNTY roads. If you are unsure which roads are County roads, they are: Brady Hill, Hawleyton, Murphy, Park Ave., Pierce Creek, Powers, and Saddlemire. If you have a complaint concerning the maintenance of any County road, please call (607) 778-2228.

**WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

November 1st (1st billing in an annual cycle); due in early December  
**February 1st, 2022 (2nd billing); due in early March**  
 May 1st, 2022 (3rd billing); due in early June  
 August 1st, 2022 (4th billing); due in early September



**THE TOWN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRS TO FROZEN WATER METERS AND PIPES**

This is a friendly reminder that it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain heat in and around the water meter and pipes to keep them from freezing. It's imperative that you make it a priority to keep your meter and pipes warm. A water break inside your home can cause considerable damage to your home and its contents, PLUS it will cost you \$450 to replace one of our water meters. Please call us if you have any questions. We can be reached at (607) 669-4323.

**BINGHAMTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS** by Esther Pettingill

E-mail: [pet10gill@gmail.com](mailto:pet10gill@gmail.com) Phone: (607) 669-4151

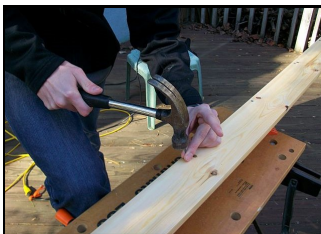
We're continuing with a story from one of the diaries of George Stevens. We'd previously mentioned that George Stevens' father, Daniel, was an early settler of the Town of Binghamton, having bought 110 acres at the corner of Morgan Road and the now named Stevens Road. George was born in 1856 at home on Morgan Road. George kept a yearly diary in which he describes the many hardships he endured. With winter now upon us, I thought you'd enjoy an excerpt from George's diary from the winter of 1882:

*In the winter of 1882, my sisters, Cora and Ida, were teaching at Brookdale, Pennsylvania. One Friday I went to bring them home. The horses were not sharp-shod and when I got up above the Elvin Mosher place, the road was a sheet of ice except a narrow strip along one side. One horse went down. I got them unhitched, backed the wagon against a tree, took the horses apart, tied one to a tree, and drew the other by her tail down the road till I came to a bare spot. She got up and I led her along the side of the road to the top of the hill. Took the other horse to the wagon, hitched him to the one whiffletree, strapped the evener to the crossbar, held up the other end of the neck yoke, hitched up at the top of the hill. Came home by way of Conklin Center."*



Hearing this makes you really appreciate your four-wheel drive with heated seats, doesn't it? I hope you all enjoy the winter, and I look forward to talking again in the spring.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) INFORMATION**



The Town of Binghamton was recently awarded 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. In order to be eligible, household incomes must be lower than the amount shown below for your family size.

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 in the near future.** In the meantime, if you would like more information on the program, or would like to be placed on a waiting list, please contact the Town's consultant, Thoma Development Consultants, at (607) 753-1433.

**INCOME REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO HOUSEHOLD SIZE (NUMBER OF PERSONS)**

Number in Household:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Income:	\$40,500	\$46,300	\$52,100	\$57,850	\$62,500	\$67,150	\$71,750	\$76,400

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**  
**Joseph Cook & Amy Ricci - Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 013**

**NEW PROTOCOL FOR COVID:** In the interest of keeping our residents safe, we will accept exemption applications in the following ways:

- **By mail.** Return to: Town of Binghamton Assessor, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903
- **Drop off** in the drop box located on the front of the Town Hall building
- **Email to:** [assessor@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:assessor@townofbinghamton.com)
- **Fax to:** (607) 772-6911

The word "January" is written in a colorful, bubbly font. Each letter is a different color: J (blue), a (purple), n (yellow), u (green), a (red), r (orange), y (blue).

If you're unable to make the required copies for verification of income, you may mail your originals to us, and we'll return them after your application has been processed. We understand we are living in challenging times, and we'll do our best to work with you to make sure this process is as stress-free as possible. If you have any questions, please call us at (607) 772-0357, ext. 013. With all of that said, we hope your new year is off to a positive start! We have information at present that we hope you will find helpful:

**NEW PROTOCOL FOR 2022: THE GOVERNOR HAS WAIVED THE RENEWAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE SENIOR EXEMPTION (AGED) AND DISABILITY EXEMPTION. THIS MEANS YOU'LL RECEIVE THE SAME EXEMPT STATUS THAT YOU HAD IN 2021 WITHOUT FILING A RENEWAL APPLICATION.** The Governor has passed an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that permits the local municipalities to suspend the requirement for renewal applications to be filed for the 2022 assessment roll. In the interest of keeping our residents safe, the exemptions covered by the Executive Order for 2022 that waive the renewal requirements are:

- **Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens (467)**
- **Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income (459-c)**

Normally you would receive a renewal application to continue your coverage under one of these programs. **This action will ensure that you will receive the same exempt status that you had on the 2021 assessment roll without filing the application.** If the Assessor's Office receives any information that would lead to a change in your exemption status for either of these programs, you will be notified. Thank you.

**We are currently in the exemption application period for the 2022 tax year.** All exemption applications MUST be received each year by March 1st. If you plan to file for an exemption (Enhanced Star, Low-Income Senior, Veteran, Disability, etc.), now is the time. If New York State requires information, they will contact you directly, and you must reply promptly. The exemption deadline is March 1, 2022.

**Enhanced "STAR" for Seniors (age 65 and up):** If your household income ("adjusted gross income" minus "taxable amount" of total IRA Distributions) is below **\$92,000 in 2020**, then you qualify for the Enhanced STAR.

**Low Income Seniors:** If your gross income for 2020 is **\$31,500 or below**, including Social Security, then you not only qualify for the Enhanced "STAR", but you are eligible for an additional exemption that may apply to the county, town, or school district, depending on your income level. This exemption is based upon a sliding scale.

**Income Verification Program:** If you're applying for the **Enhanced STAR exemption**, you must enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). You need only to enroll once, and you'll receive the exemption each year, as long as you're eligible. In the first year, your assessor will verify your eligibility based on the income information you provide. In the following years, NYS will verify your income eligibility. You will not need to reapply for the exemption or provide copies of your tax returns to your local assessor.

**Already in the Income Verification Program?** You don't need to take any action to continue receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption. The Tax Department will contact you if it needs additional information.

This information does not apply to new homeowners and first time STAR applicants. If you're a new homeowner or have never filed for the STAR exemption, you may now qualify for the **"STAR CREDIT"**. You may register online at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) or by phone (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) with New York State by calling (518) 457-2036. Local Assessors are no longer allowed to accept new STAR exemptions.

**TOWN CLERK'S CORNER**Email: [townclerk@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:townclerk@townofbinghamton.com)

Vickie Conklin, Town Clerk - (607) 772-0357, ext. 026

Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk - (607) 772-0357, ext. 023

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SONGBIRDS?** *by Paula Edwards*

It's January. It's cold and blustery with not as much snow as we've seen in the past, but enough to remind us that it is indeed winter. From my desk, I hope to catch an infrequent glimpse of a deer on the hill near the Town Hall parking lot, and every so often, a black crow can be seen hovering above the bare tree limbs. Last summer, someone asked me if I had noticed that the bird population seemed to be dwindling. I hadn't. As a matter of fact, very often, I'd sit on my porch in the evening listening to the sounds of the Mourning Doves saying goodnight to each other before tucking into their nests. I was lucky because many of my friends and co-workers were seeing a dramatic loss of aviary action at their feeders and in their yards, and it concerned them. After doing a bit of online research, it came to my attention that a mysterious illness had been affecting the songbirds. In May through July of 2021, an unrecognized illness was causing paralysis, tremors, crusty eyes, neurological distress and even death in many species of birds, the majority being songbirds including Robins, Blue Jays, European Starlings, and common Grackles. While the illness has not been reported in our area, SUNY OSWEGO Ornithologist, Dan Baldassarre gave his input, inferring that the illness may have been caused by the emergence of the Brood X Cicada. "It may be that toxic chemicals in the cicadas, perhaps via pesticides caused the illness," Baldassarre said. This idea is also supported by the fact that the illness seems to have abated pretty dramatically with the disappearance of the cicadas." Were those hideously ugly insects the reason? It's possible. The DEC noted that scientists at several regional labs ruled out West Nile Virus, Finch Conjunctivitis, Avian Flu, and SARSCoV-2, Newcastle Disease, parasites, fungi, bacteria, and common toxins in pesticides. Many states were even put under "do not feed nor water" orders last summer, but those orders were lifted in September of 2021. The DEC



recommended removing feeders for two weeks, then cleaning and sanitizing them with a bleach solution before giving the access back to the birds. That still doesn't explain where all of the local birds have gone, but we're certainly hopeful they'll return. Perhaps they're tired of rising New York taxes or have fled to parts unknown. Who really knows, but if you should happen upon a deceased bird, using gloved hands, place it in a sealed bag, and report it to a Conservation Officer at the Syracuse DEC office by calling (315) 426-7431, option 5.

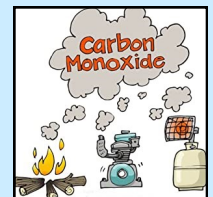
**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY****Jerry Emmons, Fire Chief**

Phone: (607) 761-1218

Email: [chief@tobfire.org](mailto:chief@tobfire.org)

With winter now upon us, I have a few important reminders I'd like to mention:

**Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home.** If your CO detector is beeping, please don't assume it's malfunctioning. It's telling you there is a problem. Call 911 immediately, NO MATTER WHAT TIME IT IS! These are life-saving devices and should not be ignored.



**Take your time when driving on snow covered roads.** There are specific areas in our town that can be particularly hazardous during a storm. These areas include Park Avenue from the City line south to the dip past Stevens Road and Hawleyton Road from Foland Road to Webb Road. Please be extremely cautious in those areas.

**Deer are more active at this time of year.** October through December is breeding season for deer. Don't swerve in an attempt to avoid hitting the animal. If you swerve, you're taking the chance of hitting another vehicle head on which you certainly don't want to do. The best scenario is to hit the deer. We recommend that you use your brakes, depending on how close the cars are behind you, or take your foot off the gas. It is far better to hit the deer than to put yourself into a life-threatening situation. Always be especially vigilant at dusk and dawn. Thanks, everyone. Be safe and take care.

*Jerry Emmons*

**A MESSAGE FROM NICK PAPPAS, Code Enforcement Officer**

Phone: (607) 772-0357, x 012

Email: [code@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:code@townofbinghamton.com)

**WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE IS NOW IN EFFECT**



The Town of Binghamton has a Winter Parking Ordinance that 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 STREETS LOCATED IN BOTH UPPER AND LOWER PARK TERRACE AREAS. TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED TO VIOLATORS.**

**A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

(607) 772-0357, ext. 022

E-mail: [DCO@TownofBinghamton.com](mailto:DCO@TownofBinghamton.com)



With winter now upon us, I'd like to remind everyone of the "New York State Dog Shelter Law." Section 353-b of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law states that you are required to provide shelter for your dog at all times. The Broome County Sheriff's Dept. and New York State Police, as well as local police agencies, can enforce this law. If your dog spends anytime outdoors, you must provide shelter to protect the dog from direct sunlight, rain, snow, wind, cold weather, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The shelter must be waterproof, insulated, and allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Violators will receive a Court citation and be required to pay a fine ranging from \$50 to \$250, as well as to show proof of shelter for the dog. If you suspect that someone is not providing their dog with adequate food and/or shelter, don't hesitate to call the Sheriff's Dept. at (607) 778-1911 or the New York State Police at (607) 775-1241.

**Broome County Landfill's Winter & Spring 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 (such as computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.) You can drop these off at the landfill on the following days FREE OF CHARGE from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.:



Sat., Jan. 22 / Wed., Feb. 2 / Sat., Feb. 19  
Wed., March 2 / Sat., March 12 / Sat., March 26  
Wed., Apr. 6 / Sat., April 9 / Sat., April 23

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

# Town of Binghamton

**279 Park Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903**

**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**

**TOWN HALL MAIN PHONE  
(607) 772-0357**

**Telecommunication Device for the Deaf:**

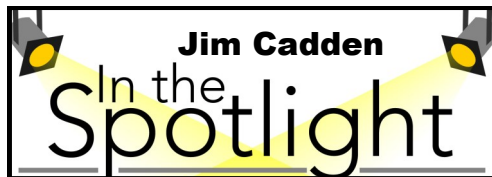
**1-800-662-1220 or 711**

**PLEASE NOTE! WE HAVE NEW EXTENSIONS!**

Assessor, Joseph Cook	Ext. 015
Assessor's Clerk, Amy Ricci	Ext. 013
Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler	Ext. 021
Code Enforcement/Bldg. Insp., Nick Pappas	Ext. 012
Code Enforcement (Asst.), Zack Soboleski	Ext. 014
Court Clerk, Daniele Vick	Ext. 019
Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray	Ext. 022
<b>Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water</b>	<b>778-1911</b>
Highway Supt., Bob Rolston	669-4323
Information Desk, Becky Smith	Ext. 010
Plan. Bd. Chair., Christopher Streno	Ext. 048
Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 011
Tax Collector (call Broome County)	778-2169
Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin	Ext. 026
Town Clerk's Deputy, Paula Edwards	Ext. 023
Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Christopher Streno	Ext. 048

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

Sat., January 22	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., February 1	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., February 2	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., February 15	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., February 19	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., February 21	Presidents' Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., March 1	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., March 2	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., March 12	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., March 15	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., March 26	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., April 5	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., April 6	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., April 9	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., April 11	Joint Planning and Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Sat., April 23	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.



*Rest  
in  
Peace*

Many of you may not have heard that Jim Cadden, a well-known Town of Binghamton legend, passed away unexpectedly at his home on January 3, 2022. Jim was a life long resident and frequent visitor at our Town Board meetings. Many will remember

when he served as Town Justice for many years. According to his obituary, Jim was born on April 15, 1937. He was predeceased by his parents, James E. and Katherine (Mahoney) Cadden; two brothers, Joseph and John Cadden. He is survived by his sister, Helena M. (Cadden) Flaherty, nieces, nephews, several great-nephews and nieces, cousins and friends. He was known as Broome County's home delivery Milk Man. A funeral mass was offered on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at St. Augustine's Church in Brackney, PA, with Fr. Miller officiating. His burial will be in the family plot in St. Augustine's Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed online at

<https://www.savagefs.com>