

# TOWN TALK



**Issue 105**

**Town of Binghamton**  
279 Park Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903

**July 2022**



**A MESSAGE FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR, ELIZABETH ROUNDS**  
E-mail: [Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com](mailto:Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com)

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**HAPPY SUMMER**, everyone! The weather has been very pleasant and not too hot which has been really nice. We had a beautiful day for our Memorial Day parade, and it was great to see so many Town residents out for the festivities. It always makes me realize how special it is to live in a small town.

We held our **"Municipal Cleanup Days"** again this year, being the fourth year that we've offered our residents the opportunity to dispose of unwanted junk. This is by far the most popular service we offer. With that said, I'm sure you'll be happy to know that we plan on doing it again later this year on Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th which will also include a special electronics drop-off. Keep an eye on the Town's website in late August or early September for more information. We'll also be mailing a postcard in advance of the September dates so watch for that in the mail.

I'd like to take this opportunity to continue to promote the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**. We've noticed that there seems to be some confusion about the grant money. This grant is NOT a loan. There are, however, a few stipulations that must be met, including that you remain in your house for five years after obtaining the funds. There is still plenty of money available to qualified residents. 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. This is a great opportunity for income-eligible applicants to have home improvement projects completed! For more information or to apply for this grant, please call Thoma Development Consultants at (607) 753-1433. You can also visit the Town's website for more information at <https://townofbinghamton.com/grant-funds-are-available-for-housing-rehabilitation/>

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, and press option 2. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer, and we'll talk again in the fall.



*Elizabeth Rounds*



**Highway Dept.****Water/Sewer Dept.**

**Bob Rolston**  
**Highway Supt.**

**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.**

**DON'T FORGET OUR CHANGE IN HOURS FOR THE SUMMER:**  
**Tuesday through Friday - 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. thru Labor Day.**

**SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Throughout this summer, the Highway Department will be working on more sewer lining projects that will include Moore Ave, Hazard Hill, Hickory Lane, Stone Road, and Brookside Road. Once the lining is finished, we will be re-paving the road to complete the project. The purpose of the 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 will also be re-paving East Hamton Rd., Moore Ave., and Stone Rd. in the following months. Roads recently stoned and oiled are Ingraham Hill, Webb Rd., a portion of Hance Rd., and the upper part of Jackson Road near the Town Park. Morgan Road has been repaved as well. Road sweeping and mowing will also continue throughout the summer.

Summer weather has everyone thinking about house renovations, landscaping projects, and the installation of 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. Thanks, everyone, and we hope you enjoy your summer.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:** The Highway Dept. does 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. The Town DOES NOT have a drop off location for these items. Our Spring brush cleanup extended past our normal pick-up dates due to the severity of the spring storms we experienced. If you continue to see the chipper out, please don't assume we're out collecting branches. Instead, we're out cleaning up a downed tree or cleaning up from a project. We do our annual brush and branch pickup during the month of September as well as in May. Watch the website for upcoming dates. Also, we have FREE woodchips and compost available from time to time. Watch our website for availability or give us a call 669-4323.

**WATER / SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

*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**

**BROOME COUNTY LANDFILL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SUMMER HOURS**

The B.C. 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.:

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

**Sat., July 23 / Wed., Aug. 3 / Sat., Aug. 6**  
**Sat., Aug. 20 / Wed., Sept. 7 / Sat., Sept. 10**  
**Sat., Sept. 24 / Wed., Oct. 5 / Sat., Oct. 8**



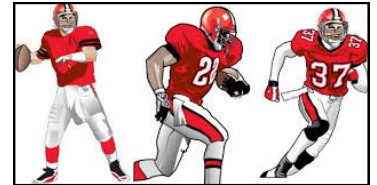
## **A Message from Christopher Streno Director of Youth Activities**

**E-mail:** [tobyouthsports@gmail.com](mailto:tobyouthsports@gmail.com)

**Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 048**

A very successful baseball and softball season has wrapped up as we head into summer and the end of school. Our Tri-Town League with the Towns of Kirkwood and Conklin brought together hundreds of SV kids to play together from Tee Ball through Little League and this year, we were joined by Windsor Softball. Thank you to all of the coaches, parents, and players who participated and sacrificed their time to make a positive impact on our kids and our programs. Football and Cheer registrations were delivered to all of the schools and the online registrations are now open. Please go to the following link in order to register online: <https://townofbinghamton.com/football-cheerleading-registration/>

We offer a Flag Football program for boys and girls in grades BK/K and a more competitive Flag Football program for grades 1 & 2. There are two levels of tackle football -- grades 3/4 and grades 5/6. The Cheer program follows the same grade levels. The first practice will be August 1st at Jackson Park. We are very lucky to play our home games at Susquehanna Valley High School's beautiful stadium. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Parents can help their kid's programs by volunteering to coach, join the Booster Club, or be a Team Parent. Please check the appropriate box on the registration form. Thanks!



## **A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, Dog Control Officer**

**Phone: 772-0357, press option 7**

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



### **DOG SHELTER LAW PROTECTS DOGS DURING THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!**

The Dog Shelter Law is a law that applies to all seasons, including summer. Section 353-B of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law requires dog owners to provide shelter for their dogs. The shelter must protect your 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 and will need to show proof of shelter for the dog. If you suspect that someone is not providing their dog with adequate food and/or shelter, please call the Sheriff's Dept. at (607) 778-1911 and press 1 to speak with a Deputy or call the New York State Police at (607) 775-1241.

### **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 (607) 778-1911 and press 1 to speak with a Deputy or call the NYS Police at (607) 775-1241. Wait by the car for the authorities to arrive.





**Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company Phone: (607) 761-1218**  
**The Chief's Corner - Jerry Emmons**  
**E-mail: [tob.fire.chief@gmail.com](mailto:tob.fire.chief@gmail.com)**



## THE FIREMEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, August 20th from NOON until gone.  
 Drive thru pickup will be at the Hawleyton United Methodist Church located at 901 Hawleyton Road  
 \$15 - Full Dinner includes 1/2 chicken with baked beans, salt potatoes, roll & butter  
 \$10 - Half Dinner is 1/2 chicken ONLY. No sides.

Your continued support of this event provides new equipment and supplies to our members that are available 24/7 to serve the community. 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 25, 2022 (no exceptions).*

*Please note: Pre-ordered dinners will only be held until 4:30 p.m. on the day of the event.*



## SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**Binghamton Township Historical Society's**  
**"Remembering When" Annual Luncheon**  
**Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022**  
**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The museum will open at 11 a.m. and the covered dish luncheon will begin at noon. Please bring a dish to pass to serve 30 people and \$2 per person to help defray expenses. We'll be conducting tours of the building beginning at 11 a.m. and will also be discussing the future direction of our building. (Only members will be voting on business matters.) Charts and handouts will be available for anyone interested. Please RSVP by calling Phyllis Hawley at 669-4186.

*The museum is located at 923 Hawleyton Rd.*



## SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

### MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS

**Fri., September 16, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Sat., September 17, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### DROP-OFF LOCATION:

**TOB Town Hall at 279 Park Avenue**



**Items accepted will include tires (small fee), white goods, furniture, metal items and even electronics during a specific time! No paints, chemicals, garbage, yard waste, or food. Watch the Town's website in late August or early September for more information.**

**PROOF OF RESIDENCY WILL BE REQUIRED.**

**From the Office of the Building Inspector - Nick Pappas****Phone: (607) 772-0357, press option 3**

My office has been busy with issuing building permits which surprises me considering the economy the way it is. With that said, we had some issues last year with residents proceeding with building projects without first obtaining the necessary permits. Later, after the projects were finished and I discovered the projects had been completed, the residents were told they needed to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals because they weren't in compliance with our local Zoning laws. In some of the cases, the the outcome was not what they had hoped for, and

the project has to be removed because of non-compliance.

I'm not sure if people think they don't need a permit or if they think they can get away without having to pay for one, but I always find out when people have built without a permit, and you'll still need to get one whether the project is done or not. Building permits are required for most projects, including sheds, pools, decks, porches, additions, pole barns, garages, houses, political signs, cellular towers, TV towers, and now even solar related projects. Please call my office before starting any project so that I can fill you in on any rules and regulations. A quick phone call to me can save you a lot of time and money before starting your project. I can be reached by calling the number above. There is also a listing of the Town's building permit fees and inspections on our website. To view this information, go to:

<https://townofbinghamton.com/building-permit-fees-and-inspections/>

**CONSIDER THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO BOOK YOUR FALL EVENT.**

Our Community Center, located at 1905 Coleman Road, continues to be a very popular rental hotspot! We've been booked consistently for wedding receptions and graduation parties recently, and the calls continue to come in! If you're considering booking the Community Center for an event this fall, it's a good idea to book your event now. With fall weddings on the horizon as well as family gatherings for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we expect the calendar to fill up quickly. Reservations are on a "first come / first serve" basis, so you're taking a chance by waiting. To reserve your date, please call Zac at (607) 772-0357, x 014.

**COST: \$300 per day rental plus \$200 refundable security deposit.**



In this edition, we're featuring the **BINGHAMTON TENNIS CENTER**, a local business that is well known by many in the Town of Binghamton. I'd like to begin by saying that I had an enjoyable interview with Michael Starke who has been the owner/manager for the last 40 years or so. It was interesting to hear some history of the "hilltop" where the Binghamton Tennis Center is located.

Originally a potato farm in the 1930's, the Hotchkiss Family built a mansion estate that still stands today. In the 1960's, two brothers purchased the property, added tennis courts, an Olympic size swimming pool and riding ring, turned the mansion into a clubhouse and ran it as the *Highland Racket and Riding Club*. Back then, this was the place to be. World famous tennis players Billy Jean King and Rod Laver both played there as part of the Lamar Hunt pro tennis circuit, occurring at the end of the amateur tennis era. When the *Highland Racket and Riding Club* dissolved, Bob Simon then built two indoor tennis courts and indoor riding stables on the adjacent property. Eventually, Tom Starke (Michael's father) was able to purchase the two indoor tennis courts and riding stables at a government auction. Tom expanded the operation to four indoor tennis courts, locker rooms and lounge, and personally built six outdoor clay courts, two hard courts, and a swimming pool. Tom had vision, business savvy and promotional skills, and rode the tennis boom wave of the 70's.

In the summer of 1983, Michael Starke took over as manager of the facility and renamed it the *Binghamton Tennis Center*. Starting with just two indoor tennis contracts, Michael slowly but surely rebuilt the tennis business, and the tennis community embraced it. With a large focus on juniors, they produced numerous ranked players as well as served the adult membership base. In 1999, Michael added two more indoor courts in the facility, completing the expansions. During his tenure, Michael oversaw many renovations, keeping the facility modern and in step with the current times. Michael has been a Town of Binghamton resident since 1991. His personal and professional life intertwined with his residence less than a mile away from the BTC, which he refers to as his home away from home. Michael's wife, Kristen, is an avid player, and both children, Allie & Noah, played tennis at Susquehanna Valley High School & college.

Back in the day, the two access roads to the *Binghamton Tennis Center* (Spaulding Road and Mill Street) were in disrepair. Spaulding Road was a dirt road that would gather ten-foot snow drifts in the winter. Mufflers could be found in the many potholes dispersed along the road. Mill Street was not much better and calling it a paved road thoroughfare is being kind. Even the hairpin turns seemed to have extra curves in those days.

Michael has witnessed first-hand the growth in the Town of Binghamton. As Michael's "Ma and Pa" business grew, so did the Town. From the investment in infrastructure and town services to the welcoming of the expanded countryside home development, the Town rose to the challenge. The most important actions the Town took included the paving and increased road maintenance for both Spaulding Road & Mill Road, the City of Binghamton annexation of adjacent land and then the installation of the water tower as well as gas and sewer lines, and finally, making the private roadway into a public road. Michael wanted to give a special thanks to Mike Donahue (retired Highway Supt.), and to the previous Boards that worked with him along the way (Town Board, Planning Board, etc.) as he endeavored to expand his business during those years. He said, "I found the Town in general to be easy to work with. The Town really is a great place to live!"

On May 16, 2022, Michael and Kristen sold the *Binghamton Tennis Center* to the Binghamton University Foundation. The Foundation has extensive plans for expansion and will take the *Binghamton Tennis Center* to the next level. Michael described it as the "end of an era and a new beginning." He wanted to convey that they felt like they ran a tennis club to service their members, who became family, and the club became their home away from home. They would not have wanted it any other way. It was the best of times, and they could not have had any more fun. Running the *Binghamton Tennis Center* was the best experience possible.

We encourage you to read their "[farewell letter](#)" here. All of us at the Town of Binghamton would like to wish Michael and Kristen the very best in their retirement!





# 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

## TOWN HALL PHONE EXTENSIONS **PLEASE NOTE! EXTENSION NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED!**

If you're interested in receiving Town news by e-mail, sign up at [www.TownofBinghamton.com](http://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. 015
Assessor's Clerk, Mary Atkinson	Ext. 013
Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler	Ext. 021
Building Inspector, Nick Pappas	Ext. 012
Code Enforcement Officer, Nick Pappas	Ext. 012
Community Center Coordinator	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
Planning Board Chair, Chris Streno	Ext. 048
Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 011
Tax Collection - Call Broome County	778-2169
Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin	Ext. 026
Town Clerk's Deputy, Paula Edwards	Ext. 023
Town Justice, Hon. Lawrence Brinker	Ext. 019
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

Tue., July 19	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., July 23	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., July 25	Deadline for TOB Vol. Fire Co. Chicken BBQ Online Tickets (see Page 4)
Tue., August 2	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., August 3	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., August 6	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., August 16	FREE Rabies Clinic @ BC Humane Society, 167 Conklin Rd. - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Tue., August 16	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., August 20	Firemen's Annual Chicken BBQ @ Hawleyton UMC beginning @ noon (see Page 4)
Sat., August 20	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., Sept. 5	All Town offices are closed for the Labor Day holiday.
Tue., Sept. 6	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 7	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 10	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., Sept. 13	FREE Rabies Clinic @ BC Humane Society, 167 Conklin Rd. - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 17	"Remembering When" @ Museum. Tours at 11 a.m. / Lunch at noon (see Page 4)
Tue., Sept. 20	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 24	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.



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. We would all appreciate a stress-free summer. Thank you.