

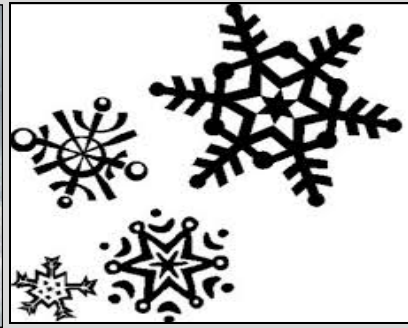
Town Talk



Issue 107

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

January 2023



A Message from Town Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds

Email: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

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I'd like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year! It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as your Supervisor for another four years and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I can be reached at the Town Hall at (607) 772-0357 (press option 2).

I'd like to share something I was recently made aware of. I received an email from New York State informing me of a national broadband census that is currently underway. I thought it was important enough to share here and on our website. I'd like to encourage all of our residents to participate in the census. The deadline is January 13, 2023, so please don't delay. Here's the information:

Are You on the Federal Broadband Map?

We need every New Yorker to participate in a national broadband census to confirm the accuracy of their broadband service—millions of dollars in federal funding are at stake. New York needs to ensure YOU have the most affordable and accessible internet.

All it takes is checking your home or business address on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) national broadband map. Your location, and internet services offered at that location, will be displayed. If the information shown on the map is incorrect, we need to let the FCC know by submitting a challenge to update the map.

An accurate map will help New York State get its fair share of federal funding for broadband internet. It will also mean better access to broadband for all New Yorkers.

- Visit <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home> – from your home, phone, or local library
- Enter your address
- Need more help? Check out this step-by-step video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiFoxZKywv4>

Deadline: January 13, 2023

Thank you for helping to keep ALL New Yorkers connected!

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.



Mark Leighton - Highway Dept. / Water & Sewer Dept.

Phone: (607) 669-4323

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

E-mail: highway@townofbinghamton.com

NEW YEAR . . . NEW CHANGES!



Happy New Year, Town of Binghamton residents! My name is Mark Leighton, and I'm your new Superintendent of Highways. I'm very excited to serve the community I have come to love. My overall goal is to maintain the high standards of maintenance you have all come to expect on our roads and water systems, while adding more preventative maintenance programs to help minimize additional costs due to emergency issues. The phone number and email will remain the same, so feel free to reach out when issues arise.

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Bob Rolston for his 30 years of service with the Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. Bob dedicated many years of service to the Town as an employee and lifelong resident. **We wish you the best in your retirement, Bob, and THANK YOU!**

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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.

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.



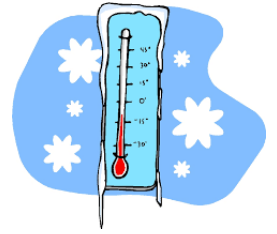
WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2023

November 1st (1st billing in an annual cycle); due in early December

February 1st, 2023 (2nd billing); due in early March

May 1st, 2023 (3rd billing); due in early June

August 1st, 2023 (4th billing); due in early September

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

This is a friendly reminder that the Town is NOT responsible for fixing your frozen water meter or broken pipes. 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.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**Joseph Cook & Mary Atkinson - Phone: (607) 772-0357, press option 4**

For the convenience of our residents, 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
- Fax to: (607) 772-6911



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, and press option 4. 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:

We are currently in the exemption application period for the 2023 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, 2023. **PLEASE NOTE: The filing requirement has changed. Income from your 2021 tax return will be used for your Aged Exemption.**

Enhanced "STAR" for Seniors (age 65 and up): If your household income ("adjusted gross income" minus "taxable amount" of total IRA Distributions) is below **\$92,300 in 2021**, then you qualify for the Enhanced STAR.

Low Income Seniors: If your gross income for 2021 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 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.



CHANGING OF THE GUARDS IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Change is the one constant in our lives, and on January 1st of this year, we had an official changing of the guards in the Town Clerk's office. We'd like to wish Vickie Conklin the best as she begins the next chapter of her life, and congratulate Tracy Tokos as she steps into her new position as Town Clerk.

A MESSAGE FROM VICKIE CONKLIN

You are probably aware that I retired as Town Clerk at the end of 2022. I knew many of you when I began in 2017, then I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting even more of you while in office and serving as your Town Clerk for the last six years. On January 1, 2023, I stepped down to enjoy retirement, and Tracy Tokos is now filling the position of Town Clerk. I'd like to welcome Tracy and wish her the best in her new position!

Vickie Conklin

A MESSAGE FROM TRACY TOKOS

Happy New Year, everyone! I am excited to begin the new year as your Town Clerk. I know many of you already as friends, acquaintances, and even family since I've lived in the Town of Binghamton most of my life. I'm looking forward to meeting those of you I don't have the privilege of knowing as of yet. I hope to be able to assist you all with any upcoming needs that may occur in the next four years. Thank you.

Tracy Tokos



TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Email: townclerk@townofbinghamton.com

Tracy Tokos, Town Clerk - (607) 772-0357, ext. 026

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



AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT . . . This is just a small thank you to all the participants of the "Send the Deputy Clerk your TOB Bear photos for the year 2022". What a SPECTACULAR TURNOUT! If you had the chance to visit the Town Clerk's office at any time since the Spring, you would have seen that the bear photo wall grew exponentially week by week, to the point where the wall space that was left was almost nil. As Autumn crept in, the TOB Bear reports seemed to slow down a bit as the Momma bears were busy keeping their young ones out of trouble, and out of trash bins. Notably this year, were

numerous sets of triplets and a set of triplet yearlings that seemed to stick close to their mom. One resident submitted a video of a bear that was almost the size of her small vehicle. Sad to say, the Town Hall never had any of the Ursus Americanus grace the surrounding land, but a set of rambunctious twins found solace in the Pines next door at the Yalch property. Now that the sun is setting earlier, it's time for the bears to find a comfortable, safe spot for their long winter naps. It will be interesting to see how many new cubs will bless the hills of the town come Spring. But for now, they're going to bed. Last one out, please turn out the lights. Have a "Beary" Happy New Year!



UPDATE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

All funds have now been committed for the Town of Binghamton's 2020 CDBG Program. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list for potential future funding, please contact Thoma Development Consultants at (607) 753-1433, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Community Development Block Grant funds can be used to rehabilitate single-family, owner-occupied properties located within the boundaries of the Town. Occupants must be low-to-moderate in income and the property must be in need of repairs. Other requirements apply. The type of rehabilitation work includes, but may not be limited to: electrical, plumbing, heating, roofing, insulation, masonry, windows, doors, painting, flooring, and interior and exterior carpentry.

A MESSAGE FROM NICK PAPPAS, Code Enforcement Officer

Phone: (607) 772-0357, x 012

Email: 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.

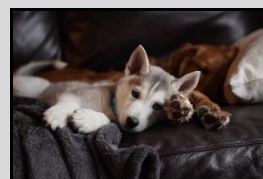
SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARK TERRACE RESIDENTS:
THERE IS NO PARKING ANYTIME ON STREETS LOCATED IN BOTH UPPER AND LOWER PARK TERRACE AREAS. TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED TO VIOLATORS.

A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, DOG CONTROL OFFICER

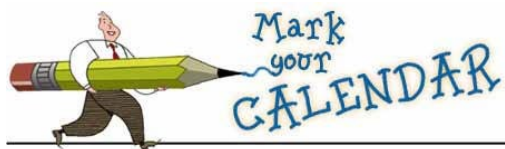
(607) 772-0357, ext. 022

E-mail: DCO@TownofBinghamton.com

Now that winter is here, 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 2023
 Electronics & Hazardous Waste Drop-Off 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. 21 / Wed., Feb. 1 / Sat., Feb. 18
 Wed., March 1 / Sat., March 11 / Sat., March 25
 Wed., Apr. 5 / Sat., April 8 / Sat., April 22

*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, Mary Atkinson	Ext. 013
Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler	Ext. 021
Code Enforcement/Bldg. Insp., Nick Pappas	Ext. 012
Code Enforcement Officer, Zac Soboleski	Ext. 014
Court Clerk, Daniele Vick	Ext. 019
Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray	Ext. 022
Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water	778-1911
Highway Supt., Mark Leighton	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, Tracy Tokos	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

Mon., January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., January 17	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., January 21	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., January 23	Joint Planning and Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Wed., February 1	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., February 7	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Sat., February 18	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., February 20	Presidents' Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., February 21	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Wed., March 1	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., March 7	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Sat., March 11	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., March 21	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., March 25	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., April 4	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., April 5	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., April 8	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING TOB VOL. FIRE CHIEF, JERRY EMMONS

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that my term as Fire Chief has ended. I have very much enjoyed serving you and would like to announce that Darin Lewis will become the new Chief on January 9th.



With this being my last article in *Town Talk*, I'd like to remind you to use caution while driving on our roads when there are snowy and icy conditions. We have specific areas in the town that can be particularly hazardous during a storm. These areas include: Hawleyton Road from Foland Road to Webb Road; Park Avenue from the City line south to the dip past Stevens Road -- *the dip can be extremely dangerous when we get excessive melt off which causes the road to flood*; and Brady Hill which can be especially problematic during slick conditions. Please plan accordingly, and drive with due regard. Finally, if you do have an accident, please do NOT step out into traffic! We want you all to be safe. Thanks, and take care.

Jerry Emmons