

Town Talk



Issue 110

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

October 2023



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

It's fall, and that means budget time. The Town Board will be finalizing the budget by the end of this month. We are on track, once again, to reduce the tax rate for our residents without cutting any services, as has been our track record for the last several years.

At this time last year, I had mentioned that the Orchard Park Water Tank was under construction and that the tank should be completed in the near future. I'm happy to report that the water tank is now up and running.

The "Municipal Cleanup Days" continue to be very successful. We once again offered this service in both May and September. The feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive. We're happy to know that most of you are taking advantage of this great opportunity to get rid of unwanted junk. As long as the County continues to waive the tipping fees, we'll continue to offer this free service to our residents.

As always, I'm here if you have a concern. Feel free to call me anytime at the Town Hall at (607) 772-0357 and press option #2. Thanks, and enjoy the fall!

Elizabeth Rounds



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 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 it 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, ext. 014.

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Mark Leighton, 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 BRANCH PICKUP IS UNDERWAY. ENDS OCT. 20, 2023

The Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. is currently picking up branches. The last day for pickup will be Friday, October 20, 2023. This pickup is for TREE BRANCHES ONLY. No cuttings from any kind of bush. Due to the overwhelming response to this service, you will not be given a specific time or day when your branches will be picked up. Simply call us with your address, then place your pile at the curb or edge of the road and wait for a pickup. **LARGE PILES NEED TO BE APPROVED BY CALLING US AT (607) 669-4323.**

There are certain guidelines to be followed:

1. Tree branches must be from your yard only.
2. Put branches neatly along the curb/roadside in front of your home.
3. Place the large end of the branch towards the road, and leave the branches as long as possible.
4. No brush from clearing your lot.
5. No brush from contractors or landscapers. (This means if you hire someone to maintain your lawn, they need to dispose of the debris; we will not take it.)
6. Large piles must be approved.

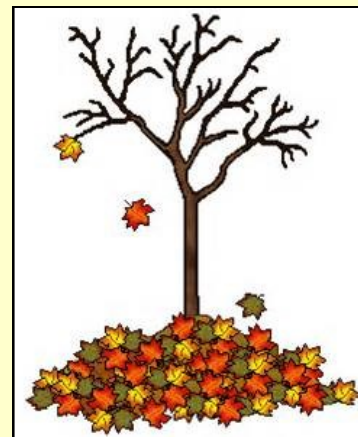
The following items will NOT be accepted and will be left behind: tree trunks; roots of any sort; clippings from lawns, flower beds, or vegetable gardens; thorny brush and small twigs; leaves, and animal waste.

FALL LEAF PICKUP: OCT. 10 TO NOV. 17, 2023

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

- Call the Highway Dept. at 669-4323 to be placed on a list for this service.
- Rake your leaves (with no debris) into a pile in front of your home by the curb line. No pinecones, rocks, branches, flowers, or animal waste can be mixed in with your leaves.
- Do not place leaves in bags!
- Do not rake leaves into your ditch or roadway because this can be very hazardous to traffic.

NOTE: If you hire a landscaper or contractor to clean up your leaves, THEY are responsible to take the leaves away. If we see a landscaper or contractor raking or blowing leaves from your property to the curb or to the ditch, the Town will NOT remove them. It is the landscaper's or contractor's responsibility.

**WATER/SEWER 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 no later than October 15, 2023. Any bills not paid in full will go onto your January 2024 taxes.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER: TRACY TOKOS, TOWN CLERK

E-mail: TownClerk@TownofBinghamton.com - Phone: 772-0357, press option 8 or ext. 026
 Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 023

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

Saturday, November 18 and continues through Sunday, December 10, 2023

BOWHUNTING:

Sunday, October 1 through Friday, November 17, 2023

Crossbow – Saturday, November 4 through Friday, November 17, 2024 (not in WMUs 4J or 8C)

Monday, December 11 through Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024

MUZZLELOADING:

Tuesday, December 12 through Wednesday, December 20, 2023 (Deer of either sex)

Tuesday, December 26, 2022 through Sunday, Monday, January 1, 2024 (Deer of either sex)

FREE FISHING ON VETERANS DAY: Saturday, November 11, 2023

**A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER STRENO**

Director of Youth Activities

E-mail: tobyouthsports@gmail.com

Phone: 772-0357, press option 3.

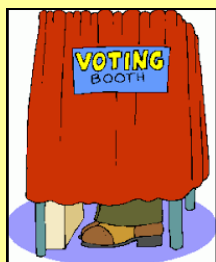


We are in the midst of our Youth Football & Cheer Season. This season has produced a record number of participants for both programs. We have teams at four different age/grade levels for both cheer and football; BK/K, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, and 5th & 6th grade. With 90 cheerleaders and 130 football players combined from those levels, we were able to divide all of the grade levels into two teams; SV Gold & SV Blue. Our program has never had so many participants and have never had so many teams.

We play in the Southern Tier Youth Football Conference (STYFC) which is comprised of 26 teams from 19 programs spanning the map east to west from Susquehanna, PA, to Corning and north to Norwich.

We are communicating regularly with SV's new Varsity basketball coach and excited to be working closely with him, his staff, and his players as we enter into the youth basketball season. Registration for boys & girls' basketball will open in October. Forms will be sent home from school and as always, online registration will be available on the town's website.

We are always looking for volunteers to help run our programs as well as participate with the Booster Club who are a tremendous help to our teams and players in every sport. Please contact your player's coach or feel free to contact me via email, Facebook message or phone if you are interested. Please join our Facebook page "Town of Binghamton Youth Sports" for more up-to-date information regarding TOB Youth Activities. Thank you.

**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

The following polling places will be open:
 TOB Town Hall - 279 Park Avenue
 TOB Community Center - 1905 Coleman Rd.
 Hawleyton United Methodist Church - 901 Hawleyton Rd.

If you have questions, please call the BC Board of Elections at (607) 778-2172 or visit <https://www.broomevotes.com>

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE — (607) 772-0357, press option 4
Joe Cook, Assessor / Mary Atkinson, Assessor's Assistant

Assessor's Office Hours:

Assessor: Wednesday Afternoons (Appointments suggested)

Assessor's Assistant: Tues. through Thurs.: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Town Hall Drop Boxes Available Outside Main Entrance and also Inside Foyer

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



**2024 Renewal Exemptions – Low Income Seniors and Disability Exemptions**

The 2024 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. PLEASE NOTE: **NYS HAS CHANGED THE INCOME REQUIREMENT. YOUR AGED EXEMPTION WILL BE BASED ON YOUR 2022 INCOME.**

**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 [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) 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. To qualify, you must show proof of income. For the 2024 tax roll year, the **maximum qualifying Federal adjusted gross income is \$98,700**. Your 2022 tax return will be used as documentation when applying in 2024. **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. This exemption is available to an honorably discharged veteran's residence and reduces the Town & County (but not school) taxes. Not only can the Veteran apply, but it is also available to unremarried widows of veterans. Applications are 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 <https://www.townofbinghamton.com> for all applications and further information regarding all exemptions. As always, if you have any assessment questions, please call our office at (607) 772-0357, ext. 013 or send an email to: [assessor@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:assessor@townofbinghamton.com)

**A MESSAGE FROM RICK MURRAY, DOG CONTROL OFFICER - (607) 772-0357, option 7**

**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 (607) 217-8857.



## TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

**The Chief's Corner - Darin Lewis**

E-mail: [chief@tobfire.org](mailto:chief@tobfire.org) / Phone: (607) 761-1218

The Town of Binghamton Vol. Fire Co. would like to thank everyone who came out to our Chicken BBQ in August. We greatly appreciate your support!

### **CARBON MONOXIDE: ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

Fall is here which means cooler temperatures. Please check your heating systems and also make sure you have a CO (carbon monoxide) detector on each floor of your home. We have responded to many CO alarms in the town this past year. Many alerted the homeowner before anyone became ill or worse. Simply put, carbon monoxide alarms save lives.



With that said, we need ALL residents to make sure your house is properly labeled with your address. Your address should be on both sides of your mailbox, and if you're closer to the road, on your house as well. This just might save your life or your fellow neighbors. We've had several calls this year where response was delayed because several houses in the area were not labeled. We encourage the fire number signs which can be found for purchase at <https://www.safetysign.com>. We would really appreciate your help with this problem. Your life could depend on it!

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at [chief@tobfire.org](mailto:chief@tobfire.org) or (607)761-1218. Thanks.

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

**E-mail: [code@townofbinghamton.com](mailto:code@townofbinghamton.com) - Phone: 772-0357, press option 3.**

I'd like to discuss a topic that I don't think we've discussed before, but it's a topic that has come up a lot this year. It has to do with disputes between neighbors. The disputes can range from trees/tree branches falling from one person's property onto their neighbor's property or disputes about property lines and who actually owns the property, etc. The Code Office does not get involved in property disputes. These are civil matters that may need to be handled through an Attorney's office.

#### **DEALING WITH NEIGHBORS**



I'll often have people ask if they can come in to make a copy of our tax maps as "proof" of property lines. The maps in the office cannot be used for this purpose and are stamped with this message: "This map was produced for tax purposes only and is not to be reproduced or used for surveying or conveyancing." If you have an issue with a neighbor and are disputing the property line, the most effective thing to do is contact a surveyor and have it professionally surveyed. (A quick google search can give you names/phone numbers of surveyors in our area.)



As far as trees and tree branches go, if a neighbor's tree is hanging over your side of the fence, you may be entitled to cut those branches off up to the property line but would need to edge them in an attractive way. You cannot cut half the tree down just because it's on your property. In addition, if there appears to be a potentially dangerous situation with a rotting tree or branches, it could impact your rights. If you are unsure of your rights, you should consult an attorney ahead of trimming. I would also recommend speaking with your neighbor first in an effort to resolve any problems in a more casual way.

### **WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE GOES IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1 TO APRIL 1 from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.**

**"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, 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 discretion of the Highway Department of the Town of Binghamton. Any two inch snowfall shall, for the purposes of this section, constitute an emergency." Tickets will be issued to violators.**



We thought you'd enjoy another "In the Spotlight" segment, so we're featuring **HARVEST BINGHAMTON**, formerly known as Faith Baptist Church, located at 1807 Hawleyton Road. We hope you enjoy the article written by their pastoral team.

"Our church was established as Faith Baptist Church in 1949 and moved to our present location (1807 Hawleyton Road, Binghamton) in the 1970's. Since then, we have gone through both seasons of joy and hardship.

In 2017, our church reached out to Harvest Union County in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania for assistance as we were facing decline. They walked us through a revitalization process in the following year as we made changes in leadership, structure, and direction. The lead pastor and staff of Harvest UC committed to traveling up to our church every Sunday evening to lead our worship service while we prayed and searched for God's leading in hiring a new pastor. We are so grateful for their faithfulness and generosity to us. In May of 2019, we hired Isaac Ketner to be our new lead pastor, and in September 2019 we relaunched as **Harvest Binghamton**, switching back to holding morning services.

We have witnessed God's incredible faithfulness and generosity to us as **Harvest Binghamton** has grown from 33 people to over 130 in attendance. We have seen the lost get saved, the saved mature, and the matured multiply. We have baptized 12 people in the last four years and have had the privilege to help plant a church in Chinandega, Nicaragua.



**Harvest Binghamton** is a multigenerational and ethnically diverse congregation who gather to exalt Christ and scatter to live on mission, reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeing lives transformed for His glory. We welcome others to come as they are and believe that when you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the love of God will not let you remain the same. It is our desire to make disciples as we worship in services, serve on teams, learn in studies, and share life together in small groups. We value Unapologetic Preaching, Unashamed Worship, Unceasing Prayer, and Unrelenting Mission. Harvest Binghamton exists to glorify God through the fulfillment of the great commission in the spirit of the great commandment.

We would love to have you join us on Sunday mornings for our service at 9:30 a.m.! You can also find our upcoming events and fall ministries, as well as listen to previous sermons, by visiting our website at [harvestbing.org](http://harvestbing.org)"

### **BEARLY SPEAKING** by Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk



Autumn has crept in at an alarming rate this year. The cubs of last year have turned into rambunctious toddlers, still keeping in close proximity to their momma while trying to explore a bit on their own. Trash bins have been dumped, bird feeders knocked down and twisted (and some carried off), and traces of bear activity have been noted all over the TOB. While the photo wall in the Clerk's office hasn't been filled to the brim like it had been last season, we do have a few beautiful shots of the local *Ursus Americanus*

caught on video cameras and sent in. Sometimes I ask myself why the bears don't make themselves visible to us at the Town Hall. Could it be the daylight or lack of sumptuous nibbles surrounding the building and parking lot? We've had our share of deer sightings, and at one time, a fox chasing a deer(!), crows galore, the squawk of the rooster from across the road, and even one beautiful long blue and yellow feather from an unidentified bird, but alas – no bear. There is still time before the sun starts setting at 4 p.m., and the cold winds surround the Town Hall, for one, maybe two of the glorious ebony creatures to stop by and give me a wave from the top of the hill by the apple tree or under the pines before they turn in for their long winters nap. One can only hope.





**Broome County Landfill's Fall Hazardous Waste Collection Dates - FREE!**

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. 21 / Wed., Nov. 1 / Sat., Nov. 4**  
**Sat., Nov. 18 / Wed., Dec. 6 / Sat., Dec. 16**

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

**News from County Legislator, Kelly Wildoner**

*Kelly Wildoner is a County Legislator representing District 3, which includes the Towns of Binghamton and Conklin along with parts of Vestal.*

**Updates from Your County Legislator Kelly Wildoner**

As the Broome County Legislature begins the budget process, I wanted to take a moment to update residents in the Town of Binghamton on the various things going on in the County and the Town.

During the month of September, the County Executive gave his budget address. He presented it in the redeveloped Oakdale Commons, right outside the new Dick's House of Sport. The proposed 2024 budget includes another year of property tax cuts for the residents of Broome County. During my time on the Legislature, we have **cut taxes five years in a row** while maintaining all the critical services in the County. The 2024 recommended budget proposes a 6<sup>th</sup> year of tax cuts for the people in Broome County. The Legislature will begin its review of the proposed 2024 budget in October. Our goal is always to maintain critical services, make strategic investments in public safety, infrastructure, parks, economic development and other projects and resources within our community.

One of the best parts of being a County Legislator is seeing projects come to fruition in the community. At the beginning of September, the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Department purchased and installed a dry hydrant using grant funds awarded by Broome County's Small Community Fund. These dry hydrants allow the Fire Department to avoid transferring water long distances in the event of an emergency. Through the County's Small Community Fund Program, we were able to secure almost \$10,000 to help the Fire Department pay for the expenses of the hydrant and installation. Another project in the district that received help from the Small Community Fund is the Community Center in the Town. My colleagues on the Legislature and I secured \$32,500 to help them repave their parking lot. It's great to see that both projects have been completed and that we were able to lend a helping hand in the process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at (607) 778-2131, [kelly.wildoner@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:kelly.wildoner@broomecountyny.gov) or on Facebook by searching "Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner."



# 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](http://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 PHONE NUMBER

**(607) 772-0357**

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf:

1-800-662-1220 or 711

**NOTE: TOWN HALL PHONE EXTENSION NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED.**

|                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assessor, Joseph Cook                   | Ext. 015        |
| Assessor's Clerk, Mary Atkinson         | Ext. 013        |
| Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler              | Ext. 021        |
| Bldg. Inspector/Codes, Nick Pappas      | Ext. 012        |
| Community Center Coordinator            | Ext. 014        |
| Court Clerk, John Petito                | Ext. 019        |
| Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray        | Ext. 022        |
| <b>Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water</b> | <b>778-1911</b> |
| 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)      | 778-2124        |
| Town Clerk, Tracy Tokos                 | 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

|                 |                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues., Oct. 17  | Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6 p.m.                       |
| Sat., Oct. 21   | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Tues., Oct. 24  | Zoning Board / Planning Board Meeting at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.                   |
| Wed., Nov. 1    | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Sat., Nov. 4    | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Tues., Nov. 7   | Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall at 4 p.m.                       |
| Tues., Nov. 7   | Election Day. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All Town offices will be open. |
| Fri., Nov. 10   | Town Offices are closed for Veterans Day.                                         |
| Sat. Nov. 11    | Veteran's Day: FREE Fishing Day in New York State. No license required!           |
| Sat., Nov. 18   | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Sat., Nov. 18   | Opening Day for Deer Season in the Southern Zone. See page 3.                     |
| Tues., Nov. 21  | Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6 p.m.                       |
| Thurs., Nov. 23 | HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Town offices will be closed.                                  |
| Fri., Nov. 24   | Town Offices are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.                             |
| Tues., Dec. 5   | Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall at 4 p.m.                       |
| Wed., Dec. 6    | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Sat., Dec. 16   | Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 7.                        |
| Tues., Dec. 19  | Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6 p.m.                       |
| Mon., Dec. 25   | MERRY CHRISTMAS! All Town offices will be closed.                                 |

