

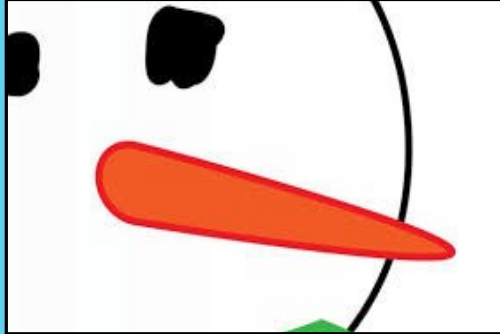
Town Talk



Issue 111

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

January



A Message from Town Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds

Email: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

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With the beginning of the new year, I'd like to encourage all of you to check out the Town's website from time to time. I want to impress upon our residents that it's our main form of communication and is updated often to keep you informed. I'd also like to suggest that you sign up for our e-mails through the website. *(When on the website, scroll to the bottom of any page, and "Subscribe to Our Email List To Stay Informed".)*

When you subscribe, you'll be notified of important activities and events that are happening in our town and receive copies of the latest Board minutes.

We've already been receiving calls from residents asking if we plan to offer our "Municipal Clean-Up Days" again this year. The answer is "Yes!", as long as Broome County continues to offer it. Again, keep an eye on the website because information will be disseminated as soon as we have the details.

I'm keeping it short and sweet, but before I go, I want to wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy New Year!

Elizabeth Rounds

THE TOWN IS LOOKING FOR A SENIOR CITIZENS COORDINATOR



Many years ago, the Town of Binghamton had a very successful Senior Citizens Program under the leadership of Prudy Drake. Prudy had the gift of organizing and creating wonderful trips, lunches, craft classes, and other special activities for the Town's seniors to enjoy. After serving for many years, Prudy eventually stepped down from this voluntary position. The Town made many attempts over the following year to find a new Senior Citizens Coordinator but to no avail, and the program ended.

Ten years have now passed, and Councilperson Vickie Conklin would like to see if there is anyone out there who might be interested in volunteering for this position, bringing fresh, new ideas and activities to our senior community. This person would organize activities for seniors, which could include bus trips, luncheons, tours, educational classes, etc.

If you have an interest in becoming the Town of Binghamton's Senior Citizen Program Coordinator, please contact Vickie at: Council2@townofbinghamton.com
Thanks!





CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP 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

. . . AND THE NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN!

Now that 2023 is behind us, and we're looking at the start of a new year, I thought I'd review some ways that you can help to assist me and my crew in serving you. First and foremost, please call or email us if you any questions or concerns related to roads, ditches, easements, or general maintenance issues. You can reach my office at (607) 669-4323 or send an email to highway@townofbinghamton.com I'm always looking for input from those we serve. All requests will be considered.

Secondly, please refer to the Town's newsletter and website for dates and times of upcoming activities, including brush and branch pickup, leaf pickup, paving, major road maintenance, etc. Events are generally posted well in advance at www.townofbinghamton.com I do my best to keep all those who may be impacted aware that the wheels of the Highway Department are always moving.

Lastly, PLEASE, PLEASE slow down around all work vehicles and job sites. We had some close calls this past year, and I'd like everyone working in my department to go home to their families uninjured. Also, thank you so very much for all the good reactions to the work we did in 2023. The crews really do appreciate the positive interactions. It keeps them motivated and satisfied in their work.



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.

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 NEWS: In 2024, we plan to do a sewer lining project in the Park Terrace neighborhood. This would be on the east side of Park Ave adjacent to the Town Hall. Then, over the next few years, we'll work our way through the rest of the Park Terrace area.

We have no major water projects planned this year but will continue with general maintenance such as hydrant flushing, exercising valves, and replacing some hydrants.

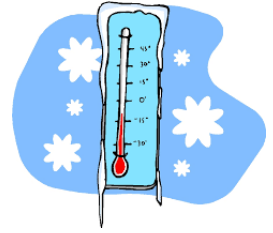
Last year we had some accounts that had larger than normal bills. Some of the issues happened when residents went on vacation and didn't realize that a toilet was running or a faucet was dripping. This may sound minor, but it can add up to a lot of water being sent down the drain and a hefty rise in the bill. Also, keep in mind that we have to account for water used to fill pools. All the water that goes through the system is purchased from the City, and the Town gets charged for that usage. Furthermore, the sewer bill is based on water usage so a rise in water also means a rise in the sewer bill from the Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant.

As always, feel free to call with any questions you may have. I am always here to listen and answer your questions. I hope you have a wonderful 2024. God Bless.

Mark Leighton

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.

**WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2024**

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

February 1st, 2024 (2nd billing); due in early March

May 1st, 2024 (3rd billing); due in early June

August 1st, 2024 (4th billing); due in early September

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 2024 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, 2024. **PLEASE NOTE: The filing requirement has changed. Income from your 2022 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 **\$98,700 in 2022**, then you qualify for the Enhanced STAR.

Low Income Seniors: If your gross income for 2022 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 on 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.

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

IF YOUR DOG IS RUNNING AT LARGE AND IS PICKED UP BY THE DOG CONTROL OFFICER , IT CAN COST YOU A LOT OF MONEY.



If the Dog Control Officer picks up your dog and it has no ID and is not licensed, it will be taken immediately to the Broome County Humane Society. In order to retrieve your dog, you'll not only have the fees of licensing your dog and getting a rabies vaccination for your dog (if it doesn't have one), you'll also be charged an additional \$50 seizure fee from the Town then another \$50 sheltering fee for sheltering your dog at the Humane Society. It could be very costly to redeem your dog if it's picked up and taken to the shelter. Please license your dog to avoid the extra fees.

**Broome County Landfill's Winter & Spring 2024
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, FREE OF CHARGE, at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.:

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

Sat., Jan. 20 / Wed., Feb. 7 / Sat., Feb. 17
Sat., March 2 / Wed., March 6 / Sat., March 16
Wed., Apr. 3 / Sat., April 6 / Sat., April 20



An Update from Your County Legislator Kelly Wildoner



I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. With the new year beginning, I wanted to take a moment to update the residents of the Town of Binghamton on what the County Legislature has been working on.

In November of this year, the Legislature passed the 2024 Budget. The 2024 Adopted Budget includes a 6th year of County property tax cuts for the residents of Broome County. Throughout October and November, we held over 40 public meetings to review each department's budget. This process allows me and the other Legislators to go over each department thoroughly and have any questions answered by the Administration or departments. 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. Being able to make informed decisions on the County's finances is a critical role of the Legislature.

Investing in our public safety is one of my top priorities as your Legislator. That's why I worked with my colleagues on the Legislature to support additional funding for the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company through Broome County's Small Community Grant Program. In November, we voted to approve \$18,300 for their firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) cleaning room. Having clean firefighting equipment is necessary to help keep the volunteer firefighters safe and allow them to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. We were also able to secure almost \$10,000 in Small Community Funds earlier in the year to help the Fire Company pay for their dry hydrant and its installation. The Small Community Fund is a great way to support local organizations and promote public safety, recreation and economic development in our area. I am looking forward to what the new year will bring for everyone in Broome County.

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

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

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PUBLIC SURVEY

BROOME COUNTY IS SEEKING INPUT FOR THE 2024 HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN. THE PLAN WILL ADDRESS THE COUNTY'S RISKS POSED BY HAZARDS.

TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BroomePublicSurvey>

In 2022, Broome County received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to update the existing County-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in cooperation with our partner municipalities. This process builds upon previous efforts to make Broome County and its jurisdictions more resistant and resilient to damages from natural disasters. The plan update is essential in ensuring eligibility for future FEMA pre- and post-disaster grants and will be updated with the support of our contract consultant throughout the year.

We are asking for your help. Would you please complete the survey and tell us what hazards you believe impact Broome County. The information you provide will help the Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Committee identify risks, assess capabilities, and formulate a strategy to reduce disaster vulnerability in the Broome County area.

The survey consists of 23 questions and will take less than 15 minutes to complete. *(The deadline is January 26, 2024.)* Thanks, everyone. We appreciate your input!

To begin the survey, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BroomePublicSurvey>

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, John Petito	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

Sat., January 20	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., January 21	Pancake Breakfast - Fire Station #2 @ 2120 Pierce Creek Road - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Tues., January 23	Joint Planning and Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Tues., February 6	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 4 p.m.
Wed., February 7	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., February 17	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., February 18	Pancake Breakfast - Fire Station #2 @ 2120 Pierce Creek Road - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Mon., February 19	Presidents' Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., February 20	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6 p.m.
Sat., March 2	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., March 5	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 4 p.m.
Wed., March 6	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., March 16	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., March 17	Pancake Breakfast - Fire Station #2 @ 2120 Pierce Creek Road - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Tues., March 19	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 6 p.m.
Fri., March 29	Good Friday - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., April 2	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 4 p.m.
Wed., April 3	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., April 20	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

TOB Fire Station #2 (2120 Pierce Creek Road) Has Pancake Breakfasts Planned



Town of Binghamton Vol. Fire Company, Station #2, located at 2120 Pierce Creek Road, will be holding an "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 21, 2024, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Cost: \$10 for adults (ages 12 & up) / \$8 for children (ages 5 to 11)
Children under 5 are free.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FUTURE BREAKFASTS:

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Sunday, March 17, 2024 (Last one for the season)