

Town Talk



Issue 116

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

April 2025



MESSAGE FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR, ELIZABETH ROUNDS

E-mail: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

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Spring is now upon us, and I'm really looking forward to getting outdoors and enjoying the sunshine. We're starting to see some of the usual Town activities return, so I'd like to talk about some of them here.

Back by popular demand, our "Municipal Cleanup Days" will be held on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2025. We've listed all of the details on page 3 and you should have recently received a reminder postcard in the mail. Spring is always the perfect time to clean up the junk around the house, and I hope you'll take this opportunity to get rid of it for FREE!

I'm pleased to announce that the Town's Community Center is reopening for rental after some recent renovations. We anticipate renting it out beginning on May 1, 2025, with new pricing going into effect. Please see the bottom of page 8 for details.

The Town of Binghamton was recently awarded funding for a CDBG program (Community Development Block Grant). This grant will provide financial assistance to owner-occupied, income-eligible homes throughout the Town, for housing repairs such as roofing, insulation, siding, plumbing, heating, electric, masonry, windows, doors, and carpentry. **THIS IS A GRANT and NOT A LOAN.** Thoma Development Consultants of Cortland prepared the CDBG application. Residents interested in being placed on the waiting list should contact Thoma Development Consultants at 607-753-1433 to request a pre-application. We're hoping some of you will take advantage of this great opportunity!

Finally, the Town Board and I are interested in hearing some feedback from our residents. We'd like to know: Are there any areas in our Town that you would like to see some improvements made and if so, what exactly? For example, maybe you'd like to see a slide added to our playground at the park, etc. I'd love to hear your ideas. Please call me at (607) 772-0357, option 2 or send an email to me at supervisor@townofbinghamton.com Thanks, and we'll talk again in the summer!



Elizabeth Rounds

Highway Dept./Water & Sewer Dept.

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

Mark Leighton, Highway Supt. - (607) 669-4323 Email: highway@townofbinghamton.com

Did you ever think we would get through this winter? The flakes started on Thanksgiving, and it feels like they will never go away! I'm happy to say "Welcome Spring!" We at the Highway Dept. have a lot of things scheduled for the upcoming road season. We're ready to get out of the plow trucks and into the warm sunshine! We'll be starting with pothole repair, shoulder and ditch work, then paving.

A few notable notes. Brush and branch pickup began in early April and will end on Fri., May 2nd. There is no need to call in for a pickup. We'll be cruising the town several times a week looking for those piles. Please remember . . . once May 2nd arrives, our brush & branch pickup will end. More information on the branch pickup is mentioned below.

April is National Safe Digging Month. It doesn't matter what you are digging for, whether it's planting a new tree, extending a garden, installing a new fence or a deck, it is the law that you notify UDigNY.org or call 811 two days in advance to put in your location request. A utility locator will come and mark the underground utilities. This helps keep our vital buried utilities from being damaged.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Hydrant Flushing will be on May 6, 7, & 8.

TREE BRUSH & BRANCH PICKUP IS UNDERWAY. ENDS ON FRIDAY, MAY 2ND.



As mentioned above, we are currently picking up tree branches, and the service will end on Friday, May 2nd. No cuttings from any kind of bush. Due to the overwhelming response to this service, you will not be given a specific day or time when your tree branches will be picked up; simply place your pile at the curb or edge of the road. **CALL ONLY IF YOU HAVE A LARGE PILE THAT NEEDS TO BE APPROVED.** Our number is (607) 669-4323. There are certain guidelines to be followed:

- Tree branches from your yard only; no cuttings from any kind of bushes.
- Put branches neatly along the curb/roadside in front of your home.
- Please place the large end of the branch towards the road, and leave the branches as long as possible. No piles that look like pickup sticks.
- No brush from clearing your lot.
- 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.)
- 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.

The Water/Sewer Billing Schedule for 2025 is as follows:
(these are approximate mailing dates)

November 1, 2024 (1st billing of a cycle); due in early December

February 1, 2025 (2nd billing); due in early March

May 1, 2025 (3rd billing); due in early June

August 1, 2025 (4th billing); due in early September



BILLS CAN BE PAID IN PERSON, BY MAIL, OR ONLINE. ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT WILL BE DONE IN MAY.



Get rid of your junk for free!
MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS
 Fri., April 25, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sat., April 26, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



HOUSEHOLD JUNK DROP-OFF WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH DAYS AT THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL AT 279 PARK AVE. Proof of residency is required. Items accepted: white goods, car batteries, mattresses, toys, microwaves, disassembled hot tubs, water heaters, furniture, carpet, metal items (separate dumpster), and much more! Tires - \$2 per tire - CASH.

ELECTRONICS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON FRIDAY ONLY FROM 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

AT THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT

1905 COLEMAN ROAD. ELECTRONICS include: dehumidifiers, TVs, VCRs, computers, laptops, printers, fax machines, cell phones, radios, stereos, GPS units, gaming consoles, and more! Vendor will also accept household appliances containing FREON. A full list of acceptable/unacceptable items can be found at www.townofbinghamton.com



A Message from the Senior Citizens Commission

Dennis & Susan See / Lisa Young

Email: tobseniors@townofbinghamton.com

Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 301

Mosaics - (Crafts). This meets (ongoing) roughly once a month. In February & March, Lisa taught casting trivets, applying mosaics to yard plaques, butterfly houses, bird feeders, picture frames, flower pots & pavers (student choice). Minimum registration has been met. Feel free to join, too, by RSVPing at (607) 772-0357 x301. Supplies are provided. *Follow-up meeting dates are determined at the end of each meeting.*

First Friday Art Walk (Arts/Museums) Lisa is forming a group to attend First Fridays (ongoing) in downtown Binghamton to enjoy the openings (and receptions, if any) of the new art shows that are revealed on the first Friday at 6:30 p.m. of each month, plus the various street performances and special events that are put on at the same time in the gallery area. The trolley isn't running yet so we'll be walking exclusively (dress appropriately) but in the future, we can hop on & extend our range. Please RSVP at (607) 772-0357 x301 by the Wednesday prior; rendezvous spot will be provided. A minimum of four people must register or the event will be canceled. Note: Lisa uses a cane, so the pace will be slow & others who require accommodation are encouraged to join.

Pysanky (Crafts) - In April, Lisa & special guest Christine Osgood taught each participant to make their own manageable version of the traditional Ukrainian folk art of using the wax-resist method & special dyes to make Pysanky until all the wax was removed at once revealing the beautiful finished egg to take home! A hearty thanks to Christine for sharing her time and knowledge and donating so many materials from her personal supply to the class.

Coming soon: Macramé / Crochet Tote class (Crafts) Lisa is forming a class to make hobo, slouch, envelope, or tote bags from crochet and/or macramé using various materials such as wooden handles, textured yarn, or cordage. A date will be set if enough interest is expressed. **Please RSVP at (607) 772-0357 x301 by May 15th. Supplies & refreshments will be provided.**

Coffee and Pie and a Potluck Luncheon These two events were held during the winter months and hosted by Dennis & Sue See. Everyone had a great time.

Bluebirds A presentation was held on March 18th by the New York State Bluebird Society, then on March 26th, Dennis led the seniors in building bluebird houses.



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE - Phone: (607) 772-0357, press option 4.

Joseph Cook, Assessor & Mary Atkinson, Assessor's Assistant



ATTENTION: SENIORS TURNING 65 AND OLDER

We want to remind all current participants in the Low-Income Senior Program and those who will be turning 65 in 2026 who may qualify for the Enhanced Star exemption next year to **PLEASE KEEP YOUR 2024 TAX RETURN IN A SAFE PLACE.** Keep it accessible because eligible residents will need to bring it with them for processing their new Low-Income Senior Exemption and new Enhanced STAR Exemption for 2026.

Also, keep an eye on the mail in the fall as your annual renewal form will be mailed out at that time. Again, you'll be required to bring in your 2024 Income Tax Return for 2026. Having the required tax return will help process your application quickly. Thank you and enjoy the spring!

NOTE: You do not need to renew Enhanced Star.

BRUSH BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT. NO BURNING THROUGH MAY 14.



THE CHIEF'S CORNER by Darin Lewis, Fire Chief

Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company

Phone: (607) 761-1218

Email: chief@tobfire.org



There are still a lot of residents with either too small or NO visible address numbers at all. We are urgently asking ALL residents to make sure your house is properly identified with your address numbers. If using mailbox numbers, make sure they are visible from travel in both directions. Reflective numbers are ideal. House numbers should be a minimum of 4" high.

2025 COMMUNITY EVENTS



Mon., May 26 - Memorial Day Parade

The parade will start at 10 a.m. from the Hawleyton Fire Station and will proceed to the Hawleyton Cemetery. Please come out and enjoy "small Town USA" at its best!



Sat., August 16 - The TOB Fire Co. Annual Chicken BBQ

We'll be selling tickets and accepting donations throughout the summer.

We're always looking for new members. If you would like to join, please stop in to our monthly meetings which are held on the 1st Monday of each month at Fire Station #1 at 967 Hawleyton Road. You can also reach the chief via phone (607) 761-1218 or email at chief@tobfire.org. Thank you, and be safe!

IT'S MOTORCYCLE SEASON. LOOK TWICE. SAVE A LIFE.

From the Code Enforcement Office - Nick Pappas & Zack Soboleski**Phone: (607) 772-0357, press option 3****Nick's Email: code@townofbinghamton.com****Zack's Email: codeassist@townofbinghamton.com**

With spring upon us, there are a lot more people in our parks enjoying the weather. We've been seeing a lot of dogs running without a leash, and we're also noticing a lot of dog poop on our Town properties. The Town of Binghamton Dog Control Ordinance, Local Law Chapter 88, Section 88-5, states: "It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the Town to permit or allow such dog to: (A) Run at large and (F) Create a nuisance by defecating, urinating, or digging on public property, or on private property, without the consent or approval of the owner of such property."

Dogs are to be on leashes at all times during visits to our parks, and it's your responsibility to clean up after your dog. We've noticed that some people are bringing plastic baggies and using them, but they're not disposing of them properly. Instead, we're finding the baggies filled and placed in the flower garden and various other places. There are garbage barrels throughout our parks for you to use. Please use them. With the number of people attending our park activities, the last thing anyone wants to do is step in your dog's poo.



This is a reminder that most spring building projects require a permit. Feel free to call our office before starting any project if you have any questions on rules and regulations. If you don't have time to call us, go to the Town's website at www.townofbinghamton.com and click on "Building Codes & Permits" to get most of your questions answered. Also, feel free to contact us via email. You can even submit your building permit application via email, if you'd like.

We're assuming you've already read that the Town is holding "Municipal Cleanup Days" again. Some of you have received letters from our office about code violations pertaining to the open storage of junk on your property. This is the perfect opportunity to get rid of your junk for free. We highly encourage all of you to take advantage of this service and to clean up around your property.

Finally, if you accepted financial assistance for the rehab of your home provided under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the receipt of those funds includes a continuing obligation to maintain your property in a neat and clean condition in compliance with all New York State and Town Code requirements. If you have a CDBG grant and allow your property to decline, you'll receive a letter from our office, warning you of the default and a deadline to restore it.

Broome County Landfill's Spring/Summer 2025 Electronics and 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., May 3 / Weds., May 7 / Sat., May 17 / Weds., June 4

Sat., June 7 / Sat., June 21 / Weds., July 2 / Sat., July 12

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

A Message from Christopher Streno
Director of Youth Activities

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

E-mail: tobyouthsports@gmail.com



Basketball season wrapped up in February. This season we had 34 boys and 29 girls in grades 3-6 playing on seven different competitive teams in the PHD travel league. For the 2nd straight season, the K-2 program was held at the SV high school and run by the boys' and girls' varsity coaching staff. This program encompasses all kids in the school district and teaches them the basic skills of the game as well as some early Saber pride!

At the conclusion of basketball season, we moved right into baseball and softball. This season we have 77 baseball players and 37 softball players playing at three different levels: Pony League, Minors and Majors. This year the league decided that Pony Baseball will move from coach pitch to machine pitch. This change should help to develop the players' skills a little better as they prepare to progress to the next level. We also have 36 players on four tee ball teams.



The teams practice through April with games beginning April 30th. The season runs through May into early June. We continue to play baseball in our Tri-Town League with Conklin and Kirkwood. Our Quad-Town Softball League includes Windsor. This season's Opening Ceremonies and Picture Day will take place at Jackson Park on Saturday, May 10th.

Please look for Football and Cheer Registrations to come home from school in May.

We are very excited to announce that we will be hosting a week-long soccer camp this summer at Jackson Park on July 14-18. Brazilian United Soccer comes to the Town of Binghamton and will offer three different camps: Full Day 9am-3pm for ages 9-14; Half-Day from 9am-12pm for ages 7-14 and Future Stars from 3pm-4pm for ages 4-6. Each camp has a different investment cost and all of them run for the full week. More information will be available through the TOB website and our youth sports Facebook page "Town of Binghamton Youth Sports" as we get closer to the event, but Early Registration is available. For a limited time, you may register at a 10% discount and get a free jersey! Click this link for more info: <https://programs.brazilianunited.com/buc/buc-summer-camp/town-of-binghamton>



The All-Sports Youth Booster Club continues to be a great support for our youth activities. Please do your best to support them through their many fundraisers and of course, the Concession Stands at Jackson Park and the SV football stadium.

As with the Booster Club, the Youth Commission is always seeking more participation. If you would like to be involved in the decision making, planning, and organization of our youth programs, please email tobyouthsports@gmail.com Thanks, everyone!



**THE BINGHAMTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY IS HERE FOR YOU!**

Do you have family history you'd like to preserve and share? Would you like some more information about something relating to Town history? Your Historical Society is here for you! You may reach out to us via email to Karen Thurber at lefty71111@aol.com or by phone at (607) 222-8953.

News from Our County Legislator Kelly Wildoner

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



As the warm weather approaches, I wanted to take a moment to update residents in the Town of Binghamton on what we've been working on in the County and the Town.

At the conclusion of our budget process in November, we approved a 9th County property tax cut in a row for the residents of Broome County. Not only did we cut taxes, but we were also able to maintain all the County's critical services that are used by the people in our area. We have continued to make strategic investments in our community, including investments in public safety, infrastructure, as well as parks. We are very proud to be able to provide these much-needed services to the people in Broome County!

There are a lot of great projects going on around the County that will benefit people in our community, including the work force, our Veterans, and families. On the Northside of Binghamton, our Veterans Resource Center and tiny homes project has made great headway and should be completed in the coming months. This project will consolidate Veterans services into one location and provide housing for a number of homeless Veterans. This has been a great team effort from County, State, and Federal officials.

At the Oakdale Commons, we are working to support a new daycare program to help families in our area find childcare. The need for childcare is clear in Broome County and hopefully this will provide more options for hardworking families.

The Discovery Center is a great place for families to spend time together. It offers a great experience, no matter the weather! They just finished up construction of their Pirate Ship Playground in October. The County provided a Small Community Fund grant to help with the construction of the playground. If you haven't yet, please stop down and check it out. The weather is getting nicer, and it would be a great place to spend time on a spring day with your kids or grandkids!

Being a County Legislator is very fulfilling. You are able to see the work you do every single day and how it impacts our residents. As summer approaches, I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the great County parks, including Aqua Terra which is perfect for a peaceful hike, picnic, or even some fishing! Get out and enjoy the sun.

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

A Message From Rick Murray, Dog Control Officer

Office Phone: (607) 772-0357, press 7 / Cell Phone: (607) 217-8857

Email: DCO@townofbinghamton.com

Spring is here, and even our pets know it. They get spring fever, too, and that means they'll soon want to spend even more time outdoors and may get frisky and want to go on a run!



This is a friendly reminder that if I pick up your dog when it's running at large and find that it has no ID and is not licensed, I'll take it to the Broome County Humane Society. In order to retrieve your dog from the shelter, 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. If your dog is picked up and taken to the shelter, it could be very costly to redeem it. Please license your dog to avoid the extra fees.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Phone: (607) 772-0357, press option 8

Tracy Tokos, Town Clerk / Mindi Prince, Deputy Town Clerk

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW DEPUTY CLERK, MINDI PRINCE!

Mindi was asked to share a little information about herself, so here's what she had to say:

"Hi there! My name is Mindi Prince, and I am so excited to be your new Deputy Clerk!

I graduated from SV in 2006, then went on to BCC and got a degree in Early Childhood Education.

I'm a wife, and I'm also a mama to two beautiful kiddos. I've had my own photography business

Melinda Prince Photography for 12 years, and I photograph weddings, newborn, & family portraits.

My kiddos play Football & Cheer for the Sabers, and last year I was one of the coaches for the girls

3/4 team! I'm so glad to be working for the town where my family has had lifelong roots."

Please stop by to introduce yourself and say hello to Mindi. She can be reached at ext. 023.

**DOG LICENSE RENEWAL INFORMATION**

The Dog License "Notice of Renewal" is mailed two weeks prior to your license renewal date as a reminder that your renewal is coming due. Please take the opportunity to make sure that your rabies certificates are up to date and that you renew your dog license as soon as possible.

- If the renewal is not paid after 30 days of your due date, you will have a \$10.00 Late fee.
- If the renewal is not paid after 60 days of your due date, you will have a \$20.00 Late fee.
- If the renewal is not paid after 90 days of your due date, you will have a \$30.00 Late fee.

Please be NOTE: These fees are in addition to the standard licensing fee.

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON COMMUNITY CENTER WILL REOPEN FOR RENTALS BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025


After completing some renovations, our Community Center is reopening!

Rental rates have been restructured and are now as follows:

\$350 rental fee plus a \$200 refundable security deposit (payable by check only) **for Town of Binghamton and Town of Conklin residents.**

\$450 day rental plus a \$200 refundable security deposit (payable by check only) **for non-residents.**

Rental fee is due with application and your check will be cashed immediately.

The \$200 refundable security deposit is due when you pick up the key.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nick Pappas: code@townofbinghamton.com

Zack Soboleski: codeassist@townofbinghamton.com

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

Check us out on the web at
www.TownofBinghamton.com

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



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, Zack 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
Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 011
Tax Collection - Call Broome County	778-2169
Town Clerk, Tracy Tokos	Ext. 026
Town Clerk's Deputy, Mindi Prince	Ext. 023
Town Justice, Hon. Christopher Streno	Ext. 019
Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Christopher Streno	Ext. 048



THE SENIORS BOOK CLUB meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Here is a list of the upcoming books:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders
- Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - "The Storm of the Century" by Al Roker
- Tuesday, July 8, 2025 - "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" by John Berendt

PLEASE NOTE: The Book Club (as a group) chooses the books to be featured each month. If you have a book you'd like to recommend, please bring it with you to the next meeting and join our club. We'd love to see you there!

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

4/7 to 5/2	Tree Branch Pickup (see page 2 for details)
Fri., April 25	MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 3 for details.)
Sat., April 26	MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 3 for details.)
Sat., May 3	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., May 6	Town of Binghamton Town Board Work Session @ Town Hall - 4 p.m.
Weds., May 7	Free Hazardous Waste Collection at BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., May 17	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., May 20	Town of Binghamton Town Board meeting @ Town Hall - 6 p.m.
Mon., May 26	Memorial Day Parade in Hawleyton at 10 a.m.
Mon., May 26	Binghamton Township Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Weds., June 4	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tues., June 3	Town of Binghamton Town Board Work Session @ Town Hall - 4 p.m.
Sat., June 7	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., June 11	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., June 18	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., June 29	FREE FISHING WEEKEND in New York State. No fishing license required.
Weds., July 1	FREE FISHING WEEKEND in New York State. No fishing license required.
Weds., July 2	Town of Binghamton Town Board Work Session @ Town Hall - 4 p.m.
	Free Hazardous Waste Collection @ BC Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.