

TOWN TALK



ISSUE 89

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON
279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903



2018



Tim Whitesell, Town Supervisor
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WE'RE IN A STATE OF TRANSITION

The Town Hall is currently in a state of transition due to staff changes, so I need to spend a little time making you aware of the changes and how they may affect you.

WATER/SEWER BILLS ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED AT THE HIGHWAY GARAGE AT 865 HAWLEYTON ROAD. BILLS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED IN PERSON AT TOWN HALL

Becky Smith retired from her full-time job at the end of June and the water/sewer billing portion of her job is now being handled through the Water/Sewer Dept. (Highway Garage), located at 865 Hawleyton Road. This has been something the Town has wanted to do for awhile because it makes sense to have the billing under the same roof as the Water/Sewer Maintenance Dept. With Becky's retirement, we felt this was the perfect time to transition. Nadine Pappas is now the billing clerk. Water/sewer bills can be paid IN PERSON at the Water/Sewer Dept. (Highway Garage) and you'll be sending all future bills there. *(A letter was sent to all billing customers in late June to explain all of the changes. New billing cards will detail the changes as well.)* The outside drop box at Town Hall is still available for drop-off payments, and we also now have an inside drop box for your convenience. But again, water/sewer payments are no longer accepted in person at the Town Hall.

INFORMATION DESK: OPEN TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS

As I mentioned above, Becky Smith retired from her full-time job at the end of June, but I'm pleased to report that she has been rehired on a part-time basis to work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to answer questions and to assist residents at our "Information Desk." Becky will also continue in her role as creator and editor of the *Town Talk* newsletter and as content manager of the Town's website. The Town Board and I felt rehiring her would make it easier for all involved, and some of you have already expressed that you're happy with our decision!

DROP BOXES AND FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN HALL FOYER

In addition to the above changes, you'll notice that mailbox receptacles (drop boxes) and a rack displaying forms have been installed in the Town Hall foyer as well. You'll find forms such as building permit applications, applications for the rental of our Community Center, applications for copies of marriage certificates, to name a few. With the recent transition, we're trying to make it easier for you to obtain the forms you need when you need them and to also provide an easy way for you to drop those forms off to the appropriate department by using the mailbox receptacles (drop boxes) located in the foyer at Town Hall.



(continue to page 2)

**BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR MOST PROJECTS.
CALL THE BUILDING INSPECTOR BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR NEXT PROJECT!**

We've had some issues this year with residents proceeding with building projects without first obtaining the necessary building permits. Later, after the project was finished and the Building Inspector discovered the project had been completed, the residents were told they needed to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals because they were not in compliance with the local Zoning laws. **Building permits are required for most projects**, including sheds, pools, decks, porches, additions, pole barns, garages, houses, political signs, cellular towers, TV towers, and the like. It will save you a lot of time and money if you check with the Building Inspector before starting your next project. Nick Pappas can be reached at 772-0357, x12. For a listing of the Town's building permit fees and inspections, check out our website at: <http://www.townofbinghamton.com/building-codes-permits/pages/building-permit-fees-and-inspections>



GRANT MONEY FOR HOUSE REPAIRS MAY SOON BE AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNERS

The Town will be applying to New York State for grant money to assist income-eligible homeowners with repairs to their homes. We have hired Thoma Development Consultants of Cortland to prepare the grant application on the Town's behalf. In order for the Town to be successful in obtaining grant funds, we need to determine the number of income-eligible homeowners who would be interested in having their homes rehabilitated. If the Town is awarded the funds, you may be eligible for the following type of repairs/replacement: heating, plumbing, roofing, windows, doors, masonry, and painting, to name just a few. If you're interested in this potential grant program and did not receive a survey in the mail, please call Bethann Schumacher of Thoma Development Consultants (the Town's consultant) at (607) 753-1433, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to request one.

I think that does it for this edition. We do have a few more months until the chill of fall rolls in, so I hope you continue to enjoy the summer! As always, please let me know if you have any questions or issues you'd like to discuss. The Board and I are always more than happy to speak with you. We are here to serve you and will continue to strive to make the Town of Binghamton a "Great Place to Live!" We'll chat again in October.



SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**Binghamton Township Historical Society's
"Remembering When" Annual Luncheon
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018**

**Museum opens at 11 a.m. Covered dish luncheon begins at noon.
Please bring a dish to pass and \$2 per person to help defray expenses.
Our museum is located at 923 Hawleyton Road. For a tour, call 669-4186!**



Highway Dept.**Water/Sewer Dept.****Mike Donahue****Phone: (607) 669-4323**

**SUMMER HOURS from
June 4 to Labor Day:
Tuesdays thru Fridays
from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED ON MONDAYS
through Labor Day.**

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN WATER AND SEWER BILLING

We would like to announce that water and sewer payments are now being collected at our office located at 865 Hawleyton Rd. As Becky stepped away and retired as the Water & Sewer Billing Clerk, Nadine Pappas stepped into that position. We are hoping for a smooth transition and will do our absolute best to make it as easy as possible.

Payments are now being collected in person at our office located at the Highway Garage. Payments are no longer being accepted IN PERSON at the Town Hall, but there are two drop boxes available for your use (outside & inside).

NEW HOURS FOR WATER/SEWER BILLING:

Billing hours will follow the Highway Dept./Water/Sewer Department schedule:

June, July, & August: Tuesday through Friday - 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

After Labor Day: Monday through Friday - 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

There will also be a drop box outside Nadine's office for payments as well. Payments can be sent by mail, paid online, or dropped off in person. We'll keep you updated as we move forward through the transition!

**WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE FOR 2018**

These are approximate mailing dates:

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

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

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

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

NOTE: If the last bill (August) is not paid by October 15th, it is turned over to the Broome County Real Property Tax Office as unpaid and is then relieved onto next January's Town & County tax bill. If you have a question about your bill, please call Nadine Pappas at (607) 669-4323.

SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Our summer road maintenance schedule is now underway. We've been busy cleaning ditches, sweeping roads, fixing road signs, and mowing. We've also spent some time repairing multiple catch basins and fire hydrants and have paved West Hamton, the upper part of East Hamton, and Hawthorne Rd. Once NYSEG completes its gas service replacement on Maria Blvd, we'll pave that as well. As always, we'll notify residents before beginning the work.

You'll continue to see us around the town patching roads, and performing sign and road maintenance throughout the summer. We have a few areas (Morgan Road and Ingraham Hill) that we plan to stone and oil.

Summer weather has everyone thinking about outdoor projects, including house renovations, landscaping, installation of pools and fences, etc. Don't forget that you need to **call Dig Safe New York (#811)** before you dig.

As a friendly reminder, we do not pick up leaves or brush/branches during the summer months so we kindly ask that you **DO NOT** put these items out to the roadside. We will not be picking them up. We do two annual brush pickups: fall and spring.

**SUMMER HOURS from June 4 to Labor Day:
Tuesdays thru Fridays 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CLOSED ON MONDAYS.**

From the Office of the Building Inspector - Nick Pappas - 772-0357, x 12



I'd like to touch on what Tim (Town Supervisor) mentioned in his article about the importance of getting a building permit. I'm not sure if people think they don't need a permit, or if they think they can get away without having to pay for one, but you can be assured that I WILL find out eventually that you've built without a permit, and you'll still need to get one whether the project is done or not. We've had real problems this spring and summer with residents starting projects without obtaining the necessary building permits. Later, they found out they weren't in compliance with our local zoning laws and had to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Sometimes when this happens, the outcome is not what they had hoped for, and the project has to be removed due to non-compliance. Please call my office before starting any project so that I can fill you in on any rules and regulations. It can save you a major headache down the road.

**A Note from Nick Vascello, Dog Control Officer
(607) 772-0357, ext. 22**

Dog Shelter Law Protects Dogs During "Dog Days of Summer"!



The Dog Shelter Law is a law that applies to all seasons, including summer. Section 353-B of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law requires dog owners to provide shelter for their dogs. The shelter must protect your dog from direct sunlight, rain, wind, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The shelter must be waterproof, insulated, and allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Violators will receive a court citation and be required to pay a fine ranging from \$50 to \$250, and will need to show proof of shelter for the dog. If you suspect that someone is not providing their dog with adequate food and/or shelter, please call the Sheriff's Dept. at 778-1911 or the New York State Police at 775-1241.



Consider the Community Center for your Graduation Party!

The Town of Binghamton Community Center is located at 1905 Coleman Rd. and is perfect for graduation parties, wedding receptions, birthday parties, family reunions, and business training seminars. To reserve the Community Center for your next event, please call Missy Chapman at the Town Hall by calling (607) 772-0357, ext. 14.

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

**Broome County Landfill's Summer 2018
Hazardous Waste Collection 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 at the landfill for FREE on the following days from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.:



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

Sat., July 28 / Wed., August 1 / Sat., August 11
Sat., August 25 / Wed., September 5 / Sat., September 8
Sat., September 22 / Wed., October 3 / Sat., October 6



TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The Chief's Corner - Jerry Emmons - tob.fire.chief@gmail.com

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself! I'm Jerry Emmons. I was recently elected Fire Chief for the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company, have been affiliated with fire service for 22 years, and served as Assistant Fire Chief at Station #3 (located on Park Avenue). My wife, Kelly, and I have resided in the Town of Binghamton for 15 years.

As your new Chief, my goals for the fire company are to become more efficient and to increase our involvement in the community. With that said, our company recently partnered with the family of Lee Norris, the American Red Cross, and the Town of Binghamton to obtain and install free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. We still have a few carbon monoxide detectors to give away (while supplies last), so if you're interested, please call me at (607) 761-1218 or send a request by e-mail to tob.fire.chief@gmail.com

I would like to start a program to improve the safety of our residents and our firefighters. I hope to accomplish this by gathering information about the specific needs of our physically challenged residents that will enable us to better aid them in an emergency. I'd also like the firefighters to become aware of the location of your medical devices (such as oxygen tanks, etc.) and supplemental green energy items (such as solar, wind, generators, etc.) within your residences. This knowledge will enable us to keep you and our firefighters safe.

I'd like to thank you for supporting our local fire company throughout the year. If you have any questions or comments, please call or send an e-mail to me. I look forward to serving our community!

CHICKEN BBQ



THE FIREMEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, August 18 from 4 p.m. until sold out.

**Hawleyton United Methodist Church
901 Hawleyton Road**

**Adults: \$9 per 1/2 chicken dinner
Children: \$5 per 1/4 chicken dinner**

**Firemen will
be selling
tickets door
to door.**

Dinner includes baked beans, cole slaw, roll & butter

To purchase a ticket ahead of the event, call (607) 242-5414



On June 14, 2018, Detective Brian Kittle from the Broome County Sheriff's Dept. presented a program on "Scam Alerts". Detective Kittle reported that the perpetrators can be difficult to track, which means we, the public, must be on constant alert. Attendees got to share and ask questions. The program pointed out that scams can come to us by mail, phone, computer, Facebook, and even door-to-door. Here are a few that were mentioned and ways to avoid being a victim:

MAIL: Remember...you can't win if you don't enter! Never cash checks sent to you in the mail, and beware of packages delivered that you didn't order.

PHONE: Always remember that the IRS and Medicare will not contact you by phone. Never give out personal information, and beware of the scam that says, "Is this ___?" As soon as you respond "yes" to confirm your name, your voice is recorded, and it can be used against you. The "grandparent scam" is still out there, so always check a reliable source before sending money to help a relative in a predicament.

DOOR-TO-DOOR: Always be skeptical of blacktopping, meat sales, etc. Anyone going door to door must have a permit to solicit in the Town of Binghamton and must carry the Town permit on them. Ask to see it!

If you have been the victim of a scam, please report it to the local law enforcement: Sheriff's Dept. 778-1911 or State Police 775-1241.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2018, at the Town of Binghamton Community Center. Program details will be announced as the meeting approaches.

News from County Legislator Kelly Wildoner

As we enter of the summer of 2018, I wanted to take a moment to inform the residents of the Town of Binghamton about some important updates.

The County Legislature recently passed its Daylight Legislation to increase transparency into County finances! This local legislation makes it possible for County taxpayers to easily access critical financial information on how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent. Our Daylight Legislation “throws open the books” and will enable everyone, legislators and residents alike, to have the most up-to-date financial information and allow the Legislature to continue making informed, responsible decisions. The fiscal health of our County has been and will continue to be the Legislature’s highest priority.

More good news for the Town of Binghamton! The Broome County Department of Public Works - Highway Division has recently completed road repair on Quaker Lake Road and Hawleyton Road all the way from the City of Binghamton Line to Hance Road. We know how important the County roadway system is to our residents that rely on it to travel to and from work every day! This year, the Legislature was able to budget \$2.5 million towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of County highways.

In recent months, I was honored to recognize the retirements of some of the Town of Binghamton’s best! Gary Gunn, Russell Cole, Thomas Maxian and William Snell all retired from the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company after many, many years of dedicated service to the Company and their community. Altogether, these four men served their communities for well over a century and a half and the Legislature was honored to be able to recognize them for their efforts.



I also had the privilege of celebrating the retirement of Town of Binghamton resident, businessman and long-time friend,

William E. McGowan. A member of the Town of Binghamton Planning Board, Bill worked for over 50 years in the chemical engineering and manufacturing fields, devoting his time and effort to the highest of moral, ethical and professional standards. Good luck in the years to come, Bill!

Lastly, my colleagues and I at the County Legislature would like to express a fond “Happy Retirement” to the Town of Binghamton’s own “Miss Information!” After almost 33 years of service to the Town, Becky Smith (“Miss Information”) is retiring from her full-time position (including that of water/sewer billing clerk) at the Town Hall. It is our pleasure and honor to wish her all the best in retirement!

I’m pleased to say that I recently learned that the Town has offered to keep Becky on part-time to continue with the publication of the *Town Talk* newsletter and a few other roles. I think it’s obvious to all that Becky has done a great job over the years in providing us with a publication that keeps us all so well informed. I’m very happy to hear that she’s staying on in that capacity. Thank you, Becky, for all the years of giving us your best!

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at (607) 722-0071, kwildoner@co.broome.ny.us or on Facebook by searching “Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner.”



Kelly Wildoner is a County Legislator representing the Towns of Binghamton, Conklin and part of Vestal.



Town of Binghamton

**279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903**

If you're interested in receiving this newsletter by e-mail, please go to www.TownofBinghamton.com and "Subscribe to News" on the front page.

The Town of Binghamton is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write:



USDA — Director
Office of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue—SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

TOWN HALL MAIN PHONE (607) 772-0357

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf:

1-800-662-1220 or 711

Assessor, John McDonald	Ext. 15
Assessor's Clerk, Amy Ricci	Ext. 13
Attorney for the Town, Alan Pope	Ext. 52
Bookkeeper, Sandra Reifler	Ext. 21
Bldg. Inspector/Codes, Nick Pappas	Ext. 12
Community Center, Missy Chapman	Ext. 14
Councilman, Norm Cline	Ext. 54
Councilwoman, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 56
Councilwoman, Vicky Xlander	Ext. 57
Court Clerk, Martha Nuzzela	Ext. 19
Deputy Supervisor, Nancy Yezzi	Ext. 55
Deputy Town Clerk, Paula Edwards	Ext. 23
Dog Control Officer, Nick Vascello	Ext. 22
Emergencies at Night: Dogs/Water 778-1911	
Highway Supt., Mike Donahue	669-4323
Information Desk, Becky Smith	Ext. 10
Plan. Bd. Chair., Bill McGowan	Ext. 50
Supervisor, Tim Whitesell	Ext. 11
Tax Collector (call Broome County)	778-2124
Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin	Ext. 26
Town Engineer, John Martin	Ext. 51
Town Justice, Kristen Luce	Ext. 20
Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Craig Kick	Ext. 48
Zoning Board Chairman, Carl Letson	Ext. 49

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

Tue., July 24	Planning Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., July 28	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Wed., August 1	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., August 11	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., August 14	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., August 18	Firemen's Annual Chicken BBQ @ Hawleyton UMC - 4 p.m. until gone (see page 5)
Sat., August 25	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Fri., August 31	All Town offices are closed for the Labor Day holiday.
Mon., Sept. 3	All Town offices are closed for the Labor Day holiday.
Tue., Sept. 4	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 5	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 8	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Wed., Sept. 12	Town of Binghamton Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 15	"Remembering When" @ Museum. Tours at 11 a.m. / Lunch at noon (see page 2)
Tue., Sept. 18	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 20	Neighborhood Watch Meets @ TOBCC* - 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 22	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

*TOBCC refers to the Town of Binghamton Community Center, located at 1905 Coleman Road.

