

Issue 87

Town Talk

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



January

2018



A Message from Town Supervisor Tim Whitesell

E-mail: Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com

I'd like to begin by announcing that the **Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company is the recipient of the 2018 "Citizens of the Year" Award!**

This annual award was presented at the January 16, 2018, Town Board meeting with the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the Town of Binghamton Town Board recognizes that our most vital resource is its citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Binghamton Town Board wishes to acknowledge its appreciation with an Annual Appreciation Award to a group who has had a positive impact within our Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Binghamton Town Board considers it a great honor to recognize the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company as the recipients of the 2018 Citizens of the Year Award and serves to acknowledge significant contributions by a person or group to the betterment of the quality of life in the Town of Binghamton, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company put their lives at risk with each call they answer. This willingness to sacrifice one's own safety to assure the safety of others is the height of humanitarianism. Each and every individual who lives, works, or travels through our town owes a debt of gratitude to these selfless public servants who last year alone responded to 150 calls ranging from EMS, Fire, Rescue, and Mutual Aid calls, and,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Binghamton Town Board wishes to express its heartfelt appreciation and respect by presenting this award to the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company. We can never thank them enough for their self-sacrificing service to our community and our fellow citizens while continuing to make the Town of Binghamton a "Great Place to Live" and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board will recognize the Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company as its 2018 Citizens of the Year, and that the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton has set January 17, 2018, as "Town of Binghamton Volunteer Fire Company Day" in the Town of Binghamton.

A heartfelt "Thanks!" feels so inadequate, but we do sincerely thank you!!!

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(A Message from the Supervisor - continued from page 1)

This winter has been a crazy one, hasn't it? We had some extremely bitter cold weather as we greeted 2018, then it got into the 40s and 50s for a couple of days, then WHAM! . . . cold and snowy again. It's wintertime in New York State. What more can we expect?

A new year always brings new appointments, and I'd like to mention them here:

COURT -- We hated to say good-bye to Town Justice Joe Walker and Court Clerk Laurie Gregory, but both stepped down at the end of last year due to busy schedules. I'd like to say "Thank You!" to Joe and Laurie for serving the Town of Binghamton well over the last three years. We wish you the best in your future endeavors! The Town Board and I have since appointed two familiar faces to our Town Court: Kristen Luce returns as our Town Justice and Martha Nuzzela returns as our Court Clerk. Both of these ladies are familiar with their respective duties, and we welcome them back!

PLANNING BOARD -- We filled another position that was recently vacated. April Bump served on the Town's Planning Board for more than 10 years and resigned at the end of 2017. As April once said with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face, "I got tired of harassing the Board for 12 years before deciding that I wanted to be part of it!" She and her husband, Dan, always dreamed of "moving south" in their retirement years, and that is what they've done....rather quickly, I might add! Their house sold within days after being on the market, and they found a lovely home outside of Knoxville, Tennessee, within a few days after THAT home was listed. They took the bait and ran! I know it caught a lot of us off guard. I'm sure many of you are reading this and are shocked by the news. But, that's April . . . always looking for another adventure! We all wish her and Dan the best in retirement! The Town Board, Planning Board, and I are also pleased to announce that Kathy Kiekel has been appointed to fill that position on the Planning Board. Welcome aboard, Kathy!

COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATOR - And last, but certainly not least, Missy Chapman has been appointed to fill the position of Community Center Coordinator and will also be working in the office with Nick Pappas (Code Enforcement) from time to time. Missy has worked at the Town for more than 11 years and is a familiar face here at the Town Hall, having filled in for Becky at the front desk, and also for the Town Clerk's office. We know that Missy will do a great job in this new position.

Finally, after mentioning the new appointments for the new year, I'd like to say that the Town Board, the staff, and I wish you the best in 2018! While winter tends to be a quiet time of year at the Town Hall, I know that we are all anticipating the arrival of spring, followed by all of the activities that summer will bring. Soon we'll be back at Jackson Park, enjoying a good time with friends and family and being reminded of why the Town of Binghamton is a "Great Place to Live!"

SAFETY REMINDERS AS YOU HEAT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

If you haven't already done so, please make sure that your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly and that you've replaced your old batteries with new ones. A detector cannot work if the batteries don't work! Many lives have been lost because there were either no batteries or dead batteries in their smoke detectors.

I've talked to several residents who are using their cooking stove and/or kerosene heater as an alternate heat source. This is extremely dangerous and can be life threatening because these units put out carbon monoxide and can cause a fire. Also, if you heat your home with firewood, coal, fuel oil or propane, you should have your chimney cleaned and checked by a professional.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 772-0357, ext. 12. I'm here to help. Thanks!

Nick Pappas, Bldg. Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer



Highway Dept. / Water & Sewer Dept.
Mike Donahue - Phone: (607) 669-4323
Hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Winter has finally arrived, so I'd like to take this opportunity to share some tips for the winter season:

- Make sure your snow removal equipment is in good working order.
- Always carry a flashlight, blanket, snow scraper, and jumper cables in your vehicle.
- Remember to slow down and allow extra travel time!

The news media will announce approaching storms and will keep you updated on closings, cancellations, and re-routings, so please pay attention.

Try not to go out during or immediately after a storm. The less traffic on the roads means we can clear the roads more quickly and completely. Our crews have designated routes, so you can be assured that someone will be around to clear your area. Please be patient!

We cannot pick up our plows when we come to your driveway. Please hire someone to remove the snow from your driveway if you are unable to. If you are able, be sure to shovel your snow to the right. Pushing snow into the road can create a hazardous condition, so please refrain from doing so.

Snow removal is an arduous and time-consuming task. Your understanding and cooperation are an important part of our snow removal plan. Thanks, and we appreciate your help!

The Town is NOT Responsible For Repairing Frozen 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. Unfortunately, we've had several frozen meters this winter. Call us if you have any questions.



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. Only the COUNTY is responsible for COUNTY roads. The following roads are County roads: Brady Hill Road, Hawleyton Road, Murphy Road, Park Ave., Pierce Creek Road, Powers Road, and Saddlemire Road. If you have a complaint concerning the maintenance of any County road, please call the County Highway Dept. at 778-2228.

Consider the Community Center for your next party!

The Town of Binghamton Community Center is located at 1905 Coleman Road and is perfect for wedding receptions, retirement and birthday parties, holiday gatherings, and business training seminars. To reserve our Community Center for your next event, please contact Missy Chapman at the Town Hall by calling (607) 772-0357, ext. 14.

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



A Message from James Zeck, Town of Binghamton Tax Collector - Phone: 772-0357, x18

YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR JANUARY 2018 TAX BILL BY NOW. IF NOT, PLEASE CALL ME IMMEDIATELY OR YOU CAN ALSO CALL THE BROOME COUNTY TAX OFFICE AT (607) 778-2169. THANK YOU.

2018 TAX OFFICE SCHEDULE



January: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(1% penalty after January 31st)

February: Wednesdays only – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(2% penalty + \$1.00 after February 28th)

March: Wednesdays only – 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. plus Mon., April 2nd



PARTIAL PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED. HERE ARE THE DETAILS:

Partial payments **must** be at least 50% of the tax bill and payment must be made in January.

The balance is due in February at 1% penalty or in March at 2% penalty plus a \$1.00 fee.

Only two payments can be made; the one in January and the other either in February or March.

An on-site drop box is also available in the vestibule for drop-off payments. Credit card payments may be made online only at www.taxlookup.net; however, there is a fee of 3% plus \$0.50. On April 3, 2018, your unpaid taxes become delinquent and this form of payment can no longer be accepted.

Please make all checks payable to: BC Director of O.M.B.

NOTE: As a reminder, this is the last year the Town Hall office will be accepting payments. All future payments will be made directly to Broome County.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

John McDonald & Amy Ricci - Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 13

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 2018 tax year. All exemption applications **MUST** be received each year between January 2nd and March 1st. If you plan to file for an exemption (Enhanced Star, Low-Income Senior, Veteran, Disability, etc.), now is the time!

Enhanced "STAR" for Seniors: If your household income ("adjusted gross income" minus "taxable amount" of total IRA Distributions) on the 2016 IRS form 1040 (line 37 minus line 15b) falls between \$31,501 and **\$86,000**, this is the school tax exemption for which you qualify.

Low Income Seniors: If your gross income for 2017 is **\$31,500 or below**, including Social Security, then you not only qualify for the Enhanced "STAR", but you are eligible for an additional exemption that may apply to the county, town, or school district, depending on your income level. This exemption is based upon a sliding scale.

If you are renewing an existing exemption, you should have received a renewal application from us by now. Don't forget to get it back to us no later than March 1st with income verification.

The Assessor's office hours change during the exemption period. Our office is now open Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to noon until March 1st so that someone can be here every working day to accept your applications.

If you are 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.





TOWN OF BINGHAMTON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

On December 14, 2017, Sgt. Brian Weidman of the New York State Police Troop C presented the extremely informative program "Active Shooter----Strategies for Safety" for residents who braved the cold to attend. The highlights of his strategies were **RUN, HIDE, OR FIGHT**. He gave helpful examples of instances where one or all of these strategies were used in an active shooting situation. As a result, lives were saved. Sgt. Weidman also suggested practicing awareness in a public place or venue of where exits, possible paths of escape, or possible places of concealment may exist. He stressed having a **plan for safety**. The Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee is very grateful to Sgt. Weidman for traveling from near Oneonta to Binghamton to present this program. Thank you also to Lt. Chris Streno of the Vestal Police for attending the program and offering help for future programs. Also, thank you to our Town Supervisor, Tim Whitesell, for attending. The Neighborhood Watch appreciated John Dancesia's help with sound set-up and all those who contributed to the refreshments.

In December, Maurice Howe retired from the Steering Committee. We will miss his computer skills and work ethic in getting the group rolling. We hope he and his wife, Helen, will still be able to attend future meetings.

The group will continue to meet in the coming year. We would like to vary meeting locations to accommodate residents. Meetings will still be held quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Look for information on upcoming meetings through the Town's news sources (the *Town Talk* newsletter and the Town's website at www.TownofBinghamton.com). If you would like to be a zone captain or member of the Steering Committee, please contact Janice Strnatka at 723-7244.

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

Sat., Jan. 20 / Wed., Feb. 7 / Sat., Feb. 17 / Wed., March 7 / Sat., March 10
Sat., March 24 / Wed., Apr. 4 / Sat., April 7 / Sat., April 21

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

LAWRENCE PETERS' VFW POST 1611 NEWS

David Snitchler, Post Commander - (607) 723-3214

John Zurenda, Quartermaster - (607) 669-4243

Our upcoming 2018 "All-You-Can-Eat" Pancake Breakfasts will be held on the following dates:

Sun., January 28

Sun., February 25

Sun., March 25

They're held from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Town of Binghamton Community Center, located at 1905 Coleman Road. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Cost is \$7 for adults / \$4 for children ages 5 to 12 / Children under 5 are free.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 17th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will tentatively be held on Sat., March 31, 2018, at the Town of Binghamton Community Center. Details will be posted on the Town of Binghamton's website at www.TownofBinghamton.com sometime in early March.

A MESSAGE FROM NICK VASCHELLO, DOG CONTROL OFFICER(607) 772-0357, ext. 22 E-mail: DCO@TownofBinghamton.com

With winter now upon us, I'd like to remind everyone of the "New York State Dog Shelter Law." Section 353-b of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law states that you are required to provide shelter for your dog at all times. The Broome County Sheriff's Dept. and New York State Police, as well as local police agencies, can enforce this law. If your dog spends anytime outdoors, you must provide shelter to protect the dog from direct sunlight, rain, snow, wind, cold weather, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The shelter must be waterproof, insulated, and allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.



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

Water/Sewer Billing Schedule for 2018 (Bills will be mailed close to these dates.)

November 1, 2017 (1st billing of a cycle); due in early December

February 1, 2018 (2nd billing); due in early March

May 1, 2018 (3rd billing); due in early June

August 1, 2018 - (4th billing); due in early September

IMPORTANT: If your bill is not paid in full by October 15, it will be sent to the Broome County Real Property Tax Office as unpaid and will be relieved to the next January's Town & County tax bill. (The bills are due 30 days after being mailed.)

**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.



Town of Binghamton

**279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903**

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 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 Ctr. Coordinator, 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 Clerk & Dog Licensing, Dawn Blair	Ext. 23
Deputy Supervisor, Nancy Yezzi	Ext. 55
Dog Control Officer, Nick Vascello	Ext. 22
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, James Zeck	Ext. 18
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, Becky Smith	Ext. 10
Water/Sewer Emergencies (Nights)	778-1911
Youth Activities, Craig Kick	Ext. 48
Zoning Board Chair, Carl Letson	Ext. 49

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.
Tues., January 23	Planning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun., January 28	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Tues., February 6	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5 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.
Mon., February 19	Presidents' Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., February 20	VFW Post 1611 monthly meeting at TOBCC* at 7 p.m.
Thur., February 22	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m. (Thursday is the correct date for this meeting.)
Sun., February 25	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Tues., March 6	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5 p.m.
Wed., March 7	Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Wed., March 7	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., March 10	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Thur., March 15	Neighborhood Watch meeting at TOBCC* at 7 p.m.
Tues., March 20	VFW Post 1611 monthly meeting at TOBCC* at 7 p.m.
Tues., March 20	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., March 24	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., March 25	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Fri., March 30	Good Friday - All Town offices will be closed.
Sat., March 31	Tentative Date for Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Watch the Town's website in March for more info.
Tues., April 3	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5 p.m.
Wed., April 4	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., April 7	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.**