

Town Talk



Issue 91

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

January 2019



hello
Winter



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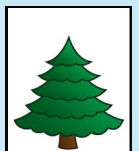
Email: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

Hello! For those of you who may not know me, I'm Elizabeth Rounds, and it has been my honor and pleasure to represent Town of Binghamton residents as a Town Councilperson for the past eight years and now as Town Supervisor! I was born, raised, and educated in Michigan, receiving a Business Administration degree from Michigan State University. In 1983, I moved to Binghamton and began the process of opening a women's shoe store in downtown Binghamton, a small business I still own and operate today. In 1988, I married my husband Blair and moved to the Town. Over these 30 years, we've raised two children and become a part of our community. For six years, I served as a Brookside Elementary School PTA member and then as PTA President. For 20 years, I was a Town Zoning Board of Appeals member and served on a number of committees at the Hawleyton United Methodist Church. In 2010, I was elected to the Town of Binghamton Council and since then have been fully committed to serving the Town's residents.

As a Councilperson, I was instrumental in finding ways to consolidate services with other municipalities in an effort to minimize costs and to keep our taxes in check. I have participated in negotiations with the Teamsters' union, implementing health care cost savings and finding other ways for the Town to improve its fiscal efficacy. I have also worked to clarify many policies and procedures, enabling more transparency and efficiency in all departments of Town government.

As Supervisor, I will continue to work hard for the residents of the Town. As I've learned in my business life, one needs to make changes to continue moving forward to sustain success. An effective leader must possess financial accountability and responsibility and must be known for working hard, being creative, and continually striving for improvement in the organization he/she leads. These are qualities I possess, and I pledge to work hard for you and to always keep the interests of Town residents at the forefront of my decision making. Thank you for all your support, and I look forward to serving you as the new Town of Binghamton Supervisor!

CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE PICK UP IS UNDERWAY! The Town of Binghamton Highway Department is now picking up Christmas trees. Please put your tree out to the curb **on your garbage day ONLY**. Please be sure to remove **ALL** decorations, lights, tinsel, and any tree bags you may have used. **This service will end on Monday, January 28.** If you have any questions, please call the Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. at 669-4323.



News from County Legislator Kelly Wildoner

Kelly represents the Towns of Binghamton, Conklin, and part of Vestal



Happy New Year, everyone! First, I'd like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You!" for getting out to vote on Election Day and for re-electing me to another term as your Broome County Legislator. I am very grateful knowing that residents in the Towns of Binghamton, Conklin, and Vestal have put their faith in me for another two years.

This past year was another year of making sure our tax dollars are spent responsibly while focusing on the issues that matter most to our community. Serving as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I've been fortunate enough to see firsthand the determination and effort of our County employees, local medical professionals, and treatment providers who fight to save lives here in Broome County by combatting the substance abuse epidemic on the frontlines. I will continue to do my part by listening to the voices of our residents and helping to build on the progress we've made so far.

In the Town of Binghamton, we were able to approve funding for our friends and neighbors who utilize the Jackson Park athletic fields. This funding to help replace the fields' drainage systems was approved by the Legislature so that our young athletes can take part in a full sports season and continue learning the importance of teamwork and fair play without worrying about poor field conditions.

The Legislature has also recently concluded its exhaustive budget review process and has approved the 2019 Broome County Budget. I'm very pleased to report that we were able to cut taxes for the first time in 14 years! By cutting wasteful, irresponsible spending, the 2019 Budget still maintains or improves all critical County programs and services and was passed unanimously. A special thanks to all my colleagues on the Legislature as well as the County Department Heads, employees, and other officials who made this possible!

We at the Legislature have continued to show our commitment to holding the administration accountable and ensuring that the County is headed in the right direction financially. Earlier this year, we passed the "Daylight" Legislation, which requires the Office of Management and Budget to produce quarterly financial reports that detail the County's fiscal status and to post them to the County's website for public review, and kick starts a new era of real transparency in County finances. My colleagues and I will continue to ensure that your hard-earned tax dollars are spent responsibly and in a transparent manner.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate and welcome Elizabeth Rounds on her recent victory in her new position as Town of Binghamton Supervisor. My proverbial door is always open to those with the best interests of their constituents and our communities in mind. I would also like to express my many, many thanks to two of the Town of Binghamton's great public servants who have moved on into retirement. Supervisor Tim Whitesell and longtime Councilwoman Nancy Yezzi have both been wonderful and easy partners to collaborate with, and I am proud of all the work we've been able to accomplish. Best wishes and good luck in retirement!

And finally, once again, a very special thanks to all those who have supported me in the past and for your continued support during my years as a public servant! Now, it's back to business. You can rest assured that I will continue working hard in service to the residents of District 3 and in bringing my experience to the table as your representative. I hope you all have a safe and prosperous New Year!

Mike Donahue - Highway Dept. / Water & Sewer Dept.

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. It is important to remember that snow accumulations and road conditions can vary in areas of higher elevation, and we do our absolute best to keep the roads clear for travel.
- **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!
- Please remember that **we cannot pick up our plows** when we come to your driveway. We receive many calls each year asking us to do so, and we will not. 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**.
- There are times when your **mailbox may be knocked over by the plows.** If by chance this does happen, please call Nadine at our office, and we will be sure to fix it as soon as possible. As always, it is never our intention, but in hazardous conditions, it can happen!

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!

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.

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. Please call us at 669-4323 if you have any questions.

Water/Sewer Billing Schedule for 2019 (Bills will be mailed close to these dates.)

February 1, 2019 (2nd billing); due in early March

We will be reading meters at the end of January; new bills will be mailed out at the beginning of February

May 1, 2019 (3rd billing); due in early June / August 1, 2019 - (4th billing); due in early September

If you have any questions or issues, call Nadine at 669-4323.

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR COOPERATION DURING OUR RECENT BILLING CHANGES!

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 2019 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! 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.



Enhanced "STAR" for Seniors: If your household income ("adjusted gross income" minus "taxable amount" of total IRA Distributions) on the 2017 IRS form 1040 (line 37 minus line 15b) falls between \$31,501 and **\$86,300**, this is the school tax exemption for which you qualify.

Low Income Seniors: If your gross income for 2018 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.

New for 2019: If you're applying or reapplying for the Enhanced STAR exemption, you **must** enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). You only need 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. If you are also receiving the low-income senior exemption, you will still need to annually reapply for that benefit with your assessor.

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. Our office is open Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to noon so that someone can be here every working day to accept your applications.



TOWN OF BINGHAMTON NEIGHBORHOOD

On September 20th, Officer Chris Bracco from the Binghamton Police Dept. Canine Unit brought his German shepherd, Officer Apache, to our meeting. A nice size group gathered to meet them and discuss canine service and police issues in the City of Binghamton. We are indebted to Officer Bracco who took time out of a busy evening to share his work with us. Our thanks and appreciation to him, Apache, and all law enforcement officers who risk their own well-being to protect our communities.

On December 13th, we met to remember the highlights of 2018 and to share some Christmas treats. We also discussed ideas for the 2019 schedule. We will continue to meet quarterly with the next meeting to be held on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. All are invited!

There have been reports in the last four months of car break-ins on Murphy Road and Matias Road. If your car is parked outside, do not leave valuables in it and be sure to lock it. Do not tempt would-be thieves. If there are any issues or concerns, please contact the Broome County Sheriff's (778-1911) or the State Police (775-1241). For emergencies, call 911.

Thank you to the Broome County Sheriff's Department and the Binghamton Police Department for their assistance with programs for 2018. Thank you, too, to all who provided refreshments for the meetings, helped set up, and attended meetings. **HAPPY NEW YEAR! BE INFORMED! BE ALERT! COMMUNICATE!**



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. 19 / Wed., Feb. 6 / Sat., Feb. 16 / Wed., March 6
 Sat., March 9 / Sat., March 23 / Wed., Apr. 3 / Sat., April 6

*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 2019 "All-You-Can-Eat" Pancake Breakfasts will be held on the following dates:

Sun., January 27 / Sun., February 24 / Sun., March 24

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.



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

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.

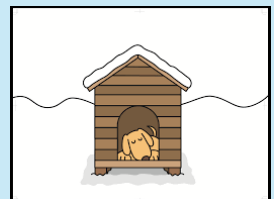
**SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARK TERRACE RESIDENTS:
THERE IS NO PARKING ANYTIME ON STREETS LOCATED IN BOTH UPPER AND
LOWER PARK TERRACE AREAS. TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED TO VIOLATORS.**

A MESSAGE FROM 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.



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

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
Building Inspector / Codes, Nick Pappas	Ext. 12
Community Center, Missy Chapman	Ext. 14
Councilman, Norm Cline	Ext. 54
Councilman, Mike Bensley	Ext. 56
Councilman, Mark Leighton	Ext. 55
Court Clerk, Martha Nuzzela	Ext. 19
Deputy Supervisor, Vicky Xlander	Ext. 57
Deputy Town Clerk, Paula Edwards	Ext. 23
Dog Control Officer, Nick Vascello	Ext. 22
Emergencies at Night: Dog & Water Issues	778-1911
Highway Supt., Mike Donahue	669-4323
Information Desk, Becky Smith	Ext. 10
Plan. Bd. Chair., Bill McGowan	Ext. 50
Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin	Ext. 26
Town Engineer, John Martin	Ext. 51
Town Justice, Kristen Luce	Ext. 20
Town Supervisor, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 11
Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Christopher Streno	Ext. 48
Zoning Board Chair, Carl Letson	Ext. 49



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Soup / Salad / Potato Bar

Friday, March 8, 2019
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hawleyton United Methodist Church
901 Hawleyton Road

Everyone is welcome!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tues., January 15	Town Board Meeting @ TOBCC* at 6:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE LOCATION & TIME CHANGE!
Tues., January 22	Planning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun., January 27	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Tues., February 5	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., February 6	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., February 16	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Mon., February 18	Presidents' Day - All Town offices will be closed.
Tues., February 19	VFW Post 1611 monthly meeting at TOBCC* at 7 p.m.
Tues., February 19	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun., February 24	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Tues., March 5	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Wed., March 6	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Wed., March 6	Zoning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Fri., March 8	FREE Community Dinner @ Hawleyton UMC - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Soup / Salad / Potato Bar
Sat., March 9	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., March 14	Neighborhood Watch Meeting @ TOBCC* - 7 p.m.
Tues., March 19	VFW Post 1611 monthly meeting at TOBCC* at 7 p.m.
Tues., March 19	Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sat., March 23	Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome County Landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sun., March 24	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids 3-12
Tues., April 2	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

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



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 18th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will tentatively be held on Saturday, April 20, 2019, 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.