

**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON**

279 Park Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903



**Town  
Talk  
May 2019**

**Issue 92**

**MESSAGE FROM TOWN SUPERVISOR, ELIZABETH ROUNDS**

**E-mail: [Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com](mailto:Supervisor@TownofBinghamton.com)**

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As the Spring season progresses, days and nights become milder, flowers and plants begin to bloom, and the days become longer. This spring, there are many exciting projects that will bring new life into the Town of Binghamton!

First of all, Nick Pappas, our Town Code Enforcement Officer, has been instrumental in having 3492 Margery Street torn down by the Broome County Land Bank Corporation. For many years that property has had a negative impact on the Park Terrance neighborhood. I want to thank Nick for his persistence and dedication to the demolition of that house. Also, back in January, the Town was awarded a \$500,000 grant (Community Development Block Grant) from Homes and Community Renewal of New York. This grant gives the Town's low-income residents the opportunity to apply for assistance for home improvement projects. More information will be available in the coming weeks. Please check our website for updates.

For those of you who may not have heard, 80 acres of the Vestal Hills Country Club are being sold to Broome County for a Veterans Resource Center. This is a great opportunity for Broome County to consolidate many Veterans' programs under one roof. The Town had the pleasure of having Jason Garner and Scott Mastin make a presentation at our March 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and many questions were answered.

Some of you may recall that in the Spring 2017 issue of *Town Talk*, Supervisor Whitesell had mentioned that the Town was looking to offer a way to save on electric bills through MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance), a new residential bulk electricity purchasing program. Last month, we were at the end stages to finalize the process. After much discussion, we decided to stop moving forward. Part of the reason was that there was concern about the "opt out" portion of the agreement. If the agreement had been signed, it would have meant that ALL residents would automatically be signed up with the understanding that they could "opt out" within 30 days. There was concern that not all residents would understand they needed to "opt out". With all of that said, the issue has now been dropped, and we wanted to let you know.

Last, but not least, for the first time in at least 11 years, the Town will participate in "Municipal Cleanup Days". With the help of Mike Donahue and the Highway Department, Town residents will be allowed to drop off household items at the Highway Department on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. (*Details on Page 2.*) The Town will be sending out a postcard to residents sometime in late May, outlining the details. Be sure to watch the Town's website after May 22. Please take advantage of this great opportunity and do your part to clean up the Town of Binghamton!

Finally, I would like to thank all of the employees of the Town of Binghamton for their help in making my first 120 days in office a success.

*Elizabeth Rounds*



*The Town of Binghamton is a Beautiful Place to Live!*





## MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS

**Thurs., June 6, 2019**

**Fri., June 7, 2019**

**8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day**

**Drop Off Location:**

**Town of Binghamton Highway Garage at 865 Hawleyton Road**

***PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED.***

If you're unable to drop off acceptable items, call the Highway Department at 669-4323 to schedule a pickup.

### **ITEMS ACCEPTED:**

- **WHITE GOODS** (washers, dryers, stoves, hot water heaters, metal, etc.)  
*Refrigerators and freezers must have doors removed*
- **FURNITURE**
- **ELECTRONICS** (TV's, microwaves, laptops, fax machines, copiers, etc.)
- **LIMITED CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS:** Old cabinets (wooden or metal)

### **ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED:**

- **NO TIRES!**
- **NO CHEMICALS!**
- **NO PAINTS!**
- **NO YARD WASTE OR LEAVES!**
- **NO MATTRESSES and NO BOX SPRINGS!**



### **CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

**[www.townofbinghamton.com](http://www.townofbinghamton.com)**

We'd like to take this opportunity to let you know that we have a new website! Our goal was to make it attractive, user friendly, and interactive in today's highly technological world. When you visit, you'll notice that some new features have been added, including Google Maps. We hope you like the new format!

We'd also like you to be aware of changes to our e-subscriber notifications. You'll no longer be able to choose subjects "a la carte" as you had been accustomed to, but once you subscribe, you'll receive our quarterly newsletter, *Town Talk*; our Town Board meeting agendas and minutes; and an occasional emergency alert (water breaks, road closures, etc.) or other important newsworthy items that we believe will be of interest to you. If you've subscribed to other subjects in the past, such as Planning Board, Zoning Board, or Youth Commission minutes and agendas, you'll no longer receive them directly but will still be able to find them on the website under "Minutes & Agendas". Our website is our main form of communication, so won't you please consider subscribing? It's the best way to stay informed!

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN NORM CLINE

### Retirement

NEXT EXIT 

It is with mixed emotions that I conclude my service to the residents of the Town of Binghamton. Since December of 1998 when I was appointed, and up to April 2019 (over 20 years), I have enjoyed my job as Town of Binghamton Councilperson and Deputy Supervisor, and have always made the effort to give this job my best and to do what is best for the Town of Binghamton. While I am also retiring as a teacher with over 31 years of service from the Susquehanna Valley CSD, I plan to stay in the town but to simplify my life and concentrate on my family, health, and church. After being appointed in 1998, I was re-elected six times (THANK YOU for your support!), which showed me that the majority of the residents felt that I did represent their wants, needs, and issues in a committed and effective manner. However, it is time for me to move onto another chapter of my life. Again, thank you for your support, and it was truly a great honor and a goal of mine to serve the Town of Binghamton, the community in which I live and love.

*Norm Cline*

## TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Vickie Conklin, Town Clerk - 772-0357, ext. 26  
Paula Edwards, Deputy Clerk – 772-0357, ext. 23

**IT'S THE LAW!** – This is a reminder that it is a violation of the law for any person to stop, stand, or park a vehicle in an area designated as a parking place for the disabled unless the vehicle has a parking permit or license plates for the disabled and is being used to transport a person with a severe disability. The maximum fine for a violation ranges from \$75 to \$450.



The hanging style parking permit for the permanently or temporarily disabled is available at the Town Clerk's office. The single permit is issued immediately at no cost when the required form is filled out by your physician as well as when your driver's license (if applicable) is presented. The license plates for the permanently disabled are issued at the Department of Motor Vehicles upon submission of the same form completed by your physician. The plates are issued at a cost of \$25.

## WHAT IS "TAXABLE STATUS DATE"? John McDonald, Assessor



Here's just a bit of information about the tax year. The tax year, for assessment purposes, is a fiscal year that begins July 1 and runs through the following June 30. Each year the Assessor's Office establishes a new tentative tax roll on May 1 that goes into effect on July 1.

The assessment that is shown on that new July 1 tax roll reflects the status of the property on March 1, which is called "taxable status date". This becomes important information for you if you are building a new house, constructing an addition to your existing house, demolishing a building, etc.

As an example, if your home is 50% complete as of March 1, the July 1 tax roll reflects 50% of the finished value of the home. The assessment then does not change again until the following tax year, because once the July 1 tax roll becomes effective, it is frozen by law and cannot change (up or down).

If you have any questions about "taxable status date" or any other assessment issue, please contact me or Amy at (607) 772-0357, ext. 13.

**Office Hours: 9 a.m. to noon - Monday through Friday**

**Assessor's Hours: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays (Appointment suggested)**

## Highway Dept./Water & Sewer Dept.

Mike Donahue, Highway Supt. - (607) 669-4323

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

We are more than ready for spring around here! Just like past winters, we have been dealt our fair share of cold and snowy weather. This means we are ready to move on and start with spring cleanup, including brush and debris removal, filling pot holes, road sweeping, and sign maintenance. As the season continues, we will move on to ditch cleaning and paving during the summer.

We have some projects scheduled for late spring and early summer. In Orchard Park, we'll be replacing the main storm sewer line on Cheryl Drive. We'll also be doing some pipe lining in various locations throughout the town. NYSEG has also informed us that they will be continuing their work throughout the town, replacing some gas services on Moore Avenue, Karen Court, and Carol Court.

As some of you may know, winter can wreak havoc on your driveways and pipes. If you notice you are in need of a new driveway pipe, the Town will **install** one at no cost, but the homeowner is responsible for the cost of the pipe. Just give us a call at 669-4323, and we'll measure it and get a price for the pipe for you!

### SPRING TREE BRANCH & BRUSH PICKUP - MAY 6 to MAY 29, 2019

The Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. will be picking up branches on **MONDAYS & TUESDAYS ONLY** beginning Monday, May 6 and ending Weds., May 29. **(LAST PICKUP WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 BECAUSE OF THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.)**

This pickup is for **TREE BRANCHES ONLY**. No cuttings from any kind of bush. **Please call the Highway Dept. at 669-4323 to have your name placed on our list.**

Due to the overwhelming response to this service, you will not be given a specific time or day when your brush will be picked up.

In addition, there are certain guidelines to be followed:

1. Tree branches from your yard only;
2. Put branches neatly along the curb/roadside in front of your home;
3. Please place the large end of the branch towards the road, and leave the branches as long as possible;
4. No brush from clearing your lot;
5. 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.)
6. 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 2019 is as follows: (these are approximate mailing dates)

November 1, 2018 (1st billing of a cycle); due in early Dec.

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

**May 1, 2019 (3rd billing); due in early June**

August 1, 2019 (4th billing); due in early September

**From the Office of Code Enforcement & Building Inspection - Nick Pappas****Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 12**

*First, I'd like to say THANK YOU, NORM, for your support of me and my job and to the town through the years! I wish you the best of luck in retirement! I'll miss seeing you around here.*

Spring has arrived, and we have a new Town Supervisor and two new Board members on staff here with another new Board member soon to be appointed after Norm Cline retires. With that said, **Property Maintenance** has already become the topic of discussion lately, so I wanted to give you a heads up that some of you may be receiving letters asking you to clean up around your homes. Let me say that if you receive a letter from this office, and if you respond immediately, we'll get along just fine. I'm always willing to work with the property owner as long as corrective action is taken within a reasonable amount of time. If the property owner does not respond to my letter by calling the office and speaking with me, my only option is to turn the issue over to Court. I would have to agree that it really would be nice to see property owners sprucing up their homes this spring!

I'd like to also mention that the **Town Code** is available on our website (under "Building Codes & Permits"). It's a great way to familiarize yourself with what is and what is not acceptable in our Town.

**Brush Burn Ban is currently in effect. Absolutely no burning through May 14th.**

Finally, I've discovered several people building without a building permit this spring. Please call my office before beginning any new building project. Some projects require a permit and some do not. If you don't know, just give me a call. I'm always happy to help. Thanks!



On March 14, 2019, Town of Binghamton resident Lt. Chris Streno from the Vestal Police Department presented the program "Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event" (CRASE) to a gathering of 25-30 residents and interested parties. The program was superbly presented and extremely informative. Interesting to note, more than half of these events take place in a commerce location and 45% of shooters have no connection to the location. There are three stages of civilian response: Denial, Deliberation, and Decisive Moment. The speed getting from Denial to Decisive Action can determine survival.

Tips: Plan ahead; know exits; script a plan

**REMEMBER IN AN EVENT: WHAT YOU DO MATTERS: AVOID (get out of the area); DENY (access to where you are); DEFEND (when no other choice)**

There was so much more information. Many positive comments circulated after the meeting. Thank you to Lt. Chris Streno for getting this important information out. Thank you, also, to David Adler from NYS Emergency Response Services for attending and providing literature for attendees.

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. The plan is to have a program from NY State Emergency Response Services.**

**LAWRENCE PETER'S VFW POST 1611** Dave Snitchler, Commander - Phone: 761-3941

We would like to thank all of our faithful attendees who came out to our breakfasts over the past six months. We look forward to serving you again in the fall! Come out to Veterans Field at the Community Center (1905 Coleman Road) to support our kids this summer! We'll be there serving food, drinks, candy, and smiles in the concession stand! We really do appreciate your support!

**A RABIES CLINIC: Weds., May 22, 2019**

A rabies clinic will be held on this date from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Binghamton Highway Garage, located at 865 Hawleyton Rd. \$5 donation per animal (dogs, cats, & ferrets).



**MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES: Monday, May 27, 2019**



**PARADE begins at 10 a.m.** at the Fire Station in Hawleyton and will proceed to the cemetery. State Senator Fred Akshar will be the guest speaker!  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
 Come take a tour with us! We're family friendly and have activities for all ages!



**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Thurs., June 6, 2019**

A Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on this date at 7 p.m. at the TOB Community Center, located at 1905 Coleman Road. We're reaching out to the New York State Emergency Response Services to join us. The community is encouraged to attend!



**FREE FISHING WEEKEND: June 29 & 30, 2019**

"Free Fishing Weekend" is the perfect time to take the kids or grandkids to fish at the pond at Jackson Park (3317 Jackson Road) because no license is required! "Free Fishing Weekend" applies to all fresh or marine waters in New York State!

**Broome County Landfill's Spring Hazardous Waste Collection Dates - Spring 2019**

Household hazardous waste is unusable home and garden products that contain hazardous chemicals. Some examples are pesticides, fertilizers, oil-based paints and thinners, cleaners, pool and hobby chemicals. Also included are household and auto batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealers, paints, solvents, stains, cleaners, and old electronics, such as computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc. You can drop these items 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 Road (near the airport).  
 Phone: (607) 763-4450

- Sat., May 11 / Sat., May 18 / Sat., June 1
- Wed., June 5 / Sat., June 15 / Sat., June 29
- Wed., July 10 / Sat., July 13 / Sat., July 27

**WHY NOT CONSIDER THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT?**



**The Town of Binghamton Community Center is located at 1905 Coleman Road and is perfect for graduation parties, wedding receptions, retirement parties, holiday gatherings, and business training seminars. Cost: \$300 per day rental plus \$200 refundable security deposit. Call Missy Chapman at 772-0357, ext. 14.**

# Town of Binghamton

279 Park Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903

Check us out on the web at  
[www.TownofBinghamton.com](http://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



## 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, 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 or Water	778-1911
Highway Supt., Mike Donahue	669-4323
Information Desk, Becky Smith	Ext. 10
Plan. Bd. Chair., Bill McGowan	Ext. 50
Tax Collection - Call Broome County	778-2124
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., Mike Donahue	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Christopher Steno	Ext. 48
Zoning Board Chair, Carl Letson	Ext. 49

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

May 6 to May 29	Spring Tree Branch & Brush Pickup - Call Highway Dept. @ 669-4323 for pickup.
Tue., May 7	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., May 8	Public Hearing: Zoning Board of Appeals @ Town Hall - 7 p.m. (Request for variance.)
Sat., May 11	FREE Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome Co. landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Sat., May 18	FREE Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome Co. landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., May 21	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Wed., May 22	Rabies Clinic @ Highway Dept., 6-7 p.m. 865 Hawleyton Rd. \$5 donation per animal.
Mon., May 27	Memorial Day Parade in Hawleyton at 10 a.m. / Museum open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sat., June 1	FREE Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome Co. landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., June 4	Town of Binghamton Work Session @ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.
Wed., June 5	FREE Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome Co. landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., June 6	Neighborhood Watch Meeting - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. @ TOBCC* - Call 723-7244 for info.
<b>Thurs., June 6</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 2 for details!)</b>
<b>Fri., June 7</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS! (See page 2 for details!)</b>
Sat., June 15	FREE Hazardous Waste Collection @ Broome Co. landfill - 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Tue., June 18	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall - 7 p.m.
Sat., June 29	FREE Fishing Days in New York! No fishing license is required to fish this weekend!
Sun., June 30	FREE Fishing Days in New York! No fishing license is required to fish this weekend!
Thurs., July 4	Happy 4th of July! All Town offices are closed.



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

