

Town Talk



Issue 94

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

October 2019



Elizabeth Rounds, Town Supervisor
E-mail: supervisor@townofbinghamton.com

Happy Fall, everyone! There are a few things I'd like to talk about, and the first is to give you an update on the progress being made with our **Community Development Block Grant**. We had a very good response from residents hoping to receive funds to help with home improvements. Some residents have already been contacted by Thoma Development Consultants and plans are beginning to take shape. If you haven't applied but are still thinking about it, there is still time to get in on the action! Applications will continue to be accepted until all funds have been committed. If you'd like to apply or if you have questions, please call the Thoma office at (607) 753-1433, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

I'm pleased to report that another unsafe building has been torn down in the Town of Binghamton. Nick Pappas has once again been instrumental in getting **2339 Oswego Street taken down** by the Broome County Land Bank Corporation. It's nice to see some of these dilapidated buildings being removed one by one. We're hoping to see some new life restored and neighborhoods improved.

It's **budget time**, and I've been spending a lot of my time going through the budget and working hard to understand the process. It's an exciting time for me as I become familiar with how things work and in trying to find new and creative ways to save the Town money. I'm learning a lot and enjoying it immensely.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks for the encouragement I've received over the last few months. I enjoy having an "**open door policy**" here at Town Hall, and many of you have already taken the opportunity to stop in to say "Hi" or to share what's on your mind. I really enjoy the interaction with residents and encourage you to call or stop by if you have something you'd like to discuss.

And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to mention that **John McDonald (Assessor) is retiring!** We're having an Open House at the Town Hall in his honor on Wed., October 9 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please consider joining us as we say our fond farewells to John!

Elizabeth Rounds

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**The Chief's Corner - Jerry Emmons**E:mail: tob.fire.chief@gmail.com / Phone: (607) 761-1218**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY PRESENTS FIRE PREVENTION AND FAMILY SAFETY DAY!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, FROM NOON TO 5 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON COMMUNITY CENTER,
LOCATED AT 1905 COLEMAN ROAD, BINGHAMTON, NY.**

- Come meet the firefighters and check out some trucks!
- Go through the safety fire trailer!
- Free Fire Prevention items for the kids!
- There will be car seat safety checks from noon to 3 p.m.
- Sheriff's Department will be holding SAFE CHILD ID
- An obstacle course for the kids!
- Fire extinguisher demo and practice!
- **Red Cross will offer FREE smoke alarms & installation**
- **Red Cross will discuss Emergency Preparedness**
- The Broome County Drone Team will be doing demos!
- 50/50 Raffle
- Lunch available to purchase

**CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECK EVENT!****NOON TO 3 P.M.**

Technicians will check

- Proper installation
- Expiration of the seat
- Recall status
- That the seat is appropriate for the child, based on age, weight and height, and development.

**Governor's Traffic Safety Committee**

Please bring your

- Child
- Child safety seat
- Vehicle
- Manual for vehicle and safety seat, if available.

If you have any questions about the child safety seat check event, feel free to contact:

Christine Muss at the Broome County Health Department at 778-2807 .

Funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Donahue, Highway Supt.

Phone: (607) 669-4323

E-mail: highway@townofbinghamton.com

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

FALL LEAF PICK UP**OCTOBER 15 THRU NOVEMBER 27**

Fall is the only time we collect leaves; we don't pick them up in the spring. Here are the details:

- Call the Highway Dept. at 669-4323 to be placed on a list for this service.
- Rake your leaves (with no debris) into a pile in front of your home by the curb line. No pinecones, rocks, branches, flowers, or animal waste can be mixed in with your leaves.
- Do not place leaves in bags!
- Do not rake leaves into your ditch or roadway because this can be very hazardous to traffic!



NOTE: If you hire a landscaper or contractor to clean up your leaves, THEY are responsible to take the leaves away. If we see a landscaper or contractor raking or blowing leaves from your property to the curb or to the ditch, the Town will NOT remove them. It is the landscaper's or contractor's responsibility.

WATER/SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE

(These are approximate mailing dates.)

November 1st (1st billing in an annual 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****If you have a question about your bill, please call****Nadine at (607) 669-4323.**

ATTENTION! All water/sewer bills must be paid in full (postmarked) no later than Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

If an account is not paid in full by this date, the unpaid amount will be sent to Broome County and will be placed on your January 2020 Town & County tax bill.

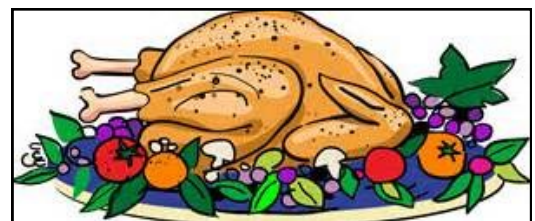
SENIOR CITIZENS

**You're Invited to the Annual Holiday Luncheons at the
Richard T. Stank Middle School**

Each year around the holidays, the Richard T. Stank Middle School, located at 1040 Conklin Road, hosts a Thanksgiving and a Christmas Luncheon. All Town of Binghamton senior citizens are invited. The cost is \$3 per person and includes all of the traditional holiday trimmings, including turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and more! No reservations are required; you can pay at the door.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 at 1 p.m.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 at 1 p.m.



A MESSAGE FROM NICK PAPPAS, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERE-mail: code@townofbinghamton.com

Phone: (607) 772-0357, ext. 12

WINTER IS COMING! IT'S TIME TO REVIEW OUR WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE.

We all know when a storm is coming. If you know a storm is on the way, don't park on the streets. The plows need to be able to navigate down the streets without dodging cars. We do put warnings on windshields but ONE time only. After that, you'll be ticketed.

With that said, this is what the Town of Binghamton Winter Parking Ordinance 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 ANY OF THE STREETS IN THE PARK TERRACE AREA.



**Broome County
Landfill's
Fall & Winter
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 including computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.

You can drop these items off at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.:

**Sat., Oct. 19 / Sat., Nov. 2 Wed., Nov. 6
Sat., Nov. 16 Wed., Dec. 4 / Sat., Dec. 14**

**Broome County Landfill is located at 286 Knapp Road
(near the Binghamton Regional Airport)
Phone: (607) 763-4450**

**CHECK OUT THE
TOWN'S COMMUNITY
CENTER FOR
YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY!**



Our Community Center is located in a beautiful country setting with ample parking. The facility will accommodate up to 80 people for your family's holiday gathering. Rental rates are as follows: \$300 rental fee (payment is due with application & check will be cashed immediately) plus \$200 refundable security deposit (when the key is picked up).

*Missy Chapman, Community Center Coordinator
(607) 772-0357, x 14*



A MESSAGE FROM VICKIE CONKLIN, TOWN CLERK

E-mail: TownClerk@TownofBinghamton.com - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 26

Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk - Phone: 772-0357, ext. 23



**OPENING DAY FOR DEER SEASON IN THE SOUTHERN ZONE IS
Sat., Nov. 16 and continues through Sun., Dec. 8, 2019.**

BOWHUNTING:

Oct. 1 through Nov. 15 then Dec. 9 through Dec. 17, 2019.

MUZZLELOADING:

December 9 through December 17, 2019 (Deer of either sex)

REMINDER TO ALL HUNTERS: Make sure your blaze orange or pink gear is visible along with your tags when you are on the hunt. If hunting on private property in the Town of Binghamton, make sure you have the owner's permission prior to entering their fields.



New York State DEC is offering another **FREE FISHING DAY!
FREE FISHING on Mon., November 11, 2019 (Veterans Day)
No fishing license is required. FREE FISHING applies to all
fresh or marine waters in New York State.**



THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON WELCOMES A NEW DOG CONTROL OFFICER

We'd like to introduce Rick Murray, the new Dog Control Officer. If you have a non-emergency complaint, you are welcome to leave a message on Rick's Town Hall extension (772-0357, ext. 22), and he'll return your call in a timely fashion. If you're trying to reach Rick because you've found a stray dog that's in your possession and you'd like it picked up, call Rick on his cell at 217-8857.

As a reminder, the Town of Binghamton has a contract with the BC Humane Society. If your dog is missing, it may have been picked up and taken to the BC Humane Society. The Humane Society is located at 167 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton. If you need to contact the Humane Society, you can call them at 724-3709 or visit their web page at <http://www.bchumanesoc.com>



LAWRENCE PETERS' VFW POST 1611 NEWS

Dave Snitchler, Post Commander (607) 723-3214

John Zurenda, Quartermaster (607) 669-4243

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Sun., October 27 / Sun., November 17 (No Breakfast in December)

**COST: \$7 for adults; \$4 for children ages 5 to 12 (Children under five eat for free)
Breakfasts begin at 8 a.m. and run until 11 a.m. Takeout is available.**



Why is the 2020 Census Important?



Everyone Counts. The Census counts every person living in the U.S. once every ten years.



Political Representation. The Census results are used to determine how many representatives each state has in Congress and are used to inform the redrawing of congressional district boundaries.



It's Your Civic Duty. It is in the Constitution that everyone must be counted.



Federal Funding. Census data is used to distribute \$675 billion in federal funds annually to states, counties, and local communities.



Confidentiality. Federal law protects your Census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics and cannot be shared or be used to identify you or your household.



How is Census Data Used?



To determine funding for public services in our community.



To determine where to build new infrastructure and community facilities.



To determine where to open new companies, businesses, and stores.



To write grant applications for community projects.



To plan for emergency services.

How & When do I Respond to the Census?

In March 2020, every household will receive an invitation to complete the Census. You can complete the questionnaire:



Online



By phone



By mail

Postcard reminders and a hardcopy questionnaire will be mailed throughout March and April. A Census taker will follow up with non-responsive households.

***Answering the Census is the law, and it's important to our community!
Please complete it accurately.***

OPEN HOUSE IN HONOR OF JOHN MCDONALD (ASSESSOR)



John McDonald is retiring! You're invited to an Open House in his honor on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Cake and coffee will be served. We thought this would be a nice way for Town residents, family, and friends to wish John well in his retirement. We hope to see you then!





A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

On September 12, 2019, the Citizen Preparedness Corps from the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services (DHSES) presented a very informative, interesting program on "Citizen Preparedness" for disasters. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- There are 18-20 disasters that can affect NY. The most common are power outages. In the event of a disaster, each of us becomes a first responder.
- Develop a family emergency plan. Arrange a meeting place outside the home **and** outside the neighborhood.
- Have **10 days** of emergency supplies (water - one gallon/person; ready to eat, non-perishable foods; foods that do not require cooking)
- Make a plan for pets.
- Know where shelters are in your area.
- Make a plan to get emergency alerts and/or information.
- Be aware of activity in your neighborhood. If you **see something** out of the norm, **say something**. You may prevent disaster from happening.
- Most active shooting incidents are over in 10 to 15 minutes. You may have approximately **480 seconds** to act before police arrive. The three words to remember are:
 - RUN** (get away)
 - HIDE** (locked room; lights off; cell silenced; bar the door)
 - FIGHT** (grab whatever is in sight to be used as a weapon)
- NYS law requires smoke detectors not hard wired to have sealed 10-year batteries. Not having these may negate insurance coverage in the event of a fire. **CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY!**
- Know how to turn off utilities, gas and water in your home. **KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE COVERS.**
- Know basic first aid (proper tourniquet application, how to stop bleeding, etc.)



There was much more detailed information. The *TO GO* backpacks given to each family who attended provided many helpful items for emergencies.

Thank you to all who helped make this program a success. Thank you to the brave men and women of the DHSES who work so hard to prepare and protect us.

The next NW meeting will be a planning meeting for 2020. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 7 p.m. at the Town of Binghamton Community Center located at 1908 Coleman Road. Please join us and bring your ideas for 2020!

If you would like to get more information about this local Neighborhood Watch group, please contact Jan Strnatka at 723-7244 or send an email to jstrnatka@aol.com



REMEMBER TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY!
NOVEMBER 5, 2019 - 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Call the **Board of Elections at 778-2172** for more information.



Town of Binghamton

279 Park Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903



If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other important news items via e-mail, go to:



www.townofbinghamton.com

Scroll down and look to the bottom right on any page to sign up.



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
Building Inspector/Codes, Nick Pappas	Ext. 12
Community Center, Missy Chapman	Ext. 14
Councilman, Mike Bensley	Ext. 56
Councilman, Mark Leighton	Ext. 55
Councilman, Dean Nye	Ext. 54
Court Clerk, Martha Nuzzela	Ext. 19
Dog Control Officer, Rick Murray	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, Elizabeth Rounds	Ext. 11
Supervisor's Deputy, Vicky Xlander	Ext. 57
Tax Collector (call Broome County)	778-2124
Town Clerk, Vickie Conklin	Ext. 26
Town Clerk's Deputy, Paula Edwards	Ext. 23
Town Engineer, John Martin	Ext. 51
Town Justice, Hon. Gregory P. Thomas	Ext. 20
Water/Sewer Maint., Lee Cooper	669-4323
Water/Sewer Billing, Nadine Pappas	669-4323
Youth Activities, Christopher Streno	Ext. 48
Zoning Bd. Chairman, John McDonald	Ext. 49

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

Wed., Oct. 9	Open House for John McDonald @ Town Hall - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. See page 6.
Sat., Oct. 12	Fire Company Holds Fire Prevention & Family Safety Day. See page 2.
Oct. 15 to Nov. 27	Fall Leaf Pick Up. See page 3.
Tues., Oct. 15	Deadline for any delinquent water/sewer bills. Unpaid bills will be sent to the County.
Tues., Oct. 15	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting at Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 19	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 4.
Tues., Oct. 22	Planning Board Meeting @ Town Hall at 7 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 27	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. - \$7 adults / \$4 kids
Sat., Nov. 2	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 4.
Tues., Nov. 5	Election Day. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All Town offices will be open.
Wed., Nov. 6	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 4.
Thurs., Nov. 7	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 11	Veteran's Day: FREE Fishing Day in New York State. No license required!
Sat., Nov. 16	Hazardous Waste Collection at County Landfill. See page 4.
Sat., Nov. 16	Opening Day for Deer Season in the Southern Zone. See page 5.
Sun., Nov. 17	VFW Post 1611 Pancake Breakfast @ TOBCC* - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$7 adults / \$4 kids
Tues., Nov. 19	Seniors Thanksgiving Lunch @ Richard T. Stank Middle School Café @ 1 p.m. \$3
Tues., Nov. 19	Town of Binghamton Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 21	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Town offices will be closed.
Fri., Nov. 22	Town Offices are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
Weds., Dec. 3	Town of Binghamton Board Work Session @ Town Hall @ 5:30 p.m.

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