

Town Information:

Municipal Campus:
476 Maple Street
Big Flats

Town Hall:
Monday-Friday
8am to 4pm
562-8443

Community Center:
Monday-Friday
8am to 9pm
Saturday by Appt.

Office:
Monday-Friday
8am to 4pm
562-8443, ext.303

Town Court:
Monday- Friday
8:30am-3:30pm



What's Going on in the Town?

- Fiber for cable, Internet, Video
- Town Complex accepting Credit Cards in house and on-line for Payments
- Thank you to all who have turned in their survey from the last issue, If you haven't done so please do (a copy is on the back page)

Brush Pick Up

The Town of Big Flats will conduct its annual Spring brush pick-up beginning TBA.

Please watch on the town website and newspapers for brush pick-up date.

Once brush is removed from your area, the department will not return.

The brush pick-up program is for minor trimming of trees & shrubs around the resident's home and is not for tree removal or the clearing of lots.

Any material considered to be from lot clearing will not be picked up.

Limit to one truckload per household.

NO leaves, grass clippings, lumber, or boards.

NO stumps with roots, stones or dirt.

NO limbs larger than 6" in diameter.

REMOVE nails, wire, string, and rope.

Stack brush neatly parallel to the curb/street with butt ends facing the same direction.

Big Flats Town Board:

- Supervisor Edward Fairbrother
- Council Lee Giammichele
- Council Andy Gillette
- Council Bob Adams
- Council Mike Saglibene
- Town Clerk Linda Cross
- Meetings:

2nd Wednesday
at 4:30pm

4th Wednesday
at 7:00pm



Private Parties Welcome.

 Having a birthday party, giving a baby shower, planning a wedding reception or family gathering? The Community Center is ready and available to meet your needs. Reservations available Mon-Fri 8am-9pm and Saturday by appointment. Call the Center office for more details . 607 562-8443 ext 303

Activities



There are many activities to participate in and events to attend. Would you be Interested in playing cards, are you crafty or want to learn to be, looking for exercise programs to join, or learn to cook Italian style? Want to socialize and have a meal? Do your kids like to play games? Well the Big Flats Community Center has it all! Check out the monthly activity flyer on the website for details. Looking for a new program and have ideas to share? The Center staff will be happy to help you set up a new activity to share with residents!

Upcoming Events

NEW: 'Community Jam Session'

2nd & 4th Monday / month 6-9pm

Open to all musicians of any talent & skill level

Thank You



Thank you to all that helped make the Christmas concert with Pat Kane and West o'Clare a huge success! A great time was had by all. Future concert information coming soon!

The annual FOOD DRIVE to benefit the Big Flats Food Pantry received over 565 items . Thank you to all that generously donated! Building a better **COMMUNITY** by fighting hunger today.

Donations



Donations are always welcomed! Check with your employer for details on donating through the United Way campaign. Remember to specify your donation be sent to the Town of Big Flats Community Center.

Information

*Community Center office 607 562-8443 ext 303

*Website: www.bigflatsny.gov

*Facebook: Like us at 'Big Flats Community Center '

There are several notaries at our municipal complex. This is a free service the town offers to it's residents.

If you need a notary come visit:

Linda Cross or Tammy Stein in the Clerk's Office

Laura Sullivan or Shoni Cobb in the DPW Office

Tricia Hartigan-Huten in the Community Center

Merlyn Tiwari in Bookkeeping

Thomas Reilly in the Attorney's Office

They would be glad to help you out.

Hawkers, Peddler, & Solicitors

There have been lots of concern with people going door to door with intent to sell, solicit, or inform the residents. In 2001 the Town Board set Local Law No. 8, which states "No person shall within the Town act as a hawker, peddler or solicitor, or cause to be presented, any circus or exhibition without first having obtained a license and having the same in force and effect as hereinafter provided".

If anyone chooses to go door to door in the Town of Big Flats they MUST go to the Town Clerk's office and fill out an application which includes a copy of their drivers license, registration information, and a certificate of liability from their Insurance carrier listing the Town as an additional carrier. The Clerk's office examines the documents and chooses whether or not to grant the permit. The permit expires January 1st each year regardless to when the permit was purchased.

You as a resident can request to see the hawkers permit and/or license. You can refuse to let the hawker enter your home. You do not have to purchase anything from them. If you feel threatened or uncomfortable feel free to call your local police department. If you have any complaints regarding a hawker please feel free to call the Clerk's office so they can document it on the application file (607)562-8443 ext. 201 or 202

Each hawker gets a copy of Chapter 5.12 which we encourage them to read as it has all the necessary information for them to go door to door in the Town of Big Flats.

Library Advocates



The Big Flats Library Advocates is a non-for-profit corporation that provides continuing support for enhancement of the programs and services at the Big Flats Library. We engage in various fundraising activities within the community and members volunteer their time and service. Meetings are held quarterly at either the library or the Big Flats Community Center. Membership, either supporting or active, is \$10.00. You can contact bflibraryadvocates@gmail.com for more information.

Our next fundraising activity will be a Big Flats Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday July 26, 2015. Volunteers and donations for the event are needed. Details will be available in the next issue of this newsletter.

Lee Younge
President

Now Accepting Reservations for Big Flats Park Pavilions

Call or email to inquire about available dates, 562-8443 x224
dpw@bigflatsny.gov

* at Community Park, Community Park Drive
Coopers
Jacobus

*at Community Park Extension, Registro Drive
Liz Farr

*at Sperr Memorial Park, Kahler Road South
Sperr



Fees for Reservations

Small Pavilion: \$20.00

Liz Farr (50-60 max occupancy)

Sperr (65-75 max occupancy)

Large Pavilion: \$40.00

Coopers (99 or less occupancy)

Jacobus (99 or less occupancy)

Corporate Groups (100-200 max occupancy): \$100.00

Permit Application available online at www.bigflatsny.gov or stop by the office on the lower floor in the Town hall
Sports Field and Concession Stand Registrations available soon...
Watch online for more information, or contact the office.

About the Fiber

Watch the Website as Supervisor Fairbrother will be setting up a Q & A session for residents to attend.

Fiber is coming March 2015

If you have any questions previous to the session feel free to visit www.empireaccess.com

Or call Empire Access at 1-800-338-3300

Jason Drapikowski along with Chris Austin, Dan McNerney, Jay Goodwin and Randy Moore from the Highway Department placed a pole and platform at Botcher's Landing boat launch December 23, 2014 to build a home for an Osprey family.

Jason is a boy scout from Big Flats troop 3097. He worked hard to make this happen. Jason will also be working to have a pole put at Dunn field boat launch this year.

One of the first osprey nesting poles was installed 11 years ago on Clinton Island in Elmira by a school student. A pair of osprey began nesting on the platform in 2013, raised at least two young and returned in 2014. Ospreys are charismatic and adaptable birds, comfortable living near people. Ospreys mate for life, spend winters in South America and return to their nesting sites in March, where they lay two to three eggs and renew the cycle of life on the river.

Thank you all who was involved in this Eagle Scout project and best of luck to Jason in finishing his project.



Big Flats Water Department News



The Water Department has stayed busy since the departure of Supervisor John Dufresne in July 2014. He was here for over four years and is now back in Indiana with his family. We wish him well. At the time of John's departure, the Water Department was reintegrated into the Town's Public Works Department, helping to ensure quality service for our rate payers.

We welcomed a new Water Systems Supervisor in December. Shawn Crater comes to us from the City of Elmira. He joins our current crew of Dean Wenzel, Chief Water Operator, Josh Stermer, Water Operator Trainee and Pam Kowulich, Principal Account Clerk. Needless to say he is in good hands. Our doors are always open, so stop in and meet him.

The Water Department has been working on a lot of different things to improve our operations and ultimately serve our customers. We recently installed an emergency generator in the Water District 1 well house. It is a gas generator, so if we lose electric power the pumps will continue to run. We are also installing VFDs (variable frequency drives) in the well houses. These devices are designed to reduce the amount of electric power needed to start up and shut down the pump motors. This project was designed to save the Water Districts' money by reducing our electric bills and to increase motor longevity by reducing wear and tear. We will be keeping track of the benefits of these devices and report them to you at a later date.

Our water system pumps an average of about 200 million gallons a year. Each year we do a water audit to calculate our unaccounted water. The EPA and most states recognize 15– 20% as average when it comes to unaccounted water. The Big Flats Water Department runs an average of about 10-15% for unaccounted water. We reach this goal by identifying and fixing leaks on a timely basis. We also complete annual leak detection to be proactive. This January and February we are trying out 5 data loggers for leak detection. These loggers are dropped into valve boxes in the system. At 2am they turn on and take 2400 sound readings and then turn off. If they had a reading over a preset decibel level they will turn on again at 3am and repeat the procedure. These data loggers are moved to different locations every day for 29 days. At the end of this time period we will get a report of the readings. If we find we have high readings we will then investigate the site. If a leak is found we will repair it. Anytime you can find leaks and reduce unaccounted water usage it is a savings for the Water Districts and rate payers.

We continue to research methods and technology to increase our efficiency, thereby keeping our water quality high, and our rates affordable. The Big Flats Water Districts have some of the lowest water rates in the region – a testament to our employees and unwavering support from the Town Board.



FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join us!!! Help us preserve the history of Big Flats. If you haven't been to the museum (258 Hibbard Road), it's a must see on your list. 5 pancake breakfasts in our pavilion May - September, 9 dinner meetings at the Community Center and 6 newsletters. Just \$10.00 yearly.

RUFUS STANLEY and STANLEY WOODS by Sylvia Radford



Rufus Stanley was born October 14, 1859 in Johnsville, Michigan. He came to Elmira as general secretary for the YMCA in 1885. During the following 13 years he became an outstanding leader of boys. After 1901 girls were included in his program. Soon after he arrived here, Stanley decided that the city lads lacked many of the opportunities that country boys had to learn about the world around them. He formed the "Rambling Club", taking a dozen or more boys on hikes out into the countryside to observe nature. During these walks, Stanley's youthful students learned something of botany, geology, ornithology, and other facts of nature lore. Out of the Rambling Club came the Handicraft Club in 1888, then the Rural School Club and the Omega Club, both in 1901. The Youth Achievement Club was started in 1914. Similar organizations were coming into existence elsewhere in the nation, many of them following precepts set by Mr. Stanley, and when the national 4H organization was created, Stanley was honored by receiving the first 4H charter in the area.

In 1900 Rufus Stanley bought a 47 acre farm in Big Flats west of Golden Glow Heights and offered "work and play" in a natural way" to a few city boys. STANLEY WOODS was part of his farm. The property of deep woods, open fields, orchards and bush extended from Bennett Road to the Chemung River.



In August of 1922 a summer Girl Scout camping program was held at the Stanley farm. In 1928 the property was purchased by the Federation for Social Service and used principally by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. In 1943 the Elmira Council Director of Girl Scouts formulated plans to make cabin camping possible and 2 cabins were erected. Soon after, tenting was started. In 1948, the deed to Stanley Woods property was obtained for the Elmira Girl Scout Council.

The Stanley Memorial Association was formed in 1953 and a plaque honoring his memory was affixed to a boulder at the entrance to Stanley Woods, once the site of his farm. The boulder has been since moved to Harris Hill Park.

This picture is of the "Rambling Club" taken in 1911. Stanley died July 8, 1926 during a reunion of 14 members of the early Rambling Club.



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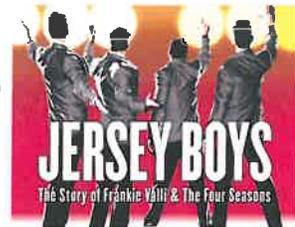
Youth Department

Broadway Bonus: An Afternoon at the Theatre

Saturday, January 24th was a day full of laughter, storytelling, and music for the seniors and teens. The special intergenerational event began at the Community Center where attendees enjoyed a light lunch of sandwiches, fruit, and snacks. Throughout lunch, the Great Room was full of chatter and good humor as the two generations swapped stories. One couple, Frannie and Kenneth Decker, told stories about the first dance lessons they took together and how, after years of waltz, ballroom and line dancing together, they became talented enough to start teaching their own classes.

Following lunch, the group rode a bus to the Clemens Center and watched the matinee show of *Jersey Boys* together. All of the attendees agreed that the show was fantastic. The bus ride back to the Community Center was lively with comments including "I loved that song!" and "Wow- what a show!" Senior Peggy Zelko summarized everyone's thoughts when she gave a short speech praising the performance and thanking Marge Tremaine, Margaret LaLomia, and the teens for their hard work in organizing and hosting the event.

Karen Estep even told Mark LaLomia, "I'd go again in a minute," adding, "the whole thing was wonderful. The teens put on a nice lunch for everyone and we got a bonus Broadway show, too." There were 16 teens and 22 seniors in attendance. For interested seniors and teens, the next intergenerational event will be a monthly dinner, held on Wednesday, May 6th 2015. The monthly Wednesday-night dinner will be hosted by the teens, who will prepare a pasta dinner for all.



Seniors, want to take a trip?

Mary Lee Fairbrother, Donna Wren and Margie Flynn have been working hard to put together an amazing year of trips for the Seniors.

If you have not sent your form in yet please do so ASAP. If you are on the list you will receive a letter with detailed information prior to each trip, be sure to mail your form in as these trips are on a first come first serve basis. If you have any questions please feel free to call:

Mary Lee Fairbrother– 796-9720
 Margie Flynn– 562-3736
 Donna Wren– 562-7418



May 19, 2015

Guided Tour City of Rochester

June 23, 2015

Lunch at Bohn's Restaurant



The Band Anatazja

Tours: Jello-Gallery

Historical LeRoy House

Shopping at Oliver's Candies

August 13, 2015

Lunch at Bristol Playhouse

"Becky's New Car"

September 14-15, 2015

Overnight New York City

Guided Tour of NYC

October 7, 2015

Glen Miller Orchestra

Penn's Peak

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works has stayed busy over the winter, completing snow & ice control, working on equipment, and completing R-O-W maintenance. We have worked side by side with B&G on several projects, including removing fencing from leased land for future use in Town Parks. Examples of R-O-W maintenance include patching of potholes, mowing and repair of swales, and trimming trees. We have also worked with intern Blair Phelps to make improvements to our Geographic Information System (GIS.) The GIS combines electronic mapping with a database to accurately locate and describe our infrastructure, including water lines, stormwater, roads, and more. We recently acquired 2 new pieces of equipment in the DPW a new Mack 10-wheel dump truck (complete with plow package), which we have already put to use, and a new Jacobsen mower for use in our parks. While the new equipment is expensive at \$250,000 and \$55,000 respectively, we expect the improved fuel economy, increased productivity, and lower maintenance costs to more than offset the purchase cost. We will also be able to surplus older equipment, helping to offset some of our costs. In fact, surplus from 2014 exceeded \$60,000, more than covering the cost of the new mower!



One of our newer Highway employees, Jay Goodwin, recently attended a week long training and passed his New York State pesticide applicator's exam for both Core and 3A (ornamental and turf) applications. Jay must now work as a trainee for a year before finalizing his Certified Applicator status. Staff from the Elmira Corning Regional Airport will assist Jay during his trainee tenure. Jay's new status as a pesticide applicator trainee will greatly assist the Town along our highway R-O-W's and in our parks.

Please feel free to stop in the office and visit with any of our employees. Laura, Pam, and Shoni will be happy to help you with any questions about the DPW, water system, or our parks and facilities. You can also visit our webpage at <http://www.bigflatsny.gov/public-works-dpw>.

The Municipality is now accepting credit cards in several of our departments. In most cases you can pay on-line at www.bigflatsny.gov (payments) as well as in person.

There is a 2.65% convenience fee for using your card.

Big Flats Women's Club

The Big Flats Women's Club is sponsoring a Scholarship to assist a graduating senior girl from the Big Flats area in the pursuit of a college education. The Big Flats Women's Club, created in 1957, has a long history of sponsoring civic and community projects in the Big Flats area and supporting the local public library. This one time scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to a deserving recipient in June 2015 upon acceptance to a two or four year accredited college program.

Eligibility requirements are a senior girl living in the town of Big Flats, with a grade point average of 3.0 or better and graduating from any local high school. Community service is an important factor and should be included with the application. A letter of recommendation from a current teacher and a copy of a school transcript are required in addition to an essay of 200-300 words describing career and college goals.

The completed application, letter of recommendation, transcript, and essay should be received by May 1st. All applications should be mailed to

The Big Flats Women's Club, Scholarship Committee
PO Box 326
Big Flats, NY 14814

For further information about the Women's Club or for the scholarship application please Contact Bobbie Vence at 562-3465.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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Make checks payable to "**Town of Big Flats**"- Memo line: **NBFT**

Money and form may be left in the Town Clerk's office or mailed to:

Newsletter
476 Maple Street, Big Flats, NY 14814

2015 MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Day light Savings	9	10	11 Town Board Meeting 4:30	12	13	14 Pancake Breakfast 8am-10am Big Flats Presbyterian Church Main Street
15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20  Spring Begins	21
22	23	24	25 Town Board Meeting 7:00	26	27	28
29	30	31 Last day to pay taxes at the Town Hall				

2015 APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Check the website for Brush pick up dates			1  Happy April Fool Day	2	3 Good Friday CLOSED	4
5 Easter 	6	7	8 Town Board Meeting 4:30	9	10	11 Pancake Breakfast 8am-10am Big Flats Presbyterian Church Main Street
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Town Board Meeting 7:00	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2015 MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Big Flats Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage Sale is this month					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10  Mother's Day	11	12	13 Town Board Meeting 4:30	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day Closed 	26 Grievance Day	27 Town Board Meeting 7:00	28	29	30
31						

The New Big Flats Times
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The New Big Flats Times

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- I would **like** to view the newsletter on the Town website at www.bigflatsny.gov
- I would **like** to have the newsletter emailed to me
- I would **like** to continue to have the newsletter mailed to me:
- I **DO NOT** want to receive the newsletter anymore

Name _____

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Phone Number _____

Please pick ONE choice and mail or drop off to Big Flats Town Hall

Attn: Newsletter

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