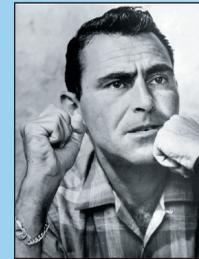


# Enter the zone...THE TWILIGHT ZONE

“Everyone has to have a hometown...  
Binghamton’s Mine” -Rod Serling



## Rod Serling (1924-1975)

Binghamton Native, Writer, Producer, Teacher

Known primarily for his role as the host of television’s *The Twilight Zone*, Rod Serling had one of the most exceptional and varied careers in television. As a writer, a producer, and for many years a teacher, Serling constantly challenged the medium of television to reach for loftier artistic goals.

After a brief career in radio, Serling entered television in 1951, penning scripts for several programs including Hallmark Hall of Fame and Playhouse 90, at a time when the medium was referred to as “The Golden Age.”

In 1955, Kraft Television Theatre presented Serling’s teleplay *Patterns* and it changed both television as well as Rod Serling’s life, winning him his first of six Emmy awards. The script established Serling as a rarity: a television playwright.

In October of 1959, CBS aired the first episode of a groundbreaking series, “*The Twilight Zone*.” Serling fought hard for creative control, and became television’s first writer/ producer. The series incorporated Serling’s deep progressive social and moral views. This iconic series ran for five seasons winning numerous awards and critical acclaim for Serling and his artistic staff and provided a training ground for some of our most gifted actors.

The winner of more Emmy Awards for dramatic writing for television than anyone in history, Serling expressed a deep social conscience in nearly everything he did. Some of his most well know works include:

- Requiem for a Heavyweight (1956)
- The Twilight Zone (1959-1964)
- Planet of the Apes (1968)
- Night Gallery (1970-1973)

In June 1975, Rod Serling died of a heart attack. Today, many years after his death, Serling’s legacy continues to grow. His television and cinematic works have reached iconic status enlivening a new interest in one of the great early pioneers of American television.

Another great source for information is the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation. Founded in 1986, the foundation is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Serling’s contributions to the Arts and Humanities.

## Enter the SERLING zone

Rod Serling (1924-1975) graduated from Binghamton Central HS, Class of 1943. Now known as **Binghamton High School**, it is the home of the Rod Serling School of Fine Arts. Visit the plaque dedicated to Serling on the front lawn, see the door casing where he signed his name in 1943 while working backstage, visit the Helen Foley Theatre named after Rod’s drama teacher and mentor and where he was commencement speaker in 1968, leaf through his high school yearbook at the library, or just stroll through the halls that Rod passed through each school day. Appointments are suggested. Please contact Lawrence Kassan, Coordinator of Special Events and Theatre for the Binghamton City School District at (607) 762-8202.

Each year, the **Rod Serling Film Festival** is presented by WSKG Public Broadcasting to sustain the Serling legacy and stir the creative imaginations of students K-12 both locally and nationally.

Visit: [www.wskg.org/program/rod-serling-film-festival](http://www.wskg.org/program/rod-serling-film-festival)

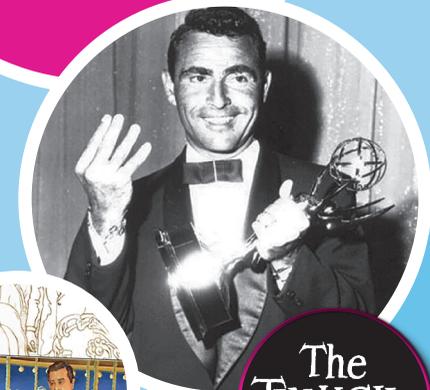
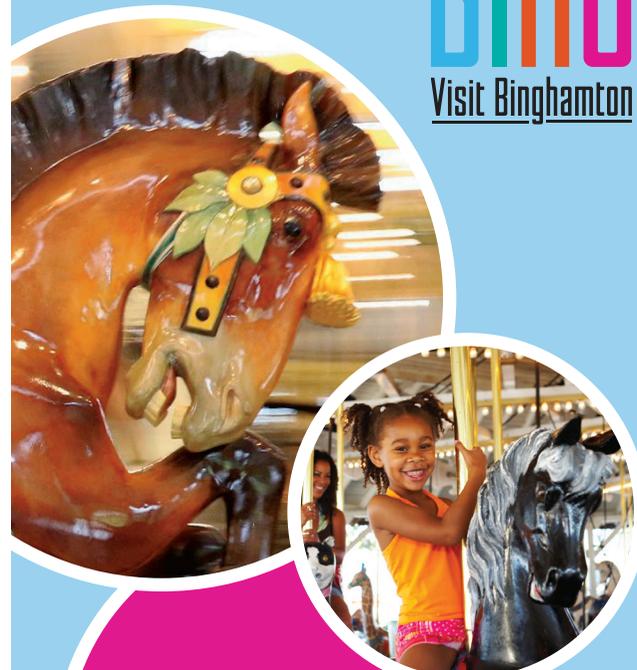
Visit **Recreation Park** on Binghamton’s West Side to marvel at the inspiration for *The Twilight Zone*’s fifth episode, “Walking Distance.” Recreation Park’s iconic pavilion can be spotted in the episode. Ride the carousel, visit the pavilion where Serling inscribed his initials, and see his commemorative bronze plaque, just a few blocks from his boyhood home.

See the newly renovated carousel with “Fairground Art” style panels by artist Cortlandt Hull honoring Rod Serling and *The Twilight Zone*.

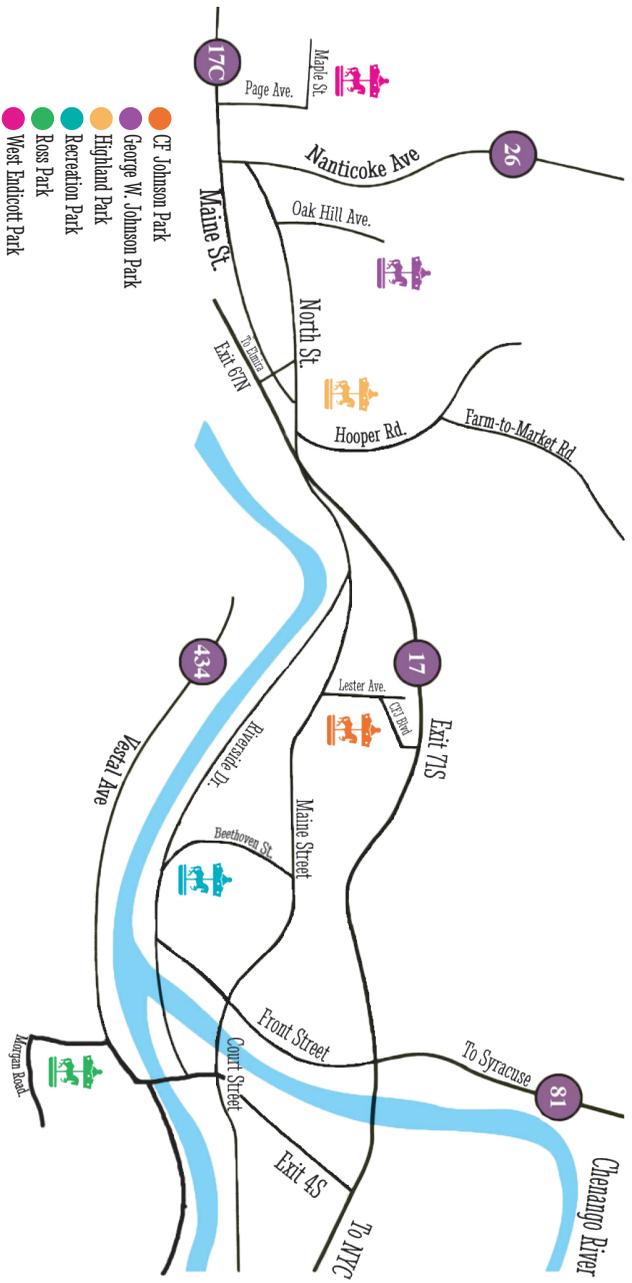
Visit the **Forum Theatre for the Performing Arts** to see Rod’s star on the Wall of Fame and spend time viewing a display chronicling Rod Serling’s life in photos, including a bronze bust of Rod Serling sculpted by Richard Styles, at the Forum Theatre for the Performing Arts. For hours of operation, contact The Forum Theater of Performing Arts at (607) 778-2480.

**The Bundy Museum of History and Art** offers A Rod Serling Archive Exhibit honoring one of America’s greatest writers. View rare and one-of-a-kind pieces, original wire images, TV and film props, memorabilia and personal items. Admission to the Serling Exhibit is free. For more information, contact The Bundy Museum at (607) 772-9179.

**SerlingFest 2026** will be held on August 21-22, 2026. For more details, please visit <https://rodserling.com/serlingfest-2026/>



# TREASURES -2026-



For exact carousel addresses, please look at the listing on the other side of the brochure.  
**More information at [www.VisitBinghamton.org](http://www.VisitBinghamton.org)**

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For more community information:  
Visit Binghamton  
[www.VisitBinghamton.org](http://www.VisitBinghamton.org)

# Carousels

Discover Broome County's Time Machines  
in the Carousel Capital of the World!



Between 1919 and 1934, George F. Johnson (1857-1948), shoe manufacturer and great benefactor, donated six beautiful carousels to our local parks. Johnson's commitment to recreation was always more than just good business. He felt carousels contributed to a happy life and would help youngsters grow into strong and useful citizens. Because of his own poor childhood, "George F." believed carousels should be enjoyed by everyone and insisted that the municipalities never charge money for a magic ride.

Now, into their tenth decade, these magnificent machines still spin from Memorial Day through Labor Day at no charge, or for an admission of "one piece of litter." In a day when nothing is free, we boast the world's greatest entertainment bargain!

Our carousels (we've always called them "merry-go-rounds"), were all manufactured by the Allan Herschell Company of North Tonawanda, New York, in the "country fair" style. You can still hear the sounds of the original Wurlitzer Band Organs on the Recreation and Ross Park carousels. And, if you are lucky enough to ride on all six merry-go-rounds, you will be delighted by monkey chariots, horses with hidden lions in the saddle blankets, a pig, and even a dog. Not to worry, every carousel animal in Greater Binghamton is a "jumper"! You can "Ride the Carousel Circuit" by collecting a card at each carousel, and when you have all six you'll receive a special button. What is even more remarkable is that of 150 wood-carved carousels remaining in the United States and Canada, six are right here in Greater Binghamton, New York!

All six carousels are placed on the New York State Historic Register and National Register of Historic Places and restoration projects over the years attest to the commitment of our community to preserve these cultural legacies for future generations to enjoy.



## C. Fred Johnson Park

98 C.F.J. Boulevard, Johnson City, NY 13790

Installed in 1923, this carousel is the largest of the six in the area, featuring 72 figures, 4-abreast. This carousel is considered the most elaborate group of carvings in our collection. Original scenic panels and beveled mirrors remain. The park also includes a basketball court, ball fields, a playground and a small water spray park for children. Park is open 9:00am-sunset. Carousel will be open weekends only from 12pm-6pm from May 23 to June 28, 2026. Starting July 4, the carousel will be open 12pm-6pm daily until Labor Day, September 7, 2026. Call the Johnson City parks office at (607) 797-3031 (6:30am-2:30pm weekdays) for more details..



## George W. Johnson Park

201 Oak Hill Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760

Installed in 1934 and historically restored in 1994, this carousel has 36 horses, 3-abreast and 2 chariots in its original carousel pavilion. A glass enclosure was added in 1999. Situated in the heart of Endicott's "Northside" and "Little Italy" neighborhoods, the George W. Johnson Park features a swimming pool, bathhouse, fitness court, picnic shelter, the "Stage at Little Italy," ball fields and playground. The Carousel is host to "Halloween at the Scarousel" in October and "Little Italy Christmas" in December. Park is open 8:00 am-8:00 pm. The 2026 carousel season will run from Friday, May 22 through Monday, September 7.



## Highland Park

801 Hooper Road, Endwell, NY 13760

Installed in 1925, this carousel is the only one of the area's carousels that has been relocated. Originally located at the old En-Joie Park in Endicott, the carousel features 36 animals, 3-abreast; including a pig and a dog. Highland Park facilities include a swimming pool and wading pool, picnic area, playground, tennis courts, ball fields, volleyball, all in a wooded setting. Park is open 10:00am-dusk. Carousels run from 12:00pm-7:45 pm. The 2026 Carousel season will open May 23- September 7, weekends only through June 28, opens daily starting June 29. (607) 786-2970



## Recreation Park

58-78 Beethoven Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

Installed in 1925, this carousel has 60 jumping horses, 4-abreast; chariots; and the original 2-roll frame Wurlitzer Military Band Organ with bells TURNS 100 THIS SUMMER! Stay tuned for its Birthday Celebration. Situated in the historic Recreation Park, land donated by George F. Johnson. Its facilities include a reflective pond, statue of George F. Johnson, Memorial Plaque & Statue of Rod Serling, band stand, pools and bathhouse, tennis courts, playground, and ball fields. The horses and the original carousel house cupola were fully restored in 2011 with paintings depicting Serling's most famous Twilight Zone episodes along the outer rounding boards. Carousel hours: May 23-June 26, Saturday & Sunday 11:00am-7:00pm, last ride at 6:45 pm; Monday-Friday 4:00pm-7:00pm, last ride 6:45 pm; June 27-September 7: Daily: 11:00 am-7:00 pm, last ride at 6:45 pm. For more information, call (607) 772-7017.



## Ross Park

60 Morgan Road, Binghamton, NY 13903

Installed in 1920, this carousel features 60 jumping horses, 4-abreast; two chariots (one with monkeys) and an original 51-key Wurlitzer Military Band Organ. This carousel has called Ross Park home for the past 105 years. Nestled in the Hills of Binghamton's Southside, Ross Park is also home to 3 other community treasures; Ross Park Zoo, the nation's 5th oldest Zoo; The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier, a hands-on interactive children's museum; & The Story Book Garden, a free outdoor garden where storybooks come to life. Newly restored and relocated within the park, now by the pavilions above the zoo parking lot the Ross Park Carousel will be open for the first time in 4 years from 10:00am - 5:00pm, last ride at 4:45 pm. Season ends September 7. For more information, call (607) 772-7017.



## West Endicott Park

525 Maple Street at Page Avenue, Endicott, N.Y.

Installed in 1929, this carousel features 36 animals, 3-abreast, including a pig and a dog. The West Endicott Park is adjacent to Endicott-Johnson factories, consistent with Johnson's commitment to providing recreational facilities for his employees and their families. Park has a kiddie pool, tennis courts, playground and a covered picnic shelter. Park is open 10:00am-dusk. The 2026 Carousel season will open May 23, close September 7, weekends only thru June 28, opens daily June 29. (607) 786-2970



Located in six parks throughout Broome County, our carousels operate from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Hours of operation vary by park. For specific hours of operation, please call the number provided in carousel description. Carousel operation is weather dependent.