

A Word From Your Supervisor

Richard Meyers 795-3575



In the fall of 2007, I decided to run for the position of Town Supervisor. One of the main reasons for that decision was the absurdity of our quiet little town spending a half-a-million dollars a year in legal fees and being involved in multiple legal actions. If elected, it was my goal to review this problem and take the corrective actions needed to set this town back on sound financial footing.

During my first term, it became painfully apparent where the problem lied. Due to being a solitary voice on the Town Board, I was unable to accomplish much. However, in my second term, I was joined by newly-elected Councilman Daniel Engert, and together with Councilman Randy Wayner, we began to move forward. The three of us began to aggressively attack the legal issues in our Town. Our first course of action was to get legal counsel that had the fortitude to focus on the direction that was best for the Town of Somerset and not for their own self interest. After much deliberation, we chose the law firm of Chelus Herdzik, with lead counsel of Art Herdzik, to replace the existing law firm.

With solid counsel now in place, I contacted AES with the goal of meeting face-to-face and working out an agreement that would provide financial security to both AES and the local taxing jurisdictions. On August 3, 2009, Councilman Wayner, Art Herdzik and I met with attorneys and management from AES to begin the process of coming to an agreement. We met again on August 9th where we reached a tentative compromise that would be acceptable to both parties.

We knew our next step would be to enlist the help of two great allies in this process. Dr. Roger Klatt, Superintendent of the Barker Central School District, and Dr. John Syracuse, our Niagara County Legislator. Both of these leaders were willing to take the rough road of being point men in their perspective jurisdictions, and both men went to work, battling for our Town.

Dr. Klatt, with Business Administrator Scott Hoot, presented the proposal to the School Board and its President, Gordon Kenyon. There were many questions and concerns from the School Board, but there was also a willingness to move this forward to an acceptable conclusion. Legislator Syracuse, with the assistance of Councilman Engert, had the task of bringing the County Legislature up to speed and to show them the benefits of coming to this agreement with our county's largest taxpayer. Like the School Board, the County Legislature had many questions and concerns.

Over the next six months, all taxing jurisdictions, the Niagara County IDA and the representatives from AES (including new Plant Manager, Peter Bajc) met many times to come to an agreement that would prove that what had been labeled as an unobtainable goal could indeed be achieved.

As a result, on January 13, 2010, the Niagara County IDA approved a PILOT agreement that was negotiated by the leaders of the three taxing jurisdictions that represent you. Less than one month later, on March 4th, the Order of Stipulation ending all legal issues was granted by Hon. Richard Kloch and filed with the Niagara County Clerk. Years of legal expense and grief are now gone and a new relationship with AES has begun. I look forward to what our future brings, a future where the Town, School, County and businesses all work together for the people of Somerset.

Deputy Supervisor's Corner

Daniel Engert



Ahhhh! The fragrant smell of spring is in the air! Clerk Becky Connolly and I can certainly attest to this as we both enjoyed the "sweet, sweet smell" of a skunk as we exited the Town Hall after the past two Town Board meetings! Surely, this is a sign of spring, right?

In any event, the past few months have truly been a remarkable period for the Town. The settlement agreement and renegotiated PILOT with AES Somerset LLC was certainly monumental and it positions our residents along with our largest business in a very good place as we move forward. The Board has also enacted significant changes to streamline the Assessor's office and

reduce costs to the residents in this area of service. We recently endorsed a plan to participate in a Public Service Energy Cooperative. PSEC has been formed to bring schools, municipalities and government entities together in order to purchase energy commodities (electricity, natural gas, and fuels) as a cooperative. By becoming a member of PSEC, the Town will reap the benefits of wholesale energy prices. Under PSEC, the Town of Somerset will have the buying power of some of the largest energy users in the country and a recent cost analysis forecasted significant savings in the Town's energy costs. Further initiatives are being explored this year

as well to reduce the size and cost of your local government. The Town Board is committed to evaluating all areas of service to ensure that efficiencies are in place and that fees and other costs are not simply passed down to the resident before a comprehensive analysis is conducted and they're found to be warranted. We will strive to make the hard decisions to keep your taxes as low as possible and to encourage more business opportunities in Somerset. We encourage everyone to come out to various Board and committee meetings to participate and hold us, your representatives, accountable in this process! Now, let's root for spring and baseball, not skunks!!

Assessor's Office

Bob Glidden—Assessor
Carol Maines—Clerk

795-3243

somersetassessors@hotmail.com

On January 5, 2010, a new chapter was written for the Town of Somerset when I was appointed as the first Sole Assessor for the Town. This will definitely be a cost savings for the town, but will not dilute the service you are accustomed to. Also, on February 24, 2010, at a special Board meeting the appointment of Carol Maines as clerk for the Assessor's Office was made.

- As a reminder to our residents, Grievance Day will be Tuesday May 25, 2010, from 4pm till 8pm at the Town Hall. Anyone wishing to file a grievance on their assessment may pick up the application forms at our office during normal business hours. (Mondays 9am-4:30pm, Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm-4:30pm. Office is closed on Wednesdays & Fridays). After hours appointments can also be made.
 - Property owners who have made any physical changes to their properties will be receiving Change of Assessment Notices.
 - Change of Assessment Notices will be mailed out by May 1, 2010.
 - If you are a new resident to our town, make sure you contact our office as to what exemptions you may be eligible for.
 - This year we will be conducting a data update of property inventory. We will be mailing out Data Mailers this summer to all town residents. When you receive them, please look them over to compare the information we have to what you actually have. Please make the necessary corrections, sign and return the form by the indicated date. If our information is correct just sign and return the form by the indicated date. This survey will insure that everyone is assessed for only what is on their property.
 - The Assessor's job is to make sure every property owner is assessed at a Fair and Equitable Market Value.
 - If you need any information about assessments or forms, you can either contact our office or log on to the New York State Office of Real Property Services web site at: www.orps.state.ny.us This is a great source for understanding the assessment process.
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Water/Sewer Department News

By Melvin Denny, Water/Sewer/Grounds Superintendent
795-9919



NEW METER INSTALLATION UPDATE – We are continuing to install new radio read meters on all residences in the Town of Somerset. The new meters will be less likely to have errors and will help improve the overall efficiency of the department. As we install the meters, we are performing a visual sewer inspection for those residences in the sewer district. We would like to remind everyone of the Town’s **Sewer Ordinance – Article IV, Section 152-9, E**: “No person(s) shall make connection of roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer unless such connection is approved by the Sewer District for purposes of disposal of polluted surface or subsurface drainage or groundwater.”

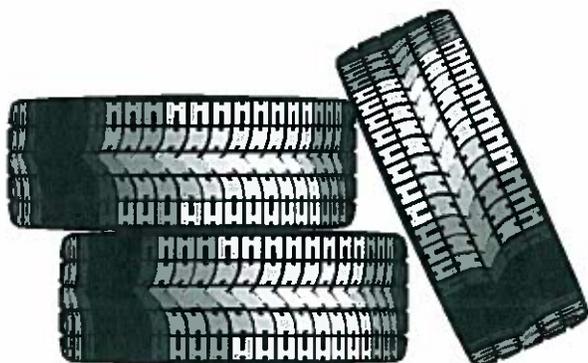
BEFORE YOU DIG - Please remember to call for underground utility location before you do any digging.
The number is **811**.

DOUBLE CHECK BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES - These devices are required on all new construction and when there is a CHANGE of property owner. Final readings for property sold will include inspection for the double check valve. All irrigation meters must have backflow prevention devices.

WATER SUPPLY SECURITY - In an effort to protect our water supply from vandalism the Water Department is asking everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity around fire hydrants or anything that may involve the water system. Please call me during the workweek at 795-9919 or at home at 795-9303. If I am not available, please call the Sheriff’s Dept. – 911.

FIRE HYDRANTS - For your safety and that of your neighbors, please keep the fire hydrant by your house clear of trees, shrubs and snow. This is crucial in case of a fire and for the maintenance of the hydrant. New York State law requires a minimum of 3 feet of clearance.

TOWN EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION - If anyone comes to your door saying he is from this department and needs access to your house regarding your water or sewer, he will be driving a marked Town of Somerset truck and will have Town employee identification. If this is not the case, do not let them in and call this Department immediately at 795-9919.



Our **ANNUAL TIRE DROP OFF** will begin on Monday, April 19th, 2010. The tires may be dropped off at the Waste Water Treatment Plant at 8500 Lower Lake Road during the following times:

April 19th—April 23rd 7AM—3 PM

April 24th and April 25th 8AM—Noon

April 26th—April 30th 7AM—3PM

May 1st and May 2nd 8AM—Noon

Limit 8 tires. This service is provided for the Town of Somerset and Village of Barker residents only. Truck tires on rims will not be accepted.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009
Town of Somerset
8500 Lower Lake Road, Barker, NY 14012
(Public Water Supply ID# NY3100583)

APRIL 2010

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Somerset, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State and Federal drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. In 2009, we conducted tests for over 100 contaminants. Less than a quarter of the tested contaminants were detected. The NCWD is required to test for lead every three (3) years. In 2008, 53 sites throughout the NCWD were tested for lead. The 90th percentile level of lead detected, 9.1µg/L, was below the regulatory limit of 15.0µg/L; however, lead was found at a level higher than the action level (AL) recommended by the State at three (3) of 53 sites tested. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Melvin H. Denny, Superintendent of the Somerset Water Department, at (716) 795-9919. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. The meetings are held at the Somerset Town Hall, 8700 Haight Road, Barker, on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The **Town of Somerset** purchases water from the Niagara County Water District. The Niagara County Water District water intake is located in the west branch of the Niagara River. The water quality is considered excellent. During 2009, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. The treatment plant uses pre-chlorination, coagulation, rapid mix, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration processes to ensure the quality of the water. The NCWD also uses chlorination for disinfection. Active carbon is used to improve the "taste" of water at the raw water pump station on Grand Island. The water treatment plant has been approved as a direct filtration plant; however, water is treated using conventional filtration including all of the processes described above. In addition, fluoride and a corrosion inhibitor are added to the potable water prior to distribution.

The New York State Department of Health recently completed a draft Source Water Assessment of the supplies **raw water source** under the States Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The purpose of this program is to compile, organize, and evaluate information regarding possible and actual threats to the quality of public water supply (PWS) sources. It is important to note that source water assessment reports estimate the **potential** for untreated drinking water sources to be impacted by contamination. These reports do not address the safety or quality of treated finished potable tap water. The Great Lakes' watershed is exceptionally large and too big for a detailed evaluation in the SWAP. General drinking water concerns for public water supplies which use these sources include: storm generated turbidity, wastewater, toxic sediments, shipping related spills, and problems associated with exotic species (e.g. zebra mussels - intake clogging and taste and odor problems). The SWAP is based on the analysis of the contaminant inventory compiled for the drainage area deemed most likely to impact drinking water quality at this public water supply raw water intake. This assessment found an elevated susceptibility to contamination for this source of drinking water. The amount of agricultural lands in the assessment area results in elevated potential for protozoa and pesticides contamination. There is also a high density of sanitary wastewater discharges, which results in elevated susceptibility for numerous contaminant categories. Non-sanitary wastewater could also impact source water quality. There is also noteworthy contamination susceptibility associated with other discrete contaminant sources, and these facility types include: Mines and Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities. If you have any questions about the States Source Water Assessment Program, please contact Ronald Gwozdek, Principal Public Health Engineer, Niagara County Department of Health at (716) 439-7452.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The **Town of Somerset** water system serves 2713 people through 990 service connections. Our single highest day recorded in 2009 was an average of 511,031 gallons, during the month of June. The amount of water delivered to customers in 2009 was 136,784,000 gallons. The total water purchased in 2009 was 149,771,000 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted for total of 12,987,000 gallons (8.7% of the total amount produced for 2009). This water is used to flush mains, fight fires and leakage. In 2009, water customers were charged \$1.46 per 1,000 gallons of water.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: microbiological contaminants, radioactive contaminants, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and disinfection by-products. The table presented below depicts only those compounds which were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Niagara County Health Department at (716) 439-7430.

Table 1: Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg. / Max.) (Range)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit	Likely Source of Contamination
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>							
Arsenic	No	3/09	0.0008	mg/L	N/A	MCL=0.010	Erosion of natural deposits, waste runoff from glass and electronics production or runoff from orchards
Barium	No	3/09	0.0217	mg/L	2.00	MCL=2.00	Discharge of drilling wastes and from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper ¹	No	6/08-9/08	0.1 (0.0018-0.15)	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	3/09	0.60	mg/L	N/A	MCL=2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead ¹ (in distribution system)	No	6/08 - 9/08	9.1 (ND - 93)	mg/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	No	10/08	0.17	mg/L	10.0	MCL=10.0	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	No	2/08	16.6	mg/L	N/A	AL=20	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits.
Entry Point ² Turbidity	No	1/09 - 12/09	0.026 (0.02 - 0.05)	NTU	N/A		Soil runoff
Entry Point ² Turbidity	No	1/09 - 12/09	100% of samples less than 0.3 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.3 NTU	Soil runoff
<i>Radioactive Contaminants</i>							
Gross Alpha Particles	No	2/08	0.07	pCi/L	N/A	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits of certain radioactive minerals
Radium 226 and 228 combined	No	2/08	1.31	pCi/L	N/A	MCL=5	Decay of natural and man-made deposits of certain radioactive minerals.
Uranium	No	2/08	<0.51	µg/L	N/A	MCL=30	Erosion of natural deposits

<i>Disinfection Byproducts</i>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	1/09 - 10/09	29.6 ³ (15.4 - 52.3)	µg/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	1/09 - 10/09	21.6 ³ (11.1 - 40.6)	µg/l	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table 2: Substances Related to Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule						
Parameter	Period of Sample	Average Level Detected	Unit of Measurement	Regulatory Limit	MCLG	
Alkalinity*	1/09 - 12/09	93.98	mg/L	NR	N/A	
Raw Water Total Organic Carbon*	1/09 - 12/09	2.49	mg/L	NR	N/A	
Filtered Water Total Organic Carbon*	1/09 - 12/09	1.95	mg/L	NR	N/A	
Filtered Combined UV 254*	1/09 - 12/09	0.016	1/cm	NR	N/A	
Raw Water SUVA*	1/09 - 12/09	1.31	L/mg-m	NR	N/A	
Filtered SUVA*	1/09 - 12/09	0.81	L/mg-m	NR	N/A	
Cryptosporidium**	3/06 - 2/08	ND	oocysts/L	TT=99% removal	zero	
Giardia**	3/06 - 2/08	ND	cysts/L	TT=99% removal	zero	

¹ During 2008 the Niagara County Water District collected and analyzed 53 samples for lead and copper. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 53 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead or copper values detected at your water system. The analysis showed concentrations below action levels for all 53 copper samples. Three (3) of the 53 lead samples exceeded the action level of 15 µg/L. The range of lead levels detected is presented below the 90th percentile value.

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. NCWD's highest single turbidity measurement for the year was 0.05 NTU. State regulations require that turbidity must always be below 1 NTU leaving the Water Plant and 5 NTU in the distribution system. The regulations require that 95% of the turbidity samples collected have measurements below 0.3 NTU. All samples collected in 2009 were below the treatment technique level.

³ Results for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) and Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's) are reported as the running quarterly annual average. The range of detection is shown below the average.

* The substances presented above are currently not regulated (NR) nor do they have a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG). The parameters were monitored and average levels presented to provide an indication of general water quality.

** The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 ESWTR) was promulgated by USEPA on January 4, 2006. The purpose of the rule is to reduce disease incidence associated with Cryptosporidium and other pathogenic microorganisms in drinking water. Systems monitor their source water to determine treatment requirements. This monitoring involves two years of monthly source water sampling for Cryptosporidium, E. coli, and turbidity to assess the relative risk of the source water and determine additional treatment needs, if any. Source water monitoring is done prior to chemical treatment and any filter backwash recycle return. Filtered water systems will be classified in one of four treatment categories (bins) based on their monitoring results. Most systems are expected to be classified in the lowest bin (one) and will face no additional requirements.

NCWD initiated monitoring in March of 2006, completed monitoring in February of 2008 and submitted all data as required by this federal regulation. NCWD conducted 24 samples of the source water over the 2-year monitoring period. No Cryptosporidium or Giardia was detected. The determination of bin classification is the next step in this regulatory process. The NCWD must report to the USEPA and this department their bin classification by September 2010. After completing monitoring and determining their treatment bin, systems generally have three years to comply with any additional treatment requirements if required. Systems must conduct a second round of monitoring six years after completing the initial round to determine if source water conditions have changed significantly.

TOWN OF SOMERSET

Town of Somerset has not exceeded MCL for total coliform during 2009 reporting period.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum)	Unit of Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants¹							
Turbidity	No	-	0.47 NTU	NTU	N/A	TT= <5NTU	Soil Runoff
Turbidity	No	1/09 – 12/09	100%	NTU	N/A	TT=95% of samples < 0.3 NTU	
Total Coliform	No	1/09 – 12/09	0 positive samples	N/A	0	MCL= 2 or more positive samples	
Disinfection Byproducts²							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	5/08 – 2/09	51 (18.38 – 63.25)	µg/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	5/08 – 2/09	25 (14.2 – 25.2)	µg/l	N/A	MCL=60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Notes:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Milligrams per liter (mg/L): Corresponds to one part liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm). **Micrograms per liter (µg/L):** Corresponds to one part liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Nanograms per liter (ng/L): Corresponds to one part liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/L): Corresponds to one part per liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion - ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers which are longer than 10 µm.

Filter Combined UV 254: A measure of the amount of ultraviolet light absorbed by molecules in a solution measure at 253.7 nm reported in liters per milligram meter.

Not Regulated (NR): Corresponds to parameters that are not currently regulated as part of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule but were included as indicators of general water quality.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal or state requirements. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, most of these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by New York State. It should be noted that the action level for lead was exceeded in three (3) of the 53 samples collected throughout NCWD in 2008. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. The Niagara County Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2009, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. During 2006-2008, as part of LT2 ESWTR monitoring, 24 monthly samples of the raw water at its entry point into the distribution system were collected and analyzed for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Of these samples, none were positive for Cryptosporidium oocysts. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, a gastrointestinal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their health care provider regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

INFORMATION ON GIARDIA

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. During 2006-2008, as part of LT2 ESWTR monitoring, 24 monthly samples of the raw water at its entry point into the distribution system were collected and analyzed for Giardia cysts. Of these samples, none were positive for Giardia cysts. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where hand washing practices are poor.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at an optimal range from 0.8 to 1.2 mg/l (parts per million). To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the Niagara County Water District monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis. During 2009, monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were in the optimal range 99% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.

IF ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS REPORT ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT THE WATER DEPARTMENT AT (716) 795-9919.



BARKER FIRE DEPT.

By CHIEF RANDY HILDEBRANT

Springtime is here!!! And with spring comes spring clean up. I would like to remind our residents that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has enacted new Open Burning Regulations that went into effect October 14, 2009.

All open burning in New York State is prohibited with a few of the following exceptions:

- * Camp fires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed.
- * Small cooking fires are allowed.
- * Only charcoal or clean, dry, untreated and unpainted wood can be burned.
- * Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.
- * Ceremonial or celebratory bon fires are allowed.

In towns with a population of less than 20,000, you may burn tree limbs with attached leaves. The limbs must be less than 6 inches in diameter and 8 feet in length.

However, this is not allowed from March 16th to May 14th.

Also, the burning of leaves is now banned in New York State.

All this information and the regulation in its entirety can be found on the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov

I would also like to congratulate Robert Wendler and Jennifer Mason on becoming our two newest New York State Certified Basic EMT's. Robert and Jennifer took time out of their personal lives to complete numerous weeks of training and testing and I thank them both for their contribution to the community.

I would also like to remind everyone that we are ALWAYS looking for new members. You must be a resident of the Town of Somerset, be at least 18 years of age and out of high school. All training and equipment is free to the member. If you are interested in joining the fire dept. you can contact any fireman or call Fire Chief Randy Hildebrant at 471-6080.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!!

The Barker Free Library now has e-books available! Stop in and check them out.

Monday 10am—5pm
Tuesday 10am—8pm
Wednesday and Sunday Closed
Thursday 10am—8pm
Friday 10am—5pm
Saturday 10am—1pm




**APRIL
22**

SAVE THE DATE – August 7th is the Town Wide Yard Sale – As you are doing your spring cleaning, save those items for the sale to make them someone else's treasure!!



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By: Lorraine Wayner 795-3575

The story I want to tell is special. Camp Kenan, along Lake Ontario just off Quaker on Lower Lake Rd., is owned and operated by the Lockport YMCA.

This was all made possible by William R. Kenan, Jr., philanthropist, inventor, humanitarian and benefactor of many organizations in Lockport and elsewhere. Seven acres of farmland along the lakefront were acquired in 1925 and the first camping season opened. The boys occupied tents, and while some of the facilities were rather primitive, the venture deemed successful enough to expand operations the following year.

That was the beginning of a success story. Now a co-ed camp (since early 1970's) the campers are given an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including swimming, crafts, or sports. They will work with cabin mates to complete a ropes course challenge, create a skit, or clean their cabin. The facilities include waterfront access for swimming and boating. There is an archery range, volleyball court, basketball courts, hockey court, soccer field, and swimming pool. The mess hall is fully winterized. The indoor climbing wall and the climbing tower are a challenge. All this is not on just the seven acres that was mentioned before. Through gifts made each year, by Mr. Kenan, and other sources, more land was purchased. The Camp has grown to about sixty acres.

With all this available, Camp Kenan participants are given the unique opportunity to develop character values. They build basic teamwork skills while they are having fun. An important aspect of the Camp is that campers are given the opportunity to be kids, to play, laugh, trust and learn about themselves.

As I read quotes from Mr. Kenan's Book, printed in 1946, he mentions "For a good many years it has been my custom to take 12 to 18 watermelons (depending on the size) to Camp Kenan twice each summer. This seems to give the boys a real treat and, of course, gives me much pleasure." I'm sure, if Mr. Kenan was alive, it would give the campers just as much joy today. Some things do not change.

Something I should mention. If you have a group, the dining hall doubles as a conference center and can seat 250 people for meals. The recreation hall serves as an evening program center. This is available to the public, year around. During camping season special arrangements need to be made. Smaller parties are encouraged; think about it. We so often wonder where we can have a nice setting for some special reason.

There are so many good people in this world. As the "Big Rock" (at the entrance to the Camp) says "That all Boys May Grow in Wisdom and Stature And in Favor With God and Man". Thank You, Mr. Kenan.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

By Randy Hildebrant

As of January 1, 2010, residents are required to obtain a Building Permit for all re-roofing jobs. The New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code requires that all residential re-roofing projects must meet the Code. There are some exceptions to this and they can be found by going to the NYS Dept. of State website at www.dos.state.ny.us. Once there, click on "Code Enforcement Administration". That link will take you to the free version of the 2007 Codes. Go to "Residential Codes", Chapter 9, Section R907. This will explain what's required for re-roofing a residential home. The cost of the permit will be \$20.00 and it will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue.

Also as a reminder, all wood burning stoves, chimneys, fireplaces and outdoor wood boilers require a permit in the Town of Somerset. Insurance companies call this office on a regular basis inquiring on residents that have "alternative heating devices" and if they've been inspected.

Effective February 22, 2010, the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council adopted Amanda's Law, which states that a building that was constructed after January 1, 2008 must have a carbon monoxide alarm installed in each of the following locations: 1) Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, on each story having a sleeping area and 2) Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, on each story where a carbon monoxide source is located. If the building was constructed before January 1, 2008, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in each of the following locations: 1) Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, on the lowest story having a sleeping area.

If you have any questions on building and zoning issues or would like information on fire prevention, please don't hesitate to call my office at 795-9556. I will be happy to assist you.



REMINDERS:



PAVILIONS

If you would like to use the pavilions in the Somerset Park this season, please make a reservation by calling the Town Hall at 795-3575.

REFUSE AND SPRING CLEANING

You are allowed to put out one large item per week. Freon **does not** have to be removed from refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners. That will be done by the contractor.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00pm

PAPER RECYCLING

Check out the big green and yellow bins in the Town Hall parking lot. We get paid for the old newspapers, magazines, paper, junk mail, catalogs, shredded paper in clear plastic bags, office paper and school paper, paperback books, and hardcover books with the covers removed. **NO WRAPPING PAPER, CARDBOARD OR BOXES.**

**■ DROP OFF CENTER FOR USED ■
■ FLAGS/CELL PHONES/GLASSES ■
■ AND HEARING AIDS. ■**

**■ You may dispose of your tattered ■
■ flags, used cell phones, old eye ■
■ glasses and hearing aids at the Town ■
■ Hall. We will recycle them for you. ■**

Cancer Prevention Study-3 coming to Lockport Relay For Life!

Submitted by Darlene Lutz

There has never been any doubt that we as Relayers are dedicated to the mission of the American Cancer Society to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. For years, members of our Barker community have worked effectively and enthusiastically to increase the funds raised for research, patient services, education and advocacy. Our Relay which was cultivated in our small community, then moving to Lockport to grow; has the responsibility to inform residents that we have a historic opportunity, a one time chance to go beyond our fund-raising and actually participate personally in the next Cancer Prevention Study of the American Cancer Society, CPS-3.

This study will track 500,000 participants over time (20-30 years) to determine relationships between genetics, lifestyle, behaviors, and environment to the occurrence of cancer and will help determine more effective ways to prevent this disease.

We will be benefiting our children and future generations as researchers learn more ways to prevent cancer. That means we as individuals can play a simple yet significant role in the efforts to prevent cancer. Simple because our commitment is the time it takes to complete a questionnaire every two years and the commitment to stay in touch.

Who is eligible? We are looking to enroll men and women between the ages of 30 & 65 who have never been diagnosed with cancer and are willing to commit to this long term study. Enrollment will be held at the Lockport Relay For Life on Saturday, June 19th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Eligible participants will complete a brief questionnaire, provide a waist measurement, and provide a small blood sample similar to a doctor's visit. Quest Diagnostics will provide trained, certified phlebotomists to draw your blood.

Soon after, participants will receive in the mail a full length questionnaire which will ask for detailed information concerning personal and family history as well as lifestyle and behavioral information.

If you have personally experienced cancer, ask family members and friends to consider participating in the Cancer Prevention Study-3 to support your dedicated fight against cancer. If you want to affect the lives of our children, then take action.

Again, this is a one time opportunity for us to help prevent cancer by participating in research - don't miss it! We must keep our eye on the goal of a cancer-free world.

For more information visit cancer.org/cps3 or email cps3@cancer.org, or call toll free at 1-888-604-5888. For local information contact Darlene Lutz at 795-9313, or by email at darlene.lutz@aes.com.

Research today for a cancer-free tomorrow...

Relay For Life of Lockport on June 19-20, 2010 Visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/lockportNY>





NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPT.

Ken Bigelow 795-3866

This is the latest information on the bridge replacement project for the Lower Lake Rd. Bridge over Fish Creek.

Wendel Duchscherer has nearly completed the Final Design phase of the project and is working to get the environmental issues and permitting resolved with the Army Corp of Engineers and the NYS Dept. of Conservation. Right of Way Professionals is preparing purchase contracts for parcel acquisition for additional Right of Way needed for the project. We are waiting for the Federal Government to obligate the funds for the projects that are on the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) list. I am still hopeful that the project will be ready to go to bid late spring with construction to begin in 2010.

The Town Highway Dept. has been mowing roadsides for NYS since 2001, but due to the continuing NYS budget crisis, the Town will **not** be mowing roadsides for the state again in 2010.

Town highway projects are in the planning stages at this time. As always, your patience and cooperation during the construction season is greatly appreciated. Have a safe summer!

PASSPORTS – Unfortunately, the National Passport Agency has announced they will be increasing the fees for passports. I anticipate this will happen in April so I urge you to purchase your passport book/card now. The Town Clerk's office is a one stop acceptance facility....we process your passport and will take your photo also. Photos cost \$9.00.

PROPOSED INCREASE

Passport Books—Adult from \$100 to \$135
Minor (under age 16) from \$85 to \$105

Passport Cards—Adult from \$45 to \$55
Minor (under age 16) from \$35 to \$40

Passport Cards may only be used for travel by land and sea from the US to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda.
Air travel to a foreign county requires a passport book.

News Around Town

SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB

Will be holding a Chicken BBQ and Raffle on Sunday May 2nd beginning at Noon. Presale tickets are available from members. For more information, you may call Herb Meyer at 795-9690.

BARKER LIONS CLUB NEWS

Annual Mother's Day Chicken BBQ on May 9th at the Lions Building on Main Street. Takeouts only from 11AM until gone for \$8.00.

The Lions will be having a raffle drawing on June 2nd. Tickets are \$5 for one or \$10 for 3 and can be purchased from any Lion member. For more information contact Matt Costello at 772-7369.

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8700 Haight Road
P.O. Box 368
Barker, NY 14012-0368

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 716-795-3575
Fax: 716-795-9041
Website: www.somersetny.org

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Permit #21



Don't forget our annual tire
Dropoff starts on April 19th!
See page 4 for complete details!

*A Free Rabies Immunization clinic will be held on
Saturday, May 22, 2010, from 2:00—4:00 pm at
Cornell Cooperative Extension (County Fairgrounds),
4487 Lake Avenue, Town of Lockport 433-8839*



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(ALL DRIVES ARE FROM 1:00—6:00pm)**

**May 4, 2010
August 24, 2010
October 19, 2010
December 14, 2010**

