

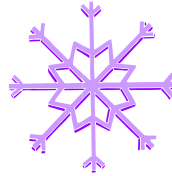


Town of Somerset

Volume 38, Issue 3

Holiday 2023

From Your Town Clerk



Dear Residents,

Some of you are receiving this newsletter electronically for the first time and I would like to thank those who have agreed to receive it via email. We are encouraging as many residents as possible to sign up to receive your version via email instead of through the mail. This will save on supplies, postage, and the time it takes to assemble. If you are willing to make this change, please contact me at tracy.carmer@gmail.com and provide your email address and your residence address. You may also specify more than one email address if multiple people at your address would like to receive it. We offer electronic delivery of your water bill also, so you may contact me for that change as well.

While on the topic of emails, please note that our water/sewer department has a new email address. It is somersetww8500@gmail.com.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday, and a happy and healthy new year.

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC



GARBAGE
COLLECTION WILL
BE DELAYED ONE
DAY THE WEEKS
OF THANKSGIVING
AND CHRISTMAS.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

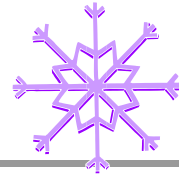
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IMPORTANT DATES FROM THE ASSESSOR

- ♦ The taxable status date for the town is March 1, 2024. All exemption paperwork must be received in the Assessor's office by that date.
- ♦ The tentative roll is filed with the county on May 1, 2024 and it will be available to examine in the office after that date.
- ♦ Grievance day is on May 29, 2024, from 4pm - 8pm.
- ♦ Final roll is filed with the county on July 1, 2024.

A Word From Your Supervisor

Jeffrey M. Dewart - 716-795-3575, ext. 3 jeffdewart@gmail.com



GOOD DAY SOMERSET!

I hope this finds you all in good health with this Fall season and Winter just around the corner.

The application for Somerset solar project at the power plant was sent back from ORES as incomplete for a second time. Then, a week ago, the governor went on TV and said that this project is funded for the Town of Somerset. I have reached out to our attorneys and engineer on this matter.

A few weeks ago, a company called Bear Peak Power stopped here and discussed battery storage at the power plant. They are looking to put about 9 acres of battery storage in there. We told them that we are very concerned about fire with the units and contamination with the lake being right there, if there is a fire and air quality from the smoke. We also told them that we are going to follow our battery law that we have in place. We told them that they need to talk to our fire department to get their thoughts on this matter.

Bridge replacement for Hartland Road, north of 18, will be going out to bid next March, and work hopefully will start around July.

Niagara Community Action Program has a number of different programs available, from help with a new roof to weatherization assistance. There are handouts and phone numbers at the town hall.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

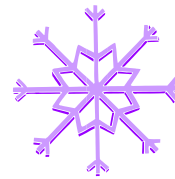
BARKER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Be sure to have your chimney cleaned and inspected every year
- Keep fire hydrants clear of snow
- Fund Drive letters should be arriving in the mail shortly; any financial assistance is greatly appreciated
- Be sure to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and reflective house number signs make great Christmas gifts; reflective house number order forms are available at the town hall
- Kids Christmas Party will be held at the fire hall on Saturday, December 9th between 10am – 12noon to include games, magic entertainment, candy and of course, a visit from Santa

As always we are looking for new members. Stop by any Thursday evening between 6:30 and 8:00pm for an application or for more information. Training and equipment are free.

HISTORIAN'S NEWS

Pete Devereaux



First of all it has been my pleasure to work for the Town of Somerset and Village of Barker as the historian for the past 17 years. I want to thank Tracy Carmer and Mindy Austin for all their help, and I especially want to thank my wife Priscilla for reading the newspaper and collecting the articles for me.

I would like to thank the residents of Somerset and Barker for your support and help when I needed it. I have been blessed to meet so many people and make a lot of friends. There have been a lot of people that I have met through social media that have been very helpful too.

I want to thank all of the Niagara County Historians for all the help over the years. There are too many to list them all.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Now it's time to say a Historical Good Bye.

Good luck to the new Historian.

News from Golden Hill State Park

Golden Hill wants to share the excitement about the 100 new trees recently planted at the park. Both the campground and boat launch areas received trees.

This is a start toward replacing the hundreds of trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer, and other issues.

Our new mascot, "Flatt Blinky", is shown next to one of the newly planted trees.

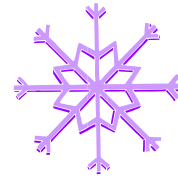
"Someone's sitting under a tree today, because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

- Warren Buffet



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Michael Flint, Highway Superintendent 716-795-3866



Greetings from the Highway Department!

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. The plow trucks are saddled up and salters installed and ready for the snow season. Please remember winter driving habits and slow down on snow covered, slippery roads. Please do not park vehicles, farm equipment, or anything else on the edge of roads during plow season as it makes it tough for the operators to do their jobs. Also, as the time change has begun and it is darker earlier, watch for pedestrians, animals, and especially deer as they are all over at all times of the day.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season and GO BILLS!!

FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION, HERBERT W. CARR POST 425

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

We are having a membership drive. All honorable veterans are eligible. As an incentive, our Post will pay your first 2 years of membership dues. Being a member also gets you a subscription to the American Legion magazine.

In addition to our membership drive, we will again this year be sponsoring Christmas Wreaths to the Arlington National Cemetery.

Many of you have seen the business signs that we sponsor on Lake Road. They will be completely re-done, one at a time, over the winter by Weld Signs.

The Hometown Heroes Banner Project has been a huge success. This year we put up 110 of them! Applications are now being accepted for next year, and must be turned in by February 15, 2024. They are available at the Town Hall, or by contacting Jon Hotaling or Larry Dent.

Jon L. Hotaling, Commander

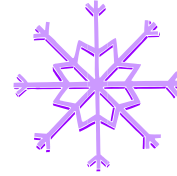
716-345-2799, jonhotaling@twc.com

SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB

Trap is closed, but will resume December 16th - February 18th, 2024. There will be 6 shoots.

As always, new members are welcome. Contact any member for information or an application.

Thank you for all of the community support this year!



FROM THE JUSTICE COURT HON. PAMELA S. RIDER

As we say goodbye to Summer and we look forward to spending Holidays with family, we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy season.

Town of Somerset Justice Court is currently running a regular calendar and court sessions.

Vehicle & Traffic matters are heard in person at the court on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 5:30 pm. This is also the night that any dog related, or other Town violation matters are heard.

Court is conducting **Criminal Court** on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm, January through, and including, October. November and December, will vary to accommodate the holidays.

If you have an attorney, continue talks with their office, who will then work with the Court to resolve the matter on your behalf.

The Court is also hearing any landlord/tenant matters as well as Small Claims. Visit nycourthelp.gov for help in getting your case in front of the court and visit **NYS DIY Forms** for help with all forms necessary to start your case properly.

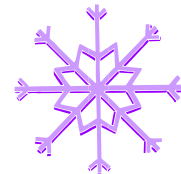
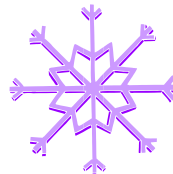
The Court staff cannot give legal advice and cannot hear information on a pending or impending case, prior to it being called so, please refer all your legal questions to your attorney or you can visit NYCourts.gov to obtain information.

If you receive a traffic ticket, please send in your plea by mail, or attend Court on the date indicated on your ticket, so you can have a speedy resolution to your matter.

We wish you well!

In gratitude,

Justice Court



Water/Sewer Department News

Jesse Green, Water/Sewer/Grounds Superintendent 716-795-9919

A couple of reminders from our department: With the winter weather upon us, it is important to remember to keep your fire hydrants and vent pipes clear of snow.

With many homes selling within our town, it is good to remind our neighbors that only proper materials are to be flushed and washed down the drains into the sewer. To save on the cost of repairs and to ensure the proper function of your sewer utility, items such as diapers, rags (wipes) toys (plastic materials), and excessive grease are examples of materials that should not be disposed of in the sewer system.

Have a safe and blessed holiday!

Barker Lions: We Serve

Since 1947, Barker Lions have been helping our community. As Helen Keller's Knights of the Blind, we help provide glasses for those in our community who cannot afford them. That has expanded to hearing aids and to a Loan Closet with a myriad of hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers and other medical supplies. These are available free of charge to any community member. As part of that mission, Lions members helped with eye testing at school.



Thank you to all who visited our Trunk and Treat Event. This year's Lions Peace Poster contest theme was Lead with Compassion. The club had many wonderful entries. Fiona Dalton's drawing was selected to go on to the District Contest.

Although chicken barbecue season is winding down, our fundraising efforts continue. 100% of the funds we raise go to help with eyeglasses, hearing aids and other personal needs in Barker. In addition, we support the International Lions fight against hunger by contributing to the food pantry. We have two fundraisers. One is our annual mailer which has been sent to each residence. Please send your donations to PO BOX 123, Barker, NY 14012. Our second fundraiser is based on the evening lottery numbers. Tickets are \$5 each and prizes will be awarded throughout March with the largest prize on St. Patrick's Day.

We will partner with the Barker Music Boosters for another Pancake breakfast. Join us on February 11 from 8 am until 1 PM at the Barker Fire Hall. Students will be performing that day. Presale tickets will be available through the school.

To keep informed about the Barker Lions' activities, friend us on Facebook or email us so we can add you to our e-newsletter list. When we have chicken barbecues, we send an e-newsletter to all who sign up.

Our monthly dinner meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month September – June at the Lions building. We invite speakers to make various presentations and organize our projects. If you would like to be involved or need assistance, contact the club at Roar@BarkerLions.org or call 716-778-7001.



Tax Collection Hours

Taxes can be paid at the Somerset Town Hall during the following times beginning January 2nd:

January—Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM— 4:00 PM
(Closed January 15th)

February and March—Thursdays only—9:00 AM—4:00PM

April 1st: 9:00 AM—4:00PM



As we take some much-needed time to celebrate the holidays with our family and friends, it's also just about time for a new legislative session to begin. I head back to Albany at the beginning of January and the moment the session begins, so does the fight to Rescue New York.

As you may be aware, a super majority of Democrats and progressive socialists exists within the New York State Assembly and Senate, which makes my job as Minority Leader and your representative at times exceptionally difficult and more important than ever. I will continue to try and make the necessary changes our state, and our community desperately needs. As the New York State Senate Minority Leader, I am proud to represent you and stand up for common sense legislation – fighting for our farmers, protecting your Second Amendment rights, working to keep criminals behind bars, and illegal immigrants out of our backyard.

It is clear, the legislative majority conference want the opposite – they remain obsessed with the rights of criminals instead of your rights. They refuse to amend the senseless cash bail reforms, and what's worse, they'd like to take away their criminal history with bills like the Clean Slate Act (Senate Bill S.7551), which would automatically erase the records of convicted felons after a period of time. I will continue to advocate for common sense laws that keep criminals behind bars.

At the same time that Democrats are letting more and more dangerous individuals out of prison, they are also attacking your right to protect yourself, with unconstitutional laws and regulations affecting your second amendment rights. You have likely experienced this if you've gone to purchase ammunition recently. What was once a quick stop at the gun store has turned into long delays and an infringement of your rights. It's created an unnecessary strain on our already overburdened State Police as they are now tasked with carrying out these invasive checks each time you wish to buy ammo. Albany Democrats, some of whom have likely never even seen or held a gun, are incorrectly focused on law abiding gun and ammo purchases instead of illegal guns and those who possess them. I will continue to fight and oppose this latest infringement, along with our lawsuits against the majority's attacks on lawful concealed carry.

New York State has completely failed as a sanctuary state for asylum seekers and illegal immigrants. The open door policies set in place by the majority and leaders in New York City have completely backfired, causing chaos to shelters and budgets not only in one of the largest cities in the world, but across our great state. Since the beginning of this crisis I, along with many other representatives in the minority conference have called for the end to these sanctuary policies and a stop to bringing in more individuals and families our state does not have room or money for.

But the majority ignores our pleas and doubles down on policies that aren't good for New Yorkers. Their solution? Raise taxes and slash budgets already in place designed to offer essential services to tax paying residents. Our state cannot handle our own homeless population. There are veterans who fought for our freedoms who find themselves on the streets, ignored and forgotten – yet the majority is willing to spend billions to fund programs for illegal immigrants.

I am proud to represent a region that stood up to New York City and State leaders and said no to allowing illegal immigrants to stay in Niagara and Orleans Counties. Not too far away in Erie County, they allowed the illegal migrants to come by the busload – and quickly regretted it. The National Guard was called in following several violent crimes and now taxpayers will have to help foot the bill for those legal costs. Residents also have to pick up the tab for the children of illegals to attend our public schools, regardless of their vaccination status. The hypocrisy of Democrats has never been more apparent – It was just a couple of years ago when Albany mandated all students must be vaccinated, regardless of religious or political ideologies – yet they allow illegal migrants to enter our school systems with no medical records, no immunizations, and no concern of putting other children at risk of catching previously eradicated diseases.

We desperately need a voice for change, common sense, and to Rescue New York – and I am proud to represent that for you in Albany. If you need to reach me, have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out at 716-434-0680, via email at Ortt@nysenate.gov, or stop by my office located at 175 Walnut Street in Lockport.

**Volume 38, Issue 3
Holiday 2023**

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CHRISTMAS DONATION DRIVE, CONDUCTED BY THE SOMERSET POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department and the Town of Somerset and Village of Barker have kicked off their annual holiday donation drive for community families in need. The holiday donation boxes will be located at both the Somerset Town Hall and Village of Barker offices. All proceeds from this donation drive will be utilized in conjunction with the Barker Central School System to provide less fortunate families in the community with a brighter holiday season.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ◇ November 22 - Cash Raffle for the Conservation Club - 7:00pm; tickets available from any member
- ◇ December 9 - Christmas Community Celebration at Faith United Methodist Church - 4:30pm Cookie Walk, Sub Sale; 7:00pm Community Band Concert
- ◇ December 9 - Kids Christmas Party at the Barker Fire Hall - 10:00am - 12Noon
- ◇ December 9 - Free Rabies Clinic, N. Tonawanda Public Works
- ◇ December 10 - Victorian Christmas at the Babcock House
- ◇ December 15 - Christmas Cantata at Faith United Methodist Church - 7:00pm
- ◇ February 11, 2024 - Pancake Breakfast at Barker Fire Hall - 11:00am - 1:00pm