



Town of Somerset

Volume 39, Issue 1

Spring 2024



From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

We are lucky enough to be in the path of the Total Eclipse of the Sun, so I hope everyone is planning to watch this once-in-a-lifetime event! We will be closing the town buildings at 11am so all of the employees can have a chance to enjoy it.

I want to thank all of you who have signed up to receive your newsletter electronically! This helps a great deal with costs, and every little bit helps. If you haven't signed up, but are willing to, please call my office at 716-795-3575, ext. 2.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable Spring!

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC

Did you know....

The sun makes a sound but we cannot hear it? The wavelength of the pressure waves from the sun is measured in hundreds of miles, meaning they are far beyond the range of human hearing.

Golden Hill State Park wishes everyone a Happy Spring!

Stop by the park for a few hours during the day, or book a camping site for the weekend. The 2024 camping season officially begins May 17th. Golden Hill offers peaceful views, up-close moments with nature, and a slower pace to unwind. Come and sit by the lake with a book, take a walk on the trails, enjoy a campfire and eat s'mores. The project along the shore is moving ahead, and soon the new walkway will be finished.

If rustic tent camping is not your style - we offer "yurts" for a bit more comfort. Or, up to 6 guests can stay overnight on the second floor of the historic lighthouse. The "Lighthouse Cottage" has a living room with an electric fireplace, modern kitchen, bathroom with an old-fashioned claw foot tub, 3 bedrooms, and an awesome view of Lake Ontario. 2 day minimum is required. Please make camping reservations by calling Reserve America at 1-800-456-2267.

Attention fishermen...due to the mild winter, our boat docks are already in for the season. I have seen some beautiful trout already being caught.

When you are looking to relax - come visit Golden Hill State Park.

Please enjoy a safe & happy summer.

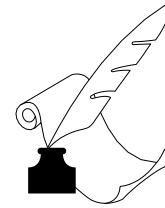


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A Word From Your Supervisor

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



HELLO SOMERSET.

Well with winter coming to a close and summer right around the corner, I am hoping all are well.

An update on the solar application for the power plant: ORES has deemed the application complete, and I will update you as we get more information.

For the APRIL 8TH Eclipse, there is the potential for up to a million people coming into our county that weekend, and we have a prime viewing area. We are planning on a lot of car traffic that weekend with possible traffic jams. We will have police on Sunday and Monday to help with any problems, and our fire department will have crews on Monday for any call as well. The county has asked that you do your shopping and get your medications done the week before so you do not have to fight with traffic. You are also going to want to make sure you have enough gas in your vehicles as the gas companies are going to pull their tanker trucks off the road that weekend. The eclipse starts at 2:07pm with totality at 3:18pm for about 3 minutes and 32 seconds, and ends at 4:33pm. We will be closing all town buildings at 11am that day.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Thank you,

Jeff Dewart, Town Supervisor



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.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Pancake Breakfast to support the Barker Music Department. We served over 400 meals. The student performances were outstanding.

On Sunday, May 12, we will hold our annual Mother's Day Chicken Barbecue. The dinner includes a half a barbecued chicken, Corn Casserole, Au gratin Potatoes and Strawberry Shortcake. Presale tickets are \$15 and available from any Lions Member. At the door tickets are \$16. Pick up at the Lions building begins at 11:30 and runs until 1 PM.

If you are a high school senior involved in community service, make sure that you apply for the Lions Scholarship that will be given at graduation. Whatever your post-graduate plans are, we want to help those students who demonstrate our motto "We Serve." Therefore, there are now 2 separate Scholarships. The Barker Lions Community Service is available for all students who have participated in community service projects. The Dick Weeks Memorial Scholarship is available to those going into the trades. It is in honor of a Lions Member who worked in the trades.

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 778-7001.



Barker Lions Club

District 20-N Barker, NY

Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety

Over 60 Years of Service since 1947





Water/Sewer Department News

Jesse Green, Water/Sewer/Grounds Superintendent

716-795-9919

Backflow Preventers – Double Check Valve Backflow Preventers are **required** on all new homes, and homes that are being sold. If you have any questions, please call the Water Department.

Before you dig – Remember to call 811 before you do any digging. It is the law that you must call at least **2 full business days in advance** so that the underground utilities have a chance to mark out their lines.

Electronic Recycling – As a reminder Electronic Recycling is ongoing and takes place at the Sewer Plant, at the corner of Quaker Road and Lower Lake Road, on Fridays from 7am-3pm. Batteries and televisions with broken or dismantled glass will not be accepted. Thank you.

Cemeteries – With the spring weather around the corner, a reminder of cemetery rules: Beginning May 15th, There may be one crock, vase of flowers, shepherd's hook, or wreath per grave. These should be placed immediately next to the headstone. These items shall be removed by November 1st of each year. Wreaths may be placed on the graves after November 1st and shall be removed by April 1st. Eternal Flames may be left year round. Two Eternal Flames are allowed and must be located immediately next to each side of the headstone. The full Cemetery Fee Schedule and Regulations can be found on our website, www.somersetny.org.

Park Pavilions – Also with the spring weather near if you would like to use the pavilions in the Somerset Park this season, please make a reservation by calling the Town Hall at 716-795-3575 extension 2 for the Town Clerk's office.

Annual Water Quality Report – You may review the AWQR on the Town's website upon its completion. Go to <https://www.somersetny.org/watersewer-department/pages/annual-water-quality-reports> to view it, or you may view it in person at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall, or at the Barker Public Library.

Annual Tire Drop Off will take place this fall. Watch our next newsletter for dates and times.

JUSTICE COURT - Hon. Pamela S Rider

716-795-3575, EXT. 1

Spring is upon us and we are so happy for the extended hours of sun and increasing temperatures, for sure! With the increased hours, as well, of being outdoors and on the road, please remember to be kind to one another and safe on the roadways, for the benefit of yourself, as well as others.

Court hours are 2nd Thursday at 5:00 pm for Vehicle and Traffic matters and 4th Thursday at 5:30pm for Criminal matters. Civil matters can be heard on either of those days.

You may contact the Court at [716-795-3575, option 1](tel:716-795-3575) to leave a message for the Clerk, who will call you back, with your ticket or Court date questions.

Court staff are not authorized to give legal advice, so please contact your attorney or the Court Help Desk at <https://www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/> with any legal questions you may have relative to your current or pending case.

Court staff are also not authorized to discuss pending or impending cases, either locally or anywhere in the US, so please refrain from these types of conversations and questions in social settings with Court Staff.

As we now begin to enjoy cookouts, yard work, walking and bike riding in our community, please be safe, be kind and stay well!!

Very Sincerely,
Town of Somerset Justice Court



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ◆ **Total Solar Eclipse** - Monday, April 8, 2024 - all town buildings will be closing at 11:00am
- ◆ **Somerset Conservation Club Chicken BBQ** - Sunday, April 28, 2024, 12:00pm - 2:00pm (take out or eat in) \$15.00
- ◆ **Barker Lion's Club Chicken BBQ** - Sunday, May 12, 2024, 11:30am - 1:00pm; tickets \$15 pre-sale, \$16 at the door
- ◆ **Memorial Day Ceremony** - Monday, May 27, 2024, 10AM by the Tank
- ◆ **Barker Fire Department Spring Raffle** - Sunday, June 2, 2024, 1:00pm - 4:00pm; \$25 includes a beef on weck dinner
- ◆ **Barker Corn Fest** - Saturday, July 27, 2024 - watch their Facebook page for details
facebook.com/BarkerCornFestival/

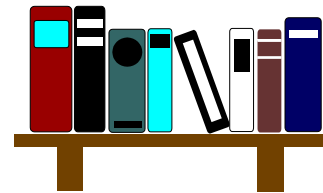
The Barker Public Library Rises Again: Friends Ready to Support Its New Chapter

Since 1938, the Barker Public Library has been a beloved pillar of our community, offering a haven for readers, learners, and anyone seeking a quiet space. Even though a fire devastated the library in 2019, its spirit could not be extinguished. It has survived and is currently housed at 8673 Church St. I won't lie; it's a little tight in there, but the good news is that the doors to a brand new library building, constructed on the very same spot, will soon be swinging open once more. We don't have a definitive date, but we will be shouting from the rooftops when we find out.

But that's not all! Anticipation isn't just brewing amongst the community – the Friends of the Barker Public Library have been busy reorganizing as well. This dedicated volunteer 501(c)(3) group is ready and raring to go, eager to support the library in its exciting new chapter. We raise funds, create library programs, and work to enrich our community through public advocacy for the library and its mission to inspire, empower, and educate.

Help us support this invaluable community resource by volunteering, making a tax-deductible monetary donation, and most of all, coming down to the library and seeing what it has to offer! Our first initiative will be an Heirloom Seed Library called the Somerset Seed Exchange, where you can take out a packet of seeds, grow the plant, collect the seeds at the end of the season, and return them to the library for someone else to grow next year! We are also working on a pickup and delivery service for those who can't get out of the house to visit the library. For more information or to make suggestions for fundraisers and programs you'd like to see the Friends offer, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthebarkerlibrary/) (https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthebarkerlibrary/) and send us a direct message, or visit our [website](https://barkerfriends.org) (https://barkerfriends.org). Better yet! Come to our next meeting on April 16th at 6 pm. It is being held at the Barker Lions Club, 8739 Main Street! We can't wait to see you there!

Julia Bender - President - Friends of the Barker Public Library



In 2026, America will be celebrating its 250th birthday (semiquincentennial). Niagara County is looking for suggestions for activities, celebrations or potential events. If you would like to suggest something, please let one of our Town Board members know.

Did you know....

Plastic bags do not biodegrade, meaning it will take hundreds of years for them to decompose in a landfill. If your plastic bag has a #2 or #4 plastic symbol on them, you can recycle them. All national grocery retailers and many smaller retailers have bag recycling collection bins in their stores, usually near the entrance.



BARKER FIRE DEPT.

Our Spring Raffle is being held on June 2, 2024 from 1:00PM - 4:00PM, and the doors open at Noon. The \$25 ticket includes a Beef on Weck, beer and pop. This will be an in-person raffle, however, you do NOT need to be present to win. There will also be side raffles and cash raffles.

We are looking for new members – stop by any Thursday evening after 6:30 for an application.

Thank you for all of those that have supported our Annual Fund Drive!

****New York State has a burn ban in effect from 3/16/2024 - 5/14/2024****

From the Desk of Deputy Supervisor Robin Jansen

There have been some questions over the last couple of years as to the different types of roads that are in the Town of Somerset and who is responsible for maintenance of a particular road.

If you have any questions about a specific road, you can contact the Town of Somerset Highway Department and they can provide guidance on who has responsibility for a specific road in the town.



Mark your calendars for July 27th. The Barker Corn Festival is returning! Watch <https://www.facebook.com/BarkerCornFestival> for details.



STATE ROADS

State roads are identified by a white shield with black letters. NYSDOT is responsible for these roads.

COUNTY ROADS

Blue shield with yellow lettering. The County is responsible for these roads



LOCAL ROADS

If there is no state or county shield, look for a street name sign. It may say county or state highway with a number. If so, contact the state or county. If not, start with the local jurisdiction. Even if they do not have maintenance responsibility, they can help you figure out who does.

If in a city or village, contact the DPW. Otherwise, start with the town highway department.



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Amy Dewart 716-795-3575, ext. 7

This photo marks the first car sale by young Ben Frost (left) to Dr. L. James McAdam (right) in May 1910. The car was produced by the Hudson Motor Company and appears to be a 1910 Hudson Model 20. The picture was taken at Frost's Store, which later became Strong's Grocery at Somerset Corners, but is now gone. In the early 1930's, Soloman Frost and his sons, Henry and Ben, opened a Ford dealership in the Opera House at Somerset Corners. About 1937, they purchased property in the Village of Barker that was formerly a two-room school house and added a new front built to Ford specifications. Soon after completion, Soloman and Henry left the business and Ben continued selling cars alone, switching from the Ford franchise to Chevrolets in 1938. In 1947, Ben's son, David Frost, joined the Frost dealership. Ben retired in the early 50's, leaving his son, Dave, to run the Chevy dealership on Quaker road until he retired in 1993. (The Ben Frost & Son building including the old school house built in 1878 is presently Barker Truck Accessories, owned by Robert and Ruth Wendler.)



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NIAGARA COUNTY FREE RABIES CLINICS 2024

- Saturday, April 13 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Town of Hartland Salt Shed, 3542 Wruck Road
- Saturday, June 1 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Hyde Park-Oasis/Centennial Pavilion, 911 Robbins Drive, Niagara Falls
- Saturday, July 13 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Town of Lewiston Highway Garage, 1445 Swann Road
- Saturday, September 14 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) Town of Lockport Highway Department, 6560 Dysinger Road
- Saturday, December 7 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) City of North Tonawanda Public Works Department, 758 Erie Avenue

Did you know...
Fluorescent Tube Lightbulbs can be disposed of at a
Hazardous Waste event sponsored by Niagara County?
Each household is allowed to dispose of 50 pounds of
hazardous waste through their voucher program. For
details and to register, go to
rethinkyourwaste.com/events

