



Town of Somerset

Volume 35, Issue 3

Summer 2020



From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

What a year this has been! It certainly is one to remember. Thank you for your patience as we have had to close or make adjustments to many things due to COVID-19. Our Yard Sale will take place on August 1st as scheduled and you can be placed on the map by calling my office by July 28th. Maps will be available July 29th at the Town Hall. Our Tire Drop Off has been rescheduled for the week of September 14th (details on the back of this newsletter). The Town Hall's hours have been adjusted and my office is open from 9AM - 3PM Monday through Thursday. This allows my staff time at the end of the day to disinfect all of the surfaces, which is part of our safety plan in order to be open to the public.

I hope things get back to normal soon. In the meantime, make the most of what you can this summer.

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The Barker Public Library is open Monday through Friday from 10AM - 5PM. Social distancing and masks are required.

Community Calendar

- **July 11th - Free Rabies Clinic at the Town of Wilson - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call 716-439-7511.**
- **July 12th - Chicken BBQ at St. John's Lutheran Church - Noon - 2PM, takeout only. Contact Bob for tickets 628-4224.**
- **July 21st - Red Cross Blood Drive at Faith United Methodist Church 2PM - 6PM.**
- **August 1st - Town Wide Yard Sale - 9AM - 5PM.**
- **September 14th - September 18th 7AM - 3PM - Annual Tire Drop Off**
- **September 19th 9AM - Noon - Annual Tire Drop Off**

A Word From Your Supervisor

Jeffrey Dewart 716-795-3575, ext. 3



I hope this finds you all in good health with all that has been going on with the Covid-19. I would like to update you with a few things that are going on. Our refuse contract is up this year. We are in a consortium with 4 other towns, and 2 villages will be joining us. The refuse company does not want to extend our contract. They are looking at a huge increase (25%-33%) with the traditional pickup of 6 bags and 1 large item per week. The consortium has agreed to a bid for 95 gallon carts that each town and village would purchase for each household. The cost per household would be approximately 13% more than our current contract. I know it is not great news, but the refuse company is looking at their costs and trying to go to one man trucks. With the cart bid, the large item pickup would change to 3 large items one week per month.

On a happy note, our Town Park will reopen on July 6th! We will have signs in place regarding social distancing, wearing face masks, and washing hands.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Your Supervisor, Jeff Dewart

Please be considerate of others when mowing your lawn and do not blow the grass clippings into the road. Not only is it illegal, but it is very dangerous for bicyclists and motorcyclists.

Greetings from the Town of Somerset Office of Code Enforcement! With summer upon us, just a few friendly reminders about property maintenance. Brush, weeds and grass within 100ft of structures shall be maintained by the property owner or occupant and not exceed 10 inches height. Also per zoning code, two or more abandoned, disabled, dismantled or partly dismantled vehicles on property, as well as the storage, sale, or abandonment of wastepaper, rags or scrap metal, or discarded materials or the collecting, dismantling, storage, salvaging or abandonment of machinery or vehicles not in operating condition shall constitute a junkyard and is in violation of town code. Commercial vehicles also over one ton's load capacity shall not be parked out of doors overnight or on Sunday in conjunction with a residential property, in a residential zone, without a special use permit. Another zoning law to address is in regard to liquid or solid waste. There shall be no discharge of any liquid or solid waste into any stream, pond, waterway, land or groundwater except as authorized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. No waste, debris or other discarded material shall be allowed to accumulate in any yard or open space on premises. Also in regard to outdoor heating devices, all outdoor heating devices require a permit and shall be installed and maintained to manufacturer's instructions. The fuel type in an outdoor heating device shall be only firewood, natural wood, untreated lumber, wood pellets, corn products or other listed fuel specifically permitted by manufacturer's instructions such as fuel oil, natural gas or propane back up.

In closing, there are several instances when a building permit should be obtained. Some examples of these would be swimming pools, additions or any new structures, interior remodeling, and when placing a premanufactured shed, to name a few. If you are unsure of if you need a building permit, or you have any questions or need to obtain a building permit, please call the Town of Somerset office 716-795-3575, ext. 5. Permits can be filled out online www.somersetny.org. Complaints can also be submitted through the town website.

Have a safe, happy and healthy summer!

Your local CEO officer Mark Remington and Assistant CEO Stephen Lee



Councilwoman's Corner



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that part of the Niagara County Sales tax that is collected when you shop, eat in restaurants, stay in a hotel, or buy gas in Niagara County gets distributed back to the Town of Somerset? Each municipality in Niagara County gets a portion of the county sales tax based on population. So every time you shop in a store, eat in a restaurant, or buy gas in Niagara County it benefits your local community. I try to spend my money in Niagara County knowing that some of my county sales taxes will come back to our town. Now more than ever it's important to support local businesses and your town through your sales taxes.

My husband Norm and I wish you a safe and happy summer.



Niagara County Legislature 14th District - John Syracuse

WEST SOMERSET ROAD

Shoulder reconstruction is under way. After early COVID-19 concerns, the county workforce went back to full staff 5/4/2020 which allowed the department to work on this project daily until the crew started the Ransomville Road milling and paving project. The county will continue to work on this reconstruction between other county highway functions.

OTHER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DUTIES

This season's tree work was initiated in the fall of 2019 and continued until the spring of this year. Roadside mowing started near the end of May. March through May saw the county perform ditch cleaning and maintenance. Multiple projects were completed on Ewings, Charlotteville, Hess, Hosmer, Carmen and Quaker roads.

January - April county crews were busy patching all county roads with the winter mix material. In May, the summer patching began using hot mix material.

NIAGARA COUNTY REFUSE/RECYCLING UPDATE

The Niagara County Dept. of Public Works is excited to continue their Household Hazardous Waste Voucher Program. Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, Niagara County has cancelled traditional "events" and re-launched the Voucher program. We recognize the demand for safe disposal options as many people have spent some extra time at home. Residents are allowed to bring up to 50 pounds of acceptable materials for safe and convenient disposal. To sign up, please visit www.rethinkyourwaste.com/events.

I wish to extend to all a very safe and happy summer. May God Bless you all during this difficult season.

John Syracuse, District 14 Legislator



FOR RELEASE: June 29, 2020

CONTACT: Andrew Dugan | (518) 852-1282

CHARTING A NEW PATH

A column from Senate GOP Leader Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I-North Tonawanda)

Last month, I received the honor of being voted leader of the New York State Senate Republican Conference by my colleagues. To receive this role is truly a privilege, and with it comes great responsibility.

My goal as the leader of the Senate Republican Conference will be to fight for a different path, a better path that supports the millions of conservatives, republicans, democrats, and independents across this great state – many who feel left out of Albany’s current governing structure. My leadership will be one of energy and action and rooted in reality – as opposed to the out-of-touch majority agenda that has only served to divide and alienate our state.

At its best, government is a dialogue between officials and the people they were elected to serve. The laws that are passed and actions that are taken should reflect the shared values of as many people as possible. Right now, New Yorkers don’t have that healthy dialogue and diversity of opinion. Due to one-party control, our government is engaged in promoting a one-sided, disastrous course for our state.

Millions of voices and concerns from everyday New Yorkers have gone ignored in favor of policies and proposals crafted and supported by New York City interest groups and Albany insiders. Instead of working to find common-sense solutions to the very real problems our state faces, we’ve been burdened with new challenges to face.

Look no further than the fallout from New York’s disastrous bail and discovery reform laws. Because of these laws, law enforcement is limited in its ability to keep families safe, and dangerous repeat offenders are allowed back into communities. And now, during the middle of massive nationwide civil unrest, there are exploitative calls from the majority to “defund the police.” We saw what took place in the City of Buffalo, where individuals who took part in looting and rioting were released back onto the streets without bail due to the new reforms. This is happening all across our state; looters and rioters have used the tragic death of George Floyd to destroy public and private property and terrorize law-abiding New Yorkers. Violent crime is reaching unprecedented levels. Now, more than ever before, we must give law enforcement the support and resources it needs to protect communities.

Public protection is a very real, urgent crisis our state faces, but it isn’t the only one. New York is suffering from affordability and accountability crises that can impact all of us for generations to come.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, our state’s economy was lagging. Now, it’s in danger of collapse. For years, our government has wildly overspent our hard-earned tax dollars on controversial pet projects like the Film Tax Credit, “free” college for illegal immigrants, and taxpayer-funded political campaigns. Instead of eliminating these costly, hyper-partisan programs in the aftermath of the devastation caused by coronavirus, the governor is looking to slash funding for local governments and schools, areas that most directly impact our lives.

We now face a situation where communities are faced with a spike in property taxes or a diminishing of the services they rely on. Areas that were already struggling economically face even steeper challenges and existing businesses face higher costs to stay open and have fewer resources to manage that.

The governor has turned a blind eye to this, choosing press conferences and cable news appearances to boost his national profile. The majority ceded its decision-making role to the governor and has been content to let the short and long-term problems continue to worsen.

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HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Peter Devereaux 716-795-3575, ext. 7



SALT SPRINGS LEDGERS

It was around the year 2000 when Duane Russell started coming to the Salt Spring on Fish Creek and he must have fallen in love with what he saw because he decided to keep the paths and the area around the well mowed and cleaned up and he did so until 2017 when his age and health prevented him from doing it any longer.

In 2005 Duane decided to put a ledger book, there are 5 notebooks, that are filled with fascinating information from the people who visited the site and in many cases were given a lesson on the history of the Salt Spring by Duane.

The ledgers show that visitors from at least 20 states and 4 different countries have come to see and learn about the history of the spring. There have been visitors from at least 30 different communities across New York State and 2 different Native American Societies and many groups of boy scouts and girl scouts from Camp Keenan going on field trips to the well.

Sadly Duane Russell passed away on May 5th, 2020. Because of Covid-19 restrictions there were no services for Duane.

A great big thank you Sir for your great work keeping the Salt Spring clean and for the ledgers that help keep the history of it alive.

A special thank you from the Town of Somerset Historians, past and present, for your work for this community.

P.S. Duane was a graduate of the class of 1945 Barker Central School.



CHARTING A NEW PATH Senator Rob Ort

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I'm not alone in feeling that our state is heading in the wrong direction right now. Millions of New Yorkers, worried over their physical and economic well-being, agree. This anxiety crosses age, gender, party, and racial lines. People are uncertain of what the future holds, and the current one-party regime is just not up to the task of providing answers or help

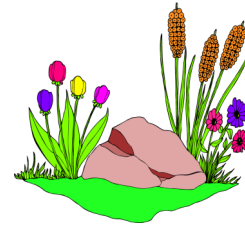
As the leader of the Senate Republican Conference, I want to provide both. I plan to work with all New Yorkers, not just New York City power brokers, to find lasting solutions. By engaging community stakeholders and seeking the perspectives of everyone, I know that we can create a government that works – one that is more inclusive and representative of our entire state.

Doing this will grow the Republican Party and help make its popular core values of opportunity and individual freedom for all more accessible and more prominent across New York. Most importantly, doing so will grow our state, get it back on track, and ensure a better quality of life for this and future generations.

It won't be easy. In fact, it'll take time and a lot of hard work. But I look forward to the challenge and believe that together, we can forge a new path for New York.

Water/Sewer Department News

Jonathan D. Dewart, Water/Sewer/Grounds Superintendent
716-795-9919



Cemeteries - Information on our cemeteries can be found on the Town website www.somersetny.org under the cemetery link. You may also call my office with any questions you may have.

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

Backflow Preventers - These are **required** on all new homes and homes that are being sold. It is your responsibility to install a preventer. Your water/sewer account will not be transferred without this requirement being met.

Electronic Recycling - This is an ongoing program and items can be dropped off at the Sewer Plant, 8500 Lower Lake Rd, on garbage days from 7am - 3pm.

Park Pavilions - If you are a Somerset resident and you would like to use the pavilions in the Somerset Park, you can make a reservation by calling the Town Hall at 795-3575 ext. 2 for the Clerk's office. There is no charge for using them if you are a resident.



Highway Department

Michael M. Flint, Superintendent
(716) 795-3866



Updates on the summer:

Johnson Creek Road between Coleman and Town Line roads, step #1 grind and recycling is done. Steps 2 and 3 which is topcoat and then shoulder install will be done in the upcoming weeks. The first round of roadside mowing by the town is complete; the county and state have just started. A word of caution to all drivers the deer population is huge and they seem to be all over the area. Please drive safely and be aware. Enjoy your summer and stay safe.



Barker Lions: We Serve



The past few months have been filled with challenges, however the Barker Lions Club has continued its service to our community. We now own 10 Wheelchair lifts. They are installed in homes throughout our community for those with mobility issues. Our Medical loan closet has been used by many people. Our hospital beds, wheelchairs, commodes and other equipment that makes life easier have been borrowed by many. We've also received donations of that equipment that we can then loan out.

We have held a number of Chicken Barbecues this spring. Our Annual Mother's Day Chicken Barbecue sold out, as did our Memorial Day event. Independence Day is our third of the season. If your organization is looking for a fundraiser, contact us!

Our Club's 75th Anniversary is approaching. To celebrate, we are putting together various displays and a memory book. Do you have pictures of a Lions event that you would be willing to share? Memorabilia such as Lions pins or plaques? Did the Lions help you with a scholarship, ramp, glasses? Do you have a special memory of a past Lions event such as a Halloween Party, Corn Fest, Pancake Breakfast? You can email Roar@BarkerLions.org and let us know your memory or items to share. Lion Margo is at the Winery at Marjim Manor (778-7001) and she'd be happy to scan your items, interview you and record your memories and answer your questions.

Our Installation dinner will be held in July. New officers are President Tim Leising, First Vice President Scott Ecker, Second Vice President Dale Corwin, Third Vice President Phil Russell, Secretary Matt Costello, Treasurer Jim Bittner, Membership Committee Chris Czelusta, Fred Leuer, Fran Costello, Board members Wayne Rider, Tom Mallon, Kurt Lutz, Scott Reiner, Tale Twister Abe Sullivan and Lion Tamer Art Harris.

From your Barker Fire Department

If you are having a campfire and/or brushfire, please be sure they are completely extinguished. NYSDEC regulations state that campfires are allowed if they are less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter and you must not use accelerants to start the fire.



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Standard
PAID
Middleport, NY 14105
Permit #21

Town Wide Yard Sale - August 1 - 9am to 5pm

The Town of Somerset's **2020 Tire Drop Off** has been rescheduled! It will take place Monday, September 14th through Friday, September 18th from 7AM - 3PM, and Saturday, September 19th from 9AM - Noon.

The Park reopens July 6th!

