



# Town of Somerset

Volume 38, Issue 2

Summer 2023

## From Your Town Clerk



Dear Residents,

We are only a couple of weeks away from our Bicentennial Celebration! There are many events planned for both youth and adults, from face painting to Corn Hole, so I hope everyone plans to attend. We still have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and pint glasses for sale to help cover the expenses. You can purchase them at the town hall with cash or check, and we will have them available at the celebration as well.

I look forward to seeing you!

*Tracy L. Carmer, P.M.C.*

We have a lot of Covid tests available at the Town Hall. If you want to have one on hand, please stop in and pick one up.

**Yard Sale**  
**August 5th 9am - 5pm**

Don't forget that we have a barrel in the Town Hall for pet food donations. Niagara County distributes them to food pantries for the residents who need assistance caring for their pets.

**Tire Drop Off**  
**Week of Sept 11th**

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## A Word From Your Supervisor

Jeffrey M. Dewart - 716-795-3575, ext. 3 [jeffdewart@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdewart@gmail.com)



Hello Somerset,

Hoping everyone is having a great summer so far. It was great to see all the baseball and softball teams out at our park playing, and now we move on to soccer.

### Bicentennial

On Friday there will be a cruise night on Main Street along with live music from 4pm-8pm, as well as vendors and food. Behind the fire hall will be a corn hole tournament starting at 5pm. You can sign up for it on line.

Saturday's events will start with the Cornfest 5k run at 9am. At 10am, youth baseball and softball all stars will take the field at the Town Park. The corn hole finals start at 10am behind the fire hall. From noon - 6pm, there will be food and vendors in the Village Park, and historical displays will be set up inside the fire hall. At 2pm our parade will start and we will have an Air Force fly over at the start of the parade. From 5pm - 8pm there will be food trucks at the fire hall and the JJ Rad Band will start playing at 7pm. At 10pm there will be a fireworks display at the school.

Sunday will begin with a community church service at 9:30am at Faith United Methodist Church. The Barker Lions Club will be doing a Chicken BBQ at 11am, and presale tickets are available from any member or at the Town Hall. From 11am - 3pm there will be a petting zoo, tractor display, the Barker Community Band will be playing, and the church will be holding an ice cream social. Please come out and enjoy that weekend.

The Barker Fire Department would like to thank the community for your continued support. The success of our recent gun raffle and our annual fund-raising drive helped to purchase a new set of Genesis Jaws of Life along with cutters and a ram. These life saving tools will be put into operation in the near future after some training.

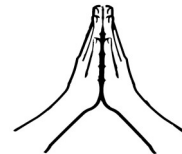
We will have a table at the 200 Year Celebration in the village park, please stop by to visit us.

## *Our Lady of the Lake RFA Society*

### *Annual Basket Raffle*

*Sunday, September 10, 2023*

Doors open at 12:30pm Drawings start at 2:00pm



St. Patrick's Church Hall

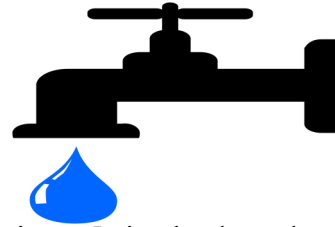
1726 Quaker Rd, Barker

\$5 Cards of 25

Need not be present to win

## Water/Sewer Department News

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



**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.

**Park Pavilions** - If you are a Somerset resident and would like to use the pavilions in the Somerset Park this season, you can make a reservation by calling the Town Hall at 716-795-3575 ext. 2 for the Clerk's Office. There is no charge for using them.

**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 to 3pm.

**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.

**Tire Drop-off** - This year the drop-off will take place September 11-15 from 7am - 3:30pm, and September 16 from 9am - noon at the Highway Garage.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ◇ Town of Somerset Bicentennial - Friday, July 21st through Sunday, July 23rd
- ◇ Cruise Night - Friday, July 21st 4:00pm - 8:00pm on Main Street - 716-474-7390
- ◇ Bicentennial Cornfest 5k race - Saturday, July 22nd 9:00am on Main Street - link on our website [www.somersetny.org](http://www.somersetny.org)
- ◇ Barker Lion's Club Chicken BBQ - Sunday, July 23rd 11:00 until gone - Faith United Methodist Church - \$15 pre-sale, \$17 at the door
- ◇ Ice Cream Social - Sunday, July 23rd 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Faith United Methodist Church
- ◇ Vacation Bible School - July 24th - July 28th 9am - noon - West Somerset Baptist Church - 716-795-9929
- ◇ Town-wide Yard Sale - Saturday, August 5th 9:00am - 5:00pm
- ◇ Chicken BBQ Take-Out - Sunday, August 13th - \$15, pre-sale only. Tickets will be sold until August 2nd, and the pickup location is Harris Farms. Sponsored by Barker AFS Club. 727-519-4043
- ◇ Somerset Conservation Club Chicken BBQ - Sunday, September 10th 11:30am - 1:30pm. \$15 pre-sale
- ◇ Our Lady of the Lake Annual Basket Raffle - Sunday, September 10th 12:30pm
- ◇ Annual Tire Drop-Off, September 11th - 16th (see back cover for full details)
- ◇ American Legion Annual Raffle - Tuesday, October 10th - \$5.00 - call for tickets 716-345-2799
- ◇ Somerset Conservation Club Cash Raffle - Wednesday, November 22nd virtual - \$50

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Amy Dewart, Deputy Historian 716-795-3575, ext. 7

Fifty years ago this month, the Town of Somerset celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with the Somerset Sesquicentennial Celebration July 1-7, 1973. The entire town went back in time to the year 1823 with men growing beards, women wearing hoop skirts, and everyone both old and young donning period costume for special events throughout the week. Women and girls became Centennial Belles, while the men and boys became Brothers of the Brush.

The main feature of this celebration was the 5-day outdoor production, "Somerset Story", a 90-minute spectacular show with over 250 local residents in the cast from 4 to 60 years of age along with actual horses. "Somerset Story" used a series of narrators to tell the highlights from our 150-year history of the Town of Somerset while the large cast acted out scenes from the Native Americans living at Golden Hill to then present day 1973. A 200-foot stage was built south of the school for the grand production with bleachers set up for the audience. It was reported that a total of 5,600 people attended the 5-day production.

The Sesquicentennial Queen was crowned based on the contestant selling the most tickets to the "Somerset Story". Each evening the Queen and her court would arrive by horse and carriage to the "Somerset Story". The Queen's Ball was so popular that the attendees had to be split into two locations for an evening of music and dancing from 9 pm to 2 am! Many musical groups performed throughout the week as well, such as Niagara County Barbershop Chorus, BCS Band, Square Dancing, and Buffalo Banjo Band.

The old Barker Firehall was turned into a saloon and another village building was set-up as Sesquicentennial Headquarters, where residents could purchase period costumes and memorabilia. The Barker Village Park housed stocks and a dunking tub for townspeople that were arrested during the festivities for violations of Sesquicentennial Rules. Some of the violations included not growing facial hair such as beards, not wearing regulation dress, or being caught wearing make-up without your Centennial Belle button in possession.

A 2-hour Sesquicentennial parade took place on Saturday and included marching bands, horse and carriages, antique automobiles, old and new agricultural equipment, firefighting units, along with many floats organized by businesses, organizations, and area groups. It was reported that 10,000 people from all over WNY lined the streets to view the Somerset parade. A midway of rides and games was open most days from 1-11 pm. Contests for adults and children also took place all week from tug of war, horseshoes, junior Olympics, a pet show, carriage driving, motorized drill competition, to best beards. Residents of historical homes opened their doors for tours during the celebration days as well.

Now, 50 years later, the Town of Somerset is ready to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday with our Bicentennial Celebration set for this month - July 21, 22, and 23. We hope you all will come out and enjoy the activities scheduled over our 3-day celebration! Also, stop by the Somerset Town Hall to view the Somerset Sesquicentennial display with some articles and artifacts from 1973.

Faith United Methodist Church is collecting used sneakers (sneakers only please) which will be sent to a recycling company. They also collect cancelled stamps and empty ink jet cartridges. All of the items can be left in the main entrance.



The Barker Lions held their annual installation dinner at the Somerset Conservation Club. Past District Governor and Barker Lion Jeff Jarvis installed Kalena Britt and Peggy Lane as the newest Barker Lions.

President Dale Corwin finished his year by presenting various awards. The Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award, established in 1993, honors outstanding Lions and non-Lions who perform exemplary service to a club, district or community. Honorees possess the highest examples of Lionistic character, ideals, purpose and service. Lion Past President Fred Leuer received an Uplinger award for his dedication to Lions projects and service to the Somerset Community. Lion Past President Kent Wakefield received his for leadership for the Lions Chicken Barbecues and demonstrating the Lions Motto "we Serve" through a kidney donation. Also receiving plaques were Lion of the Year Tom Harris and Distinguished Lion Abe Sullivan. The President's award was given to Margo Sue Bittner.

Incoming District Governor Barry Scott inducted the slate of officers including Lion Tamer: Tina Linderman, Tail Twister: Sal Pagan-Roman, Membership Chair: Scott Reiner (committee Chris Czelusta, Tom Ware, Kevin Bittner), 2 year board members: Bob Wendler, Charlie Carpenter, 1 Year board members: Tom Mallon, Tom Harris, Secretary: Margo Sue Bittner, Treasurer: Jim Bittner, 3rd Vice: Jeff Jarvis, 2nd Vice: Wayne Rider, 1st Vice: Abe Sullivan, President: Phil Russell. Dale Corwin then received his Past President's plaque. The Group was then entertained by the Ken Ryan band. Wilson Lion President and Astronomer Steve Smith then led a star show.

*July 23 will be the next chicken barbecue as part of the Somerset Bicentennial celebration. Tickets are \$15 each and are available by calling 585-480-5437 or email [Roar@BarkerLions.org](mailto:Roar@BarkerLions.org).*

Dinner meetings will resume in September on the first Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome. The group is currently setting up the presentation. If you are interested in presenting your program or project to the club, use the contact information above.



## Barker Public Library

Where The Story Never Ends



Hello Readers and Families. It's time for the Barker Public Library's Summer Reading Program. This summer it's **All Together Now!** Children, teens and adults are encouraged to register for a summer long reading challenge to read as much as they can! Those who record their reading earn great prizes! Questions? Call or stop in at the library to get your first prize just for signing up. Barker Public Library 8673 Church St. Barker.

716-795-3344



## *From the desk of Robin Jansen, Councilwoman*

Did you know?

Through planning and zoning, towns have the authority to plan for and regulate the development of and use of real property for the community's health, safety and welfare. The basic premise of planning and zoning balances the well-being of the community against individual property interests by adopting local laws that are in line with the needs of the area and the town's vision for development. Article 16 of Town Law is the primary source for planning and zoning authority and allows towns to "regulate and restrict the size of buildings and other structures, ... and the location and use of buildings, structures and land for trade, industry, residence and other purposes". The central tenet of zoning is its concern with land use and not who uses or occupies the land.

Did you know that the Town of Somerset has the full list of Codes and Zoning on its website? Need to know the requirements for putting in a swimming pool or putting in an outside wood burner? Check the website. Do you have a question on how many unlicensed vehicles you can have on your property? Check the website. Do you need a variance or Special use permit for a project? Check the website.

Have a safe summer and remember:

Bikers, walkers and runners are out enjoying the sunshine. - Check Twice and Save a Life.



Volunteerism has been on the decline for several years now. Staffing levels at volunteer fire companies is at a critically low level. The Barker Fire Department is no exception and we need you to help serve your community. Bring what skills and life lessons you have to help and we all can work together to continue to provide Fire and EMS services.

We provide all the safety equipment, personal protective equipment and training at no cost to anyone who volunteers. All we need is your time. Do you have some time to help a neighbor in need? This is the purpose of the Barker Fire Department. Please consider joining us to protect our friends, neighbors and community. Come and learn some new skills, bring your willingness to help and make some new friends along the way. Join our family. Please stop down any Thursday evening after 6:30 and we can show you what we do and how you can help.

Thank you.

David Hotaling

Chief, Barker Fire Department Inc.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mike Flint - Superintendent 716-795-3866



Hope all is well now that summer has arrived. Road projects this year are Lower Lake Road from Johnson Creek Road west to old Lovers Lane; Town Line Road from Quaker Road to Hosmer Road; and the first stage of rehabbing Lonnnon and Hall Roads. Roadside mowing on our town roads finish June 21st, and the state and county are now beginning their roads.

Reminder: please do not deposit grass clippings on any roads when mowing. Not only is it unsafe, especially for motorcyclists and bicyclists, it is against highway law. Also, watch for deer in the area as they are plentiful this time of year. We have already had reports of vehicle hits. Also, remember to share the road with bikes, walkers, runners, kids and dogs.

Finally, Happy Birthday to the Town of Somerset! Enjoy the party July 21-23.

## **BICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE**

### **FRIDAY, JULY 21 4:00 PM-8:00 PM**

4:00 PM OPENING CEREMONY

4:00-8:00 PM CRUISE NIGHT (MAIN STREET)

5:00-8:00 PM MUSIC (BARKER VILLAGE PARK)

4:00-8:00 PM VENDORS IN THE PARK (VILLAGE PARK)

5:00 PM CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT (BARKER FIREHALL)

### **SATURDAY, JULY 22 9:00 AM-11:00 PM**

9:00 AM 5K RACE (MAIN STREET)

10:00 AM SOMERSET YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

ALL-STAR GAMES (SOMERSET TOWN PARK)

10:00 AM CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT (BARKER FIREHALL)

12:00-6:00 PM VENDORS IN THE PARK (VILLAGE PARK)

12:00-6:00 PM HISTORICAL DISPLAYS (BARKER FIREHALL)

2:00 PM BICENTENNIAL PARADE

5:00-8:00 PM FOOD TRUCKS (BARKER FIREHALL)

7:00-11:00 PM BEER & BAND NIGHT (BARKER FIREHALL)

10:00 PM FIREWORKS (BETWEEN SCHOOL AND THE FIRE HALL)

### **SUNDAY, JULY 23 9:30 AM-3:00 PM**

9:30-10:30 COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE

(FUMC - FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

11:00-?? BARKER LIONS CLUB CHICKEN BBQ (FUMC)

11:00 AM-3:00 PM PETTING ZOO (FUMC)

11:00 AM-3:00 PM TRACTOR DISPLAY (TOWN HIGHWAY DEPT.)

1:00-3:00 PM BARKER COMMUNITY BAND (FUMC)

1:00-3:00 PM ICE CREAM SOCIAL (FUMC)

3:00 PM CLOSING CEREMONY (FUMC)

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14105  
Permit #21

### **Annual Tire Drop Off**

This year's tire drop off will be taking place Monday through Friday, September 11th - 15th from 7:00AM-3:30PM, and Saturday, September 16th from 9:00AM-Noon at the Highway Garage. The limit remains 8 tires per household, and tires with rims will NOT be accepted.

### **TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE**

It is time for our annual Town-Wide Yard Sale! This year it will take place on Saturday, August 5th from 9am - 5pm. Call the Town Clerk's office to get your address placed on our map. The day of the event catch the shoppers attention by placing balloons on your mailbox. Call by July 31st so maps can be prepared and ready for distribution on August 2nd.

Faith United Methodist Church will be selling hot dogs and have flea tables. You can rent a table to be used on their grounds for \$5 per table. Call 716-795-9945 or email [barkerfaith.jan@gmail.com](mailto:barkerfaith.jan@gmail.com) to rent the table.

