



# Town of Somerset

Volume 36, Issue 3

Holiday 2021

## From Your Town Clerk



Dear Residents,

I would like to thank you for your patience as we transitioned to the new cart-based refuse system. Hopefully everyone is used to it by now. Below I will list some items of interest from meetings that I have had with Modern.

Last year our police department, with the help of Barker Central School, chose a family in need and collected donations with which they purchased gifts to help make that family's holiday a little merrier. They are doing it again this year and we have a box in the lobby of the Town Hall where you can place a donation, if you are interested in doing so.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday!

*Tracy L. Carmer, RMC*



### NOTES ON REFUSE/RECYCLING

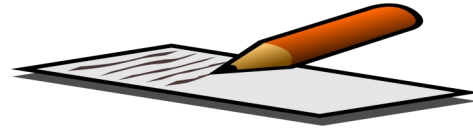
- \* **MISSED COLLECTIONS:** Rule of thumb is to leave it out for the next day. Call customer service to let them know at **716-754-8226**.
- \* If there is a problem of any kind, Modern will pick up your items but leave a note to let you know what the problem was so that it is not repeated.
- \* Extra cardboard is allowed outside of the cart for recycling, but it must be flattened and bound so that it can be picked up and put into the cart to be emptied. They empty the cart then manually put the extra cardboard into the cart to be picked up and emptied.
- \* Items for recycling should be in their original form. Example, milk jugs should not be crushed. They also should be placed loose in the cart, not in bags. The only exception is shredded paper, which should be in a clear bag. There is not enough time to open bags to see what is inside of them so they would just be thrown away, unfortunately.
- \* Recycling items do not have to be clean but they should be empty.
- \* Recycle bins are for household waste only. Do not put anything else in there, like clothing, hoses, animal carcasses, etc.
- \* Currently milk jugs and aluminum are giving the best rate for rebates to the Town.
- \* Schedules change so always plan to have your refuse/recycling to the street by 6AM.

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## A Word From Your Supervisor

Jeffrey Dewart 716-795-3575, ext. 3



Good day Somerset:

I hope this finds all in good health and getting ready for the upcoming holidays. I have a few updates on different projects going on.

The Redi-Grant for the water and sewer plant is moving along. Our Town Engineer is mapping everything out from lagoon rehab and cleaning to adding a third lagoon and electric work.

We are working with the County on our Hazard Mitigation Plan that all of the towns and villages have to update every 5 years per FEMA.

With the addition to our town park that was donated by the Neal and Fay Gordon family, our water and sewer crew have added some more trails with more to come next summer.

We are meeting with the power plant Vice President to discuss the Babcock House and property. I will keep you posted on this.

Niagara Community Action Program is pleased to announce availability of grant funds for emergency home repairs to qualified low and moderate income elderly (60 years plus). This is available to Niagara County residents who own their own homes. Their phone number is 716-434-4679.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Jeff Dewart  
Town Supervisor



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### Assessor's Office News

By now, those that qualify for an exemption, should have received the renewal applications for the following:

Agriculture, Aged, Disability and Exempt Properties

If you are applying for a new Aged or Enhanced Star Exemption, please be aware that we need the 2020 financials, not 2021. We also need 2020 for your renewal.

All renewals are due in the Assessor's office by March 1, 2022. Due to recurring COVID restrictions, we are asking that they be returned by mail whenever possible. If you need to speak with the Assessor, please call to make an appointment. This will alleviate any congestion in the hallway.

The Assessor's office is open Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm. Brian Pavlock can be reached by calling 716-243-8670 or 716-795-3575 Opt. 6.

Thank you

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## Councilwoman's Corner



From the Desk of Robin Jansen, Deputy Supervisor

### Fire Safety – Smoke alarms save lives

Smoke detectors are considered to be your number one warning device. Thousands of people still die each year in home fires where smoke alarms are not present. Having a smoke alarm cuts your chance of dying nearly in half if you have a home fire.

You need at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home. Put them inside or near sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms once a month. Use a broom handle to gently push the “test button”.

Put new batteries in alarms twice a year or when they ‘chirp’. An easy way to remember that it is time to change batteries is ‘change your clocks ... change your batteries’. When you ‘spring forward’ or ‘fall back’, it has been about 6 months and time to change your batteries. If your alarms are ten years old or older, get new ones.

Also important – Will your smoke alarms wake you up if you are sleeping? Have a family member test the alarm while you are napping so you will know if you will wake up. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, get special smoke alarms that signal with strobe lights or vibrations.

By practicing fire safety procedures, you will be assuring yourself and your family of a fire safe environment.

Stay safe and be well.



The Barker Public Library invites you to enjoy our new Story Walk in the Village park. The story walk is a fun, family-friendly outdoor activity that combines exercise and the love of reading. Pages from a children's picture book are posted along the walking path. The story starts at the west end (Quaker Rd) of the park. As you walk and read, you will help little ones build essential early literacy skills. The story walk books are changed once a month. After your walk, please share your pictures on the library's Facebook Page.



## Tax Collector's Hours for 2022 Taxes

**\*\*CLOSED HOLIDAYS\*\***

January 3 through January 31:

Monday through Thursday 9AM - 4PM

February 3 through 28: (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 28th)

Thursdays 9AM - 4PM

March 3 through 31: (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st)

Thursdays 9AM - 4PM

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions, please **mail** your check or money order whenever possible.

**Town of Somerset  
PO Box 368  
Barker, NY 14012**



If you must pay with cash in person, please have exact amounts.

**\*\*\*Wednesday, March 31 (final day) 9AM - 4PM**

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Peter Devereaux 716-795-3575, ext. 7

Christmas Eve is the greatest night of the year. It is a night of mystery. Do you know the story of Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus, Father Christmas or whatever children call the old gentleman with his bag of good things?

Many years ago in the little town of Patras, a city in Asia Minor, there lived a happy jolly man named Nicholas. He was born about three hundred years after the birth of Jesus. He devoted his time to studying the Bible, and was known as Saint Nicholas.

He became a rich man and because he admired the kind and gentle character of Christ, he shared his good fortune with others, especially the poor. He did good deeds in secret.

After Saint Nicholas had done many good deeds and given away all his gold and silver he entered a monastery until he died. Children and grownups have loved Saint Nicholas ever since. It might be there isn't any saint quite as popular with everyone.

This one man whom we call Saint Nichols has for hundreds of years inspired the whole civilized world to be kind and generous at Christmas. (rewritten from a newsletter by Lorraine Wayner)

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and safe prosperous New Year!

Peter J. Devereaux, Town Historian



## Barker Fire Department

Kids' DRIVE-THRU Christmas Party at the Fire Hall will take place on Saturday, December 11th from 9am to 12noon. Santa will be there to hand-out goodies to the kids.

Still looking for a gift for Christmas .... Consider giving that special someone new smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and/or carbon monoxide detectors.

By now you should have received our Fund Drive letter. Please consider making a donation, if you have not already done so to:

BARKER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC., PO BOX 274, BARKER, NY 14012.

### *Safety Reminders from the Fire Department:*

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Keep the fire hydrants and outside furnace vents clear of snow
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned
- Be sure your house number is clear and visible. Order sheets for house signs are available at the Town Hall.



Need a New Year's Resolution for 2022? Join your local fire department! Volunteers are always needed. Stop by any Thursday evening between 6:30 – 8pm for an application.

Thank you to the community for your continued support throughout the year. Hope you have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## Water/Sewer Department News

**Jonathan D. Dewart, 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

The Fall has been busy for the Barker Lions. Our second annual Trunk or Treat for Halloween was well attended. We judged the coloring contest and the following students won: Funniest: Maxell and Ayla; Most Traditional Jacob and Wyatt; Scariest Oliver and Noralie; Most Creative Aine and Alexis; and Lions Choice Bryce and Lily.



Our loan closet has been active, with many wheelchairs, ramps, chair lifts and other pieces of medical equipment going to those who need them. This service is free and open to any member of the Barker Community.

Currently, our Annual appeal fundraiser has been mailed to homes in the district. Those are the funds that we use to provide eye glasses and hearing aids to those in our community who cannot afford them. Many thanks to KAX printing for helping us with the new flyer. We are also selling American Flags. These top quality flags are made at the Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired in Buffalo. We have 3 foot by 5 foot flags for \$29.

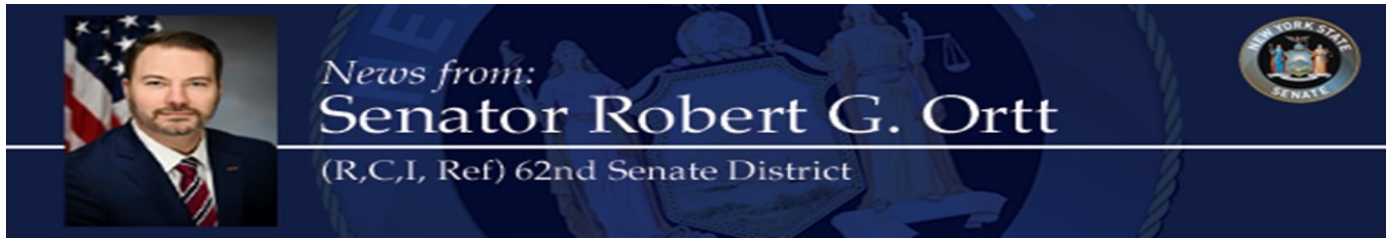
Barker Lions were chartered in 1947. Do you have a memory of an event (carnival, Halloween, Corn Fest or other) you would like to share? Did you receive a scholarship from the Club? Please share your memories and pictures with us. You can email [Roar@BarkerLions.org](mailto:Roar@BarkerLions.org) or mail them to PO BOX 123, Barker NY 14012.

Our dinner meetings are the first Wednesday of each month. We would love to have you join us.



Board members Wayne Rider, Dale Corwin, and Karen Corwin work on the annual appeal.





## **PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SAFETY**

*A Newsletter New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt*

Public safety is the one issue that should unite all elected officials regardless of political party - especially as our communities, our state, and our entire nation experience some of the worst violent crime spikes in decades.

Some logical actions we can take to combat these saddening crime trends would be to fully fund our police, get violent offenders off our streets, and protect the rights of victims.

Unfortunately, since 2019, our state has been going in the wrong direction on this life-or-death issue of public safety. Whether it's their rhetoric aimed at defunding the police, their disastrous bail reform, or their overall weakening of our criminal justice system, many of my colleagues in the Senate Majority have flunked the public safety test time and time again.

The legislative priorities of my Majority colleagues are out of touch with New Yorkers. Taking care of criminals is a priority to them. Innocent, law-abiding citizens have suffered as a result.

There are many paths we can take if we are serious about solving the violent crime crisis plaguing our communities statewide. The best path forward starts with the Senate Minority's proposals to support our law-enforcement officials, protect victims' rights and restore justice and accountability to our broken state parole system.

We also need to focus on our mental health and education systems, along with aiding disadvantaged New Yorkers who truly need help. As the former Chair of the Senate Mental Health Committee, I understand that treatment - especially with those struggling with addiction - can be just as important as enforcement in the fight against crime.

As senator for the 62nd District, and Leader of the New York State Senate Minority Conference, I will remain laser-focused on advancing efforts to restore common sense and public safety in our state.

Public safety shouldn't be a partisan issue. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I urge my Senate Majority colleagues to join us in our efforts to restore public safety in this state.

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



**Snow is just around the corner. Please know your Highway crew is ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way this season.**

**Please remember that it is illegal under NYS law to deposit snow on the roads when plowing driveways.**

**Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year this season!**

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***From Town of Somerset Justice Court******Phone 716-795-3575 OPTION -1***

We hope that you and your families continue to be able to adapt to our new way of life with minimal distress. As the weather begins to cool, we hope that you are looking forward to the holidays and spending time with family to make memories to warm you through the cold winter ahead.

As of this writing, Court is conducting in-person Criminal Court on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm.

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



Vehicle & Traffic matters will continue to be addressed through the mail. If you have received a Vehicle & Traffic ticket, or other appearance ticket, continue to disregard the date the officer may have indicated on that ticket for you to appear in Court in person. You will be notified, by mail from the Court, of any options you may have to resolve your matter.

As for landlord/tenant concerns, these inquiries should be directed to the Court by phone or mail. These matters can be reviewed to determine options for handling these cases, based on any protocol updates at the time of the inquiry.

The Court staff cannot give legal advice and cannot hear information on a pending or impending case prior to it being called. Please refer all of your legal questions to your attorney or you can visit [www.NYCourts.gov](http://www.NYCourts.gov) to obtain information on filing a landlord/tenant case, a small claim case and other information.

Thank you for all of your continued patience with our office, other Town Departments and each other as we all try to "get through this" the best we can. Patience and compassion will make us stronger, together.

In Gratitude, Justice Court, Town Of Somerset

**Faith United Methodist Church – 1449 Quaker Road**

The Church will be hosting the following events over the Thanksgiving/Christmas season:

December 4– Barker Community Band Concert (Time TBA) Call church for updated info

December 6– Avon Study Club 12 pm

December 16– Christmas Cantata 7:30 pm

December 24– Christmas Eve service @ Faith 7pm

Also, a reminder that Feed More Food Truck will resume again in January 2022 but our Community Food & Clothing Pantry remains open. Hours are Mondays–8:30–11:15 am and Tuesdays 12–2:45 pm. NOTE: If Barker Central School is closed for holidays, weather conditions or other emergencies, the pantry will be closed also.

Please call Faith United at 716.795.9945 for more information.

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

Phone: 716-795-3575  
Fax: 716-795-9041  
Website: [www.somersetny.org](http://www.somersetny.org)

U.S. Postage  
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Permit #21

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!***

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will take place on  
Saturday, December 11th from 9am to 12noon.  
Santa will be there to hand-out goodies to the kids.



**When mailing correspondence (*including payments through your bank*)  
please send them to:**



**Somerset Town Hall  
PO Box 368  
Barker, NY 14012**