



Town of Somerset

Volume 38, Issue 1

200 YEARS

Spring 2023

From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

We have a lot happening this year! First, it is our 200th birthday so we are planning a big Bicentennial Celebration. Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 21 - 23! The committee has been hard at work planning this as an event for everyone to enjoy.

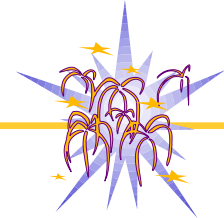
On April 15th we will be hosting a Free Rabies Clinic at the Highway Garage. Details are on the back of this newsletter.

The American Legion will again be honoring those who have served in our Armed Forces on Memorial Day in front of the tank at our Town Park.

As of this writing I am in discussions with the County, hoping to place a barrel in our lobby for collecting dog and cat food. They have teamed up with WNY Food for Paws and they take the donations to the Food Pantries around the county for distribution to families who may need help feeding their pets.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable Spring!

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC



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The police department has implemented a new program for households who have a person with special needs living there. If you would like to participate in the program, or would like more information, visit the police department's page on our website <https://www.somersetny.org/police>

This program alerts emergency responders that someone in the household may not understand commands.



A Word From Your Supervisor

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



Hello Somerset.

I would like to say happy birthday to the town as this is our 200th year. We have a committee that has been working very hard putting together a celebration weekend in July. The dates are July 21, 22, 23. Just a few highlights for that weekend:

- Friday will be the kick off at 4 pm in the village park; there will be a car show starting at 4 pm with vendors; there will be a cornhole tournament
- Saturday a 5k race; cornhole continues; a parade; vendors; a band at the barker fire hall; and fireworks
- Sunday at Faith United Methodist Church there will be a community service; a Barker Lions Club BBQ; an ice cream social; and a closing ceremony.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the kickoff banquet. There were about 160 guests in attendance.

We have t-shirts, sweatshirts and pint glasses for sale at the town hall to help off-set costs. Stop in and check them out!

I want to thank the people that have reached out to volunteer to help on our July weekend. If you would like to help, contact Town Clerk Tracy Carmer at tracy.carmer@gmail.com.

Supervisor Jeff Dewart

As our bicentennial is upon us, this is a good time to remind everyone about the book that our former Historian, Lorraine Wayner, published. If you have not seen it, the book is a must have for anyone interested in our town. Not only did she do a great job capturing Somerset's history, but the book is loaded with pertinent photographs. Stop by the Town Hall to purchase one today. The cost is \$10 and the books make great gifts.



BARKER FIRE DEPT.



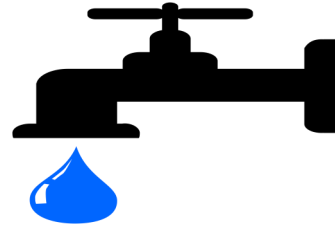
We have a virtual gun raffle taking place on June 1, 2023 for \$20/ticket. You can purchase tickets from any fireman. We would like to thank all of those who supported our Annual Fund Drive and Chicken BBQ.

We are looking for new members! If you are interested in becoming a member, stop by any Thursday evening after 6:30pm for an application.

****New York State has a burn ban in effect from 3/16/2023 - 5/14/2023****

Water/Sewer Department News

Jonathan Dewart, 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 garbage days from 7am-3pm. Batteries and televisions with broken or dismantled glass will not be accepted. Thank you. Please note the change from Tuesday to Friday.

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 and 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.

Sewer Inspections – The Sewer Department will be conducting inspections throughout the sewer system for illegal connections within households. We will be looking for items such as sump pumps, downspouts, and etc. connected to the sewer. These connections must be removed.

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

SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB

Sunday, April 30, 2023



- ♦ Spring cash raffle, drawing at 2:00pm, tickets \$5
- ♦ Spring chicken BBQ, 11:30am to 1:00pm, \$15 per dinner

Tickets for each are available at the Town Hall, Perfect Images, and Spencer's Country Store.

Trap shooting is open to the public and is starting on May 4th. It is held every Thursday at 4:00pm. If you are interested in learning, members will be available to teach you. Bring your own gun and ammo.



FROM AMERICAN LEGION, HERBERT W. CARR POST 425

I am pleased to announce that our Annual Memorial Day Celebration will take place again this year at the Veteran's Memorial next to the Town Hall, at 10:00am on May 29th. The Barker Community Band will be playing and Pastor Wayne Dent will be giving the invocation. Speakers this year will be State Senator Rob Ortt, Niagara County Sheriff Michael Fillicetti, and Niagara County Legislator Shawn Foti. It is open to the public and I hope all will attend.

I also wish to give you an update on the Hometown Hero Banners. We have 20 new banners this year, bringing our total to 115 banners! Thank you to all who purchased a banner.

Also, we have an urgent need for new members. All veterans are welcome. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Lion's Building on Main Street. Stop and attend a meeting and learn what we do.

Thank you, Jon L. Hotaling, Commander



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 14, we will hold our annual Mother's Day Chicken Barbecue. The dinner includes a half a barbecued chicken, side dishes, roll and butter and dessert. The dessert will be a locally grown apple. Presale tickets are \$15 and available from any Lions Member. At the door tickets are \$17. 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 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.





FOR RELEASE: March 9, 2023

CONTACT: Andrew Dugan | (518) 852-1282

A Rescue Plan for New York

New York is in need of a rescue plan.

Crime is up, economic activity is down, and our state continues to lead the nation in population loss. Individual rights and constitutional freedoms are under attack. These are just a few consequences of a state government controlled entirely by one party.

For years, we've witnessed a drastic decline in public safety, a depleted workforce, rising taxes, business-crippling regulations, and a lackluster economic "recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic. A legislature dominated by New York City progressives has sent our state down the wrong path.

It is my sincere belief that the loss of human capital is the biggest threat New York State faces, and my colleagues across the aisle have provided no solutions. With each passing day, we lose more population, representation, and tax dollars to states with better business climates and safer streets. We are losing indispensable parts of the Empire State.

In January, my conference put these issues front and center by unveiling our "Rescue New York" 2023 legislative agenda. These policies are a roadmap to make our state safer, stronger, more affordable, and more free.

New Yorkers have made it clear they want Albany to address cost living and quality of life issues.

We must make our state safer by restoring common sense to our criminal justice system, addressing Albany's disastrous cashless bail laws, and putting victims first. We must increase our efforts to end the opioid and mental health epidemics. We must support and protect our seniors and vulnerable populations.

We need to make our state stronger by expanding economic opportunity and strengthening our workforce. This includes investing in infrastructure for the 21st century, helping our veterans and military families thrive, and ensuring every child receives a quality education.

We must make our state more affordable, by slashing burdensome taxes and regaining control of our governments enormous spending. By reducing the cost of living, and improving the state's business climate, we will be giving families the ability to stay in New York instead of fleeing. Policies like the banning of natural gas is just the latest example of how our state is heading in the wrong direction.

Finally, we must make our state more free. This means finally ending all Covid mandates, and rehiring thousands of workers fired over personal health choices and protecting parental rights when it comes to their children's education.

These are the issues that matter most to people and exactly what the Legislature should focus on this session. The time for talk and rhetoric is over — New Yorkers deserve real solutions to real problems. We are ready to tackle these issues and deliver for our constituents. To succeed, we need a unified partnership — meaning Republicans, Democrats, the Governor, and the Legislature working together — to Rescue New York in 2023.

JUSTICE COURT

Hon. Pamela S Rider 716-795-3575, EXT. 1



As we say goodbye to Winter and the Spring season and weather are upon us, we hope you have all had a safe and healthy holiday season and are looking forward to this time of year to enjoy all the colors and fragrances we are about to be rewarded with.

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 Claim. 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.

With the Town of Somerset Bicentennial celebration in the works, we hope you will attend the events that the Town is planning.

We wish you well!

In gratitude, Justice Court



Message to the Community:

Thank you for your generous donations to Faith United Methodist Church Food Pantry. Your generosity has reminded us of the true spirit of the holiday season. Your support helps us provide meals to families in our community.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all the volunteers who assist us at our weekly food pantry and the mobile food truck.

Thank you!

Faith United Methodist Church Food Pantry



The Town of Somerset Police Department, in conjunction with the Barker School District Community Education Program, is proud to announce that self-defense courses are now being offered. The classes are specifically tailored to women that wish to increase their situational awareness and physical defense capabilities. The RAD system of self-defense, which was developed in 1989, has previously only been offered on select college campuses and is comprised of both lecture and hands-on training. The training spans the course of 4 weeks, with classes being held a total of 3 hours, one night per week, for a total commitment of 12 hours. The classes are being held at the Barker Central School campus. All interested female participants are urged to contact the Town of Somerset Police Department at somersetnewyork@gmail.com for upcoming classes and registration information.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Peter Devereaux 716-795-3575, ext. 7

A Shiny Nickel

Back in the days when mail was delivered to Somerset, there was a post office in the little building which in later years became Harrod's Garage. One day two boys living nearby came to the post office for the mail and one of them spied something shiny in a crack between two floorboards. At first he thought it was a nail, but after digging with his jack-knife, he discovered it was a nickel. The boy was delighted because a nickel was a real treasure in those days. However, the postmaster, Marshall Badgley, said the nickel belonged to the post office as it was found on post office property and the boys must turn it over to him, which they did reluctantly. The boys tried to think of some way to get even with the postmaster. One of them remembered that his father had a dead calf in his barnyard. Then they figured out a way to use the calf to get their revenge.

Mr. and Mrs. Badgley lived in a brick house on the north side of the road, east of Somerset corners. One day the boys saw the Badgley's all dressed up and leaving town in their horse and buggy. Now was their chance to do something. The boys got a tall ladder, carried it to the Badgley House and placed it so that they could climb to the roof. Then they brought the dead calf, lugged it up the ladder and placed it over the top of the chimney, making sure that no smoke could escape. Then they took the ladder and waited for the results.

Mr. and Mrs. Badgley returned home late that night. The next morning Mr. Badgley proceeded to light the fire as usual, but to his dismay, the smoke poured out and filled the room. He thought this was strange as he had recently cleaned the stove pipe, so he took it down and took it outside and cleaned it again. After adjusting the drafts, he again started the fire with the same results. Mrs. Badgley was frantic to see her clean house all smoked up. Now that it couldn't be the pipe that caused the trouble, Mr. Badgley reasoned it must be the chimney. He went outside, looked up and to his amazement saw the dead calf draped over his chimney, and he knew very well that the calf didn't just jump up there. After checking the neighborhood, he found the farmer who owned the calf, and the boys who were responsible for putting it on the chimney.

The boys were punished by their parents, but at least they had the satisfaction of getting even with the postmaster. Sweet was their revenge.

Did this really happen or is it local folk-lore?



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P.O. Box 368
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Phone: 716-795-3575
Fax: 716-795-9041
Website: www.somersetny.org

RURAL ROUTE

Free Rabies Immunization Clinics 2023

- ◆ Saturday, April 15 9am - Noon Town of Somerset Highway Garage,
8700 Haight Road
- ◆ Saturday, June 3 9am - Noon Hyde Park - Oasis/Centennial Pavilion,
911 Robbins Drive, Niagara Falls
- ◆ Saturday, July 15 9am - Noon Town of Wilson Highway Garage,
3356 Wilson-Cambria Road
- ◆ Saturday, September 16 9am - Noon Town of Lockport Highway Dept,
6560 Dysinger Road
- ◆ Saturday, December 9 9am - Noon City of North Tonawanda DPW,
758 Erie Avenue

Appointments for rabies clinics are now MANDATORY and the registration link will be available online at www.niagaracounty.com/health the Monday preceding each clinic (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday)

All animals must be properly restrained. Cats and ferrets must be in a carrier. Dogs must be leashed.

