



# Town of Somerset

Volume 36, Issue 1

Spring 2021



## From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

I am so happy to have Winter, and 2020, behind us! Many of you know that I purchase fishing license holders to give to my hunters and fishermen/women. Now there is a new item. Because of the pandemic, many people are getting vaccinated and are receiving a vaccination card. To help keep the document safe from damage, a holder that is similar to my fishing license holders has been created. I have purchased them to distribute and they should be here any day. When the Town Hall reopens, they will be available at my office and you are welcome to stop and get one. I will also carry some in my purse, so if you see me out and about, feel free to ask if I have any with me.

I wish everyone a Happy Spring and I am hoping for a better 2021 for everyone!

*Tracy L. Carmer, RMC*

### Free Rabies Immunization Clinics 2021

- ♦ Saturday, April 17 9am - Noon Town of Hartland Salt Shed, 3542 Wruck Road
- ♦ Saturday, June 5 9am - Noon Amtrak Train Depot, 825 Depot Ave, Niagara Falls
- ♦ Saturday, July 10 9am - Noon Town of Lewiston Highway Garage, 1445 Swann Road
- ♦ Saturday, September 18 9am - Noon Town of Lockport Highway Dept, 6560 Dysinger Road
- ♦ Saturday, December 11 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](http://www.niagaracounty.com/health) the Monday preceding each clinic (June & July clinics will be the preceding Tuesday due to holidays)

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

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## A Word From Your Supervisor

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

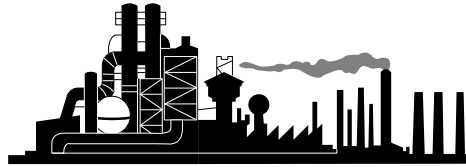


I hope this finds everyone well with all that is going on with the pandemic.

The Somerset power plant is in the process of demolition of most of their buildings and stack. This demolition will take about two years and they are planning on using the railroad for removing the scrap.

Due to the legacy costs for the town for the upkeep of the park, and several other issues as well, the Redi- grant that we have is in the process of being switched to the water and sewer plant. The state is currently looking at this change.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.



## SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB HAPPENINGS

PAUL HIGGINS, RECORDING SECRETARY



- **CHICKEN BBQ SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021 COST: \$11.00**

**TAKEOUT ONLY - DRIVE UP AT ENTRANCE TO CLUB SITE**

1129 JOHNSON CREEK ROAD (BETWEEN LAKE ROAD & LOWER LAKE ROAD) BARKER, NY

- **MEAT RAFFLE WED., MAY 26, 2021 COST: \$5.00/TICKET**

PRIZES: 1 - \$300.00 MEAT PACKAGE  
1 - \$200.00 MEAT PACKAGE  
5 - \$100.00 MEAT PACKAGES



ALL MEATS FROM THE HARTLAND ABATTOIR 7968 RIDGE ROAD GASPORT, NY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANY MEMBER OR AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:



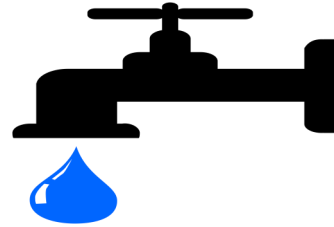
SOMERSET TOWN HALL	(716) 795-3575
SPENCER'S COUNTRY STORE	(585) 765-1049
SUNSET SYTLZ HAIR SALON	(716) 574-7135
PERFECT IMAGES HAIR SALON	(716) 795-3681

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

DRAWING WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY MEETING AT THE CLUBHOUSE.  
MEMBERS PRESENT ONLY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

## Water/Sewer Department News

Jonathan Dewart, Water/Sewer/Grounds Superintendent  
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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Wreaths may be placed on the graves after November 1<sup>st</sup> and shall be removed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://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 [www.somersetny.org](http://www.somersetny.org) 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.



## Golden Hill State Park News



**I LOVE MY PARK DAY** will take place on May 1, 2021 9:15am - 1pm. Come and join us for a volunteer day at the park. Register online at [ptny.org](http://ptny.org) (limited number of volunteers this year.) Reminder that all DOH Covid-19 guidelines will be in place to ensure safety. Facemasks and social distancing will be required.

It's **CAMPING** time!! We will open for the season on May 14, 2021. Reservations can be made at Reserve America 1-800-456-2267 or by going on the web at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com).

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**COUNCILMAN'S CORNER***Submitted by Councilwoman Robin Jansen*

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## DID YOU KNOW?



### Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors 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 aren't 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's time to change batteries is 'change your clocks ... change your batteries'. When you 'spring forward' or 'fall back', it's 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'll wake up. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, get special smoke alarms that signal with strobe lights or vibrations.

CO (Carbon Monoxide) detectors do not serve as smoke detectors and vice versa. However, dual smoke/CO detectors are also sold. Smoke detectors detect the smoke generated by flaming or smoldering fires, whereas CO detectors can alarm people about faulty fuel burning devices to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is produced from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. In the home CO can be formed, for example, by open flames, space heaters, water heaters, blocked chimneys or running a car inside a garage. Since CO is colorless, tasteless and odorless (unlike smoke from a fire), detection and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning in a home environment is impossible without such a warning device.

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

Stay safe and be well

Hello Spring – we are glad you finally came.



## BARKER FIRE DEPT.



THANK YOU to all the residents participating in our annual fund drive. **Your overwhelming support and generosity is greatly appreciated.**

Don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Members are always needed. Please stop by any Thursday evening between 6:30pm and 8:00pm for an application or to answer any questions you may have on becoming a member. As always, training and equipment are provided.

Keep in mind the NYS DEC Burn Ban is in effect from March 16, 2021 to May 14, 2021. For more specifics relating to Open Burning in New York please refer to [dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html](https://dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html)

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## Herbert W. Carr American Legion Post 425 Commander Jon L. Hotaling

The Hometown Heroes Banner Project has been a huge success! We have 53 banners ordered that will be on display by Memorial Day. They will be installed on the utility poles throughout the Village and the Town. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be a small dedication ceremony by the gazebo in the Village Park at noon to honor all veterans.

Also, due to Covid restrictions, the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Park next to the Town Hall will be postponed until next year.



### 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. On Sunday, May 9, 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 strawberry shortcake. Presale tickets are \$10 and available from any Lions Member. At the door tickets are \$11. Pick up at the Lions building begins at 11:30 and runs until 1 PM.

On June 19, we will install our 2020-2021 officers. Throughout the summer, we will be supporting other local organizations with our chicken barbecues. If you are looking for a fundraiser, contact us for more information.

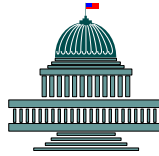
If you are a high school senior involved in community service, make sure you apply for the Lions Scholarship that will be given at graduation. Whatever your post-graduate plans are, we want to help those students who demonstrate our motto "We Serve." Therefore, there are now 2 separate Scholarships. 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.

Barker Lions club will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2022. We are starting to collect testimonials, pictures and other historic memorabilia. Did you receive a scholarship from the Lions? Did you borrow from our Loan Closet? Did you attend a Corn Fest? We'd love to hear your memories. If you have something to contribute, please contact us.

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](mailto:Roar@BarkerLions.org)



## Legislator John Syracuse



It has certainly been a beginning to another challenging year. Yet despite these challenges, our commitment to our great county continues. I would like to direct all the readers to the county's website, <http://www.niagaracounty.com> for the latest updates throughout the year. Of course we still face COVID, however it seems as though the future looks brighter. We have been administering all vaccines supplied to the county. As of this writing, our infection rate is hovering around the 2% range. Spring is on the horizon. Summer will be approaching fast and I am hopeful we can return to normal.

### NIAGARA COUNTY HIGHWAY

Snow and Ice have kept the crews busy this season. The highway dept. completed a right-of-way (ROW) clearing project on Hess and Lake Rds. This work began in December and was completed mid-January. The crews then moved to another ROW project on East Canal and is near completion. A 1200 ft. drainage initiative was started this quarter, which will tie the ANJO baseball fields into the drains which cross under Davison Rd.

We are hopeful weather permits so as to allow rescheduling of the night-crew back to the day shift in the coming weeks. This will allow for much needed staff to resume work on West Somerset Rd. We continue to cold-patch roads as needed. Pipe work will start shortly on Carmen Rd. between Rt 104 and Townline Rd. Catch basin/DI cleaning was performed to the curbed portion of Ide Rd, East Ave. and Coleman Rd. Since 2020, over 1,000 catch basins have been cleared/cleaned.

East Ave is being closely monitored due to the recurrent pot hole conditions. If things go smoothly and the timing is right, we may be able to repave this road toward the end of summer.

### NIAGARA COUNTY PARKS



#### Royalton Ravine:

Parks staff have been working to complete the installation of the new disk golf course. It will be a full 18-hole course. As many are aware, this will be the second such course within the county parks system. The other is at Clyde Burmaster Park (formerly known as Bonds Lake). The county used a SAMS grant obtained through Senator Ortt to complete the course. New restrooms are completed and will be open in the spring. Changes to some of the electrical infrastructure was performed and placed under ground for park safety and reliability. This park hosted the Boy Scouts winter Klondike event in March. Winter hiking is still open.

#### Krull Park:

Selective tree removal continues due to emerald ash borer damage. Replanting is planned along with the establishment of the proposed tree farm on site. This tree farm will play the primary role of replenishing all our parks with necessary greenery. The ice skating rink was made available this year as was cross country skiing and hiking. We are currently taking reservations for summer events. One can go to the county website noted above and click on Parks Dept. to reserve shelters, etc. We are hopeful that events such as Pirates Fest, car shows, etc. can take place.

#### Burmaster Park:

This winter we provided groomed cross country trails, snowshoeing, ice skating activities and an open warming house. The warming house hours are weekdays till 4pm, and 5pm on the weekends. In the late 2020 season, 2 new pavilion projects were started. They have a wonderful view from atop the hill. We hope to have these available for the 2021 season rental. As spoken about earlier, the disk golf at this park has been fully utilized. In fact, it has been rated number 33 out of the top 100 in the world for disk golf. Simply amazing and a quite a tribute to the men and women of the parks dept.

*Continued on page 10*





## REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Thank you all for your patience as we navigated through the start of the new Refuse program. This article is intended to help provide information and answer some of the questions that you may have.

Bulk item collection now occurs once per month and you are allowed 3 items. One normal household trash bag outside your cart is considered 1 bulk item. Please refer to your calendar for the bulk item day.

Cardboard will be collected on Recycling Week only. It must be flattened and no larger than 2 feet long by 2 feet wide and placed neatly next to your cart.

If you have too much garbage for your container you can purchase a tag from the Town Hall to place on the additional bag. If you find that you need an extra container, you may purchase one from the Town Hall or Modern. If you already have a Modern container with a hinged lid you may use it but you must contact the Town Hall first. Please contact the Town Clerk's office for additional information.

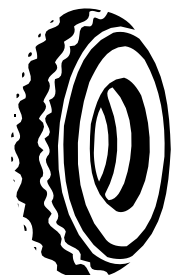
Electronic Recycling continues on a weekly basis at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It coincides with garbage day so it has also changed from Tuesday to Friday.

If your garbage or recycling is not collected, there should be a sticker on your container telling you the reason that they did not collect it. If there is not a message, then it is possible that it was just missed. Keep in mind that they do not always keep the same schedule. If they went past your house and your carts were not at the road, they will not return to get them so make sure to have them out by 6am. Please call them directly at 716-754-8226 to report missed garbage collection or with any questions that you may have.

The Town Hall was provided with many extra calendars, so if you did not receive a collection calendar please call the Town Clerk's office and they will mail one to you.



**TIRE DROP OFF** will be occurring in the Fall this year again. Please watch your next newsletter for details.





## I WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR YOU AND THE GREAT PEOPLE OF THIS STATE

*A newsletter column from New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt*

Over the last few weeks, our state has been shaken by disturbing news and revelations regarding Governor Cuomo's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in nursing homes and the atmosphere within his executive office.

There is a big, dark cloud over Albany. It is difficult under normal circumstances when leaders lose the confidence of those who elected them, and it's all the more painful now in the midst of a pandemic and economic crisis.

I want you to know that during these dark days, there are still those of us in government who are dedicated to our state's future. We are standing up for the truth in the face of all the lies, for the restoration of accountability in the Executive Mansion, and for Albany's leaders to turn the page and get back to the people's business.

As your Senator and the Leader of the Senate Minority conference, I have been calling for a fresh start since before these scandals broke out. Earlier this year, the Minority Conference unveiled **RESET NY**. RESET NY is a comprehensive plan to address mounting economic and fiscal challenges facing the state -- many of which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic -- and to help forge a better path forward for all New Yorkers.

Under New York's one-party control, we have seen a dramatic and unwelcome shift in our state's priorities. My colleagues across the aisle have displayed no interest in rebuilding our local economy, lessening the financial burden on our middle class, or stemming the ever-increasing outflow of New York residents fleeing our state.

Our plan includes proposals that prioritize restarting our local economies, rethinking how New York State operates and renewing a commitment to New York State's residents to ensure strong, robust communities.

### **Restart our Local Economies by:**

- Safely reopening our small businesses to help them get back on their feet and offer gainful employment for residents;
- Helping our schools and colleges stay open; and
- Investing in our physical and human infrastructure to rebuild our state's competitiveness.

### **Rethink how New York State Operates by:**

- Ending New York State's unaffordability problem, which has been made worse by the pandemic;
- Taking on state government's culture of overspending and restoring fiscal responsibility; and
- Reasserting the Legislature's constitutional authority as an equal branch of government.

*Continued on page 9*



## JUSTICE COURT

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



We hope that you and your families have been able to adapt to our new way of life with minimal distress and as the weather begins to warm, perhaps that will further alleviate the woes we experience as the long cold winter begins to wane.

As of this writing, Court is still closed and only able to resume some in-person appearances under very limited instances but, our Court is capable of holding virtual appearances to work through more of the back log that has been created by this extended shutdown.

If you have an attorney, continue talks with that 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 so if you have received a Vehicle & Traffic, or other appearance ticket, continue to disregard any 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, so that the matter can be reviewed to determine options for handling these cases, based on any protocol updates at the time of the inquiry.

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

In gratitude

Justice Court

Town of Somerset



**Senator Robert Ortt** *continued from page 8*

### **Renew our Commitment to Residents by:**

- Fostering the growth of vibrant local communities;
- Developing a robust economy with diverse opportunities; and
- Creating safer neighborhoods with common-sense public safety measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only underscored the need for immediate action on the unresolved challenges facing our small business community and New York’s hardworking taxpayers. As your Senator, my commitment is to you and to making sure we address the real needs of our communities. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to our District Office. We are here to serve you.

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## Legislator John Syracuse

*Continued from page 6*



### Oppenheim Park:

Received a new playground late 2020. This play area will be open for use when the park opens in Spring 2020. Its "zoo theme" is a reminder of the former Oppenheim Zoo which was closed in the early 80's. The county has been working with the NYSDOT to move the main park entrance to the exiting signal light. This will be part of the Niagara Falls Blvd reconstruction and the move will make entering and exiting the park much safer. As in years past, NYSDEC is planning its fish stocking program to the pond at Oppenheim. Gill Creek and Hyde Park Lake also receive fish. Typically, the fish are released the first week of April. For more information, you can call the Niagara County Fishing Hotline 282-8992.

### West Canal:

Docks have been installed using Greenway Funds. These short-term docking facilities have water and electric. They will be available for rent this spring. Again, go to the web site to reserve your spot.

### Niagara County Golf Course:

A plan has been set in place to address water retention issues. Phase one deals with installing a main line from the back property and Phase 2 will be to install additional drainage lines from low-lying areas. We bought a new greens mower and fairway/ruff mower. The fairways should be more playable this year as a result. The golf course has also adopted the "Thank a Vet Program". This offers daily discounts to those card holders \$2 for nine holes and \$4 for 18. Driving range buckets will be 1/2 price. Veterans can sign up for the "Thank a Vet Program" at the county clerk's office. "Groff's Cafe on the Green" is the new restaurant and will be providing great food and drink. Welcome Tim Chase.

## BILL HILTS, JR. RETIRES



Retirement at 65 is ridiculous, when I was 65 I still had pimples--George Burns

Well, after 35 years, Bill Hilts, Jr. is retiring from his role serving Niagara County as its Sportfishing Promotion Program Coordinator and working as the Outdoor Promotions Director with Destination Niagara USA. I had the pleasure of being mentored by him for almost 20 years. I am no doubt, a better legislator because of it. He has and continues to be a great friend. He is such a warm-hearted guy who truly loves Niagara County, loves fishing, loves hunting and loves the outdoors. Bill is an incredible journalist, and also knows how to work a camera. Bill has a million and one stories to tell. Each one more entertaining than the last. Bill has a tremendous ability to listen, to teach and to share. His unselfish dedication to our community has been unwavering. He has been the face of fishing (not that he looks like a fish) in Niagara County for 3 and a half decades. It is one thing for us in Niagara County to heap praises on Bill, and rightly so, but I also wanted to list just a few of the accolades given him by his peers:

Named the NYS Professional Conservationist of the Year 1997

Past President of the NYS Outdoor Writers Assoc. (1998-2000) and the Assoc. of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Assoc. (AGLOW) 2010-2011 and member of Board of Directors for both

Won the Milford "Pinky" Robinson Award for service to the Great Lakes from the Niagara Co. Federation of Conservation Clubs

Named to the NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame 2007

Named to the Niagara County Don Bronson Memorial Wall of Fame by the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs in 2014

Received the M. Paul Keesler Award for NYS Outdoor Citizen Award in 2016 for outstanding efforts in raising the public awareness for outdoor recreational opportunities

Received the Hans Paller Award from the NYS Outdoor Writers Association for Outstanding service in 2017

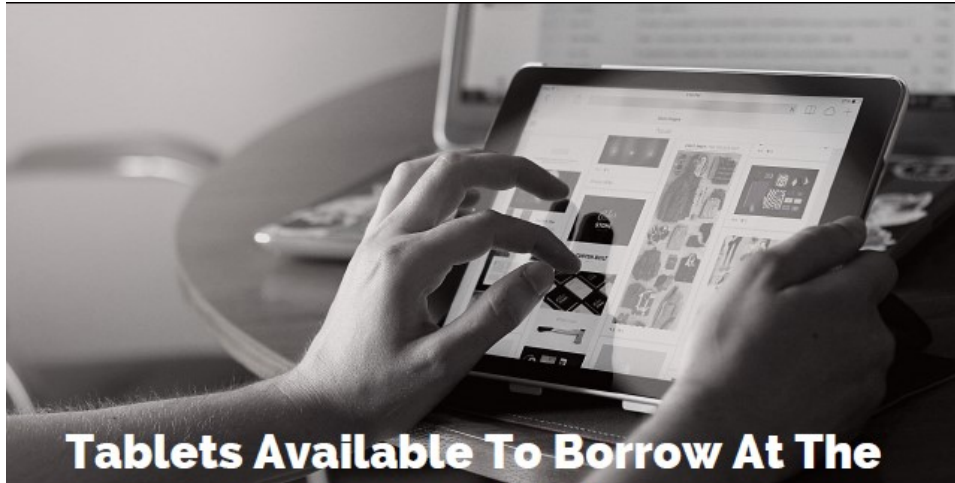
Public Relations Person of the Year in 2018 by the Southtowns Walleye Association of WNY

Received no less than 25 1st Place awards for writing and photography with NY and AGLOW

A quote attributed to Winston Churchill goes like this, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Bill epitomizes this quote. We in Niagara County have been blessed by him and his service to us. Thank you, Bill.

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# LIBRARY NEWS



**Tablets Available To Borrow At The  
Barker Public Library**

Here's how it works! You can now borrow one of 4 Amazon Fire Tablets to read your e-books, watch your shows or do your homework. Just stop in at the library with a valid library card, sign the agreement and it's yours to borrow.

Monday - Friday 10- 5  
716-795-3344

Starting April 10, 2021 the library will be open on Saturdays from 10am-12pm

## Code Enforcement News (716) 795-3575 Ext. 5

CEO Mark Remington and Assistant CEO Stephen Lee



Greetings from the Office of Buildings and Code Enforcement!

With Spring now upon us, just a few friendly reminders regarding property maintenance. Properties must be maintained per property maintenance code by the owner or occupant of the premises. All properties shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. Grass and weeds around all structures shall be kept maintained and free of excess weeds and plant growth, as well as rubbish and garbage.

Also please take note that there is a burn ban in effect for New York State beginning March 16th and continuing through May 14, 2021.

Building permits are needed for any construction, alteration, or remodeling, regardless of size or location on property. This also includes swimming pools and roofs as well. If you are planning to do any excavations of ponds, ditches, etc. please contact the code office. If you need to obtain a building permit, or you are unsure if you need one, please contact the building/code office as well at (716) 795-3575 Ext. 5.

Please do not start construction until a permit has been issued by the code/ building office.

**Volume 36, Issue 1**  
**Spring 2021**

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

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Permit #21

## **RURAL ROUTE**



Due to the necessity for more efficient processing, the Town has changed vendors for our Water/Sewer billing. Your bill will still be produced on a postcard but it will look a bit different. Your April bill will be your first bill from the new system. Please refer to our Water/Sewer Department page on our website for more detailed information.

In order to more effectively serve you, the Somerset Police Department has established an email address. You may reach them at [somersetnewyork@gmail.com](mailto:somersetnewyork@gmail.com). If phoning them is your preferred method you can still reach them at 716-255-0503.

