



Town of Somerset

Volume 37, Issue 1

Spring 2022

From Your Town Clerk



Dear Residents,

I hope this finds everyone well. It appears that we are slowly getting back to normal and I have my fingers crossed that everything will continue in that direction. We still have a number of home Covid tests at the Town Hall so if you would like to have one on hand in case you may need it for future use, please stop in and pick one up. I also still have vaccination card holders available.

If you are a fisherman, please note that there have been a number of changes this year. In the next couple of weeks we should have the new regulations available.

Enjoy your Spring!

Tracy L. Carmer, R.M.C.

Free Rabies Immunization Clinics 2022

- ♦ Saturday, April 9 9am - Noon Town of Porter Highway Garage, 1800 Braley Road
- ♦ Saturday, June 4 9am - Noon Amtrak Train Depot, 825 Depot Ave, Niagara Falls
- ♦ Saturday, July 9 9am - Noon Town of Royalton Highway Garage, 5317 Royalton Center Road
- ♦ Saturday, September 17 9am - Noon Town of Lockport Highway Dept, 6560 Dysinger Road
- ♦ Saturday, December 10 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 (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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Supervisor News</i> | 2 |
| <i>Historian News</i> | 2 |
| <i>Water/Sewer Dept.</i> | 3 |
| <i>Councilman's Corner</i> | 4 |
| <i>Highway Dept.</i> | 4 |
| <i>Senator Ort</i> | 5 |
| <i>Spring Calendar</i> | 8 |



A Word From Your Supervisor

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

I hope this finds everyone in good health and looking forward to a great summer with our youth. Baseball, softball and soccer are starting soon.

The power plant is moving along with their demo. Not date has been given to the demolition of the stack yet. I know a lot of people want to know when that takes place so as soon as I hear, I will let everyone know.

The data center is moving along as well. Two buildings are up and there is a lot of inside work to be done on the buildings. They are working on phase two, which is getting the next two buildings up.

Our 200 year celebration is next year. We have started our base committee, and our plan is to have our town groups and clubs on committees.

The lease on the Babcock House is completed. It is a 3 year lease that begins on April 1, 2022.

The kickoff meeting for the bridge replacement over Fish Creek on Hartland Road was a few weeks ago. We will update as we move along on this project.

I would like to thank our departments for a great job this past winter. From snow plowing with the heavy snow, to water line breaks in the bitter cold, to tree removal from the wind storms.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

Historian News

Peter J. Devereaux 716-795-3575, ext. 7 somersethistorian@yahoo.com

Happy 75th Anniversary to the Barker Lions Club, past and present members. Your membership is to be commended for all of the work you do and have done for Barker and Somerset since 1947.

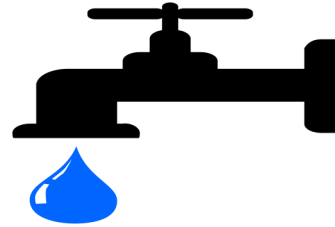
Everyone knows how hard you work at chicken barbecues and building ramps for the handicapped individuals. What a lot of people do not hear about are the behind the scenes projects that you do, like the annual Blind Seal Campaign, Blind Bowlers Association, sponsoring local Boy Scout Troop 26 (several of the members have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout), and the thousands of dollars you have raised for local charities. There are way too many groups and organizations that have benefited from your hard to try and list them all.

May all your members continue to live by the Lions' Prayer:

When Lions meet be present Lord,
To weld our hearts in one accord,
To do thy will, Lord, make us strong
To aid the weak and right the wrong.

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 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 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.



BARKER FIRE DEPT.



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

RecruitNY/Open House will be held Saturday, April 23rd from 10am – 2pm at the fire hall. Bring your families as there will be hands-on demonstrations, wellness checks, giveaways and refreshments. We are still in URGENT need of new members, if you are interested in joining the fire department this is a great time to stop by. We are also available 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.

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

We are in the planning stages for a fall raffle, keep watch of our sign for more information.

Keep in mind the NYS DEC Burn Ban is in effect from March 16, 2022 to May 14, 2022. For more specifics relating to Open Burning in New York please refer to dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html

COUNCILMAN'S CORNER

Deputy Supervisor Robin Jansen

DID YOU KNOW?

Town boards serve as the legislative branch of town government and in this capacity, one of the main functions and duties of the town board is to enact local legislation. Generally speaking, the town board will encounter three types of local legislation: Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws.

Resolutions are used for the day-to-day workings of a town and used to introduce ordinances and local laws into the town board proceedings and to formalize adoption or rejection of ordinances and local laws after other formalities such as conducting a public hearing are handled. The adoption of a resolution is an official town action and requires a motion ("so moved") to introduce the resolution, a second and approval of the majority of the board in order to be adopted. A motion is not a legislative tool or action, instead it is the vehicle to get the legislation – in this case a resolution – on the table and adopted.

Ordinances are more formal than a resolution but carry less weight than a local law. Ordinances are typically used for actions of a more permanent nature such as zoning and licensing. Ordinances are only applicable within the jurisdiction of the town. To adopt an ordinance, it has to be introduced by resolution of a town board member. After introduction, the town must conduct a public hearing. After the public hearing the board may adopt the ordinance so long as no substantial changes have been made.

A local law is the highest form of legislation a local government can enact and it carries the same weight and authority as a state statute. Town boards may adopt local laws concerning the affairs of town government so long as the local laws are consistent with general laws applicable to all towns. The local law should cover a single subject matter. After the local law is introduced, it has to be 'aged' for a certain number of days, before it can be voted on. The town is required to conduct a public hearing, after which the town board may vote on the local law. After adoption, the local law must be filed with the secretary of state.

There are specific procedures for adoption of each of these types of legislation and specific subject matters for both ordinances and local laws.

This is just a very high level overview of the types of legislation your town board encounters. If you have specific questions about Town Codes and Laws passed by the town board, go to the Town of Somerset Website at Somersetny.org and click on Town codes and laws. This will take you to the Codes of the Town of Somerset.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mike Flint - Superintendent 716-795-3866



As we all know, this winter has been one for the books. The highway crew have worked tirelessly plowing and clearing the roads of snow, ice, trees, and just about anything else nature sent our way. Hopefully as this newsletter is arriving we will be putting the plows away and getting ready for spring.

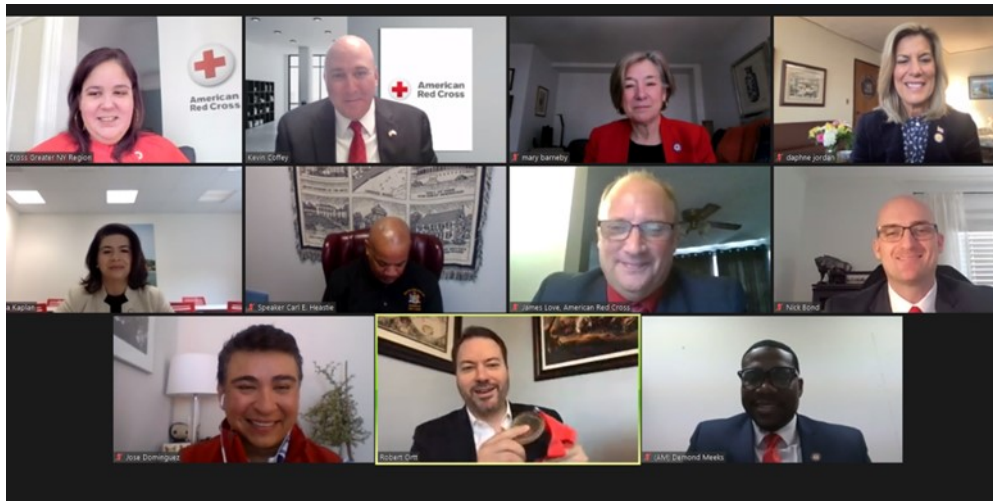
This season we hope to start rehabbing Lower Lake Road from Johnson Creek Road to Burgess Road. This will involve a few days of minor disruption to the traffic in that area. This is a much needed repair as it is falling apart, the shoulders are breaking and it is over 10 years since it has been repaired. Your patience is appreciated during the project.

Have a safe spring.



Senator Rob Ortt Named 2022 NYS Legislator of The Year by The American Red Cross

Earlier this month, I was honored to be recognized as a 2022 New York State “Legislator of The Year” by the American Red Cross. I was joined by colleagues from the State Senate and Assembly across New York as the American Red Cross highlighted elected officials who have partnered with the organization in a multitude of community-based efforts, including blood drives, disaster recovery, and community outreach.



This award is bestowed to Legislators who show unwavering support of the vital mission of the American Red Cross to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. I am proud to have been a supporter and partner of the Red Cross over the years, both as a legislator and an everyday citizen, and have always looked forward to participating in the many local blood drives that have taken place here in Western New York.



I cherish my strong partnership with such an impactful organization that turns compassion into action by assisting people all over the world in the face of disaster. Because of hardworking volunteers and generous donors, the American Red Cross is able to provide care, shelter, and hope to people who may be facing the biggest crisis of their lifetime.

Each year, March is celebrated as American Red Cross Month. It has been an annual tradition since 1943, and the month is dedicated to celebrating all those who contribute to the mission of the American Red Cross. While we highlight the great work that the Red Cross does in the month of March, the time to help and contribute is year-round. If you have considered volunteering or helping out, don't hesitate! It is always a good time to get involved.

Visit <https://www.redcross.org/> today to learn more!



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



I am pleased to announce that our annual Memorial Day celebration will take place this year after a two year absence. It will take place at the Veterans' Memorial next to the Town Hall at 10AM on May 30th. The Barker Community Band will be playing, and Pastor Wayne Dent will be giving the invocation. I have local dignitaries speaking, plus New York State Assemblyman Mike Norris and Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti are lined up to speak. All are welcome and I hope to see you there.

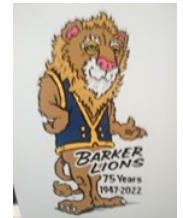
I am also pleased to announce that the Hometown Heroes Banners will be up with the addition of 30 new ones, bringing our total to 90. We have been informed by the banner company that this is the most banners they have made for a Town of our size. I wish to thank everyone who purchased a banner.

New members are wanted and welcome!



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.



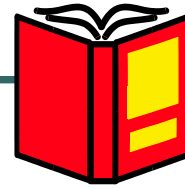
April 30 is Lions International Induction Day. Barker Lions will celebrate by inducting 3 new members. Celebrating with us will be the Wilson Lions and the Gasport Lions. The ceremony is at 11 Am at the Winery at Marjim Manor on Lake Road. If you'd like to learn more about Lions and what we do, please join us.

On Sunday, May 8, 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 \$12 and available from any Lions Member. At the door tickets are \$14. Pick up at the Lions building begins at 11:30 and runs until 1 PM.

On June 18, we will hold our 75th Anniversary Celebration. We would love to have you for this exciting event. We have a powerpoint presentation with over 300 pictures from the past. There is room for more, so feel free to submit your pictures to the address at the bottom. We will also be recognizing Lions who have made great efforts to support members of our community. It will take place at Niagara Shores Campground. 5 PM is social hour, 6 PM is awards presentation, followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$40/person or \$75/couple.

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.



LIBRARY NEWS

Happy Spring from the Barker Public Library!

It has been a long, frustrating and challenging three years for the BPL, but we finally have great news to share with you all. The village has signed a contract with Mulvey Construction to begin rebuilding our Village Hall and Library. We still have some work to do but construction should begin any day now, weather permitting. So keep your eye on the previous location for some new activity.

In those three years since the fire, the library has worked hard and been successful in obtaining grant funding to cover all of our costs for the new build. Because of this, there will be no burden put on the community. The Library Board and staff have worked on a five-year plan with new ideas, programming and extended hours. We welcome your input as to help provide the best service possible for our district. If you have any ideas for things you would like to see at your library, please let us know by visiting the library, calling-716-795-3344 or emailing uslthom@nioga.org. You can also go to our redesigned website (also still in the beginning stages) barkerpubliclibrary.com and leave a message. It is such an exciting time and we would like all of you to share in our excitement and plans for our new library so let us know what you think!

We are also hoping to get our Friends of the Library group up and running again. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting us in that way, we would be grateful!

We will share more as things progress. The library board, myself and the staff of the library wish to thank you again and again for all the support you've shown to the library since that bitter cold night in January 2019.

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow". English

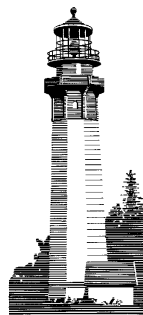
Kathie Smith



Proverb



FRIENDS OF THIRTY MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



We are preparing for the 150th Anniversary of Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse in 2025. Please join us on May 12, 2022 at 7pm for the planning of this monumental occasion. Come on over and bring your ideas.

Friends is partnering with Golden Hill State Park for "I Love My Park Day" on May 7, 2022 in Golden Hill State Park. You will be able to register at PTNY.org under Golden Hill. We have projects ready for you to choose from, so come out for a great time and volunteer with us.

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RURAL ROUTE

Spring 2022 Happenings

- ♦ May 1 - Somerset Conservation Club Chicken BBQ 12pm - 1:30pm Take out only - \$12
- ♦ May 7 - I Love My Park Day at Golden Hill State Park
- ♦ May 8 - Barker Lions Club Chicken BBQ - pickup begins at 11am. \$12 presale, \$14 at the door
- ♦ May 9 - Somerset Historical Society presentation on the Buffalo Psychiatric Center at 7pm at Somerset Town Hall
- ♦ May 30 - Memorial Day Ceremony - 10am at the Somerset Town Park - organized by Herbert W. Carr Post #425

