



Town of Somerset

Volume 27, Issue 2

Summer 2012

From Your Town Clerk—Becky Connolly—795-3575

Dear Residents,

The summer months are upon us and tons of activities are going on for our enjoyment. On **July 28th**, the Town will have a float in the parade in the Town of Hartland as they celebrate their Bicentennial. Their festival begins at Noon at their Town Park on Ridge Road just behind the Hartland Fire Hall.

Congratulations to the Town of Hartland!

The Pavilions in the Town Park are available for FREE. Reservations can be made by calling the Town Clerk's Office. Town Wide Yard Sale will be August 4th (details below). We have a Lions Club collection for used eye glasses and hearing aids.

Large Item Pickup—you are allowed to place one large item per week to the curb pickup. **NO TIRES ARE ALLOWED.**

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



We have a collection box for your used flags. Please respectfully dispose of your old worn/torn flag. Our American Legion members have a ceremony to dispose of the flags properly. This year it will be held on Sunday, September 9th at 2PM at the home of Wayne Wagner, 1921 Johnson Creek Road.

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE—AUGUST 4TH

It's time to get rid of those unwanted items you have laying around! If you'd like to be placed on the map for the yard sale, please call the Town Hall by July 30th. Faith United Methodist Church will have tables available—call 795-9945 for information. They will also have refreshments, baked goods and fleas. Maps will be available August 1st at the Town Hall, Village Office, Key Bank, the Barker Free Library, Post Office, Thee Barker Store and Crosby's.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Supervisor's News</i>	2
<i>Highway News</i>	3
<i>Water/Sewer Dept.</i>	3
<i>Assessor's News</i>	3
<i>Historian's Corner</i>	4
<i>Barker Free Library</i>	5
<i>Police Constable News</i>	6
<i>Code Enforcement</i>	7
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	8

Access the Town's Website www.somersetny.org for the latest up to date information and calendar of events.

A Word From Your Supervisor

In your service,

Daniel Engert 795-3575



Greetings to residents of the Town of Somerset! It's been quite an eventful year in our town and we all look forward to the "lazy" days of summer, right? Hopefully, this letter finds you well. I want to briefly update you on some of the matters that the Town Board is addressing at this time.

The Town Board hosted an economic development meeting on June 21. I invited Legislator John Syracuse and Commissioner Sam Ferraro to make a presentation to community stakeholders, businesses and larger land owners concerning the programs and assistance that the Niagara County Center for Economic Development provides. The meeting was productive and beneficial for those who were able to attend. Commissioner Ferraro and his team presented strategic components of the agency and discussed their marketing efforts in Somerset and Niagara County. You can be assured that **all hands are on deck at this critical juncture to effectively market our community** in order to attract investment opportunities for business and jobs development! If you missed the meeting or would like more information, please call me.

The Town's comprehensive plan update is moving right along and this critical planning document will be finished for your review within the coming months. The Planning Board is doing an exceptional job and keeping a tight timeline to accomplish this initiative! A Comprehensive Plan is simply put, an expression of goals, principles and strategies to achieve a community's vision for future growth and development. It is in the truest sense, an outline for smart growth and provides guidance for future decision-making by Town boards and officials. It's a "road map" for government, businesses and citizens to assist in planning by summarizing our community's assets, analyzing existing conditions and implementing a strategy to guide the community in going forward. A Comprehensive Plan is not a law and is not by itself, a legally enforceable document, nor is it an exact or detailed manual that specifies what will happen within certain area of the Town. The Comprehensive Plan must be implemented by way of zoning laws, budgetary allocations and investments of public funds. For example, once the Comprehensive Plan is updated, we intend to move on to updating our Zoning Ordinance. This will help ensure that the vision, goals and policies enumerated in the updated Comprehensive Plan will be fully implemented and position us to be **Ready and Open** for Business and Agricultural development opportunities. There have been a number of meetings wherein the public has had an opportunity to comment, weigh in and be part of the process and there will be more such opportunities. Please come out to share your thoughts!

The Town Board is also moving forward to update our Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) which again, is an important planning document that shapes our mission concerning the waterfront and works to enhance and protect this valuable asset for the Town. A LWRP reflects community consensus and as such, it can significantly increase our community's ability to attract appropriate development that will respect our unique cultural and natural characteristics. A LWRP also presents a unified vision and therefore, increases our community's chances to obtain public and private funding for projects. We'll be exploring ways that our waterfront can bring about new life and energy in our community!

Please consider taking a moment to stop by a local vegetable stand, a local store, a local eating establishment, a local beauty salon/barber, the Farmer's Market (on Thursday evenings 5p-7:30p) or another local business within and around the Town of Somerset! It's so critical that whenever possible, we as a community support our local business owners who desire to serve us locally. Their services provide so much in terms of the charm that we all so enjoy about life in Somerset. Help them to remain open and available for us, please continue to support our local businesses.

Finally, with the oncoming warm weather, please be sure to drive safely throughout the Town and be extra careful for the sake of the many bicyclists, runners, and walkers who are outside enjoying the season!

NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPT.

Ken Bigelow 795-3866

Burgess Road and Carmen Road north of Lake Road have been Micro Paved. Also, Haight Road from Carmen Road to County Line Road is scheduled for resurfacing.

As always, your patience and cooperation during the construction season is greatly appreciated.



Have a safe summer.

Water/Sewer Department News

**By Melvin Denny,
Water/Sewer/Grounds
Superintendent 795-9919**

Our conversion to Radio Read meters town-wide is almost complete. We have about 50 residents who still need to be changed over. If you are one of the residents who still has an old meter, that means we have not been successful reaching you to make an appointment. It is important for us to make the change so our town is 100% converted. Please contact our department today to set up an appointment!

As always, when our employee shows up to perform any service, he will be in a marked town truck and have town employee identification.

Have a great summer!



Assessor's Office

Bob Glidden—Assessor
Carol Maines—Clerk

795-3243

somersetassessor@roadrunner.com
assessorclerk@roadrunner.com

The 2012 Final Assessment Roll is now complete and is available for viewing at the Assessor's or Town Clerk's offices. It is also available thru a link on the Town's web site. If you have any questions please call during normal business hours: (Mondays 9am-4:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-4:30pm).

If you need any information about assessments, exemptions or forms, you can either contact our office or log on to the New York State Office of Real Property Services web site at: www.orps.state.ny.us. This is a great resource for understanding the assessment process and how it affects us all.

Snow Birds, remember to renew your 2013 Enhanced Star, Senior and Agricultural Exemptions before you head south.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Pete Devereaux 795-3575

Bank in Barker

The Somerset National Bank was organized and authorized to commence banking in 1912. A brick building was erected on Main St. in Barker on the John Faery property. Previous to this time, private banking was conducted by Harvey Hoag in the brick building on Quaker St. (the bank entrance was on the side of what is now Thee Barker Store.)

The Somerset National Bank was purchased by the Niagara County Bank in 1950. The following year it was purchased by the Marine Trust Company of Western New York. A one story modern building was erected in 1959 next to the old bank. The business of the bank was transferred to the new building in February of 1960. The name was changed to Marine Midland Bank Western and remained that until 1999 when it became HSBC. The Key Bank Corp will become the newest owner of the banking business in Barker on July 13th, which happens to be a Friday. Hope that is not an omen.



How many robberies do you think have occurred at the Barker bank? There were 2 robbery attempts. The first one was in 1940. It was held up by one lone gunman. The robbery was foiled when one of the clerks set off the siren that was on top of the bank and scared off the would-be robber. Two local men gave chase armed with a shotgun. As they drew near the bandit's truck, they fired several shots and believed they had wounded him. The suspect was picked up on Ridge Road by New York State Police and had been shot in the ear.

The second case is even more bizarre. In 1962 it was learned by the Niagara County District Attorney that 2 people were going to kidnap the manager of the bank and his wife and take him to the bank to get the money. The 2 people were caught and arrested and charged with conspiracy, and one would assume, spent some time behind bars.



If you like Chinese auctions, you probably are looking forward to the annual auction at Our Lady of the Lake. This year it is taking place on Sunday, September 9th. The doors open at 12:30PM (no earlier) and the drawings begin at 2:00PM.

Barker Free Library Summer Events:

The 2012 Summer Reading program *Dream Big READ!* is underway and we have:

- Tail Waggin Tutors with Kora the therapy dog and her handler Pam Atwater—They will be at the library on Wednesday, July 11th from 7-8PM. The children will meet Kora and get a chance to read to her.
- Fantasy Fun story time on Saturday, July 14th from 10:30-11:30AM
- Creatures of the Night story time on Saturday, July 28th from 10:30-11:30AM
- Follow Your Dreams story time on Saturday, August 11th from 10:30-11:30AM

Stories, crafts, games and more! Story times funded by a Grigg-Lewis grant and sponsored by the NIOGA Library System. Stop in or call 795-3344 to register for any or all of these programs!

OPEN ACCESS—from 10:00AM—1:00PM on the following dates:

Wednesday July 11th, Wednesday July 18th, Wednesday August 15th



Have a computer question? Come in and ask! Open Access refers to time on a computer with a trainer. Ask a question and get hands-on practice on a computer. Patrons can get help on a wide range of computer topics. Lap top computers are provided for patron use during the session. Call or stop in to register.

Book Signing—Wounds by Robert C. Frost

Our own Robert Frost, a Barker native and resident, has written a compilation of poems that he describes as “a largely autobiographical, chronologically arranged annotated book of poetry written over the last 20 odd years of my life.”

He will be available to sign books on Saturday, August 25th 10:00AM—12:00PM

How does the library help with the rising cost of going to the grocery store? We have a coupon exchange box. We have put together a box of clipped coupons that patrons can come in and go through. Take what you need, and if you want to bring in clipped coupons that you can't use, you can leave them for someone who can. You can also check out our collection of cookbooks to get some new ideas and tips for those “dinner on a dime” type meals.

And don't forget about our monthly Basket Raffle—a new basket every month! Tickets are \$1.00 each. Stop in the library for tickets and to check out the basket.



**FOOD EXPRESS TRUCK WILL BE AT FAITH UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH ON MONDAY AUGUST 6TH—11 AM.**

MORE ON BIKE SAFETY.....**What should you look for when buying a helmet?**

★ Only buy helmets that meet the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standard for bicycle helmets. The federal government requires all helmets manufactured after March 10, 1999, to meet the CPSC standard, so look for a CPSC sticker.

★ A helmet must be constructed with thick, firm polystyrene or other shock-absorbing material. This is the essential safety ingredient. It is the polystyrene that crushes on impact to absorb the shock of the fall and reduce the likelihood of brain injury. Many helmets have foam pads. These are used for comfort and sizing. They do not provide crash protection.

★ A helmet must have a strong strap and fastener to assure it will stay on in a crash.

★ Try on a helmet and adjust the straps to fit snugly. The helmet should cover the top of the forehead to be in the proper position. It should have only limited movement front to back and up and down. If the helmet cannot be adjusted to minimize both types of movement, try another size, style or brand.

★ If you fall and hit your head, your helmet has served its purpose. Don't use it again. Your helmet's essential shock-absorbing material that protects your head in a crash may not retain its cushioning properties after a fall.

Are there other safety precautions to take when riding a bicycle?

Absolutely. Here are some basic rules of the road:

★ Always ride with traffic.

★ Ride one to a bike.

★ Follow all traffic lights and signs. Signal all turns.

★ Ride single file.

★ Use a horn or bell.

★ Make sure your bike is in good working order.

★ If you're riding at night, make sure your bike has reflectors and a headlight and taillight. Consider using additional lighting and reflective bands, vests and clothing to increase your visibility.

★ Keep to the right, but leave enough room to steer around road hazards and avoid car doors that may suddenly swing open.

It's bicycle season, so please ride safely and always ride with a helmet!

Supervisor Engert and the Somerset Police Constables

Code Enforcement News

By: Mark Remington—795-9556

Building permits are needed for any construction, alteration or remodeling regardless of size or location, and pools. A permit is also required if you are re-roofing a residence or any structure attached to the residence. No permit is needed if you re-roof a barn or shed.

The NYS Property Maintenance Code has strict requirements regarding overgrown grass and weeds on residential property. The law states that all grasses and weeds must be no higher than 10" around the immediate vicinity of any residential or primary structure. This code is not only important to the health and safety of our residents, but also for fire prevention and community aesthetics. As summer months continue, homeowners will be contacted who violated this ordinance.

Somerset Town Police Department

716-255-0503 (or 911 for emergency)



The Police Constables have been providing law enforcement services throughout the entire Town of Somerset since April 1. They are doing an exceptional job and many Town residents, property owners and business owners have called or written to the Town Board expressing their appreciation for this additional police presence during evening and overnight hours primarily. Their primary focus and mission remains to protect life and property for the residents in Somerset although they do provide vehicle and traffic law enforcement to keep the roads and streets safe for our residents as well. Monthly reports on Somerset Town Police services are available on the website at www.somersetny.org.

In this newsletter, we would like to share some information concerning **Bicycle Safety**.

★ Each year, about 54 New York State residents are killed in bicycle crashes.

★ Each year, almost 2,000 New York State residents are hospitalized due to bicycle-related injuries. Of these hospitalizations, approximately 38 percent involve a brain injury.

★ Head injury is the leading cause of death and permanent disability in bicycle crashes. Head injuries account for more than 60 percent of bicycle-related deaths, more than two-thirds of bicycle-related hospital admissions, and about one-third of hospital emergency department visits for bicycling injuries.

Why wear helmets?

★ Professional and amateur athletes in many sports wear helmets. Football, hockey and even baseball players wear helmets. Cyclists need protection for the special risks they face, too.

★ Brain injuries are usually the most serious injuries a bicycle rider will sustain. Helmets prevent many of these injuries or reduce their severity.

★ Bicycles, even when in the hands of young children, can be rapidly moving vehicles, easily reaching speeds of 20 miles per hour or more.

★ By law, all bicyclists under the age of 14 are required to wear approved bicycle helmets when bicycling or riding as passengers on bicycles in New York State. The maximum penalty for an offense is a \$50 fine. However, if a parent can prove that a helmet has been obtained, the fine will be waived.

How can helmets help?



When your head hits the ground, your skull stops but your brain continues to travel, crashing against the skull. The impact of the brain against the skull bruises and damages delicate brain tissue. It often results in lifelong changes in the way you think, act, feel and move.

Helmets absorb the shock of the impact, and prevent or reduce the severity of the crash between the brain and skull.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**Volume 27, Issue 2
Summer 2012**

**Town of Somerset
8700 Haight Road
PO Box 368
Barker, NY 14012-0368**

U.S. Postage

Standard

PAID

Middleport, NY 14105

Permit #21

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 716-795-3575

Fax: 716-795-9041

Website: www.somersetny.org

RECYCLE your inkjet cartridges,
laser/toner cartridges, drum and
fusers. We have a drop box at the
Town Hall.

WEEKLY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Drop off your items at the Somerset/Barker Waste-
water Treatment on regular garbage day from
7AM—3PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 4 Town Wide Yard Sale 9am—??
Aug 6 Food Express Truck 11am at Faith
 United Methodist Church
Aug 6 Ice Cream Social—6PM
 Barker Community Band—7PM
 Faith United Methodist Church
 1449 Quaker Road
Aug 8 Planning Board Meeting—7:30PM
Aug 13 Hunting Licenses go on sale
Aug 14 Town Board Meeting—7PM
Sept 3 Garbage Collection Today

*Friends of the Barker Library will be holding a chowder
sale—date to be determined.*

*Sept 15th—Wine tour sponsored by Friends of
Barker Library*

For more information on these events call 795-3344

Sept 8 Pioneer Festival—David Barker Park
 Main St.—11AM—9PM
 A celebration of the enduring pioneering
 character that makes Somerset &
 Barker a great place to live and do
 business. All kinds of activities planned.
Sept 9 Our Lady of the Lake—St. Patrick Site
 Annual RA Chinese Auction
 Doors open at 12:30PM
 Drawings begin at 2:00PM
Sept 11 Town Board Meeting—7PM
Sept 12 Planning Board Meeting—7:30PM
Sept 16 Old Fashioned Farm Festival at the
 Babcock House, 10AM-4PM
Sept 22 Free Rabies Clinic—Town of Lockport
 Highway Garage, 2PM-4PM