



Town of Somerset

Volume 28, Issue 2

Summer 2013

From Your Town Clerk—Becky Connolly—795-3575 Ext. 2

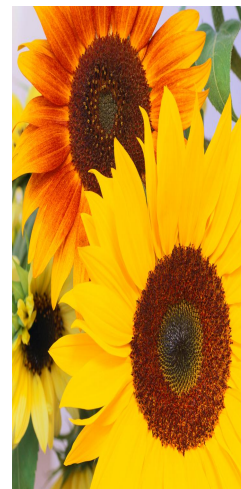
Dear Residents,

The Pavilions in the Town Park are available for FREE. Reservations can be made by calling the Town Clerk's Office. We have a Lions Club collection box for used eye glasses and hearing aids. We also collect used toners cartridges and cell phones.

EVERY OTHER WEEK RECYCLING—The recycling program is going well. As a reminder, the recycling totes are the property of the Town of Somerset and must remain with the address they were dropped off at. If you are moving, please remember to leave the tote with your house.

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

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY WILL BE AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 13TH. If you would like to meet with a representative from this agency, please call the Town Clerk's office for an appointment.

DISPOSE OF YOUR WORN TORN FLAGS PROPERLY. We have a collection box for your used flags. Our American Legion members have a ceremony to dispose of the flags properly. This year it will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 2PM at the home of Wayne Wagner,

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE—AUGUST 3rd

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 July 31st at the Town Hall, Village Office, Key Bank, the Barker Free Library, Post Office, Thee Barker Store and Crosby's.



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

A Word From Your Supervisor

Daniel Engert 795-3575 Ext. 3



It's summer time in the Town of Somerset! Although it was a rainy month of June, we hold out hope for drier weather in July and August! Thank you for allowing me a few moments to share with you just some of the recent developments occurring at Town Hall.

As you may know, the marketing of the Somerset Lakeshore Site remains a priority of the Town Board. We believe that this parcel represents prime real estate for economic development in the Town. To that end, we have completed a marketing brochure with the assistance of Commissioner Sam Ferraro at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development. This brochure is being used extensively to market the site in the southern Ontario as well as the Northeastern United States markets. The Center is also directly marketing this area as a featured site on their website at www.niagaracountybusiness.com. Additionally, I have appointed and chair an advisory committee which met for the first time on June 25. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Town Board, Planning Board, the USNYPP Somerset plant, and Niagara County, including Legislator John Syracuse. Our goal is to make the site as appealing and attractive as possible to prospective site selectors and in the shortest time possible. This undertaking also achieves a specific recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan which was recently revised. Ultimately, the intended result of this committee will be to produce a re-zoning recommendation that will be adopted by the Town Board. The public meetings of this committee are regularly announced and town residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

We have exceptional employees who provide essential services within our town and we value their contribution to make Somerset a great place to live. I am also very pleased to announce that the Town reached a contract agreement with the Town employees represented by the Teamsters Local 264. Notable highlights included their agreement to contribute up to 10% towards the cost of their healthcare benefits and they received modest pay increases of 1.75% and 2% over the term. The employees understand the economic challenges before us and demonstrated their commitment to the community. I am very appreciative that they were willing to make concessions which reduced the burden on the taxpayers and at the end of the day we believe that this contract is a good one for the employer (the taxpayers) as well as for the employees. The contract, which expires on 12/31/2015, was adopted unanimously by both parties.

I am in the early stages of developing the 2014 budget and will once again be fully expecting to reduce the amount of taxes that are collected to support Town services. The Town Board hears the community loud and clear and we are exploring new and more efficient ways to deliver services to you and ultimately reduce taxes. I will be sending out another communication in the future which will lay out some of the specifics of this plan but, make no mistake, we are working hard to operate with a sound businesslike approach. We have undertaken an initiative to reduce staffing levels to meet core operational needs as opposed to staffing to meet peak operational needs and using alternative approaches to continue to deliver expected services all while reducing the tax burden upon our residents.

There are many other matters being undertaken by the Town Board presently, including an initiative intended to achieve greater access and affordability to broadband internet service in the Town, further remediation work at the former Barker Chemical site, increasing cemetery plot availability at the West Somerset cemetery, and at the July 9 meeting we will consider a local law to increase income thresholds to qualify more senior citizen tax exemptions. There isn't space to update you on everything, however, please be encouraged to attend a Town Board meeting, stop by my Town office, call or email me if you have any questions, concerns or would like to provide input on an issue of importance to you. I am here to serve you.

In closing, please take time this summer to enjoy our community with friends and family and be especially mindful of our walkers, joggers, bicyclists and children who are out and about during this summer season. Have a safe and wonderful summer everyone!

NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPT.

Ken Bigelow 795-3866

Road construction has commenced: Haight Rd. from Hosmer Rd. to Hartland Rd. and from the Town Hall to Johnson Creek Rd. ; Townline Rd. from Hartland to Quaker Rd along with Lower Lake Rd. from the Fish Creek bridge to almost Snell Grove Rd. have been Micro Paved. As always your patience and cooperation during the construction season is greatly appreciated.

Have a safe summer.



Assessor's Office 795-3243Ext. 6

Anthony Dispenza—Assessor
somersetassessor@roadrunner.com

The 2013 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. Normal business hours are Tuesdays 8:30am-12:30pm and Wednesday from 12:30-5:00pm if you have any questions. Appointments are available if these hours are not convenient. Please call the office and leave a message. Your call will be returned within one business day.

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 2014 Enhanced Star, Senior and Agricultural Exemptions before you head south.

Water/Sewer Department News

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

How much water will you use today? Can you imagine a day without water? Or a world without wastewater treatment plants?

The value of water is taken for granted and often overlooked. Clean water is essential to our everyday lives! Public water systems provide water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and fighting fires. Public wastewater systems transport and treat our waste and keep it from polluting the environment and our drinking water. Without these two systems, our community would not be able to function. Drinking water and wastewater services are able to be maintained due to the dedication of our remarkable operators.

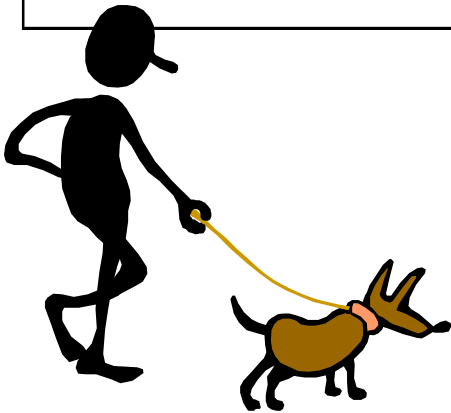
A day without water can mean NO drinking, NO flushing, NO brushing, NO showers, NO laundry, NO dishwashing, NO putting out fires, NO watering lawns and gardens, and increased risk of waterborne disease.

Why treat wastewater? We need to remove the wastewater pollutants to protect the environment and protect public health. When water is used by our society, the water becomes contaminated with pollutants. If left untreated, these pollutants would negatively affect our water environment. For example, organic matter can cause oxygen depletion in lakes, rivers, and streams. Additionally, there are many pollutants that could exhibit toxic effects on aquatic life and the public.

If you would like more information on the importance of water and wastewater services, please visit the following site: <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/WWEOC>

From Councilwoman Robin Jansen

July is here and school is out. Please take extra care in looking out for our children as they walk, play and ride their bikes, and make sure your dogs are properly restrained. The Town of Somerset has a law which states dogs must be under the control of their owners or responsible party at all times. Dog bites are painful and frightening for people of all ages but especially children. Please be considerate of your neighbors and the people enjoying the summer

**IS YOUR DOG UNLICENSED?**

We are receiving numerous complaints about unlicensed and stray dogs in both the Town and Village. New York State requires dogs to be licensed at the age of 4 months. Proof of rabies is required at the time of licensing. The fee for spayed/neutered dogs is \$6.00 and for unspayed/unneutered is \$16.00. If you have not licensed your dog and the dog needs a rabies shot, see the information for the free rabies clinic on page 6.

An enumeration will be conducted shortly and for any dog found to be unlicensed, there will be an additional \$10.00 fee. PLEASE take the time to license your dog to avoid the additional fee. Once a dog is licensed, if it becomes loose, we can reunite you expeditiously and avoid a trip (and expense) to the Dog Pound. If you have questions contact the Town Clerk's office.

Somerset Historical Society events listed on Calendar of Events.



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 8th. The doors open at 12:30PM (no earlier) and the drawings begin at 2:00PM.

Barker Library's New Book Club

Third Monday of the Month

7:00 pm

@the library



Next meeting is Monday, August 19, 2013. Still time to come in and get this month's book (Room by Emma Donoghue) to be ready for the next meeting!!

A story is always better if you have someone to share it with. What could be better than sharing it with a group of friends who have read it too?

Come be a part of the Barker Library's Book Club!

Call or sign-up at the library

716-795-3344



HUNTING CLASS AT SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB

August 16th—6—8 pm; August 17th & 18th from 9—4:30pm Must pre-register at first class on the 16th and attend all classes.

Class size is limited to 20. For more information call Jeff at 765-9633.

Hunting Licenses go on sale on Monday, August 12th

**YOUR RECYCLING TOTE IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY.
IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP IF IT CONTAINS TRASH.**

Code Enforcement News

By: Mark Remington—795-9556 Ext. 5

Building permits are needed for any construction, alteration or remodeling regardless of size or location, including 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 violate this ordinance.

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

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 and household batteries.
We have a drop box at the Town
Hall.

WEEKLY ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

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

U.S. Postage

Standard

PAID

Middleport, NY 14105

Permit #21

**RURAL ROUTE
BARKER, NY 14012**

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE AUGUST 3RD. DETAILS INSIDE.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 28	Somerset Historical Society Family Picnic & Games—1:30PM Babcock House—Bring dish to pass	Sept 8	Our Lady of the Lake—St. Patrick Site Annual RA Chinese Auction <u>Doors open</u> at 12:30PM Drawings begin at 2:00PM
Aug 3	Town Wide Yard Sale 9am—??	Sept 10	Primary Day—VOTE Noon—9PM Barker Fire Hall
Aug 12	Hunting Licenses go on sale	Sept 10	Town Board Meeting—7PM
Aug 13	Town Board Meeting—7PM	Sept 15	Old Fashioned Farm Festival at the Babcock House, 10AM-4PM Sponsored by Somerset Historical Soc.
Aug 14	Planning Board Meeting—7:30PM	Sept 21	Free Rabies Clinic—Town of Lockport Highway Garage, 2PM-4PM
Aug 17	Free Rabies Clinic—Town of Royalton Highway Garage, 2PM-4PM	Sept. 27	Somerset Historical Society Hay Ride & Ghost Stories Babcock House Barn & Grounds 7PM
Aug 19	Ice Cream Social—6PM Barker Community Band—7PM Faith United Methodist Church 1449 Quaker Road		
Sept 4	Garbage Collection Today		