



Town of Somerset

Volume 33, Issue 1



Spring 2018

From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

As I am writing this it is still snowing and I realize that I now understand why so many people become “snow birds”! I too will be one when I retire! I am looking forward to the sounds and smells of Spring.

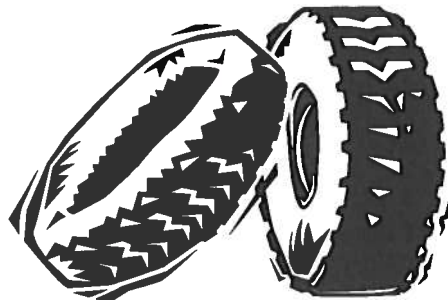
There is a lot going on this Spring in the Town, so please make sure to review the Community Calendar I have compiled on page 7. There is not a lot of room to add all of the details of each event, so if you need any information please call my office and we would be happy to provide you with any information that we have.

Also with Spring, more people will be out and about. When mowing your lawn please consider the motorcycles and bicyclists who may be passing by your house. Grass in the roadway can be slippery and dangerous to the cyclists.

Enjoy your Spring!

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC

The Town of Somerset’s 2018 Tire Drop Off will take place Monday, April 23rd - Friday, April 27th from 7AM - 3PM, and Saturday, April 28th from 9AM - Noon. See the Water/Sewer Department News on page 6 for details.



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A Word From Your Supervisor

Daniel Engert 716-795-3575, ext. 3



Greetings friends and neighbors in Somerset! Very briefly, I would like to share some updates for this spring 2018 edition of your newsletter.

First and unfortunately, I am disappointed to report that Lighthouse Wind LLC, a subsidiary of Apex Clean Energy (“Apex”), has taken the next step in its plan to convert our entire Town into a sprawling industrial wind energy plant of massive proportion. Apex recently filed stipulations with state agencies, and in doing so, they have clearly signaled its resolve to limit the review of their project’s environmental, economic, and public health impacts. Apex has also reaffirmed its intent to trample Home Rule by having the state government “waive” our local zoning laws.

I am pressing all parties to think carefully before signing any agreement that could improperly limit the review of environmental and economic impacts in our town. A growing body of evidence shows the devastating impact industrial wind can have on people and the environment--especially in lake-shore communities like Somerset. It would be a shame if the so called “stipulations” published recently are used to prevent a hard look at the major bird migration route passing over Somerset, the visual impacts of 70 or so new 60 story industrial towers, or the dangers to public health posed by noisy turbines among many other concerns that this project . Somerset will not concede to accept the results of this developers own studies. The Town intends to bring peer-reviewed experts to conduct the necessary studies that need to be evaluated during the proceedings.

The only positive take away from their recent publication of draft agreements is that the secretive stipulation process, which has kept the public in the dark for almost 2 years, is now over. The truth is that Somerset has already suffered enough economic harm at the hands of Apex. Public opposition remains strong, but unfortunately this ill-conceived project has impacted many neighbors and families who have been torn apart by the divisive and secretive tactics of a big industrial wind company. As Apex continues its quest to overturn our local zoning laws, the time for healing has not yet begun in Somerset. While I sincerely wish that this developer would respect the overwhelming will of our community and just look for a welcoming community somewhere else, be assured that the town will protect the health, safety and rural character of our town.

On a positive note and as a result of a generous land donation from the Somerset Operating Company (power plant), the West Somerset Cemetery on Hosmer Road has been expanded and plots are now available for purchase. The grounds crew under the direction of Supt. Denny really did an excellent job on the landscaping and further enhancements are planned. As a result of this re-opening, the Board took the opportunity to review the fees and regulations pertaining to all of our cemeteries in Somerset. Some adjustments were made to reflect the current costs incurred by the Town. Please see the highlights below:

Grave: \$375.00

Grave Opening: Summer Rate (April 1 - November 30)

\$465.00 – weekday

\$540.00 – weekend/holiday

Winter Rate (December 1 – March 31)

\$565.00 – weekday

\$690.00 – weekend/holiday

Cremation Ashes: \$250.00 per grave

Headstone Foundation: \$50.00 per running ½ foot with a minimum of \$200.00

Disinterment Fee: \$625.00 per disinterment

Lot Transfer Fee: \$100.00 per lot transfer (effective January 1, 2019)

The **Annual Tire Drop-off** has been scheduled. Residents are encouraged to drop off tires at the highway Garage on Haight Road during the week of **April 23-27 anytime between 7:00am-3:00pm and Saturday April 28 from 9:00am-12:00pm**. Most tires, including large agricultural, are acceptable provided they are free from excessive dirt, soil, rocks and are free from but not limited to chemical, industrial or processed waste contamination.

Lastly, with the oncoming warmer 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 will soon be outside enjoying the season!

In your service, Daniel M. Engert – Town Supervisor

Councilwoman's Corner

As I walked my dog about sunset on the last sunny day of February, I heard some unfamiliar cries in the sky. Appearing from the lake onto the land was a flock of twenty tundra swans. Dog and I stopped cold and looked up to see these majestic birds fly at rooftop height. With elongated necks, black bills and feet, they made a beautiful sunset even more stunning, silhouetted against the pink and orange sky.

Migration time is here and Somerset skies are dotted with these temporary guests for a brief time in March. Tundra swans make the 4000-mile journey as families, and only the strongest survive. They have come from Chesapeake Bay and North Carolina, noisily passing through on "our" flyway, feeding in agricultural fields on leftover corn. Our lake shore provides a restful and welcome refuge for this species year in and year out. Tundra swans mate for life; if one swan dies, it is unlikely that its mate will ever choose another partner.

Somerset plays host to so many migrating species. There have been "flocks of birders" with scopes set up at many of our intersections lately, so exercise caution as you drive around town. We are a destination for birders from Buffalo, Rochester, and Ontario and a few are even from out-of-state. Of course, many of our own residents enjoy spotting birds that make vital brief stopovers in our town.

After a well-deserved respite, these tundra swans will continue many thousands of miles more until they reach the Arctic tundra of Canada and Alaska, where they will breed in May. If you are outside and lucky enough to hear the unusual cries from overhead, look for the long white bodies with black bills and feet of the tundra swans, a sure sign of spring in Somerset.

—Christine Bronson



From Councilwoman Jansen

The Town of Somerset is in the process of upgrading our website. I'm excited to be a part of this process and hope to have this upgrade up and running soon. Check out our next newsletter for more information on this.

The Somerset Historical Society has a new website. There is a link to it on the Town of Somerset website but you can also get to it via <https://www.somersetnyhistoricalsociety.org>. This website includes photos, an updated events calendar and contact information. There are many upcoming events that the Historical Society is sponsoring, so please check out the website for more information.

And the Barker Seniors now have a Facebook page. Search for Barker Seniors and join the group. There are pictures of members and the fun activities that this group always has going. Future trips are currently in the planning stage. Come join us for lunch and games and the ever popular Pen Pal project. The Barker Seniors meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Barker Fire Hall. If you haven't signed up and want to order lunch please call the Somerset Town Hall at 795-3575 ext. 2 and order your lunch from the Town Clerk. Lunch price is \$3.25

BARKER FIRE DEPT.

Chief Jeff Dewart



Our volunteers responded to 321 calls during the 2017 calendar year; 231 EMS & 90 fire-related emergencies.

We have purchased a new Power-Pro XT stretcher for our ambulance. This is a powered stretcher assisting our first responders in lifting and lowering the cot and allowing for smoother loading of our patients. Also, 6 new AED units will be implemented in service during the coming month in our line-officers' vehicles and on our off-road apparatus.

New officers elected and installed for 2018 are as follows:

Chief: Jeff Dewart

1st Asst Chief: David Hotaling

2nd Asst Chief: Rodney Recore

3rd Asst Chief: Tony Sonberg

EMS Captain: Jake Allen

EMS Liet: Kristi Mueller

President: Frank Rider Jr.

Vice-President: Darrin Haight

Secretary: Paul Franke

Treasurer: Cheri Devereaux

Asst Treasurer: Michelle Dewart

Anyone interested in renting our facilities, please contact hall rental chairperson(s): Al Seib at 622-7052 or Andy Treitler at 795-3893.

Our Spring Raffle will be held on Sunday, April 29th from 1pm – 4pm, doors open at 12 noon. Tickets are \$20.00 each and include our spaghetti dinner, beverages and a chance to win one of our 21 prizes. Tickets may be purchased from any member or at the Town Hall.



Volunteers are always needed. Applications are available at the fire hall on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm – 8:00pm and also at the Town Hall during normal business hours.

****Remember to yield the right-of-way to all emergency vehicles. The new NYS move over law enacted at the beginning of 2018 extends this to vehicles operating blue and green lights as well.****

2018 Free Rabies Clinics

- Saturday, March 24th 2PM - 4PM - Town of Hartland Salt Shed
- Saturday, June 2nd 9AM - 11AM - Hyde Park Oasis/Centennial Pavilion (Niagara Falls)
- Saturday, July 28th 9AM - 11AM - Town of Lewiston Highway Garage
- Saturday, September 15th 2PM - 4PM - Town of Lockport Highway Department
- Saturday, December 1st 2PM - 4PM - City of North Tonawanda Public Works Department

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By: Pete Devereaux 795-3575, ext. 7

How Many Churches Are There in Somerset?

Many churches have come and gone in the Town of Somerset and The Village of Barker. Sadly only a few remain in existence today.

Assembly of God Church - 1979- ?

Barker Methodist Church - 1894-1970

Somerset Methodist Church - 1839 -1970 In 1970 Barker and Somerset Methodist Merged to become

Faith Untied Methodist Church - 1970 to the present time.

Lighthouse Christian Camp - 1937 - ?

First Presbyterian Church of Somerset - 1840 -1917

Quakers or Society of Friends Church - 1836 -1900

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church - 1915 - present time

St. Patrick's merged with St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Lyndonville to become Our Lady of The Lake Parish in 2009.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The church was on Countyline Rd. (west side). Very little is known about the church because the records have been lost.

Sunset Memorial Tabernacle Association 1939 -2000

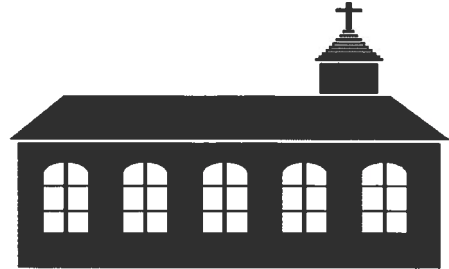
West Somerset Baptist Church 1845 -present time

Bethesda Full Gospel Tabernacle 1946 -1958

There are 2 churches in Countyline Corners (in Orleans County) which should be mentioned because a lot of people from Somerset are members of these churches.

Countyline Methodist Church and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Unfortunately I do not have the dates were formed but both are still active churches today.

Peter J. Devereaux



Assessor's Office

Brian Hess — Assessor 716-795-3575, ext. 6
somersetassessor@roadrunner.com

Niagara County Assessors Association SCHOLARSHIP

The Niagara County Assessors Association is sponsoring a scholarship to any Niagara County Resident who is a graduating senior from one of the Niagara County High Schools and plans to attend college within New York State in the fall of 2018. The cash award is \$1000 and may only be used toward the recipient's bona fide costs of attending college. Applications may be picked up at your local guidance office or your local Assessor's Office, or by writing to:

Scholarship Committee
Niagara County Assessors Association
c/o Jill Lederhouse, Assessor
Town of Lockport
6200 Robinson Rd
Lockport NY 14094



Completed applications must be postmarked by April 2, 2018 and returned to the above address. The award will be announced in May.

Water/Sewer Department News

Mel Denny, 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.

Town Employee Identification – If anyone comes to your door saying he is from our department and needs access to your house regarding your water or sewer, he will be driving a marked Town of Somerset truck and will have Town Employee Identification. If this is not the case, do not let them in and call this department immediately at 716-795-9919.

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.

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. A new fee schedule goes into effect on April 1, 2018.

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 the week of **April 23-27 from 7:00am-3:00pm and Saturday April 28 from 9:00am-12:00pm**. The drop off location remains the Highway Garage.



Lighthouse Christian Camp Community Rummage Sale

What could be more exciting than finding that special treasure at a rummage sale? What could be tastier than a hot dog lunch and homemade baked goods? And what could be more enjoyable than relaxing with friends and listening to the Barker High School Jazz Band?

The Lighthouse Christian Camp Memorial Day Weekend Rummage Event is Saturday, May 26th from 12PM - 5PM. We are honored to have the Barker High School Jazz Band performing for us from 12:30PM - 1:30PM.

The camp is located along the Lake Ontario shoreline, just west of the 30 Mile Point Lighthouse. Follow Carmen Road north, past Lake Road and Lower Lake Road, and you will arrive at Lighthouse Christian Camp. Follow the signs to McGrath Memorial Hall (East on 5th Street).

We look forward to the Barker Community attending this event. Let's celebrate the beginning of summer together at Lighthouse Christian Camp.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ◆ Saturday, March 24th 11AM - 2PM - Child Passenger Seat Safety Check - Barker Fire Hall
- ◆ Saturday, March 24th 7PM - Easter Cantata - "Who Do You Say That I Am?" - County Line United Methodist Church
- ◆ Saturday, March 24th 7PM - BCS Alumni Basketball Game - Barker High School Gym
- ◆ Thursday, April 12th 5PM - Chicken & Biscuit Dinner - County Line United Methodist Church
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd 8:00AM - 12:30PM - BMPC Breakfast - Barker Fire Hall
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd 9AM - 12PM - Lighthouse Optimist Soccer League Signups at BMPC Breakfast
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd Noon - 2PM - Chicken Barbecue - Somerset Conservation Club
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd 2PM - Basket Raffle (following the Chicken BBQ) - Somerset Conservation Club
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd 2PM - Spring Raffle - Somerset Conservation Club
- ◆ Monday, April 23rd 7PM - Somerset Historical Society - June Crawford will be speaking on the Frank Lloyd Wright house, Graycliff at the Somerset Town Hall
- ◆ Monday, April 23rd - Friday, April 27th 7AM - 3PM - Annual Tire Drop Off - Town of Somerset Highway Garage
- ◆ Saturday, April 28th 9AM - 12PM - Annual Tire Drop Off - Town of Somerset Highway Garage
- ◆ Sunday, April 29th 8AM - A.T.A. Shoot - Somerset Conservation Club
- ◆ Sunday, April 29th 1PM - Spring Raffle - Barker Fire Department (doors open at noon)
- ◆ Saturday, May 5th 10AM - "I Love My Park Day" - Golden Hill State Park - Call 716-795-3117 for info
- ◆ Monday, May 14th 7PM - Somerset Historical Society - Rosanne Higgins will be discussing her book "A Whisper of Bones" at the Somerset Town Hall
- ◆ Saturday, May 19th 1PM AND 4PM - Somerset Historical Society - Victorian Tea
- ◆ Saturday, May 26th 12PM - 5PM - Weekend Rummage Event - Lighthouse Christian Camp
- ◆ Monday, May 28th 10AM - Memorial Day Ceremony - Town of Somerset Park in front of the tank

SOMERSET CONSERVATION CLUB

R. Jody Styres, President

Hello again. Look closely and you will see the signs of Spring are all around us. The robins are back, the early flowers are peeking out, and the farmers are anxious to start preparing the land for the new season. As Spring is upon us, so is our Spring Chicken BBQ and raffle on April 22, 2018. The chicken will be served from Noon until 2pm and tickets are \$10.

At the conclusion of the BBQ, the prizes for the Spring Raffle will be drawn. Tickets for this fun event are available from any club member for \$5 each. The prizes are:

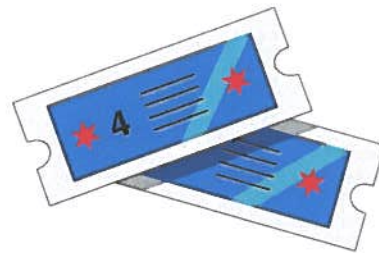
40" Flat Screen TV

Easy-start String Trimmer

Home Depot \$50 Gift Certificate

Bon-Ton \$50 Gift Certificate

Gordie Harper's \$50 Gift Certificate



Also on April 22nd is a Basket Raffle. Take a chance on winning any of the beautiful donated baskets. Tickets will be available at the door. Anyone interested in making or donating a basket should contact Krista Sweeney. Anyone who is able to volunteer some time to help at any of these events will be well received and greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting is March 28th and starts promptly at 7:30PM.

**Volume 33, Issue 1
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8700 Haight Road
P.O. Box 368
Barker, NY 14012-0368

Phone: 716-795-3575
Fax: 716-795-9041
Website: www.somersetny.org

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A few years ago our former Historian, Lorraine Wayner, prepared a book on the history of Somerset. 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.



Did you know that you can renew your dog license online?

As long as the rabies vaccination has not expired you can renew your dog's license from the convenience of your home. Log on to our website www.somersetny.org, open the Town Clerk's page, click on the link for Dog Licenses, then click on the link to renew your license.

Please note: there is a small fee charged by the credit card processing company when you use your credit card.
