



Volume 32, Issue 2

Spring 2017

From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

As you know, we switched to a different water/sewer billing system and by now you should have received your bill. Many adjustments had to be made during the conversion so your first bill may look a little odd. If you have any questions about it at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Another new service we are offering is the ability to pay your dog license online. As long as your dog's rabies shot has not expired, you can renew the license without making a trip to the Town Hall or the post office. The convenience fee charged by the credit card company is \$1.75. I tested the system by renewing my dog's license and it is easy to use. Should you have any questions though, please call my office and we can walk you through the process.

Finally, we are offering Veteran's Outreach again this year. It is taking place at the Town Hall on June 14th from 10:00AM - 1:30PM. If you would like to sit with a county representative, please call my office to sign up 716-795-3575, ext. 2.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Spring!

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC

ANNUAL TIRE DROP OFF

THIS PROGRAM WILL HAVE A NEW LOCATION:

**THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AT 8684 HAIGHT RD WILL BE
ACCEPTING CLEAN AND DRY TIRES ON THESE DAYS:**

MONDAY, APRIL 24 TO FRIDAY APRIL 28 FROM 7:00AM TO 3:00PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 FROM 7:00AM TO 11:00AM

**SOMERSET RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED AND THERE IS A
MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE OF 8 TIRES PER HOUSEHOLD.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT AT
716-795-9919 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Supervisor News</i>	2,4
<i>Councilman's Corner</i>	3
<i>Water/Sewer Dept.</i>	4
<i>Senator Ort</i>	5
<i>Historian's Corner</i>	6
<i>Library News</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8



A Word From Your Supervisor

Daniel M. Engert - 795-3575, ext. 3 daniel.engert@gmail.com

A Word from your Town Supervisor

Greetings, friends and neighbors! As I sit down and write to you, I know that I speak for many who are looking forward to longer days and the warmer temperatures of spring and then onto summer!

Let me begin with an update on the massive industrial wind project before us. As you know, this project is anticipated to involve 70 or so turbines which are twice the size of any wind turbine in the ground currently throughout New York State, and moreover would be the largest turbines in existence anywhere in the continental United States at this time. After multiple announcements regarding an impending application over the past two years, Apex Clean Energy has still not filed the formal application under Article 10 for the Lighthouse Wind Project. The deep pocketed developer from Virginia appears unlikely to file an application before the end of this year. Meanwhile, top-secret negotiations continue between the developer, the state agencies and various stakeholders to develop stipulations (or agreements) concerning numerous studies that will be part of the application. They are confidential due to a ruling by the administrative law judges who are presiding over this phase of the project. I truly wish that I could share more with you however if I do I will risk the Town being expelled from the process as a stakeholder. Obviously, the Town cannot place itself in a position to be unable to represent its constituents. In my view, this entire process under Article 10 is akin to a "war of attrition" which drains the vital resources that are necessary to protect the health, safety and general welfare of our constituents. Unlike the state agencies and the developer, the town does not possess unlimited financial resources so this phase is particularly frustrating for the town. However, be assured that if/when the application is filed, the Town will continue to participate vigorously to defend the will of this community and to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the Town.

Unbelievably, when speaking about the possibility of another wind project being proposed by this same corporate developer in nearby Barre, Apex Project Manager Ben Yazman is on record as stating that, "Ultimately community acceptance is going to be the final test." Unfortunately for Somerset, Apex makes no such good-will commitment here and this corporate developer continues to ignore the overwhelming will of our community and plows onward despite the overwhelming opposition from our residents who are objecting to this wind project to protect their health, their property values and their view-sheds.

I can tell you that I have never heard from more residents on a regular and continued basis regarding any other town issue that I've been involved with since 2008. You mail, you call, you email, you stop at the office on Wednesdays, you show up to town board meetings and you communicate in other ways over social media, etc. The bottom line is that the overwhelming majority of those who take the time to reach out to me simply don't want to live next door to an industrial-scale wind energy factory. You don't want to see the red-blinking lights atop the turbines, all night, every night for the rest of your lives. You don't want to be subjected to the audible and inaudible noise the turbines produce nor do you want the raptor, bird and bat populations to be negatively impacted here. For these and so many other reasons, rural residents all over the United States, not just Somerset don't want their communities turned into industrialized zones, including right here in New York State on Long Island. In an effort to appease wealthy oceanfront property owners on Long Island to support a smaller 90 megawatt (MW) offshore wind energy installation southeast of Montauk, Governor Cuomo ultimately went as far as to require a 30 mile setback distance that would guarantee that these industrial wind turbines could not be seen from Long Island. In fact, Cuomo actually said, "Not even Superman standing on Montauk Point could see these wind farms." Imagine, just the view-shed for these well-heeled New Yorkers was incredibly controlling for this project to move forward, yet rural upstate towns, like Somerset, will have to fight and claw for even just 1800 feet setbacks from their homes!

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPT.
Mike Flint 795-3866

Spring has finally arrived! As the ground dries out, the Highway Department will be out doing spring roadside clean up as soon as possible. Please be aware of the men and equipment working alongside the road. There will also be some road repair and paving being done in the coming months.

On May 3, we will begin working our Summer hours which are Monday to Thursday from 6:00am to 4:30pm.

This allows us to get the various necessary projects completed.

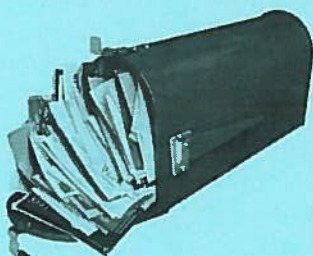


COUNCILMAN'S CORNER

Submitted by Councilwoman Robin Jansen

Do you get a lot of junk mail and catalogs that you just toss into the recycle bin? The Direct Marketing Association is a trade organization comprising thousands of businesses that send direct mail. If you want to receive less, or different types of promotional mail, you can go to their website DMAChoice.org to adjust your settings. In addition, you can register with Catalog Choice (www.catalogchoice.org) whose stated mission is 'to stop junk mail for good'. Both of these are free websites to minimize the promotional mail and catalogs that you are now throwing away.

Did you know that you can opt out of getting prescreened credit card offers that come in the mail? Most credit card companies have directions on the back of information sheet that comes with the offer telling you how you can do this. You can also call the consumer reporting agencies toll free at 1-888-5-optout (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.OptOutPrescreen.com. Both of these require your Social Security number so decide if you want to do this over the phone or online.



And don't forget that you can sign up to opt out of unwanted calls on both your home line and your cell phone by registering or renewing your registration on the DO NOT CALL list by visiting www.DoNotCall.gov.



Water/Sewer Department News

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



Spring has Sprung! Here are a few reminders to remember as the weather improves:

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.

Cemeteries - 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 1.

Park Pavilions - If you would like to use the pavilions in the Somerset Park this season, you can make a reservation by calling the Town Hall at 795-3575 ext. 2 for the Clerk's Office. There is no charge.

Electronic Recycling - This is an ongoing program and items can be dropped off at the Sewer Plant, 8500 Lower Lake Rd, on garbage days from 7am to 3pm.

Backflow Preventers - These are *required* on all new homes, and homes that are being sold. It is your responsibility to install a preventer. Your water/sewer account will not be transferred without this requirement being met.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Supervisor cont'd

Let me highlight a very important point concerning environmental justice and that is, what's right and good for millionaire New Yorkers living on the Hamptons should equally be the standard for rural upstate New Yorkers who live in a town along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. A thirty (30) mile setback distance from industrial wind turbines should be the setback standard throughout all of New York State in every community, not just the wealthy ones.

In other upcoming town matters, the Town will be completing a waterline installation project at the Lighthouse Christian Camp later this spring. The cost for this expansion is being paid to the district directly from the Lighthouse Christian Camp and it will enhance their current water services and fire protection mostly. Also, the Town Board will be establishing a broad-based committee to examine the impacts on the town if the Governor continues to advance his stated goal of shutting every NYS coal plant down by 2020. By the way, there's only three (3) active plants in NYS and as we all know, we (Somerset) aren't operating all the time (by a long shot!) so while this sounds like a great idea to the Governor, it will have miniscule, if even any impact on carbon emissions but it will certainly have tremendous impacts on the towns, school districts and counties where these plants are located. There's the other problem, they are all located in rural upstate New York and we're not exactly high on the downstate agenda. Now, make no mistake, while the town is encouraged by the new ownership group and their commitment to operating the facility for many years to come, we must remain vigilant and be prepared when downstate politics enter into the picture. We are all too familiar when Albany/New York City politics target our community and this committee will be a vehicle to make certain that our rights and interests are heard (together) if the Governor continues to push this agenda. We are also going to be examining the multiple use plan which was adopted during the original construction of the power plant which designated certain proposed land use and community enhancements on the parcel. The town has preserved its interest over the years and in the adopted comprehensive plans and updates but has never formally explored various applications of this document or studied specific impacts. The time for a detailed study on potential town interests is upon us and the Board is prepared to move forward.

In closing, 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



News from Senator Robert G. Ortt (R) 62nd Senate District

Senator Ortt Renews Push to Repeal the Un-SAFE Act

The so-called NY SAFE Act has been a main source of contention among many law-abiding gun owners since it was signed into law – in the dead of night – four years ago. The divide is especially clear between New York City progressives and Upstate New Yorkers.

It's a different culture in New York City when it comes to gun ownership, as it is with other issues, including ride-sharing services and varying minimum wages. But nothing has divided our state more than the governor's gun grabbing SAFE Act law.

That's why I've renewed my push to remove many of the misguided components of the un-SAFE Act in Upstate. My Republican colleagues in the Senate and Assembly recently joined me to call on lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to repeal several onerous measures of the gun control law everywhere in the state except for the five boroughs of New York City.

My legislation is gaining support in both houses of the state Legislature. Some of the measures include repealing the five-year recertification requirement for pistol permits; dismantling the ammunition database; repealing federal background checks for private guns sales; and it would reaffirm our right to inherit firearms, rifles and shotguns from a family member.

The SAFE Act is an affront on our Second Amendment rights. Its sweeping overreach turned yesterday's law-abiding citizens and sportsmen into today's criminals. We can no longer allow this unconstitutional law to undermine our values, our rights and safety.

Show your support in allowing Upstate to have its own regulations that best fit our needs. Head to my website, Ortt.nysenate.gov to sign a petition to repeal the SAFE Act in Upstate New York.

Together, we can show New York progressives that not only do we respect our right to bear arms, we demand it.

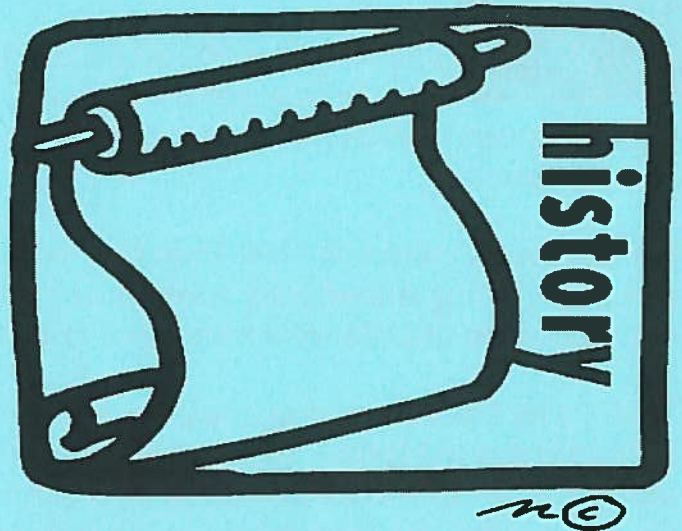


HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By: Pete Devereaux 795-3575, ext. 7

SOLDIERS WELFARE COMMITTEE TOWN OF SOMERSET

One hundred years ago in 1917 the Town of Somerset started the Soldiers Welfare Committee to send letters to all service men serving in World War I to help boost morale and to keep people back home informed as to the welfare of the soldiers. Each soldier was also given a Gillette Safety Razor with his initials engraved on it. Christmas boxes were sent containing mince pie, 35 choice McIntosh apples, cake, tobacco, cigarettes, candy and other dainties. Every three weeks the committee issued a bulletin containing newsy items about the boys from the town who are in the service and items about things at home. This bulletin was sent to each serviceman from Somerset and the Village of Barker. A stamped and addressed envelope was enclosed with the bulletin so the soldiers could respond if they wished.



Lon J. McAdam was chairman of the committee and reported that they were receiving inquiries from all over the country concerning the program. Our soldiers in the various camps have shown copies of the bulletin to their officers and it was endorsed as a splendid idea. It helps the morale of the boys, the officers said, by driving away homesickness and keeping them in touch with the home folks.

There were 14 copies of the bulletin from Oct. 1917 thru Nov. 1918 and all of them are in the Historians office if anyone would like to see them. They are very informative and contain a lot of information about the soldiers and where they were stationed and how they were doing.

There were 56 soldiers from the Town of Somerset and the Village of Barker who served in World War 1.

It would be very interesting to know if anyone still has the engraved razors that were given to the soldiers.

Peter J. Devereaux

LIBRARY NEWS



BUILD A BETTER WORLD™

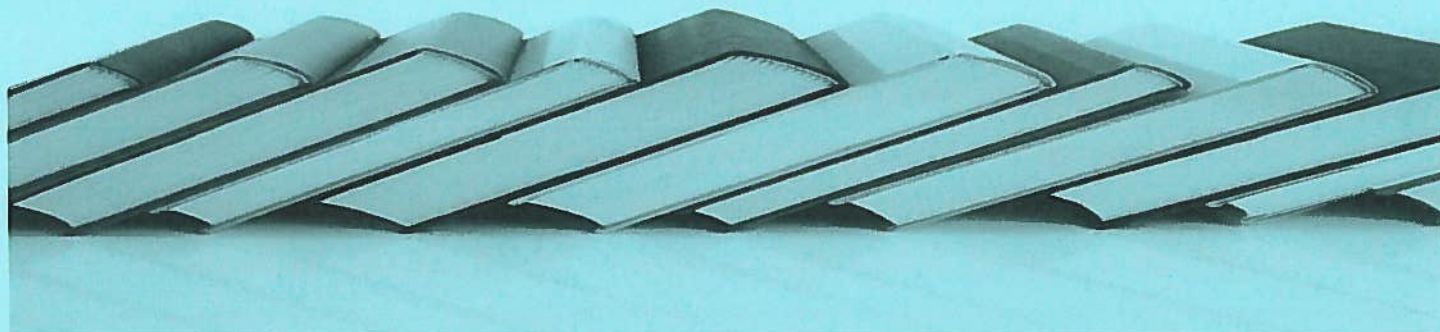
It is not too early to start thinking about the Summer Reading at the Barker Public Library.

The library has programs planned to keep your children reading and learning this summer while having fun and winning prizes. Children who join the summer library program keep their minds active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and ready to succeed.

Remember, you are your child's first teacher. Look at picture books with your children who have not learned to read and point out people, animals, and object in the pictures. Read to your children and ask them to read to you. We will be happy to help you find books that are just right. Our hope is that you and your family enjoy looking at books and reading together and that you discover the treasures of the Barker Public Library.

Look for information on the library's 2017 Build a Better World Program either at the library or coming home with your child at the end of the school year.

Happy Reading!



Volume 32, Issue 2
Spring 2017

8700 Haight Road
P.O. Box 368
Barker, NY 14012-0368

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

U.S. Postage
PAID
Middleport, NY
14105
Permit #21

- * Chicken and Biscuit Dinner - April 20th 5:00PM County Line United Methodist Church
- * Tire Drop Off - **Highway Garage** - April 24 to April 28 (7am-3pm) April 29 (7am-11am)
- * Round and Square Dance - April 28 7:00pm to 11:00pm - Cornell Co-Op Extension
- * Somerset Conservation Club Spring Chicken BBQ - April 30th 12:00PM - 2:00PM
(take outs must be picked up by 1:30PM)
- * Somerset Conservation Club Gun Raffle - April 30th 2:00PM
- * Mother's Day Chicken BBQ - Barker Lions Club - May 14 @ 11AM until sold out
- * CPR Class - May 18 6:00pm - Barker Fire Department - cost \$25 rsvp by May 11th 795-3011
- * Somerset Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by the American Legion, Herbert W. Carr Post-
May 29th at 10:00AM (**Note time change**) Guest Speaker Assemblyman Michael J. Norris
- * Free Rabies Clinic at Hyde Park - Centennial Pavilion - June 10th 9:00AM - 11:00AM
- * Veteran's Outreach - June 14 10:00am to 1:30pm (Call Town Clerk for Appointment)
- * Free Rabies Clinic at Town of Wilson Highway Garage - July 15 9:00AM - 11:00AM