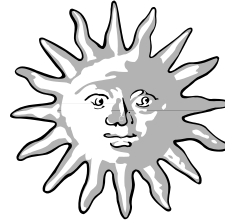




Town of Somerset

Volume 29, Issue 2

Summer 2014



From Your Town Clerk

It's hard to believe it's already time for our Town Wide Yard sale! Details are on the back page, but don't forget to call the Town Clerk's office to get your address placed on the map.

My office gets many phone calls asking if we know anyone they could call for various things (like people to hire for handyman or cleaning). To help this out I will be placing a business card holder at the Town Hall. Any Somerset resident who has a business is welcome to place cards here. If we get too many, I will rotate them in. If you have a need for any services, stop by the Town Hall and peruse the cards. It is not in place as of this writing, but it will be soon. We do not have the space for fliers, pamphlets, etc. so we can only display business cards. Our bulletin boards will remain open for community events, legal postings, and Civil Service job openings.

As you will see in the Supervisor's article, we are having many dog issues this year. Any resident who has a dog, must have the dog licensed. This is a New York State law that the Town has to enforce. Please get your dog licensed if you have not already done so. It will be so helpful to us if your dog gets loose because it will help us to find where he lives. If we can't find its owner, the dog has to be taken to the kennel and that gets expensive for both the town and the dog owner.

If you have questions, our office is always willing to find answers for you so don't hesitate to call or stop by. Enjoy your summer!

Tracy L Carmer



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Faith United Methodist Church is hosting an Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction at 6:00PM on Monday, August 18th. The Barker Community Band will be playing at 7:00PM.

Come enjoy a relaxing evening of fun, great music and delicious ice cream!





A Word From Your Supervisor

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

Summer has arrived! I trust that everyone is enjoying this splendid season of farmers markets, fairs, picnics, bonfires, swimming, biking and gathering with friends and families to celebrate graduations, weddings and other seasonal events! I would especially encourage everyone to join us for the 100 Year Celebration of the Barker Fire Department parade on July 26 at 4pm!

The ENHS Board of Directors made a decision recently to re-purpose the Newfane Hospital into an out-patient clinic. The specific details and the timeline have not been released but I was told by CEO Clare Haar that the “emergency department” will be staffed 24/7. However, they are removing all operating/surgical capabilities, so patients requiring definitive care/surgery will need to be transported to a true emergency room. The Newfane facility will be an urgent care clinic and not a true emergency room. I was told that ambulances could continue to transport there but I am still waiting for confirmation on this. Our fire department is also concerned about this aspect as they will undoubtedly incur more call time, greater distance and increased fuel costs to provide ambulance transportation. I was also told that the Newfane site will continue to provide laboratory, x-ray, dialysis and physical/occupational therapy services. I will remain engaged with the other Town Supervisors in the affected service area and I will continue to advocate for the greatest level of healthcare services to be retained at the Newfane facility. I will assuredly keep you updated on this important matter.

The Town Board also directed me to spearhead an initiative to create a county wide healthcare consortium for all public employees in Niagara County. This effort was borne from the challenges that the Town has faced with our own employees who have had their plans dropped and/or changed each of the past six years. The average cost increase to the Somerset taxpayer has been around 18% annually during the period. In order to reduce the costs to taxpayers, and stabilize plans for employees, we are capitalizing on the premise of insurance... numbers. The greater number of insured spreads out the risk. As I write you today, virtually all of the 21 municipalities are joining in a feasibility study. If we are to ultimately build a consortium, we are assured to gain profound advantages for our taxpayers as well as our employees. Stay tuned.

The last matter which I really need to address with everyone concerns dogs. Please, when one chooses to get a dog, one must choose also to be a responsible dog owner. Please research the cost of dog ownership prior to making a commitment to owning one. Unfortunately, not all dog owners act responsibly, abandoning their dogs when they become inconvenient. Abandonment IS NEVER an acceptable option. The most irresponsible dog owners will leave them to fend for themselves and this is tragic and unacceptable. If you are moving, be diligent to find the right place that accepts pets. Please contact your veterinarian or our Dog Control Officers for assistance with contacting animal rescue groups that can help you before you just leave your dog to fend for itself. Please be aware that the Town has incurred great expense over the past year directly relating to the abandonment of dogs. We strive to care for and provide veterinary services in order for these dogs (who can't speak for themselves) to be adopted. While this approach is costly we feel it's the right thing to do. Nonetheless, the cost is borne by all of us so please do your part and be a responsible dog owner and encourage others as well. It has been said that a measure of a nation's moral progress can be judged by the way they treat their animals.

Have a great summer, enjoy the season and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In your service,

Daniel M. Engert – Town Supervisor





We are pleased to provide police services to residents and businesses in the Town of Somerset. We strive to enhance the quality of life in your Town by providing regularly scheduled patrols to deter and detect criminal activity and to also provide vehicle and traffic law enforcement to keep the roadways safe for all of our different types of commuters as well as providing immediate first response during targeted shifts that are scheduled every day.

We have experienced an increase in juvenile criminal mischief over the past several months. Patrols have been increasing around the Town Park, the Bicentennial Park at the lake and at other locations as a result of complaints. Please be vigilant to report any suspicious activity to the Somerset Police at 255-0503.

House/business check service is available to any resident while you are away or at any time. A TSPD officer will perform a walk-around inspection of your home/business each evening to deter and detect any attempt to break in or other criminal activity. The form to request this service is available on the town website at www.somersetny.org.

Please find some information regarding **Internet Safety**:

Internet safety begins with securing your home/business computer

- Keep your virus protection software updated regularly.
- Keep your operation system software updated regularly.
- Install and run spyware-monitoring software.
- Use a firewall program or install a hardware firewall, especially if you have high-speed internet access which maintains continuous internet connection.
- Install or activate a pop-up window blocker.
- Make regular back-ups of all important information.

Enjoy the internet safely

- Use a strong password – a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. Example: Prevent-Crime-911
- Change your password frequently, at least twice a year.
- Use unique passwords. Do not use the same password on all accounts.
- Do not write down your password, remember it.
- Do not use the links provided in emails to access a webpage. Type the web address for the company directly into the browser.
- Be suspicious of any emails with urgent request for personal or financial information.
- Do not give out your personal information through emails or online forms unless you confirm that you are dealing with a legitimately secure site.
- A secure web address begins with https:// rather than just http://
- Read website privacy policy prior to submitting information online.
- When submitting information, also look for the lock or key icon on the browser's status bar.
- Do not download files from unknown email addresses.
- Do not use the unsubscribe link in spam emails.** This only notifies them that your email address is valid and they do not remove you from their list.
- To report an internet crime file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.IC3.gov. You can also contact the TSPD at 255-0503 and we will assist you with filing a complaint.

Internet Safety for Children

- Never tell anyone your home address, telephone number or school name without asking a parent, and never share personal information publicly online (like in a chat room or newsgroup/message board post).
- Don't give your password to anyone but your parents-not even your best friend.
- Never say you'll meet someone in person without asking your parents first.
- Always tell a parent, librarian or teacher about any threatening or bad language you see online.
- Don't accept things from strangers (e-mails, files, links or URLs).
- If someone says something that makes you feel unsafe or funny, notify your parents, librarian or teacher and leave the chat room or website.

Finally, be vigilant, be safe and feel free to contact me with any concerns and/or suggestions to make our Town a safer and more secure place to live.

In your service,

Daniel M. Engert – Town Supervisor



BARKER FIRE DEPT. By Wally Coates



Save These Dates: July 26 & August 2nd

For 100 years (1914-2014) we have tried to be here for you. Please give us a few hours of your time now to help us celebrate.

On *July 26 at 4:00pm*, our parade will start on Haight Rd. (note the change) and proceed to High St. on Quaker Rd. We are planning the largest parade since the Town's Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1973. There will be several musical units, marching units, floats, antique vehicles, dignitaries as well as fire apparatus involved. The best viewing areas will be on both sides of Quaker Rd. from the south end of the bus loop at Barker School to High St. Also on July 26 will be our annual Beer and Band Night starting at 7:00pm until 11:00pm. It will feature the band 90 West. Admission will be \$5.00 per person which includes a beer mug and the first beer.

On August 2nd we will have a 100 Year Celebration Banquet. Cocktails will start at 6:00pm and dinner is at 7:00pm. Tickets for the general public will be available July 12 by calling Cheri Devereaux 716-417-9115 or Wally Coates 716-795-9948, or tickets will be at the Town Hall with the Town Clerk's office. The cost of the tickets will be \$20.00 for an individual or \$35.00 per couple and will include beverages and dinner. All reserved tickets must be paid for by July 26. Come to our Banquet Celebration! Wayne F. Jagow, Niagara County Clerk, will be the M.C. for the evening and will get answers to the following questions:

1. What did the date July 9, 1895 have to do with the charter of July 31, 1914?
2. Why are the Barker's Fire trucks and equipment painted lime yellow and white?
3. What did the community do for an ambulance service before 1956?

We hope to see you on both dates, ***July 26 at 4:00pm & 7:00pm and August 2 at 6:00pm*** to help us celebrate!!

Assessor's Office

795-3575, ext. 6

Anthony Dispenza—Assessor

somersetassessor@roadrunner.com

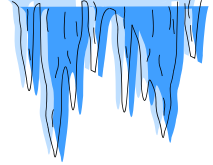
The 2014 Final Assessment Roll is now complete and is available for viewing at the Assessor's or Town Clerk's offices. It is also available thru a link on the Town's website. If you have any questions please call during normal business hours: Wednesday from 8:30-5:00pm.

If you need any information about assessments, exemptions, or forms, you can either contact my office or visit the Assessor's page at the town website <http://www.somersetny.org/assessor>. Here you'll find general assessment information, as well as a link to our OARS (Online Assessment Roll System) which provides detailed records, street-view and birds-eye images, taxes, exemptions, sales and more for every property in the town.

Snow Birds, remember to renew your 2014 Enhanced Star, Senior and Agricultural Exemptions before you head south. They are due March 1st, 2015, and renewal notices typically go out around Christmas. Have a safe and happy summer!

Water/Sewer Department News

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



This was a cold winter, and we had many residents with water meters that froze and broke. If you do not reside at your house year round, please prepare your water lines for the winter. If your meter does break, you are responsible for all of the water loss, plus the replacement cost of a new meter. This can be quite costly, so please be cautious!

Remember, if any of the employees of the town stop at your house, they will be in a town truck and will have proper identification. If you have any concerns, please contact my office or the town hall.

Have a great summer!

We've Got It All!

Submitted by Robin R. Jansen, Town Councilman

Shortly after moving to Somerset, over 20 years ago - this article appeared in one of the Town's newsletters. (The proud author of the original article is Paul Frank.) I kept it all these years, and with the anniversary of the Fire Department I thought it appropriate to have it reprinted. We have so much going on in town, including the Farmers Market and library, that I hope you all agree with me that 'We've got it all'.

"We don't have anything here"

We don't have planes, and trains and busses and cabs... we don't have anything.

We just have peaceful days, where the muffled sounds of a school bus usher in the morning... the noon whistle parts the day... and crunching stones as the mailman comes by reminds us "the kids will be home soon".

We don't have malls and traffic lights and 5 o'clock congestion, and we don't turn on the air conditioner in the car in the hopes that the air will somehow be better in there than it is outside.

We've just got gentle breezes that carry the time of year on their scent. From springs first flowers, to the fruit trees in blossom to summers' lush growth and falls' autumn leave. No ... we don't have anything.

We don't have high speed chases and all points' bulletins and we don't have neighbors huddled anxiously on the corner, to see who the latest victim of a drive by shooting is. We don't have anything.

We just have quiet days where our children can go to the store, or park or stay after school... and though we want to know where they are, we also know that our friends and neighbors keep an eye out too.

We don't have big city squabbles with this district and that, budget cuts, mandates and firemen striking for higher wages.

We just have what is possibly the best equipped volunteer fire department in the state and a school to match.

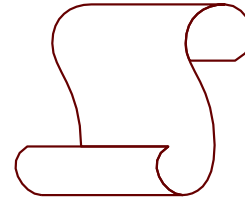
We don't rush home from work to slam the door on the world because we've...'had enough'.

We come home, eat and turn right around because there's the fire department, village board, town board and school board, the Lion's club, Optimists Club, Historical Society and seniors groups. The Boy scouts, cub scouts, Brownies and school functions...if we aren't in one, we're in the other. No we don't have anything here....

We've got it all!

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By: Pete Devereaux 795-3575, ext. 7



As a town/village historian I am always digging into the past and I have often wondered about telephone use in the Town of Somerset and Village of Barker.

Where was the first telephone in this area? Was it at the Post Office or maybe at the railroad depot, one of the local stores or was it possibly in the home of a local resident? I don't have the answer to this question so if anyone could help me, it would be greatly appreciated. If you have old phone bills or any records from a phone company, maybe you could share them so we could have them on file in the historians office.

I have a copy of the 1932-1933 Lockport Telephone Directory and there were 240 listings for the Barker area.

I remember there being a phone booth at the corner of Quaker Rd and Main St in Barker but I do not know when it was removed. I have looked through a lot of old pictures trying to find a picture of it but I can not seem to find any. If anyone has any pictures of it, it would be nice to have a copy of it in our files.

On a lighter note today, we have cell phones and touch phones that the younger generation has no problem using. Some of us older generation can't seem to master, but the older generation had the rotary phone which the younger generation have never seen or had to use.

How about party lines where there would be several phones on one line and you could tell who was getting a phone call by the number of rings. Anyone on the party line could pick up phone and listen to the conversation and that is how a lot of gossip got started.

Thank you in advance and if anyone has information or pictures you would like to share with the office, please contact me or drop them off at the Town Hall.



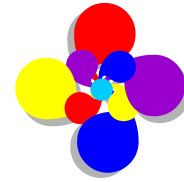
ELECTRONIC RECYCLING UPDATE

Our partner, Sunnking, has noticed a high volume of broken CRT Televisions and CRT Monitors (a CRT is considered broken when the glass is broken or when the outer casing and/or internal components have been removed...this does not apply to whole CRT units). This does not necessarily refer to our site specifically, but is an overall notice.

Because there are no manufacturer rebates available for broken CRTs Sunnking does not receive any subsidies to help cover the cost of transportation, handling and processing this material. As a result Sunnking has been carrying the financial burden of responsibly recycling broken CRTs at a high cost. Unfortunately the high volumes of broken CRTs has put them in a position where they have to charge us at the rate of \$.35/lb. for this material. Because of this, the town cannot accept broken CRT items. Thank you for your cooperation.

RECYCLING NEWS

**Submitted by Katy Duggan-Haas
Modern Corp.**



The Town of Somerset's curbside collection recycling rate improved from 10% in 2012 to 16% in 2013 to 20% for the first five months of 2014. This is great news because material diverted from disposal to recycling will help stabilize the cost of Somerset's future waste management services as well as preserve natural resources and reduce energy use by providing the manufacturing industry with these materials to make new products. Keep up the good work and encourage your neighbors to recycle too!

Not sure if a particular item is recyclable? Check on Modern's web page: www.moderncorporation.com. The "Recycling Questions" link near the bottom of the homepage takes you to a page full of answers to common questions about recycling and provides a link to the list of acceptable items. Many people like the *Single Stream Recycling* video too, which shows what happens to recyclable materials after they are picked up from your home or office and lists sample products that may be made using these materials. Fun facts and recycling tips about even more items you can recycle, either curbside or in other ways, are available on Modern's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ModernDisposal](https://www.facebook.com/ModernDisposal), or read them right on the website.

Did you know...?

The amount of oil needed to produce and deliver a plastic bottle of water is enough to fill a quarter of the bottle, but recycling five two-liter bottles provides enough material to make a T-shirt.

In the past 50 years humans have consumed more resources than in all previous history. Recycling preserves resources.

You can return not only your plastic carryout bags to the grocery store for recycling but also cracker and cereal liner bags, produce bags, pellet and salt bags, case overwrap and clean films, food storage bags and bread bags too. Do not place these bags in your Town recycling tote.

As always, remember to recycle your electronics at the drop-off at the Sewer/Water Plant or another electronic waste collection site or event. Buy recycled-content products to keep strong demand for the recyclable materials we put in our recycling carts. Strong demand for these materials keeps the cost of recycling lower than disposal.

REMINDERS

- ◆ If you're paying your water/sewer bill by check, The Barker branch of Key Bank is now accepting your payments . For those who still need to pay with cash, the Town Clerk's office can accept those payments on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the due date. Payments that are mailed should still be sent to the Town Hall at PO Box 368, Barker, NY 14012. At any time, you can sign up for your payment to be automatically paid through ACH. Call the Town Clerk's office for details.
 - ◆ All dogs must be licensed! At the age of 4 months your dog can receive a rabies vaccination and be licensed. If you have an unlicensed dog, I urge you to get him/her licensed. The Dog Control Officer has been issuing many tickets for unlicensed dogs. The license fee is only \$6 for a spayed or neutered dog, and \$16 for an unspayed or unneutered dog.
 - ◆ The Town Hall is hosting a Veteran's Outreach program on Tuesday, September 23rd, and there are still a few slots available. Call the Town Clerk's office at 716-795-3575, ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.
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**Volume 29, Issue 2
Summer 2014**

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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|------------------------------|--|
| * Saturday, July 26, 2014 | Barker Fire Department's 100 Year Celebration |
| * Saturday, August 2, 2014 | Barker Fire Department Banquet |
| * Sunday, August 3, 2014 | Historical Society Family Picnic and Games at the Babcock House (1:30PM) |
| * Monday, August 11, 2014 | Hunting licenses go on sale |
| * Sunday, September 7, 2014 | Conservation Club Fall Raffle |
| * Sunday, September 14, 2014 | Somerset Historical Society Old Fashioned Farm Days |
| * Sunday, September 14, 2014 | Our Lady of the Lake (Barker Site) Basket Raffle (doors open 12:30) |
| * Friday, October 3, 2014 | Historical Society Hay Ride and Ghost Stories |

**TOWN WIDE YARD SALE
August 2nd 9:00AM—5:00PM**

Maps will be available on July 30th and can be picked up at the Town Hall, Village Hall and Thee Barker Store.
Call the Town Clerk's office at 716-795-3575 ext. 2 to have your address marked on the map.

If you would like to hold your sale with others, Faith United Methodist Church has space for you for free!
If you need a table, they are available for \$5. Call 716-795-9945 for reservations.

The church will be selling Sahlen's Hot Dogs, popcorn, baked goods and beverages, along with flea items and clothes.