

Town of Somerset

Volume 31, Issue 2

Summer 2016

From Your Town Clerk

Dear Residents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! Summer is here and this has been my favorite weather....warm and dry. It always perks me up! I do wish we had some rain for the farmers though.

I want to remind everyone of the Town-wide yard sale on August 6th. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my deputy clerks for doing such a great job stepping up to the plate while I'm home recovering. And a special thanks to Stephanie for putting together this newsletter for you. I will see you soon!

*Enjoy the rest of your summer!
Tracy Carmer
Town Clerk*



Faith Unit-

ed Method-

ist Church
1449 Quaker Road, Barker

Every Thursday through September 15th
5 - 7 PM
Produce, crafts and food

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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 in Somerset! The 2016 school year recently concluded and on behalf of the town, we want to wish each of our graduates the very best in their future endeavors. Whether they are continuing their education in college, entering the job market, joining the military in service to their country or whatever else they decide, we are very proud of them and we wish them all success.

Let me begin my letter by providing a brief update on the industrial wind turbine project (Lighthouse Wind). Currently, we remain in the pre-application phase of this project. At this time, the stakeholders, including, the town, state agencies, the applicant (Apex Clean Energy) and any other interested parties/citizens may enter into stipulated agreements. These agreements may narrow any issues that are in dispute. For example, the type and scope of various studies that will be conducted concerning health impacts upon residents, property value impacts and the impact on migratory birds are some examples of the many issues that will likely be in dispute as the Town endeavors to fulfill its responsibility to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the residents throughout the scoping of this potential project. Therefore, the Town was very disappointed when the Administrative Law Judge Panel recently imposed a verbal gag order citing confidentiality on all stipulation discussions between the stakeholders. My disagreement with the position announced by the panel is that it limits the effectiveness of public comment if the stipulations are negotiated in private without public or community input. I am extremely disappointed that Somerset residents are unable to participate in these negotiations or discuss at this time such sensitive topics and issues which directly impact our Town. This is a direct consequence of the elimination of Home Rule in Article 10. Because of this decision, our community is shut out of negotiations on critical aspects of the Apex project. The town is researching legal options to force transparency and fully open the process to all residents of Somerset. Unfortunately, I am unable to make any further comment on the stipulation process, except to say, if you are as concerned as I am about letting the sun shine in on the entire Article 10 proceeding, then write the Public Service Commission and let them know how you feel. You can find a link on the Town website. (www.somersetny.org)

On May 26, 2016, Apex Clean Energy brought in Dave Belote, (USAF-Ret.) their former Vice President who left Apex to start his own lobbying firm, to provide an update on his lobbying discussions with the Department of Defense (DoD) concerning the potential impacts of the wind project on the future of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. As many of you know, the NFARS is the largest employer in WNY and a closure recommendation from BRAC could be catastrophic to our region. Apex released two documents to the town. Both are letters from the Assistant Secretary of Defense in charge of the DoD electric generation siting clearing house. The first letter states that an informal review by the DoD indicated Lighthouse Wind “**will potentially** impact military operations in the area.” The second letter clarifies the first. It states that any impact would be limited to the NORAD mission (the NORAD mission is ballistic missile defense radars). Apex stated that the letters reflect an informal review and only a limited review. Apex acknowledged that a formal review is required and they will submit for such at a later time.

At this point, neither an informal or the required formal review would ever answer the most pressing question facing Niagara County and our region, which is whether Lighthouse Wind would impact the NFARS encroachment score in future BRAC proceedings. Apex acknowledged this fact and even told us that the DoD will not and is actually prohibited by law to conduct studies, review or in any way answer a BRAC encroachment question prior to an actual BRAC proceeding. Apex told us that Congress denies all funding for this type of advance work in anticipation of BRAC proceedings which Apex said would begin in 2019 or 2021 and which is well after Apex plans (hopes) the Lighthouse Wind project to be operational. In my view, the most critical question concerning the ultimate

Supervisor con't

impact of this project on the future of the NFARS will remain unanswered until a BRAC proceeding commences. That's when the comprehensive and specific radar implications and associated operational impacts are fully studied. The stakes are awfully high at this point.

The town recently adopted a local law to opt out of a provision in NYS Real Property Tax Law. This state law exempted wind and solar developers from paying any property taxes on their projects for fifteen (15) years. By opting out of this law, the town will now require that a developer pay their fair share of the local property taxes on their project. The board heard comments from the community at the public hearing and moved forward to protect our property values and our tax base in the face of this project being proposed.

In other news, I was recently advised by a number of constituents throughout town that they received a solicitation from a solar developer, Cypress Creek Renewables. The developer is apparently proposing to construct a solar power generating facility here and is inquiring as to their interest in signing lease agreements for parcels in no less than twenty (20) acre sections. The town has not received any information whatsoever from this developer. Our current law only addresses the siting of small scale solar energy systems. The board has taken steps to be able to introduce a local law that will properly site all types of solar energy systems to protect residential, business areas and other land uses, to preserve the overall beauty, nature and character of the town and to promote the effective and efficient use of solar energy resources and to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the town. A public hearing will be scheduled when the law is introduced within the next few months.

Lastly, the **Farmer's Market** is working out wonderfully at the new location (**Faith United Methodist Church**) this year. The market is held on **Thursdays from 5pm - 7pm** through September 15, 2016. Please be sure to stop out and support the local vendors and take time this summer to enjoy our community with friends and family. 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!

In your service,
Daniel M. Engert
 Town Supervisor

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

BRIAN HESS, ASSESSOR 716-795-3575 EXT. 6

Important Update Regarding Basic and Enhanced (65 yrs. or older) Star Program

As of March, 2, 2015, new homeowners will no longer apply to the Assessor's office for the basic and enhanced STAR. In order to receive a STAR check you will need to register online or call. This also includes homeowners who have not applied previously.

If you register after July 1, 2016, you will receive your check at a time to be determined by NY State.

Go to: www.tax.ny.gov/star to register online or call 1-518-457-2036.



BARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

2016 Summer Reading Program

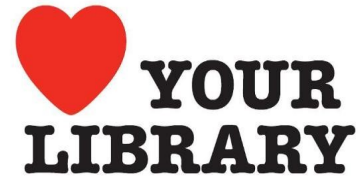
Keep your child's mind active during the summer months

You're Invited!

**ON YOUR MARK,
GET SET...
READ!**



Images are copyrighted. Contact the CSLP at 1-866-657-8556 or info@cslpreads.org for more information.



Summer Reading Programs @ the Barker Public Library:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday - July 2, 2016 | Dance Party |
| Saturday - July 16, 2016 | Bend, Stretch, Wiggle & Shake |
| Saturday - July 30, 2016 | On the Move |
| Saturday - August 6, 2016 | Let's Play Ball |
| Saturday - August 13, 2016 | Bean Bag Boogie |

***Please note, all programs @ 10:30AM - 11:30AM**

Made possible through the Grigg-Lewis Foundation and the NIOGA Library System



Barker Public Library Book Club
is taking a summer vacation & will return in September

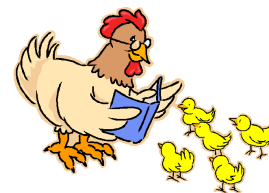
The Barker Public Library will be closed on
Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day

Barker Public Library
8706 Main Street
Barker, NY 14012
(716) 795-3344

Barker Public Library
Toddler Story Hour
will resume again in September

HOURS

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Monday | 10 AM - 5 PM |
| Tuesday | 10 AM - 8 PM |
| Wednesday | Closed |
| Thursday | 10 AM - 8 PM |
| Friday | 10 AM - 5 PM |
| Saturday | 10 AM - 1 PM |
| Sunday | Closed |



*Have a Safe and
Happy Summer!*

www.BarkerFreeLibrary.com



News from:

Senator Robert G. Ortt

(R) 62nd Senate District

Please see the editorial from Robert G. Ortt, State Senator, 62nd District, summing up the heroin agreement that was reached near the end of the 2016 legislative session.

The state Legislature wrapped up a marathon session in Albany last month with agreements on a range of issues spanning from ethics reform to zombie properties and fantasy sports. But, one of the most significant achievements to me is the steps we took to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic that's wreaked havoc across our state.

My Senate Republican colleagues have led the way on this issue that has affected so many of our communities. I was humbled to serve as co-chair of the Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. Together, in formulating budget and legislative initiatives, we held dozens of public forums across the state. We hosted hundreds of meetings and heard from addicts, family members, law enforcement, health and mental health experts, local residents, and other participants. We heard countless, tragic stories of heroin and opioid abuse that has ripped families apart and has torn through neighborhoods in every corner of the state.

The anti-heroin legislation was one of the signature agreements reached with our partners in government during the last few weeks of session. Recently signed into law, the comprehensive package increases access to treatment, expands prevention strategies, and extends the length of time someone can receive life-saving services.

This agreement builds on the \$189 million in related funds we secured as part of the budget and legislation approved by both houses of the state legislature. Under the new law, opioid scripts are limited from 30 days to seven days to cut down on excessive prescriptions while also ensuring that patients in need are still served.

It also mandates training on addiction and pain management for all physicians and prescribers to achieve the key goals of education and prevention.

Another key pillar to combat this epidemic related to treatment and recovery. Our legislation allows families to seek 72 hours of emergency treatment related to substance use disorder. Beds and program slots for those struggling with substance use, critical to treatment and recovery, are also increasing across the state and expanding in our community. Finally, by removing roadblocks from insurers to cover necessary inpatient treatment services and requiring plans to cover the costs of opioid overdose-reversal medication like Naloxone (Narcan), we're taking dramatic steps to empower families and save lives.

I believe these new measures will help break the cycle of heroin and opioid addiction in New York and ultimately save lives. I'm optimistic that next year we will be able to continue this progress while also focusing on needed enforcement components. I'm committed to protecting the lives of all New Yorkers, and combating this epidemic remains a top priority of mine. That's because while I've heard too many stories of loss and heartbreak, I've also heard stories of triumph and success in overcoming the evils of drug addiction. I'm hopeful these new initiatives will allow many more individuals to share their victory stories, because after all, that's what our work represents – hope.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By: Pete Devereaux 795-3575, ext. 7



These are just some interesting little articles from June 20, 1914 that I have taken from old Barker Register newspapers and thought that Somerset and Barker residents might find interesting. The Barker Register was a weekly newspaper printed in Barker from 1909 through 1953. There are many copies that have been laminated and are stored in in the Somerset Town Hall. We do not have every issue that was printed so if someone has

BARKER, NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1914.

Graduation Exercises Of Barker High School.

The Baccalaureate Sermon of the graduating class of the Barker High School will be given at the S. O. V. Armory Sunday evening, June 21st, 1914, to which the public is invited.

The Commencement exercises will be held at the S. O. V. Armory Wednesday evening, June 24, 1914. The entire main floor will be reserved for those invited until 8 o'clock, then if any seats remain unoccupied the doors will be opened to the public.

Mail Handled On Rural Routes In Past Two Months.

The following figures give the amount of mail collected and delivered on the four different rural routes from the Barker post office from April 15th to June 15th, 1914:

R. F. D. No. 31.—Delivered, 15,053 pieces, weight 2,305 lbs. 3 oz.—
Collected, 1733 pieces, weight 148 lbs. 6 oz.

R. F. D. No. 32.—Delivered, 22,369 pieces, weight 3,772 lbs 9 oz.—
Collected, 3,518 pieces, weight 159 lbs. 13 oz.

R. F. D. No. 33.—Delivered, 14,115 pieces, weight 2,435 lbs.—
Collected, 2,670 pieces, weight 83 lbs. 11 oz,

R. F. D. No. 34.—Delivered, 15,285 pieces, weight 2,243 lbs. 14 oz.—
Collected, 2,344 pieces. weight 144 lbs. 4 oz.

BARKER, NEW YORK, S.

Stores To Close At Noon Wednesdays.

We, the undersigned merchants of Barker and Somerset feel that, owing to the long hours of work we give to the community in serving them, we ought to have at least one evening of the week free from our business.

We therefore agree to close our places of business on each Wednesday at noon and remain closed that afternoon and evening during June, July and August.

Barker Hardware Co.
John O'Malley.
Chas. E. Putnam.
Fred McComb.
Morgan & Hickok Hdw. Co.
Glenn C. Nellist.
Granger Store.
Hill & Marks.
S. W. Frost.
J. J. Casey.
John E. Harter.
E. A. Monty.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Michael Flint, Highway Superintendent 795-3866



Winter clean up for the roads is finished. Roadside mowing of our town roads is underway. The State DOT and Niagara County will catch up to us and mow their roadsides soon. Somerset Drive from Quaker Road East and Coates Road up to Lower Lake Road have just been repaved and they are awaiting striping which should happen later in the season.

Our summer work hours have also begun. During the summer hours we switch to four ten hour days working from 6:00am to 4:30pm.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Free Rabies Immunization Clinic Information



Saturday, July 16 - 9:00-11:00am @ Town of Royalton Garage

5316 Royalton Center Road, Town of Royalton 716-772-2431

Saturday, September 17 - 9:00-11:00am @ Town of Lockport

6560 Dysinger Road, Town of Lockport 716-439-9524



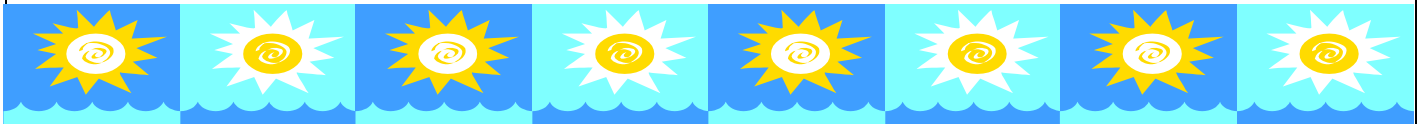
Saturday, December 3—9:00am—11:am @ City of North Tonawanda Public Works Department

758 Erie Ave, City of North Tonawanda 716-695-8585

For directions call the specific site . For any other clinic related questions call 439-7511

COUNCILMAN'S CORNER

Submitted by 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 leash law and all dogs are to be either leashed or fenced in. 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 outdoors and make sure your dog is leashed.

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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

RURAL ROUTE

COME CHECK OUT THE TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

AUGUST 6TH 9:00AM-5:00PM

Maps will be available on August 1st and can be picked up at the Town Hall, Village Hall and Thee Barker Store. Call the Town Clerks 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 for rent for \$5. Call 716-795-9945 for reservations.

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

