

# Somers 9-1-1 News

## Winter, 2002

### TOWN NEWS

**Calling 9-1-1?** Imagine you are injured, and you dial 9-1-1. Now imagine the dispatcher calls for the Fire & EMS to respond to your house. Rescue personnel are in route, but to their dismay, they can't find your house because the street # doesn't exist, or they pull into what they believe is your house #, but no one is home. In the mean time, you are frantically waiting for someone to respond - but they don't. This is a horrible situation that can, and unfortunately, has happened. It is a problem that can occur when you switch phone companies. Although 90% of the time there are no problems - you must be sure that SNET is aware of the switch so you are connected to the proper 9-1-1 dispatch, and the correct address shows up on their computer screen for your home. Although most of the problem areas we have uncovered are on streets that have the same name in multiple towns (ie: Rt. 190, Maple St. and Shaker Rd.), you should make the effort to confirm that 9-1-1 is working properly from your house. To confirm this, call SBC SNET (or your current phone company) **DO NOT CALL 9-1-1!** Be assured that we are working on your behalf with known problem areas, but it would behoove you to call **BEFORE** an emergency happens to correct any problems. If you have difficulties correcting this with your phone company, contact Lt. Ed Pagani at the Somers Fire Dept., 860-749-7626. Leave a message, and he will return your call.

### DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT "FACTS:"

- As many of you may, or may not know, we respond to fire and ambulance calls at the three prisons located within the geographical boundaries of Somers.
- Recruiting is an integral part of our department. We are constantly in need of physically qualified men and women, over the age of 18, to join our Team. We realize that fire fighting and EMS is not for everyone, however, if you are interested, contact any of our members, or stop by the firehouse for an application.

#### 50 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

Wolf Schiessel has just celebrated 50 years of volunteering on the Somers Fire Department. Wolf has held every position from Fire Fighter to Chief, and Secretary to President on the Board of Directors. He has seen a lot over the years, and enjoyed both of his sons volunteering by his side as Fire Fighters. The department held a surprise dinner for Wolf. Many friends from our mutual aid fire departments attended, as well as Kathy Devlin, Penny Bochiocci, and Dick Jackson, to name a few. Wolf remains an active member of the department today – and rarely misses a call – day or night. Thank you Wolf, for your many years of service and dedication to our town!



John Turano, Tom Van Tassel, Greg Smith & Duane Drouin



Sarah Moynihan & Wolf Schiessel prior to marching in the Somers 4-Town Fair Parade.

VISIT US AT  
OUR NEW  
WEBSITE:

[www.  
Somersnow.com](http://www.Somersnow.com)

Future Editions of  
**SOMERS 9-1-1 NEWS**

will be found in the  
new

**Northeast News**

starting in 2003!  
Northeast News is  
mailed to all house-  
holds in Somers and  
Ellington. It is also  
available for pick up  
in Stafford, Enfield,  
and Vernon.

We hope you will  
continue to read  
our  
**Somers 911 News!**

Please Email:

[Fire\\_Eyes46@msn.com](mailto:Fire_Eyes46@msn.com)  
with your responses and  
feedback on our trial run!

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

**Congratulations to the members** that completed the MRT class which was held at the Fire Department this spring. Those members were, Ed and Charlene Pagani, Ashley Martin, Rob Edwards, Sarah Moynihan, Matt Meier, and Romeo Raugei.



We also want to congratulate **Len Bergmeyer**. Len has successfully completed the **CT State Firefighter I** program, in addition to working full-time as a Physician's Assistant at Hartford Hospital, AND helping raise 3 children (twins and a new born). A special thanks to his wife for her patience in allowing him to volunteer for our town!

Congratulations to **Rob Edwards**. Rob was awarded the **Craig Michael Arnone Scholarship** for 2002 (\$500.00). Rob joined our department a little over a year ago and has already completed his CT State Firefighter I class and an MRT class. He has also recently joined the ambulance division. Rob is in Pre-Med at UCONN, and plans to continue on to be a doctor. Good luck to you Rob!

**Auxiliary** – thank you to the ladies who continue to put on the most wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> Monday dinners, and other special events including the annual summer picnic. Of course we always appreciate their hard work, including the much needed food and beverages that they bring us at structure fires, and other serious (time extended) calls, that otherwise would leave us thirsty and exhausted.

### Over 40 Years of Volunteer Service:

**Harold "Tiny" Parker** has been a member of the Somers Fire Department for over 40 years. He's catching up to Wolf with the amount of blood sweat and tears he has put into protecting this town – and words aren't enough to thank these great men. Tiny brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, love, and lots of laughter to our members. This department wouldn't be the same without him!



Harold "Tiny" Parker & Bill Bennet dressing a hydrant

**Military Service:** Our thoughts and prayers go out to our members that are currently serving in the Military. Greg Smith is currently overseas serving in the Marines, Noah Cass – also serving in the Marines, and Mike Lynch – a commissioned officer in the US Air Force, currently in Mississippi working on getting his "wings". We miss you guys, and wish you all the best. We also wish the best of luck to Chris Thibedeau who has just enlisted in the Army! We are very proud of each and every one of you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**January 26th 2003**

**Pancake Breakfast at  
Somers Fire Department  
7:00 am to 1:00 pm**

All our welcome to attend this fundraising event!

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**Blood Drive at SVFD  
Feb. 6th, 2003 1pm to 6pm**

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Watch for the upcoming  
**Car Wash Fund Raisers**  
this Spring!!!

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**Visit [www.somersnow.com](http://www.somersnow.com)  
to read about the smallpox  
vaccination plan for Somers.**

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Watch the Westminster  
Kennel Club on USA,  
**February 10th - 12th** to see  
Firefighter Becky Smith as she  
shows her Borzoi in NYC.  
Good luck Becky & Rozana!

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**Happy Holidays from the  
Somers Fire Department**

**Remember to have a designated  
driver this Holiday and please  
"Don't Drink and Drive!"**

# PUBLIC NEWS

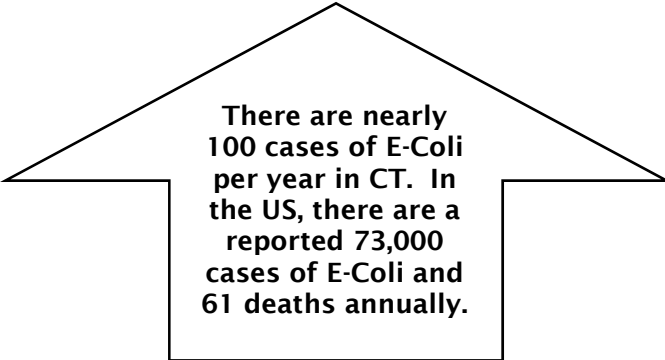
## FOOD BORNE ILLNESSES

As members of the volunteer Ambulance corps, we feel it is important to pass along information to our town residents that could potentially affect your health and well being. As you may know, the CDC (Center For Disease Control) has issued press releases in regards to several food borne illnesses that occurred in products shipped Nationwide over the last several months. Our goal is to educate you about the recalls, the signs and symptoms of E-Coli and Listeria, and how to properly prepare your food to help prevent the deadly illness that can result from the bacterium.

The first recall was for **E.Coli 0157:H7** that was detected in beef. This was the second largest beef recall in US History – nearly 19 million pounds shipped Nation Wide from April through June. The second press release was regarding E.Coli 0157:H7 found in Romaine Lettuce – also shipped Nationwide. Since then, there have been several more recalls for beef and most recently **Listeriosis** which was found in precooked, sliceable turkey deli meat.

**While food manufacturers do their part in keeping food safe, it is up to each of us to do our part in keeping it safe for our families.**

The Center For Disease Control (CDC) recommends that consumers refrigerate or freeze ground beef as soon as possible after purchase. Frozen ground beef should be thawed in the refrigerator and then cooked thoroughly to internal temperatures of **at least 160° F**. Consumers should use meat thermometers to ensure that internal temperatures are high enough to kill bacteria. Color is not a reliable indicator that ground beef patties have been cooked to a temperature high enough to kill harmful bacteria such as *E. coli* 0157:H7. If you are served an undercooked hamburger or other ground beef product in a restaurant, send it back for further cooking. To view a listing of the recalled items, please log onto [www.usda/fsis/ConAgra](http://www.usda/fsis/ConAgra), or contact your primary supermarket to see if any recalls have been issued.



**There are nearly 100 cases of E-Coli per year in CT. In the US, there are a reported 73,000 cases of E-Coli and 61 deaths annually.**

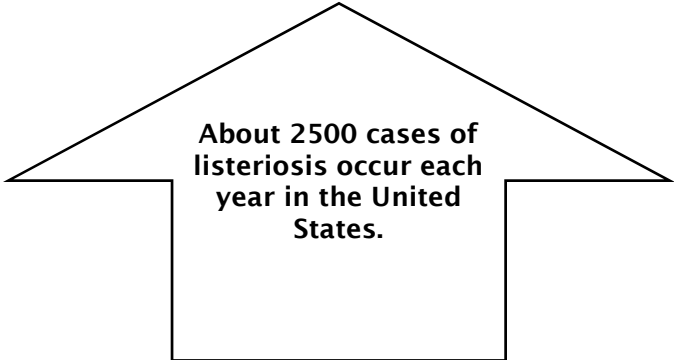
TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CROSS CONTAMINATION, the CDC recommends using soap and hot water to wash hands, utensils, and other surfaces that may have come into contact with raw or undercooked ground beef and other meat products. Consumers seeking general information about this recall can also call (800-849-7438), a special toll free number established by FSIS.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

E. coli 0157:H7 causes a diarrhea illness often with bloody stools. Although most healthy adults can recover completely within a week, some people can develop a form of kidney failure called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). **HUS** is most likely to occur in young children and the elderly. The condition can lead to serious kidney damage and even death. Most cases of HUS occur after an infection in the digestive system caused by the *Escherichia coli* bacterium (E-coli) found on contaminated food like meat, dairy products, and juice. Once HUS develops, there is no known treatment that can stop the progress of the syndrome. Unfortunately, it must run its course.

**Listeriosis is a serious food borne disease** that can be life-threatening to certain individuals, including the elderly or those with weakened immune systems. The initial symptoms are often fever, muscle aches, and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or diarrhea. The illness may be mild and ill persons sometimes describe their illness as flu-like. Because pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for listeriosis, the CDC recommends the following measures for those persons:

- Do not eat hot dogs unless they are reheated until steaming hot.
- Avoid cross-contaminating other foods, utensils, and food preparation surfaces with fluid from hot dog packages, and wash hands after handling hot dogs.
- Do not drink raw (unpasteurized) milk or eat foods that contain unpasteurized milk.



**About 2500 cases of listeriosis occur each year in the United States.**



**Above:** Fire Fighters vent the roof on the exterior of Shallowbrook Equestrian Farm due to a Fire caused by a concealed crack in the chimney flu. Inside, Fire fighters open the ceiling to expose the burning wood and extinguish any hot spots. The Thermal Imaging Camera was used to confirm hot areas were extinguished or removed from the ceiling. Horses were escorted to the arena until the smoke had cleared the stables. Thankfully this fire was quickly contained, and no animals were injured.

PHOTOS BY: SARAH MOYNIHAN, PHOTOGRAPHER



**Below:** Fire Fighters were called to the Mobil station in the center of Somers at approximately 3:15 am for a car fire. Upon arrival the car was found to be heavily damaged, fully involved, and was within approx. 20 feet of the gas pumps. The Lieutenant subsequently located a telephone pole on Rt. 190 about 1 mile West., which was broken in half. The driver had continued East on Rt. 190 after the accident until they stopped at the Mobile Gas Station where the car was abandoned in place and burning. The driver fled the scene before our arrival.

## SOMERS 9-1-1 NEWS

SOMERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
400 MAIN STREET  
SOMERS, CT 06071  
(860)749-7626

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