

## Municipally Yours,

A full moon has come and gone since my last column and I cannot help but notice that contact from individuals with issues rises during the full moon sky - so now I brace myself for it and remind myself that I, too, may be a bit more challenging in that time period - not exactly a werewolf, but challenging!

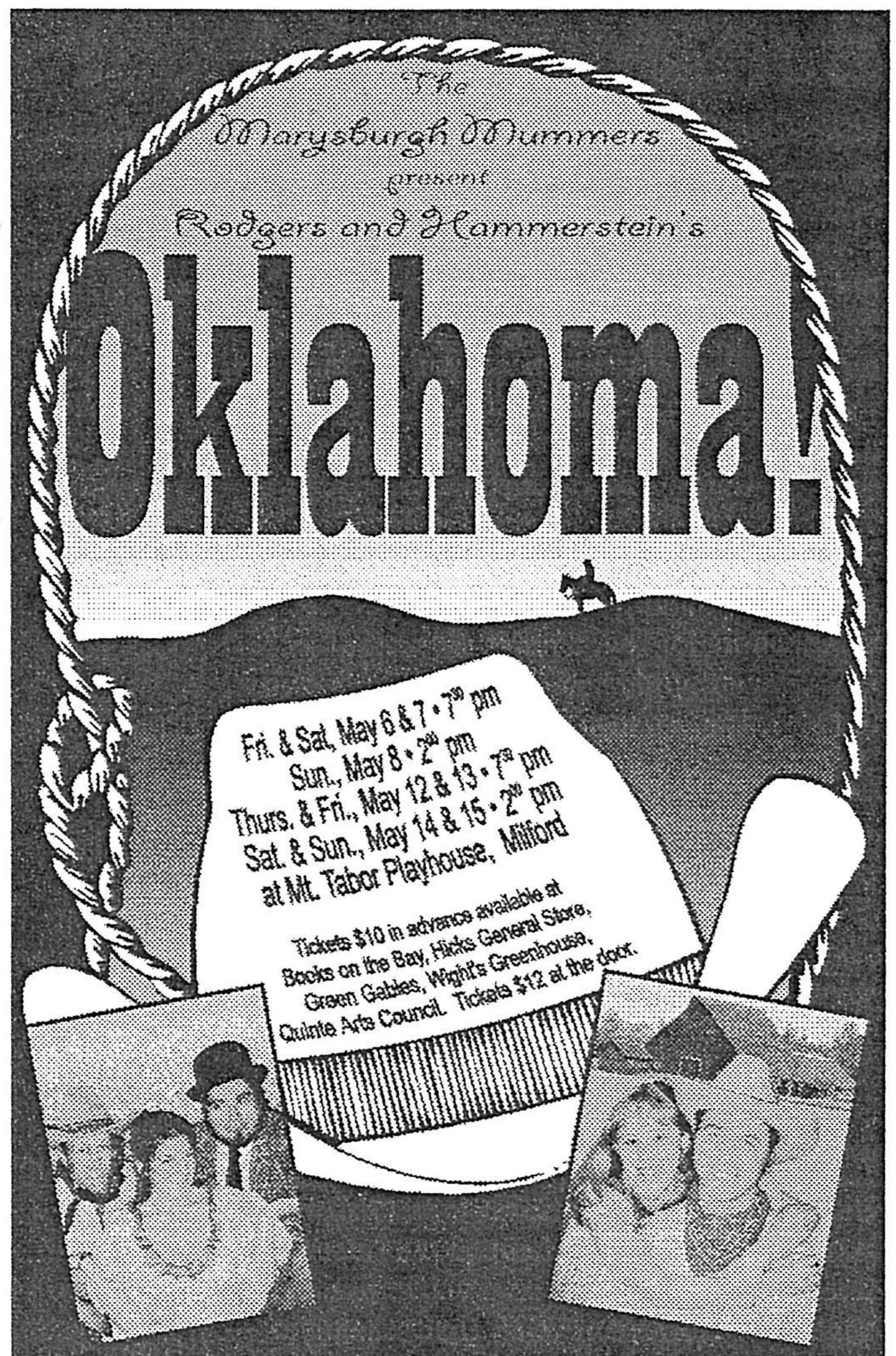
If you've followed the papers, you may have noticed some discussion about "seasonal roads". We have the most in the County - twelve (12). Ameliastown has four (4); Sophiasburgh has three (3) - just for comparators. Only recently did I realize that the extension of St. Philip Street to the millpond was a seasonal road, or a County road at all! Now I have traveled each of these, except Petticoat Point (anyone know how it was named?) and several require a better vehicle than my '98 Saturn. Indeed, Helmer Road requires a boat!

The history on these roads, so I have been told, is that they were created for access to land and water by farmers. Hence the seasonal nature of their use. Subsequently, before less strict severance laws, plots were set off for water front cottages for extended family and hunting cabins/trailers. Until amalgamation, the township of South Marysburgh occasionally graded in the summer and never touched them in the winter. With a snow cover, the frost did not settle in too deep and the road remained in reasonable shape for the next season's traffic. With amalgamation, it was treatment as usual except that liability issues started to fester for everything. Hence the recent posting of these roads relative to speed, which I agree looks stupid! But our county insurance rates have more than doubled since 2001 to approximately \$650,00. These kinds of precautions, including the signs that speak to service periods for the road, help to stop the spiral increases. We have all faced similar challenges in our homes with things like forced replacement of fuel tanks. Frustrating, yes, but we operate without options as a Council if we want any coverage for taxpayers.

So that's the Public Works approach on seasonal roads. Except for unusual circumstances, **May 1 to October 31** is the period when they receive attention - and less attention than full year round gravel roads.

If you make use of a seasonal road during this time period for farmland access or other use and you think the road is not safe, please call Public Works at 476 - 6505. If you are not satisfied with the response, you may certainly call me and I will follow up and/or you may make a presentation to the Public Works Committee. This meets once a month and is made up of 7 Councillors, the Mayor

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## South Bay United Church Coming Events

**Wednesday, May 25 - Anniversary  
Supper**

**Saturday, June 25 - Strawberry Social**

**Wednesday, August 17 - Fish Fry**

**Saturday, November 19 - Luncheon and  
Craft Sale**