

October 2022

# Village of Barker Fall Newsletter

## MAYORS MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the building progress at the new Village Hall/Library. Phase I is almost complete, except for a couple items that hinge on the installation of electric and plumbing during phase II. We understand that its been along process and we appreciate your patience. The Board and appointed officials have worked tirelessly to make sure we are getting what we need for a cost we can afford. Every project comes with ups and downs and this one is no exception. Recently the phase II bids were opened for the general construction, electrical, mechanical and plumbing, all bids were more than expected. It's extremely important to the Village that the building is constructed within our means and we are working diligently to accomplish this. The overall look of the building was designed to keep the train depot look, while meeting the Village and Library's needs. The new Village Hall/Library will be extremely beneficial to all because of the essential services that will provide, while establishing a hub of activity back on Main Street.

In Your Service,  
Mayor Aaron Nellist

## HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Halloween is the time of year when your children dress up as their favorite character in hopes of collecting as much candy as possible. **This year on Monday, October 31st Trick-or-Treating will be from 5pm-7pm.**

Remember to turn on your porch lights or any other outside light if you would like to participate. If you're new to the Village, pre-covid, we saw approximately 400-600 children participating in the Trick or Treating festivities, recently the numbers have been around 200-350 children.

Please keep a watchful eye on your children and have them wear something highly visible. If you are going to be driving around the Village on Halloween, please use extreme caution.

All persons under 18 are NOT to be in or around public places in the Village from 10pm-5am per the Village curfew law.

Check your child's candy to make sure it is wrapped properly and discard if it has been tampered with or the seal is broken. Also remind your child(ren) about stranger danger, as well as the tactics predators use to lure children into their homes or vehicles.

Have safe and fun Halloween!



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Have you moved recently or wish to change your party affiliation?

It's important to update your information with the Niagara County Board of elections. You can register by filling out a paper form and mailing it back, or go online to <https://www.ny.gov/services/register-vote> or register in person at the Niagara County Board of Elections on Main St., Lockport

## UPCOMING VILLAGE ELECTION

As elections grow nearer the need for community involvement becomes strikingly apparent. As a resident of the Village you have a voice and opinions, so please consider attending a monthly board meeting (check the website). Board Meetings are typically the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall unless it's a holiday.

We are a small community, which allows for active involvement in various ways. You can attend meetings, join a civic organization, run for an elected position or ask around for other volunteer opportunities. We currently have a vacancy on the ethics board, planning board and zoning board.

Our community is what we make it. All it takes is some leadership and a

drive to want to make a difference.

**This March the offices of Mayor and two Board seats will be on the ballot.** If you feel this is something you would be interested in, stop by the Village Office. Nominating petitions are available beginning Tuesday, January 3rd. Let's do all we can to make our community quaint and distinctive, just like its residents.

\*\*\*Reminder, you must be a registered voter to vote in a Village Election. It's very simple to do, just stop in the Village Hall and grab a form to mail to the Niagara County Board of Elections or visit our website under the "I Want To..." Tab.

\*\*\*Mark your calendars\*\*\*

*The Village Election will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from Noon until 9:00pm*

## NIAGARA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Niagara County complied a Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2009, which included information from all municipalities within Niagara County to comply with Federal FEMA regulations to ensure communities have an ideas and plans to mitigate disasters and the consequences of such an emergency. Well it's 5 years later (2017) and it's time for an update of that document. For the past 9 months the Village has participated in meetings and has gathered/analyzed data to improve the Villages comprehensive impacts if such a disaster happened. Not only does this help us to be prepared, it helps us understand areas that need attention in order to become confident that we have done all that is in our power to safeguard critical infrastructure and our residents in case of a disaster.

The final plan is being reviewed by the NYS Dept. of Homeland Security Emergency Services and then will be reviewed by FEMA before the County and each municipality can adopt their updated portion of the plan. The current update is solely web based versus the paper/cd rom copies last available in 2017. The draft plan can be viewed at [www.niagara.mitigateny.org](http://www.niagara.mitigateny.org).



# DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

As another season has come and gone please remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This little habit could save a life!

During the snow season please remember to try and keep the fire hydrant within your property limits clear of snow at all times. Please be aware of this if you contract to have your driveway plowed. A quickly accessible fire hydrant saves precious minutes.

Please make sure the sidewalks are clear at all times. Last year we had many complaints about snow that was plowed into the sidewalks. Please be aware of this if you contract to have your driveway plowed. The sidewalks are a necessity to keep people safe and out of the way of oncoming traffic. It is the homeowners responsibility to keep their sidewalks clear of snow and debris. The Public Works Department will only clear snow from the sidewalks when time permits and the equipment is functioning properly.

Reminder, there is **NO PARKING** on Village streets from **No- vember 1-April 1st** from 2:00am-6:00am to facilitate snow removal, which is enforced by NC Sheriff's Dept and the Town of Somerset.



Lastly we would like to address the issue of chipping. The chipping service is provided for residents that have fallen limbs or branches. When removing trees from your property it is your responsibility to remove debris, these items will NOT be chipped. If you are having a tree service trim or remove trees from your residence it is the tree services responsibility to remove all limbs and debris created from the work that was performed. Due to the condition of our chipper we are unable to take care of vines of any kind, leaves, grass, shrubs or any branch that is more than 3" in diameter. ALL vines, leaves, grass, shrubs and small twigs need to be bagged and put out to the road for pick up on garbage day or take them to the public works garage. All limbs and branches put to the curb for chipping are to be **BUTT ENDS TO THE STREET**, which aids in easier feeding of the chipper, and the pile may be **NO MORE than 3' HIGH**. Please be aware of sidewalks and streets when placing limbs to the curb, the limbs should NOT be blocking the sidewalks or be in the road at any time. Chipping is only done when TIME ALLOWS by the Public Works Department.

Last day to put limbs and branches curbside for chipping will be **NOVEMBER 4th**. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely, Mark Remington, DWP Superintendent

## NC Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Last free rabies clinic will be Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 9:00-Noon at the City of North Tonawanda, 758 Erie Avenue, North Tonawanda, phone 716-695-8585

**Appointments for rabies clinics are MANDATORY. Registration will open up the Monday preceding the clinic.**

**To register please visit:**  
[WWW.NIAGARACOUNTY.COM/HEALTH](http://WWW.NIAGARACOUNTY.COM/HEALTH)



## ATTENTION: Dog Owners

Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dogs when you are walking them. No one wants to come across the mess that your pooch left behind.

Also, the Village of Barker has a leash law, which requires all dogs must be kept on a leash not exceeding 8 feet in length.

It's State Law that if you own a dog that you license it through Town of Somerset. The cost is \$6.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$16.00 for unspayed/ unneutered dogs. You will need proof of a current rabies vaccination. A dog license can make for a happy reunion if your dog is caught running at large. If the owner of a dog unable to be located they are taken to Fort Hyde Kennels, which is costly. Your dog must wear it's licensed dog tags at all times. Any dog 4 months or older must be licensed. Dog licenses must be renewed annually. If you fail to renew your dogs license you will receive an appearance ticket for court.

The Village has an many ordinances that deal with animals. For example you may not own more than 2 dogs, 3 cats or 3 rabbits. Farm animals are prohibited, which includes any hooved animal & chickens. A noise ordinance that states no owner shall permit a dog to engage in habitual or continuous loud howling, barking, crying or whining that unreasonably disturbs neighbors.

# LIHWAP LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) helps low income households pay the cost of water and sewer services. The program can assist households who have past due bills (arrears) for water and/or sewer services. The [Village of Barker](#) and the [Town of Somerset](#) are registered vendors with this program, therefore you may apply for assistance. As of October 1, 2022 a new program year will begin and households may be eligible for additional assistance even if they have already received a LIHWAP benefit in the past. Eligibility is based on: income, household size and the amount owed to water and/or sewer providers.

Your household may be eligible for a benefit if: you or a member of your household are a US Citizen, US National or qualified alien; your household's gross

monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines posted on [www.otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/); you receive HEAP benefits; you received SNAP benefits; you receive temporary assistance or you receive SSI living alone; you pay a vendor directly for your water and/sewer usage and your water/sewer or combined account is 20 days past the due date or a water lien that is levied on your local property taxes or your water/sewer or combined services have been terminated or facing disconnection due to unpaid arrears.

For more information visit the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

[www.otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/)

\*information has been taken directly off the OTDA website

## VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.villageofbarker.org](http://www.villageofbarker.org)

- ◆ To check the upcoming meeting schedule
- ◆ To check the Modern garbage and recycling calendar, as well as large item pick up dates
- ◆ To read the minutes of the meetings
- ◆ To read the current and past budgets
- ◆ To see published legal notices

And much, much more.....

## HEAP HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The HEAP program can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. The 2022-2023 regular HEAP benefit is scheduled to open on November 1, 2022.. HEAP may be able to help you if you heat your home with: electricity, natural gas, oil, coal, propane, wood/ wood pellets, kerosene, corn. Eligibility and benefits are based on: income, household size, the primary heating source and the presence of a household member who is under 6 or age 60 or older or permanently disabled. Your household may be eligible for a benefit if: you or a member of your household are a US Citizen, US National or qualified alien; your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines posted on [www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/) ; you received SNAP benefits; you receive temporary assistance or you receive SSI living alone.

For more information visit the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance : [www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/)

\*information has been taken directly off the OTDA website

## DO YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK?

Unrepaired water leaks can be costly!

If you suspect a leak in your home, locate your water meter. There is a red dial, if that red dial is spinning you have water flowing through your meter. Next, shut down all sinks, toilets etc. and re-check the red dial, if the dial is still you don't have any leaks. If it is spinning you have to investigate to determine where the leak is originating and make necessary repairs.

As you can see in the leak type chart that was inserted in this newsletter, even very small leaks add up fast. The leak type chart was printed separately so you can hang onto it for reference.

Always compare your inside water meter read to the outside read placed on your water bill. Over time the outside reader can run slow and even cease from cobwebs or other debris. By double checking your meter read you can ensure you are being billed correctly, if your meter stops and an inside reading is taken you will receive a water bill that could be very high.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

The Village of Barker's Code Enforcement Officer ensures the compliance of local Village ordinances, building codes, property maintenance, abandoned and inoperable vehicles and other issues relating to the health, safety, and general welfare of the community for public, private residential, commercial and industrial property. The Code Enforcement Officer also acts as the Village's flood plain manager/Fire Marshall.

Building permits are required for any new building including a shed, all additions to existing buildings, pools that are above ground and inground, fences, decks and porches, addition to an electrical system, an addition to plumbing system, an addition to heating system, electrical work including back up generators and solid fuel heating devices. Stop by the Village Hall office to pick up a building permit or download the application online under the department tab look for the Building/Code Enforcement page.

This year has been a very busy year for the Village's Code Enforcement Officer, as we've had numerous violations for dilapidated buildings, garbage and rubbish, un-mowed grass and too many unregistered vehicles. Please remember to keep your property tidy and neat. Garbage and rubbish strown about your property will result in a violation. No more than 1 unregistered vehicle maybe on a parcel, including boats, trailers, snowmobiles and motorcycles.

Grass should be kept mowed not to exceed 6" in length.

Farm animals are prohibited within the Village limits, farm animals are defined as livestock, poultry and hooved animals. Only dogs, cats and rabbits are allowable animals. Village code states a resident may have 2 dogs, 3 cats or 3 rabbits.

Reminder that it is illegal to place household electronics to the curb as of January 2013. Electronics maybe recycled at the Town of Somerset Water/Sewer plant on Lower Lake Road on garbage day from 7:00am to 3:00pm. DO NOT PLACE ELECTRONICS in the dumpster. Tire Drop off days are done by the Town of Somerset, usually in early September. DO NOT PLACE TIRES in the dumpster.

As another season has come and gone please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. This little habit could save a life.

We appreciate your willingness to keep your property neat and tidy, we're all responsible for the image we portray of our Village. It shows when we take pride in our property!



## BARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Great news from the Barker Public Library!!! The library was awarded the Children's Book Project Disaster Relief Grant from the Pilcrow Foundation in the amount of \$800.00. There are a limited number of these grants offered to libraries. The awarded funds were used to purchase 49 all new, hardcover children's

picture and chapter books. In addition to the Pilcrow grant books, we received 37 non-fiction, science and board books from foundation donors Bill Strawbridge & Meg Wallhagen and Hal Berenson & Laura Ackerman.

The Pilcrow Foundation was founded in 2013 to continue the work of the Libri Foundation to provide new, quality, hardcover children's book to rural public libraries across the US. "Literacy is the greatest gift we can give our children; the library is the place to start" -Pilcrow Foundation.

This award enables the library to continue to rebuild our children's book collection. The new building is coming along and it is an exciting time for the Barker Public Library. Visit the library today and check out our awesome collection of new books.





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**The Village of Barker is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



## LIGHT UP BARKER

**Saturday, December 17, 2022**

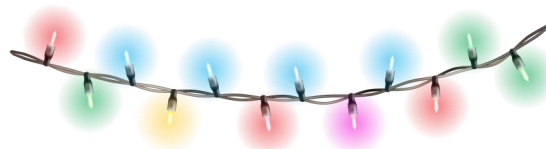
**5:00-8:00pm**

David Barker Park  
Main Street Gazebo

Tree Lighting, a visit from Santa Claus, Caroling and more

Check out the [Light Up Barker](#) Facebook page for more details closer to the event

House Decorating Contest: The Clark Griswold award, White Christmas award, Santa's choice award, It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas award



### **Board of Trustees**

Mayor Aaron Nellist  
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley  
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Trustee Melanie Hirschman  
Trustee David Quiett

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