



# Village of Barker Spring Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

<i>Things to Look For!!</i>	2
<i>Historian's Corner</i>	3
<i>Police Department Reminders</i>	3
<i>Household Hazardous</i>	4
<i>DPW &amp; Code</i>	4
<i>Annual Drinking Water Quality Report</i>	5
<i>Village Water Rates</i>	5

### Board of Trustees

Mayor Aaron Nellist  
 Dep. Mayor Gregory Kerth  
 James Baker  
 Kimberly Ruffini  
 Seanna Corwin-Bradley

### DPW Superintendent

Mark Remington

### DPW Laborers

Gene Cavanaugh  
 Robert Verheyen

### Police Chief

Timothy Braughler Sr.

### Police Officers

Sean Hotnich, Sergeant  
 Larry Weibert  
 Jacob Januchowski

Joseph Laudico

### Clerk-Treasurer

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC

### Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Victoria Baker

## Mayor's Message

Spring Time. Well, although at times it doesn't seem like it, spring is coming. With the recent weather extremes it is very likely that you or perhaps a neighbor has experienced some property damage. As we all take the time to clean up we can take solace in knowing that the warm weather, pool parties and barbecues are just around the corner.

After our most recent election, the Village Board remains the same. Congratulations to Seanna Corwin-Bradley and Kim Ruffini. With their familiarity in helping shape the 2018-2019 budget, we were able to move ahead swiftly. With only a modest increase of 8 cents per thousand, and our

ability to keep our appropriations in the general fund the same from our prior budget, I can honestly say this is the most cost effective budget that I have been a part of. To put that in prospective a \$100,000 home would see a cost increase of less than \$1 a month.

We are excited to say that there some positive activities occurring in regards to potential new business relocating to the Village. There will be more information to follow.

Finally, I encourage you to attend a meeting, send an email, stop in and ask a question. Become a part of your local government. There

is no easier level of representation to hold accountable. Our meetings are as follows: Work sessions on the first Monday of every month @ 6:00 pm and the regularly held monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month @ 7:00 pm. There really are some important decisions that need to be made very soon, and I implore you to make your voices heard.

Aaron Nellist, Mayor  
 716-628-2578  
[villageofbarkemayor@gmail.com](mailto:villageofbarkemayor@gmail.com)

### **\*\*NOTICE\*\***

A non-profit organization has notified the Village that they intend to do door to door research. This group is called the NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Group Fund, Inc.). Since they are a non-profit we can't disallow them to solicit in the Village, but we have requested that they adhere to the Peddler's Permit Local Law hours of 9:00am-7:00pm. We have not been given definite dates as of yet. If you have any question please call the Village Hall at 716-795-3777 or the Village Police Department at 716-795-3207.



**Left to Right Top Row:** Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Baker, Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner, Trustee James Baker & Police Chief Timothy Braughler (not pictured Mark Remington, DPW Superintendent) **Left to Right Bottom Row:** Trustee Corwin-Bradley, Deputy Mayor Kerth, Mayor Nellist & Trustee Ruffini

# Things to Look For!!

This past year has been a very productive one. Last fall you may have noticed some new trees planted in the David Barker Park on Main Street, we were able to get a great deal on left over trees. Over the past several years we've lost trees to wind storms and old age. These trees will grow and go along way to make our Parks ones to be proud of!

As I'm sure you all aware we were able to finally have Main Street paved in October of 2016. While the work was being performed by the Niagara County Department of Public Works, we were finally notified that the Village would be receiving a State and Municipal Facilities Grant from Senator Robert Ort, otherwise know as a SAM Grant. The Village submitted an application for a project titled the "Main Street Rehabilitation project". This included the milling and paving of Main Street, a new small piece of playground equipment for the David Barker Park, milling and paving of the Village hall parking lot, as well as installing drainage and paving the Department of Public Works lot. The total project cost is \$88,5881.80 with \$51,370 from the SAM grant, \$16,803.64 from CHIPS reimbursement and the Village's share of \$17,708.00. The Village is excited to have this work completed in the coming summer. A small piece of playground equipment has

been selected. The bidding process is beginning for the remainder of the work to be completed.

On another positive note the Village of Barker was awarded a grant from the NYS Homes and Community Renewal on behalf of Governor Cuomo's Lake Ontario Flood Relief Program. Our Park sustained substantial erosion during the extremely high lake levels last year. The Village was awarded the full amount of the cost to install a break wall at the Bi-Centennial Park at the end of Quaker Road. The total award is \$49,390.00. The work will begin in Early April by Richard Truesdell. The installation of the break wall will enhance the beauty of the park, as well as insure it's accessible to the public. If you don't know why the Village owns the Park on the Lake, let me inform you. It housed the pumping station that supplied the Village with water in the early 1900's. We're proud to own this "jewel" of a park and want to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy it for many more year to come.



## News from 91 years ago

On. April 9<sup>th</sup> 1927 Burdette Phillips was elected chief of the Barker Fire Dept. at the recent annual meeting. Edward B. Gifford, whom Mr. Phillips succeeds, was made first assistant chief, and Charles Swann Jr. is second assistant chief. L.G. Bridgeman and Howard Stark were named first and second warden, Respectively.

From these five officers a secretary and treasurer will be chosen at the meeting next Monday night, at which time also the drivers and various other appointments will be made by the department.

### Village Board Organized

H. R. Bennett became village president of Barker with the organization of the new board Monday. Only one other member of the board is a "first term" Mrs. Laura Jesson, who was appointed collector.

The Village Trustees are, Hubert L. Eaton, Henry M. Frost, Harry Rebert and Frank P. Conllin. James E. Morgan retains the Clerkship and Mrs. Doris Wass was reappointed Treasurer. The office of police justice remains vacant.

Peter Devereaux

Historian



**This is the new piece of playground equipment purchased through the SAM grant for the Main Street Park.**

**Left: the front view**

**Above: the back view**

Receiving  
their oath of  
office:

Left to Right:

Trustee  
Ruffini &  
Trustee  
Corwin-  
Bradley



## Police Department Reminders



As the warmer weather approaches, it is important to protect ourselves and others on the roadways. When the temperature rises, motorists share the road with an increased number of bicyclists, pedestrians and even pets. Of course, it's important to stay vigilant as a motorist, but also as a pedestrian or cyclist. **When walking, utilize sidewalks when possible and walk in the opposite direction of traffic.** When you walk facing traffic, it is easier to spot a potential errant driver so you can get out of the way.

**When driving, take it slow!** Children and pets may enter the roadway unexpectedly and quickly. While you may think they are safely on the side of the road or a lawn, the behaviors of kids and pets are often unpredictable and they may dart into the road after a ball or toy. **Slowdown and give yourself time to react.** School zone speed limits are posted and will be enforced, but the more important goal is to prevent any tragic injury or loss of life.

**When bicycling, obey all traffic laws and wear a helmet!** Bicyclists on the roadway are subject to the same vehicle and traffic laws as motorists. Use hand signals to indicate turning and follow the direction of traffic. **A helmet may save your life in a crash, and for those under fourteen, the law requires you to wear one.** Children aged 1 to 4 must also wear a safety certified helmet and additionally must ride in a specially designed child safety seat. Parents, please encourage your children to make smart choices on their bikes and ensure they are wearing their helmet.

A final tip for Spring: **Beware of Scams Related to Tax Season.** The REAL IRS will not call you and threaten to have you arrested if you don't pay them immediately. The IRS directs those who receive a call such as this to hang up. You can report the scam online through [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (NOT .com) or over the phone by calling [1-800-366-4484](https://www.irs.gov). Bear in mind, scammers change their tactics and will try many things to trick you into giving them your money. If you owe, or think you owe taxes, you can confirm and speak with someone at the IRS by calling [1-800-829-1040](https://www.irs.gov). In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Spring. God Bless!

## March 20, 2018 Election Results

The Village Election was held on March 20, 2018 for two Trustee positions that carried two year terms. A total of 29 ballots were cast.

Seanna Corwin-Bradley ran for her 1st full term as Trustee, she was appointed in October 2017 to fill a vacancy left by Janice Rider. She received 26 votes.

Kimberly Ruffini ran for her third term as Trustee. She received 28 votes.

Congratulations ladies on your successful run for Village Trustee. We appreciate the time and dedication it takes to serve in these positions.

Thank you Grace Bodine and Jan Kerth for serving as our Election Inspectors. We can't thank you enough for your countless years of service.

Please consider making time to vote in Village Elections, we tend to have extremely low voter turn out. Voting at the local level allows you to have a direct impact on how your community functions.



Barker Public Library

Toddler Story Hour

May 7th, 14th & 21st

10:30-11:30am

Stop by or call to register

716-795-3344



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Visit our website at [www.villageofbarker.org](http://www.villageofbarker.org) and look for the Rethink Your Waste page at the top. This page is linked to the Niagara County Division of Environmental/Solid Waste and has all kinds of useful information.

For the Events listed below you **MUST** schedule an appointment.

<https://www.rethinkyourwaste.com/events>

### **Eligibility and Exclusions:**

- ~must be a resident of Niagara County-only
- ~waste generated from homes is accepted
- ~latex paint cans must be full
- ~there is a limit of 150 lbs. of waste per vehicle
- ~alkaline batteries, motor oil, electronics and explosives are NOT ACCEPTED
- ~all residents are required to pre-register online (click the event title to be re-directed to the registration page)
- ~fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and propane tanks are subject to additional fees

### **April 21, 2018 10:00am-2:00pm**

Household hazardous Waste & Pharmaceuticals drop off event at the City of Niagara Falls, 1785 New Road, book appointments starting March 21st.

### **September 22, 2018 10:00am-2:00pm**

Household hazardous Waste & Pharmaceuticals event & Paper Shredding event at the Town of Lockport Highway Department, 6560 Dysinger Road, book appointments starting August 27th.

### **October 6, 2018 10:00am-2:00pm**

Household Hazardous Waste & Pharmaceuticals drop off event at the City of North Tonawanda Department of Public Works, 758 Erie Avenue, book appointments starting September 7th.



Spring means clean up time! Please take the time to get rid of junk and debris to keep your yard looking nice! It doesn't cost anything to be neat and tidy. Our trash pick-up allows one large item a week. Reminder it is illegal to place household electronics to the curb as of January 2013. Please remember that the Village has a dumpster that residents may utilize. If the Village DPW gate is open you are free to drop off items in the dumpster, please do not leave items on the side or around the dumpster because Modern will not empty it if debris is present.

As Village residents you are only allowed ONE unregistered vehicle per property. This includes boats, snowmobiles, trailers, etc.

Please keep your lawns mowed. The Village code requires lawns to be kept under 6 inches.

Building permits **are required** for pools and most home improvements. If you are placing an addition onto your home, you will need stamped drawings for approval. Please call the Village office at 795-3777 before you begin a project.



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 dumpster. 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. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report***

As the Municipality that supplies your drinking water, we feel that it's important that each resident is informed. We purchase our water from the Niagara County Water District, which in turn rigorously processes and tests the water supplied by the Niagara River. The Niagara County water district has to comply with all state and federal requirements in order to ensure a safe and adequate water supply. Each quarter the Village must provide samples to test for various bacteria, chemicals and other pollutants. These samples are taken to an independent laboratory and analyzed. The results are then mailed to the Village and the Niagara County Health Dept. Each month a sample is taken by the Niagara

County Health Dept to check for lead concentrations in the water, which in turn analyzes the water and sends the results to the Village. We're happy to report that all samples are within the normal limits.

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017 is enclosed. This report provides residents of the Village specific information about their drinking water/water supply. If you have any questions contact Mark Remington, DPW Superintendent, at the Village Hall Office at 716-795-3777. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



“ For many of us, clean water is so plentiful and readily available that we rarely, if ever, pause to consider what life would be without it.”

~Marcus Samuelsson

### **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\***

#### **Possible Water Interruption by Niagara County**

The Niagara County Water District has been upgrading water mains and improving other water infrastructure, currently they are in Phase 2.

The shutdown will take place on Tuesday, April 17 from 6am and will last approximately 24 hours. During this time you may notice lower than normal water pressure or the water may appear to be cloudy. The cloudiness is from air that entered the line during the switch. It does not affect the quality of the water in any way.

### **VILLAGE WATER RATES**

In January 2018 the Village Board increased the water rates due to Niagara County increasing the rates that they charge Municipalities for the water they purchase. These new rates are in effect for the 1st quarter 2018.

Therefore, the new rates are as follows:

0-5,000 Gallons \$71.00

Next 30,000 Gallons \$2.70 per thousand gallons

Next 65,000 Gallons \$1.95 per thousand gallons

Over 100,000 Gallons \$1.50 per thousand gallons



**Village of Barker**  
**8708 Main Street**  
**PO Box 298**  
**Barker, NY 14012-0298**

Phone: 716-795-3777  
 Fax: 716-795-3478  
 Police Department Phone: 716-795-3207  
 E-mail: [barkervillage@roadrunner.com](mailto:barkervillage@roadrunner.com)  
 Website: [www.villageofbarker.org](http://www.villageofbarker.org)

**Annual Tire Drop Off Event**  
 April 23-27  
 from 7:00am-3:00pm  
 April 28th from 9:00am-Noon  
 Town of Somerset  
 Highway Garage on Haight Road

Please remember that the Village refuse contract no longer allows tires curbside for pickup. You must take advantage of the Tire Drop Off event hosted by the Town of Somerset to dispose of tires.

**NC Free Rabies Clinics 2018**  
 City of Niagara Falls-Saturday, June 2  
 9:00am-11:00am Hyde Park  
 Oasis/Centennial Pavilion  
 Phone #286-4940  
 Town of Lewiston Highway Garage-Saturday, July 28 9:00am-11:00am  
 Phone #754-8213  
 Town of Lockport-Saturday, September 15 3:00pm-4:00pm Phone #439-9524  
 City of North Tonawanda-Public Works Dept.—Saturday, December 1



**Electronic Recycling**  
 Is every garbage day at the Town of Somerset  
 Water/Sewer Department on the corner of Quaker  
 Rd. & Lower Lake Road From 7:00am-3:00pm



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 you 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).