

VILLAGE OF BARKER

FALL NEWSLETTER

Mayor's Message

Never in my wildest imagination, could I have thought that we would be dealing with the problems that 2020 has brought us. With that being said, I couldn't be prouder of our responses and associated precautions. I am happy to say that Barker remains alone as the single municipality in Niagara County without a case of COVID-19. This is not, however, a time to celebrate. Rather a time to remain vigilant with our policies of social distancing, hand washing and precautionary PPE usages.

Secondly, we are progressing steadily with the design aspects of our new Village Hall, and hope to complete the remaining phases and break ground sometime in 2021. I encourage anyone with productive input to attend our future meetings. We will, as always, take our constituents advice into account on any potential design implementations. An additional public meeting will also be held and announced in the future once the design phase is completed. This will allow residents to see what the new building will look like.

Finally, I offer this:

Know that this pandemic, like others throughout history, will surely pass. Take this opportunity to elevate our relationships with our immediate families, so that when our children remember this trying time, it wont be in a negative light. Rather they will look back fondly on memories of meals eaten together, "game nights" being reinstituted and an overall reconnection with what really matters was discovered.

Halloween Happenings

Halloween is that time of year when your children dress up as their favorite character in hopes of collecting as much candy as possible. **The hours for Trick and Treating in the Village of Barker will be Saturday, October 31 from 5 to 7:30pm.** This year with the concern of COVID-19 we ask that you follow the guidelines posted on the Village website homepage to ensure a safe event for all.

Some precautions that parents and children can take to ensure safety include, children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult, maintain social distancing, frequently sanitize hands and wear a mask. With the long hours of darkness and cold weather think about flashlights, hand warmers and warm clothing. Make sure your child's vision is not impaired by his costume.

Residents should have their porch light on, if they are willing to participate in the Trick or Treating event and consider placing candy on a table or hang it from a fence to keep social distancing in place. Please use extreme caution driving around the Village, as well.



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Village Board of Trustees:

Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor
Seanna Corwin-Bradley

Trustee Jim Baker
Trustee Aaron Davis
Trustee Jordan Gow

DPW Superintendent:

Mark Remington

DPW Laborers:

Gene Cavanagh
April Roessler
Jacob Laskey

Police Chief

Timothy Braughler

Police Officers

K-9 Officer A. Bartucca
Officer J. Blair
Officer J. Dowd
Officer J. Januchowski
Officer L. Weibert

Clerk-Treasurer

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Jennifer Mason



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

Village Election Results

The Annual Village Election was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall.

Originally, Village Elections were scheduled to be held in March, but due to COVID-19, NYS pushed them back until they felt an Election could be held with minimal risk. A total of 25 votes were cast for the 2-Trustee two year term positions. The results are as follows:

Seanna Corwin-Bradley 22

Benjamin Seward 6

Write In: Jordan Gow 16

Write In: Martin Padilla 1

Congratulations to our newly elected & re-elected officials!

A big thank you goes out to our Election Inspectors Grace Bodine and Kathie Smith,

as well our past Trustee Benjamin Seward. We thank you for your dedicated service to the Village!

The upcoming Village Election will be held on March 16, 2021 for the Offices of Mayor & 2- two year Trustee positions.

Please consider making the time to vote in the 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.

If you would like to serve your community by serving on various volunteer boards stop by the Village Hall or reach out to a member of the Board of Trustees. Various openings exist and it's a great way to get involved in your community.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." - Ghandi

Leaves of Three Let It Be! By Trustee Aaron Davis

We live in an area where we don't have to be too worried about dangerous plants and animals, however, we should take extra care when we are outside to protect ourselves from some plants that can cause irritations to our skin when touched. Poison ivy is one we have all heard of, but how much do you know about it?

Poison ivy is a plant that can grow anywhere. Each leaf is divided into three leaflets. However, no two poison ivy leaves are alike. Some have jagged or toothed leaves. While others have smooth edged leaves. Some poison ivy leaves are the size of a dime and others can be bigger than your hand. Sometimes little mitten-thumbs stick out. In the spring and summer, the leaves are green and, in the fall, they turn red and orange. In the winter the plant has no leaves but instead you may see a thick hairy brown vine on a tree. Birds will eat the berries and spread the seeds.

Poison ivy contains an oily chemical called urushiol that, if you are allergic, will give you an itchy rash. The oil can be on any part of the plant leaves, berries, roots, or stems. If you touch poison ivy wash your hands as soon as you can with cold soapy water or in a stream.



To get rid of the poison ivy plant you can cut the roots under the dirt level and let it die. You can also cover the plant with black plastic to remove sunlight. A vine is best killed by cutting as low as possible to the ground and wait a year to pull it down and throw in garbage. Do not burn any part of the poison ivy for the smoke can get into your eyes and lungs and cause damage to your body. Make sure you wear gloves when handling it.

So next time your going for a walk in the neighborhood, woods or in your gardens keep yours eyes open!



Trustee Jordan Gow and Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley

Public Works Department Reminders

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!

During the snowy winter 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. This will make a difference for the fire fighters by saving precious time that could be used to fight the blazing fire.

On the same note 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 that there is **NO PARKING** on Village streets from **November 1-April 1st** from 2:00am-6:00am to facilitate snow removal, which is enforced by our Police Department.

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 2nd**. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely, Mark Remington

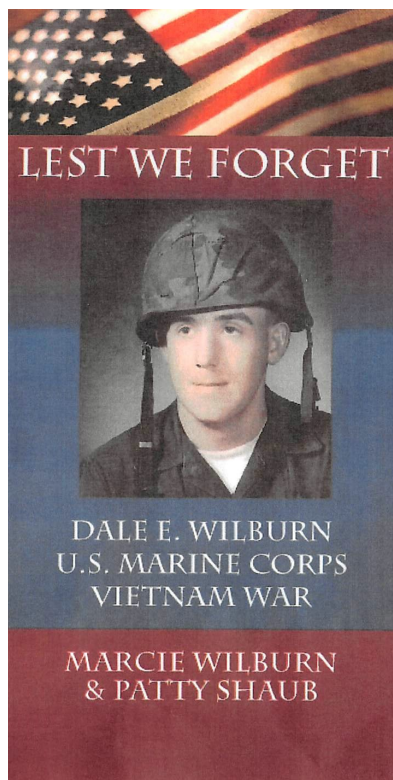
ATTENTION: Dog Owners

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.

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.



Village Website

Have Questions?? Or need to know what week it is for recycling/garbage pick-up or want to know when the next Board Meeting will be held visit our website It contains all kinds of useful information!

www.villageofbarker.org

Hometown Hero Banner Project

**American Legion Post #425
(Herbert W. Carr)
Somerset and the Village of Barker,
New York**

Many towns throughout the state have taken the opportunity to thank their residents who served in the US Armed Forces by displaying banners with a photo of the service member. These banners are purchased by family or friends, and then prominently displayed throughout the summer months. It is a moving experience driving through a community with these banners proudly displayed. I would like to bring this same sense of community pride for past and present service to our county.

Banner Information

The banners are going to be 30" by 60", double sided photo, vinyl material and will include the following information provided on the application

- Name
- Branch of service
- Era of Service, and any special Honors

Banners will be displayed on poles located on main routes through the village, and town. They will be displayed from Memorial Day

through Veterans day (weather dependent) and stored during the winter, to be rehung the next year.

Requirements

- Have resided in the Town of Somerset / Village of Barker at some point in their life
- Served or currently serving within the US Armed Forces
- Must currently be serving, or be an honorably discharged veteran, MIA/KIA

Banner Pricing

Each banner will cost a total of \$200. This includes the double-sided banner, hardware for hanging, and storage. The banner is the property of the purchasing party and can be returned if requested at the end of each season. The company that produces the banners suggests a 3-year life cycle, dependent on weather conditions

Application

Please complete the application that can be found on the Village & Town website, as well as paper copies available for pickup at both the Village & Town Halls.

Contact:
Jon Hotaling 716-345-2799
Larry Dent 254-278-8259

Code Enforcement Reminders

Reminder 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-3:00pm. DO NOT PLACE ELCTRONICS in the dumpster.

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

Building permits are required for pools and most home improvements. Please call the Village office at 795-3777 before you begin a project.

“We Don’t Have Anything Here”

We don't have planes trains and buses and cabs.....we don't have anything.

We just have peaceful days. Where the muffled sound of a school bus usher in the morning...the noon whistle parts the day...and the crunching stones as the mailman comes by reminds us....."the kids 'll be home soon."

We don't have malls and traffic lights and 5 o'clock congestion, and we don't turn on the air conditioner in the car in the hopes that the air will somehow be better in there than it is outside.

We just got gentle breezes, that carry the time of the year on their scent. From spring's first flowers, to the fruit trees in blossom, to summer's lush growth and fall's autumn leaves. No....we don't have anything.

We don't have high speed chases and all points bulletins, and we don't have neighbors huddled anxiously on the corner to see who's the latest victim of a drive by shooting. We don't have anything.

We just have quiet days where our children can go to the store, or park, or stay after school....and though we want to know where they are, we also know that our friends and neighbors

-Paul W. Franke, BFD Presidents' Message 1995

keep an eye out too.

We don't have big city squabbles with this district and that. Budget cuts, mandates, and firemen striking for higher wages.

We just have what is possibly the best equipped volunteer fire department in the state, and a school to match.

We don't rush home from work to slam the door on the world because we've "had enough."

We come home....eat....and turn right around. There's the fire department, Village Board, Town Board and School Board. The Lion's Club, Optimist Club, Historical Society and senior groups. The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and school functions.....if we aren't in one we're in the other. No.....we don't have anything here.....

.....WE'VE GOT IT ALL.....

Submitted by Peter Devereaux
Town of Somerset and Village Historian

Garbage Contract Update

The Village's refuse and EWO recycling contract was up July 1, 2020, in an effort to help stabilize costs the Village joined with 6 Towns that formed a solid waste consortium. In order to be able to join this consortium Modern was asked to extend our contract 6 months to December 31, 2020. Modern graciously agreed, which allowed the Village of Barker and Middleport the opportunity to use the benefits of consolidated refuse bid requirements to help facilitate a stabilization of cost. After deliberation, the use of cart based refuse (garbage) collection was proposed as another way to help stabilize the price increase. Ultimately, after the bid documents were opened, the realization that cart based refuse collection was a necessity to see a modest 1.75% increase in cost versus a 37% increase for traditional refuse collection that we currently have.

There are several changes that everyone needs to be aware of with the new refuse contract. A garbage cart (96 gallon) will be provided to each parcel by the Village, these carts will be similar to the recycling carts we already use and will stay with the parcel. Each cart is identified by a RFD chip and the Village will have a database of which cart belongs to which parcel, just like the recycling carts. If you move you do not take your cart with you. Your cart will be delivered to your home in mid-November. Another change to be aware of is that you MUST use the cart when placing your refuse cart to the road, if you place loose trash bags to the road for collection they will not be picked up. This is due to Modern moving to robotic arm collection versus having a person on

the back of the truck. Modern sights the rising cost of workers compensation, health benefits and salary of employing workers to man the back of the truck. If you currently own a Modern 96 gallon trash cart and do not wish to receive another one from the Village, please email or call the Village Hall to let us know. Unfortunately, beginning January 1, 2021 you will no longer be able to put out trash receptacles that are not issued by the Village or previously purchased through Modern.

Large item collection will move to once a month only. On the designated week you will be able to place 3 bulk items to the curb for collection.

Enclosed is a list of Facts and Questions regarding the refuse cart system. It contains all kinds of useful information so please read it carefully. Modern will also mailing a informational flyer to all residents, which will address proper cart placement and other important information.

Cart based garbage collection is extremely beneficial to the environment by providing a safe receptacle to place to the road, greatly reducing litter in our community. As well, as reducing the number of pests looking for food.



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, 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.

This year's Light Up Barker will look a little different, due to COVID-19. We will still hold the Light Up Barker contest for Village homes and businesses and will hopefully be able to do a socially distanced tree lighting ceremony. Many of the other events will not be held this year. Please "like" our Light Up Barker or Village of Barker, NY Facebook pages to stay up to date. From my family to yours, have a safe and magical holiday season!

Seanna Corwin Bradley
Deputy Mayor

NYS Police Reform &
Reinvention Collaborative
Meeting
Tuesday, October 27th, 2020
At 6:00pm

Barker Fire Department
1660 Quaker Road
Barker, NY

To rebuild the police-community relationship, each local government must convene stakeholders for a fact based and honest dialogue about the public safety needs of their community.

Village of Barker

1697 East Avenue
PO Box 298
Barker, NY 14012

Phone: 716-795-3777
Fax: 716-795-3478
Police Dept. Phone: 716-795-3207
E-mail:
barkervillage@roarunner.com
Website: www.villageofbarker.org

****IMPORTANT****

**Garbage Contract
information enclosed.
Please read carefully**