



A before picture of our beloved Village Hall & Library building in October 2018



A before picture of our beloved Village Hall & Library building after Light Up Barker, December 2018



An after picture of the debris left from the tragic fire of January 20, 2019



The our new location at 1697 East Avenue. This is where you will do any business associated with the Village. Pay water bills, notify, building permit etc.

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## 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. Also each month a sample is taken by the Niagara County Health Dept. to check for the presence of coliform and ecoli, as well as the levels of chlorine & the turbidity of the water. The County 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 2018 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.

# Village of Barker Spring Newsletter

April 2019



## Mayor's Message

Judging by the Symphony of birds that seem to start their Overture 10 minutes before my alarm goes off every morning, I think spring is finally here. It would be healthy for all of us to put this long and taxing winter behind us and begin anew. I am certain there hasn't been a year gone by with so much at stake in the history of the village. Questions, still so many and I regret to say that the answers we all seek will take more time. It would not be prudent to speculate or make assertions so we patiently wait. With our ideas put to paper and our shovels at the ready we fully realize that everyone seeks to put this bad dream behind us. If there is one silver

lining behind all this pain, it is easy to see. What a wonderful Community to be a part of. From the residents that have openly wept while reminiscing of what was, to the undeniably best Workforce any municipality could imagine who are ready like the Phoenix to be reborn from the Ashes. Much meeting and planning will lead to rebuilding and healing. We value any input and encourage anyone with additional questions or ideas to attend the future plenary sessions that will be forthcoming. In harnessing this positive energy we hope to reshape our future. Ours will be a long hard road, but one, God willing we will all get through together.

Aaron Nellist  
716-628-2578  
villageofbarkermayor@gmail.com

## Niagara County: A Purple Heart County

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski is launching a Purple Heart Recognition initiative for Niagara County Veterans who are or were recipients of the Purple Heart - the oldest military award presented to American service members.



In addition to Niagara County receiving the distinction as an official Purple Heart County, a memorial "Book of Honor" commemorating their brave service and sacrifice will be unveiled in a formal ceremony to be held on National Purple Heart Day, Wed., August 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the site of the Purple Heart monument at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park in North Tonawanda.

If you are a Purple Heart recipient, or know someone (deceased or living) who is, please share this information. A Purple Heart Recipient Form must be completed and submitted to the NC Clerk by June 3rd, 2019.

# Village Election Results

**Have Questions?? Or need to know what week it is for recycling/garbage pick-up visit our website. It contains all kinds of useful information.**

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

The Annual Village Election was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall. A total of 54 votes were cast for the Offices of Mayor, 2-Trustee two year term and Trustee one year term. Aaron Nellist was re-elected to his 3rd term as Mayor. Jim Baker was elected to his 2nd term as Trustee two year term. Aaron Davis was newly elected to the Board as Trustee two year term. Benjamin Seward was elected to

his first term as Trustee one year term to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Kimberly Ruffini. Congratulations to our newly elected officials!

A big thank you goes out to our Election Inspectors Grace Bodine and Karen Demorest, as well as past Deputy Mayor Greg Kerth. We thank you for your dedicated service to the Village!

Please consider making the time to vote in the Village Election, 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!

## Department of Public Works Reminders



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.

When utilizing the Village Dumpster please make sure you are using the dumpster located in the Department of Public Works garage area inside the chain link fencing, DO NOT use the dumpster of Ridge Road Express at any time. Thank you for your cooperation!



Thank you to Trustee Benjamin Seward who donated and built two beautiful picnic tables for Bicentennial Park on the Lake. They are a beautiful addition to our already spectacular park!

## Code Enforcement Reminders

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. Code Violations are sent to homeowners who don't abide by the ordinances. If you receive a notice you have time to remedy the violation, if left untouched a court appearance ticket will be issued.



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. Electronics maybe recycled at the Town of Somerset Water/Sewer Plant on Lower Lake Road on Tuesdays from 7:00am-3:00pm



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. Please call the Village office at 795-3777 before you begin a project.

Farm animals are prohibited within Village limits. Only 2 dogs, 3 cats or 3 rabbits per household are permitted.



When the last passenger train pulled out of Barker, Edward Matthew Fullerton stood by the tracks and waved so long.

He would miss those trains, yes, but there would be an even greater void in his life. Station agent Fullerton also was saying goodbye to the sooty depot that had been almost a home to him for 30 years. Nearly deserted, the depot outlived its usefulness to the community-or so nearly everyone agreed.

It was built of massive native timbers shortly after the Civil War. Generations of north-eastern Niagara County residents came there by wagon, carriage and buckboard to catch trains east or west. That was when the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg was called the "Whoa! Jack," line (some engineer pulling into Barker always said that to his iron horse).

When Fullerton joined the railroad, the line was already a division of the New York Central, and a station agent was on the job 12 hours a day. Six passenger trains stopped there daily, and Fuller-

ton was the busiest man around, standing behind a wicket, writing destination tickets, tagging luggage and recording Western Union messages.

The board-and-batten depot with red chimney and wide eaves was the crossroads of the community. On the siding nearby, fruit growers lined up to load freight cars during the harvest and just counting them added three hours to the station agents day. His finger on the telegraph key, Fullerton felt the pulse of the railroad and the Village.

Then changes came to railroading, cars & improved highways took away passenger business. Refrigerated trucks carried more local fruit production & long distance telephone replaced the telegraph. When the station closed to passenger service in 1955, Fullerton was expecting it. He away his blue uniform. In retirement he walked by the old station, now owned by the Village.

Looking in the windows, he could see the benches on which passengers once sat every summer Sunday with picnic hampers, impatient for

a nine -mile ride to Burt and a trip by hay wagon to Olcott Beach. Behind the depot was a coal bin where he used to go with his scuttle to get fuel for the pot-bellied stove which warmed the waiting room. "Just look how straight the place stands," he would say to his friend Edward Kaltenborn, then the Village Clerk. "I hope nothing ever happens to it in the middle of the night."

Water meters were being stored in the former waiting room. An idea by the Jaycees to move the one room Village Library here won acceptance. Bequests, subscriptions and other gifts would help fund the \$13,000 project. When the project was finished volunteers moved the books into the new Library and over the doorway went a new sign, Barker Free Library. There was no formal dedication, only an open house. Among the guides was Fullerton, telling visitors about the milk train that rattled up there everyday before heading up to Buffalo and the flyer that roared by every morning at 8:30.

To visitors and new patrons he was pleased to introduce the librarian his wife, Margaret, who used to bring him dinners in the depot when he was to busy to get home. She was sitting at the same spot where he used to write reports. On her desk and serving as a paper weight was the old inkwell that he used to use as station master.

**By Peter J. Devereaux**

Village of Barker & Town of Somerset Historian

### NC Free Rabies Clinics & Pet Owner Reminders

**Saturday, June 1, 2019 @ 9:00am-11:00am**

Hyde Park, City of Niagara Falls 716-286-4940

**Saturday, July 13, 2019 @ 9:00am-11:00am**

Town of Royalton Highway Garage 716-772-2431

**Saturday, September 14, 2019 @ 2:00am-4:00pm**

Town of Lockport Highway Department 716-439-9524

**Saturday, December 7, 2019 @ 2:00pm-4:00pm**

City of North Tonawanda Public Works Dept. 716-695-8585

**\*\*Pre-registration is available at [www.niagaracounty.com/health](http://www.niagaracounty.com/health)**

Village ordinance states only 2 dogs and /or 3 cats per household , if you are caught with more animals than allowed an appearance ticket is issued

Dogs over 4 months of age must be licensed with the Town of Somerset, proof of rabies vaccination must be presented. Dog license tags on your dogs collar will ensure a safe return. If your contact information changes, please update it with the Town of Somerset so that you may be reached if your animal is found

Village ordinance states that you must pick up after your animals waste when walking the Village, please be respectful of others and do the right thing!

Complaints of barking dogs will be handed by the Dog control Officer and the Police Department if necessary

A leash law is in effect, all dogs must be leashed and/or under the control of the owner at all times. Dogs running at large will be warned by the Dog Control Officer and if the problem continues an appearance ticket will be issued

**PROTECT  
YOUR PET**



**RABIES VACCINATION  
CLINIC**

### Tree Care Educational Seminar

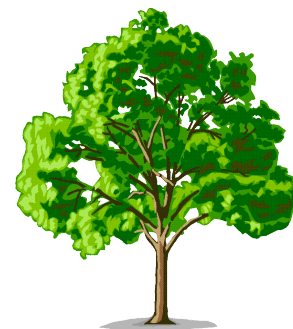
**Saturday, June 1, 2019 @ 9:00am**  
**David Barker Park, Main Street, Barker**

Rain Date:

Saturday, June 8, 2019 @ 9:00am

Come learn the ins and outs of tree care & maintenance, decreasing hazards, increasing longevity and proper planting techniques

Presentation given by  
Tom Poczwiński Jr.



The Village is in no way promoting individual businesses, this presentation is being given as a service to the community

Village of Barker  
1697 East Avenue  
PO Box 298  
Barker, NY 14012-0298

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

**2018  
Annual Drinking Water  
Quality Report is  
Enclosed**

**Board of Trustees:**

Mayor Aaron Nellist  
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley  
Trustee R. James Baker  
Trustee Benjamin Seward  
Trustee Aaron Davis

**Police Chief**

Timothy Braugher Sr.

**Police Officers:**

Larry Weibert  
John Dowd  
Jacob Januchowski  
Elizabeth Taibi  
Sergeant Paul Beakman

**DPW Superintendent**

Mark Remington

**Code Enforcement Officer**

Mark Remington

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC, RMC, CMFO

**Deputy Clerk-Treasurer**

Vacant

**The temporary location of the  
Barker Public Library  
is now OPEN.**

**Visit them at 8673 Church Street**

M-10am to 5:00pm  
TU-10am to 8:00pm  
WED-CLOSED  
THURS-10am to 8:00pm  
FRI-10am to 5:00pm  
SAT-10am to 1:00pm

**716-795-3344**

**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).

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
Position**

**12 hours per week with more  
hours when needed**

**Must have flexible availability**

**Residency has been expanded  
to Niagara & Orleans Counties**

**Check out the Village website  
Government tab  
Employment Opportunity  
For more information &  
an application  
Or stop by the Village Hall to ask  
questions & pick up an  
application**

**Applications will be  
accepted until May 27, 2019**