



Village of Barker

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020



Village Board & Officials

Mayor: Aaron Nellist

Deputy Mayor:

Seanna Corwin-Bradley

Trustees:

Jim Baker

Aaron Davis

Ben Seward

DPW Superintendent:

Mark Remington

DPW Laborers:

Gene Cavanaugh

April Roessler

Jacob Laskey

Clerk-Treasurer:

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer:

Jennifer Mason

Police Chief:

Timothy Braughler Sr.

Police Sergeant:

Paul Beakman

Police Officers:

Anthony Bartucca

Jeremey Blair

John Dowd

Jacob Januchowski

Larry Weibert

Mayor's Message

BARKER STRONG

Two words insignificant apart but without equal once put together during these very difficult times there are organizations and folks who exemplify this model. Whether, you are in need yourself or would like to help the less fortunate don't be too proud to ask and don't be too shy to volunteer.

One shining example of the type of local effort I speak of is the Faith United Methodist Church and particularly its food / clothing pantry it is open Monday from 8:30 to noon Tuesday from 1 to 3 and the Food Express truck is available on the first and third Mondays of the month at 1:00pm. I will be making a small monetary donation to help FUMC in these efforts and I challenge all of you who are

capable to do the same. You can reach out to them via their Facebook page at Faith United Methodist Church or drop off a donation through the main doors. Label these to Faith United Methodist Church (FMUC) food pantry to ensure they these go where you desire.

Blood shortages locally and afar continue to be an issue as well, please refer to redcross.org and connectlife.org to look for blood drives near you, so that you can donate.

Finally, we have three local business that have stepped up during these trying times Pizza Wings and Things, In the Mix Brewery & Creamery and Crosby's has had and continues to have many different daily specials to help ease our burdens. I encourage you to use these businesses. They're most up-to-date specials can be

found on their corresponding Facebook pages. As always, if there is anything that we can help with please feel free to reach out.

In your service,
Mayor Aaron Nellist
716-628-2578
villageofbarkermayor@gmail.com



Census 2020: Help Shape our Community's Future

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The 2020 Census aims to count every person living in the United States. This count impacts how resources for our families and communities are allocated over the next 10 years. Resources such as public schools, healthcare, food programs, roads & public transportation, affordable housing and our political representation.

Quick Facts:

1. Everyone living in your household should be counted, including children and roommates.
2. The 2020 Census will only ask basic

information such as name, age and gender.

3. The Census Bureau does NOT ask for social security numbers or credit card numbers.

4. Information collected through the Census Bureau is federally protected and will NOT be shared with any forms of law enforcement.

5. It is your constitutional right to be counted in the 2020 Census.

6. If New York is undercounted, the strength of our voice in Washington D.C. will be weakened.

3 ways to complete the 2020 census (1) you can complete the census form online (2) you can call 1-844-330-2020 or (3) you may receive a paper copy in the mail. It's imperative that you respond by the deadline. Visit www.2020census.gov for all kinds of information regarding the census, including frequently asked questions.

The VILLAGE OF BARKER & BARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY has resources available to help you shape our communities future for the next 10 years. Make a difference by completing your 2020 Census questionnaire!



News from Assemblyman **MIKE NORRIS**



BARKER STRONG ALWAYS

A Column from Assemblyman Mike Norris (R,C,I,Ref-Lockport)

Recently, I was emailed a link to the Barker inspirational video teachers put together for the students of the Barker school district and it really brightened my day when I watched it. I can only imagine how excited the students were to receive these uplifting messages! (If you have not seen it — check out Barker Teachers Union Inspirational Video on YouTube) The theme is so clear: that Barker will prevail through this struggle just as it has prevailed through many challenges before. That's why I am so proud to represent you in the New York State Assembly.

The novel coronavirus is unlike anything we have ever seen before. Please know that my staff and I are working hard to make sure every constituent is being helped and has the resources and services they need. I've been in regular contact with our federal and state officials, as well as your local officials, and they are doing a tremendous job. I would like to especially thank our local fire and police departments, highway departments, military, farmers, essential workers and especially to the healthcare heroes who are out there every day risking their lives for the greater good.

I'd also like to thank the community at large. Without your efforts to social distance and

safeguard yourselves and your loved ones, and look-in after your neighbors, this pandemic could be much worse.

At the state level, I voted to allocate \$40 million to ensure that the state Department of Health had the necessary resources in early March to tackle this serious public health risk, and I stand ready to support additional financial allocations on a stand-alone basis to attack this coronavirus pandemic. Economically, I am a co-sponsor of the Small Business Emergency Recovery Act and support a set of necessary measures to assist our agricultural community, especially our dairy farmers, during this crisis.

I know many of you are struggling. Unemployment is at an all-time high, and if you are an employer or farmer you're equally as concerned. Please know we are here to help. The state has made improvements to their unemployment insurance website, and you will get full benefits from the first day you were unemployed. Here are some links and resources that I hope you will find helpful, but please know if you have questions or concerns, you can feel free to reach out to me and my office at norrism@nyassembly.gov or by calling (716) 839-4691.

NYS's Novel Coronavirus Information
Hotline 24/7: 1-888-364-3065 and website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>

Niagara County Public Health Information:
<https://www.niagaracounty.com/health/Services/>

[Public-Health-Preparedness/NOVEL-CORONAVIRUS-2019-nCoV](https://www.health.ny.gov/public-health-preparedness/NOVEL-CORONAVIRUS-2019-nCoV)

NYS Tax Questions and Information on New Filing Dates: <https://www.tax.ny.gov>

NYS Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm>

Red Cross of Western New York is in need of blood donations, volunteers and COVID-19 survivors to donate platelets: www.redcrossblood.org

New Yorkers also need to take care of their mental well-being. The state has a free, confidential COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 and the mindfulness app Headspace is also offering all New Yorkers free access to the breathing exercises, meditations and relaxation techniques available on their free downloadable app.

If you need a face mask, please refer to this guide from the CDC with both sewing and non-sewing guides: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

Again, please know we are working hard for you. Please stay safe and healthy and keep doing what you've always done in Barker — looking out for each other and stay Barker strong!

Postponed Village Election

As you are aware, Gov. Andrew Cuomo postponed Village Elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, Village Elections were scheduled for March 18th, but now it looks like they will happen in June or later depending on how these events play out. Under the Election Law village residents may choose to enter an absentee ballot application by requesting one from the Village Hall Office. The absentee ballot application is valid if requested because of the possibility of

contracting COVID-19 and/or because of quarantine due to COVID-19, per the Governor's Executive Order. Once an absentee ballot application is received & approved, a ballot would be mailed to the individual, which they would return via mail once they have followed all the instructions on how to cast their ballot. Ballots returned that do not follow the specific directions are deemed void and will not be counted. On the night of the Election, these ballots are opened and placed with the other ballots

cast and counted. The absentee ballots must be received no later than 4pm the day of the Election whether mailed or hand delivered.

If you feel this is the safest way for you to participate in the Village Election process, please reach out ASAP.

Two Trustee positions are up for Election this year, Seanna Corwin-Bradley and Benjamin Seward, they are uncontested.





Barker Newsletter

A newsletter from State Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,IP,Ref-North Tonawanda)

Dear Barker Resident,

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and will be helpful to those of you who are seeking some direction in these challenging times. While this pandemic has dramatically changed our lives, I'm comforted seeing how our community has rallied. While all elements of our lives will look different moving forward, I believe that we will continue to endure and emerge a stronger community.

Social distancing and isolation may sometimes make you feel like you are alone, but I want to tell you emphatically that you are not. There are people across our great community who are ready and willing to help. I want you to know that my office is here to assist and connect you to the resources you may need.

This pandemic has taken a massive toll on our economy and has impacted all of those involved – both employers and employees. For those who have lost their jobs due to this pandemic, the Department of Labor has streamlined its unemployment claims portal and filing system to

handle the large influx of new claims. This portal can be reached at labor.ny.gov. This link also has information regarding other services available to recently-unemployed individuals.

For our business owners, this pandemic has put an immense burden on your livelihood and your ability to look after those you employ. New York is already one of the most difficult states in our nation to run a business, and I fear that this pandemic will be the death knell for many of the small businesses in our community that we know and love. I'll continue to work with our small business owners and employees to make sure their voices are heard. Please visit covid19relief.sba.gov/#/ for assistance in filing for a small business disaster relief loan, or visit my Facebook at @roborttnysenate for more helpful links and information on the resources that are available to you.

Each day, Niagara County and New York State have been holding information COVID-19 press conferences, but for those of you who are unable to watch, please visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov or www.niagaracounty.com for the latest state and county announcements.

As mentioned above, we are standing by and waiting to assist any of you who may need direction during this time. Located on my state website,

you will find a useful constituent resource page with links to general information, healthcare, tax information, and more (ortt.nysenate.gov). You can reach me via email at ortt@nysenate.gov or by phone at 716-434-0680.

Together, we will get through this, and I'm looking forward to the day when I can see you once again at our chicken BBQs, pancake breakfasts, town-wide yard sales, ice cream socials, farm festivals, and parades. Please continue to practice safety protocols such as social distancing and stay home orders. Good luck and God bless.

Your Senator,
Rob Ortt

NOTICE

Recently there has been several petty thefts pertaining to unlocked vehicles during the overnight hours.

Please be vigilant to lock your vehicles and take belongings inside your home. If you see any suspicious activity, please report it by calling the NC Sheriffs at 438-3393 and if a local car is on duty they will be dispatched. If you have information regarding these petty thefts, please reach out to the Village Police Department at 716-795-3207.

Niagara County Sheriffs Office



First and foremost, I hope this finds you and your family well. Since early March, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a significant impact on our everyday lives as well the operations at the Sheriff's Office. Rest assured, we are here and available for you should you need us. My goal has and will continue to be the health and safety of the residents of Niagara County and men and women at the Sheriff's Office.

As information was developing about the significant impact COVID-19 could potentially have, I suspended all inmate visitation and programming within the Niagara County Correctional Facility. In addition, my team and I were able to reduce the phone service rates so inmates could phone family during this time. These actions were taken in an effort to assist in New York State's Initiative to reduce the spread of the virus. The Sheriff's Office places a high priority on the health and wellness of the inmates and staff working within the Correctional Facility and the aforementioned steps were necessary to ensure a safe environment.

Our road patrol, the most visible component to the Sheriff's Office is still out handling calls for service and are here for you. After consulting with our law enforcement partners throughout Niagara County, the decision was made to process low priority calls for service via telephone. This decision was made in

an effort to adhere to the social distancing recommendations. If follow-up items are needed with the complaint filed over the phone, we will make arrangements for contact at a later time. I encourage you to contact our Communications Center to report incidents, we are just evaluating the need for a deputy to respond. Please know that our response to priority or emergency calls remains unaffected.

In addition to our Correctional Facility and Road Patrol, many other divisions within the Sheriff's Office have been impacted due to the reduction in staffing requirements from New York State. We are not able to offer free car seat checks, traffic safety programs or attend community events. Our Civil Division is not processing eviction paperwork. The records division is closed, however, accident reports are able to be obtained by visiting www.buycrash.com. The Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance Unit are still providing emergency functions as needed through our Communications Division. It is important to keep our residents involved and informed. Early on at the

**"REST ASSURED,
WE ARE HERE
AND AVAILABLE
FOR YOU
SHOULD YOU
NEED US."**

beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sheriff's Office added a dedicated "COVID-19" page to our website homepage on www.NiagaraSheriff.com as well as our Mobile App, Niagara County Sheriff, NY which can be download from your app store. When you click on the "COVID-19" tab, there is a section called "COVID-19 Local News". This is where the Sheriff's Office has uploaded all local Niagara County news as it relates to COVID-19. This is a great resource for information as it becomes available.

I do want to bring some good news in light of everything. The men and women of the Sheriff's Office have been making quite a few outreach efforts through our social media outlets. Members have read books for children and posted them to our YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/NiagaraSheriff, attended community parades, made birthday videos and even took part in a "Police Plank Challenge"! Be sure to like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

Lastly, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, our fellow law enforcement partners, first responders and members of the healthcare and medical fields are hardworking, dedicated and deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

*Sincerely,
Michael J. Filicetti
Acting Sheriff of Niagara C*

The Village would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to those who participated by decorating and showed up to support our Barker Strong Parade. It was a marathon route and we think its safe to say that it brought joy to those in our community. Thank you to Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley for facilitation and execution of the parade. Sure we're in uncharted territory, but if we all support one another and embrace the directives from the Federal & State governments, we'll come out stronger on the other side!

Stay safe, Stay Strong & Stay Healthy!

SPRING- Dept. of Public Works and Code Enforcement Reminders



DUE TO COVID-19 THE DPW IS UNABLE TO BEGIN CHIPPING, ITS UNSURE WHEN THIS WILL RESUME. PLEASE BE PATIENT, AS THE SAFETY OF OUR WORKFORCE IS OUR PRIORITY.

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!



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 may be recycled at the Town of Somerset Water/Sewer Plant on Lower Lake Road on garbage day 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.

Village Code requires that you must pick up your dogs feces and dispose of it when walking your dog. Please be a considerate neighbor and pick up after your animal! We receive many complaints about this.

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 2019 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

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

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

2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT ENCLOSED

COVID-19 Pandemic Resources



NYS Dept. of Health

www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov
www.covid19tracker.health.ny.gov
Hotline 24/7 free professional
assistance 1-888-364-3065

NYS Office of Mental Health

www.ohm.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html

NYS hotline to report non-essential businesses or gatherings, related to COVID-19 executive orders
1-833-789-0470

Niagara County

www.niagaracounty.com
at the top of the home page there is a
COVID-19 banner

Niagara Mental Health Hotline

24/7 free professional assistance
716-285-3515

Niagara County daily live updates
weekdays at 2:00pm on LCTV 1301 or
on demand LCTV.com &
on the radio 90.9



Village of Barker Municipal Website
www.villageofbarker.org

The website is constantly updated and all information about meetings, important information about COVID-19, refuse pickup & more is all at your fingertips

Village Hall hours are normal Monday-Friday, 9-Noon & 1-4pm, but is operating at a reduced staffing capacity. Call with any questions or concerns. Village Hall access is by appointment only for essential business. The DPW dept. is also operating at a reduced staffing capacity.

Water payments are only being accepted (1) in the mail PO Box 298, Barker (2) drop off in the drop box at 1697 East Avenue or (3) pay online at www.ub-pay.com using municipal code BarkerNY012 **convenience fee applies
No in person payments will be accepted at this time.