

Village of Barker

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



Niagara County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

www.rethinkyourwaste.com

Events for collection will be scheduled in late April/early May. Check the website for the calendar if you have items that you are looking to dispose of. These events operate under a voucher program, a voucher needs to be completed before you arrive at an event for your scheduled appointment.

Eligibility and Exclusions:

- Must be a resident of Niagara County.
- The first 50-lbs of waste is covered by Niagara County and NYSDEC.
- Only waste generated from homes is accepted. Not-for-profits, and businesses are excluded.
- All extra weight or excluded material is the responsibility of the generator.
- PLEASE, No combining vouchers and limit one per residence.
- Alkaline Batteries, Motor Oil, Electronics and Explosives are NOT ACCEPTED. Latex Paint is NOT included (please dry out and dispose of partially full cans).
- All residents are required to pre-register online.
- Fire Extinguishers, Smoke Detectors and Propane Tanks are subject to additional fees.

Acceptable Items:

- Full Latex Paint Cans (no partial cans will be accepted)
- Oil-based Paint
- Wood Stains and Preservatives
- Automotive Fluids (Antifreeze, Brake, Power Steering and Transmission Fluids)
- Pesticides and Fertilizers (both Solid and Liquid)
- Flammable Products (Gasoline, Kerosene, Thinners, Strippers, Solvents, Glues, etc.)
- Household Cleaners (Soaps, Waxes, Drain Cleaners, etc.)
- Driveway and Roof Sealer
- Pool and Photo Chemicals
- Mercury (Thermometers, Thermostats)
- Fluorescent Bulbs

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Spring the season of growth and renewal, this Spring the Village is looking to continue its forward momentum on the rebuilding of the Village Hall & Library by securing grant funding from a Chris Jacobs Community Project funding grant and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Also, the Village is very close to finalizing the insurance claim....finally. It's been a long road of disaster recovery and its nice to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Next, I would like to address the recent suspension of service of the Police Department. As stewards of the public's trust, it is our role as elected officials to ensure that the Village's best interest are kept at the forefront at all times. Recently, the Village Board has been conducting an internal investigation to ensure all policies and procedures were being followed by all members of the Police Department. We can't express enough how this review was not initiated as police misconduct. This was not a matter of how policing activities were executed, but purely administrative in nature. We understand that you maybe concerned about the suspension of service, but please rest assured that the Niagara County Sheriff, NYS Troopers & the Town of Somerset will maintain their presence during this time.

As the COVID-19 pandemic lingers please remember to be vigilant and practice protocols to keep you healthy. If you are still in need of scheduling a vaccine appointment, check with the Village Hall. Periodically, the NC Health Department sends links to vaccination dates when openings are available. If you don't have the internet or aren't computer savvy, Amanda or Jen would be happy to help you schedule an appointment.

Respectfully,
Mayor Aaron Nellist
villageofbarkermayor@gmail.com
716-628-2578

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VILLAGE WEBSITE

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

And much, much more.....

Village Board of Trustees:

Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Seanna Bradley
Trustee Aaron Davis
Trustee Jordan Gow
Trustee Melanie Hirschman

Village Election– March 16, 2021



*Above from left to right:
Trustee Melanie Hirschman (1st term),
Mayor Aaron Nellist (4th term) and
Trustee Aaron Davis (2nd term)*

The Annual Village Election was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall. A total of 28 votes were cast for the Officers of Mayor and 2-Trustee two year term. Aaron Nellist was re-elected to his 4th term as Mayor. Aaron Davis was re-elected to Trustee two year term for his 2nd term and Melanie Hirschman was elected to her first term as Trustee two year term. Congratulations to our newly elected officials!

A thank you goes out to our Election Inspectors Grace Bodine and Janet Kerth. We thank you for your dedicated service to the Village!

There are vacant seats on the Planning Board and Ethics Board. The Planning Board advises the Village Board on

proposed projects and uses for properties and the Ethics Board advises the Village Board when they are asked based on the facts of the situation presented. They are unpaid positions and meet on an as needed basis. Please reach out to the Mayor if you are interested in serving the Village in this capacity, villageofbarkermayor@gmail.com. It's a great way to get involved in your community to foster growth and development.

Please consider making the time to vote when the Village Elections are held. We tend to have extremely low voter turnout. Voting at the local level allows you to have direct impact on how your community functions.

Police Reform and Your Sheriff's Office by Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office has a proud history dating back to 1808 when Asa Ransom was the first Sheriff. I look to our mission statement and see that this has been a constant through that history, "The Mission of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office is to secure for the people of Niagara County the conditions that will bring about and sustain the full measure of the benefits of citizenship in a democratic society of laws by safeguarding life and property, preserving the peace, preventing and detecting crime, enforcing the law, and protecting the rights of all citizens."

A lot has changed since 1808 and law enforcement has had to continuously evolve over the years to serve and protect. On June 12, 2020, New York State Executive Order 203, the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative was issued by the governor. This order tasked law enforcement agencies with conducting a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the community. After reviewing the components of the order, we went to work to accomplish this task. I was confident going into the process that we already checked a lot of the boxes included in this order and any common sense changes would only stand to make us a better agency.

Our team did a review of our entire operation from law enforcement, corrections and the communications division. We reviewed how we were doing business and what improvements we thought we could accomplish. A draft plan of our initial findings was created to share with the public, in addition to a newly created police reform committee that was selected by the Niagara County Legislature. The role of this committee was to work with the Sheriff's Office and the public; and as a group, assist in finalizing our police reform plan. We held public meetings in Lockport, Wheatfield and Niagara Falls to interact with the community and gather input. With the public input in hand and our draft plan available, we went to work with our committee to achieve our goals.

A finalized plan was created and made available to the public on our website at www.niagarasheriff.com. I also made a presentation to the Niagara County Legislature regarding the plan and the process we undertook to accomplish this. The finalized plan was approved by the Legislature and sent to New York State as required by the order. I would encourage all residents to visit our website under the resources tab, click on programs and services to view the police reform plan. I believe the commitments and goals are practical and will stand to raise the bar for the Sheriff's Office.

It is important to me that our community believes in the Office of the Sheriff. With a focus on recruiting, maintaining our accreditation, training in areas such as anti-bias and de-escalation techniques, we will continue our long standing tradition of professionalism. We will be here when you need us and can count on us to do our very best for the residents and visitors of Niagara County. Please stay safe and continue to watch out for your family, friends and neighbors.



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.



Dept. of Public Works Spring 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 placed in your garbage cart to be placed curbside 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!

Code Enforcement Reminders

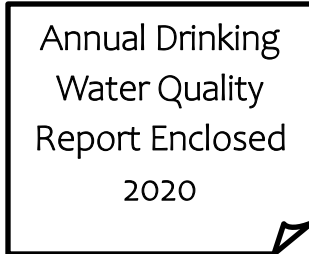
Spring means clean up time! Please take the time to get rid of junk and debris to keep your yard looking nice! It doesn't cost anything to be neat and tidy. Code Violations are sent to homeowners who don't abide by the ordinances. If you receive a notice you have time to remedy the violation, if left untouched a court appearance ticket will be issued. Our trash pick-up allows three large item pickup once a month. Check the Village website for the dates. 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 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.

Village of Barker

1697 East Avenue
PO Box 298
Barker, NY 14012

Phone: 716-795-3777
Fax: 716-795-3478
Police Dept. 716-795-3207
barkervillage@roadrunner.com



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.

Home Town Hero's Banner Dedication

FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION –
HERBERT W. CARR POST 425

He American Legion post 425 has had an excellent response to or Home Town Hero's Banner Project. During the month of May we will he hanging 53 banners on utility poles in the Village and the Town of Somerset. *A dedication ceremony will be held at the David Barker Park (Main Street) gazebo on Memorial Day at Noon.*

All are welcome to attend. If attending please socially distance, wear face covering and bring your own lawn chair, if needed.

Sincerely,

Jon Hotaling, Legion Commander

