

Village of Barker Spring Newsletter



MAYOR’S MESSAGE

With all that we have been through in the past few years, I am pleased to relay that our new Village Hall/Library construction should begin very shortly. As you may have noticed, some preparation work has already begun and you will see more visible signs in early May. We have been able, through diligent work of the Library Board, Village Board, Village Staff, Engineering and Counsel to set the frame work of a continuing lease agreement that will be beneficial to both entities. Our general contractor as well has made wise suggestions for modification that will ensure us all the best possible structure with extended lifespan that we desire. I cannot overstate the volume of time and effort that all involved have put forth and I look forward to a successful completion. When it is time to open our new doors for the first time, I hope you will all attend as this will surely be an event for the whole community to take part in. Dates and times will be forthcoming. In the meantime I hope you get a chance to drive by and witness this new evolution first hand.

In Your Service, *Mayor Aaron Nellist*

Please remember according to NYS DEC a BURN BAN in effect from March 16 to May 14, 2022. No open burning is permitted during this time, small contained fires in a receptacle are acceptable.

PUBLIC HEARING: HARBORING OF HEN CHICKENS WITHIN THE VILLAGE LIMITS

On *Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:00pm* the Village of Barker will hold a public hearing at the *Barker Fire Hall, 1660 Quaker Road*, regarding changing the local law of the Village ordinance to allow the harboring of hen chickens within the Village limits. Currently the Village ordinance prohibits any farm animals from being kept within Village limits, including hooved animals and poultry. The current ordinance only allows 2 dogs, 3 cats and/or 3 rabbits are allowed.

The proposed local law would include a permitting process through the Code Enforcement Officer, set back requirement from dwellings and property lines, coop and run requirements, limits the number of hen chickens to 6 maximum, and prohibits the sale of eggs within the Village limits. For a copy of the entire local law please stop by the Village Hall or check our homepage of the website, www.villageofbarker.org. All interested parties will be heard at the public hearing, so please attend.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- Mayor Aaron Nellist
- Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
- Trustee Aaron Davis
- Trustee Melanie Hirschman
- Trustee David Quiett

Clerk-Treasurer
Amanda M. Detschner, CMC

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer:
Ruth Dent

DPW Superintendent
Mark Remington

DPW Laborers
Gene Cavanaugh
Jacob Laskey

Code Enforcement Officer
Mark Remington

VILLAGE ELECTION RESULTS



Trustee David Quiett taking his oath of office April 4, 2022 at the Annual Organizational Meeting

The Annual Village Election was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall. A total of 26 votes were cast for the Officers of Trustee (2) two year terms. Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley was elected to her 3rd term and Trustee Quiett joins the Board for his first term. Congratulations to our newly elected officials!

A thank you goes out to our Election Inspectors Grace Bodine and Karen Demorest. 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. 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 a direct impact on how your community functions.



GRAPEVINE NOTIFICATION APP

The Village of Barker subscribed to this app in February 2022. Feel free to download the app in the Apple store or in the Android play store. Once you've downloaded the app, type in our zip code to find our municipality. Then proceed to the settings tab to customize the notifications you want to receive.

It contains quick links to the Village website for reference. The Village will send out important notifications about meetings, garbage collection, community events and much more as we get accustomed to its capabilities.

Please consider downloading this free app right away to begin getting important notifications and stay connected!

NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Hello everyone, I hope you are doing well and enjoying winter activities throughout our beautiful county. We are certainly busy as usual at the Sheriff's Office, and I would like to take time to highlight some of our programs and initiatives that are set to occur over the next few months.

We recently began a new partnership with the public safety website known as Neighbors®. Neighbors® allows you, the user, to share photos, videos and information related to local crime and safety incidents in order to keep fellow residents informed. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office can view what local residents have posted publicly to Neighbors®, and can now chime-in with relevant updates or safety alerts to help residents stay up to date with the latest information available. You do not need a Ring® device to join Neighbors®. Anyone with a smartphone can download the Neighbors® App in order to receive updates, and have the option to post photos or videos from any device. With Neighbors®, in addition to our virtual neighborhood watch program through Nextdoor.com, we can stay connected and message our community with a simple click of a button.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office Explorers Post will look to recruit young people (aged 16 – 20) who are interested in a career in law enforcement for our West Session in early March. This program allows young adults to experience a police academy style curriculum with physical training and hands-on activities in order to help them decide their future career path. This is a fun and demanding program that takes genuine commitment, and I am happy to inform you that several of our past Explorers have gone on to join the Sheriff's Office in full-time employment roles throughout our various divisions. If you or someone you know is interested in this Post, please contact Lt. Zimmerman at Daniel.Zimmerman@niagaracounty.com or Lt. Grainge at Matthew.Grainge@niagaracounty.com for more information.

Finally, I would like to warn you about the latest fraud to occur in our community. NCSO has received several reports of an individual calling and identifying themselves as a representative of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. They proceed to advise you of a warrant for your arrest for failing to appear for jury duty. For a \$500 fee, the scammer offers to take care of this warrant for you. The caller ID number may even be the same or close to the Sheriff's Office (716-438-3393) utilizing an emulator device. This is a fraud, and please do not pay any funds. Please know that Law Enforcement will not call you regarding a debt owed, fee outstanding, or call for a cash donation. Do not give out personal information like your social security number, credit/debit card numbers or anything else if someone contacts you. And, as always with scams, if you are contacted to pay a fine/fee/overpayment and the person demands that you pay the debt in gift cards, wire transfers, cash, or cryptocurrency, this is without a doubt a fraud.

Our Social Media is the quickest way to get information from the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. We are posting important notices, updates, and announcements daily on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Visit us today and 'follow' to stay updated!

Please take care, and know that we are always here for you at the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. For more information on our programs and services, please be sure to visit our website at www.niagarasheriff.com.

DEPT. 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 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.

Raked leaves should never be placed to the curb loose, they need to be bagged and placed in your trash cart for pickup or taken to the DPW lot and added to the leaf pile.

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!

Check out the Niagara County Environmental Health Departments website for FREE Rabies Clinic information. Pre-registration is required to book your appointment. <https://www.niagaracounty.com/health/Services/Environmental-Health/Rabies/Rabies-Clinic>

Remember any dog over 4 months of age must be licensed with the Town of Somerset and be up to date on all required vaccinations. Visit <https://www.somersetny.org/town-clerk/pages/dog-licenses> for more information

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.

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 2021 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
PO Box 298
Barker, NY 14012

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

716-795-3777
FAX-716-795-3478

barkervillage@roadrunner.com
www.villageofbarker.org

**IMPORTANT INFO
ENCLOSED**

Please Read:

- *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2021
- *Public Hearing-May 2, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Allowing the harboring of hen chickens
- *GrapeVvne Notification App

**MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY**

I am pleased to announce our annual Memorial Day celebration will take place this year after a 2 year absence. It will take a place at the *Veteran's Memorial next to the Town Hall at 10:00am on May 30th*. The Barker Band will be playing, pastor Wayne Dent will be giving the invocation. I have local dignitaries speaking, plus NYS Assemblyman Mike Norris and NC Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti lined up to speak. All are welcome to and I hope to see you there.

I am pleased to announce that the Hometown Hero banner will be up with the addition of 30 new ones bringing our total to 90, we have been informed by the banner company that is the most banners they have made for a town of our size. I would like to thank everyone who purchased a banner and participated.

New members are wanted and welcome any time

Thank You, Jon L. Hotaling
Legion Commander



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program is administered by USAC with oversight from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

What is the Affordable Connectivity Program?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices.

If your household is eligible, you can receive:

- *Up to \$30/month discount on your internet service
- *Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- *A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet or desktop computer with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50.00

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household

Visit acpbenefit.org for information on who qualifies and how to apply.