

Village of Barker

SPRING NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2024

Cornfest 2024

The 2024 Barker Corn Festival is back with all the highlights on July 27th... a 5K run/walk, farmer's market and vendor fair, corn roast and live music throughout the day, as well as in the evening under the stars. It is once again hosted by the Barker-Somerset

community members and sponsored by many amazing homegrown companies. In the evening, we will head on over to the Barker Fire Department, to finish off a wonderful day on

the lawn while sipping local brews, tasting local grub, and listening to live music.

Each year we will add new vendors and activities for everyone, announcing new additions as they are scheduled. This year we will be scheduling live music all afternoon in the park, and adding many more food vendors and attractions that will be revealed very soon!

Come on out to the Village Park on Main St. on Saturday, July 27th, and be a part of one of the best days this year!

Schedule: The 5k Run/Walk will start at 9am, with the farmer's market and vendor fair going on between 12 and 6pm. Midday there will also be tons of adult and kids activities, a corn hole tournament, live music, a corn roast, and we are going to pack the place with a variety of local vendors and clubs serving loads of delicious eats. A local rock band will perform an open air concert again this year around 6pm and be accompanied by local beer/wine/cider and food truck(s) from the area in support of our local Fire Department.

Cornfest 5k run/walk race sign-up is live!! The race link is below or scan the QR code. The race kicks the Cornfest extravaganza on 7-27-24 @ 9am. This year the proceeds will be going to the Barker Central School High Musical department to help future shows costume and prop expenses!!

<https://cornfest.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=15315>



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We have finally arrived at Spring's doorstep; nicer weather is just around the corner! The Village is looking forward to some exciting things over the next few months, with the most important being the opening of our brand-new Village Hall/Barker Public Library! Interior construction is winding down and we are prepping for our final walk-through sometime in the next few weeks. Once we have established moving and opening dates, we will post the dates on our Facebook page. The road to completing our new building has been long and a lot of curve balls have been thrown our way, but I would like to thank the village board and the library boards for their persistence and patience. My deepest gratitude goes to our Clerk-Treasurer, Amanda Detschner, and Superintendent of Public Works, Mark Remington, who have both tirelessly worked with the engineers, attorneys, insurance companies, and all the various construction/sub-contractors to ensure that we stay within budget and that the building is the best fit for all of our needs. We are finally entering the home stretch!

Another exciting update is that the Village has been awarded a grant to study our stormwater infrastructure. Please see the article in the newsletter for more information, but based on the results of the study, we will be applying for grants to update stormwater and drainage infrastructure, which would have a great impact on flooding and drainage for village residents. We will likely be asking for letters of support from residents to aid our chances of being awarded a grant, so once the study is done, we will be posting information about that on the Facebook page as well.

I hope that everyone enjoys their Spring, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns. My phone number is 585-590-2871 and email is villageofbarker-mayor@gmail.com.

In your service,
Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley

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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 Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Deputy Mayor Aaron Davis
Trustee Zander Detschner
Trustee Val DiTommaso
Trustee Melanie Hirschman

Village Election– March 19, 2024



Above from left to right:
Trustee DiTommaso, Deputy Mayor Davis,
Trustee Detschner, Mayor Corwin-Bradley,
Trustee Hirschman, Clerk-Treasurer Detschner

The Annual Village Election was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall. A total of 29 votes were cast for the Office of 2-Trustees two year term.

Val DiTommaso was elected to his first full term, after filling a vacancy on the Board since July 2023. Zander Detschner was elected to his first term as Trustee, just two months after his 18th birthday. Congratulations to our newly elected officials!

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

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.

Village Awarded CDBG Grant to Study Existing Stormwater Infrastructure

The Village was awarded a \$50,000 CDBG grant to study the existing stormwater infrastructure. It's exciting that the Village was awarded this on our 4th attempt. The Study will allow us to gather important information regarding our soil structure/composition, flooding issues and offer solutions for re-occurring issues in the Village.

After a competitive RFP process the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice was chosen based on their proposal and interview performance. The study began April 4, 2024 and will continue until July 2024. At that time B&L will present the final report to the Village at a public meeting. The goal is to use the study completed to apply for larger grants to fund the needed improvements.

An extremely important part of the grant is community participation, we will be having several opportunities to become involved in the study, from talking to the engineers, attending meetings, signing petitions regarding issues by street, and writing letters of support for the project. Please participate when asked so that we can have a detailed and comprehensive study that offers solutions for the entire Village.

This is exciting news and we look forward to learning what recommendations B&L has to help improve our stormwater system.

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

–Margaret J. Wheatley

A Look at the Past...

Historian, Amy Dewart (716)795-3575, ext. 7

Main Street, Barker Circa 1973



Main Street (north side) from left to right: Barker Drug Store (brick building), Barker Clover Farm, Marine Midland Bank, Somerset Town Board meeting place (old bank building), Barker Dry Goods.

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 2023 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.

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!

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

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PO Box 298
Barker, NY 14012

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Fax: 716-795-3478
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www.villageofbarker.org

Annual Drinking
Water Quality
Report Enclosed
2023

**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.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

I am pleased to announce our
annual Memorial Day celebration
will take at the *Veteran's
Memorial next to the Town Hall at
10:00am on May 27th*. The Barker
Community Band will be playing,
pastor Wayne Dent will be giving
the invocation. Speakers this year
will be Congresswoman Claudia
Tenney, Assemblyman Micheal Norris
and NC Legislator Shawn Foti. All
are welcome to attend and I hope
to see you there.

Also, we have an urgent need for
new members. First two years of
dues are free when you join. All
Veterans are welcome. We meet the
second Tuesday of the month at
7:00pm at the Lion's Building on
Main Street. Meetings are held
April, May, June, September,
October and November. Stop and
attend a meeting and learn what we
do.

Thank You, Jon L. Hotaling
Legion Commander

NC RABIES CLINICS

*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](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](https://www.somersetny.org/town-clerk/pages/dog-licenses) for
more information*