October 2026

Village of Barker

Fall Newsletter

If you have lost items at any of the Village parks this summer. Stop by the Village Hall to check the lost & found box.

MAYORS MESSAGE

As we move from summer into fall and eventually into winter, it's hard to believe how quickly the seasons pass. Each season brings something different to our Village, from summer events and activities to the beautiful colors of fall and the challenges of winter.

I want to thank all our residents for continuing to make Barker a great place to live. Please continue to support our local businesses, look out for your neighbors, and stay safe as the weather changes.

I look forward to all that we can accomplish together in the months ahead.

Aaron Davis
Mayor
villageofbarkermayor@gmail.com

HALLOWEEN "TRICK or TREATING"

Halloween is that time of year when your children dress up as their favorite character in hopes of collecting as much candy as possible. **The hours for Trick or Treating in the Village of Barker will be Saturday, October 31st from 5 to 7 pm.**

Please be mindful of precautions that parents and children can take for Trick or Treating. Children under the age of 12 should be supervised by an adult. With the long hours of darkness and cold weather think about flashlights, hand warmers and warm clothing. Make sure your child's vision is not impaired by their costume to ensure their safety. Residents should have their porch lights on, if they are willing to participate in the Trick or Treating event. If you're new to the Village we usually get several hundred trick or treaters. Please use extreme caution driving around the Village. Check your child's candy to make sure it is wrapped properly and discard if it has been tampered with or the seal is broken. Also remind your child(ren) about stranger danger, as well as the tactics predators use to lure children into their homes or vehicles. Have safe and fun Halloween!

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Barker Public Library will hold their Trunk or Treat event on **Thursday, October 22nd from 5:00pm-6:30pm** in the village hall/library parking lot

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UPCOMING VILLAGE ELECTION

Mark your Calendars!
Village Election
Tuesday, March 16, 2027
Noon until 9:00pm
Village Hall Meeting Room

Be Part of Our Community's Future!
As Election Day approaches, the importance of community involvement becomes even more apparent. As a Village resident, you have a voice, valuable opinions, and the opportunity to help shape the future of our community. One of the simplest ways to get involved is by attending a monthly Village Board meeting. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Board Room, unless the date falls on a holiday. For the latest meeting information, please visit our website at www.villageofbarkerny.gov.

Living in a small community offers many opportunities to make a meaningful difference. Whether you attend Board meetings, join a civic organization, run for elected office, or volunteer your time and talents, every contribution matters. For 118 years, our Village has built a proud legacy, and together, we can help ensure that the next 100 years are just as memorable.

Our community is what we make it. All it takes is a willingness to get involved, a little leadership, and a desire to make a difference. **This March, three Village Board positions will be on the ballot: <u>Mayor and two Trustee seats</u>.** If serving your community in an elected position is something you would like to explore, stop by the Village Office to learn more. Nominating petitions will be available beginning Tuesday, December 29th and must be returned between February 2-February 10, 2027.

Let's work together to preserve what makes our Village special while building a bright future for generations to come. With the dedication and involvement of our residents, we can keep Barker the quaint, welcoming, and distinctive community we are proud to call home!

****Reminder, you must be a registered voter to vote in a Village Election. It's very simple to do, just stop in the Village Hall and grab a form to mail to the Niagara County Board of Elections or visit our website under the "I Want To…" Tab.*

Code Enforcement Reminders– Dan Wojewoda, CEO Officer

Building permits are required for any new building including a shed, all additions to existing buildings, pools that are above ground and inground, fences, decks and porches, addition to an electrical system, an addition to plumbing system, an addition to heating system, electrical work including backup generators and solid fuel heating devices. Stop by the Village Hall office to pick up a building permit or download the application online under the department tab look for the Building/Code Enforcement page.

This year has been a very busy year for the Village's Code Enforcement Officer, as we've had numerous violations for dilapidated buildings, garbage and rubbish, un-mowed grass and too many unregistered vehicles. Please remember to keep your property tidy and neat. Garbage and rubbish strown about your property will result in a violation. No more than 1 unregistered vehicle maybe on a parcel, including boats, trailers, snowmobiles and motorcycles.

Grass should be kept mowed not to exceed 6" in length.

Farm animals are prohibited within the Village limits, farm animals are defined as livestock, poultry and hooved animals. Only dogs, cats and rabbits are allowable animals. Village code states that a resident may have up to 2 dogs, 3 cats or 3 rabbits.

Tire Drop off days are done by the Town of Somerset, usually in early September. *<u>DO NOT PLACE TIRES in the dumpster.</u>*

Please dispose of your leaves by bagging them and placing them in your garbage cart or bag them and place them in the Village dumpster. The Village DPW lot no longer has a leaf pile. Please do not dump your leaves loose at the DPW garage lot. It's very important that you do not place them on the road, leaves and grass clippings will clog up the storm drains.

As another season has come and gone, please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. This little habit could save a life.

Please be mindful of the dates of bulk/large item collection. Do not place items to the curb more than 48 hours before pickup and large items left at the curb must be removed promptly if not collected. Problems with collection call Modern customer service at 716-754-8226.

We appreciate your willingness to keep your property neat and tidy, we're all responsible for the image we portray of our Village. It shows when we take pride in our property!

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

During the snow season please remember to try and keep the fire hydrant within your property limits clear of snow at all times. Please be aware of this if you contract to have your driveway plowed. A quickly accessible fire hydrant saves precious minutes.

Please make sure the sidewalks are clear at all times. Last year we had many complaints about snow that was plowed into the sidewalks. Please be aware of this if you contract to have your driveway plowed. The sidewalks are a necessity to keep people safe and out of the way of oncoming traffic. It is the homeowners responsibility to keep their sidewalks clear of snow and debris. The Public Works Department will only clear snow from the sidewalks when time permits and the equipment is functioning properly.

Reminder, there is **NO PARKING on Village streets from November 1-April 1st** from 2:00am-6:00am to facilitate snow removal, which is enforced by NC Sheriff's Dept and the Town of Somerset Police Department.

Lastly we would like to address the issue of chipping. 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 and place in the 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.

Last day to put limbs and branches curbside for chipping will be NOVEMBER **2nd.** Moving forward the DPW department would like to move to two set dates for chipping per month. Look for those in the Spring newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation!
Respectfully, Jordan Gow, DPW Supervisor (barkervillageDPW@gmail.com)

****ELECTRONIC RECYCLING****

Any item that has a cord is considered an electronic. ***Electronics should be recycled at the Town of Somerset Water/Sewer Plan on Lower Lake Road on garbage day from 7:00am-3:00pm.*** Electronics should never be placed in the dumpster or placed to the curb for collection. As of January 2013, it is illegal to place household electronics to the curb for collection and must be taken to the designated collection point at the Town Water/Sewer plant.

Last Free NC Rabies Clinic for 2026

Last free rabies clinic will be Saturday, December 5, 2026 from 9:00-Noon at the City of North Tonawanda, 758 Erie Avenue, North Tonawanda

Pre-registration for rabies clinics are MANDATORY. Registration will open up the Monday preceding the clinic.

To register please visit:
niagaracounty/gov/rabies clinic

ATTENTION: Dog Owners

Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dogs when you are walking them. No one wants to come across the mess that your pooch left behind.

Also, the Village of Barker has a leash law, which requires all dogs must be kept on a leash not exceeding 8 feet in length.

It's State Law that if you own a dog that you license it through Town of Somerset. The cost is $6.00 for spayed/ neutered dogs and $16.00 for unspayed/ unneutered dogs. You will need proof of a current rabies vaccination. A dog license can make for a happy reunion if your dog is caught running at large. If the owner of a dog unable to be located they are taken to Fort Hyde Kennels, which is costly. Your dog must wear it's licensed dog tags at all times. Any dog 4 months or older must be licensed. Dog licenses must be renewed annually. If you fail to renew your dogs license you will receive an appearance ticket for court.

The Village has an many ordinances that deal with animals. For example you may not own more than 2 dogs, 3 cats or 3 rabbits. Farm animals are prohibited, which includes any hooved animal & chickens. A noise ordinance that states no owner shall permit a dog to engage in habitual or continuous loud howling, barking, crying or whining that unreasonably disturbs neighbors.

Town of Somerset/Village of Barker Dog Control Officer
KristaAnn Atwater
716-564-7293

Perry Pallister– The Man Behind the Avenue

Amy Dewart, Historian (716) 795-3575 ext. 7 somersethistorian@yahoo.com

Perry L. Pallister came to what is now known as the village of Barker in 1881. He built the large Victorian house on the north west corner of Church Street and Pallister Avenue, in 1895-1896. Perry Pallister was born April 21, 1860 in Williamsville, NY. When he arrived in 1881, there was no village of Barker, as that was the year that two streets in that area were surveyed and laid out by surveyor, William Atwater. Those two streets were Main Street and East Avenue. Construction began almost immediately in that area as the new railroad tracks were laid. The village grew rapidly around those tracks.

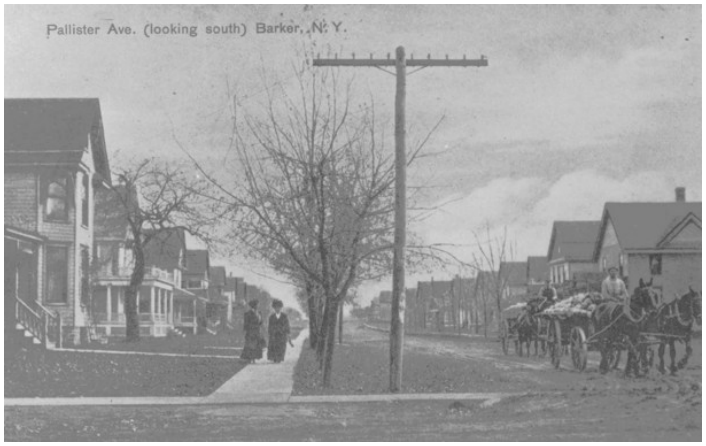
Perry L. Pallister

Jennie Pallister

Perry Pallister became a prominent citizen of the new village, and he was chosen as the FIRST President of Barker after the village was incorporated in 1908. (It was not until 1931, that the presiding officer of the village was changed to Mayor.) Perry purchased a large tract of land in the center of the village between Quaker Road and East Avenue and sold lots after a new street was surveyed. That street became known as Pallister Avenue. In 1908, President Pallister and the village trustees commissioned to have 7,000 feet of sidewalks laid in the village.

Lila Pallister

Perry's wife was Jennie Pallister and together they had three children: Estella, Lila, and Earle. Earle died at age 19 at Syracuse University, while in training for the national army during WWI. He was a victim of the Spanish Flu. Perry died in 1935 in Kenmore at the home of his daughter. He is buried in Hartland Cemetery.



Pallister Avenue (looking south), circa 1914

DO YOU HAVE A WATER LEAK?

Unrepaired water leaks can be costly!

If you suspect a leak in your home, locate your water meter. There is a red dial, if that red dial is spinning you have water flowing through your meter. Next, shut down all sinks, toilets etc. and re-check the red dial, if the dial is still you don't have any leaks. If it is spinning you have to investigate to determine where the leak is originating and make necessary repairs.

As you can see in the leak type chart that was inserted in this newsletter, even very small leaks add up fast. The leak type chart was printed separately so you can hang onto it for reference.

Always compare your inside water meter read to the outside read placed on your water bill. Over time the outside reader can run slow and even cease from cobwebs or other debris. By double checking your meter read you can ensure you are being billed correctly, if your meter stops and an inside reading is taken you will receive a water bill that could be very high.

Board of Trustees & Officials 2026: (left to right) Seated: Mayor Aaron Davis, Deputy Mayor Val DiTommaso and Code Enforcement Officer Dan Wojewoda. Standing: Trustee Chloe Kenny, Trustee Alexzander Detschner, Clerk-Treasurer Amand Detschner, Trustee Melanie Hirschman, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laurel Cantella and DPW Supervisor Jordan Gow.

MODERN GARBAGE/ RECYLCING COLLECTION

Beginning January 1st the Village will begin a contract extension with Modern with one major change, tonnage will be based on a 3 year average instead of the trucks having to be weighted after collection. This allows Modern to cross municipal boundaries without having to weigh the truck, saving time, gasoline and wear and tear on the trucks. This means that the time that your garbage or recycling is collected may vary now that routes are being optimized for efficiency. Recepitcles must be placed to the curb by 6am. Please be on the lookout for your mailer that should be arriving in December for the 2027 collection cycle.

Also, any questions or concerns regarding collection should be called into Modern customer service at 716-754-8226

Upcoming Events:

Oct 22 @ 5pm
Halloween Trunk or Treat @ the Barker Public Library

Oct 31 @ 5-7pm
Halloween Trick or Treating in the Village of Barker

Nov 3 @ 7pm
OSCO Community Meeting @ the Barker Village Hall

Dec 6 @ 8am
Breakfast with Santa @ the Barker Fire Hall

Dec 6 @ 1pm
Victorian Christmas @ the Babcock House

Dec 13 @ 2pm
Light Up Barker @ the Barker Village Park

Jan 5 @ 7pm
"Better Together" Community Meeting @ the Barker Village Hall

March 21 @ 1pm
Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt @ the Somerset Conservation Club

May 4 @ 7pm
"Better Together" Community Meeting @ Barker Village Hall Meeting Room

June 20 @ 4pm
Summer Solstice Car & Bike Cruise on Main Street

August 28
Barker Corn Festival @ Village Park

VILLAGE OF BARKER

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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. TDD 7-1-1 or 1-800-662-1220 This disclaimer is required due to having an outstanding Bond with the USDA Rural Development

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY DISPOSAL

Rechargeable batteries MUST be taken back to the store in which you purchased the item. The NYS Rechargeable Battery Recycling law states that each store that sells items with rechargeable batteries must take them back at the store for recycling/disposal. Look for these bins or areas in the front of the store. Even if you did not purchase the item at that store. Modern has informed us that they have had trucks start on fire due to a lithium batteries being damaged by the truck compactor and even fires at the facility. It's a matter of public safety and environmental consciousness.

Visit the Battery Network website: batterynetwork.org to find sites near you!

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