



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

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Merriam Webster’s dictionary defines disaster as, a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction or a sudden or great misfortune or failure.

Barker, NY. Barker’s Village Hall/Library was located in an old Train Station on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, fondly known as the Hojack line. “Hojack originated from the engineer of the first train, who was named Jack Welch (often called “Big Jack”). Welch used to be a farmer and was more familiar with horses than steam locomotives. When he stopped the trains he would shout “Whoa Jack!” This became Hojack over time.” (Wikipedia) Somewhere after 1876 the “Barker Station” was built. Closed in 1959, the station became property of the Village and was used for storage. In 1963, it housed the Village Clerk’s office and in 1969, it housed the Public Library.



Photo 1

On a bitterly cold day, Sunday January 20, 2019, just before midnight disaster struck. The old Train Station now housing the Public Library and Village Hall was on fire, flames through the roof. After hours of fighting the fire, the building was a total loss. Gone were years of history, a library full of books, and many records stored on computers. Many of their written records were stored in fire proof containers that were mostly salvageable. Almost everything else was lost.

It is tough to prepare for a disaster like this. Many places have a “This could never happen to us” attitude. It can happen and it does happen. A building can be replaced. A new building, hopefully properly protected with an alarm system and a fire protection system can be built. How do you protect your data? There are many secure “cloud” based options on the market, research what is out there, ask your neighboring systems what they recommend. Back up your data regularly, store the backup in a secure location.



Photo 2

Many municipalities store credit card information for online payments so it needs to be secure. Mirror your data on a laptop, just be sure it is kept in a safe place. Size your “fireproof” storage according to your current and future needs.

You don’t need to wait for a disaster to protect your data. That is something that can be done now. Choose a secure backup option. Almost any building can be retrofit with an alarm and sprinkler system.

Barker is moving forward with an upbeat attitude. They will rebuild and are making plans to properly backup their data. A Village is more than a building; it is people who care coming together to rebuild after a disaster.

I am looking forward to our next visit. I will see you in my travels. Quality on Tap! 💧💧

