



Norman B. Barr Camp News

# Barr-O-Meter

April 10, 2020

[normanbbarrcamp.org](http://normanbbarrcamp.org)

"This is the day the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

## Spring is here but camp is still CLOSED

**NBBC cottages, buildings and property will be CLOSED to all visitors including COTTAGERS and NBBC family & friends through April 30.** This means that you should not be "visiting" camp for any purpose unless it is **deemed essential and approved by the Executive Board.** Any visits could unintentionally put the health and safety of essential workers at risk. "Essential" work will continue specific to ongoing construction projects and utilities. If we are unable to minimize risk to these workers, the work will be halted.

This action is being taken because Governor Evers has issued "Safe at Home" orders through April 24 and Governor Pritzker's orders are through April 30, 2020. Signage will be posted as a reminder that non-essential visits to NBBC is not permitted.

The health and safety of our campers, campers, cottagers, guests and staff is a top priority. As the number of cases of coronavirus increases in the U.S., we are implementing measures to prevent the spread of the virus and protect all our NBBC family and friends. Information on this is fluid, and the response to the spread of this virus continues to evolve. We want to assure you that the board is staying up to date on the recent developments. We will be following protocols and requirements from the Walworth County Health Department, the state of Wisconsin Department of Human Services that oversees Recreational Camps and Lodging, and consulting with the American Camp Association.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping camp a safe and healthy environment and protecting the health and safety of "essential" workers at NBBC. We would like them to continue their work and complete it in a timely manner. Additionally, this will further ensure your personal safety.

## Cottage confirmations are delayed

The Board of Directors decided at their April 4, 2020 meeting to delay the cottage confirmation response. The Reservations Committee met briefly and concurred that at this time we cannot make any decisions regarding camp this summer.

The Reservations Committee is pleased to report that all cottagers from last year want to return again in 2020. We have not completed and sent out the cottage confirmations because we are waiting for direction from the Board and the various governmental authorities that govern what we do. At this point there is uncertainty as to when and if we will be able to open and what that means to all of us.

There will be a SPECIAL NBBC BOARD MEETING on April 25, 2020 to further discuss the situation and the Reservations Committee will be meeting at that time as well.

We hope that we will have a better feel at that time for what we will be allowed to do and when. **We have not deposited any cottage deposit checks yet and will not until we are able to accurately determine the camp schedule for 2020.** We will keep you advised as soon as we have some answers.

This is a difficult time for all of us and we pray that the actions we are taking as a community, nation and world will make enough of a difference and allow us to have some form of normality this summer.

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## Thank you

As you know, we lost a very important person this winter. Ethelyn Wolf went to be with the Lord on February 5, 2020. Here is a thank you note from her family.

To all Norman Barr Camp friends:

I want to thank you all for the calls, emails, texts, and beautiful cards that you sent to us after my mother's passing. The kindness you have shown my family has been very much appreciated at this time of loss. It makes us feel that my mother's love for camp and her love the goals of Norman Barr will live on. Thinking of all of you during this health crisis and wishing you all the best in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carns and family

**Good News!! You can once again register with AMAZON SMILE and select Norman B Barr Camp as your charity. In the past two years we have earned over \$500 from AMAZON SMILE.**



**Welcome to AmazonSmile!**

Thank you for supporting Norman B Barr Camp Inc.

We know many of us are purchasing more items for delivery. Every time you purchase from AMAZON, camp can get money. Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our camp



**Prayers for our camp family and friends**

**Chuck Erickson**

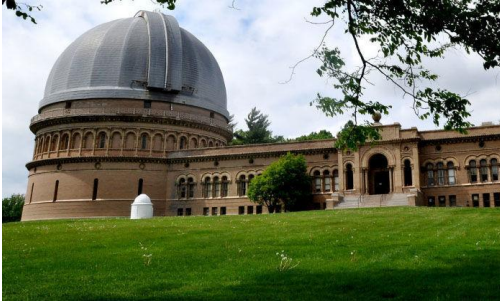
*As we all struggle to get through this difficult time, we want to send prayers up for Chuck Erickson who has been battling Covid 19. He was hospitalized last week and is improving daily. Healing prayers for Chuck and any others who have been affected by this virus.*



***Thank you to Donna Johnson for this prayer that she offered at the Board meeting. Feel free to add this to your daily prayers as you keep NBBC close to your heart.***

*Father in heaven you are the star breathing God-creator of the universe! And you live in us! We refuse to live in fear because it's not from you. Bring your great power, strike down CoVid 19, deliver us from the FEAR of contracting this virus, take away the terror, dread and the angst. Fill those places with hope and expectancy of good health. You are greater than our own fears, greater than this circumstance and even greater than our own tendency to control and self protect. Rise up within us, Guide us in our camp decisions, make clear the direction we should take. Let us listen, hear, trust and move in your direction and guidance Lord, not our own.  
Thank you, Father for your wisdom and your grace. Amen*





## University announces donation of Yerkes Observatory to private foundation

**WILLIAMS BAY** — On March 10, 2020 the University of Chicago on announced that they are donating its historic Yerkes Observatory and 50 acres of surrounding property to a nonprofit foundation.

David Fithian, executive vice president of the university, told an audience at Williams Bay High School that a donation agreement was signed Feb. 25 to make the former observatory and most of its contents a gift to the Yerkes Future Foundation.

Fithian thanked the foundation and the village of Williams Bay for efforts to ensure that the former observatory — which the university closed in October 2018 — will be preserved for years to come.

Fithian also thanked the community for being patient during negotiation and planning for the donation, a transaction that he said proved to be more complicated than anticipated.

“By virtue of having not heard from us for a very long time, you probably thought not much has been happening,” he said. “In truth, a lot has been happening over these 24 months to get us here tonight.”

The university made its announcement before more than 100 people packed into the high school auditorium for a village plan commission meeting.

The private foundation has submitted a request to the village for permits related to its plans for resurrecting the former scientific research and education facility.

The foundation was created by area civic and business leaders with the intention of gaining control of Yerkes Observatory and reopening it to the public. The university closed the observatory after more than 120 years, saying the facility no longer served a useful purpose for scientific exploration.

Dianna Colman, chairwoman of the Yerkes Future Foundation, attended the university's announcement and said that her foundation would begin fundraising aggressively to finance its objective of maintaining the observatory.

“We’ve started to develop a tight, short list of benefactors who are not in this area,” Colman said. “They are people who reached out to us and expressed an interest in the observatory or in astronomy in general, and want to help.”

Members of the audience greeted the announcement with applause, but the plan commission did not allow public questions or comments.

The observatory sits on about 70 acres of prime lakefront real estate.

Fifthian said some lakefront acreage has been sold and more will be sold for residential development. Part of the proceeds from land sales will go back to the Yerkes Future Foundation to assist in operating and refurbishing costs for the observatory.

He added that the university hopes to have the properties sold by early May.

The foundation is seeking village approval of two permits — one for construction of additional parking spaces and the other a conditional use permit that would allow mixed use buildings on the Yerkes campus. The property will maintain it's current zoning classification for parks and institutions.

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## Congratulations!

*New babies are gifts from God and Barr Camp loves babies!*



- Geneva and Kyle Schryver welcomed **Logan Thomas Schryver** into the Sergenian Family. He was born January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Jeff Erickson and Suzanne welcomed **Asher Edward Erickson**, born March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Nick and Kaitlyn Novosad welcomed **Zachary Victor Novosad**, born March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Keep in touch during the off season!**

**Please send us your news!!**

The Barr-O-Meter is published to inform all Barr Campers about happenings.  
Email Deedy Payne [deedyp@me.com](mailto:deedyp@me.com) with any updates, stories, or ideas.

### Norman B Barr Camp

483 Outing Street, P O Box 70, Williams Bay, WI 53191 (262) 245-5544

Please let us know of any additional email addresses for the camp distribution list.

Email [toms@normanbbarrcamp.org](mailto:toms@normanbbarrcamp.org) with email list updates.

[www.normanbbarrcamp.org](http://www.normanbbarrcamp.org)

**Norman B. Barr Camp's mission**  
**is to provide a free, Christian-based summer camp experience for**  
**those in need that enriches lives through the enjoyment of God's gifts**  
**of nature, community, and faith.**