



# Town of Sweden Snapshots

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Winter 2018

## A message from the supervisor's office

How do we best describe the Town of Sweden in 2018? A traditional agricultural community? Sleepy suburb? Eclectic college town? Bustling commercial center? I think we were a little bit of all of that.

Certainly your Sweden Town Government has been very busy this year. I would like to use this column to review our accomplishments, update you on works in progress and let you know what we are planning for 2019.

We started the year by adopting Rules of Procedure that I believe make our meetings run more smoothly and orderly. We moved the start time of our meetings a few times and I think we have finally struck a balance by setting all Town Board meetings and workshops at 6 pm. The time change

seems to accommodate those who want to attend the meeting after work and those who do not want to attend late into the evening.

We moved Town Board meetings to the Court Room and installed an audio/video system to record meetings. There have been some glitches in the uploading of those videos to the internet, but we are working with a new IT company to iron out those problems. We also installed a smart tv which has made employee trainings and presentations to the board and public much more engaging and professional. High speed internet has been installed at the Town Hall, Highway Garage and Community Center to improve employee productivity.

The tax receiver's office was moved from the front counter to across the hall from the assessor's office. The move makes sense from both a work flow pattern and a security stance.

We held Narcan training, active shooter training and updated our sexual harassment policy and training. These are not comfortable subjects to discuss but they are important for the safety and welfare of our employees and the general public.

At the Sweden Town Park on Redman Road, we completed the lodge and have taken more than 100 reservations. We built restrooms at the baseball fields as baseball families had long requested restrooms central to the seven-field complex.

We installed a fence around the pond in the dog park to allow that area to remain open during draining and cleaning of the pond. We built two



**Kevin G. Johnson**

playgrounds—a small one at the lodge and a large, fully accessible and interactive playground near the soccer fields. Summer concessions were also reinstated at the park.

At the Community Center, we installed counters on the doors to have a more accurate measure of building use. Councilperson Hayles conducted a recreation survey which gave us valuable feedback on the programming that residents want at the Community Center.

The highway department paved, repaired or prepared for paving the following roads: Bader, Talamora, Ellis, Timber, Eisenhauer, Gallup, Redman, Covell, Euler, Transit, Ogee, Lancet and West Sweden.

I negotiated an agreement with Stonebriar Development (the company constructing 155 townhomes on Fourth Section Road across from

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## Board meeting dates for 2019

The Sweden Town Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 pm for regular Town Board meetings. The exceptions are June, July and August when only one meeting on the fourth Tuesday will be held. In January 2019, the Town Board will hold its organizational meeting at 6 pm on January 2. At the organizational meeting, newly elected public officials are sworn in and the Town's annual appointments are made. The second January meeting of the month will be held on January 22. The final monthly meeting of December 2018 will be held at 6 pm on Thursday, December 27.

In addition, the Town Board holds workshops on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Occasionally workshops are cancelled due to no agenda.

The Sweden Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month (excluding June, July and August) at 7 pm in the east conference room. Occasionally meetings are cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The Sweden Zoning Board of Appeals meets only as needed upon application for a variance. The Environmental Conservation Board meets on the first and third

## Lakeview closed for season

Lakeview Cemetery is now closed for burials for the winter season. Visitors may still access the cemetery but please pay attention to snow and ice conditions as the plowing of highways takes precedence at this time of year. Cemetery questions may be directed to 637-3369.

The Farmers Museum, located on the grounds of the cemetery, is open. The facility may be used for educational and funeral events. Call 637-3369 for information.

Fridays at 9 am in the east conference room. Finally, the Board of Assessment Review meets annually on the fourth Tuesday in May.

All meetings of Sweden Boards are open to the public and are usually held at the Town Hall, 18 State St.

## Town and county tax collection

The 2019 Town and County Tax bills will be mailed out the first week of January. Tax Receiver hours starting January 2 will be Monday—Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Important dates to remember are: February 10 full payments or the first installment is due; 2nd installments will be collected February 11—28; third installments March 1—31; and 4th installments, April 1—30. Unpaid tax bills after this are turned over to Monroe County.

If you don't receive a tax bill, if you are in the midst of a property transfer or have recently paid off a mortgage, or if you have any other tax questions, please call 637-2145 and I would be happy to help resolve the situation.

**Kathleen Bahr-Seever**, Receiver of Taxes

## 2019 assessment information

Please note that applications for exemptions must be received by March 1, 2019. The low income Senior Citizens Exemption renewals have been mailed out to those who currently have the exemption. In order to qualify for this exemption, one of the owners must be 65 years old or older in the calendar year 2019 and gross income must be below \$37,399. If you have any assessment questions, please call 637-8683.

**Tammy J. Baker**, Assessor

## Highway department has mailbox replacement policy

The New York State Attorney General's office has opined that mailboxes are placed within the highway right-of-way under an informal license. As such, the highway department has no legal liability for replacement and/or repair due to snow removal operations. As a courtesy, the Town of Sweden Highway Department will replace mailboxes that have been damaged or destroyed during the winter months as a result of plowing operations. Mailboxes, and posts if necessary, will be replaced with a standard rural mailbox and wooden post.

Please note that the face of a mailbox should be at least 16 feet from the center of the road. The bottom of the post should be 42" above the height of the road surface. Make sure the post is not rotted and is properly supported.

Many residents have opted to purchase specialty boxes, which cost substantially more than a standard box. If one of these types should happen to need replacing, the high-

way department will be glad to perform the installation, provided that the resident supply the replacement mailbox. Those arrangements can be made by calling the highway department at 637-3369.

## Christmas tree disposal available

Town of Sweden residents (in the town outside the Village of Brockport) may place Christmas trees curbside and the Highway Department will pick them up as scheduling allows.

Christmas trees are ground up in the spring and used for mulch. Trees should be free of all ornamentation including tinsel. For more information about the Christmas tree recycling program, call the highway department at 637-3369.

# Town appoints new building inspector

The Town of Sweden welcomed Lyle Stirk as its new building inspector on September 26. Stirk brings with him more than 13 years of experience in the construction industry. He also brings with him valuable experience as a member of the Village of Brockport Planning Board, Housing Task Force (chairman) and Code Review Committee.

A native of Brockport, Stirk graduated from Brockport High School in 1986 and enlisted immediately in the Army. He served two years active duty and six years in the reserves.

He and wife Lisa are active at Christ Community Church and they enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Lyle is excited to be serving his community in this new role. His first few months on the job has led him to

encourage residents to come in and talk with him before they begin a construction project. "It's so much easier if residents have the correct information before they get started," he said. "My door is always open and I enjoy the opportunity meet with them in the planning stages rather than later in the process." He can be reached at 637-



**Lyle Stirk, Building Inspector**

## Supervisor's message

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Hartshorn Drive) that will drastically reduce sewer district taxes starting in 2020 for residents of the Fourth Section/Redman Road sewer district.

The Sweden Farmers Museum's annual Harvest Festival was resurrected after a three-year hiatus. We also welcomed the donation of a Bradford Bean Planter by Sue Edmonds to the museum.

### Projects in progress

The Town has many irons in the fire. We expect to hear any day regarding our grant application for sidewalks on Owens Road. We are also awaiting the results of a State DOT study of Route 31 and the possibility of a traffic light at Sherry Lane. I have renewed my request to move the bus stop on Route 31 to Owens Road while we await the restructuring of public transportation services by the Rochester Transit Service.

Our Solar Farm Committee has made suggestions for modifications to the Solar Farm Law. We will have a public hearing on those proposed modifications on January 22. We have engaged a consultant, along with the Village of Brockport and Town of Clarkson to study the finances and operations of the Seymour Library.

We continue to work on a water district project that includes Lake Road from where public water ends south to Bergen, Countryview Terrace and Redman Rd. from Fourth Section Rd. to White Rd. We are currently awaiting approval of our revised income survey for this specific district. We have received a letter of support from the Monroe County Health Department.

### Plans for 2019

The year 2019 will be a year of infrastructure im-

provements. The Town is undertaking a three-year \$1.46 million road and parking lot reconstruction project. The roads that will be repaved are: Hollybrook, Skidmore, County Line, East Canal and West Canal. The parking lots that will be reconstructed are: Town Hall, Highway Garage front, Community Center, Skate Park and Park Lodge (new pave). The work will occur 2019-2021. We have not set the order of work yet, as soon as we do, we will communicate it to residents.

The Community Center gymnasium will be re-clad with metal siding and two of the entry ways (side and rear) will be repaired. The project has gone out to bid and will likely be awarded in January with construction to begin by May.

We have contracted to have a Splash Pad installed next to the new playground at the Sweden Town Park. The Splash Pad is made possible in **total** from a Community Development Block Grant and funds raised by the Sweden Community Foundation. A donor contributed \$148,000 to the project through the Foundation. We expect the Splash Pad to be installed late spring, opening in time for summer.

The Town will have a new website come spring. We want to have a more interactive, useful website than our current model. In January, a consultant will begin working with our various departments to develop pages that provide residents/visitors/developers/businesses the information and tools they need from their town government.

Finally, our 2019 Town Budget is under the tax cap, continues all services and allows us to undertake these infrastructure improvements while being fiscally responsible.

At the close of my first year as Supervisor, I am very grateful for our dedicated employees, board and committee members and volunteers. The Town is truly blessed.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor**



Santa and Mrs. Claus had fun with families at the Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's annual Holiday Event on December 6. Pictured with Santa and Mrs. Claus are recreation staff members (left to right): **George Kimball, Andre Calzone, Tim Manuszewski, Kyle Luce and Joe Kincaid.** Families enjoyed games, activities and snacks at the free event.



## McGrath scholarship apps due March 1

Scholarship applications for the Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation are due March 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 Academic School Year.

The Foundation offers two types of scholarships to the residents of the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin. The Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in business. The Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in Elementary Education. The scholarships are available

to students who are enrolled full time in either undergraduate school or graduate school meeting the scholarship requirements.

Qualifying 2019 graduating high school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply. A total of \$680,000 has been awarded since 2005. For further information contact Richard Dollard, Executive Director at 637-7170, email [mcgrathfound@outlook.com](mailto:mcgrathfound@outlook.com) or visit [www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound](http://www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound).

## Soup, shopping and healthy living

Don't sit home this winter—get out and enjoy some fun, healthy activities! On Saturday, January 26 come to a "Soup-er Bowl" at the Community Center from 11 am—1 pm. For only \$5, participants may try a variety of soups from local restaurants and vote on their favorite.

Join our Healthy Living Program on Wednesdays, 9 am—10:30 am from January 16 to March 6. Class includes nutrition tips, exercise ideas and chronic disease prevention. This class is FREE.

Travel by bus to the Niagara Outlets on Tuesday, February 8 from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is only \$5. For more information about all of these programs, call 431-0090 or stop by the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road.

## Ideas for things to do in 2019

- Join a program at the Community Center
- Attend a Town Board meeting
- Enroll your dog in the Monroe County Dog Park System
- Take advantage of fall & spring pick-ups
- Rent the Park Lodge for a family function
- Visit the Farmers Museum
- Bring your dog to the free rabies clinic
- Meet with the assessor to learn about exemptions
- Get your hunting or fishing license at the Town Hall
- Visit the Soldiers Memorial Tower on Owens Road
- Attend the July 3 fireworks show
- Sponsor a tree for planting at Lakeview Cemetery

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**Councilperson**

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