



# Town of Sweden Snapshots

Volume 15, Issue 3

Fall 2017

## A message from the supervisor's office

The biggest change for the Town of Sweden this fall is the move of senior recreation programs from the former Senior Center to the Community Center.

We've been studying the costs of operating senior programming separately from all other programming since 2008 and the result has been conclusive: there isn't enough sustained participation at the former Senior Center to justify operating it at a cost of \$140,000 a year to Sweden town taxpayers.

We can offer the same recreational programs at the Community Center for a fraction of the cost. The senior lunch program can continue to be offered by Lifetime Assistance at the former Senior Center as it has been since 2008.

In addition to operating the lunch program, Lifetime Assistance has

been leasing space in the Senior Center since 2010 for some of its programs.

The former Senior Center is a beautiful facility, but as stewards of the public's property and tax dollars, we should get the highest, best use possible. We believe that leasing the former Senior Center to Lifetime Assistance will achieve this—it will utilize the building itself to its fullest capacity and it will do so to the financial benefit of the Sweden taxpayer.

The lease goes into effect October 1, although we have been transitioning programs since August. If you have visited the Community Center, you will notice several improvements we have made to accommodate former Senior Center programming. Our recreation staff is excited and engaged in making the transition as smooth as possible.

Some of the improvements include new handicapped accessible parking in the front; parking and a handicapped accessible door on the north east side;



Deputy Supervisor **Bob Muesebeck** and Supervisor **Rob Carges**.

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## 2018 Tentative Budget has been filed

The Town's 2018 Tentative Budget was filed on September 26 and is available on the Town's website at [www.townofsweden.org](http://www.townofsweden.org). The Town Board could make changes to the Tentative Budget prior to adopting it as the Preliminary Budget. Once the Preliminary Budget has been adopted and a Public Hearing scheduled, no changes may be made until after the Public Hearing. This ensures that it is clear what Budget

numbers are being discussed at the Public Hearing as many changes are made during the lengthy budget process from July through October (or even into November).

The Tentative 2018 Budget is a \$4,940,488 spending plan that stays under the Tax Cap set by New York State. The increase in the total tax levy is \$30,881 inclusive of all special districts.

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# 2018 Tentative Budget has been filed continued from page 1

For the fifth year the Tax Cap was less than two percent, although it did rise to 1.84% for 2018.

Assessments grew by \$5,493,598, mostly in the Town outside the Village (see table below). A tax base growth factor of .0062 allows a portion of the new assessments to increase the tax cap calculation.

Property owners are generally most interested in the effective tax rate. It is the rate, multiplied by the assessment per thousand, that determines a property owner's individual tax bill. The rate per thousand for properties within the Village of Brockport will drop by 1.72 cents to \$2.40941; the rate per thousand for properties in the Town outside the Village will increase by 3.9 cents to \$4.72895. The impact on a typical property assessed at \$125,000 can be found in the table at the bottom of this page.

The reason for the difference in rate changes between Village taxpayers and Town outside taxpayers is the highway budget. Village taxpayers do not contribute to the highway fund; it is the highway

## 2018 budget by category

NYS requires municipalities to report its budget in the following categories:

Transportation	\$1,525,500
General Government	\$1,225,360
Culture & Recreation	\$ 758,500
Employee Benefits	\$ 824,000
Home & Community	\$ 193,750
Debt Service	\$ 60,200
Public Safety	\$ 117,950
Health	\$ 2,500
Special Districts	<u>\$ 232,728</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,940,488</b>

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Assessed	Valuation	Summary
	2017	2018
Village of Brockport	\$224,982,550	\$225,124,723
Town Outside	\$400,024,568	\$404,475,993
<b>Total Town &amp; Village</b>	<b>\$624,107,118</b>	<b>\$629,600,716</b>

## Special District levy detail

Gallup Water	\$26,130
Colby Water	\$12,517
East Ave Water	\$ 4,365
Shumway Water	\$12,195
Swamp Salmon Water	\$ 8,030
County Line Water	\$ 3,900
Sweden Hills Light	\$18,945
Crestview Light	\$ 2,150
Hilltop Light	\$17,895
Talamora Light	\$ 9,750
Fieldstone Light	\$ 2,500
Northview Light	\$ 2,000
Walmart Light	\$ 600
N. Poole Light	\$ 2,100
Heritage Light	\$ 2,550
Consolidated Sewer	\$19,032
Fourth Section Sewer	\$14,554
Heritage Sewer	\$ 5,000
Drainage I	\$ 6,300
Walmart Sidewalk	\$ 1,000
Talamora Park	\$ 1,685

Schedule of Elected Officials	Salary
Supervisor	\$25,918
Councilperson (4)	\$7,559
Justices (2)	\$20,795
Highway Superintendent	\$79,017
Town Clerk	\$48,162
Receiver of Taxes	\$22,189

## Sweden Town Taxes for a \$125,000 house over 10 years

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Village	\$300.00	\$286.25	\$290.63	\$287.50	\$285.25	\$298.38	\$307.08	\$304.99	\$303.33	\$301.25
Outside	\$553.75	\$556.25	\$559.25	\$557.50	\$558.63	\$581.38	\$593.94	\$587.92	\$588.37	\$591.25

## Sweden salutes its employees who served

The Town of Sweden salutes all men and women who have served our country. We'd particularly like to recognize our employees as we approach Veterans Day, November 11.

Deputy Supervisor Bob Muesebeck served in the Airforce from 1963 until 1967. A plane captain, Muesebeck was in Vietnam from October 1965–November 1966. He left service as a sergeant. He has been very active in veterans organizations and is President of the Brockport Area Vets Association.

Building Inspector Steve Lauth also served in the Airforce from 1975-1979. A missile silo technician, Steve spent time in Grand Fork, North Dakota and California. He left with the rank of sergeant.

Highway Foreman Adam Shade was in the United States Army from 1998-1999. A 63 Tango Bradley Mechanic, Adam's final rank was specialist. He spent most of his time at Fort Stewart, Georgia and in Kuwait.

Pictured left to right: Councilperson **Bob Muesebeck**, Building Inspector **Steve Lauth** and Foreman **Adam Shade**. Thank you for your service!



## Several re-zoning applications received by Board

The Town Board has received several re-zoning applications and is at different points of review/action for each of them. Sometimes a property owner meets with the Town Supervisor or Town Board informally to share ideas before making the formal application. Sometimes the application is made without any prior notification. In any case, every property owner has the right to file for rezoning of their property. The Town Board cannot prevent a property owner from making a re-zoning application. Once the formal application is received and fee paid (the fees are rather high in order to cover associated review costs), the Board is obligated to follow a review process. The process includes, but is not limited to, engaging other interested agencies (other local, county and state boards and departments) and holding a public hearing. An environmental determination also must be made.

On July 11, following two public hearings, the Town Board granted the rezoning of a parcel of land on the south side of Fourth Section Road (across from Hartshorn Drive) from single family residential to multi-residential for the purpose of a residential townhome community. The project will next move to the Planning Board for subdivision and site plan approvals.

Under consideration at this time is another rezoning request from single family residential to multi-residential at

the northwest intersection of Redman Road and Fourth Section Road. The purpose is to construct market rate apartments. The Town Board held a public hearing on July 25 but is still in the process of gathering information from other interested agencies. At the time of this newsletter publication, a date had not been set for action on the application.

On August 29, a public hearing was held regarding the application to rezone a parcel of land on the west side of Sweden Walker Road from single family residential to recreation commercial for the purpose of holding mud run events. The Board had not taken action at the time this newsletter went to the printer.

Finally, the Board has received an application to rezone two lots at the south east intersection of Lake Road and Crestview Drive from single family residential to commercial. A public hearing will be held on October 24 at 7 pm at the Town Hall, 18 State Street.

Legal notices for all public hearings are published in the *Suburban News* and posted on-line at [www.townofsweden.org](http://www.townofsweden.org). In addition, as a courtesy, the Town mails notices to properties within 500 feet of a proposed rezoning. Planning Board public hearings are noticed in the same manner. Zoning rules may be found in Town Code Chapter 175 on the Town's website.



# Update on our emerald ash borer woes

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a wood-boring beetle indigenous to countries in northeastern Asia. It was identified as the killer of ash trees in 2002 in southeastern Michigan and Windsor, Canada. It is now believed to have been introduced into North America in the early 1990s via infested solid-wood packing materials used in international trade. The EAB spreads by the transport of infested ash nursery stock, logs and firewood, as well as natural dispersal. As of August 1, 2017, this invasive species inhabits 30 states, as well as Ontario and Quebec, Canada. The presence of EAB in North America places 16 species of native ash trees at risk.

The EAB completes one generation every one or two years. Eggs are laid from mid-June to August. Eggs are deposited individually on ash trees, between layers of outer bark and crack and crevices of the trunk and on major branches. EAB eggs hatch in about two weeks.

The larvae tunnel through the bark and feed on phloem. Phloem is a thin layer of tissue beneath the outer bark and conducts sugars and other nutrients throughout the tree. The larvae etch serpentine galleries in the outer sapwood during feeding. The majority of larvae mature during September. The mature larvae spend the winter folded inside a small pupation cell constructed in the outer sapwood or outer bark. Immature larvae spend the winter in feeding galleries and may feed another summer before reaching the adult stage.

During April and May of the next year, the overwintering mature larvae will gradually transform into adults. In one to two weeks, they chew C-shaped exit holes in the bark and emerge from the ash trees as small flying, bright green metallic beetles. Adult emergence starts in late May and peaks in June, but some adults may continue to emerge throughout the summer. Adult EAB spend most of the day feeding on ash leaves up in the ash canopy—this aspect creates little harm. However, they begin laying eggs in about three weeks from mid-June through mid-July. These active, sun-loving beetles can best be observed on ash tree trunks from 3 to 7 pm.

Signs and symptoms of an EAB attack include: weak and thinning ash crowns, branches with yellowing leaves, epicormics shoots or suckers on ash limbs and trunks, vertical bark splits and D-shaped exit holes on the trunk. The greater the number of exit holes the greater the infection.

There are four types of EAB treatment options: soil injection, trunk injection, bark spray and canopy spray. The most common EAB treatments are soil injections and trunk injections. Both target the larvae tunneling—the most destructive phase of this insect. For EAB treatments to be effective the product, dose, application timing and overall health of the tree have to be considered and often requires a professional.

Products available to homeowners have the same active ingredients that are available to professionals. However, not all homeowner products contain a high enough concentration to be applied at the rates recommended by researchers. Products intended for sale to homeowners include: Bayer Advanced TM Tree & Shrub Insect Control Imidacloprid Soil drench applied early to mid-spring; Optrol TM Imidacloprid Soil drench applied early to mid-spring; and Ortho Tree and Shrub Insect Control Ready to Use Granules® Dinotefuran Granules applied mid-to-late spring.

Research suggests that insecticide treatments are significantly more effective on EAB-infested ash trees with less than 50% canopy thinning. Some professionals say the treatment is 85-95% successful in saving the tree for another decade of enjoyment. Others urge homeowners to think before launching into treatments stating even treated trees are expected to eventually succumb to disease or injury prematurely because of the stresses of infestation and treatment.

Imidacloprid and Dinotefuran are toxic to some aquatic invertebrates and recent evidence indicates that systemic insecticides are present in pollen and pose a threat to pollinators already in great jeopardy. While ash trees are primarily wind pollinated, some bees do collect ash pollen. If flowering plants are adjacent or near the tree, do not apply systemic insecticides to the soil before or during blooming. Imidacloprid breaks down rapidly in sunlight, reducing the environmental risk on surface water. But with a lack of sunlight, it breaks down slowly and thus can persist in the groundwater for extended periods creating potentially serious environmental concerns. There are many precautions that must be followed exactly for personal and environmental safety.

Woodpeckers are a natural predator of the EAB and feed on live, mature larvae. The potential to harm woodpeckers with systemic insecticide treatment of ash trees exists—some professional consider the risk low, others don't. The same applies to potential harm to pollinators.

The EAB is now considered the most destructive forest pest ever seen in North America. Research is a priority seeking other natural enemies that may attack EAB, biocontrol measures that may help lower and/or control EAB populations, and how insecticides can be safely used to protect trees in infested areas. Saving ash tree seeds is prevalent and prudent, since once the infestation moves on, ash trees regrow, sometimes even from remaining stumps. The USDA Emerald Ash Borer Hotline is available toll-free at (866) 322-4512.

**Kathy Harter, Chairperson**



Pictured above is the foundation for the new Lodge at Sweden Town Park, Redman Road.

## Purchase a tree for Lakeview

The Town of Sweden's Lakeview Cemetery is a place of scenic beauty. Its setting at the top of the Niagara Escarpment, the majestic trees and the meticulous care of the grounds creates a peaceful retreat for those remembering their loved ones.

Recent windstorms have felled several trees, as have age and disease. The Town is replacing trees as the cemetery budget allows. Anyone who would like to contribute to this effort may sponsor a tree. Monetary donations will be used exclusively to purchase appropriate varieties of trees. For more information about this program, call the cemetery office at 637-3369.

## Fall brush-pick up scheduled

The Sweden Highway Department will conduct the annual fall brush pick-up Monday, October 30 through Friday, November 3. All brush must be placed at the roadside by 7 am on October 30 and no sooner than October 27. Brush must be no longer than six feet and placed parallel to the road. This is a brush only pick-up. Please use caution when placing brush near storm drains.

Residents may also drop brush off at the highway garage during normal business hours. In addition, a highway truck can be made available for large volumes of brush throughout the year. The truck is parked overnight at the residence and homeowners are responsible for loading the brush.

Leaf vacuuming will soon begin in subdivisions and will continue as weather permits. For additional information about either of these services, please call the highway department at 637-3369.

## Supervisor's message

*continued from page 1*

new flooring in one of the exercise rooms; new furnishings in another room; and various other updates.

Out at the Town Park, you will see our Lodge under construction (see photo at left). The bids were awarded August 15 and earth was being moved two weeks later!

We're hoping the Lodge will be complete by the end of the year. We plan to have a ribbon cutting/open house to give everyone a chance to see it. As we get closer to completion, we will begin taking reservations. The Lodge will be operated by the Recreation Department and will be available to Sweden residents and non-residents (for a higher fee) for a variety of functions like birthday, retirement and graduation parties; wedding and bridal showers; family reunions and business events.

You may have noticed that the Skate Park has been closed. We're undertaking some needed repairs on the equipment. It's hard to believe that it has been 14 years since we installed the Skate Park. It has certainly been one of the most well-used facilities at the Town Park and we appreciate its patrons' patience as we complete the necessary repairs.

**Rob Carges**, Supervisor

## Family Halloween fun!

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's annual Community Halloween Party will be held on Thursday, October 26 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. The free event is open to families with children in grades four and under.

The two haunted houses (one exclusively for toddlers) are always big hits. Other activities include a costume contest at 7:15 pm, games, face painting, temporary tattoos, crafts and refreshments (apple cider and donuts).

This structured event is a great way to help your children enjoy Halloween in a safe environment. Older children are welcome to attend with families, but the activities (haunted house, games and candy gathering) are restricted to age appropriate children.

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Halloween Party is sponsored by Brockport Wegmans. Attendance is usually between 300 and 400 residents. For more information, call the recreation department at 431-0090.

**Snapshots:** Send ideas, comments and suggestions to Leisa Strabel at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420. Phone: 637-7588; Fax: 431-0039; email: leisas@townofsweden.org

# Assessment office update for 2018 roll

In preparation of the 2018 update and assessment roll, the assessor will be out doing field review this fall. Town identification signs will be visible on the vehicle.

In late October, the Enhanced STAR Renewals will be mailed to residents. The application must be returned with proof of income (2016 income information). Low income senior citizens exemption renewals will be mailed out in mid-January.

In order to qualify for Enhanced STAR or the low income senior citizens exemption, the property must be your primary residence and you must be 65. For example, if owned by a married couple or by siblings, one of the owners must be 65 by December 31, 2018. For the Enhanced STAR, your adjusted gross income must be less than \$86,000. For the low income senior citizens exemptions, your gross income must be below \$37,399. Proof of age and proof of income must be supplies. The deadline

for all exemption applications is March 1, 2018.

As a reminder for those who have recently purchased a primary residence, please go online to register for the STAR exemption at:

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm>

If you have any questions, please call 637-8683.

**Tammy J. Baker**, IAO Assessor

## General Election Information

The 2017 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7. All three voting locations are handicap accessible. Polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm.

Town of Sweden voting districts are as follows:

- Districts 2, 3, 4, 9 & 11      Sweden Town Hall  
18 State Street
- Districts 1, 5 & 6      Brockport Central School  
Training Center  
40 Allen Street
- Districts 7, 8, 10 & 12      Community Center  
4927 Lake Road

Please note that the polling location for Districts 1, 5 & 6 has changed from the former senior center at 133 State Street to the Brockport Central School's Training Center (former bus garage), 40 Allen Street.

## From the Building Department

With the change of seasons, many residents will start to use fireplaces and wood stoves. Please be sure that these items are cleaned and inspected to ensure the safety of all who live there. Verify that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in proper working order. These preventative measures are proven to save lives!

The building department is attempting to clean up all permits that have been issued, expired and never finalized. This could become a major issue for a property owner if there was ever a problem associated with the incomplete permit. We have sent many letters over the past few years to try to bring outstanding permits to clo-



The Sweden Town Hall had two new air-handlers installed at the end of August. Two of the buildings' four units had failed. The new units provide air conditioning and will also provide back-up heating for the aging boiler.

sure.

As of October 1, the Building Department will issue violation letters for any expired permit. Once issued a letter, you will be given 30 days to comply. We will work with you to help you complete the process, but if no contact or arrangements have been made after the 30-day period, we will issue tickets. We ask that you help us to bring these permits to closure and look forward to helping you with the process.

Please call the Building Department at 637-8684 whenever you have any project-related questions. We are eager to work with you to help your project be a success.



## Planning and Zoning review/approve several projects

Good news for fast food lovers—there will be a new Kentucky Fried Chicken in the Town of Sweden. KFC received both Planning Board and Zoning Board approvals during the last week of September. The company will tear down the old Arby's restaurant and build new. A variance was needed for green space. The plan has an increase in the amount of greenspace compared to Arby's, however, it is still less than the code allows currently. Next the developer will have to submit a demolition plan and a building permit application. Look for construction to begin in 2018.

A new bakery—Jo Jo's Bake Shop on Colby Street (next to the airport) is under review. Taco Bell's expansion project is under construction.

Aldi's completed its addition/renovation and is back open for business. Construction has begun on the min-

istorage project on Owens Road. The units are expected to be available late this year. Walmart is making alterations in order to accommodate a pick-up service for on-line shoppers. That project should be complete by winter.

Frances Apartments on Owens Road received all of its certificates of occupancy (for each building) and will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 12.

Finally, a property owner on West Sweden Road has filed for subdivision approval. The owner plans to sell part of his property to Monroe County. The county intends to construct an emergency communications tower on the site. There is a dead zone in that area of the Town for emergency communications. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed subdivision on October 23. More information about any of these projects can be found in the building department or by calling 637-8684.

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## Sweden Farmers Museum has a busy summer

It has been an interesting summer at the Sweden Farmers museum. In June, Paul Trowbridge of Corfu spoke in the museum barn. He presented an informative talk on honey bees and their life cycle. In addition, he offered a free sampling of fresh honey comb to those in attendance.

During the months of July and August, the museum welcomed the donation of several items of Sweden agricultural history. Paul Swanger, of Redman Road, donated a segment of a barn beam rescued from the last standing barn on the property once owned by Anne Shepard. The barn had a fallen roof and major structural damage. It was taken down and removed. Upon its removal, the once-glorious hand-hewed beam revealed a large black-painted script of the original owner of the farmstead, Chester Roberts with the date 1848. The discovery of a date documenting a barn builder or its owner is a great find. Pictures of the farmstead in the 1940s and of the beam in its original location have all been documented and can be seen at the Farmers Museum.

Michelle Damico, of West Sweden Road, donated a vintage sign found in her basement inscribed "Robert Staples" in large letters. The Robert Staples farm was located on West Sweden Road in the small community center once known as the "two meeting house place" and later as West Sweden Center.

Robert Staples, of Branford, Connecticut, arrived in the Town of Sweden in 1816 at the age of 23. His farm eventually accumulated over 700 acres along West Sweden Road from Ladue Road to the Capen Road, making him the largest landowner in the southwest corner of the township. His farmstead also housed the shops for the manufacture of sleighs and cutters. The house, which still stands, features the New England-style attachment

of house, shop and barn under a common roof.

Robert Staples was highly regarded in the community, as a man of standing character, a Republican, and follower of the Temperance Movement. He served three terms as Sweden Town Supervisor and one term as a member of the New York State Assembly of 1857 representing the third district of Monroe County.

The family of Donald Swanger has generously donated several 1940 issues of the "Rural New Yorker" and a collection of antique farm tools and farming items that their father owned. A long-time town resident, Don was a wealth of farm information and wisdom and is greatly missed.

Thus the museum's collections continue to expand. We encourage you to call 637-3369 to plan a visit to learn more about the history of the Town of Sweden, its early farmers and the importance of agriculture to its development.

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## Potable water available for residents

Potable water is available at no charge to Sweden residents at the Highway Garage, 40 White Road. The spigot is located on the west side of the building and is accessible even after regular business hours. Water is also available at Lakeview Cemetery, 4988 Lake Road, at the barn until the cemetery closes for the season. Residents who are on well water may make use of this free service for drinking water only. It is not intended to be used to fill swimming pools. Commercial haulers are prohibited. For more information about the service, call the highway garage at 637-3369.

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# Route 531/31 Highway Project work will cease mid-November; resume in spring

The highway project on Routes 531 and 31 in Sweden and Ogdén will wrap up for the season in mid-November. At that time, the detour will be lifted. Traffic has started driving on the concrete at the intersection of Route 531 and Washington Street while crews excavate and rebuild the other half of each leg of the intersection.

In November, the traffic pattern will resume to the original layout for the winter. Washington Street will be re-opened allowing access to and from Route 531 in both directions, eliminating the need to detour at Union Street. The eastbound on-ramp will be re-opened for traffic coming from Brockport to access Route 531 towards Rochester. Work will resume in the spring when crews return working along the Route 31 corridor, and at the intersections of Gallup, Hubbell, and Salmon Creek roads, and connecting the expressway to Route 31.

From mid-May through late August 2018, travel in the westbound direction on Route 31 between Washington Street and Campbell Road (just east of Sweden-Walker Road) will be prohibited. Motorists can follow the posted detour utilizing Manitou Road, Route 104 and Sweden-Walker Road, or find another suitable alternate route for the summer months, depending on origins and destinations, and time of day.

Please continue to drive with caution through the highway work zone and please do not drive distracted or un-

der the influence of drugs or alcohol. For more information about this project, visit [www.dot.ny.gov/531](http://www.dot.ny.gov/531)

Submitted by NYSDOT-Rochester

## 2018 Budget *continued from page 2*

fund that had the largest levy increase— \$26,000. Highway appropriations grew by \$36,000 but were partially off-set by an increase in projected revenues. The biggest areas of increase within the highway budget are in snow removal expenses and employee benefits.

Special district levies increased by \$2,375 taken as a whole. Individually some districts' levies declined; others rose sharply. Special districts do not impact village taxpayers. Some town outside the village taxpayers may not be in any special districts; others may be in one or more. The special districts with the largest increases are: Heritage Square Sewer, Heritage Square Lighting; Drainage District I and Fourth Section Sewer.

Elected officials' salaries can be found in a table on page 2. Please note there is no increase in the salaries of supervisor or councilperson. Other elected officials have been budgeted for a two percent increase.

**Route 531 Terminus Improvement Project - Towns of Sweden and Ogdén, Monroe County - PIN 4531.07  
YEAR 2 - Under Construction in 2018**

