

TOWN OF SWEDEN **Snapshots**

Volume 8, Issue 3

Fall 2009

From the supervisor's office

Fall is a busy time of year for your Sweden Town Government. The Town Board has been working on the 2010 budget and the creation of two new water districts. Our highway department is near the end of its construction project season and will soon switch over to snow removal operations. Our buildings and grounds staff is buttoning up the exteriors of our buildings and preparing the park for the dormant season. The cemetery crew is also preparing those grounds for the winter. The recreation department has geared up for a full slate of fall programming at both the community and senior centers.

I've been working with several of our commercial property owners re-

garding property maintenance in order to help our commercial corridor look the best it can. All of the commercial entities have been quite receptive and cooperative.

Along those lines, we'll soon see the closed Mobil Station at the intersection of Routes 19 and 31 come down. Abatement work and removal of the waste treatment shed has been completed. Asbestos has also been removed from the building. The property owner must wait for the Water Authority to relocate a water line and then the final demolition of the building will take place.

Shortly after that, we are expecting an application to the planning board for a restaurant to be located on that site. Also, we expect an application for new development on the north east corner of the intersection to come before the planning board in the very near future.

Both of these projects will help revitalize the heart of our commercial district and we expect other businesses to show an interest in some of our plaza vacancies once these projects take off.

We'd like to encourage everyone to continue shopping and dining at the



Jack Milner

businesses located on Route 19 from Route 31 north through the Village of Brockport. We realize the detours and construction can be very inconvenient during the Village of Brockport's sewer and water line replacement project, but our local businesses need our support, now more than ever. The detour signs at the intersection of Route 31 are a little deceptive as you can travel north on Lake Road to access all of the businesses located there.

Please make the extra effort to patronize your favorite businesses on Route 19 and even try those you've never visited before!

Jack Milner
Sweden Supervisor

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Fall brush pick up scheduled for October 26-30

The Sweden Highway Department will conduct the annual fall brush pick-up Monday, October 26 through Friday, October 30. All brush must be placed at the roadside by 7 am on October 26. Brush must be no longer than six feet and placed parallel to

the road. This is a brush only pick-up. Leaf vacuuming has begun in subdivisions and will continue as weather permits. For additional information about either of these services, please call the highway department at 637-3369.

Town Board treats Sweden employees to picnic



The Sweden Town Board treated employees to a picnic at the Town Park on Redman Road on September 25. Board members provided the hamburgers and hotdogs and did the grilling. Employees signed up to provide salads, beverages and desserts. About 50 employees attended the picnic on the chilly afternoon representing all departments including highway, cemetery, recreation, court, town clerk, assessment, planning, park and building and grounds. The Town Board plans to host the event annually.



Above, Sweden employees enjoy a picnic at the park. From left to right Assessment Clerk **Darla Emmerson**, Tax Receiver **Sherri Bryant**, Court Clerks **Terri Gay**, **Tracy Caporale** and **Tracy Crooks**. Far left, Deputy Supervisor **Rob Carges** does the grilling.

Community Halloween Party scheduled for October 29

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's annual Community Halloween Party will be held on Thursday, October 29 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, games, crafts and refreshments.

Teen Dance

A Halloween Dance for teenagers will be held on Friday, October 30 from 7 to 10 pm at the Community Center.

For more information, call the Community Center at 431-0090.

Flu shot clinic at senior center; Town takes precautions at buildings

The Town of Sweden is hosting a flu shot clinic on Wednesday, October 28 from 10 am to 12:30 pm at the Sweden Senior Center, 133 State Street. Most major medical insurance plans and Medicare will be accepted. The fee for all others will be \$30. For more information about the clinic, call 637-8161.

The Town has also taken measures to help prevent the spread of flu by installing hand sanitizers throughout the Senior Center, Town Hall and Community Center. Employees and visitors will have easy access to the hand sanitizers so that hands may be cleansed frequently.

Water districts formed on Shumway, Swamp and Salmon Creek Road

The Sweden Town Board formed two new water districts recently. An extension to the Shumway water district was approved on July 28 and bids for materials and blasting were awarded on September 22. The Sweden Highway Department will install the line this month.

The Town Board held a public hearing on the Swamp/Salmon Creek Road water district on September

29 and formed the district by resolution that same evening. Engineering for the project will be completed over the next few months and the Town will go out for bonding for the project in the new year. Installation of the line will also be done by the Sweden Highway Department and is scheduled to begin in late spring 2010. Thirty-six properties will have access to public water as a result of the two projects.

2010 budget decreases spending and levy

The Town of Sweden’s 2010 tentative budget reduces the 2009 spending plan by \$59,182. The 2010 tax levy in turn will decrease by \$4,793. The difference between the two decreases is attributable to a corresponding decrease in revenues. Most notably, the Town predicts a decrease in sales tax revenue, mortgage tax revenue and interest earnings.

The spending plan allocates more resources for the highway department, increasing expenditures for road maintenance by nearly \$60,000. The Sweden Town Board achieved the reduced tax levy and increased highway support by trimming expenses in the general fund.

The tax rate for residents of the Village of Brockport will decrease by \$.11 per thousand to \$2.29. Residents of the Town outside the Village will see an increase of \$.02 per thousand to \$4.45.

For the owner of a home assessed at \$125,000 within the Village, the town tax bill will drop by \$13.75; for those with \$125,000 home outside the Village, the Town tax bill will increase by \$2.50.

Appropriations are expected to total \$4,419,291 in 2010, exclusive of special districts. The breakdown of appropriations is depicted in the pie chart below. Transportation is the largest slice of the pie (roads and sidewalks) with general government coming in second. The general government slice includes the court system, maintenance of all buildings, legal, engineering and auditing services, planning, assessment, liability insurance, central data processing, etc.

Next, culture and recreation comprise 18% of the budget. This category includes the Seymour Library,

town historian, Senior Center recreation, Community Center, town parks and the Farmers Museum.

Employee benefits account for 12 percent of the budget. Health care, dental insurance, New York State retirement, disability and workers compensation insurance make up this section.

Debt service consumes five percent of the budget. Sweden carries debt service for the Seymour Library, the reconstruction of Hollybrook Road, construction of Bader’s Way and development of the Town Park.

The home and community category includes the recycling center and care of five cemeteries. Public safety covers the dog control and building control/code enforcement budgets. Economic assistance is used for specific services for seniors and veterans.

The Town of Sweden has many special districts. Lighting districts will see little or no change in their charges. Special water districts will also see little change with the exception of the Shumway Water District, which will have a \$30 per parcel drop in its annual charge. Another exception is the consolidated sewer district—that levy has increased by \$7,000 because of a sewer line replacement project earlier this year. Finally, the fire protection special district levy will drop by \$9,000.

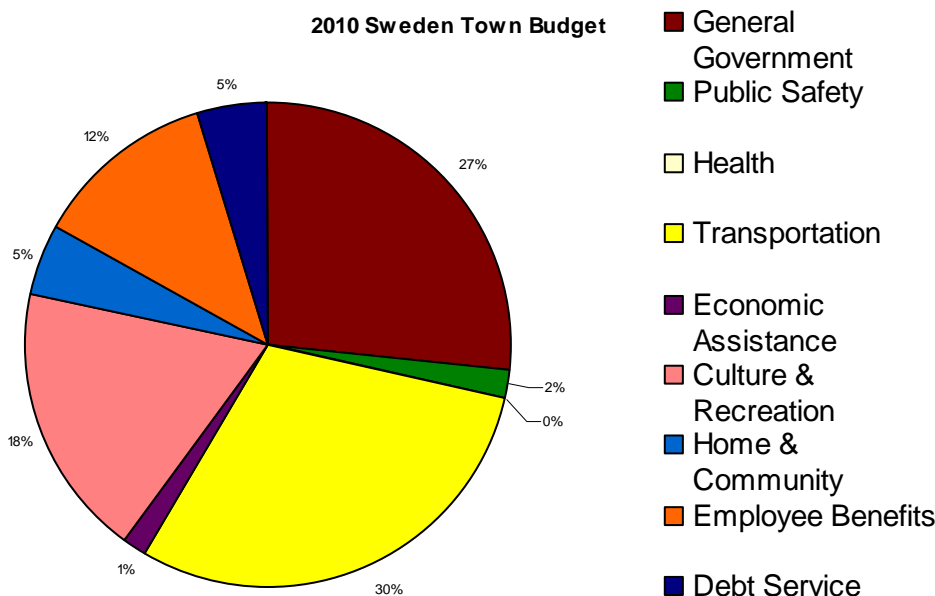
The Town of Sweden realized little assessment gain this year. There was no general re-evaluation of properties so the gain comes only from new construction and correction of errors.

The Town’s total taxable assessed valuation for 2010 is

\$553,377,838, an increase of \$3.4 million or one percent. Nearly 49% of the total assessed value of the Town is tax exempt. Twenty-one percent of all parcels in the Town receive some type of exemption. The Town’s newest exemption, the Cold War Veterans Exemption, effects 26 parcels for a reduction in assessed valuation of \$240,990. Sweden has the highest dollar value of tax-exempt property of any town in Monroe County and is ranked 17th in the state.

The Town Board will hold its budget public hearing on Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm in the court room of the Town Hall, 18 State Street.

2010 Sweden Town Budget



Sweden election day information for voters

Polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm for the general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Town of Sweden voting districts are as follows:

- District 1 Brockport Village Hall
49 State Street
- Districts 2, 3, 4 & 11 Sweden Town Hall
18 State Street
- District 5 Sweden Senior Center
133 State Street

- District 7 Christ Comm. Church
36 Coleman Creek Rd.
- Districts 8, 10 & 12 Community Center
4927 Lake Road
- Districts 6 & 9 Protectives Fire Hall
191 West Avenue

For more information, call the Monroe County Board of Elections at 753-1550.

Sweden retains Golden Pitchfork in second annual tug of war

The Town of Sweden Highway Department retained the "Golden Pitchfork" award defeating the Village of Brockport's Department of Public Works in the second annual tug-of-war match at the Sweden Harvest Festival on September 19. The Sweden crew will proudly display a "golden pitchfork" for the next year with Brockport hoping to take the title in a 2010 rematch.

It was a picture perfect day for the 60 runners who participated in Sweden's third 5K race as well as for those who attended the fourth annual Harvest Fest.

The day-long event raised more than \$1,500 to benefit the Sweden Farmers Museum which seeks to preserve the Town's agricultural history; to educate adults and children through a variety of interactive activities; and to celebrate, at the community level, the successes and importance of local farming.

Music was one of the highlights of the festival with performances by Bob's Brother's Band, Zak's Pak and the



Sweden highway crew members (l to r) **Adam Shade, Brian Ingraham, Dave Merritt, Tim Ritz and Matt Vincent** tug to defend the Golden Pitchfork award. Not shown were team members **Keith Beadle and Alex Shanley**.

Fox Den. Children's games, cemetery and farmers museum tours, food and craft vendors, and demonstrations rounded out the event. Kristen Heyen-Noble was winner of the apple pie baking contest.

"I'd like to thank all the volunteers who made this day possible," said organizer Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook.

Results of the 5K race were as follows:

Tony Muchulskis 18:26; Scott Bagley 19:42; Karl Jaanimagi 19:49; Daniel Fletcher 19:56; Mike Rockow 20:03; Tom Moran 20:14; Mark Heberger 20:26; Tom Dutton 20:33; Merl McGinnis 20:38; Noah Reger 20:40; Kellie Gregoire 21:00; Patrick Witt 22:29; Van Hart 22:35; Cory Berardi 22:47; Shawn Halquist 23:31; Brian Ferries 23:49; Ray Storms 23:51; Jenna Sime 24:00; Bruce Rychwalski 24:08; Mark Stellman 24:24; Chris Tomaszewski 24:55; Amy Burbano 25:06; Alex Hamblin 25:35; David Hawke 25:39; Yvette Valle 26:01; Steve Maier 26:17; Fernando Burbano 26:24; Ginger Hull 26:26; Cindy Ingraham 26:42; Sheldon Meyers 26:57; Greg Avery 27:03; Byron Howe 27:13; Chris Buck 27:16; Juliana Pengelly 27:19; Mitzie Lewandowski 27:34; Anna Blocho 27:46; Rob Dickerson 27:48; Mark Romig 28:28; Chris Dailey 28:38; Sara Hart 28:44; Mary Ann Rutkowski 28:55; Thomas Trapp 29:00; Heather Davis 29:14; Sharmene Syversen 29:15; Al Smith 29:22; Abby Gimino 29:26; Matthew Pascarella 29:27; Norm Greiner 29:40; Dawn Didas 30:02; Jen Huber 30:07; Gary Coon 30:25; Jennifer Setter 30:29; Jeff Setter 30:31; Phyllis Brudz 31:23; Marcy Tobin 32:22; Roberta Howe 32:29; Lacy Carino 32:51; Joy Levandowski 32:57; Brian Winant 33:02; Deborah DeMott 34:06; Dick Lewandowski 35:49; Janice Butler 36:51; Joyce Wescott 37:36; Mark Romig 37:48; John DeMott 40:26; Donna Lemcke 42:03; Charilla Conner 53:34.

The 2010 Harvest Festival and 5K Race are scheduled for September 18.

Councilman Tom Ferris resigns after move to Ogden

Town Councilman Tom Ferris resigned his seat on September 11 after he and his family moved to a new home in Ogden. Ferris was first elected in the fall of 2003 and was serving his second four-year term on the Board.



Ferris brought a wealth of knowledge with him to the Board regarding employment practices and human resources policies. As a small business owner, he was acutely in tune with budgeting and the allocation of limited resources.

Ferris had a particular interest in encouraging development, believing that well-planned growth was key to Sweden's future. He delved into economic development, encouraging the private and public sectors to work to-

gether to promote the greater community.

Councilwoman Danielle Windus-Cook admires Ferris's eloquence and his respect for differing viewpoints. "Tom had the unique ability to disagree with someone, yet make them feel welcome in expressing their point of view. He was always a gentleman, always sincere and always motivated to make the best decisions he could for our taxpayers."

In his farewell letter to the Board Ferris wrote, "I want to express my gratitude.... for the wonderful collaborative experience and privilege I enjoyed while serving on the Town Board. I have made many friends as a consequence of my service and am incredibly proud of the many accomplishments our board achieved, all to the benefit of Sweden taxpayers. I know the good work will continue. The residents of the Town are truly lucky to have all of the right people in all of the right places when it comes to its board, department leadership and employees."

Mike Myers appointed to vacant town board seat, must win election to fill remaining two years of term

The Sweden Town Board appointed recently retired Brockport High School Dean of Students Mike Myers to the vacancy created by Councilman Tom Ferris's resignation following Ferris's move to the neighboring Town of Ogden. Myers' appointment was made September 29 at a special meeting of the Sweden Town Board and is effective through December 31, 2009. Myers will be on the November 3 general election ballot in order to complete the remaining two years of the four-year Town Board seat.

"Mike was a natural choice," said Deputy Supervisor Rob Carges. "He's well-respected in our community; has been involved in a variety of organizations and brings a strong skill set in the areas of communication, planning and management."

Myers served as Dean of Students for 23 years. Prior to that tenure, he was a teacher for 16 years. Earlier this year, Mike received the Sweden/Clarkson Recreation "Person of the Year" Award for his service to the community in the field of recreation. He is a member of the Sweden Community Foundation, a 15-year former member of the Brockport/Clarkson/Sweden Joint Recreation Commission and a former baseball coach.

Other awards include NYS Advisor of the Year, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Educator of Distinction, and



Sweden Justice **William J. Cody** administers the oath of office to **Mike Myers** as **Susan Myers** holds the Bible.

All-Greater Rochester Baseball Coach of the Year. At the school district, Mike was advisor to student council, the yearbook, varsity club and editor of the district newsletter and creator/editor of the district calendar.

Mike and his wife Susan live in Sweden Village. The couple's daughter Caitlin is a graduate student at Yale University.

Grants help fund community center renovation

The Town of Sweden has received \$140,000 in grants to fund an addition to the fitness room and renovation of the main entrance at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. The total cost of the two projects will be \$236,000. The remaining \$96,000 will come from the Community Center Reserve Fund which was established when the Community Center was gifted to the Town of Sweden eight years ago.

The fitness room expansion will double the size of the existing fitness room and provide the space for additional cardio and weight training equipment. The main entrance renovation will provide a covering to protect visitors from the elements. It will be especially useful for children and staff of the center's before and after school recreation programs.

The recreation staff is accommodating fitness participants as much as possible and pedestrians are being routed to the west entrance for the time being. Both projects are expected to be complete by Thanksgiving.



At right, the main entrance of the Community Center is closed for renovations; below left, the fitness room addition is rising.



Generator installed at senior center

The Town of Sweden installed an emergency generator this summer, with part of the funding coming from the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation. The generator was sized to be able to operate most, but not all, of the building. In case of a localized power outage, the senior center can be used as a place for residents to stay warm.

The senior center is also participating in the Monroe County Office of the Aging Blizzard Box program. Seniors may sign up to receive two ready-to-eat meals that may be stored for several months. In the event of a blizzard or power outage, the boxes will provide seniors with nutritionally balanced meals. There are still some boxes available at the Sweden Senior Center. For more information, call 637-8161. The Office of the Aging may make more boxes available later in the season.

Highway department projects highlighted

The Sweden Highway Department participated in Monroe County's Gordon Road culvert replacement project this summer and fall. Sweden crews removed the old culvert, then lowered the neighborhood's water line and realigned utilities. The creek had to be re-routed so that crews could install the new box culvert. Drainage had to be reconfigured and finally the road was milled and paved.



Beadle Road was re-paved from Route 19 to Redman Road and a sewer lift station was installed at the north west end of the Town Park on Redman Road. Crews have also started work on two multi-purpose fields at the park.



The new box culvert installed on Gordon Road.

Other major highway department projects this summer included the resurfacing of Gary Drive from Crestview to Rogers Parkway and the replacement of cross-culverts at Capen and Colby Roads.

The benefits of the wildlife that lives among us

The summer issue of the *Snapshots* characterized open space. Its definition was discussed as well as the benefits open space offers the community. Open space's role in maintaining the Town's character, the patterns of development, economy, culture and environmental integrity were all mentioned. It was also noted that 85% of open space is privately owned. The actions of the individual landowner have an impact—good or bad.

Wildlife lives among us. Our open space is their home.

Wildlife is defined as the native animals that share the natural community with us. Town of Sweden wildlife includes mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater fishes and the invertebrates. A healthy wildlife habitat provides many benefits to the Town of Sweden residents. Wildlife habitat provides the community with:

- cleaner air
- flood abatement
- recreation, educational and research areas
- rural character
- aesthetic enjoyment

The benefits directly attributed to wildlife include:

- disease prevention—bats, birds, frogs, turtles, etc. help prevent insect-borne disease such as West Nile Fever; invertebrates break down waste; scavengers clean up carrion
- soil enrichment
- fire abatement by browsing on dry underbrush

Mammals are a class of vertebrates (animals with backbones), warm-blooded who nourish their young with milk. The Town of Sweden is home to many mammals including bats, mice, rats, chipmunks, squirrels, white-tailed deer, fox, coyotes, mink, beavers, muskrats and raccoons, to name a few.

Birds are warm-blooded, feathered, egg-laying vertebrates having the forelimbs modified as wings. The Town of Sweden is home to a great variety of birds. Great Blue Heron nest in several of the Towns' larger wetlands as do many ducks and geese. wild turkey, ruffed grouse. Owls, regal bald eagles, hawks, the beautiful New York State bluebird and the tiny ruby-throated hummingbird are just a few of the treasures who make the Town of Sweden their home during the year.

Amphibians are a class of cold-blooded, chiefly egg-laying vertebrates adapted for life both in water and on land. The young have gills and develop through a tadpole

or larval state into a typically lung-breathing form represented by frogs, newts and salamanders.

Reptiles are cold-blooded, air-breathing vertebrates. Turtles, snakes and lizards are reptiles.

Freshwater fish are cold-blooded craniate vertebrates with permanent gills adapted solely for aquatic life in fresh water. They inhabit the Town's streams, ponds and wetland open water areas.

Invertebrates are defined as animals without a backbone to include insects, spiders, worms, snails and mussels. Many invertebrates inhabit the Town of Sweden.

Fall can be an especially precarious time for wildlife on our highways, please drive with caution and stay safe.

In conclusion, it is fitting to quote Jim Fowler of the Emmy Award-winning television show *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*:

"The continued existence of wildlife and wilderness is important to the quality of life of humans. Our challenge for the future is that we realize we are very much a part of the earth's ecosystem and we must learn to respect and live according to the basic biological laws of nature."

Kathy A. Harter, Chair

Sweden Environmental Conservation Board

September 12 pharmaceutical waste collection a success!

The Monroe County Department of Environmental Services held a one-day pharmaceutical waste collection at the Sweden Highway Garage, 40 White Road, on September 12. A total of 258 pounds of outdated, unusable or unwanted pharmaceutical wastes were collected from 70 participants.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office removed the wastes and will store the materials until they are incinerated at the solid waste facility in Niagara County. This type of collection helps reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals that find their way into fresh water supplies and other natural resources.

The service was provided at no cost to Town of Sweden taxpayers and is one example of the Town's commitment to our environment. Three Town employees helped coordinate the event—Town Clerk Karen Sweeting, Deputy Town Clerk Kathy Roberts and Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine.



From the desk of the town historian

Festivals of yore

The Harvest Fest was a great success this year and a chance to highlight the work that has been done on the farm house, as well as the barn. We hope you all noticed the new doors. It was also a chance to see the many implements that have been so generously donated to the museum!

Seeing all the activities and festivities which took place made me think of the incredible contrast this fest was to the social celebrations that took place on the early farms here in Sweden. Our forefathers were hard working people (many of whom were of the old

McDonald's re-opens; other projects move forward

Town Board members **Rob Carges** and **Danielle Windus-Cook** helped the Buono family celebrate the re-opening of McDonalds at a ribbon cutting ceremony last month. The restaurant's demolition and construction of a whole new facility seemed to take place in record time.



Other current commercial building projects include the conversion of the former Brockport Ford dealership into a Country Max store and the construction of a two tenant building on the corner of Route 31 and Transit Way. At Ledgesdale Airpark, the Environmental Aircraft Association is busy completing its new building and on Redman Road, Brockport College Suites received its certificate of occupancy in time for SUNY Brockport students to move in at the end of August.

New England Puritanical stock which exalted hard work and denigrated idle hands) and their efforts to survive and provide food, shelter and clothing for their families took so much of their time and energy that they truly had little left for socializing. What they did do in the very early stages of settlement was to have logging bees (felling the trees to clear the fields) and raising bees) to build the barns for the animal and grain storage. These events were very work oriented but did provide an opportunity for socializing.

All of them put in a long day's work at the bees. Then men would cut, saw and move the logs or build the barns and the women would spend hours preparing food. In the initial stages of settlement meals were rather simple but time intensive in preparation. Typically, the men would come in from their labors, wash up and be seated for a bountiful meal while the women oversaw the replenishment of the bowls of food with young boys and girls helping out.

As the settlement grew and the fields were cleared, the bees became husking bees or apple paring bees and the variety of foods increased to include pies and compotes and fresh vegetables. Everyone would bring dishes to pass and spread them out on tables crowded with food. How they all looked forward to eating and to the brief leisure of socializing with neighbors!

If they were fortunate and had a fiddler in the community, there might even be a dance after all the work was completed. Now those were barn dances! For those who did not have much experience with dancing and no inclination to learn (although the lure of dancing with a pretty girl or a handsome young man quite possibly overcame those inhibitions) there were "ball play and other sports." We are very fortunate to now have more leisure time than our forefathers. We also have the opportunity to go to the Farmers Museum to learn about their lives and the contributions they made to our current lives.

Kathy Goetz, Historian

Town of Sweden

www.townofsweden.org



Snapshots

Send ideas, comments or suggestions to Leisa Strabel at 18 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420. Phone: 637-7588 Fax: 431-0039. E-mail: leisas@townofsweden.org