

TOWN OF SWEDEN **Snapshots**

Volume 9, Issue 2

Summer 2010

From the supervisor's office

The Town of Sweden has welcomed several new businesses this spring—Metro Mattress, Verizon, Country Max, Olympia Sports and Pawn King. We wish them all success in our community.

In May, the Planning Board approved an application from a developer to construct a CVS Pharmacy on the northeast corner of the Route 31 and Route 19 intersection. The project also received variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals in May. You will likely notice demolition of the Enterprise and Brugger's Bagels buildings in the next few weeks to make room for CVS. Enterprise is relocating into the Brockport Corners Shopping Mall next door. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that

Brugger's will be relocating its restaurant in our community at this time.

I'd like to especially commend Metro Mattress and Verizon for the landscaping at their building on the corner of Route 31 and Transit Way.

We remain actively involved with property owners in our commercial district and there have been some preliminary meetings about potential new development as well as renovation and/or infilling of existing commercial space.

Residential development is moving forward on a couple of fronts. The Northview Subdivision, off of Fourth Section Road, is entering its next phase and applications have been



Jack Milner

submitted for two multi-lot subdivisions on Shumway Road.

Best wishes from all of us at the Town for an enjoyable summer.

Jack Milner

Inside this issue:

Summer recreation programs	2
Fire contract negotiations	3
Village dissolution vote	3
Harvest Festival vendors wanted	4
Register for Harvest Fest 5K	5
Rec banquet honorees	6
West Sweden Road closure	6
Energy savings program	6
Conservation Board column	7
Opening burning rules & permits	7
Eagle Scout Project	8
Senior Summer Fun	8
Brush removal service	8

Recycling center open Wednesday evenings

The Sweden Recycling Center, located at 40 White Road (behind the highway garage) is open on Wednesday evenings from 4 pm to 7 pm during the summers months. The recycling center is open on Saturdays, year-round, from 8 am to 2 pm.

Passes for the recycling center can be purchased at the Town Hall, 18 State,

for \$50 and allow for the disposal of ten 32-gallon trash bags or other items (furniture, appliances, etc.) per a schedule. Recycling is included in the cost of the pass.

For more information, call 637-2144 or visit the town's website at www.townofsweden.org.

Town Hall on summer hours/ holiday schedule

The Town Hall is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday for the summer months. The tax receiver's summer hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 am—12:00 pm.

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, September 6 for Labor Day.

Summer Town Board meetings are scheduled for July 27 and August 24. Workshops are generally held the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The Town Board will return to its regular schedule in September with Board meetings on the 14th and 28th.

Ten weeks of summer playground underway

The Sweden Clarkson Recreation Department is in the midst of its summer playground program. There are still five weeks left in the program including trips to Point Breeze, Sea Breeze, the Brockport Bowl and Strand Theater.

The daily rate is \$20 without the field trip or \$35 with the field trip. Camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 pm. There is an option for early and late drop-off/pick-up for an extra fee. The playground program is held at two sites—the Community Center and Hafner Park in Clarkson.

On Friday, August 13, summer playground children and the Assets group from Brockport Central Schools will spend the night in a cardboard city to raise awareness about homelessness. Participants have been working to create cardboard buildings of all shapes and sizes. Donations of toiletries are being accepted at the Community Center and Sweden Town Hall. On the evening of the 13th, the campers will make care packages for homeless people. For more information about this program, call Jill Wisnowski at 431-0090.

Pre-schoolers have the opportunity to participate in their own mini-summer camp program. For those ages, 3-5, the pre-school camp operates on Monday, Wednesday



Sweden Clarkson Recreation Summer campers **Gisella Allen** and **Tyler Miller** at Hamlin Beach. A different field trip is offered each week.

and Friday mornings. Some of the upcoming themes include Eric Carle Art Week, Go Green, Healthy Me, Science Explorations and Zoo Animals. Contact instructor Kelly Young at 208-2983 for more information.

Resolving fire contract/emergency services issues

The Towns of Sweden and Clarkson have long contracted with the Village of Brockport for fire protection and ambulance services. It is an intermunicipal cooperation arrangement which recognizes that there are benefits for the three communities to work together, rather than each try to provide separate services on their own.

On June 28, the Village Board passed a resolution to return \$175,000 of fire budget surplus monies to the Brockport Fire Department Equipment Reserve over a period of five years. The \$175,000 is the accumulation of surpluses over several years. For at least 30 years, fire department operating surpluses and deficits were reconciled in the following year's budget. That practice had been discontinued without the two Towns' knowledge or consent.

Last summer, it was brought to Sweden and Clarkson's attention that the Village had been running up large surpluses in the fire department budget and using the surpluses to balance its general fund. Sweden and Clarkson taxpayers provide nearly 80 percent of the Brockport Fire Department's annual operating budget, so any budgetary surpluses come mainly from tax dollars that had been supplied by Sweden and Clarkson property owners.

After the surplus information came to light last year, the Village Board voted to return the surplus, however, the Board later rescinded its vote. The two towns and village have been trying since that time to resolve the issue and also to renegotiate the fire contract to better protect all parties.

The Village Board's June 28 decision, which is fair not only to the taxpayers of the two Towns who remitted the funds *specifically* for fire protection, it also fair to the residents of the Village and to the volunteers that comprise the Brockport Fire Department. The Towns of Sweden and Clarkson maintain that no one should be making a profit from the labor of the volunteers in the Brockport Fire Department.

The Towns of Sweden and Clarkson have also appointed a 10-member committee to look at fire protection services for the community. Occasional reviews of longstanding practices are good. The Towns expect to receive recommendations from the committee in the coming weeks. The Towns also expect to be able to renegotiate the fire service contract for 2011 and look forward to working with the Village of Brockport for the benefit of all Sweden/Clarkson/Brockport taxpayers.

In the wake of the village dissolution vote

We'd like to commend the approximate 1,500 residents who exercised their franchise rights by voting in the Village of Brockport dissolution referendum. Democracy cannot work without the participation of citizens.

Throughout the public debate of the pros and cons of dissolution of the Village, the Town Board maintained that we would continue our record of providing quality, cost effective services to all of our residents including those who live in the Village. As stated in the spring edition of the *Snapshots*, the Town of Sweden provides many services to village residents ranging from dog control to recreation to justice court to care of cemeteries and more. Those are services the Village cannot or chooses not to provide to its citizens.

Some of the services that the Towns of Sweden and Clarkson provide jointly with the Village of Brockport—namely fire and ambulance protection and the Seymour Library—have been placed in precarious positions because of the Village's financial instability. We are working hard to make sure that our joint programs continue to run without interruption.

For example, despite the Village's withdrawal of all support from the Senior Center, the center remains open and staffed. We continue to meet the needs of our senior population through programming at both the Senior Cen-

ter and the Community Center (see page 8 for senior summer fun).

Many comments were made during the dissolution debate regarding the Town's financial position. The Town's bank balance is not the only indicator of the strength of the Town's financial position. Last year we underwent an exhaustive revaluation of our bond rating by Moody's and retained the highest municipal rating permitted—A+. Few municipalities of our size, undergoing a revaluation at this time, can achieve that.

We have assessment growth—not by increasing assessments on existing properties—but by having new development that adds to the tax base. We have a stable tax rate and stable fee structure. Our reserves are healthy and their purposes are clearly spelled out for the taxpayer.

As the Village of Brockport explores its options for stabilizing its financial situation, we continue to desire a strong intermunicipal relationship that benefits **all** taxpayers, not a relationship that favors one set of taxpayers over another.

Sweden Town Board

Jack Milner Rob Carges Pat Connors

Danielle Windus-Cook Mike Myers

Judge Cody courtroom dedication held May 11

The Sweden Town Board dedicated the Town courtroom in memory of Judge William J. Cody on May 11. More than 100 colleagues, officials, friends and family members were in attendance at the ceremony. Several of Judge Cody's family traveled from Boston for the occasion.



Judy Depferd, accompanied by her husband Sweden Justice **Mark Depferd**, read a poem she wrote in memory of Judge Cody.

Webster Town Justice Thomas DiSalvo, a good friend of Judge Cody's, was the evening's keynote speaker. Also sharing remembrances of Judge Cody were Deputy Supervisor Rob Carges, Sweden Police Justice Mark Depferd and Leo Cody, Judge Cody's brother.

Father Peter Enyan-Boadu, of the Nativity BVM, offered an invocation.

Judy Depferd, wife of Judge Depferd and friend of the Cody family, read a poem that she wrote about Judge Cody. In it she memorialized Judge Cody's deep faith; his love of the law, community and family; his sense of humor and contagious laughter; and love of the Boston Red Sox.

Judge Cody passed away on December 17, 2009 following a short illness. He had served as a Sweden Town Judge from May 14, 2001—December 17, 2009 and had just won another term of office in November. He is survived by his wife Debra and daughter Sara, his parents, brothers and extended family.

Judge Cody was well-respected in the legal community—more than a dozen magistrates attended the dedication ceremony including New York State Supreme Court Judges Thomas Van Strydonck and Alex Renzi.

The plaque denoting the naming of the Honorable William J. Cody Courtroom simply states, "A man of honor and integrity dedicated to the principle of justice for all."

VENDORS WANTED!

5th Annual Sweden Farmers Museum Harvest Festival & 5k Race

Saturday, September 18, 2010

10am – 4pm

Lakeview Cemetery (off of Rt. 19), Brockport

If you would like to participate in the 5th annual Harvest Festival, fill out the registration form below and return it along with a check payable to: **Town of Sweden, 18 State St., Brockport, NY 14420.**

Please return this registration form and payment no later than August 21, 2010

Upon receipt of your registration form and payment, we will send a confirmation letter with festival details to you in the mail. Please make a copy of this form for your records.

Questions? Contact Kayleen Beadle at sfmharvest@yahoo.com or (585) 734-7613

I would like to rent:

- One open air booth (\$10) (size: 10x10)
- Double open air booth (\$20) (size: 10x20)

***PLEASE NOTE: Tents and tables will not be provided by the Sweden Harvest Festival. You must make arrangements to bring your own. There is no electrical on premises.**

VENDOR NAME: _____ CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS TO BE SOLD*: _____

**Approval of items to be sold will be at the discretion of Sweden Farmers Museum Festival Committee*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Vendor Arrival and Set-up 7:00am to 8:00am

5k Race: 9:00am to 10:00am

Festival Open to the public: 10:00am to 4:00pm

**** Vendors must be off premises no later than 5:00pm**

SWEDEN FARMERS MUSEUM

5TH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL & 5 K RUN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM

5K Run to Benefit the Sweden Farmers Museum

Date:

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Phone: ()

Email:

Date of Birth:

Sex: Male Female

T-shirt size: M L XL

ENTRY FEE

\$15

\$20

Until Sept. 1

After Sept. 1

Payment Information

Cash Enclosed- Check Enclosed (Payable to "Town of Sweden")

Credit Card: MC/VISA # _____ Exp. _____

Name as it appears on card _____

PARTICIPANT WAIVER—PLEASE READ AND SIGN

Waiver: I hereby waive all claims against the Town of Sweden, the Sweden Farmers Museum, event sponsors and personnel for any injury I might suffer in this event. I have read the waiver, fully understand it and freely agree to its terms.

X _____

Signature of Participant or Parent/Guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age)

Fax registration: (585) 431-0052

Mail/drop-off registration: Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department, 4927 Lake Road, Brockport, NY 14420

Sweden Farmers Museum Opportunities

- I am running and would like more information on volunteering after the run
- I am unable to run, but enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
- I am unable to run, but would like to be a volunteer
- I am interested in sponsoring the event

5TH ANNUAL SWEDEN FARMERS MUSEUM HARVEST FESTIVAL & 5K RUN

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Race Start/Finish: Lakeview Cemetery Entrance, 4988 Lake Road (Rt19), Brockport

Day of Registration/Check-In 8 am—8:45 am

***Please arrive early to check-in and receive your bib number. If under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign waiver. Sorry, no strollers/pets on race course ***

Race Start: 9 am

Awards Presentation: Immediately after the race

Recreation banquet honors community service

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department honored Charlie Hage and Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Strong for community service at its annual banquet on April 28. The banquet was held at the Sweden Senior Center and catered by 58 Main Street.

Hage was noted for his many years of coaching, particularly basketball, at many different levels. He has mentored dozens of players and been active in recreation activities throughout the community.

Deputy Strong was recognized for heroism in response to a shooting that occurred on Fourth Section Road in February. Both Deputy Strong and a Sweden Town resident were shot in the incident. Deputy Strong was commended for his quick response to the emergency call and for his calm during the time that he and the other shooting victim were trapped on the scene by gun fire.

Although their services to the community were of vastly different types, the Sweden and Clarkson Town Boards thanked both men for their efforts and commitment.



Charlie Hage (left) and Deputy Jonathan Strong receive community service awards from the Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department.

Town participates in National Grid's energy savings program

The Town of Sweden is participating in an energy conservation program through National Grid that will serve as both a cost savings measure and a Green Initiative. The Small Business Energy Savings Plan is available to certain commercial users that have an average monthly demand per building of less than or equal to 100 KW.

The first Town of Sweden building to undergo the renovations, which mainly consist of the replacement of light fixtures, is the Highway Garage located at 40 White Road. National Grid pays for a portion of the cost of replacement of the fixtures; the Town's share can be paid in a lump sum or spread over a period of 12 or 24 months interest free.

The estimated project cost is \$13,722 with National Grid paying \$7,435 and the Town paying \$6,287. The Town has chosen to spread its contribution over 24 months.

For the highway garage, the annual estimated savings on the National Grid electric bill is \$3,264. The estimated annual savings of kilowatt hours is 29,354 with the reduction of greenhouse gases (CO₂) of 32,290 pounds. The change-over is scheduled to take place in July.

The next Town of Sweden building slated for the project is the Community Center, located at 4927 Lake Road. This project includes the replacement of light fixtures and the installation of occupancy sensors in the gym, hallways and program rooms.

The estimated project cost is \$34,529 with National Grid picking up \$24,170 and the Town paying \$10,359. The

projected annual savings to \$13,946 meaning the Town will recoup its investment in less than one year. The Community Center project is scheduled for August when there will be the least interruption to programming.

Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine and Councilperson Rob Carges have spearheaded the Town's participation in the program. Carges plans to have the Town Hall and Senior Center evaluated for potential savings in those buildings.

Last fall, the Town underwent a phone system change-over that is predicted to net between \$5,000 and \$6,000 in savings in 2010.

Section of West Sweden Road closed for repairs

The Monroe County Department of Transportation closed a section of West Sweden Road, between Reed Road and Ladue Road in the Town of Sweden, on June 28 for a five-week period for the purpose of culvert waterproofing.

Traffic is being detoured via Lake Road from Reed Road to White Road. The road is open to local traffic only up to the culvert. For more information, please contact Sweden Highway Superintendent Fred Perrine at 637-3369.

The effect of open burning on the environment

The cultural growth of humanity has been intimately linked to fire through the centuries. Of course, fire can be derived from natural sources or started artificially. An old proverb states that “fire is never a gentle master” - an important thought to be remembered.

Monroe County enacted regulations on open burning back in 1967 (Article V of the Monroe County Sanitary Code) realizing the adverse impact such burning had on air quality within the County. Open burning was only permitted under unusual circumstances when no other procedure was deemed feasible. Violations of Article V were reported to the Monroe County Health Department.



Moving forward to October 14, 2009, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has prohibited the open burning of residential waste in all communities statewide, regardless of population, with the exception of tree limbs and branches in smaller municipalities during certain times of the year and other certain circumstances (detailed below). It should be noted that open burning of residential wastes in any city or village or in any town with a population of 20,000 or more has been prohibited since 1972.

Open burning of household trash is dangerous for a number of reasons. The burning of trash containing plastics, polystyrene, painted and pressure-treated wood, chlorine bleached or colored papers, batteries and foils produces harmful chemicals. These chemicals include arsenic, formaldehyde, lead, hydrogen cyanide, benzene, styrene, carbon monoxide and others.

The emissions of dioxins and furans from backyard burning alone were greater than those from all other sources combined for the years 2002-2004 according to a study by the US Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health.

In addition to releasing dangerous and carcinogenic toxins, open burning is the largest single cause of wildfires in New York State according to Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis and the NYSDEC's Forest Protection Division. The regulation bans all open burning except for the following:

- On-site burning of limbs and branches between May 15th and the following March 15th in any town with a total population less than 20,000.

- Barbeque grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices
- Small cooking and camp fires/ recreation fires
- On-site burning of organic agricultural wastes, but not pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires
- Liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops
- Disposal of a flag or religious item
- Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband by police departments
- Prescribed burns performed according to state regulations
- Fire training with some restrictions on the use of acquired structures
- Individual open fires to control plant and animal disease outbreaks as approved by DEC upon the request of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets
- Open fires as necessary to control invasive plant and insect species

To report an illegal open fire call 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332) or 911. Ref: NYSDEC

Kathy A. Harter, Chair

Sweden Environmental Conservation Board

Open burning permit process

A burn permit is required in the Town of Sweden in order to conduct an agricultural burn. Applications are available at the Town of Sweden Building Department, 18 State Street. Information required includes name and address of homeowner's insurance carrier; a plot plan drawn to scale showing proposed location of burn pile; and a description of material to be burned.

The Town of Sweden Fire Marshal performs an inspection prior to approval of the burn. Twenty-four hour notice must be given to both the Town of Sweden and Brockport Fire Department. For more information, call 637-8684.

Charles Sanford, Fire Marshal

Eagle Scout candidate designs/ plants gardens

The Sweden Farmers Museum was selected as the site for resident Justin Carter's Eagle Scout project this spring. Working with town historian Kathleen Goetz, Mary Louise Bater and other volunteers, Justin created period gardens for the museum, located at the entrance to Lakeview Cemetery, 4988 Lake Road. Justin's brother had previously built a sidewalk for the museum as his Eagle Scout project last year.

The Sweden Farmers Museum began its life in the mid-1800s as a farm house, then became the caretakers home for Lakeview Cemetery. The Town has spent the past three years restoring the house, barn and grounds to a functional condition with an emphasis on returning the property to its original look—or a close approximation to how a homestead in the mid-1800s might have looked.



Eagle Scout candidate **Justin Carter** (center) and volunteers plant period gardens at the Sweden Farmers Museum.

Senior Summer Fun

There are lots of fun summer activities for Sweden and Clarkson seniors this year. Two trips in August cater to wine lovers and shoppers. The first, on August 4th, is a Niagara Wine Trail tour stopping at five wineries. It's an all day event beginning at 8:30 am and arriving back in Brockport at 7 pm.

The second trip on August 16th is to the Waterloo Outlet Mall. The bus will leave at 9:30 am and arrive back at 2:30 pm. Both trips have registration deadlines, so sign up early!

More fun for seniors includes a walking club on Thursdays through August 26. The group walks along the canal from 1 pm to 2 pm. There is no fee for belonging to the club.

A Labor Day barbeque will be held on Thursday, September 2 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Senior Center. Back yard games will be featured and the menu includes hot dogs, baked beans and salads. Cost is \$3.

Introduction to Square Dance will be held at the Community Center on Thursday evenings from July 29—August 19. No special attire is needed; a partner is helpful but not necessary. Mike Callahan, who has been calling Square Dancing for 50 years, is the instructor. The fee is \$25 per person and the program is open to all ages.

For golfers, a golf-fit program, focusing on pain-free swinging will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 3– 26. For more information on all programs, call 431-0090.

Highway truck available for large brush removal

Homeowners who remove a tree or large shrubs can take advantage of a service offered by the Sweden Highway Department. As availability allows, the highway department will park a one-ton dump truck at a Sweden residence for the disposal of brush. The department limits the service to one truck load per residence.

For more information or to schedule the service, call the Sweden highway department at 637-3369.

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