



Town of Sweden Snapshots

Volume 17, Issue 2

Summer 2018

A message from the supervisor's office

The Town of Sweden is in the midst of several infrastructure studies, projects and grant applications. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you.

Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham and I met with NYS DOT officials and engineers on May 31 in order to request a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 31 and Sherry Lane. I presented 47 letters from residents (a few more have been forwarded since then) as well as my own written request for a traffic signal there.

The DOT informed us that they were planning a study of Route 31 from Sweden Walker to Route 19 this summer/fall with the results of the study to be completed by the end of the year. I asked for the study to be extended to Redman Road and for the Sherry Lane sig-

nal request to be included. The DOT agreed.

I had also made a request earlier this year to the RGRTA to move the bus stop located on Route 31 across from the end of Owens Road to Owens Road for safety reasons. RGRTA has since announced that it is considering eliminating bus service to Spencerport/Brockport/Sweden. The Mayor of Brockport, the College at Brockport President and I will be requesting the RGRTA to reconsider this decision as we feel bus service is important to our community.

We have engaged an engineer and a grant writer to pursue funding jointly with the Village Brockport to create a sidewalk the full

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Kevin G. Johnson

Tax office to move down the hall

The Town of Sweden Tax Receiver's office will move down the hall directly across from the assessor's office at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street. The move will occur in time for the school tax collection season beginning September 1.

The relocation will provide for a more secure environment for the tax receiver as she will be located in a locked office with window service for the public. In addition, a lock box will be installed allowing tax-

payers to leave a payment securely when the tax receiver is not in the office.

The summer office hours (June, July and August) for the part-time tax receiver position are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 am. On September 1, the hours return to Monday through Friday from 9am to 3 pm. For more information regarding property taxes or the tax offices hours and services, please call Tax Receiver Kathleen Bahr-

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Supervisor's message

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length of Owens Road, westward on Route 31 to Route 19 (in the gap areas) and from the north end of Owens Road west into the Village on State Street. The pre-application review deadline is June 28; the actual grant application deadline is August 16 and we should know by the fall if our project is being funded. The final Owens Road issue we have been working on is a speed limit reduction request. We are still waiting for a determination from NYS DOT.

We continue to work on eligibility for USDA funding for rural water district formation. We have a couple of last hurdles to clear and then we plan to submit a funding application at the end of the summer or beginning of fall.

We are in the midst of planning a capital road and parking lot improvement project. The Town paid off its last road bond issuance in 2017 for the Hollybrook Road reconstruction project (rebuilt 2004). Our plan is to borrow next year for two years worth of road and parking lot improvement projects (2019 and 2020). The borrowing will be a 10-year note and we will let residents know when we get closer which road and parking lot projects will be included.

We did an engineering study of extending public sewer on the south side of Fourth Section Road from the approved Stonebriar Subdivision (clearing has occurred but site work has not begun yet). Unfortunately the result of the engineering study was a projected cost

double the threshold of affordability set by the State Comptroller's Office. Currently, the threshold is \$995 per tax parcel per year inclusive of commodity charges. Our engineering estimate came in at \$1,867 per parcel, not including commodity charges. We will not be able to proceed with that sewer extension at this time.

Two applications have come into the Planning Board for solar farms, one on Redman Road (near Fourth Section) and one on West Sweden Road (also near Fourth Section). These are our first two applications since our Solar Farm Law was adopted last fall. We have been notified that a third application will be submitted shortly but at the time this newsletter went to print, the location had not been divulged. I encourage residents to keep abreast of these projects by looking for legal notices in the Suburban News and on the Town's website at www.townofsweden.org. Minutes of Planning Board meetings can also be found on the website or please call Planning Board Secretary Phyllis Brudz for an update on the application.

Our Solar Farm committee, chaired by Deputy Supervisor Robert Muesebeck, has been reviewing the still-new code and will be recommending some modifications to the Town Board later this summer. A public hearing will be held prior to the Board adopting any changes to the Code. However, any changes will not affect applications made prior to the adoption and filing of the Code amendments.

At the Sweden Town Park, the new restrooms opened in time for the baseball season, the small playground at the Lodge will arrive in the next few weeks and we are waiting patiently for grant contracts to be finalized for the inclusive playground and splash park. Happy Summer!

Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor

Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner of Public Health for Monroe County, gave Narcan training to Town of Sweden employees on June 11. Dr. Mendoza explained the difference between the issue of addiction, which is a long-term problem, and the opioid overdose issue, which is a current crisis. The Town of Sweden now has several employees trained and supplied with life-saving Narcan units. Narcan reverses opioid overdoses. The Monroe County Health Department is urging as many people as possible to carry Narcan. To learn more about New York State's program to help supply citizens with Narcan, go to www.health.ny.gov/overdose



New fitness equipment arrived at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center at the beginning of June. Fitness Center memberships are inexpensive and come in a variety of formats: one month; three month and one year. There are youth, senior, adult and family packages available. There is even a daily rate for out-of-town visitors. Recreation staff will help new members learn how to use the various pieces of equipment. For more information, call 431-0090 or stop in at the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road for a tour.

Building department information

Summer is just around the corner and we would like to remind residents of a couple of items. Everyone enjoys the outdoors, and pools will soon be filled with many people wanting to cool off, relax or have some family fun. Please make sure that your pools and decks have completed all code requirements to receive a certificate of compliance for the safety of your family and guests. We always hope that an accident will not occur, but in the event that it does, an insurance company may deny your claim for an item that has not been properly certified.

The second item we wish to point out is that the Town of Sweden takes very seriously our residents' concerns. On the Town website under Building Department, at the bottom of the page, there is a Complaint and Request Form. We ask that if you have a concern or complaint that you print the form, complete it, and submit it to the Building Department. The complaint will be kept private, but please understand that every citizen has the right to "FOIL" any information presented to the Town under the Freedom of Information Act. We require the complaint be in writing so that if a violation ever proceeds to legal action, we have a verifiable timeline to the start of the process and the Town will not be accused of selective enforcement of the Code. Please call 637-8684 for information about code issues or concerns.

Phyllis Brudz, Planning, Building and Zoning Depts.



Assessment review season comes to a close

The 2018 assessment season began with the mailing of over 4,100 change notices during the first week of March. More than 300 property owners came in for an informal meeting with Assessor Tammy Baker. Adjustments were made on most of the properties that were reviewed informally.

Twenty property owners chose to file a grievance with the Board of Assessment Review; 15 additional properties had received stipulations from the assessor that were also reviewed by the Board. Grievance Day was held May 22 (Grievance Day is always the fourth Tuesday of May). Notices of Decision were mailed June 1 to

the 35 property owners. The final roll will be posted online July 1 and will be available at the Town Hall.

The next major activity for the assessment office will be helping property owners with the new exemption forms enacted by New York State. The State has adopted new forms as well as new procedures for filing for exemptions. Those will become available in the fall and the Sweden Assessment office will be prepared to help residents navigate the new system.

For more information about assessments in the Town of Sweden or assessment procedures, please contact Assessor Tammy Baker or assistant Darla Emmerson at 637-8683.

Scheduled road work projects for 2018—town and county

The Town has a more than half-million dollar annual budget for road re-construction and repair. This half million dollars is spent on the Town's 57 lane miles of road. The Town also performs work on Monroe County's 61 lane miles of roads through the Town of Sweden as contracted. The following is a list of the 2018 scheduled projects (both Town and County roads). Some of the pro-

jects may have already been completed by the time of this newsletter's publication. The highway department sends notices to property owners when there is going to be major disruptions to traffic/driveway access. If you have questions, please call Superintendent Brian Ingraham at 637-3369 or 637-1090.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bader's Way | Entire length | Mill and pave |
| Talamora Trail | Entire length | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Ellis Drive | Entire length | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Timber Trail | Entire length | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Eisenhauer Drive | Entire length | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Gallup Road S | Campbell to Rt. 31 | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Redman Road | Capen—dead end | Crack fill/chip seal |
| Covell Road | Entire length | Prep for 2019 crack fill/chip seal |
| Euler Road | Entire length | Prep for 2019 crack fill/chip seal |
| Transit Way | Entire length | Prep for 2019 crack fill/chip seal |
| Ogee Trail, Lancet Way, Keystone Ct, Tudor Rd | Entire lengths | Prep for 2019 crack fill/chip seal |
| Redman Road | Capen Road to Fourth Section | Paving—asphalt overlay |
| West Sweden Road | Reed Road to White Road | Paving—asphalt overlay |
| West Sweden Road | White Road to Fourth Section Road | To Be Determined |

Ad hoc committee formed to study Seymour Library finances

The Town of Sweden hosted a joint meeting of the Brockport Village Board, Clarkson Town Board, Seymour Library Board and Sweden Town Board on May 22 to discuss the Seymour Library budget. Sweden Supervisor Kevin Johnson kicked off the meeting with a brief history of the Seymour Library and then achieved a consensus of all board members present that all are proponents and supporters of the library, that all are interested in providing for a healthy and sustainable future for the library, and that all agree that there may be different opinions on how best to provide for the library's financial future.

Library Director Carl Gouveia presented three "dream budget" scenarios that would increase library funding

significantly over current funding. Clarkson and Brockport Board members stressed the importance of remaining within the property tax cap set by New York State. At the end of the meeting, the three municipalities agreed to pursue a grant that would fund a consultant to look for efficiencies in the library budget; to consider establishing reserves to fund capital repairs to the Seymour Library building; to assign two members from each municipal board to lead these actions; and to meet as a whole more frequently.

The two Sweden Town Board members who will serve on the ad hoc committee are Councilpersons Patricia Hayles and Mary Rich.

Sweden & Clarkson launch new recreation survey

The Towns of Sweden and Clarkson are launching a new recreation survey to gather residents' feedback regarding the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center's recreation programming and facilities. The survey was designed by Sweden Councilperson Patricia Hayles and Clarkson Councilpersons Christa Filipowicz and Jackie Smith. It is the first recreation survey to be conducted by the Towns in several years.

The survey will be available July 9—July 22 on monkey survey. The web address is:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/swedenclarksonrec>

The Towns will be publishing the link on the Community Center and Town websites and on the Community Center and Town Facebook pages. In addition, emails will be sent to those enrolled in recreation programs.

For those not comfortable filling out an on-line survey, paper surveys will be available at the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road; Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street; and Clarkson Town Hall, 3710 Lake Road. The paper surveys are unique, in other words, they cannot be copied and submitted. Paper surveys have to be submitted on the original form. Residents who would like to fill

out a paper survey but cannot make it into one of the locations to pick one up, should call the Town of Sweden at 637-7588 and a paper survey will be mailed to the requester.

Some of the questions are program related, such as: do current programs influence a healthy lifestyle? are program fees affordable? what activities and resources do you use?

Other questions relate to the facility: are facilities clean and well-maintained? do you think upgrades are necessary?

Some questions center around information: how do you hear about recreation programs? what social media platforms do you prefer to use?

There are 20 questions in all and an area for responders to leave other comments about subjects that may not have been covered by a survey question.

Once the data has been collected and analyzed, it will be used by the two Towns and the Recreation Department to develop programming that fits current needs and to plan for facility repairs and improvements.

Margaret A. McGrath Foundation awards local scholarships

The Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation has awarded 18 scholarships totaling \$64,000 to local students for the 2018-2019 academic school year. The Foundation offers two types of scholarships to residents of the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin.

The Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship is awarded to those majoring in business and the Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship is awarded to those majoring in elementary education. Scholarships are for undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The recipients of the 2018-2019 Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship are:

Isabella Ekeze—SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology

Jacob Lewis—University of Buffalo

Zachary Sodoma—SUNY Brockport

Christopher Sodoma—St. John Fisher College

Quinlan Ignaszak—Bethel College

Jacob Vinch—St. John Fisher College

Joseph McNulty—Roberts Wesleyan College

Sarah Heyden—SUNY Brockport

Anthony Polizzi—Case Western Reserve

Cody Travis—St. Bonaventure

Taylor Requa—Duquesne University

Zachary LaMere—Monroe Community College

The recipients of the Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship are:

Julia Pacitto—SUNY Oswego

Jessica Pauly—SUNY Cortland

Alexandra Bradshaw—Niagara University

Taylor Kingsbury—St. John Fisher College

Peyton Young—SUNY Brockport

Solera Sherry - Buffalo State College

The Margaret A. McGrath Foundation has awarded \$680,000 in scholarships since its formation in 2004. Margaret A. McGrath established the Foundation under her will to provide scholarships to residents of the Town of Sweden and Hamlin who have chosen to pursue a degree in either Business or Elementary Education.

Qualifying 2019 graduation high school seniors and current college students should submit applications for the 2019-2020 academic year by March 1, 2019. For more information, contact Executive Director and Trustee Richard J. Dollard at 637-7170 or visit www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound

The amazing world of birds

Birds are amazing warm blooded egg-laying vertebrates characterized by feathers, toothless beaked jaws, a high metabolic rate, a strong light-weight skeleton and a four-chambered heart. They live and breed in most terrestrial habitats on all seven continents and range in size from the two-inch bee humming bird to the nine foot ostrich.

Flying birds have many hollow bones that crisscross for structural strength and have hollow cavities filled with air known as pneumatic bones. These air sacs help the bird to get the oxygen it needs to fly quickly, easily and for very long distances without getting worn out. In fact, a bird has a very efficient system for diffusing oxygen into the blood, ten times greater than mammals. Migration demands high energy, since birds even cross deserts and oceans without refueling.

Another enviable ability, besides flying, a bird possesses is the ability to sleep with one eye open and half of their brain awake, which is called uni-hemispheric slow-wave sleep. This allows birds to detect approaching danger and still get needed sleep. They can even sleep while migrating. They can see colors invisible to humans since they have additional color cones in their retina that are sensitive to the ultraviolet range.

The Corvids (Crows, Ravens and Jays) and Parrots are highly intelligent. Crows can fashion and use tools, hold a grudge, pass on knowledge across generations, reason out cause and effect, understand water displacement, solve multi-step complex puzzles, remember faces of people who have been good or bad to them, experience anticipation and exercise self-control if the end result is a greater reward, communicate via various calls, and they even hold funerals for their dead. Proportionate to size their brain is larger than a humans. Research has indicated they have the intelligence equivalent to a seven year-old child. While it was once believed that parrots only mimicked human language, there is a strong indication that they are capable of conversation.

Birds occupy a wide range of ecological positions. Some birds are highly specialized in their habitat needs, while others are generalists. In a single habitat there are niches occupied by different species of birds functioning like an orchestrated symphony. Birds that eat nectar are

important pollinators, birds that eat fruits play a key role in seed dispersal and scavengers are the clean-up crew that is crucial in preventing disease.

Birds are indeed amazing! "No other creature can transcend earth, evoke beauty, inspire dreams , and ground us in nature as does even the smallest bird." Julie Sacco, North Park Village Nature Center Director

Kathy Harter, Chairperson

Environmental Conservation Board

Open burning prohibited

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds residents that with warming temperatures and dry conditions, residential brush burning is prohibited across New York State.

New York prohibits residential burning during the high-risk fire season to reduce wildfires and protect people, property, and natural resources. The ban has been extremely effective in reducing the number of wildfires.

Violators of the state's open burning regulation are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense. To report environmental law violations, call 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332), or report online on the DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov

If you have any questions, please contact the DEC or the Town of Sweden Building Department/Fire Marshal at 637-8684.

Medical Loan Closet no longer housed at Sweden Town Hall

Citing a lack of space for records retention, the Sweden Town Hall staff that has voluntarily operated a medical loan closet for many years has decided to no longer be a repository for medical equipment.

Members of the town clerk, tax receiver and building departments have made arrangements for the durable medical equipment to be given to other loan closets in the area. The clerks have compiled a list of alternative loan closets for residents to use:

Hamlin Lions Club 964-5442 or 733-8459

Exempts Building, Lake Road, Hamlin

Brockport Exempts Club 637-5580 or 637-5857

West Avenue, Brockport

Masonic Service Bureau 671-9730

979 Bay Road, Webster

Regional Center for Independent Living 442-6470

497 State Street, Rochester

July 3 Celebration & Fireworks

Music, Activities, games & food

7 pm @ Community Center

4927 Lake Road

Fireworks Dusk at dusk

Information: 431-0090

Pictured left to right are Sweden Community Foundation President **Wayne Zyra**, Sweden Town Board members **Mary Rich** and **Lori Skoog**, Supervisor **Kevin Johnson**, Sweden Town Board Members **Patricia Hayles** and **Robert Muesebeck**, and Sweden Community Foundation Board Member **Jack Milner**. Not only did the Foundation secure the grant that helped fund the Lodge, the Foundation also donated \$10,500 for furnishings. The Lodge Grand Opening was held April 14.



Sweden Town Park Lodge is a hit with residents and guests

The Town of Sweden rented the Park Lodge for the first time on March 17 (a month ahead of the official grand opening on April 14) and the Lodge has been anything but idle since! At the time this newsletter went to print, 55 rentals had been booked, mostly on weekends and some even into 2019.

The feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. The setting and the facility are both beautiful and functional. The Lodge has room for 99 guests, and a covered outdoor patio with picnic tables increases the capacity in decent weather. The kitchen features a range/oven, refrigerator/freezer, microwave and ample work space. The main room has a cozy fireplace and windows that look out over the pond and woods.

At the end of June or beginning of July, a small playground will be installed on the north lawn of the Lodge.

The playground is designed for young children—a place to keep them busy while under the close supervision of the adults using the Lodge.

The cost to rent the Lodge is quite affordable, \$175 for a full-day event (at this time, the Lodge is only available for full-day rentals). In addition, a \$175 security deposit is required. If the Lodge is clean and no damage has been done during the event, the \$175 is returned to the renter. So far, through the first couple dozen rentals, there have been no problems. Dates are filling up fast. Call 431-0090 for more information or visit the Community Center at 4927 Lake Road to make a reservation.

Electronics should be recycled at Sunnking on Owens Road

Town of Sweden residents may dispose of electronic waste—free of charge—at Sunnking Electronics, 4 Owens Rd. Brockport. This coupled with the fact that the Town has to pay to dispose of electronics dropped off at the Town Highway Garage has led Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham and the Sweden Town Board to eliminate electronic drop-offs at the highway garage. The service is still available for free for residents at Sunnking (and more conveniently); it also eliminates the tax burden on taxpayers for the fees charged against the Town for disposal. For more information about Sunnking, call 637-8365 or visit sunnking.com

Update on the Sweden Town Dog Park

The Sweden Town Dog Park opened in 2015 as the fourth dog park in the Monroe County Dog Park system. It has been tremendously successful. A popular feature of the large dog side of the park is the pond. Many dogs love to play and swim in the man-made feature. However, some dog owners do not want their dogs in the water and that is often difficult to control. Additionally, every time the water is drained and refilled, the large dog side must be closed for two to three days so that no damage is done to the pond membrane during the process.

To alleviate these two situations, the Town is installing a fence around the pond. There will be two gates into the pond area so that dogs can easily run in and out. When there is a dog owner present that doesn't want their dog in the pond, the gates can be closed and opened as needed. When the pond is drained and refilled, the large dog side of the park can remain open, there will be no "lost time" for big dogs. Finally, park staff will not have to install snow fence around the pond when it is closed for the season each year.



Kindergarteners from Brockport's Ginther School visit the Sweden Town Court each year to learn about the local judicial system. The students start their visit the way a Town of Sweden court session starts—with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Justice Robert Connors** then gave the students an overview of a day in Sweden Town Court.

Sweden Harvest Festival to return after hiatus

The Sweden Farmers Museum Committee has resurrected the Harvest Festival after a three-year hiatus. Scheduled for Saturday, September 15, the festival will run from 9 am to 4 pm and feature a tractor show, live

animals, wagon rides, demonstrations, vendors and more. There will not be a 5K Race as in previous festivals. For more festival information, call 637-4895 or email whitefarm@frontiernet.net

Summer Camp 2018

Sweden/Clarkson Community Center's Summer Camp is underway! The camp runs Monday –Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Early and late care options are available from 7 am to 8:30 am and 4:30 pm to 6 pm. The daily rate for residents of Sweden and Clarkson is \$25 (\$35 on field trip days). The daily rate for non-residents is \$30 (\$40 on field trip days). The weekly schedule is:

Week 1: 6/25-6/29 Sky Zone on Wednesday \$135

Week 2: 7/5-7/6 (two-day week due to holiday). Hamlin Beach on Thursday \$50

Week 3: 7/9-7/13 Darien Lake on Wednesday \$135.

Week 4: 7/16-7/20 Adventure Landing Wednesday \$135

Week 5: 7/23-7/27 Cook Out at Sweden Town Park \$135

Week 6: 7/30-8/3 Minnehans Fun Center on Wed. \$135

Week 7: 8/6-8/10 Seabreeze on Wednesday \$135

Week 8: 8/13-8/17 Buffalo Zoo on Wednesday \$135

Week 9: 8/20-8/24 Altitude on Wednesday \$135

For more information about summer camp, call 431-0090. Come spend the summer with us!

Supervisor

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Councilperson

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