



Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 16, Issue 3

Fall 2018

A message from the supervisor's office

The Town of Sweden has so many exciting projects on deck right now that it is hard to update you in a quarterly newsletter. By the time I write this, it goes to the printer and then gets delivered, some of the information may be dated. We have been submitting weekly news items to the *Suburban News* but I have found that the best way to update you almost instantly is on Facebook @ Town of Sweden Supervisor. The feedback has been tremendous. For those of you who don't have Facebook, never hesitate to call my office at 637-7588 or the appropriate Town department to get the most current information. We are also working on a major overhaul of our

Town of Sweden website with the goal of updating information there more quickly.

In the meantime, the Town Board has received a rezoning request in order for developers to build Frances II Apartments on Owens Road. The rezoning request is small—about 2.5 acres from heavy industrial to retail commercial. The plan is to construct an additional 48 apartments: 16 north and 32 south of the Frances I Apartments. The Town Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 9 at 7 pm regarding the rezoning. The developers have also filed for subdivision and site plan approval with the Sweden Planning Board; that public hearing is Oct. 22.

Three solar farm projects filed applications with the Sweden Planning Board and a public hearing was held on August 13, 2018. No action has been taken at this time, although it appears that one or more of the applicants may file an incentive zoning application with



Kevin G. Johnson

the Town Board. Additional public hearings will be required if Incentive Zoning applications are made.

Our Solar Farm Law committee continues to meet to review recom-

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2019 Tentative Town Budget on file

The Town's 2019 Tentative Budget was filed on September 25 and is available on the Town's website at www.townofsweden.org. The Town Board may 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.

The Tentative 2019 Budget is a \$5,584,909 spending plan that stays under the Tax Cap set by New York State. The increase in the total tax levy is \$82,836 inclusive of all special districts. For the first time in six years the Tax Cap is actually two percent.

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2019 Tentative Budget has been filed *continued from page 1*

Assessments grew by \$28,802,185 in the Town including 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 is tentatively calculated at \$2.544300; the rate per thousand for properties in the Town outside the Village is tentatively calculated at \$4.58818. 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 mainly the highway budget. The Tentative Budget includes funding for the Town's share of the Owens Road sidewalk project. A grant application was filed jointly with the Village of Brockport. It is not known at this time whether

2019 budget by category

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

Transportation	\$1,698,335
General Government	\$1,592,011
Culture & Recreation	\$ 799,593
Employee Benefits	\$ 851,202
Home & Community	\$ 197,200
Debt Service	\$ 82,650
Public Safety	\$ 129,160
Health	\$ 2,500
Special Districts	<u>\$ 232,258</u>
TOTAL	\$5,584,909

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Assessed	Valuation	Summary
	2018	2019
Village of Brockport	\$225,124,723	\$235,781,057
Town Outside	\$404,475,993	\$422,621,844
Total Town & Village	\$629,600,716	\$658,402,901

Special District levy detail

Gallup Water	\$25,600
Colby Water	\$12,412
East Ave Water	\$ 4,229
Shumway Water	\$11,933
Swamp Salmon Water	\$ 8,925
County Line Water	\$ 4,680
Sweden Hills Light	\$18,995
Crestview Light	\$ 1,900
Hilltop Light	\$17,795
Talamora Light	\$ 9,600
Fieldstone Light	\$ 2,400
Northview Light	\$ 2,000
Walmart Light	\$ 550
N. Poole Light	\$ 2,000
Heritage Light	\$ 2,500
Consolidated Sewer	\$18,000
Fourth Section Sewer	\$14,239
Heritage Sewer	\$ 5,000
Drainage I	\$ 6,500
Walmart Sidewalk	\$ 1,000
Talamora Park	\$ 1,985

Schedule of Elected Officials	Salary
Supervisor	\$25,918
Councilperson (4)	\$7,559
Justices (2)	\$21,211
Highway Superintendent	\$80,598
Town Clerk	\$49,126
Receiver of Taxes	\$25,789

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Village	\$286.25	\$290.63	\$287.50	\$285.25	\$298.38	\$307.08	\$304.99	\$303.33	\$301.25	\$318.04
Outside	\$556.25	\$559.25	\$557.50	\$558.63	\$581.38	\$593.94	\$587.92	\$588.37	\$591.25	\$573.52

Water study summary

MRB Group, the Town Engineer, has completed its cost analysis of bringing public water to un-watered areas of the Town. The information was presented at a public meeting in August and has since had two minor corrections made. The report is available in its entirety on the Town website: www.townofsweden.org

The Town has begun meeting with Rural Development to pursue grant/low interest loans to pursue a water expansion project. The scope or location of the first project has not been determined yet. Below is a summary of the cost of public water on each road using ductile iron pipe. The alternative total cost using PVC is listed at the end of the summary.

The goal of the Rural Development funding applications is to bring the cost of a project under the State Comptroller's threshold of affordability. That threshold is the limit that each property can be charged each year including the cost of water. For 2018, the Comptroller's threshold of affordability for water districts is \$904 per parcel. The estimated cost to each parcel with and without grant funding is also contained in the report.

Lake Road Segment	\$3,038,000
Reed Road Segment	\$3,568,000
Covell Road Segment	\$1,075,000
Euler Road Segment	\$ 688,000
Beadle Road Segment	\$3,165,000
Ladue Road Segment	\$1,984,000
Capen Road Segment	\$1,046,000
Swamp Road Segment	\$1,518,000
Colby Street Segment	\$1,291,000
Country View Terrace Segment	\$ 224,000
W. Sweden Rd.—North & South	\$3,693,000
Redman Rd.—North & South	\$2,879,000
Root Road Segment	\$1,440,000
Salmon Creek Rd.—North & South	\$1,139,000
Ogden Sweden Road Segment	\$ 271,000
Whittier Road Segment	\$ 749,000
Gordon Road Segment	\$1,035,000
Sweden Walker Road Segment	\$ 814,000
East Avenue Segment	\$ 498,000
Mon/Orleans County Line Segment	\$ 521,000
West Canal Road Segment	\$1,403,000
East Canal Road Segment	\$1,169,000
West Avenue/Old West Segment	<u>\$1,063,000</u>
TOTAL	\$34,271,000
<i>PVC Alternative Total =</i>	<i>\$30,110,646</i>



Tax Receiver **Kathy Bahr-Seever** has a new office at the Town Hall, directly across from the assessor's office. Tax receiver hours are 9 am—3 pm during tax collection season. Call 637-2145 for tax information.

Supervisor's message *continued from page 1*

recommendations for changes to that one-year old law. The committee should have its final recommendations to the Town Board later this fall.

The new fully-accessible Sweden Town Park Playground is scheduled to be delivered during the last week of September and we expect to be completely installed by mid-October. The playground is truly an amazing asset for all the children of our community and it was made possible by a grant through Senator Rob Ortt's office.

Finally, I would like to note the passing of former Councilperson Mary Anne Pietrzykowski. Mary Anne served on the Town Board from 1986—1999. She was a strong advocate for services for seniors and was instrumental in forming the tri-municipal partnership to fund the Seymour Library. Prior to being a Town Board member, Mary Anne served on the Sweden Environmental Conservation Board and pushed to start the Town recycling center. In 1995 she was recognized for her work on environmental issues by the National Association of Towns and Townships. Our deepest condolences to her husband Tony and their family.

Kevin Johnson, Supervisor

“Water is the driving force of all nature”

Leonardo da Vinci stated, “Water is the driving force of all nature.” It is indeed essential for all life. The earth is a closed system, meaning the same water that existed on the earth millions of years ago is still present today. Water is constantly recycled in a process known as the hydrologic cycle. Water constantly travels between the atmosphere, underground, glaciers and surface water in the oceans, lakes and rivers.

A water molecule spends 98% of its time in the ocean with the remaining 2% divided in descending order as ice, groundwater, fresh surface water and in the atmosphere. Only 3% of water on earth is fresh water; the rest is ocean water. The U.S. Geological Survey acknowledges that most of that 3% is inaccessible—locked in icecaps and glaciers. Only 0.3% is fresh surface water found in lakes, rivers, streams and swamps.

Drinking water is pumped from groundwater or surface water and brought via pipes into our homes, schools and businesses. In the Town of Sweden, public water comes from Lake Ontario and private well water comes from groundwater.

Public water from Lake Ontario is soft water. Soft water has palpable technical advantages over hard water, including reduced scaling in pipes and on surfaces, as well as better soap lathering. However, cooking food in soft water can leach valuable minerals from food, since water is the universal solvent and soft water is sparse in minerals. People living in soft water areas tend to have low serum magnesium levels and higher rates of heart arrhythmias.

Lake Ontario is the furthest downstream and most polluted Great Lake. The highest levels of pollutants are found along its southern shore. Fish advisory information is available at:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2792.pdf>

A 2017 report from the International Joint Commission (a U.S.-Canadian panel that monitors Great Lakes water quality) states the efforts to clean up the lakes over the past 25 years are “a mix of achievements and challenges.” Concentrations of historic pollutants are still a concern and new pollutants (pharmaceuticals and plastic waste) are equally troubling and are not removed via standard water treatment. The toxic effects of pharmaceuticals on aquatic organisms and the promotion of the development of resistant bacterial strains represents a health risk to humans. Go to:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2018/08/28/plasticstudyfindstinysyntheticbitsgreatlakestapwte randbeer/971888002/>.

Industrial chemicals, pesticides, inorganics (mercury, arsenic, lead, cyanide, barium to name a few) - a total of 87 toxins—were listed as the primary chemical pollutants in the Rochester Embayment. Many of these chemicals are persistent (never break down), toxic, bioaccu-

mulative and are absorbed by the body. PBCs, dioxin, and mirex are chemicals of concern in fresh water fish because they build up in the body over time.

Monroe County Water Authority has an extensive treatment process to meet EPA standards for safe drinking water. This water is chlorinated with added fluorine to a concentration of 0.7 mg/L. The treatment process and past reports are available at:

<http://www.mcwa.com/MyWater/TreatmentProcess.aspx>

According to the United States Geological Survey ground water occurs almost everywhere beneath the land surface and approximately one-half of the United States population drinks groundwater (both public and private sourced). National Geographic Society Hydrologists estimate groundwater is 20 to 30 times more abundant at any given moment than the amount of water in all the lakes, streams and rivers of the United States.

Groundwater is a part of the hydrologic cycle. Some of the precipitation that lands on the ground surface infiltrates into the subsurface via gravity. It is filtered by nature and contains minerals gleaned as it percolates through soil and rock layers. It eventually reaches saturated rock or groundwater recharge. This saturated groundwater system moves slowly and may eventually discharge into streams, lakes and oceans. It is hard water.

Hard water causes scaling in pipes and on surfaces but there is increasing evidence from around the world that it is good for one's health. It lowers blood pressure, reduces cardiovascular disease, increases longevity, has a protective effect against some deadly cancers (gastric, pancreatic and esophageal), reduces cerebrovascular disease, and increases bone density in the elderly.

The World Health Organization states, “Hard water has no known adverse health effect.” Hard water, particularly very hard water, with its supplementary calcium and magnesium is believed to be responsible for the above health benefits. Not all professionals agree with the WHO assessment. Though subjective, most feel hard water tastes much better. The National Academy of Sciences also states hard water is not a health hazard and drinking it contributes to human calcium and magnesium needs.

Groundwater is cheaper and less likely to be polluted. The current cost of drilling a private well ranges from \$15 to \$30 per foot. It can be cost effective to drill a second well if a current well does not supply all of one's needs year round. Many wells in the Town of Sweden are high quality, 30+/- feet deep and never run out of water. The individual is responsible for the safety of their private well and should have it tested. The owner also has control of the treatment method used if needed. The earth is a closed system. You will drink what you sow.

Kathy Harter, Chairperson

Sweden Environmental Conservation Board

Fall brush-pick up scheduled

The Sweden Highway Department will conduct the annual fall brush pick-up Monday, October 29 through Friday, November 2. All brush must be placed at the roadside by 7 am on October 29 and no sooner than October 26. 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.

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.

Dead ash removal to begin

Most residents are aware of the devastating results of the emerald ash borer on ash trees in our community. The highway department is compiling a list of all the dead ash trees that are in the ROWs (right of ways) along Town roads. During the winter months, when not engaged in snow plowing operations, the highway department will begin removing the trees.

Since Sweden does not own a bucket truck, the Town must borrow one from a neighboring municipality which limits the time Sweden can spend on this task. It will take several years to remove the dead ash trees. Normally, the highway department removes other trees and brush along roadways, as time permits, during the winter months. If you see the highway crew removing trees this winter, it is part of the Town's long-term plan. Please always use caution when driving in proximity to Town highway crews.



Department of
Taxation and Finance

Important Notice for Property Owners Age 65 and Over

New STAR requirements for 2019

- To receive the Enhanced STAR exemption, you must enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). If you're already enrolled, no action is needed.
- If you qualify for the senior citizens exemption, you will no longer automatically receive the Enhanced STAR exemption. You must apply for Enhanced STAR separately.

For more information or to obtain forms, contact your assessor or visit the New York State Tax Department's website (search: IVP).

www.tax.ny.gov

Call 637-8683 for the Town of Sweden Assessor's Office.

Family Halloween fun!

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's annual Community Halloween Party will be held on Thursday, October 25 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.

Third annual Community Health Fair—Oct. 17

On Wednesday, October 17, the Sweden Clarkson Community Center will host its third annual Health Fair from 10 am to 2 pm. The free event features numerous exhibitors. Medicare representatives from several major carriers will and answer questions about plans and open enrollment. Certified marketplace navigators will help choose appropriate plans. Assisted living, financial ser-

vices, estate planning experts will provide information about financial health. Exhibitors include Wegmans, Strong West, Aetna Insurance, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Well Care/Todays Options, Northwest Bank, Lifespan, Epic Health and health advisors. Call 431-0090 for more information.

Fun fall trips for adults of all ages and interests

Becoming Dr. Ruth at the J.C.C

Join Sweden Clarkson Recreation on Sunday, October 14 for this hilarious performance. Meet at the Community Center at 12 noon for a pizza lunch. The school bus will leave for the show at 1 pm. Return is expected around 6 pm. Cost is \$30 for residents of Sweden and Clarkson;

\$35 for non-residents. Please register before October 7.

Del Lago Casino Trip

Covered Wagon Tours will provide transportation to the casino in Waterloo on Friday, November 16. If enough participants register, everyone will receive \$25 in free play and \$5 towards lunch. Departure is at 8:30 am; return is about 4:15 pm. Maximum participants is 55. Cost is \$25 for residents of Sweden and Clarkson; \$30 for non-residents. Please register before November 2.

The Legend of Georgia McBride at the J.C.C.

This new performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 2. Arrive at the Community Center at 12 noon for a pizza lunch. The bus leaves for the performance at 1 pm and returns about 6 pm. Cost is \$30 for Sweden and Clarkson residents; \$35 for non-residents. Please register before November 25. Call 431-0090 for information regarding all trips.

General Election Information

The 2018 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6. 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.

Don't miss out on soccer this fall

If the kids already love soccer or just want to try soccer, don't miss out on Sweden Clarkson Recreation's instructional soccer classes this fall. Both youth (ages 8-11) and tot (ages 4-6) soccer begins on Monday, October 15. The four-weeks session focuses on drills with Coach George in the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center gymnasium. For information, call 431-0090.

Sweden Town Park Lodge

The Sweden Town Park Lodge is perfect for your party, meeting or event. Featuring a full kitchen, restrooms and fireplace, the lodge seats 99 indoors and has picnic tables under the covered portico. There is a brand new adjacent playground and a beautiful outdoor setting for photos. Call 431-0090 to learn more or make a reservation. Weekend dates are in high demand!



Reducing stormwater pollution

Sanitary and storm drainage in the Town of Sweden are handled by separate systems: sanitary sewers and storm water conveyance systems. The stormwater conveyance systems consist of catch basins, storm drains, pipes, ditches, and outfalls that transport stormwater runoff from a rain storm event or snow melt to the nearest waterway or other water body. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drainage system offers little or no treatment prior to being discharged into streams and water bodies.

Storm drainage contains sediment, bacteria, fertilizers, pesticides, automotive fluids, and other pollutants which enter stormwater systems and eventually find their way into lakes and streams. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the amount of these pollutants which enter storm drainage systems.

The good news is that thoughtfully conducting everyday activities such as maintaining cars, lawns and pets can have a significant impact on the amount of pollutants which enter storm drainage. To learn more about storm water and ways to reduce stormwater pollution, visit the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County website at www2.monroecounty.gov/des-stormwater-coalition and the H2O Hero website at www.H2OHero.org.

Sweden plans road reconstruction and parking improvements

The Town of Sweden is in the midst of planning an approximate \$1.4 million road and parking lot reconstruction project beginning in 2019. The infrastructure project is heavy on road reconstruction including Hollybrook, East Canal, West Canal, County Line and Skidmore roads. (This list is tentative and may change before the project goes forward). The work will take place during the construction seasons of 2019-2021.

Parking lot improvements will take place at the Sweden Town Hall, Highway Garage, Community Center and Town Park, also over the three-year span.

In order to undertake this work, which is beyond the road improvements included in the annual highway budget, the Town will seek funding on the municipal bond market. It is a lengthy process to take construction projects to the bond market; the Town has been working diligently on it since the new year. Remaining items are a SEQR review, obtaining updated bond rating and credit reports, passage of the bonding resolution by the Town Board and a permissive referendum period.

Once those tasks are completed, likely by the end of 2018, the bond agent will conduct the bond sale. The Town plans to have the funding in place by April/May 2019 for the start of the construction season.

The exact order of the projects in the highway department work schedule has not been finalized. It is the Town's practice to notify residents well-ahead of con-

struction work on individual roads. That practice will continue with these projects, as well as regular road work that will also be conducted during the next three summers. Upcoming editions of the *Snapshots* will give more details of the projects as they become available. For more information about the financing/bonding process, call the supervisor/finance office at 637-7588; for road work questions call the highway department at 637-3369.

Mailbox replacement policy

As a courtesy, the Town of Sweden Highway Department will replace mailboxes that have been damaged or destroyed during the winter months as a result of plowing operations. Mailboxes, and posts if necessary, will be replaced with a standard rural mailbox and wooden post.

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

Many residents have opted to purchase specialty boxes, which cost substantially more than a standard box. If one of these types should happen to need replacing, the highway department will be glad to perform the installation, provided that the resident supply the replacement mailbox. Those arrangements can be made by calling the highway department at 637-3369.

September 15 marked return of Sweden Farmers Museum Harvest Festival



2019 Budget

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the Town and Village will receive the grant funding necessary to undertake the entire project. Another major area of increase is engineering for infrastructure projects including the pursuit of water district formation.

Special district levies decreased by \$470 taken as a whole. Individually some districts' levies declined; others rose. 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 district with the largest increase is the Salmon Creek/Swamp Road water line with a scheduled bond principle payment increase of \$1,000. The effect on individual parcels will be approximately \$30. Fourth Section sewer district members, remember the Stonebriar impact (reduction in individual shares) will take place on the 2020 tax bill.

Elected officials' salaries can be found in a table on page 2. Please note there is no increase in the salaries of supervisor or councilpersons.

Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

18 State St. Brockport, NY 14420

Kevin G. Johnson

Robert Muesebeck

Patricia Hayles

Mary Rich

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