



Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 18, Issue 1

Spring 2019

A message from the supervisor's office

I have just returned from the Association of Towns annual training program, and I am pleased to report that again this year, I learned a great deal that will be put to good use in our Town government.

There were two very hot current topics: AIM funding cuts and the legalization of cannabis for recreational use. Sweden receives about \$79,000 per year in NYS AIM funding. The governor has removed AIM funding for towns, counties and villages (but left it intact for cities) from his proposed budget. The loss of this decades-old revenue source is fundamentally unfair to town, county and village taxpayers. We are advocating strongly for the return of this funding to the NYS budget.

At first glance, it may seem that New York's legalization of cannabis would have little to do with Town

government, but I learned otherwise. The current legislation allows counties to opt out of portions of the legislation. However, there is a recommendation that the authority to opt out of certain parts of the legislation be placed at the Town level. We will have to wait until the State law is finalized before we know what role the Town may be required to play.

Also discussed was the additional strain on police departments and court systems that legalized recreational cannabis may bring, and the lack of financial support from the State to the municipalities to deal with additional costs.

I brought back information regarding the growing problem across the state with feral cats. There are issues of disease control and the humane treatment of fe-



Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor

ral cats. I have had several discussions with the Mayor of Brockport regarding feral cats and I will share the infor-

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Free Rabies Clinic, Saturday May 4

The Town of Sweden's annual rabies clinic for dogs and cats will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 9 am to 12 noon at the Highway Garage, 40 White Road.

For everyone's safety, children should be kept away from other pets. Dogs must be leashed and strictly controlled. Cats should be in sturdy carriers.

In order to receive a vaccination, pets must be at least three months of age. Proof of a previous vaccination is required in order for the pet

to receive a three-year rabies shot; otherwise a one-year initial rabies shot will be given at the clinic.

As the Sweden Town Board believes that the rabies clinic is an important safety program, all pet owners are welcome to take advantage of the clinic regardless of residency.

For more information about either clinic, please call Dog Control Officer Kathy Beaumont at 637-4260.

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Scheduled road work and parking lot projects for 2019 season

The Town has a more than a half-million dollar annual budget for road re-construction and repair. The half million dollars is spent on the Town's 57 lane miles of road. This year, the Town is issuing bonds in the amount of \$1.46 million dollars to fund additional road reconstruction and parking lot repairs over a three-year period.

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 2019 road and

parking lot projects, not including Monroe County road work (yet to be scheduled).

The highway department sends notices to property owners when there will be major disruptions to traffic/driveway access. If you have questions about any of these projects, please call Superintendent Brian Ingraham at 637-3369.

Projects with asterisks *** are part of the three-year bonded project.

Ogee Trail	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Lancet Way	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Keystone Court	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Tudor Road	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Tracey Terrace	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Sweden Lane	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Covell Road	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Euler Road	Entire length	Chip Seal Process
Gary Drive	Crestview to Rogers	Chip Seal Process
Gary Drive	Eastern end of Highview to dead end	Chip Seal Process
Gary Drive	Rogers Pkwy to eastern end of Highview	Mill and Pave Process
Hollybrook Road	Gary to Hickory Way	Mill and Pave Process ***
West Canal Road	Entire length	Cold in Place Recycle with Double Chip Seal ***
East Canal Road	Entire length	Prep Work for 2020 Cold in Place Recycle ****
Sweden Hill Road	Entire length	Prep Work for 2020 Chip Seal Process
Transit Way	Entire length	Prep Work for 2020 Chip Seal Process
Highview Circle	Entire length	Prep Work for 2020 Chip Seal Process
Lodge Parking Lot	Sweden Town Park	Pave Topcoat***
Town Hall Parking Lot	Entire lot	Mill and Pave***
Community Center	Entire parking lot	Chip Seal***
County Roads	To be determined	Pending NYS budget decisions

Sweden Town Park Lodge is a terrific venue

How do you rent the Sweden Town Park Lodge? Visit the Community Center at 4927 Lake Road, fill out an application, provide payment and a security deposit... and it's yours!

The Lodge is rented by the day; renters are allowed to use it from 8 am to 10 pm on their event date. The cost is \$200 for residents of the Town of Sweden plus a \$175 security deposit (separate checks). The cost for non-residents is \$250 plus a \$175 security deposit. There is a reduced fee for events held during the week (Monday through Thursday) of \$150 plus a \$175 security deposit.

Once the Lodge passes a post-event inspection, the security deposit will be returned. If there is any damage or if the Lodge is not cleaned appropriately, the security deposit will be forfeited. If damage exceeds the cost of the security deposit, the renter will be billed.

Included in the Lodge rental are the use of stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator/freezer, tables and chairs, outdoor picnic tables (under the portico). The Lodge comes equipped with handicapped accessible restrooms, parking and a gas fireplace.

The Lodge capacity is 99 persons indoors; larger events may make use of the covered portico complete with picnic tables. A toddler playground is located right outside the Lodge.



Park users should note that while the Lodge may be used until 10 pm, the Park closes at dusk which means that all activities other than those within the Lodge proper must cease when the Park closes.

All other Sweden Town Park rules apply to Lodge rentals particularly those pertaining to personal conduct and the consumption of alcohol. There is no swimming in the pond, no use of fireworks, no gambling. No firearms or other weapons are allowed in the Sweden Town Park. Renters will receive a full copy of Park regulations. Lodge renters must be 21 years of age.

For questions about renting the Lodge, call the Community Center at 431-0090. Demand for the Lodge is high so be sure to make your arrangements early.

Calling all families & pancake lovers!

Don't miss the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 13 from 9-11 am at the Sweden Clark-son Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. Activities are free: egg hunt, crafts, games and jelly bean contest. A pancake breakfast is served from 9-10:30 am for \$3 per person.



Spring into recreation!

There are great new programs this spring (and some old favorites) at the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. Check out:

- **Town-wide Garage Sale** May 18 from 9 am—2 pm. Vendors: \$15/resident; \$20/non-resident.
- **Don Newcomb Band** May 15 from 2-3 pm. Free! Enjoy rock, country and swing hits from the 1940s.
- **Mommy & Me Fitness** March 29—April 19 Fridays at 10 am. Children through age 4. \$20/resident; \$25 non-resident.
- **Beginner Drum Pad Lessons** May 3—May 24 on Fridays 7—8 pm. \$20/resident; \$25 non-resident.
- **Trip to Public Market** April 27 from 9 am to 12 noon. \$5

Call 431-0090 for program information.

Sweden Town Court welcomes new court clerk to staff

The Sweden Town Court welcomed Michele Rast to the court staff in January. Rast comes with a wealth of experience in municipal court systems. She is concurrently a court clerk for the Town of Byron and previously worked for the Genesee County Sheriff's department in the DWI Conditional Discharge Program. Her duties there included monitoring sentenced defendants to be sure they met the terms of their sentences.

Rast is a graduate of Leroy High School and holds an associates of science degree in paralegal studies from Genesee Community College. She enjoys dealing with court cases from the beginning: the initial arraignment and then taking them through the entire judicial process right up to sentencing.

Outside of work, Michele enjoys spending time with her four-year-old daughter Magdalena and two dogs. She is also an avid reader.

Michele replaces Stacy Burke who left in December to take a full-time position with the Town of Greece Court. "We were happy to have someone come in with court experience," said Chief Court Clerk Tracy Caporale. "It made a smoother transition for our operations."



Michele Rast and Chief Court Clerk Tracy Caporale

Park and Community Center improvements in the works

In December, the Town Board authorized several facility improvements that are underway or will be underway early this spring. At the Community Center, the Board authorized the re-cladding of the entire exterior of the gymnasium. Large pieces of the "stucco"-type siding have fallen. They will be repaired, replaced and then covered over with steel panels. The steel panels have been ordered and construction is expected to begin late April.

At the Town Park, the Splash Pad equipment has arrived and will be installed as soon as weather permits. The highway department is extending utilities to the site, then contractors will perform the actual installation of the Splash Pad, as well as a pavilion, concrete patio and shade structure.

The Nietopski Field wooden outfield fence is also being replaced this spring by Stable Fences and Vineyards.

Household waste collection date set

The Monroe County Department of Environmental Services and the Town of Sweden, Hamlin, Clarkson, Parma, Ogden and Village of Spencerport, Hilton and Brockport will hold an **appointment-only** Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Town of Ogden Highway Garage on **Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 7:45 am to 12 noon.**

Up to 30 gallons of the following materials will be accepted per appointment at no charge:

- oil-based and latex paint (1/3 can or less of latex paint can be disposed of in the trash and will NOT be accepted. Discard the paint can lid, add kitty litter, mix, let dry and place in trash).
- wood stain and preservatives
- household cleaners

- automotive fluids (antifreeze, brake, power steering and transmission)
- pesticides and fertilizers
- flammable products
- driveway sealer
- pool and photo chemicals
- rechargeable Ni-Cad and button batteries
- mercury thermometers/thermostats
- syringes/sharps (safely packaged)

Waste from businesses will not be accepted. Appointments for this collection can be made until June 16. For residents of Sweden and Brockport, call the Sweden Town Hall at 637-2144 or go on-line to www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark/

A limited assessment update is necessary this year

Sweden Town Assessor Tammy Baker conducted a major assessment update in 2018 that she believed would keep the Town at “100%” for the next year or two. However, she has been notified by the New York State Office of Real Property Services that property sale prices in the Town (including the Village of Brockport) are outpacing the new assessments she set last year.

The Town participates in the state’s cyclical update program which helps insure that assessments are kept current and equitable. Keeping up-to-date in the program also makes Sweden eligible for state aid (if made available in the State’s budget). Falling too far below the

100% mark means that the Town would not be eligible for the aid in the next state budget.

Tammy will be making assessment adjustments in a few very specific neighborhoods where several sales indicate higher assessments are warranted. In 2020, she will be making another round of adjustments.

Notices to impacted property owners will be mailed on or about May 1. Property owners will have the opportunity to meet with Tammy informally and if not satisfied with the new assessment, may then file with the Town’s Board of Assessment Review for a hearing on Grievance Day which will be held on Tuesday, May 28. Only a property owner or someone with a letter of authorization from a property owner may participate in the review.

For information regarding assessments, please call Tammy or assistant Darla Emmerson at 637-8683.

2018 Building Department Statistics

The Town of Sweden’s building department issues permits for residential and commercial construction projects, pool, sign and accessory building installation. The department also issues plumbing, fill, operating, conveyance and burn permits. The following is a summary of the permits granted in 2018 compared to 2017:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Building permits	113	113
New single or multi-family homes	10	23*
New commercial/industrial	2	1
Residential additions, etc.	15	11
Commercial additions, etc.	12	8
Pools	16	9
Sheds, decks, solar systems, etc.	58	61
Other permits		
Permanent sign permits	12	12
Temporary sign permits	27	22
Burn permits	4	5
Fill permits	1	2
Operating permits	27	26
Conveyance	0	0

* Counts include townhome permits issued. Each building received one permit (10); for a total of 40 dwelling units (an average of four per building).

Permit applications can be found on the Town’s website at www.townofsweden.org. Choose Permits and Licenses from the tabs on the left side of the home page. Permit applications are also available at the Building Department at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street. For more information about permits or questions regarding a potential future project, contact Planning, Building, Zoning Department Coordinator Phyllis Brudz at 637-8684.

2019 Spring pick up is April 29—May 3

The annual Sweden spring pick-up (for residents outside of the Village of Brockport) will be held April 29—May 3. Debris should be placed at the curb by 7 am Monday, April 29, but not prior to Friday, April 26.

Materials must be separated into homogeneous piles such as metal, lumber, brush, etc. Refrigerators and other appliances that contain freon must have the freon removed by a certified technician. Otherwise, a fee of \$17.50 must be paid at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street prior to pick-up.

There is a limit of one dump truck load per house or property owner. Tires are limited to four per household. Refrigerator/freezer doors must be removed. No off-site material, refuse from contractors or commercial sites is eligible for pick-up. Loose drywall or building materials should be bagged. Brush and wood should be cut to a maximum of eight-foot lengths and piled parallel to the road.

NO electronics will be picked up. Please take personal electronics to Sunnking, 4 Owens Road.

The following items are not eligible for this pick-up: paint cans, fuel tanks, oil, drums, wire fence, garbage, batteries, cardboard, chemical/liquid wastes, tree stumps (over 200 pounds), industrial/commercial wastes, or bagged leaves. Arrangements for these items should be made with commercial haulers.

No items should be placed against light poles, trees, sign posts or the bottom of ditches. The Town of Sweden reserves the right to reject debris that is not in accordance with these regulations. Only one pass will be made per road. The highway crew will not return for a second pass. For additional information, please call the highway department at 637-3369.

Noise pollution impact

Noise pollution, sound pollution or environmental noise is defined as the propagation of elevated sound levels with harmful impacts on humans and other living organisms. The primary causes of excess noise is industrialization, transportation, construction activities, poor urban planning, social events/recreation, and household activities. Sound is measured in decibels (dB). The decibel scale is logarithmic, meaning it increases by the power of 10 each time.

According to the World Health Organization, sound levels less than 70 decibels are not damaging to living organisms, regardless of how long or consistent the exposure is. However, continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA (adjusted decibels) over time will cause hearing loss, according to the Center for Earing and Communication. Generally, the louder the noise, the less time required for hearing loss to occur. Maximum exposure to 85 dBA within 24 hours is 8 hours, maximum exposure to 100 dBA is 15 minutes and maximum exposure to 130 or greater dBA is less than one second per day.

The effects of noise pollution in the work, home and outdoor environment are more extensive than hearing loss. Studies show aggressive behavior, hypertension, tinnitus, constant stress, fatigue, sleep disorders, cardiovascular issues, psychological disorders, headaches, and difficulty communicating are all associated with excessive noise levels.

The effects on wildlife can be far worse. Animals are more dependent on sound and hearing to locate food, to avoid predators and to find a mate. Their very survival depends on the ability to hear. In nature, animals are also experiencing hearing loss due to noise pollution. This can make them easy prey, as well as unable to find a mate. Species that require sound waves to echo-locate for a successful migration are being disoriented by disturbed sound signals. Most wildlife have an impressive hearing range, far greater than humans. In fact, some species of moths have hearing 150 times more sensitive than any human.

Whole ecosystems are being disrupted by excessive noise; as the wildlife action/behavior/population changes, so does the habitat. While plants cannot hear, they too are impacted by noise pollution. Many species with which plants interact are affected by noise. For instance, if noise changes the distribution of birds (important pollinators and seed dispersers) this results in less seedlings, less diversity and the ecosystem changes.

Noise ranges from soft to painful and some common sounds in each range are:

Soft Noise from 10 to 30 dB: 10 dB normal breathing; 20 dB rustling tree leaves; 30 dB whispering.

Moderate Noise up to 60 dB are every day sounds unlikely to cause damage: 40 dB babbling brook, working

computer; 50 dB refrigerator; 60 dB conversation.

Loud Noise up to 80 dB may cause damage if excessive or prolonged: 70dB driving in traffic, dishwasher; 75 dB vacuuming, flushing toilet.

Very Loud Noise up to 90 dB potentially damaging with prolonged or repeated exposure: 80-90 dB blow dryer, kitchen blender; 85 dB passing diesel truck.

Extremely Loud Noise can definitely damage hearing: 100 dB power drill; 105dB sporting event; 106 dB gas lawnmower or snow blower; 110 dB MP3 player at maximum volume.

Painful Noise should be kept to a minimum and professional ear protection used: 120 dB rock band; 120-140 dB jet plane takeoff; 130 dB jackhammer; 140-160 dB most firearms; 180 dB rocket launch.

The Town of Sweden has a local law Noise Ordinance 2001 that addresses this environmental concern.

Kathy Harter, Chairperson

Environmental Conservation Board

* Decibel noise range soft to painful references: Owlca-tion-STEM-Physics, updated June 7, 2018. Center for Hearing and Communication, FCEIA

Open burning prohibited

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds residents that with warming temperatures and dry conditions, residential brush burning is prohibited March 16 through May 14 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.

Tax Receiver update for 2019 town/county

The third installment of 2019 town and county taxes is due March 31. The final installment of the season is due April 28. Please be sure to let us know if you have satisfied a mortgage or if you have changed your mailing address. For more information regarding the town/county tax season call 637-2145.

Kathleen Bahr-Seever, Tax Receiver

Remembering Deputy Highway Superintendent Keith Beadle

Retired Deputy Superintendent of Highways Keith Beadle passed away on February 18 following a long struggle with cancer. Keith was one of the longest serving Town of Sweden employees ever with more than 35 years service.

Starting as a laborer in 1978, Keith was promoted through the ranks to mechanic, heavy equipment operator, foreman and as deputy superintendent of highways in 2001. He retired in 2012 but came back for winter snow operations for the following two winters.

"The Town of Sweden was Keith's passion," said current Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham who started his career with the Town under Keith's tutelage. "He didn't really have a lot of hobbies, work was his focus. I learned a lot from him and our friendship continued after he retired. He still wanted to keep an eye on the Town."

Ruth Kruppner, the highway department secretary, will be among those who misses Keith the most. "Keith was old school," she said. "He was here day and night, whenever he was needed. The Town and its residents always came first."

Keith was known for his mischievous sense of humor, an attribute that came in handy, according to Brian and Ruth, especially when the crew was tired from long hours of plowing or working through the summer heat.



Keith Beadle, just before his retirement in 2012.

Keith is survived by his wife Kayleen, who has been a key volunteer herself with the Sweden Harvest Festival, their children and grandchildren. The Town extends its deepest condolences to the Beadle family.

From the desk of the Town of Sweden historian

Last fall, the Sweden Farmers Museum had a successful Harvest Festival with demonstrations of spinners, quilters, black smith, steam engines, carving and log sawing. The collection of antique tools and equipment was on display in the barn. In October, fourth and fifth graders came to the museum for Pioneer Day activities.

The museum has received some wonderful donations including a section of a beam from the Staples old barn on Redman Road. It is a solid piece of wood measuring six to eight inches square. Now that's construction material that will last for years! Thank you to Carl Swanger for the donation. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

The museum also has a Bradford Bean Planter invented by William Bradford. Mr. Bradford was an Englishman who came to Sweden in the mid-nineteenth century. It would be interesting to know what drew him to our town. Was he drawn here because of Seymour and Morgan, the Johnson Harvester or the Globe Iron Works? Or did he become interested in farm equipment after moving here?

By 1883, Bradford had invented the bean planter and raised enough money to build a plant to manufacture the bean planter and potato and cabbage diggers.

The Town of Sweden is often thought of as having a distinctly agricultural history but the presence of farm implement manufacturing in the village center was an integral part of its business world as were its other businesses of

producing rotary pumps, flouring mills, shoes and pianos, to name a few.

The Sweden Farmers Museum is open during the summer on Sunday afternoons. The Harvest Festival is scheduled for September 21, 2019.

Kathy Goetz, Historian, Town of Sweden

Mailbox replacement/repair policy

The New York State Attorney General's office has opined that mailboxes are placed within the highway right-of-way under an informal license. As such, the highway department has no legal liability for replacement and/or repair due to snow removal operations. 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.

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.



The Sweden Community Foundation presented the Sweden Town Board with a check for \$148,000 on February 26 to fund a major portion of a Splash Pad being installed at the Sweden Town Park this spring. The Foundation received the monies from a private donor who has been very generous to the Town over the years providing funding for several recreational facilities. Pictured are: Town Board member **Mary Rich**, Foundation member **Jack Milner**, Town Board members **Lori Skoog**, **Patricia Hayles** and **Bob Muesebeck**, Foundation President **Wayne Zyra**, Foundation members **Richard Booth** and **Buddy Lester** and Sweden Supervisor **Kevin Johnson**.

Supervisor's message

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mation with her. I believe we can work together to understand better how to deal with this issue.

Many of the classes I took had to deal with various aspects of municipal finances. A town supervisor is the chief fiscal officer and with a \$5.5 million budget, I take that responsibility very seriously. Some of the financial subjects I studied were: proper use of fund balances, accounting and reporting for indebtedness, procurement rules, water and sewer district creation, managing health care costs and others. I also learned about LED lighting grant opportunities, perhaps for some of our lighting districts.

Back in Sweden, two new projects have come before the Town. Canandaigua National Bank has filed an application with the Planning Board for subdivision and site plan approval to construct a 2,400 square foot bank on the corner of Route 19 and Route 31 (Wegmans' corner). The public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 7 pm at the Sweden Town Hall.

Stonehaven Commercial has filed an application with the Town Board for the rezoning of 50 acres to the south of the current Stonebriar Glen subdivision being constructed on the south side of Fourth Section Road across from Hartshorn Drive. The developer would like to construct an additional 159 townhomes, duplexes and apartments following the completion of the first project.

The public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm. It is likely that the Town Board will also call a public hearing for the same evening on a petition to allow Stonebriar Glen 2 to be admitted to the Fourth Section Road northside sewer district. Plans and documents for both Canandaigua National Bank and Stonebriar Glen 2 are available at the Town Hall for the public to inspect. No decisions will be made until after public hearings are held.

Finally, a quick update on public water expansion—we have begun preparing a USDA Rural Development funding application for a district comprised of Lake Road to the Bergen line; Redman Road, between Fourth Section and White Road; and Countryview Terrace. More details will follow as we move through the lengthy process.

Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor

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