



Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 15, Issue 2

Summer 2016



IN MEMORY OF
NICHOLAS J. REID
US ARMY STAFF SERGEANT

DIED IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS.
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS"
JOHN 15:13

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A message from the supervisor's office

On June 11, the Town of Sweden was joined by the New York Warrior Alliance, NYS Patriot Guard, local veterans, the family and friends of US Army Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid and others to dedicate a gazebo in memory of the fallen soldier.

Staff Sgt. Reid grew up in the Town of Sweden and graduated from Brockport High School before enlisting in the army. He passed away in December 2012 after suffering injuries from an IED explosion in Sperwan, Afghanistan. Reid is interred in Sweden's Lakeview Cemetery, the site of the gazebo.

Deputy Supervisor Robert Muese-

beck, who is also president of the Brockport Area Vet's Club, hosted the dedication ceremony. Besides the previously mentioned groups, Mr. Muesebeck thanked the Sweden Harvest Festival Committee that raised the funds for the gazebo, Dave Kern, who built the gazebo and the Sweden highway department for pouring the gazebo pad. Brockport and Holley Fire Departments provided aerial trucks to hoist an American flag over Sergeant Reid's grave during the ceremony.

Nick's parents, Ken and Dorothy Reid, and his sister Susan and her husband were in attendance. Ken spoke of his

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2016 assessment review period concludes

The 2016 annual assessment review period has ended. Five property owners (three residential, two commercial) filed with the Board of Assessment Review which met on May 24. The Town of Sweden has more than 4,400 tax parcels. Property owners have been notified of the decisions by the Board of Assessment Review regarding their individual assessments.

The real property tax law requires that assessors keep property assessments up to date each year. There are various tools that an assessor can use to accomplish this task, including annual reassessment or town wide revaluation. As an assessor, I am competent and fair. I've had over 30 years training and experience. This is why the Sweden

assessment roll is assumed to be correct by the agencies reviewing it. My job is to be fair. I'm not here to be the enemy. If I didn't adjust assessments as needed, some taxpayers would end up paying more than their fair share. My job is about public service not public conflict. The Town does not gain increased revenues if I increase assessments. The same amount of total taxes would be collected whether assessments are adjusted or not. When assessments are kept at market value each year, taxes generally would not go up without an increase in budgeted spending. As the assessor, I have no control over taxes. Taxes are not a function of the assessor.

By keeping the assessment rolls up to date, the Town is being fiscally respon-

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McGrath Awards announced

The Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation has awarded 17 scholarships totaling \$53,000 to local students for the 2016-2017 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.

This year's recipients of the Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship are:

- Isabella Ekeze (Sweden) SUNY Fashion Institute
- Victoria Farrell (Hamlin) RIT
- Zachary Sodoma (Sweden) Alfred State College
- Christopher Sodoma (Sweden) St. John Fisher
- Jesse Vogt (Hamlin) Florida Gulf Coast University
- Sarah Heyden (Hamlin) SUNY Brockport
- Michael Knapp (Hamlin) Niagara University
- Brett Mickey (Sweden) Niagara University
- Cody Travis (Hamlin) St. Bonaventure

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

- Serafina Breslawski (Sweden) SUNY Brockport
- Kristina Roberts (Sweden) SUNY Brockport
- Juliana Schwab (Hamlin) SUNY Brockport
- Alexandra Bradshaw (Hamlin) Niagara University
- Elisia Earle (Hamlin) Monroe Community College
- Taylor Kingsbury (Hamlin) St. John Fisher
- Deagan Voorheis (Sweden) SUNY Geneseo
- Solera Sherry (Hamlin) Buffalo State College

Margaret A. McGrath established the Foundation in 2004 under her will. The Foundation has awarded \$561,000 in scholarships since its formation.

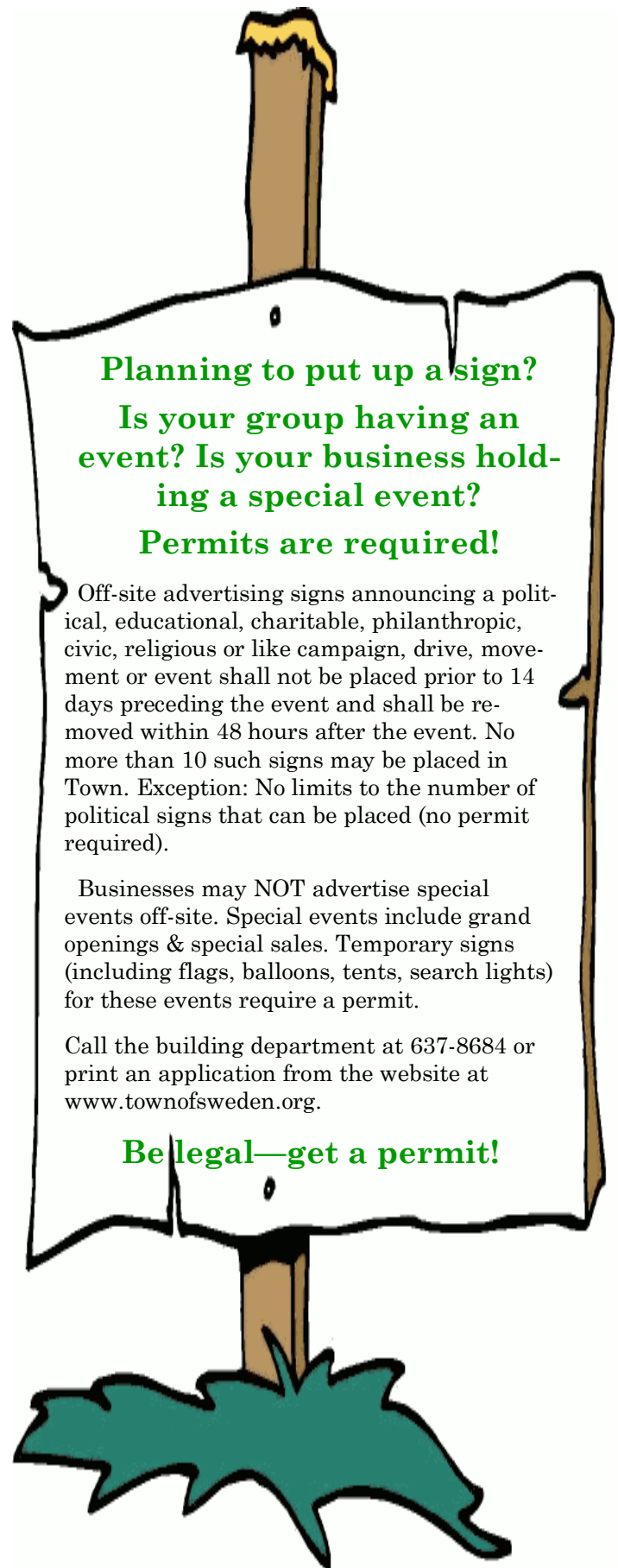
Qualifying 2017 graduating high school seniors and current college students should submit applications for the 2017-2018 academic year by March 1, 2017. For more information, contact Executive Director and Trustee Richard J. Dollard at 637-7170. www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound

Supervisor's message

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son's faith and service to others. Please visit the gazebo at the front of Lakeview Cemetery to pay your respects to Nick and all those who have served our country. Photos from the ceremony fill the back of this newsletter.

Rob Carges, Supervisor



Seniors Choice is well under construction

Seniors Choice at Heritage Square on Redman Road is bustling with activity. The 90-unit apartment complex (two 4-story buildings connected by a one-story common area) began construction during our relatively mild winter months.

The senior living complex will feature 57 independent living units and 33 assisted living units. Rent will include meals, housekeeping, health, wellness and recreation services. The project received COMIDA approval

from Monroe County. It is expected to create 62 new jobs upon completion.



Changes to the STAR program explained

As a result of recent law changes, the STAR program is being restructured.

New STAR applicants will receive a credit in the form of a check directly from New York State instead of receiving a school property tax exemption. The amount of your STAR benefit is the same regardless of how you receive it.

Current Basic and Enhanced STAR exemption recipients will keep their exemptions (which will reflect on your school tax bill) as long as they continue to own their current homes.

New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants need to register with the NYS Tax Department to receive a STAR check. Visit www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 457-2036.

Register by July 1 to receive your STAR check in September. If you register after July 1, you will receive your check at a later date.

The eligibility criteria are the same for both the STAR credit and the STAR property tax exemption. You can't receive both the credit and the exemption.

Basic STAR

The total income of the owners and the owners' spouses who primarily reside at the property must not exceed \$500,000.

Enhanced STAR

The income limit for Enhanced STAR is annually adjusted for inflation. 2017 income limit - \$86,000 and one owner must be at least 65 years of age.

The Assessor's office will still process and handle all Enhanced STAR renewals for current applicants, and a renewal form will be mailed in the Fall, as usual, from my office.

New homeowners will receive a welcome letter from the Assessor's office along with full instructions on how to apply for your STAR check. Please note that if banks/mortgage companies need clarification on how you (as a new homeowner) are receiving your STAR, I welcome them to call my office for further clarification.

We will make this a smooth transition for all.

Darla Emmerson, Assistant to the Assessor, 637-8683

Join us for Summer Camp Fun—2016!

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- Week 1:** 6/27-7/1 Adventure Landing (W)...\$130 Program #4002-A
- Week 2:** 7/5-7/8 Horizon Fun FX (W)...\$115 (4-day week) Program #4002-B
- Week 3:** 7/11-7/15 Sea Breeze (W)...\$135 Program #4002-C
- Week 4:** 7/18-7/22 Red Wings Game (W)...\$130 Program #4002-D
- Week 5:** 7/25-7/29 Seneca Park Zoo (W)...\$125 Program #4002-E
- Week 6:** 8/1-8/5 Charlotte Beach (W)...\$125 Program #4002-F
- Week 7:** 8/8-8/12 Sweden Town Park BBQ (W)...\$130 Program #4002-G
- Week 8:** 8/15-8/19 Darien Lake (W)...\$135 Program #4002-H
- Week 9:** 8/22-8/26 Minnehan's (W)...\$135 Program #4002-I

Camp runs daily Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Early/Late Care: 7-8:30am and 4:30-6pm

\$7 for either or \$12 for both, \$50 entire week for both

Daily rate for residents: \$25, (\$35 on fieldtrip day)

Non-residents: \$30, (\$40 on fieldtrip day)

CIT's (completed 7th grade-starting 9th grade)

Jr. Counselor's (completed 9th grade-starting 11th grade)

CIT's and Jr. Counselors are required to register and pay the daily or weekly rate as above.

Come and spend your summer with us!

Memorial Day observance held at Brockport Vets Club

The community honored soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice at an observance held on May 28 at the Brockport Veterans Club, West Avenue.

Neil Singh (pictured right), a student at Brockport Central Schools, delivered the Memorial Day essay for the second year in a row. Veterans Elliott Reynolds and Roy McCloud (pictured below) placed a wreath during the ceremony. Town and Village Board members Bill Andrews, Rob Carges, Bob Muesebeck, Mary Rich, Lori

Skoog, John LaPierre, Margay Blackman, Ann Crane and Kathy Christiansen were in attendance (bottom right). The ceremony also featured musicians from Brockport Schools and was followed by a chicken barbeque. Muesebeck also serves as president of the Vets Club.



Brush disposal option available

The Town of Sweden Highway Department picks up brush twice a year in the Town outside the Village of Brockport. What does a homeowner do with a tree or large quantity of brush outside those times? The highway department will leave a truck in a homeowner's driveway overnight or over a weekend so that the resident may load the brush for disposal. This service is available only for residential properties and only for brush removal undertaken by the homeowner (if a landscaping company or contractor performs the service, they must also remove the debris). Call 637-3369 to arrange for a highway truck to be dropped off. Truck availability is dependent on the highway department work schedule. The next general brush pick-up will be held in October.

JULY 3 CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS
5K RACE 9 AM @ SWEDEN TOWN PARK
MUSIC & ACTIVITIES 7 PM @ COMMUNITY CENTER
FIREWORKS DUSK @ COMMUNITY CENTER
INFORMATION: 431-0090
MAJOR SPONSOR TJ MAX
SPONSORS: WEGMANS & LOWES

Snapshots: Send ideas, comments and suggestions to Leisa Strabel at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420. Phone: 637-7588; Fax: 431-0039; email: leisas@townofsweden.org

Whittier Road rebuilt as the Town's major 2016 road project

Whittier Road, tucked in the south east corner of the Town, was rebuilt in May. The less than one mile length of road had deteriorated substantially over the last several years and was high on the Town's list of reconstruction road projects. The process used was cold-in-place recycling and then double oiling and stoning.

The Town has a nearly 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 2016 scheduled projects (both Town and County roads). Some of the projects may have already been completed by the time of this newsletter's publication.

The photos below are of the Whittier Road re-construction project in May.

Owens Road	Entire length	Prep work for 2017 oil and stone
Beadle Road	Between Route 19 and Redman Road	Prep work for 2017 oil and stone
Country View Terrace	Entire length	Prep work for 2017 oil and stone
Sweden Walker Road	Between Swamp and Colby	Nova chip
Sweden Walker Road	Between Colby and Route 31	Asphalt overlay
White Road	Between Route 19 and Redman Road	Oil and stone
White Road	Between Redman Road and West Sweden Road	Oil and stone prep work
Salmon Creek Road	Between Colby Street and Beadle Road	Oil and stone
Colby Street	Between Route 19 and Hubble Street	TBD



NOTE: 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.

From the desk of the Sweden Town Historian

It's been a while since you've been brought up to date on the Farmers Museum which is well completed and has been open for tours. Those of you who have come to the autumn Harvest Festival or who have come for a tour have seen the progress and those of you who have not, can come this summer on a Sunday afternoon when it will be open for tours.

We have tried to keep both the interior and the exterior as authentic as possible so you will see kitchen items which would have actually been used by farm wives in the early days of the Town, as well as the herbs they may have grown in their garden for their health and enjoyment and the flowers they planted such as lilacs.

There are two lilac bushes on the side of the house, one near the front and one near the back as they may have once been placed since early settlers thought that it helped to keep evil spirits away. The side garden near the back door, sometimes called a kitchen garden, has a variety of herbs mixed with some flowers. There you will see tansy which was thought to be an insect repellent, chamomile which makes a tea known to relax you (remember Peter Rabbit and the soporific tea his mother made?), feverfew which supposedly cured migraines, as did lemon balm, violets were also once used medicinally. But do come yourself and see what else we have growing in our small kitchen/herb garden.

You can envision a farm wife, making ice cream on a summer day, churning butter from the rich, creamy milk she had gotten that morning from old Bessie, or spinning wool shorn from the sheep they raise. After spinning the wool into warm, thick yarn, she will use it to knit heavy sweaters to warm her family during our long, cold winters. Or perchance, you can imagine her using some fabric to fashion a colorful quilt she will work on during that same snowy winter. There is also a display room with old maps of the Town. You might be able to see where an ancestor of yours once farmed. There are historic books, photos and a salesman's sample reaper and many more interesting items.

After seeing the house, you have to see the barn which is full of items of long ago that farmers used to plant, hoe, flail, build, husk and harvest! The old gambrel roofed barn has been well restored and is part of the museum but it is also used by the Town, an excellent example of saving money.

The Farm House can be rented for meetings, courses, family gatherings, small showers and functions. The barn is a great venue for larger parties such as graduations, anniversaries and weddings. With the current interest in barn weddings, it has been the site of some beautiful ceremonies. If you are interested in renting, call the Recreation Department at 431-0090. Be sure to come by for a visit and a tour this summer during July and August



when the museum will be open rain or shine on Sunday afternoons.

Kathleen Goetz, Town Historian

Assessments

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sible. Not only are we eligible for state aid, we save money with fewer tax certioraris. All five grievances filed this year had satisfactory results. For assessment information, please call 637-8683.

Tony Eaffaldano, IAO Assessor

Potable water available for residents

Potable water is available at no charge to Sweden residents at the Highway Garage, 40 White Road. The spigot is located on the west side of the building and is accessible even after regular business hours. Residents who are on well water may make use of this free service for drinking water only. It is not intended to be used to fill swimming pools. Commercial haulers are prohibited. For more information about the service, call the highway garage at 637-3369.

Honoring US Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Reid

