



# Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 18, Issue 2

Summer 2019

## A message from the supervisor's office

After one of the soggiest springs in recent memory, the Town of Sweden is poised to have an outstanding summer. We opened the new Splash Pad at Sweden Town Park on June 8 to the delight of children and parents! Many thanks to Monroe County Planning and Development, the Sweden Community Foundation and the generosity of an anonymous donor for helping us make the Splash Pad a reality! Read about the Splash Pad operation and rules on page 3 of this newsletter, and call the Community Center at 431-0090 for more information.

Our focus now is on infrastructure improvements. You will see the highway department all over Town working on a variety of projects.

The repaving of Hollybrook was completed in May. That was the first part of our \$1.4 million road and parking lot improvement project. Three parking lots will be repaved or chip sealed this summer: the Town Hall (on three Saturdays), the Town Park Lodge and the Community Center. The bonded road work will resume on West Canal in July and August.

Our CHIPS project this year is a 300-foot cured in place pipe lining project on Gary Drive in July and August. We also have county road work scheduled on Reed Road (west of Route 19), Gordon Road and Gallup Road. Finally, several



**Kevin G. Johnson**

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## Water grant request filed with RD

On May 10, the Town of Sweden submitted an application to the USDA Office of Rural Development for funding of a new water district on Lake Road (north of Swamp to the Bergen town line), Redman Road (between Fourth Section Road and White Road) and all of Country View Terrace.

The district would provide public water to 73 existing single family homes, one apartment building and one commercial building. It would also provide fire hydrants.

The estimated cost of the project is \$4.3 million and Sweden is seeking funding that would bring the cost

within the NYS Comptroller's threshold of affordability. The 2019 threshold for new water districts is \$898 per year per parcel inclusive of debt service and water consumption. It will likely be some months before Sweden learns the outcome of its grant application.

If Rural Development offers the Town a financial package, members of the proposed district will be asked to sign a petition agreeing to the estimated costs. Major participation from property owners will be needed.

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# Supervisor's message

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streets in Sweden Village will be chip sealed and other roads will be prepped for work next year. Our Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham does an excellent job informing residents and businesses before a project starts on their road.

The re-cladding of the Community Center will be completed by mid-summer (see photo below) and we have begun to study the renovation of the restrooms at the Community Center. A generous gift from Walmart and the Sweden Community Foundation will bring a new dishwasher to the facility this fall.

I continue to push for safety improvements on Route 31 despite having several requests turned down by the NYS DOT. The DOT has agreed to install a two-way left turn lane in the Sherry Lane vicinity, although no date has been scheduled. Our joint grant application with the Village of Brockport for sidewalks from State Street to Owens Road to Route 31 was also denied by the NYS DOT. We may re-apply next year or we may try to seek a different source of funding for that important safety project.

We were successful in obtaining Community Development Block grant funding for sidewalks on Holley Street from where they currently end at the Village line westward to Redman Road (read more about this project on page 6 of this newsletter).

We are in the planning stages of two lighting improvement projects: one is the conversion of interior lights at the Town Hall, Highway Garage and Community Center to more energy efficient options. There is a small capital investment at the beginning of the pro-

ject with the investment returned in energy savings over a 1.5– 5 year period. We will likely go forward with those projects in the fall.

We are also looking at a street lighting energy conversion project for the commercial district and the streets lights that light intersections outside of our residential subdivisions. This would involve the replacement of 96 fixtures and while we are in an earlier stage of this project, it could potentially go forward this fall or next spring.

The Town Board accepted, with regret, the retirement of Frank Fisher from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Frank has faithfully served our community for more than two decades in this capacity and I thank him sincerely for his service. We have advertised for a replacement and will likely make the appointment at our June or July meeting.

I will be appointing members to a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee shortly with Deputy Supervisor Bob Muesebeck as the chair. The latest Comprehensive Plan review was begun in 2013 and adopted by the Board in 2015. I don't believe that this review will take as long as the previous process. The committee will be comprised of members of our various support boards as well as members of the community at large.

I am spear-heading a project to fully identify all veterans' graves at our cemeteries (please read more about this on page 6). Our focus will be on Lakeview Cemetery first and then move to our smaller cemeteries.

Finally, on May 28, the Town Board denied an Incentive Zoning request from Helios Energy NY, LLC for the purpose of installing a solar farm on Lake Road across from the end of Shumway.

Please feel free to call me at 637-7588 or send an email to [supervisor@townofsweden.org](mailto:supervisor@townofsweden.org) if you have questions about any of these projects.

**Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor**



## Summer schedules

The Sweden Town Hall is now on its summer schedule of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. It will return to 9 am to 5 pm hours after Labor Day. The tax receiver is on limited hours for the summer, call 637-2145 for information.

Board meeting schedules are also reduced for the summer. The Town Board holds one regular meeting a month (instead of two) on the fourth Tuesday for June, July and August. The Planning Board meets only once (instead of twice), on the second Monday of June, July and August.

## Sweden Town Park Splash Pad opened June 8

The Sweden Town Park Splash Pad opened on Saturday, June 8 following an opening day ceremony. The Splash Pad, located at the Sweden Town Park on Redman Road, is now open from 10 am to 7 pm daily through Labor Day. The Splash Pad is unsupervised; participants use at their own risk. All organizations and/or groups of eight or more users must obtain a group permit prior to visiting. Group permits are available at the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. Please call 431-0090 for more information.

Other rules include:

- \* Swim diapers are required for children not potty-trained.
- \* Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult (over age 16).
- \* Persons over the age of 16 must be in the company of children.
- \* No pets, with the exception of service animals, are allowed on the Splash Pad.
- \* The use of tobacco products and alcohol are prohibited on the Splash Pad.
- \* Glass containers are not permitted on the Splash Pad.
- \* Skateboards, scooters, roller blades, bikes and other riding toys are not permitted on the Splash Pad.
- \* Running, pushing and horseplay are not permitted on the Splash Pad.
- \* Climbing, hanging, swinging and pulling on Splash Pad equipment are not permitted.



\* Loud inappropriate or vulgar behavior or music is not permitted on the Splash Pad.

\* The Splash Pad must be vacated when there are any signs of thunder, lightning or severe weather.

The Splash Pad was funded in part by an \$85,000 grant from Monroe County Planning and Development and by a \$148,000 anonymous gift through the Sweden Community Foundation.

The Splash Pad is adjacent to the accessible playground installed in the fall of 2018. The accessible playground was made possible through a \$250,000 grant from Senator Rob Ort's office. A picnic pavilion connects the two play areas and restrooms are located conveniently nearby.

The Sweden Town Park has become a popular destination for family events and parties with a year-round Lodge for rent and several seasonal pavilions and shelters available for gatherings of different sizes. For more information about any of the park facilities, call 431-0090.

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## New York State passes changes to voting laws

Changes made by the New York State Legislature regarding voting laws will impact the way Sweden residents vote in 2019 elections. First up is the primary election that will be held on Tuesday, June 25. **ALL** voting by Town of Sweden residents will take place at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, not at the usual polling places. Polling places will return to normal for the general election in November

Primary voters must be enrolled with a political party in order to participate. Check with the Monroe County Board of Elections to determine your political party enrollment if you are unsure.

Early voting will be available for the first time this fall

for the general election on November 5. Early Voting Centers will be open beginning on October 26 daily through November 3. There will NOT be an early Voting Center located in the Town of Sweden, however, Town of Sweden voters will be assigned to use the early Voting Center in the Town of Ogden. The early Voting Center will be open at different times on different days. None of the votes cast at an early Voting Center are counted until election day. Obviously, if you vote at the early Voting Center, you cannot vote again on election day.

For information about all of the voting changes that will occur in 2019, please contact the Board of Elections at 753-1550 or visit [www.monroecounty.gov/elections](http://www.monroecounty.gov/elections).

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## Town encourages and supports training of board members

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity in late April to represent the Town of Sweden Zoning Board of Appeals at the New York Planning Federation Annual Conference. Over 370 people attended the conference, representing municipalities from all over New York State. The Town of Sweden has a long-standing membership in the Federation, which offers tremendous training opportunities and resources for both Zoning and Planning Boards.

The great strength and benefit of the Planning Federation's Annual Conference is the unique blend of:

- Presentations by professional planners, attorneys, engineers, vendors in this particular marketplace, as well as individual planning and zoning board members who have real-life experience and case studies to share.
- A wide variety of topics to choose from in the seminars.
- Question and answer time with presenters in every seminar, as well as off-hours opportunities for discussion with presenters and Federation staff during meals and in the Hall of Exhibitors.
- Different session topics geared toward both novice and veteran board members.
- Highly relevant topics as the presenters are all individuals actually working in the field and seeing the current trends.

Some of the sessions I attended included *Rules of Civility in Public Meetings*; *Social Media & Project Review Panel* (Case Study of Legoland being built in Gosen, NY); *SEQR Basics for Planning and ZBA Members*; *Zoning Trends in the Consumer Marketplace* (real-life cases of current trends such as food trucks Air B&B, Doggie Day Care, "Tenters" and Horse Boarding).

The Planning Federation and the individual presenters are all willing to share their information, and I was able to bring back printouts or links so that the other Sweden Planning Board and ZBA members can benefit from the conference as well.

Special thanks for the opportunity to attend the conference go to: the Sweden Town Board; Planning/Building/Zoning Department Head Phyllis Brudz; and ZBA Chairperson Mary Ann Thorpe.

**Kevin M. Johnson**, Member

Sweden Zoning Board of Appeals

## Bonadio report to help municipalities strengthen Seymour Library

More than 70 residents attended a meeting at the Sweden Town Park Lodge on April 30 for the presentation of the Bonadio Report, a look at the operations and finances of the Seymour Library. The three-month study looked into operational performance; cash management and transparency; governance and decision-making; asset responsibility and ownership; and planning.

The report addressed several questions: Did the Seymour Library have a million dollars? How much money does the library have now (and who has it)? How is Seymour performing versus other Monroe County libraries and compared to other similar libraries in New York State? Is Seymour's performance improving or declining? Is the library under-funded or under-performing? How should the budget gap be addressed?

Questions continued with: Is the governance model optimal? Who should own and who should be responsible for library assets? What should be done going forward?

Total operating costs for the Seymour Library (2016) were \$28.08 per capita (Sweden, Brockport and Clarkson population). That is on the low end of costs in Monroe County (15<sup>th</sup> of 17). However, when compared to 25 similar libraries across the state, Seymour performs in about the middle of the pack – 15<sup>th</sup> of 25.

Some of the key points included that circulation volume/

door count/hours have eroded 10-11%; Seymour borrowing materials from other libraries has increased 128%; programs performance is "good" but flattening; computer log-ons have declined 34%; and meeting room request have increased 78%.

Some of the recommendations include: more funding for operations, however these funds must be for specific library materials and programs with measurable outcomes; regular financial reports should be submitted to the municipalities; a designated finance committee should directly oversee accounting and banking functions; municipalities should assume clear responsibility for the building and grounds; library board liaisons should be eliminated (in order to remove a middle layer of governance); and a strategic plan should be developed.

The Sweden Town Board has developed a draft plan that addresses five major areas: governance, finance, capital building, facility operations and library services. The Clarkson Town Board, Brockport Village Board and Seymour Library Board have also been working on responses to the Bonadio recommendations. Sweden Supervisor Kevin Johnson shared Sweden's proposals with Brockport and Clarkson on June 5. The Boards will continue to work together to finalize a path forward that will strengthen the finances and operation of the library.

The Town of Sweden Highway Department just took delivery of a 2019 John Deere Tractor with Tiger Mowing equipment. **Everett Peake** has been mowing the Town and County roadsides since 1987. He started with a 1975 International Tractor, then moved to a 1991 Case Tractor with flail mower and sickle bar.

The 2019 John Deere is a major change from the Case Tractor in technology and design. Featuring a side arm boom and advanced electronic controls in the cab, the two tractors could not be more dissimilar! Everett is certainly up to the task of learning the new piece of equipment, according to Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham. Look for Everett to be mowing a road side near you soon!

*Photo by Ruth Kruppner*



## Planning Board approved projects move forward this summer

Canandaigua National Bank held a ground-breaking ceremony on May 15 for its newest location on the Wegmans' property at the intersection of Routes 31 and 19. Bank officials expect construction to be complete within six to nine months. All traffic will enter and exit the bank parking lot from the Wegmans' interior road.

The Frances II Apartments project on Owens Road received a \$3.4 million grant from the NYS Homes and Community Renewal 2018 Unified Funding Application to construct 48 affordable apartments in the Town. The Planning Board approved the subdivision and site plan last fall. Developers expect construction to begin in the fall of 2019.

## Margaret A. McGrath Foundation awards local scholarships

The Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation has awarded 16 scholarships totaling \$66,000 to local students for the 2019-2020 academic school year. Two types of scholarships are offered to residents of the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin. The Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship is awarded to those majoring in business; the Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship is awarded to those majoring in elementary education. Scholarships are for undergraduate and graduate studies.

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

- Wilson Huang—Rochester Institute of Technology
- Jacob Lewis—University of Buffalo
- Christopher Sodoma—St. John Fisher College
- Jacob Vinch—St. Johns Fisher College
- Joseph McNulty—Roberts Wesleyan College
- Ann Marie Marseglia—St. John Fisher College
- Anthony Polizzi—Case Western Reserve
- Quinlan Ignaszak—Finger Lakes Comm. College

- Regan Nugent—Niagara University
- Taylor ReQua—Niagara University
- John Rath—SUNY Oswego
- Laney Sodoma—Ithaca College

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

- Julia Pacitto—SUNY Oswego
- Kyle Palka—SUNY Brockport
- Juliana Schwab—SUNY Brockport
- Solera Sherry—Buffalo State College

Margaret A. McGrath established the Foundation in 2004 under her will to provide scholarships to the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin. The Foundation has awarded \$745,000 in scholarships since its formation.

Qualifying 2020 graduating high school seniors and current college students should submit applications for the 2020–2021 academic year by March 1, 2020. For further information, contact Richard J. Dollard, Executive Director and Trustee at 637-7170; website [www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound](http://www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound)

## Habitat fragmentation

Simply stated, habitat fragmentation is the separation of a natural landscape into various land uses (roads, housing, commercial uses, agriculture, etc.) resulting in numerous small, distinct habitat parcels. Stated another way, it is a process whereby an expanse of habitat is transformed into a number of smaller areas isolated from each other by a matrix of habitats unlike the original. Habitat fragmentation includes 6 discrete processes:

- Reduction in the total area of the habitat
- Increase in the amount of edge habitat
- Decrease in the amount of interior habitat
- Isolation of one habitat fragment from other areas of habitat
- Breaking up of one parcel of habitat into several smaller parcels
- Decrease in the average size of each parcel of habitat

Habitat fragmentation can be caused by geological processes, which slowly alter the layout of the land and physical environment. This natural process is one of the major causes of speciation (the process by which new biological species arise). On the other hand, habitat fragmentation caused by human activity, which can alter the environment rapidly, is implicated in the extinction of many species.

Habitat fragmentation involves some amount of habitat destruction. Sessile animals and plants in this area are directly destroyed. Mobile animals retreat into remnant parcels of habitat, which leads to crowding and increased competition. The remaining fragments are often much smaller than the original habitat. Species able to move between fragments may use more than one fragment for survival. Species unable to move between fragments must try to survive with much less habitat.

Species dependent upon habitat interiors are especially vulnerable to fragmentation and they suffer great losses. Edge dependent species (including invasive species and predators) thrive. The edge habitat alters the plant community as well by impacting the microclimate (light, soil, temperature, moisture and wind conditions).

Some species like white-tailed deer, raccoons, rats, turkeys and cowbirds benefit from edge habitats, but gener-

ally edge habitats are detrimental to overall biodiversity. Edge effects include:

- Higher predation rates
- Loss of native species
- Promote the growth of opportunistic species (often invasive species)
- Loss of songbird nests
- Loss of biodiversity
- Increased plant desiccation
- Influence the animal species for at least 300 feet of the forest's edge
- More frequent and more severe wildfires

Habitat fragmentation initiates changes that percolate through ecosystems. It has the capacity to generate relentless, deleterious, and often unforeseen ramifications.

**Kathy Harter**, Chairperson

Environmental Conservation Board

## Holley Street sidewalk project receives grant funding

The Town of Sweden has received preliminary notification of the receipt of \$68,000 in a Community Development Block Grant for the installation of a sidewalk on Holley Street. The 3,000 foot-long sidewalk would be placed on the north side of Holley Street from where sidewalks currently end at the village line westward to Redman Road. The new sidewalk would connect into existing sidewalks on Redman Road.

The town engineer is preparing the construction documents and once the grant funding is finalized, the Town will bid the project. Construction would like take place in early 2020.

## Veterans' grave marker project

Prior to Memorial Day each year, the Town of Sweden engages volunteers to help place flags at veterans' graves at Lakeview Cemetery. The list and map used by the Town seems to be incomplete and is a little confusing for volunteers to use. In an effort to make sure that all veterans are honored and that the task is simplified for flag-placers, Supervisor Kevin Johnson is seeking volunteers to help complete a new inventory and map of veterans' graves at Lakeview. Once Lakeview's inventory is complete, Johnson would like to extend the effort to all the other town-owned cemeteries in Sweden.

Anyone who would like to volunteer time to help with this project, should call Supervisor Johnson's office at 637-7588 or email [supervisor@townofsweden.org](mailto:supervisor@townofsweden.org).

### July 3 Celebration & Fireworks

Music, Activities, games & food

7 pm @ Community Center

4927 Lake Road

Fireworks Dusk at dusk

Information: 431-0090



The replacement of the Nietopski Field outfield fence (east half) was completed in time for baseball season. Nietopski Field was constructed in 2008 and the wooden fence was made possible by the generous donations of baseball fans.

Strong winds at the park place tremendous strain on the eastern half of the fence. The replacements posts are metal, which should fair better than the original wooden posts. The fence will be painted after the wood has been allowed to dry.



## The benefits of obtaining a town building permit

This information is used with the permission of the International Code Council®.

### What is a building permit?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications.

### When do you need a permit?

Call the Town of Sweden building department at 637-8684 to determine if you need a building permit for projects in the Town outside the Village of Brockport.

### Permits are usually required for the following:

- New buildings
- Additions to buildings
- Residential work (decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, etc)
- Renovations (garage conversions, basement furnishings, kitchen expansions, etc)
- Electrical systems
- Plumbing systems
- HVAC (heating, ventilating, air conditioning)

## THE SIMPLE PERMIT PROCESS

### Talk to your local code official

A visit to the Town of Sweden building department will provide you with the requirements, the proper application forms, referrals to other departments/agencies if needed and the information you need for compliance with applicable building codes.

### Submit application

The application will document the details of the job along with sketches and plans.

### Review process

A Sweden code official will review your plans and determine if your project is in compliance with local requirements. If your plans meet the requirements, a permit is issued. If not, the code official may suggest solutions to help correct the problem.

### Receive permit

A fee is collected based on the size of the job, you are given a signed permit and you have legal permission to start construction. Separate permits are typically required for electrical and plumbing work.

### Job-site inspections

On-site inspections are required to make certain the work conforms to the permit, local codes and plans. The Sweden building department will let you know approximately how many inspections may be needed for your project. Usually, a one or two-day notice is needed to schedule an inspection.

### Final approval

The code official will provide documentation when construction is complete and code compliance is determined. You will likely receive a certificate of occupancy or compliance at completion.

Our best recommendation is for you to get your Sweden building department involved with your project from the beginning!

**Phyllis Brudz**, Planning, Building & Zoning Depart.

## Celebrate the Soldiers Memorial Tower on July 12

Join the Town of Sweden for a celebration of the Soldiers' Memorial Tower on Friday, July 12 at 6 pm. The Tower is located on Owens Road and is accessed by a trail leading from the firehall parking lot (east side of Owens Road next to the railroad tracks).

Earlier this year, the Town received a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for the installation of a National Register of Historic Places sign.

The July 12th ceremony will include a dedication of the sign and participation from the 140th New York Volunteer Infantry Living History Organization (more commonly known as Civil War reenactors); a reading of the Gettysburg Address and music. Note:

the event may include cannon or musket firing.

The Town of Sweden has owned and maintained the property since 2012 and completed tower stabilization/restoration projects in 2013 and 2015. Look for more information in a future *Suburban News* ad.



## Sweden Harvest Festival scheduled for September 21

The Town of Sweden will host the annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 21 from 9 am-3 pm at the Sweden Farmers Museum, 4988 Lake Road. There will be

demonstrations, tours, tractors, live animals, vendors, food and fun for the whole family!

Vendors are welcome. For more festival information, call 637-4895 or email [whitefarm@frontiernet.net](mailto:whitefarm@frontiernet.net)

## Summer Camp 2019

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 \$30 (\$40 on field trip days). The daily rate for non-residents is \$35 (\$45 on field trip days). The weekly schedule is:

**Week 1:** 6/24-6/28 (four-day week) Clubhouse Greece on Wednesday \$130

**Week 2:** 7/1-7/3 (three-day week). Hamlin Beach on Tuesday \$100

**Week 3:** 7/8-7/12 Sky Zone on Wednesday \$160

**Week 4:** 7/15-7/21 Minnehans Fun Ctr Wednesday \$160

**Week 5:** 7/22-7/26 Darien Lake Wednesday \$160

**Week 6:** 7/29-8/2 Town Park BBQ Wednesday \$160

**Week 7:** 8/5-8/9 Seabreeze on Wednesday \$160

**Week 8:** 8/12-8/16 Foam Dart Battle Wednesday \$160

**Week 9:** 8/19-8/23 Buffalo Zoo on Wednesday \$160

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

**Supervisor**

**Deputy Supervisor**

**Councilperson**

**Councilperson**

**Councilperson**

**18 State St. Brockport, NY 14420**

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