



Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 16, Issue 4

Winter 2017

A final message from Supervisor Carges

Twenty-four years on the Sweden Town Board seems like a lifetime... and it is for my youngest son Kevin who wasn't born yet when I was first sworn in as a Councilperson January 1, 1994. I wasn't new to Sweden Town government as I had served on the Environmental Conservation Board for two years.

I went on to serve 20 years as a councilperson, the last 12 of those as deputy supervisor. On December 31, I will end my second two-year term as supervisor.

My tenure has been marked by tremendous changes at the Sweden Town Hall and in our community. When I started in 1994, there were no computers at the Town Hall—minutes were done on a typewriter;

the Village of Brockport occupied the east side of the building and the Brockport Police Department the basement; smoking was allowed in the building. Millennials can't remember a time indoor smoking was permitted.

In fact smoking in the building was the first major personnel issue I dealt with on the Town Board. Former Supervisor and Town Attorney Dale Rath told me that personnel issues were the hardest part of the job, and he was right. There are only three employees remaining who pre-date me so I've been involved in the hiring of almost every current Town employee.

It seems that most issues that were controversial over the past 24 years have turned out ok - the Boards I've served on have made thoughtful, pragmatic and progressive decisions.

One of those was to lease the water system to the Monroe County Water Authority. That has saved Sweden taxpayers thousands of dollars and led to many water system improvements.

The Town hadn't created any new water districts in almost 30 years when we created the Gallup Skidmore



Robert A. Carges

Water District. We followed that up with five more. We also expanded the Town sewer system for the first time in 30 years. None of those expansions was easy to accomplish—even the best projects are not unanimous endeavors.

Believe it or not, acquiring both the Sweden Town Park (for a dollar) and the Sweden Clarkson Community Center (donated) were controversial, but they've proven to be tremendous assets for our residents. I'm especially proud of the Dog Park we built within the town park two years ago and the Lodge which is nearly completion (see page 4).

As the Brockport School District IT Director (until last January), I con-

Inside this issue:

Mailbox replacement	2
Christmas tree disposal	2
Thank you Justice Hammel	2
Board meeting dates	2
Town & County tax info	2
Entrance project complete	3
Building dept. update	3
2018 assessment process	3
Cemetery winter operations	3
Lodge at park	4
McGrath scholarships	4
Recreation programs	4

continued on page 4

Board meeting dates for 2018

The Sweden Town Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm for regular Town Board meetings. The exceptions are July and August when only one meeting on the fourth Tuesday will be held. In January 2018, the Town Board will hold its organizational meeting at 5 pm on January 2. At the organizational meeting, newly elected public officials are sworn in and the Town's annual appointments are made. The second January meeting of the month will be held on January 23. The final monthly meeting of December 2017 will be held at 5 pm on Thursday, December 28.

In addition, the Town Board holds workshops on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Occasionally workshops are cancelled due to no agenda.

The Sweden Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month (excluding June, July and August) at 7 pm in the east conference room. Occasionally meetings are cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The Sweden Zoning Board of Appeals meets only as needed upon application for a variance. The Environmental Conservation Board meets on the first and third Fridays at 9 am in the east conference room. Finally, the

Board of Assessment Review meets annually on the fourth Tuesday in May.

All meetings of Sweden Boards are open to the public and are usually held at the Town Hall, 18 State St.

Town and county tax information

The 2018 Town and County Tax bills will be mailed out the first week of January. Tax Receiver hours starting January 2 will be Monday—Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Important dates to remember are: February 10 full payments or the first installment is due (because February 10 falls on a Saturday this year, these first payments will be accepted on Monday, February 12); 2nd installments will be collected February 11—28; third installments March 1—31; and 4th installments, April 1—30. Unpaid tax bills after this date are turned over to Monroe County for collection.

If you don't receive a tax bill, if you are in the midst of a property transfer or have recently paid off a mortgage, or if you have any other tax questions, please call 637-2145 and I would be happy to help resolve the situation.

Kathleen Bahr-Seever, Receiver of Taxes

Thank you to Justice Allyn Hammel

The Town of Sweden thanks retiring Clarkson Justice Allyn Hammel for serving as an interim judge on the Town of Sweden Bench since the resignation of Justice Kevin Johnson in April (to pursue the Town Supervisor's seat). Judge Hammel's willingness to serve provided con-

tinuity and professionalism in the Sweden Courtroom during the nine-month vacancy.

On January 2, 2018 Anthony Perry will be sworn in as Sweden's newest judge to serve a full four-year term. Perry joins Justice Robert Connors, Chief Court Clerk Tracy Caporale and Court Clerk Stacy Burke.

Highway department has mailbox replacement 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.

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 mail-

box. Those arrangements can be made by calling the highway department at 637-3369.

In addition, please make sure that garbage totes and recycle bins are not on the road or shoulder. The highway department makes every effort not to hit totes or bins, but it is often difficult to see them during plowing operations. Thank you.

Christmas tree disposal available

Town of Sweden residents (in the town outside the Village of Brockport) may place Christmas trees curbside and the Highway Department will pick them up as scheduling allows.

Christmas trees are ground up in the spring and used for mulch. Trees should be free of all ornamentation including tinsel. For more information about the Christmas tree recycling program, call the highway department at 637-3369.

Town Hall entrance renovation project completed

The Town Hall entrance renovation project was completed just before Thanksgiving. Several of the concrete pavers had heaved and/or crumbled over the years. Supervisor Rob Carges suggested a brick pattern to be incorporated into the replacement pad in order to tie into the brick sidewalk look of Main Street. Last year, the exterior overhead lighting was replaced with high efficiency fixtures.

The stand-alone sign at the front was removed. Town Hall business hours are posted on a sign on the front door. Meeting schedules, locations and times can be found on the town's website at www.townofsweden.org or by calling the Clerk's office at 637-2144.

Building department continues permit closures

Recently the building department sent out letters in regards to the numerous expired permits that were still on file with the Town. We would like to say a big **thank you** to the many residents who responded. We have closed out over half of those permits.

There are still over 20 expired permits in the files and we are preparing tickets to be sent out in the very near future to those property owners. If you have an expired permit, there is still time to contact the Building Department to make arrangements to finalize your project. By working together, we can figure out a solution that is agreeable to everyone, while still meeting code requirements. Please call 637-8684 with questions.

2018 assessment update

Please note that applications for exemptions must be received by March 1, 2018. The low income Senior Citizens Exemption renewals will be mailed out mid-January. In order to qualify for this exemption, one of the owners must be 65 years old or older in the calendar year 2018 and gross income must be below \$37,399.

We will be performing an assessment update in 2018 so you will see the assessor performing field reviews and taking pictures. There will be signs on the vehicle and the assessor carries identification.

New change of assessment notices will be mailed in March. As part of the 2018 update, commercial properties will be reviewed. In January, the assessment office will mail Income and Expense Statements to commercial property owners. This is important information for the assessment office to have in order to establish equitable values. If you have an assessment questions, please call 637-8683.

Tammy J. Baker, Assessor



Lakeview closed for season

Lakeview Cemetery is now closed for burials for the winter season. Visitors may still access the cemetery but please pay attention to snow and ice conditions as the plowing of highways takes precedence at this time of year. Cemetery questions may be directed to 637-3369.

Last winter/spring many trees at the historical cemetery were damaged and had to be removed. In the fall edition of the *Snapshots* we announced that the public could purchase replacement trees. John and Ricki DeBaun donated a Honey Locust Tree and Mrs. Irene Rogers donated a Sunset Maple Tree. The Town has also planted Paperbark Maple, Evergreen and Flowering Cherry trees. All the trees were purchased locally from Salmon Creek Nursery. The Town Plans to continue the tree replacement program in the spring.

The Farmers Museum, located on the grounds of the cemetery, is open. The facility may be used for education and funeral events. Call 637-3369 for information.

The new Lodge at the Sweden Town Park is nearing completion. Nestled between Kepler's Pond and a wooded area, the Lodge will feature a gas fireplace, well-equipped kitchen, accommodations for 99 guests and an outdoor patio.

The Lodge may be rented for events like graduation, anniversary and birthday parties; weddings and showers; business luncheons, etc. Reservations will be handled through the Recreation Department. Call 431-0090 for information. Although the exact date for opening isn't set yet—it will be soon!



Supervisor's office continued

stantly tried to push the Town forward with technology—computers, telephone systems, e-mail and websites. I proposed the Town newsletter—the *Snapshots* and it's still going strong after 16 years.

Other major changes have been the creation of the Brockport Fire District, ambulance service and the leasing of the former senior center. I feel that I have made great strides in improving the working relationship between Town and Village.

The Town became responsible for three cemeteries during my tenure; we performed the first town-wide assessment update (2001) since 1970 and although we've seen little residential growth, the commercial development and re-development has been strong. We celebrated the Town's 200th birthday in 2014. It was a privilege to be the Supervisor during that historic time.

My favorite part of the job has been working with the outstanding Town staff. They're a great group of people who work hard for our citizens. The most frustrating part of the job is the state mandates that create unnecessary red-tape and costs at the local level.

Dealing with emergencies is part of the Supervisor's job—the wind shear Labor Day 1998, the blizzard two years ago. We've also dealt with the deaths of employees.

I'd like to thank my wife Karen and sons Andy, Pete, Sam and Kevin for enduring 24 years of Tuesday night absences and "shop" talk at home. I couldn't have done it without their support. All four boys finished college and two got married while I was in office.

I'd like to thank all the Board members I've served with, all the employees I've worked with and all the residents who elected me to the Board seven times. I know that the Town is in capable hands with the new administration and with its dedicated employees. I wish all of you the best in the New Year.

Robert A. Carges, Supervisor

McGrath scholarship apps due March 1

Scholarship applications for the Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation are due March 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 Academic School Year.

The Foundation offers two types of scholarships to the residents of the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin. The Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in business. The Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in Elementary Education. The scholarships are available to students who are enrolled full time in either undergraduate school or graduate school meeting the scholarship requirements.

Qualifying 2018 graduating high school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply. A total of \$616,000 has been awarded since 2005. For further information contact Richard Dollard, Executive Director at 637-7170, email mcgrathfound@outlook.com or visit www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound.

Check out our recreation programs!

The new year is ringing new recreation programs and offering up old favorites. Here is a small sampling—check out our brochure on-line at www.swedenclarksonrec.com for a complete listing:

Soup-er Bowl on Saturday, January 27th 11 am—1 pm. Try the best soups served up by local restaurants. Cost is only \$5/person.

Men's Basketball League—sign up as a full team. Cost is \$150 per team. Starts January 15, 6-9 pm. Wednesdays.

Del Lago Trip with Covered Wagon Tours on Friday, February 23. cost is \$20 per person and includes \$25 free play and \$5 coupon towards lunch. Leaves the Community Center at 8:30 am and returns at 4:15 pm.

Soccer and Baseball sign ups are underway! Sign up early. Call 431-0090 for program information.