



Town of Sweden Snapshots

Volume 18, Issue 4

Winter 2019

A message from the supervisor's office

If I could sum up 2019 for the Town of Sweden in one word, it would be: *improvements*. Your town government: every board, every department, every employee, has worked hard this year to improve our infrastructure, facilities, policies and programs.

We improved the Sweden Town Park by installing a Splash Pad that proved to be a phenomenal hit! From the first day it opened in June until we reluctantly closed it mid-September, the pad and adjacent playground (2018) were full of families having a ton of fun!

The park also had improvements to the Nietopski Field outfield fence and to Baseball Field 7, courtesy of TMD Contracting. Thanks to volunteers we have gaga pits at both the park and the community center.

We improved Town Roads and Parking lots at a scale not undertaken in recent history. The Town Hall Parking lot was completely rebuilt; parking lots at the Community Center and Town Park were repaired.

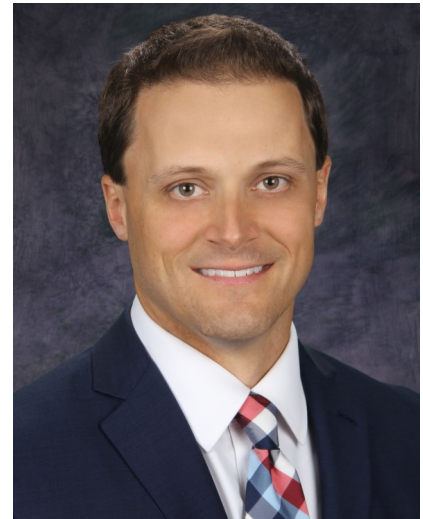
Road work included Hollybrook, West Canal Road, Gary Drive, Euler & Covell Roads, as well as several side streets in Sweden Village.

We improved the Seymour Library. How? By establishing and funding a capital reserve account for the long-term care of the building and by taking the recommendations of the Bonadio Group seriously concerning organizational improvements.

We improved the Community Center by investing in new siding, a costly capital project that will protect the taxpayers' investment for many years to come. Programming has improved at SCCC, too. We are offering more health-oriented activities and classes than ever before. Check out some of them on page 3 of this newsletter.

We improved our finances. As part of undertaking a \$1.4 million public borrowing for the road and parking lot projects, we had to undergo an exhaustive bond rating process that resulted in a higher rating than the last review in 2010. We were able to borrow the funds at 1.49%; and at the same time we are retiring old debt borrowed at a higher rate.

We improved the future care of our six cemeteries by undertaking a veterans' grave marker inventory. We have not finished that project yet as the early snow fall delayed data collection at Lakeview Cemetery. By next Me-



Kevin G. Johnson

morial Day, we will have a better system for the volunteers who place flags on each veterans' grave. At the Soldiers Memorial Tower, we installed an historic marker, spruced up the grounds and held a ceremony that included the participation of Civil War re-enactors.

We improved communication with you by revamping our website, submitting weekly articles to the *Suburban News* and live-streaming our town board meetings and workshops.

We improved energy efficiency at our facilities by installing LED lighting at the highway garage, town hall and community center.

We have improved policies with updates to our employee handbook and changes to our Solar Farm law. Some of our policy and town code improvements were worked on in 2019 but

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Board meeting dates for 2020

The Sweden Town Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 pm for regular Town Board meetings. The exceptions are June, July and August when only one meeting on the fourth Tuesday will be held. In January 2020, the Town Board will hold its organizational meeting at 6 pm on January 2. At the organizational meeting, newly elected public officials are sworn in and the Town's annual appointments are made. The final monthly meeting of December 2019 will be held at 6 pm on Monday, December 30.

In addition, the Town Board holds workshops on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Occasionally workshops are cancelled due to no agenda or added due to the timeliness of a situation.

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 Environ-

mental 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 collection

The 2020 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; 2nd installments will be collected February 11—28; third installments March 1—31; and 4th installments, April 1—30. Unpaid tax bills after this are turned over to Monroe County.

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

Lakeview closed for season; veterans' grave inventory project on hold now

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.

Plans to inventory all veterans graves at Lakeview are temporarily on hold due to the early snow coverage. The smaller Town cemeteries were inventoried and the data is now being organized. More information to follow.

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.

2020 assessment information

Applications for all exemptions must be received by March 1, 2020. The low income Senior Citizens Exemption renewals will be mailed out to those who are currently receiving the exemption. In order to qualify for this type, one of the owners must be 65 years old or older in the calendar year 2019 and gross income must be below \$37,399. For those turning 65 and income less than \$88,000, there are options for the Enhanced Star.

In 2020, I will be doing an adjustment to most properties in the Town of Sweden. The New York State Department of Real Property Assessment has notified me that our sales prices are trending higher than current assessments. The same is true for other communities in our area. Most Sweden property owners will receive a notice of change in the mail on or about May 1, 2020. If you have any assessment questions, please call 637-8683.

Tammy J. Baker, Assessor

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.

From the desk of the Town Historian

Fall was not only a beautiful time at the Farmers Museum but also a time to share with the public. We introduced many people to the museum and the farm artifacts that are available to see and learn about. The barn has a rich abundance of historic tools which truly illustrate the ways in which early farmers prepared the soil for planting, worked the soil and tended the crops during the summer and the harvested in the fall.

To celebrate this heritage, the museum had its Fall Harvest Festival in September! There were many vendors of more modern inclination, as well as, the opportunity to visit the barn and to observe several craftsmen and women at work doing their crafts of quilting, spinning, knitting and carving statues of birds. It was fascinating! There was a blacksmith, wood planer and animals. There was something for everyone.

In late October, the Brockport Central School District holds a Pioneer Day for its fourth and fifth graders.

Some of them chose to come to the Farmers Museum to see the corn husker and to have a hands-on experience using it, as well as seeing and learning how to make apple cider! It was a totally enjoyable experience.

After being in the barn, they came to the farm house to see some of the artifacts that women used to cook, clean and manage a farm in the 1880s. Some of the objects were fairly difficult to identify but they had fun trying! They also had the opportunity to see spinners at work and to see wool transformed from a newly shorn pile of wool to a spun yarn to a finished product, be it scarves, mittens, etc. They were a delightful, inquisitive group of students who, hopefully, returned to school with a new understanding of what life was like on a farm long before they were born!

Kathy Goetz,
Town Historian

Supervisor's message

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won't actually be adopted until 2020. Those include a new Telecommunications Code, a new Vacant Building Registry Code, changes to the Stormwater Management Code and several building code changes. A committee chaired by Deputy Supervisor Bob Muesebeck has finished its review of the Comprehensive Plan. The plan will be presented to the Town Board in early January and we will call a public hearing soon afterwards.

Many of the other improvements we have worked on diligently in 2019 will come to fruition in 2020. The largest are infrastructure projects. Early in the spring, we will go out to bid on three sidewalk projects: Owens Road, Holley Street and Persistence Path.

We will also form the Lake/Redman/Countryview Water District in January and move forward with that \$4.3 million public water project.

Our capital road and parking lot improvement projects will continue in 2020 and not be finished until 2021. Finally, we are working on funding sources for improving the restroom and kitchen facilities at the community center.

All of these improvements could not be accomplished without the hard work of our employees in every department. We appreciate the various skills, knowledge and dedication they bring to the workplace. All of them contribute to making the Town of Sweden a place that we all love to call home.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Kevin G. Johnson, Supervisor

Recreation for all this winter!

Don't miss out on great Sweden/Clarkson Recreation programs this winter! Have fun, get fit, make new friends!

- **Family Fun Roller Skating** on Saturday, February 8 from 3:30—5 pm. \$2/person for skates, pizza and a drink.
- **Mommy & Me Baking on** Wednesdays, January 22—February 19 from 6-7:15 pm. Ages 8 -12. Bring a smock! \$25 residents; \$30 non-residents.
- **Youth Ballet & Jazz** on Tuesdays, January 7—February 25 from 4-5 pm. Boys and girls ages 6-10. \$40 residents; \$45 non-residents.
- **Intro to Drone Flying** on Tuesdays, January 14—February 18. Two age groups: 11-14 from 2:30—3:15 pm; and 8-10 year-olds from 3:30-4:15 pm. Bus transportation from BCS after school. Cost is \$30 residents; \$35 non-residents.
- **Jesus Christ Superstar** on Saturday, February 22. Cost is \$75 and includes bus. Must register prior to January 24. Afternoon performance, maximum of 20 people.
- **Euchre Tournaments** on Mondays, January 20, February 17 and March 23. Register as an individual, not as a team. \$5 per person includes a pizza lunch. Prizes!
- **Pickleball**—anyway you like it! There is a new adult pickleball league, open pickleball, and two different pickleball workshops. Open adult pickleball is Monday-Friday 10 am—1 pm and Sunday 8:30—11:30 am. Workshops are Fridays January 17 and February 7 from 6-8 pm. The league is on Fridays January 24—March 27 at 6 pm. Call 431-0090 for complete pickleball information and for all other program information.

Environmental Conservation Board's Look at Air Pollution

Simply stated air pollution is a mixture of solid particles and gases in the air that are detrimental to human health and the planet. The Clean Air Act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect public health by regulating the emissions of harmful air pollutants. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC) is the leading authority on this law since 1970.

Car emissions, chemicals from factories and farming, dust, mold spores, pollen, smoke, fossil fuel burning, ozone and soil are all air pollutants. Some are suspended particles, others are gases. Smog and soot are the most prevalent types of air pollution.

Smog, also called "ground-level ozone" occurs when emissions from combusting fossil fuels react with sunlight. Smog worsens with increased heat and forms when weather is warmer with increased ultraviolet radiation. Soot is particulate matter made up of tiny particles of chemicals, dust, smoke, soil or allergens in the form of solids or gas carried in the air. The tiniest particles in soot, whether a solid or a gas, are very dangerous to health. They penetrate the bloodstream and lungs causing heart attacks and breathing issues.

Hazardous air pollutants are either deadly or have se-

vere health risks in small amounts. Almost 200 are regulated by law. The most common are mercury, lead, dioxins, and benzene. Mercury affects the central nervous system. Benzene, found in gasoline, is a carcinogen that causes short-term skin, eye and lung irritation and long-term blood disorders. Dioxins, mostly found in food, but also in the air in lesser amounts, affects the liver, immune, nervous, endocrine and reproductive systems. Lead in large amounts can damage the brain and kidneys, especially in children. It can lower children's IQs.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are toxic components of wildfire smoke and traffic exhaust. It has been linked to cancer, eye, lung, blood and liver issues as well as ADHD. Mold and pollen from trees, grass and weeds are also carried in the air and considered air pollution, but are not regulated by the government. Some produce toxins that are dangerous to inhale.

The greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane and hydrofluorocarbon. Carbon dioxide makes up 81% of the country's greenhouse gas, while methane makes up only 11%, but is much more potent. Hydrofluorocarbons are thousands of times more powerful in trapping heat than carbon dioxide. While highly controversial, some believe greenhouse gases cause climate change with rising sea levels, more extreme weather, heat-related deaths and increased transmission of infectious diseases.

The NYS DEC measures air pollutants at more than 50 sites across the state. They regularly report findings for ozone, which at high levels can be a health threat, via website and through broadcast media. Real time direct reading measurements include gaseous criteria pollutants (ozone, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide), PM_{2.5} (fine particulate with diameter less than 2.5 microns) and meteorological data.

"The DEC also operates the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) and the National Ambient Toxics Trend Stations (NATTS) as part of the EPA supported national networks. All of the above monitoring is done for the purpose of determining the quality of the ambient air in the state so that programs can be developed to target the appropriate source categories for emission reductions."

Kathy Harter, Chair

Sweden Environmental Conservation Board

McGrath scholarship apps due March 1

Scholarship applications for the Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation are due March 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 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 2020 graduating high school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply. A total of \$745,000 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.

Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

18 State St. Brockport, NY 14420

Kevin G. Johnson

Robert Muesebeck

Patricia Hayles

Mary Rich

Lori Skoog

585-637-7588

supervisor@townofsweden.org

deputysupervisor@townofsweden.org

phayles@townofsweden.org

mrich@townofsweden.org

lskoog@townofsweden.org

www.townofsweden.org