



# Town of Sweden Snapshots

Volume 22, Issue 3

Fall 2024

## A message from the Supervisor's Office

I hope all of you had a chance to enjoy the summer weather the last few weeks, including some time in nature. It gives you a unique perspective on life's challenges and rewards. There are many opportunities for outdoor activities in the Town of Sweden, especially at the Town Park and the Sweden Clarkson Community Center.

Two of our long-time town employees, Leisa & David Strabel, will be enjoying a more relaxed pace as they transition to retirement life. Leisa served the town for 23 years, first as the Secretary to the Planning Board and then as the Finance

Director for the last 21 years. The town owes her a debt of gratitude for her management of our finances and grant writing during a period of expansion which included the Redman Road Park Lodge, Skatepark, Splash Pad, and Accessible Playground. In addition, grants were received under her watch that enabled the town to build the Senior Wing at the Community Center, construct the Lake Road Water Line and numerous sidewalks. Dave was a long serving member of the Planning and Landmark Boards, while also serving as the town architect designing and overseeing several projects. Most recently, this included the town hall renovation. Our town family wishes them well on their new adventure.

We would like to welcome the new Finance Director, Hiedi Librock. Hiedi comes to us with a wealth of experience of over 20 years in the municipal finance area. She has a unique set of qualifications that are difficult to find



**Patricia Hayles**

in today's market. We look forward to working with her as she uses her expertise to benefit the town.

The Highway Department has completed the joint project with the Town of Clarkson and the Village of Brockport, resurfacing the Seymour

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## 2025 Tentative Town Budget on file

The Town's 2025 Tentative Budget was filed on September 24 and is available on the Town's website at [www.townofsweden.org](http://www.townofsweden.org). The Town Board may make changes to the Tentative Budget prior to adopting it as the Preliminary Budget. Once the Preliminary Budget has been adopted and a Public Hearing scheduled, no changes may be made until after the Public Hearing. This ensures that it is clear what budget

numbers are being discussed at the Public Hearing as many changes are made during the lengthy budget process from July through October.

The Tentative 2025 Budget is a \$6.5 million spending plan that stays under the Tax Cap set by New York State by about \$9,200. The amount of new taxes allowed by the levy limit is approximately \$110,000.

*continued on page 2*

# 2025 Tentative Budget has been filed continued from page 1

The assessed value of the Town grew by 20.2% (see table below). The Town has completed a reassessment which has brought the Town back up to an equalization rate of 100% from the previous year which was below full value and was assigned an equalization rate of 93%. The 100% has brought the Town back into compliance with the NYS Office of Real Property’s guidelines. Being out of compliance can have a negative impact on the Town’s share of state aid, sales tax and Sweden’s relationship with other communities across joint taxing jurisdictions; so it was imperative for us to bring the assessment rate back to 100%.

Reassessments do NOT impact the State’s tax cap—generally referred to as the “2% tax cap”. The tax cap is calculated on the previous year’s tax levy; raising assessments does not increase the new levy cap.

Approximately 37% of the true value of the Town is exempt from paying taxes, that includes everything from SUNY Brockport to churches to agricultural land to municipal property to individual exemptions.

Major impacts on the 2025 budget include: health insurance and state retirement increases (15% and 17% respectively); increases in liability insurance; and anticipated decrease in mortgage tax and court fines.

Across the Town’s 23 active special districts, there were minor increases/decreases, none of any special note.

The tentative budget includes a 2% increase in support to the Seymour Library, a scheduled deposit of \$12,000 into the library building reserve, and \$5,000 in library building repairs.

One of the Town’s largest revenues is sales tax. All towns, villages and school districts in Monroe County receive a share of sales tax based on a complicated formula laid out in the Morin-Ryan act. Villages and schools get their whole calculated share in the form of quarterly payments. Towns only receive half their calculated share in the form of quarterly payments. The other half is distributed on town and county tax bills (only on properties in the town outside of the Village of Brockport) as a credit on the county taxes.

The anticipated loss of revenues from mortgage tax is reflected in the tentative budget. It is anticipated that municipalities will receive a significant lesser amount this year compared to previous years.

*continued on page 3*

Assessed	Valuation		Summary
	2024	2025	
Village of Brockport	\$299,511,381	\$358,909,845	
Town Outside	\$552,563,827	\$666,055,441	
Total Town & Village	\$852,075,208	\$1,024,965,286	

## 2025 budget by category

NYS requires municipalities to report its budget in the following categories:

General Government	\$1,946,904
Transportation	\$1,900,310
Employee Benefits	\$1,076,710
Culture & Recreation	\$ 921,795
Home & Community	\$ 141,650
Debt Service	\$ 307,518
Public Safety	\$ 112,384
Health	\$ 4,000
Sub-total	\$ 6,411,271
Special Districts	\$ 161,208
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,572,479</b>

## Special District Levy Detail

Gallup Water	\$26,478
Colby Water	\$12,490
East Ave Water	\$ 3,480
Shumway Water	\$12,025
Swamp Salmon Water	\$ 8,745
County Line Water*	\$ 4,977
Lake/Redman Water	\$57,000
Sweden Hills Light	\$22,600
Crestview Light	\$ 1,675
Hilltop Light	\$21,500
Talamora Light	\$11,600
Fieldstone Light	\$ 3,360
Northview Light	\$ 2,210
Walmart Light	\$ 755
N. Poole Light	\$ 2,660
Heritage Light	\$ 2,655
Consolidated Sewer	\$21,500
Fourth Section Sewer	\$12,269
Heritage Sewer	\$14,800
Drainage I	\$ 8,000
Walmart Sidewalk	\$ 1,000
Talamora Park	\$ 3,184

\* Estimate until notified by other municipality regarding the per property charge for 2025. Will change total tax levy and tax cap calculations by a small amount.

# 2025 Budget

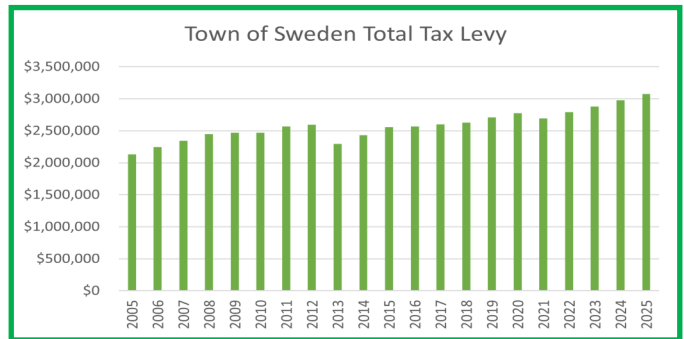
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The budget public hearing has not been called as of this newsletter’s press deadline, however it is likely to be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:15 pm at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street. For more info regarding the budget, visit [www.townofsweden.org](http://www.townofsweden.org) or call the Supervisor or Budget Officer at 637-7588.

Schedule of Elected Officials	Salary
Supervisor	\$29,178
Councilperson (4)	\$ 8,510
Justices (2)	\$23,878
Highway Superintendent	\$96,627
Town Clerk	\$56,409
Receiver of Taxes	\$29,614

## Sweden Tax Levy History

The chart at right shows the Town’s tax levy history over 20 years. The tax levy is more important than the tax rate as it shows the total tax dollars raised on property owners to fund Town services. The tax rate (shown in the table below) is merely a function of the levy divided by the total tax base. The levy is how much the community as a whole is taxed, the rate is used with assessments to determine how much each individual property pays.



## Sweden estimated tax rate calculations for January 2025 bill

Fund	Description	2024 rate	2025 rate proposed	Town Outside Village	Town Inside Village
A	General supported by all taxpayers	\$2.155931	\$1.819847	\$1.819847	\$1.819847
DA & DB	Combined highway	\$1.206402	\$1.098245	\$1.098245	\$0.626850
	<b>2025 Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$3.370237</b>	<b>\$2.918092</b>	<b>\$2.918092</b>	<b>\$2.446697</b>

### Appropriated Fund Balance 2025

General (town wide)	\$433,050
General (town outside)	\$388,111
Highway (town wide)	\$ 63,900
Highway (town outside)	\$ 0
Special Districts (combined)	<u>\$ 35,543</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$920,604</b>



Hiedi Librock  
Director of Finance



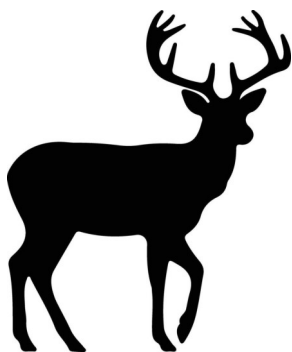
## What's new in the Town Clerk's office?

### Dog Licensing

We are currently collecting email addresses for all dog owners in the Town of Sweden. The Clerk's Office is moving forward (slowly) with technology and is now offering an option for you to receive dog license renewal notices by email. This doesn't mean you have to give up our bright orange postcards. You can choose your option.

If you would like to receive renewals by email, please give us a call (585) 637-2144 or send us an email at: [karens@townofsweden.org](mailto:karens@townofsweden.org).

If your dog is **NOT** currently licensed as required by New York State Law and Sweden Town Code, please provide our office with a current rabies vaccination certificate, a spay/neuter certificate (if applicable) and the appropriate fee of either \$8.50 spayed/neutered OR \$16.50 unspayed/unneutered.



### Attention HUNTERS!

You can still purchase your hunting and fishing licenses at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Doe permits will no longer be available after October 1<sup>st</sup>. We anticipate another draw beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact our office to see what DMP locations may be available – (585) 637-2144.

The NYS DEC made some big changes this season. Hunters are no longer required to wear a back tag anywhere in New York State and licenses are now printed on regular paper. WHAT?! NYS DEC has provided the following answers to several common questions:

- ◆ If I'm not wearing a back tag, how will law enforcement know I'm a licensed hunter?

You will have the option of carrying your paper license or you can show an electronic copy using the HuntFishNY mobile app on your phone. Open the app store on your cell phone and search "HuntFishNY".

- ◆ What if my paper license or carcass tags get damaged?

NYS DEC suggests storing your license and carcass tags in a waterproof bag or container (zip lock bags). Carcass tags can be attached to the animal using the waterproof bag.

If your license or tags DO get damaged, you can reprint from your online account or from the PDF included in the email associated with your original purchase. The Town of Sweden will print your original license AND email you the transaction documents, just in case you need to reprint.

- ◆ Couldn't this lead to and encourage illegal use of tags?

NYS DEC stated the following in a recent Q & A document:

While the vast majority of hunters are honest and ethical, there unfortunately are a small percentage of individuals who abuse the system. Paper licenses and tags have been used successfully in states across the country without evidence of an increase in fraud. The Division of Law Enforcement will be working to ensure compliance and enforcement. Any abuses discovered will be charged accordingly.

Don't forget to purchase the 2024-25 Habitat and Access Stamp for \$5.00! Funds are used to protect and conserve fish and wildlife habitats and to improve public access for fish and wildlife related activities. Happy hunting!

## Candy Bar Bingo Night at the Community Center

Looking for a sweet way to have fun? Join the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center located at 4927 Lake Road for a candy bar bingo night on Friday November 1st, 6:00pm—7:30pm. Come join the fun. This event is perfect for families, friends and candy lovers of all ages. There is a four game maximum/ two boards per person. The cost is \$5 per

# From the desk of the Town Historian

Christine Hunt, Historian

The Fanning Mill is one of the earliest farm machines. It mechanized the process of winnowing grain. Prior to its invention grain was separated and graded by throwing wide shovels of grain across the barn floor into a draft. In this process, the heavier grain particles fell the

furthest on the floor and the chaff was separated. This method was labor intense. The Fanning Mill provided a box housing, a set of screens, and a mechanical driven fan which made the winnowing process much faster and more efficient with the expansion of wheat production. The use of the Fanning Mill became wide spread.

The cleaning of grain seed was recognized as important. One wild oat seed could produce 200 others, a mustard plant 10,000 of its kind. Clean graded seed could also bring a much higher market price.

The following advertisement is for Fanning Mill Sieves (or Screens) being sold in Brockport by F.F, Capen who engaged in the sale of agriculture implements during the 1850's.



Above: Advertisement in 1928 promoting Racine fanning mill. A good fanning mill was touted as a first class investment. Seed cleaning eliminated weed seeds and dockage and ensured a better market price as well as better crops. Right: The Chatham fanning mill sold by Massey Mfg. Co., in Ontario in 1894.

**Chatham Fanning Mill**

**Has the Largest Sale of any Mill made.**

**Special Points in favor of this Mill are the Following:**

**Easy to turn:** screw feed for the hopper; low and handy to get in the grain; strong and durable; well painted; screens and riddles to clean and separate all kinds of grain and seeds grown in Canada; fast and good cleaning of wheat. Special attention has been given to the fast cleaning of barley, removing all foul seeds, dirt and broken weeds. The long mesh Zinc Screen for taking rye, oats and chaff from wheat, works grandly. The attachment for knocking or agitating the screens to keep the masher from filling up has been improved, and is now the best that can be got. The plan of placing the screens and riddles in the shoe cannot be surpassed. You can give them any pitch desired, and also put as many in at one time as you like, or as are required to clean the grain. You can use one riddle, or you can, by placing another under it, have a Two-ply, or you can put another under the second and have a Three-ply Gauge. The advantage from this plan is very great. You can use one, two or three ply, as the condition of the grain requires. Each screen is braided plainly what it is to be used for, so no mistake can be made. Full printed directions are also furnished with each Mill.

**Bagging Attachment**—Saves time, saves grain and saves money. Will bag any kind of grain, from the finest seed, such as timothy or clover, up to the coarsest grain, such as beans and corn. It will bag from 60 to 80 bushels of wheat per hour and 100 bushels of oats per hour. This attachment is sold separately and can be attached to any Mill made during the past five years.



## 2025 property exemption info

The assessment office reminds property owners that all exemptions must be applied for by

March 1, 2025. Agricultural Renewals, Low Income Senior Renewals, new Enhanced Star requests and Non-Profit and Clergy renewals will be mailed out late fall 2024. To qualify for the Enhanced Star Exemption or Low Income Senior Exemption, one of the owners (if married) must be 65 or older in the calendar year of 2025 and the property must be the primary residence. Both exemptions are based on income as follows:

**Enhanced Star Exemption:** the total combined income of the owners and spouses who reside on the property must not exceed \$107,300 for tax year 2023. This exemption applies to School taxes. Prior Basic Star is necessary to receive this exemption.

**Low Income Senior Exemption:** the total combined income of the owners and spouses who reside on the property must not exceed \$58,400 for tax year 2023. This exemption is based on a sliding scale ranging from 5% up to 50%. Based on income, this exemption may apply to County Taxes, Town Taxes and/or School Taxes. You may visit the Town of Sweden's website to view all exemptions that are offered. Do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns at 585-637-8683. Feel free to stop in during office business hours. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

## Veterans Day Luncheon

All veterans and their family members are invited to attend the 3rd Annual Sweden/Clarkson Community Center Veterans Day luncheon on Friday, November 8 at 11 am at the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. The lunch is free for all veterans; family members should bring two non-perishable food items for admission. Reservations are required at least one week ahead. Space is limited so don't delay making a reservation. Call 431-0090 to reserve your spot today!

## Annual Halloween Party Oct. 24

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's 21st annual Halloween Party will be held on Thursday, October 24 from 5:30 pm—7:15 pm at the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road.

Enjoy a scary haunted house, a not-so-scary haunted toddler gym, tattoos, games, crafts and candy. Kids 9 and under may participate in a costume contest starting at 6:40 pm. Prizes will be awarded to best costumes in different age groups.

## From the Environmental Conservation Board

George Elliot wrote, “If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel’s heartbeat, and we should die of the roar which lies on the other side of silence.” Expanding this quote to include all life and enhancing its intention could bring a whole new realm of awareness to the world of nature.

Imagine if one could really hear the squirrel’s heartbeat as it scurries about. Would this instill compassion and appreciation in the human heart for this cute and industrious little rodent? Would one truly understand as The Dalai Lama stated, “Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures.”

The word squirrel comes from the Greek word skia meaning “shadow” and oura meaning “tail”—or “tail that casts a shadow.” Commonly, the word squirrel is the name for rodents of the family Sciuridae and in everyday speech usually refers to tree squirrels. This family includes ground squirrels (chipmunks, woodchucks, marmots, and prairie dogs) and flying squirrels. Squirrels are found on all continents except Australia and Antarctica.

Common grey squirrels are arboreal which means they spend most of their time in trees. These adult mammals typically weigh between 1 and 1.5 pounds. A female gives birth to two to eight offspring once or twice per year. Babies are called kits or kittens and are born toothless, naked, and blind. They depend on their mother for up to three months. When the kits leave the nest, they stay within two miles of home.

They have thick fur which can vary in color from brown, gray, red, black, or even white. Their tail is long and bushy and is very useful for a multitude of purposes. It is used for balance, to help slow and control falls and jumps, to distract predators, to signal other squirrels, and to provide warmth and shade.

They are intelligent, have excellent vision, versatile sturdy claws, large gnawing incisors that grow throughout life, and grinding cheek teeth.

Most squirrels die in the first year of life. Adult squirrels can have a lifespan of 5 to 10 years in the wild and up to 20 years in captivity.

Squirrels cannot digest cellulose so their foods must be rich in protein, carbohydrates, and fats. Their diets consist of a wide variety of seeds, nuts, fruits, fungi, conifer cones, and green vegetation. They are also known to eat insects, eggs, and even small animals or carrion when faced with hunger. Early spring is the hardest time of the year for squirrels because their buried food supply begins to sprout and is no longer edible.

Some people derive pleasure from watching squirrels and welcome them to their yard, while others consider them pests. Squirrels provide many environmental benefits and enhance the entire ecosystem, even keeping the population of potentially harmful insects under control.

They are mostly diurnal (active in the daytime) and are scatter-hoarders; the trait of gathering and storing nuts and seeds for winter, usually by burying them in accessible hiding places. This well-known trait plays a vital role in the forest ecosystem because a few of the buried nuts and seeds are not eaten and grow into new trees and plants that maintain forest diversity.

Squirrel’s digging action aerates the soil helping plants to grow and thrive, thus an aid in erosion control. Their chewing, gnawing, and scattering of branches, leaves, nuts, and vegetative debris enhances soil fertility.

They also provide shelter for other animal species. Ground squirrels dig holes big enough for other animals to live in, while tree squirrels carve out tunnels and build nests for their own shelter. Once they abandon their nest, other tree-dwelling animals take advantage of a new, safe, ready-made home.

There is no “paw” so small that it cannot have an impact on the earth. ~ Kathy A. Harter, Chairwoman

## Town Hall Office Hours

We have decided not to switch the Town Hall back to our winter office hours and to continue with our summer hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm.

The Town Board will discuss office hours in December and decide if these will be the permanent office hours. By having consistent office hours throughout

the year, we hope this will eliminate any confusion to residents when the office is open for business.

We look forward to resident feedback and comments can be submitted to Supervisor Patricia Hayles at: [supervisor@townofsweden.org](mailto:supervisor@townofsweden.org).

# General Election voting, Including early voting at SCCC

Early voting is available for the November election. Voters in Monroe County are able to vote at any Monroe County site during early voting from October 26—November 3. Days and times for early voting are:

Saturday, October 26	9 am—5 pm
Sunday, October 27	9 am—5 pm
Monday, October 28	9 am—5 pm
Tuesday, October 29	12 pm—8 pm
Wednesday, October 30	9 am—5 pm
Thursday, October 31	12 pm—8 pm
Friday, November 1	9 am—5 pm
Saturday, November 2	9 am—5 pm
Sunday, November 3	9 am—5 pm

The Sweden/Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road, is an early voting site. Other sites are in Webster, Fairport, Penfield, Rochester, Chili, Henrietta, Irondequoit and Greece. For more information, visit [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) or call 753-1550.

General Election voting on November 5 is from 6 am to 9 pm. November 5 polling sites for Sweden Voters:

District	Site
1	Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street
2	SUNY Brockport
3	Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street
4	Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street
5	SUNY Brockport
6	SUNY Brockport
7	Town Park Lodge, 4745 Redman Road
8	Community Center, 4927 Lake Road
9	Town Park Lodge, 4745 Redman Road
10	Community Center, 4927 Lake Road
11	Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street
12	Community Center, 4927 Lake Road

## Mailbox Replacement Policy

As a courtesy, the Sweden Highway department will replace mailboxes that have been damaged or destroyed during the winter months as a result of plowing operations. Typically it is the weight of the snow that causes damage. 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 inches 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 585-637-3369.

## Sr. Open Bowling

The Sweden/Clarkson Community Center is offering a senior Open Bowling Program at Brockport Bowl located at 4660 Lake Road.

The program offers a relaxed and enjoyable bowling experience for older adults looking to bowl on their own schedule.

Whether you're an experienced bowler or new to the lanes, this program is designed to accommodate your preferences and provide a fun outing with friends or family.

For more information contact the Sweden Recreation Community Center at 585-431-0050



## Fall brush (only)-pick up scheduled for October 21—25

The Sweden Highway Department will conduct the annual fall brush pick-up Monday, October 21 through Friday, October 25. All brush must be placed at the roadside by 7 am on October 21 and no sooner than October 14. Brush must be no longer than six feet and placed parallel to the road. This is a brush only pick-up. Use caution when placing brush near storm drains.

Residents may also drop brush off at the highway garage during normal business hours. In addition, a highway truck is available for large volumes of brush throughout the year. The truck is parked overnight at the residence and homeowners are responsible for loading the brush. This service is not available for commercial operations or for trees felled by contractors and left on the property.

Unfortunately, the large number of dead ash trees in the community has created a tremendous strain on this

service. The highway department does not have the capacity to provide multiple trucks per property. The rule has always been one truck per property each year and although the highway department has been able to be flexible in the past, the ash tree crises means that Sweden will have to adhere to the policy more stringently.

At times homeowners have left brush by the road side outside of the pick-up dates. The highway department will not remove this brush. The homeowner will have to make other arrangements for its removal. Thank you for your cooperation as the highway department tries to make the brush removal service more manageable and equitable.

For additional information, please call the highway department at 637-3369. Don't forget to follow the Town of Sweden Highway Department Facebook page for more updates.

## Building Department Tidbits

Fall is quickly approaching, and it has been a very busy building season here in the town.

Many residents will be obtaining permits to install new fireplaces or getting their existing fireplaces ready to operate during the upcoming cold months. Remember to have your fireplaces checked to ensure it is safe to operate. Part of that is to also check and verify that your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in proper working order.

Throughout the year, the building department works diligently to clean up all permits that have been issued. Building permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance. Concerns can arise if there is ever a problem associated with the permitted item that was not closed out. Insurance companies may deny a claim if it is found that the permit never received a certificate of occupancy or compliance, which may leave you and your family open for litigation. We ask that you help us bring all open permits to closure by notifying the building department when it's complete.

Lastly, it is our hope that all residents reach out to the building department with any questions or concerns in regard to a proposed project at 585-637-8684. We are here to help and want to work with you to address any questions or concerns. Lets work together to ensure our community is a safe place to live!

Phyllis Brudz [phyllis@townofsweden.org](mailto:phyllis@townofsweden.org)

Lyle Stirk [lyles@townofsweden.org](mailto:lyles@townofsweden.org)

## Story Trail at the Park

Our Director of Buildings and Grounds, Adam Shade, is working with Lauren DelGaizo and the Seymour Library for a *Travel the Story Trail* walk during the month of October at the Sweden Town Park located at 4745 Redman Road.

This 0.5 mile-loop around the park will lead you through the seasons and a story! Sixteen picture book pages set at intervals along the grassy path create a complete tale the whole family will enjoy.

Finish your storybook scavenger hunt and stop into the library for a prize October 1st—November 1st.

The story will be displayed for the whole month of October or as long as the weather allows for the display. The park is open from dawn to dusk and the trail is stroller accessible.

Make the most of your visit to the park, there is so much to do for every member of the family! There are multipurpose soccer, lacrosse, and football fields, baseball fields, restrooms, a skate park, an 18-hole disc golf course, hiking trails, a dog park, three playgrounds, three picnic pavilions, and a pond for fishing!





## Leaf Collection Guidelines

- ◆ The highway department typically picks up leaves weekly from mid-October until the first week of December (weather pending).
- ◆ Snow, rain, or freezing weather may significantly delay or permanently halt our curbside bulk leaf collection as the same equipment and personnel that remove leaves are used for our snow and ice operations.
- ◆ We only have one leaf vacuum to cover 150 lane miles of road within the town. We ask for your patience as it takes time for our crew to cover every road in the town multiple times during the bulk leaf collection season.
- ◆ Collection on a certain day cannot be guaranteed.
- ◆ If a landscape contractor is used for your property maintenance, please share the Town of Sweden bulk leaf collection guidelines with them.
- ◆ Leaves should be raked in a row as *CLOSE* to the road edge as possible and *should not* extend beyond 6' from the edge of the road or asphalt.
- ◆ In areas without concrete gutters/curbs, don't pile leaves in drainage ditches. The leaves should be piled along the road edge on the roadside of the drainage ditch. Leaves in drainage ditches are beyond the reach of the leaf vacuum.
- ◆ Keep leaf rows away from utility poles, signs, mailboxes, low hanging trees and other obstacles.
- ◆ Rake Leaves from storm drains in the street to prevent flooding.
- ◆ Only leaves in piles will be picked up. Items such as branches, twigs rocks/stones, corn stalks, pumpkins, etc., can cause damage to the leaf vacuum which delays the collection process and increases costs. Piles with any of the listed debris *will not* be picked up.
- ◆ Bagged leaves *will not* be accepted during the bulk leaf pick-up season. Bagged leaves in *biodegradable leaf bags* will only be picked up during our scheduled spring and fall townwide brush pickups.

## Leaf Collection Alternatives

Repurposing yard waste for landscaping is good for the environment. It can provide a more natural appearance in your landscape and can save you time and money.

- ◆ Repurposing yard waste for landscaping is good for the environment, can provide a more natural appearance in your landscape and can save you time and money.
- ◆ Lawn mower mulching: When mowing the lawn, use the mulching function feature rather than bagging the clippings or raking the leaves in piles. Returning grass clippings and mulched leaves to the yard keeps your lawn healthy.
- ◆ Let fallen leaves remain: Leaves are variable in texture and can be collected and shredded at home. Shredding speeds decomposition and reduces leaves from blowing away. Mix shredded leaves into the soil in the fall and allow them to break down naturally during the winter for improved soil quality. Leaves also provide food, nesting material, and cover for several types of wildlife.
- ◆ Compost your leaves: Chop them up first to speed up decomposition. Composted leaves make wonderful mulch, vegetable garden amendment, and has several uses in organic lawn care



## Supervisor's message *continued from page 1*

Library parking lot. Highway Superintendent, Brian Ingraham took the lead on the project. The project came in under budget and the cost will be shared by the three municipalities. (pictures on the back page).

Brian and his crew completed the 2024 CHIPS project on Ladue Road. Ladue Road is a 4-year project that is in its 3rd year. In the final year of project in 2025, the plan is to rebuild the edges and finish the final section of paving on Ladue between West Sweden Road & the Town of Clarendon Line.

We continue to work toward the sale of the Senior Center at 133 State Street. The Village of Brockport approved the rezoning of the property on July 15th. The proceeds will replenish the Community Center Reserve which was used for the Senior Wing addition.

Our commitment to bringing public water to areas of the town where it is desired continues. The Ladue, Swamp, and West Sweden Road Water Project is moving forward. The plan includes submitting the application for grant and low interest rate loans by the end of September. In addition, the Town of Sweden has signed an agreement with the Town of Clarkson. This agreement will allow Sweden residents to tap into the Clarkson waterline along West Avenue upon completion of construction. This type of collaboration saves money by eliminating any duplication of services.

We continue to offer the annual free rabies clinic. This year it was held on August 10th and served 239 area residents. We would like to thank the Town Hall Staff, the Monroe County Department of Health and of course Dr. Allen Edwards and Angel Reed for bringing this valuable service and safety measure to our community.

The town has been granted \$144,000 in Federal ARPA funds being distributed by Monroe County. These funds are to be used to maintain or expand senior or youth recreation programs. The exact use of the funds is under study. County Legislator, Jackie Smith was instrumental in bringing these funds to the town. She is a strong advocate for the west side of Monroe County.

We are coming up on the completion of the 2025 budget for the Town of Sweden. We invite you to join us at the public hearing budget presentation on October 22nd at 6pm. Feel free to reach out to any town board member with questions or concerns you may have.

~ Supervisor Patty Hayles

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## Promotion made in the Sweden Recreation Department

A huge congratulations to Amanda Kinney on earning and receiving the title of Recreation Supervisor. Amanda started at Sweden Clarkson Recreation in 2019 as a Before & After School and Summer Camp Counselor. She had the drive to keep moving up in the recreation department and began training at the front desk along with becoming a building supervisor. Her talents really started to show when she took the opportunity to run several different youth programs in 2020, including online classes during the pandemic, little steps preschool program and was Assistant Director for summer camp in 2021 and 2022. I

In May 2023, Amanda became a full-time Recreation Assistant, and took on many roles with this new title. She became the Director of Summer Camp and Before & After School, as well as the liaison to the seniors, running programs such as senior trips, picnics, handling administrative duties for Silver Sneakers, the senior fitness program. In addition, Amanda plans and executes the Halloween Event, teaches swim lessons, and even coaches youth flag football, all while attending to her administrative duties. Despite filling her plate with opportunities to connect with the community, she never fails to put her heart and soul into everything she does, big or small.

We are thankful and proud to have Amanda fill the role of Recreation Supervisor and look forward to watching her shine in this new position!



### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q:** Is Town of Sweden information available online?

**A:** Yes, the Town of Sweden has a website that offers contact information, minutes of various boards, news, newsletters and departmental information. The website address is [www.townofsweden.org](http://www.townofsweden.org) Information can also be found of the Town of Sweden Supervisor Facebook page.

**Q:** Where can I obtain a passport?

**A:** Passports can be obtained locally at the Clarkson Town Hall, Ogden Town Hall or the Brockport Post Office. For details, we recommend calling the Town of Clarkson at 585-637-1130, the Town of Ogden at 585-617-6111 or the Post Office at 585-637-4400.

**Q:** Where do I find the local Mobile DMV Units?

**A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

Village of Brockport Court, 49 State Street, Brockport

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Road, Spencerport

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month

Clarkson Justice Court, 3655 Lake Road, Clarkson

**Q:** Where are local Pharmaceutical Collection Sites?

**A:** Brockport Police Department Lobby, 1 Clinton Street, Brockport (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)

Elderwood of Lakeside Lobby, 170 West Ave, Brockport (2<sup>nd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup> Friday Noon-4pm)

Hamlin Tops Pharmacy Dept., 1800 Lake Rd, Hamlin (during Pharmacy open hours)

MC Sheriff's Office Lobby, 2330 S Union St, Spencerport (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)

**Q:** How do I get in touch with the dog control officer?

**A:** The dog control officer may be reached at 585-353-8177 or 585-525-1608.

**Q:** What agency do I call if there is a dead animal in the road?

**A:** Call the Sweden Highway Department at 585-637-3369 if the animal is on a Town or County Road. If the animal is on a State Road (ie Route 19 or 31), call 585-753-7780.

## Projects all across town

Seymour Library



LaDue Road



Crestview Drive—CDBG Block Grant



**Making a difference, one project at a time!**



### Sweden Park Lodge

The Sweden Town Park Lodge is perfect for your party, meeting or event. Featuring a full kitchen, restrooms and fireplace, the lodge seats 99 (indoors and has picnic tables under the covered portico for additional seating). There is an adjacent playground and a beautiful outdoor setting for photos. Call 431-0090 to learn more or make a reservation. Weekend dates are in high demand!

*Supervisor*

*Deputy Supervisor*

*Councilperson*

*Councilperson*

*Councilperson*

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