

# THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

FALL 2020

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR THOMAS FERRUCCI



2020 has been an extremely unusual and difficult year for everyone as we adjust to the “new normal” that the COVID19 pandemic has resulted in. For the safety of our residents and youth, we had closed the Community Center in March in response to Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order. In June, as New York State entered Phase 4, we developed protocols and safety measures and were able to open the Griffith Park Splash Pad and the Senior Center. After a busy, hot summer season, the splash pad concluded its second year on August 30th. The Seniors are meeting only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and anxiously await the start of the Erie County Lunch Program.

Anyone who has driven through the Village over the last several months is aware of construction underway on Gates, Franklin, Gierlach, Crocker and Michael streets. The Erie County Water Authority is replacing supply lines to better service our residents and reduce the number of water main breaks for our area. In the end of September, our Highway Crew Chief and I met with the ECWA project engineer and construction manager to review progress. The project start was severely delayed in spring due to COVID and has been complicated by both water and gas line breaks in the area. The goal is to finish the project in the east end of

the Village, including street paving and sidewalk replacements. Michael Street cannot be completed until spring of 2021 but will have binder laid down so the street is drivable and can be plowed. Prior to milling and paving, the Village’s contractor will be completing sanitary sewer repairs and connections on Gierlach. Coordination of work with utility providers allows us to complete jobs efficiently and saves taxpayer money.

In August, we repaired our sanitary sewer lines while Erie County Highway was undergoing road reconstruction on William Street. Collaborating with other municipalities benefits us financially and saves on repair costs for our residents. Other sewer repairs this year by the Village were the replacement of six storm drain inlets on Lackawanna, Gates and Roland Streets. Due to the financial impact of the pandemic at the state level, our sewer grants were temporarily placed on “hold” several months ago. During a conference with the Environmental Facilities Corp. last week, we were informed that the hold has been released for some municipalities grants across the state, and Sloan was included. This enables us to proceed with the three-year sanitary sewer project as planned.

Earlier in October, I met with County Clerk Mickey Kearns and representatives from the WNY Law Center regarding 2331 Broadway. The Village had reported the property to the “Zombie Task Force” at the beginning of 2020 and they have been vital in moving along the foreclosure action and ultimately, the demolition of this property. We also work closely with the Buffalo & Erie Niagara Land Bank, referring properties that are available at the County auction for back tax sales. Of the Sloan properties purchased by BENLIC last year, one has been sold to a family and the other is being fully rehabilitated by the land bank themselves and will be offered for sale by springtime. Building successful partnerships with organizations benefits our community and I want to thank Clerk Kearns, members of the WNYLC and BENLIC Director Jocelyn Gordon for their collaborative effort in removing blighted properties from our neighborhood. Village Halloween activities are planned for the 31st. Please refer to Deputy Mayor Czubaj’s article on Youth Recreation for the details.

See you around the Village!

*Thomas Ferrucci*

## FROM ERIC CZUBAJ, RECREATION DIRECTOR

The Splash Pad concluded its second, successful summer providing a respite from the heat in July and August. In conjunction with the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District, 1812 free lunches and 1812 packaged breakfasts were served in Griffith Park to children in our community. The park also saw the construction of a new shelter, partially funded by a grant from Erie County Legislator Timothy Meyers. It is a beautiful addition and will be available



**\*\*OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN IN EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 15th TO APRIL 1st. PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE FOR ALL MUNICIPAL OWNED LOTS.**

If you are in jeopardy of mortgage foreclosure, do not leave your property until you speak with the WNY Law Center. They will fight on your behalf with your bank to keep you in your home. The WNYLC can also assist with evictions, bankruptcies and more. The service they provide is FREE. 855-0203 or visit their website at [www.wnylc.com](http://www.wnylc.com)

next year for residents' use.

Due to COVID19, the Youth Recreation Center has not opened. Closure will continue indefinitely as we monitor Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders and look how to open safely and effectively.

The Village will be hosting its annual Halloween parade on October 31st. A slight change in tradition due to COVID19, the parade will begin at 6pm from St. Andrew's Church on Crocker & Reiman then travel to Village Hall, where we will be

hosting a "Trunk or Treat" in the parking lot. We ask that everyone wear their masks and maintain social distance from other families throughout the event. House to house trick or treating will be allowed until 8pm. If residents want to give out treats but are uncomfortable due to the pandemic exposure, you can bring your candy to Village Hall and we will distribute for you or bring your car and join in the trunk or treating with us! Safety is a top priority along with the kids having fun!!

## FROM PAULA BRUSCANI, TRUSTEE

There is no doubt that the pandemic we are facing has changed the world around us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have been affected by the emotional and financial stress endured this year. Businesses and households alike have had to adjust their routines in these trying times. The Village of Sloan is no different. Thankfully, years of prudent long-term planning and fiscal oversight has helped to guide us through this storm. With the realities of cuts to local government funding, we too have had to adjust our budget to compensate. Rest assured that the future of Sloan remains strong.

On that note, the residents of our village will benefit from the

annual Christmas basket raffle now more than ever. For the past 13 years, the office staff has held a fundraiser to assist Village needy families and seniors. Tickets will be available for purchase at Village Hall after Thanksgiving and the drawing will be held on December 21st. To maintain COVID safety protocols, pictures of each basket will be available on our website, official Facebook page and in Village Hall. Please continue to support this event now more than ever, as families are facing unprecedented financial hardship. Tickets are \$5.00/sheet of 25, or 5 sheets for \$20.00.

**We are #SloanStrong!**

Please rake all leaves to the headland area, between the street and sidewalk. DPW will be around to pick them up on a rotating street basis— no need to call, we will get them! The DPW takes pride in its snowplowing— do not blow or shovel snow into the street as it creates a safety hazard for drivers. If you hire a snow plow service, they must obtain a permit from Village Hall. This protects you as the property owner from any damage they may cause.

## FROM ALAN WIEBERG, FIRE CHIEF

The Fire Department recently participated in the Halloween event at Cheektowaga Town Park sponsored by the Police Department and are looking forward to the Village parade and Trunk or Treat on October 31st.

Our members, many who are certified as EMTs, have completed the training to administer epinephrine and albuterol, to treat allergic reactions and breathing problems respectively. We are also under-

going training to enable us to test glucose or blood sugar levels. These additional skills help us provide better care for you, our residents.

Daylight Savings is coming to an end on November 1st so it is time to replace the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Detectors save lives, but only if they work!!

I would like to request every-

one to keep any fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of ice and snow this winter. The extra few minutes it may take for us if we have to clear the hydrant could be the difference in saving a structure or a life.

In 2020, we had three new members join the Sloan Active Hose Company. We would like to welcome Evan Hilton, Chad Berst and Brandon Schmied to our ranks.

## SLOAN LITTLE FREE LIBRARY HAS ARRIVED!



On September 22nd, Mayor Ferrucci and Trustee Bruscani held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Sloan Little Free Library! Little Free Libraries are a global phenomenon with over 110,000 locations in more than 80 countries. We have received donations of over 2500 books and the library has experienced high use since the opening. The outdoor cabinet has both children and adult books available. Inside the front foyer, which is open during Village Hall business hours, are additional offerings including puzzles, education books, home improvements and a wide variety of DVDs. We encourage residents to borrow, return, donate or keep any material from the library. Spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors of this amazing program in our community. Children who grow up in homes without books are on average three years behind their peers in reading and writing. Having free, accessible books to enjoy is fundamental in our youths' developmental and success!

## WINTER PARKING, HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND MORE...

Overnight parking ban is going into effect on November 15th until April 1st. There is no parking on any Village street from 2:00am until 7:00pm to allow for plowing and salting. Overnight parking is available in municipal owned lots at Griffith Park near the tennis courts, Village and Fire Hall. Please stop by Village Hall to obtain a free parking pass.

Village Hall and the Department of Public Works will be closed on November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving, December 24th and 25th for Christmas and December 31st and January 1st for New Years Eve and Day. On behalf of our staff, we wish everyone a very *HAPPY*

*HOLIDAY SEASON!*

Trash and Recycling will be delayed until Friday during the week of Thanksgiving only. Regular pickup will occur on Thursday, December 24th and December 31st. Two-item bulk pickup will be on October 29, November 27, December 31, January 28 and February 25. All mattresses, box springs and toilets must be bagged to protect the workers.

## WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Help Woodrow Wilson Elementary kick 2020 out the door! The PTO at Woodrow is hosting a shoe drive from October 19th - December 18th. We will be collecting new and gently used men's, women's, and children's shoes. The school will receive \$.40 per pound of shoes collected, and our goal is to collect 2,500 pairs. That would mean our school would raise \$1,000! These shoes will then be sent to third world countries to help individuals living in poverty start their own micro-businesses.

The PTO helps fund school field trips, assemblies, and fun activities for the students. This year, the PTO also helped the teachers cover costs for any extra materials and tools they needed to help make creative learning environments for all of our students during this challenging time. Please help us continue to support our students, teachers, and staff by donating! A shoe bin is located outside of Village hall next to the free library, and will stay there until December 18th. If you have any questions, please email [wwsloanpto@gmail.com](mailto:wwsloanpto@gmail.com).

### SOUP ON SUNDAY NEWS

Soup on Sunday is scheduled for March 7, 2021 but we may have to adjust the format due to the COVID pandemic situation and Executive Orders in place at that time. Profits from this event have been donated to the Village and used to purchase picnic tables and chairs in the Splash Pad. This past spring, we donated \$1,500.00 towards the new Griffith Park shelter. This event is truly a collaborative team effort. A huge THANK YOU to the DPW, Mayor Ferrucci and the countless other residents who volunteer their time before and throughout this event! "The Soup Committee"- Cat Carlson, Debra Smith & Karen Gold

### SLOAN LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Take what you need, leave what you can! Food insecurity is real and in every community. The free food pantry is open 24/7 in front of St. Andrew's Church on Crocker Street near Franklin.

### ST. ANDREW'S EVENTS CALENDAR

**November 13th** Holiday Meat & More Raffle

**November 21st** 2:30 to 5:30pm Theme basket viewing

**November 22nd** 9:00 to 12:30pm Theme basket viewing and drawing at 1:00pm

**November 26th** 9:00am Thanksgiving Day Mass-- food donations graciously accepted

**December 7th** 7:00pm Vigil Mass

**December 8th** 9:00am Holy Day of Obligation Mass

**December 20th** 5:00pm Remembrance Tree Service

**December 21st** 7:00pm Advent Penance

**December 24th** 4:00 and 10:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

**December 25th** 8:00 and 11:00am Christmas Mass

**December 31st** 4:00pm Holy Day Vigil Mass

**January 1st** 9:00am Holy Day Mass

## SLOAN IS CELEBRATING ITS 125TH BIRTHDAY MARCH 17, 2021

On March 17, 1896, a Village was born. Named after the President of the DL&W Railroad, Samuel Sloan also served 2 years as a NYS Senator before his 32 year tenure at the railroad. We are not the only municipality named for this industry leader. The City of Sloan, Iowa, founded in 1870, bears his name too.

In the midst of COVID, it has been difficult organizing a celebration of this amazing magnitude for our Village. One thing we are planning is to purchase new street pole banners celebrating this milestone. If you, your family or business would like to sponsor a customized banner with your name on it, please contact Village

Hall. Cost of each sponsored banner will be \$125.00. Banners will be flown throughout March, April and May at which time you can choose to donate the flag to the Village or keep it.

If you have any old pictures, stories or artifacts of Village history, please share!

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