

# THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER 2022

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR THOMAS FERRUCCI



Four months have elapsed since the spring edition of the Sloan Connection was published. We have completed the storm sewer replacement, curb installation, milling and paving of Celina and Mann Streets. Wrazen Parkway has been milled and paved, and Griffith will be completed after a minor sanitary repair near Broadway. Our multi-year repair/replacement of sanitary project has been delayed all summer, pending Public Works and Concrete contract approvals by the Environmental Facility Corporation (EFC). The EFC is the funding agency for our WQIP and WIIA grants, and the contracts ratified by the Village Board five months ago have been pending EFC approval since. However, televising and over 11,000 feet of slip lining has been completed where possible. Slip lining or CIPP can be undertaken only where pipes are not out of alignment or completely dis-

integrated, which would necessitate a spot repair/or reconstruction. With the impact of COVID on material costs, shortage of products and labor, what was originally estimated to be a three year project will likely extend an additional few years. We ask our residents for their patience and understanding while the Village is forced to contend with these delays that are beyond our control.

The Village has been contacted by the School District, requesting the lowering of the speed limit around Woodrow Wilson from 30mph to 20mph for the safety of students. We have received numerous complaints of speeding and reckless driving in the area, and should be approving a resolution at our October 11th meeting. Please be aware of this impending change in speed limit on both Reiman and Halstead in the close vicinity of the school. We will request the Cheektowaga Police to increase enforcement in

the area, especially during student drop off and pickup times.

In September, the Village facilitated the demolition of 2123 Broadway Street, a vacant structure that had fallen into severe disrepair and was in imminent danger of collapse. It was condemned by our Code Enforcement Officer, who subsequently ordered its removal. During demolition, the contractor discovered possible ground contamination and the presence of two underground holding tanks. We immediately contacted the DEC, who have opened a formal investigation. As Mayor and life-long Villager, it is my commitment to our citizens that we pursue any action needed on vacant properties to ensure residents safety, protect our neighborhoods and preserve our quality of life.

*Thomas Ferrucci*, Mayor

## FROM VINCE FERRARACCIO, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Title 1203 of the 19 NYCRR, mandates each municipality in New York State to inspect all residential properties that are more than two family for health and safety every three years. This past summer, my office mailed notices to owners of approximately one-third of multiple dwellings in the Village of Sloan advising of this requirement. Response has been lower than expected; if you have received a letter and have not submitted the application yet,

please do so and we can schedule an appointment. Once the property is in compliance, a subsequent inspection will not have to be completed for three more years.

In the past two years, I have referred thirty cases to the Town of Cheektowaga Housing Court for enforcement. Court cases are the final step afforded to a Code Enforcement Officer and only after several Notices of Violation or Orders to Remedy have been sent

to the property owner. Should you receive such notification, please correct all violations in a timely manner and contact my office to review.

The condition and maintenance of structures plays a vital role in the success and preservation of our Village community. Our goal is code compliance, preserving property values and maintaining quality neighborhoods.

## FROM ALAN WIEBERG, FIRE CHIEF

October is Fire Prevention Month. We would like to remind our residents the importance of having functional smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. CO detectors are required on every level where there is a fuel burning appliance and every sleeping level. Please be sure to check all batteries in your detectors and replace any smoke or CO detectors that are more than 10 years old. Smoke and CO detectors do save lives—but only if they work properly!!

It has been one year since we contracted for the purchase of a new fire engine to replace our 2003 American LaFrance Rescue Pumper. The new truck is in production and should be delivered in December. It will be a “twin” vehicle to our 2018 Rosenbauer Engine. Having apparatus with comparable designs will reduce the training period for our members as they will drive and operate exactly the same.

In recent weeks, we have hosted drills with eight fire companies from Cheektowaga, Depew and

Hamburg, focusing on vehicle extrication and fires. Several buses were donated by the owner of 2060 Auto Parts, Mike Serwacki, who allowed us use of his property for the drills. Collaboration and training with other departments better prepares us for any mass disasters. Recent drills provided an excellent opportunity to practice with our new extrication equipment, recently purchased through a grant provided by Assemblywoman Wallace. To view more pictures of our drills, please check or join the Sloan Active Hose Company #1 Facebook page.



## FROM ERIC CZUBAJ, DEPUTY MAYOR & RECREATION DIRECTOR

While writing this article, the Griffith Park Sports Court project is finally underway after contractor delays. New storm drainage is being installed prior to paving and fence replacement. The project was funded primarily through an \$80,000 grant received from Assemblywoman Monica Wallace and will include concrete sidewalks between the parking lots on Griffith and the ADA accessible park equipment, new picnic tables and more. Additional grant money from County Legislator Tim Meyers will be used towards sun shelters and seating in the Splash Pad area. Our goal in the next two years is to obtain a grant to update the bathrooms in Griffith Park to provide ADA accessibility. The park building has

seen few upgrades since constructed in the 1960s and the addition of the new park shelter in 2020 has greatly increased our summer rental requests.

This past summer, the Splash Pad and Griffith Park were enjoyed by so many of our community children and families. Michele Kramarsyck, our Recreation Supervisor, with the help of our Free Library librarian, Mary Maly, led a new Summer Reading Program. At our October 11th meeting, high reader awards were presented to Kaylee Conklin, Matthew Ernst, Chloe Huffman and Evannie Diaz who all received gift cards generously donated by Target. Congratulations to all participants! The lunch program served 1,451 free

meals to our youth in a six-week period; a huge thank you to the Cheektowaga Sloan School District for providing this service! The Sloan Arts Council celebrated their 20th year of sponsoring the Summer Concert Series. This organization is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers who I am proud to be a part of since becoming Deputy Mayor four years ago.

Our Youth and Recreation Center is scheduled to open on November 4th. We have relocated it from upstairs to down at the Community Center on Halstead. This will provide a safer environment for our children and improved use of our facility. Check the Village Recreation Facebook page or website for more info on hours and programs.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES, SEASONAL REMINDERS & MORE...

**Overnight parking ban is effective November 15th until April 1st.** There is no parking on Village streets from 2:00am-7:00am to allow for plowing and salting. Overnight parking is available in municipal lots: Griffith Park near the tennis courts, Village Hall and the Fire Hall. Stop by Village Hall to obtain your free parking pass.

**Village Hall and the Department of Public Works will be closed on:**

November 24th & 25th for Thanksgiving

December 23rd & 26th for Christmas Eve and Day

December 30th & January 2nd for New Years Eve and Day

**Hiring a snow plow contractor this winter?** A Snow Plowing Permit **MUST** be applied for by your contractor. They must submit a current copy of their NYS Drivers License, Vehicle Registration and Insurance. These documents are required to protect you, our residents, from theft of services and/or damages. The cost is only \$25.00 per license.



**Village Trick-or-Treating will be on Monday, October 31st.** The fun begins at 6:00 pm in front of St. Andrews's Church. The Fire Department will lead a parade of little ghosts, goblins and princesses to the Community Center at 140 Halstead Avenue! Distribution of goodies will be to all in costume then neighborhood trick-or-treating until 8:00pm. Be safe- carry a flashlight, apply reflective tape to costumes and if driving, watch for families and children crossing the streets!!!

### OUTDOOR FIRE PIT SAFETY

Fire pits must be on a level surface at least 15 feet away from any structure and a safe distance from any low-hanging branches, wood piles or combustible material. You must have a fire pit cover, fire extinguisher and/or garden hose nearby for use if necessary. **ONLY** clean wood can be burned—no trash or painted/treated wood! If the smoke creates a nuisance for your neighbors, you will have to cease burning.

### *Early Holiday "SLOAN" Shopping!*

We have "SLOAN STRONG" shirts available in size S, L, XL and 2XL for \$12.00 each

Arts Council Shirts are available for \$12.00 in size L, XL and 2XL

Village of Sloan Re-Useable Tote Bags are also available in Black or Green for \$3.00 each.

### TRASH TIDBITS

\*Replacing your mattress/box springs? Re-use the plastic delivery packaging for disposal of the old mattress /box springs.

\*Replacing your toilet? Re-use the packaging from the new to dispose of the old one.

\*Trash & Recycling will be delayed to Friday, 11/25 for Thanksgiving. Christmas and New Years will have **NO DELAY!!**

\*Live Christmas trees can be placed out Thursday trash days and will be picked up until the end of January 2023.

### FROM OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

As fall approaches, we ask that our residents rake all leaves onto the grassy area between the sidewalk and curb. Please do not rake into the street, as this causes storm drainage flooding. We will continue to pick up leaves on a rotating basis throughout the fall season until the first snow- no need to call us for a pickup! As a reminder, please do not shovel, blow or plow snow into streets. This results in a driving hazard and is against NYS Vehicle & Traffic Laws.

### FRANK L. GIERLACH POST

#### MEAT RAFFLE—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Come join in the fun with family and friends for the Frank L. Gierlach Post Meat Raffle being held at the St. Andrews Parish Hall!! Doors open at 6pm and drawing begins at 7pm! Tickets for the event are \$8 pre-sale // \$10 at the door and includes beer or wine. For more information, please contact Fred Drzewiecki, Commander at (716) 894-3837!

Christmas is generally a happy time for gatherings of family and friends as well as reflection of the year past with positive expectations of the new year ahead. For some families or single members of our community, it is a difficult time financially. If you know of a family or a senior that could use some additional help during this holiday season, please contact Sloan Village Hall at (716)897-1560. They will forward your information to the Frank L. Gierlach Post who will return your call. The Post will also be doing a dry (cereal, rice, boxed items) and canned goods Holiday food drive. Please call (716)896-2954 and someone will return your call.

## 13TH ANNUAL SOUP ON SUNDAY NEWS

The Soup On Sunday Committee has reserved Sunday, March 5, 2023 as the event date for “drive-through/take-out”! Our event planners have decided to keep the same pre-order format as the past two years. As in previous years, Debra’s delicious and delectable desserts will be available for purchase at the time of pick up! Please watch for more information in January 2023!!

## \*\*\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\*\*\*

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th at 2am. Don’t forget to turn your clocks BACK one (1) hour before you go to bed at night on Saturday, November 5th.

## SLOAN COMFORT CARE HOME

The SCCH is located at 17 Gierlach St. on the St. Andrew Church campus. Our mission is to provide care for individuals near the end of their life without fear of suffering, financial expense or loss of dignity. The impact of COVID has resulted in the SCCH struggling financially and we are seeking community assistance through donations of everyday items (i.e. Tide detergent, bleach, paper towels, trash bags, toilet paper, postage). Monetary donations are gratefully accepted via personal check, Paypal or Venmo. The SCCH is always seeking volunteers, especially for direct patient care, and training is provided. We can be reached at (716) 931-5011. Your ongoing support is vital to keep our palliative care mission possible!

## SLOAN LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Our Volunteer Librarian, Mary, is always changing books around inside and outside! Donated books and DVD’s are received daily from our residents! We encourage residents to borrow, return, donate or keep any material—Keep On Reading Villagers!!

## ST. ANDREW’S EVENTS CALENDAR

- October 16** 11 am Polka Mass, 12noon - 2pm Polish Platter Dinner
- October 23** 12 pm-3 pm Spaghetti Dinner
- November 4** 7 pm Doors Open 6pm/Meat Raffle
- December 2** 6 pm Meat Raffle to benefit the Comfort Care Home
- December 5** 7 pm Advent Penance Svc / OLC
- December 18** 9 am-1 pm Breakfast with Santa
- December 19** 7 pm Advent Penance St. Andrews
- December 24** 4 pm & 10 pm Christmas Eve Mass
- December 25** 8 am & 11am Christmas Day Mass
- December 31** 4 pm New Years Eve Mass
- January 1, 2023** 8 am & 11 am Mass

**NOTE:** For any additional information or questions, please contact St. Andrew’s Church during their business hours at (716) 892-0425.

## 15TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Since 2008, the Village office staff has organized this annual event to help our Village families in need. Over the past 15 years, we are proud to say 407 Sloan families, individuals and seniors have been helped during the Christmas season through this voluntary program. Recipient names are obtained from friends, relatives, neighbors, the Frank L. Gierlach Post and St. Andrews Church who know of families or seniors in our community who could use some extra help. Throughout the years, baskets and gift cards have been graciously donated from local businesses, residents, employees, DPW and the Sloan Fire Department. All monies raised are used to purchase gift certificates/cards from Camillo’s, Tops, Save-A-Lot, Price Rite and Wal-Mart, which are then sent to our Village families most in need. If you are interested in donating a gift card or basket or know of a senior or family in need, please call Karen or Debra at 716-897-1560. Ticket sales will be available for purchase at Sloan Village Hall beginning November 30th. Prices are (1) sheet of 25 tickets for \$5 or (5) sheets for \$20. Drawing will be Tuesday, December 20 via Facebook Live. Time will be announced at a later date on the our Facebook page. Winners will be contacted after the drawing.

THE SLOAN CONNECTION IS PUBLISHED SEASONALLY BY VILLAGE HALL. IF YOU HAVE A STORY, HISTORY, PHOTO OR COMMENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE CONSIDERED FOR FUTURE PUBLICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT VILLAGE HALL. ALL ARTICLES PRINTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MAYOR AND ARE SUBJECT TO SPACE. **NOTE:** KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO LIVES OUT OF TOWN WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN E-COPY OF THE SLOAN CONNECTION? PROVIDE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES TO WEBMASTER@VILLAGEOFSLAN.ORG OR VISIT [WWW.VILLAGEOFSLAN.ORG](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFSLAN.ORG)