

THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER 2014

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR NIWINSKI

Our Village, similar to most municipalities in Erie County and across the country, is still experiencing the long-term effects of the foreclosure crises that began in 2008. Sloan currently has over fifteen vacant homes that are in the process of bank foreclosure. We have seen some foreclosures take over five years to complete. During this period, our office attempts to work with banks to maintain the property and prevent blight in the immediate area. Unfortunately, many lending institutions refuse to maintain properties until the foreclosure is final. During this process, the listed homeowner is responsible for the maintenance and security of the property. If the bank refuses to cut the grass or keep the building secure and we are unable to locate the owner, the Village Board can authorize our Department of Public Works to maintain them. This past summer, the DPW has been maintain-

ing nine properties. While this can be costly, we believe that the preservation of our neighborhood is a top priority. The Village has also referred several houses to the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation (BENLIC). BENLIC is authorized to obtain ownership and rehabilitate properties throughout WNY. Working with BENLIC, we hope to rehabilitate two homes in Sloan during the next year—one on Atlantic Avenue, the other on Roland Street. Occasionally, properties have been vacant for so long that they are beyond rehabilitation. This year, our Code Enforcement Officer and Engineer condemned a structure at 2180 William Street. After completing the lengthy legal requirements, the Board approved the demolition of all structures located at 2180 William St. in July. The current contract Sloan has with Modern

Inc. for refuse and recycling is expiring on October 31, 2014. We are currently requesting bids for a new contract. Some changes that will be taking place after November 1st will be an increase in the number of bulk items that may put out for pick-up. In response to residents' concerns, we have increased the number of bulk items (i.e. furniture) from one item to two items per week. Also, yard waste and grass clippings can be put at the curb in brown paper lawn and leaf bags if they don't fit inside your garbage tote. After the new contract is approved, we will post all updated information on the village website at www.villageofsloan.org. In closing, this winter please help your elderly or disabled neighbors by keeping their sidewalks clear of snow. Our neighborhood is only as good as its neighbors!

REMINDERS

Daylight Saving Time ends on Saturday, November 1st. Don't forget to turn your clocks BACK one (1) hour before you go to bed at night.

The winter parking ban goes into effect on November 15, 2014 and continues through April 1, 2015. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed. Parking permits for the village hall or fire department lots must be obtained from Village Hall. Permits are free and currently available.

ALL snow plow drivers MUST obtain a snow plow permit for the Village of Sloan. They can be obtained at Village Hall during regular business hours. A valid drivers license, current insurance, and registration is required. There is a \$25 fee.

FROM TAMMY BAYES, TRUSTEE

September is designated as National Preparedness Month. On September 17th, I attended a meeting held by the Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). LEPC works with over 70 agencies in the WNY region to facilitate community collaboration in handling any type of emergency.

LEPC recommends all families to make a plan to reconnect with your family after a disaster whether at home, school or work and practice your plan with all family members involved. Also important is to have a Disaster Supply Kit prepared, which would include basic household items that you, your family,

and pets may need.

Resource information for emergency preparedness can be found at www.ready.gov. If you are interested in receiving monthly text tips: Text PREPARE to 43362. To join the National Preparedness Community, you can visit www.community.fema.gov.

FROM ALAN WIEBERG, FIRE CHIEF

To kick-off October as Fire Prevention month, the Sloan Active Hose is participating in the Cheektowaga Town-wide fire prevention event on Saturday, September 27th. Family activities and prevention awareness will take place from noon until 3:00pm, at Cabela's on Walden.

Fall Fire Prevention Tips-

- Change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Test both monthly to verify they are working correctly. All detectors

should be replaced every five years.

- Clean out the lint trap in your dryer regularly and check that your dryer vents properly outside.

- Do not leave your car running inside an attached garage, as this can result in harmful CO fumes in your home.

- In the event of a power outage, run generators only in a well ventilated, outdoor area away from any open doors, windows and vent openings.

- Allow your snow blower and lawnmower to cool down before storing them in your shed or garage.

- Practice an escape plan with your family in the event of an emergency.

For additional fire prevention safety and tips, visit the National Fire Prevention website at www.nfpa.org. If you have any other fire safety questions, please email sloanfd@sloanfd.org or leave a message at 897-1564.

OTHER VILLAGE NEWS.....

Ballroom Dancing comes to Sloan again! Classes will be offered at the Sloan Fire Hall. They will begin on Monday October 6 and run for a 6 week period. The fee will be \$10 each class. If you are interested, please call Village Hall at 897-1560 to leave your name and phone number or to get additional information. You do not need a partner to participate.

What Recycling Day is Your Street?

"A" Red Week - Wagner, Atlantic, Lackawanna, Village Lane, Michael, Halstead, Curtiss, Griffith and those portions of Broadway, Reiman, Gates and Lovejoy west of Boll Street

"B" Blue Week - Boll, Currier, Roland, Crocker, Francis, Jackson, Rutland, Harlem, Gierlach, Franklin, Blick, those portions of Broadway, Reiman, Gates and Lovejoy that are east of Boll, and the Southside of Sloan off of William Street

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The St. Vincent de Paul Society and Frank Gierlach Post are again sponsoring the Thanksgiving Turkey and December Food Give-Aways to needy families in the Village of Sloan. Turkeys and non-perishable foods that are **not out dated** can be dropped off during November and December at either Village Hall or St. Andrew's Church rectory.

SLOAN YOUTH RECREATION CENTER

The Sloan Youth Recreation Center located upstairs at the Piekarski Community Ctr, 140 Halstead Ave, will open on Wednesday, October 1. All Village youth residents ages 8 years

and up are welcome to join—7 years or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Village ID required, photo ID cards available at the Rec Center during hours of operation: Tues-Fri 3:30-7:30pm

and Sat Noon-8pm. Closed Sun & Mon. Check at the Rec Center for any upcoming special events, crafts, movie nights, or cooking classes. There will be a sign up sheet for these events. Hope to

SLOAN SENIOR CENTER

If you are over the age 60, you are eligible to participate in the Erie County Lunch Program. Meals are served at noon Mon-Fri at the Piekarski Community Ctr, 140 Halstead Ave with a \$3 suggested donation. We offer lunch, play

pokeno, bingo, exercise, and cards. We offer a variety of trips and monthly special events throughout the year for our members. For a fee, we have gone to Niagara Casino, Desiderio's Dinner Theater, Miss Buffalo/The

Hatch, with a few events still planned for the remainder of 2014. You can join and become a member of the Senior Ctr and participate if you are at least 55 years old. For more information contact Helen or Ed at 897-1389.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Since 2008, the Village office staff has organized a basket raffle to benefit families in our community. To date, \$3,840 has been raised and distributed to those in need during the holiday season. Baskets and gift cards are graciously donated from local businesses, residents, employees, Highway and Fire Depts. All monies raised are used to

purchase gift certificates from the Sloan Supermarket or Wal-Mart which are then sent to Village families from "Santa". If you are interested in donating an item, basket or gift card, please contact Karen or Debbie at 897-1560. A sheet of 25 tickets for \$5.00 will be available for purchase after **December 8** at Village Hall. Drawing will be at the Christmas Party on Dec.

21; need not be present to win. Many thanks to the following businesses for their continued support: Sloan Supermarket, Ideal Concrete, Pizza Express, Wally's Cafe, Lovejoy Pizza, "R"Bar, Master Pizza, Applebee's, Holiday Showcase, Avon, Anderson's, Tops, Save-a-Lot, Mighty Taco, Key Liquors, Town Shanty, Fantastic Sam's.

FROM GENE BESZCZYNSKI, DPW CHIEF

As fall arrives, our department will pick up all leaves that are raked onto the "headland" area as weather permits. The headland is the grassy area between the sidewalk and curb. Please do not rake any leaves into the street, as it blocks the flow of rainwater into the storm drains. This past summer, we replaced or repaired 14

storm drain inlets that were deteriorated or collapsing. By the end of September, we will begin replacing almost 2000 square foot of sidewalks in various locations in the Village. As time and weather permits, we will also be trimming trees and preparing our snow plowing equipment for winter. Just a reminder and for the safety

of your neighbors, please keep your sidewalks clear of all ice and snow. Additionally, do not throw any snow into the streets as this results in a driving hazard and is actually a violation of Village Code. If you have a plow driver hired for snow removal, they must obtain a snow plow permit from Village Hall.

5TH ANNUAL SOUP ON SUNDAY

Hard to believe, but, we are already planning for your favorite winter event!! Remember, it's first come/ first serve, so be there early. We wouldn't want you to miss out on any of your favorites!

DATE: Sunday, March 1, 2015

TIME: 12:30p.m.—???. Will serve until all soup is gone

PLACE: Sloan Fire Hall, 55 Gates Street

DONATION: \$6 for adults / \$2.00 ages 6-10 / Kids 5 & under free

Take-Out containers \$3.00 / Canned pop & homemade desserts available for purchase / Bread, Coffee, Tea included / Split Club Raffle held throughout the event

VILLAGE OF SLOAN EVENTS

9/26/14 VNA Flu & Pneumonia Shot Clinic in Village Hall / 10am-2pm / proof of insurance

10/31/14 Halloween Parade begins at 5:30pm in front of St. Andrew's Church and continues to the John A. Piekarski Community Center for the candy give away. Village ID or proof of residency required at the door.

10/31/14 Trick or Treating 6:00pm-8:00pm

12/9/14 Chinese Auction tickets for sale at Village Hall-Baskets will be on display. Tickets are \$5 per sheet of 25.

12/21/14 Village Christmas Party & Chinese Auction at Sloan Fire Hall 12noon-2pm

3/1/15 "Soup On Sunday" 12:30pm at Sloan Fire Hall, 55 Gates Street

NEW HOPE CHURCH, 358 REIMAN ST

10/31/14 6-8pm TRUNK or TREATS—Visit the decorated vehicle trunks while out trick or treating-goodies inside for kids and parents

12/24/14 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

12/31/14 Family New Year's Eve Game Night / a drug & alcohol free evening /safe,family friendly way to ring in the new year/bring a snack and/or beverage to share with everyone

ST. ANDREW'S EVENTS, 892-0425 FOR INFO

9/26/14 Meat Raffle-Doors open 5:30pm, Drawing begins 7pm/\$5 presale \$8 at door

10/3—10/31/14 STARCC Haunted House in Bldg #1/Fri & Sat 6-10pm Sun 5-9pm/ \$5 adults \$3 12-under/ Bring a non-perishable food item and receive \$1 off admission price

10/5/14 1:30pm Blessing of the Animals/ Rectory Parking Lot

10/12/14 11am Retirement Mass for Father Fabian — Open reception @ Kiebzak's New Beginnings from 12:30-3pm

10/19/14 11am Polka Mass featuring Special Delivery/Krolick's BBQ Chicken or Rib Dinner following mass-presale tickets avail/VNA flu shots-proof of insurance required

12/13 & 12/14/14 Cookie Sale after all masses

12/14/14 Breakfast w/Santa-Parish Hall 9a-1p / Remembrance Tree Service 5pm

12/21/14 Cheektowaga Symphony Concert in Church/ 3-5pm / free will offering

1/18/15 Pre-Super Bowl Party 4pm-? \$40/tkt

1/25/15 Youth Group Pancake Brkfst 9am-1pm

2/18/15 Ash Wed / Krolick's Fish or Shrimp Dinner or Bowl of Mac-n-Cheese