

# THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

SPRING 2014

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR NIWINSKI

Although our great Village is only one square mile in size, there is always so much to report. As you read through this issue of the Sloan Connection, mark your calendars and take the opportunity to attend some of our sponsored events.

Last week, I met with our engineer to discuss the next phase of sewer repair. Utilizing Community Development funds, we will be slip-lining a section of sanitary sewers on Jackson Avenue. This project should be complete by the end of summer. Also scheduled for this summer is the installation of new playground equipment at Griffith Park.

Since the mortgage foreclosure crisis in 2008, when the

Village experienced a large increase in abandoned homes, we have been combating vacancy and distressed properties. In 2013, the State authorized the formation of a land bank in Erie County. BENLIC (Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation) requested all municipalities to submit several distressed property addresses for possible acquisition. The Village referred four properties to BENLIC that are in either mortgage or property tax foreclosure. If BENLIC is able to acquire any of these properties, they will be remediated and sold to prospective homeowners. Remediation of distressed properties protects our own homes' value, has a positive

impact on our neighborhood safety and our residents' quality of life.

With the recent resignation of a Zoning Board of Appeals member, we are seeking another applicant to fill the position. If you are interested in becoming a Zoning Board member, please contact Village Hall with your name and telephone number.

Although winter has been exceptionally long this year, spring will arrive soon. I hope to see you around the Village, either at one of our holiday events, Soup on Sunday or just out for a walk through the neighborhood. Best of health to all!

## REMINDERS

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one (1) hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

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The winter parking ban continues through April 1, 2014 between the hours of 2am - 7am. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you are 60 yrs or older, you qualify for the Erie County Nutrition Lunch Program Meals are served Mon-Fri at noon for a suggested donation of \$3.00. Call 897-1389 for more information.

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Please remember to keep your sidewalks shoveled while winter is still here. If you are near a fire hydrant, please keep the surrounding area of it clear from snow. Thank you.

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Did you know that 94% of all Village of Sloan Fire Department calls are responded to in 3 minutes or less.....Way to go Sloan Fire Department!!

## FROM GENE BESZCZYNSKI, DPW CHIEF

This year, Buffalo is the 2nd snowiest city in the country, beaten only by Erie, PA. We have been hard at work keeping the streets clear and safe for you. So far, we have plowed 26 times this winter, more than the last 2 winters combined. The first plow run took place on Nov 22, 2013, compared to the

previous winter, when we didn't plow until December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have salted the streets 30 times this winter, using over 330 tons of salt, compared to last year when we only used a total of 270 tons. Although some municipalities have been rationing salt due to the shortage, we are not facing this situa-

tion yet. No matter how long winter may seem, planning for our spring and summer projects is under way. We are developing a sanitary sewer project on Jackson Avenue, the installation of new playground equipment at Griffith Park and painting the pool house exterior this year.

## FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Over the years, many residents have questioned us as to why we share a zip code with the City of Buffalo and if it can be changed. Zip codes do not always run along municipality borders and, unfortunately, the US Post Office will not change ours. How does this affect you? If your auto insurance has you listed as living in Buffalo, you are paying higher rates than necessary. If your homeowners or renters insurance list Buffalo, the 2% mandated NYS charge for fire service will go to Buffalo instead of Sloan.

Contact your insurance agent to verify your policy address and possibly save yourself some money and increase revenue for our own Village fire department.

This also applies to your utilities bill. On every electric, gas, cable, and telephone bill, there is a 1% gross receipts tax that is returned to your municipality. If any of your utility bills have your address listed as Buffalo or Cheektowaga, the 1% is incorrectly being returned to them instead of Sloan. Speaking of utilities... **INSIST ON IDENTIFICATION**

Recently in the news, there have been several instances of men impersonating meter readers to gain access to your home. If someone is at your door to read your gas, electric or water meter, do not allow them in until you have verified their identification. All meter readers should be driving a truck with the logo of their respective companies clearly visible. If you are still unsure, do not hesitate to call the utility before letting them into your home. National Fuel can be reached at 686-6123, NYSE&G at 1-800-572-1111, and Erie County Water Authority at 849-8444.

## FROM ALAN WIEBERG, FIRE CHIEF

Going above and beyond to help others....

The latest project for the Sloan Fire Department is near completion, setting up a SEFU equipped vehicle. SEFU (Storm Emergency Fire Unit) can be described as a four wheel drive vehicle with a self-sufficient crew and collection of equipment used for various tasks in storm damaged areas. Some equipment included on the truck would be SCBA's

(airpacks), chainsaw, pump, generators, fire extinguishers, EMS equipment and last but not least, trained firefighters.

When natural disasters occur, the state will issue requests for SEFU units to deploy in the storm damaged areas. Our firefighters would volunteer their time (in some cases even take time off from their jobs) to travel to these areas and help those in need. Assignments during such deployments may range

from clearing trees from roadways, providing lighting when power is out, helping evacuate residents, or assisting local fire departments who may be inundated with calls.

We all have experienced the challenges in our neighborhoods during major storms and now we are prepared to help others when they need assistance.

## 2014 REFUSE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

MEMORIAL DAY	MONDAY, MAY 26	COLLECTION ON FRIDAY, MAY 30
INDEPENDENCE DAY	FRIDAY, JULY 4	NO DELAY IN COLLECTION
LABOR DAY	MON, SEPT 1	COLLECTION ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
THANKSGIVING DAY	THURS, NOV 27	COLLECTION ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
CHRISTMAS DAY	THURS, DEC 25	COLLECTION ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

**Recycling: A Week**—Ludington, Wagner, Atlantic, Lackawanna, Michael, Halstead, Curtiss, Griffith and those portions of Broadway, Reiman, Gates and Lovejoy that are west of Boll Street. **B Week**—Boll, Currier, Roland, Crocker, Francis, Jackson, Rutland, Harlem, Blick, Franklin, Gierlach, Mann, Strawn, William, Grattan, Lehigh, Celine, and those portions of Broadway, Reiman, Gates and Lovejoy that are east of Boll Street

## YOUTH RECREATION CENTER

The Youth Recreation Department is housed in the Piekarski Community Center on Halstead Avenue and provides a supervised program and activities for the youth of our Village. Ages 8 to 18 are invited to stop in and see what we have to offer in gaming, pool, arts & crafts, movie nights and even cooking camps! For tykes younger than 8, a parent must accompany you. Our hours are Tuesday through Friday- 4:00 to 8:00 and Saturdays 12:00 to 8:00. During these hours, there is an exercise room that's available to adults over the age of 18. The exercise room has

treadmills, bikes, free weights and more. All activities are FREE to Sloan residents. During the summer months, our workers move to Griffith Park as life guards and park attendants. This year, using Community Development funds, the Village is purchasing new playground equipment. There has been an increase in families buying homes in Sloan that have young children. Recognizing this growing need, the new play set will be appropriate for ages 2 to 5. Arts & crafts will be offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week. On Wednesdays, we do a "theme day" for everyone.

Past theme days have included Hawaiian Luau Party, Tie-Dye T-shirt Day, Ice Cream Social and more. As summer draws near, you can check the Village website for an event schedule.

If you are interested in working at Griffith Park this summer, employment applications are available at Village Hall. You must be at least 16 years old and reside in Sloan. Interviews will take place in May and each new attendant must become both CPR and First Aid certified.

## SENIOR RECREATION CENTER

Are you a senior looking for something to do during the week? Why not join the Sloan Seniors for some fun activities and friendship? You, or your spouse, must be at least 55 years young but are not required to be a Village resident. Our doors open at 9:30am every Monday through Friday at the Community Center at 140 Halstead Avenue. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, BINGO is played at 10:45. On Wednesdays, we have low-impact exercise starting at 10:00 and

POKEENO at 12:30. We also participate in the Erie County Nutrition Program, where you can purchase a hot, well-balanced lunch for just a \$3.00 donation.

Every month, the Sloan Seniors take a trip or attend a theatre production. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, we are traveling to Erie, Pennsylvania and trying our luck at the Presque Isle casino.

Upcoming trips include lunch and theatre production of "Columbo" at De-

siderio's on Broadway (March 23<sup>rd</sup>); an April 4<sup>th</sup> trip to the Broadway Market for Easter shopping and good eats at Pott's Deli; a day in the southern tier- lunch at Sprague Farms and a few hours at Allegany Casino in Salamanca (April 28<sup>th</sup>). Stop in and join in a card game, take a spin on the recumbent bike and make some friends!

Anyone interested, call Helen or Ed at 897-1389 for more information.

## THANK YOU VILLAGE RESIDENTS.....

Karen and I would like to thank everyone who supported our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Basket Raffle held in December. All funds raised are used to purchase gift certificates to help Sloan families in need during the holidays. This year,

we had 53 baskets donated by local businesses and friends, making it possible for us to distribute over \$1000 in Walmart and Sloan Supermarket certificates. Through a generous donation by their corporate office in Amherst,

we also mailed \$470 in Mighty Taco gift cards. These gifts from "Santa" helped 43 families in our Village have a better holiday.

# 4TH ANNUAL SOUP ON SUNDAY

IT'S HERE!! - Your new, favorite wintertime event is back again!! This fundraiser supports the 5th Annual Sloan Family Picnic in August 2014! As always, we will have a variety of homemade soups and chili's—remember, it's first come, first serve, so, be there early so you don't miss out on any of your favorites!

- DATE:** Sunday, March 2, 2014
- TIME:** 12:30 p.m.—??? Will serve until all soup is gone
- PLACE:** Sloan Fire Hall, 55 Gates Street
- DONATION:** \$5.00 for adults / \$3.00 ages 6-10 / Kids 5 and under free

TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS \$3.00 / CANNED POP & DESSERTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE / BREAD, COFFEE, TEA INCLUDED / SPLIT CLUB RAFFLE THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.

## VILLAGE OF SLOAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 2** Soup On Sunday, 12:30-??? Sloan Fire Hall, 55 Gates Street

**April 19** Annual Village Easter Egg Hunt, 2-4pm, Sloan Fire Hall—Proof of Village Residency required.

**May 18** Sloan Active Hose Co #1 Annual Fund Drive in the Village

**June 8** Sloan Fire Dept Mass & Inspection

## ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 5** Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass—Krolick's Fish & Shrimp Dinner 4-7pm/Pre-sale tkts \$10/At door \$10.50

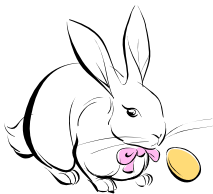
**March 16** Annual Flea Market & Rummage Sale 9am-2pm, food available for purchase, donations to the church for rummage sale greatly appreciated

**April 13** Palm Sunday, Breakfast Buffet with the Easter Bunny 9am-1pm Donation \$7 and \$3 5-under, Crafts for the kids and baked goods sale

**April 19** Blessing of the Baskets Noon & 1pm

**April 20** Easter Mass 8am & 11am

**June 8** Sloan FD Inspection Mass 8am



## NEW HOPE CHURCH SBC

358 Reiman Street—Corner of Reiman & Michael

(716) 896– HOPE (4673)

[www.newhopesb.com](http://www.newhopesb.com)



April 5th, 2014—7:00 PM Chuckles at the Church 2 Comedy Night - Free of charge

April 18th, 2014—6:30 PM Good Friday Service

April 20th, 2014—10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service & Blossoming of the Cross

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