

THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER 2023

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR FERRUCCI

It has been four months since our last publication of the Sloan Connection was delivered to your door and another summer is over. We had four wonderful concerts in Griffith Park and, after many contractor delays, our Sports Court renovation was finally finished! My fellow Board members will join me in handing out Halloween candy on October 31st at the Halstead Community Center. Additional information on this and other events can be found on page four of this issue.

In August, Deputy Mayor Eric Czubaj purchased a home outside the Village and resigned his Board seat. We are searching for a village resident who would like to become involved with their community on a new level as a Trustee. If you feel like the right person for this position, please submit a letter of interest to Village Hall in the next few weeks. A heartfelt thank you to Eric for serving on the Board for so many years; leading our Youth Recreation Department, assisting with contract negotiations, bringing expertise to our sewer project and so much more. Congratulations to him and his family on this new chapter in their lives.

After two years of manufacturer delays and cancellations, our Highway Department should be

receiving our new plow trucks next spring. In anticipation of winter, the crew has overhauled our twenty-two-year-old trucks; replaced aging hydraulic lines and filters, and completed oil changes. Over the summer, we also received three new zero-turn mowers, replacing twelve-year-old equipment. Both the Fire and Highway Departments have an equipment replacement schedule that is reviewed and amended on an annual basis. This policy has worked well for the Village as anticipating and planning for the needs of high-cost equipment and vehicle replacements helps minimize the fiscal impact on our property owners.

Utilizing our 2023 and 2024 Community Development Block Grant funding, we will be replacing the main playground set in Wrazen Park next summer. The existing structure is over twenty-five years old and new equipment that meets ADA standards will benefit our families with young children and have no financial impact on our taxpayers.

We have finalized our project plan for the \$15,000.00 grant awarded this year from Erie County. Legislator Tim Meyers has been instrumental in procuring funding for the past four years. These grants have been used for Wrazen and Griffith Park improvements, purchase of

picnic tables and sun shelters in the Splashpad, and Community Center upgrades. For 2023 funding, we will be purchasing new facility security cameras, holiday banners and tables for the Sloan Fire Hall.

We have just been awarded a \$100,000.00 grant from Assemblywoman Monica Wallace to upgrade our bathrooms for ADA compliancy in the Griffith Park facility. Over the winter, our engineer will finalize a design plan and we will be requesting contractor bids. Hopefully all work will be completed by the opening of the Splash Pad in June. Assemblywoman Wallace has obtained over \$400,000 in legislative grant monies for the Village of Sloan; funding used towards the Splash Pad installation, concrete sidewalks, renovations to Griffith Park Sports Courts, Arts Council Concert events and Fire Department equipment. Thank you to her for the continuous support of our Village community and assisting us in reaching our goal of fully ADA compliant parks.

I hope to see everyone at our holiday events: Halloween on October 31st, Christmas program on December 18th and the February 10th, 7:00pm "Two of Us" Beatles tribute concert band at the Sloan Fire Hall.

Thomas Ferrucci, Mayor

FROM VINCE FERRARCCIO, CODE OFFICER

2023 has been a busy year for Code Enforcement as we move into our second phase of mandated inspections of all multi-dwelling units. New York State requires municipalities to inspect all properties that have three or more apartments every three (3) years. If you have received a letter for an updated Certificate of Occupancy, please submit the application and we will schedule an appointment when all parties and tenants are available. By Law, I am required to inspect each unit and all common areas for code compliance.

This year, we have submitted a record twenty-seven (27) housing court cases with the Town of Cheektowaga. Complaints are referred to the Town for criminal prosecution only after repeated Letters of Violation have been mailed to the property owner. Court referrals are the last resort of a Code Enforcement Officer after non-compliance by the owner(s). If you have received a Notice of Violation, please do not ignore but contact my office to discuss the matter and develop a plan for remediation.

Thanksgiving may be only a

month away but live turkeys are not allowed in the Village of Sloan. Our Code does not permit any type of poultry, pigeons or farm animals to be kept due to the noise and rodent attraction.

For any code compliance issues in your neighborhood, please file a written notice with the Clerk's office in Village Hall. They will refer to me for an investigation. Likewise, if you are completing any work or have a contractor completing work on your property, call Village Hall at (716)897-1560 or stop in to 425 Reiman St. to inquire if a permit is needed.

TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

Waste Management (WM) uses fully automated vehicles which results in stricter adherence to regulations. No extra bags or loose debris can be placed outside of your trash or recycling totes. All regular household trash, grass clippings and yard debris must be bagged and placed inside of your tote. Materials may not protrude and the lid must close securely to prevent rodent access. Totes should be placed at curbside by 6:00am on the day of collection. Totes must be located within two (2) feet of the curb and with enough room for the hydraulic lift arm to operate. If you live on the parking side of the street, please place trash and recycling totes on your driveway apron to prevent them from being blocked by vehicles as WM will not return if inaccessible the first time.

Waste Management will pick up ONLY TWO (2) bulk items per address monthly. Bulk items consist of furniture, carpet/padding (cut in 4' lengths or less, no wider than 18" and securely taped), box springs, mattresses, and toilets (which all must be wrapped in plastic or bagged). Large plastic bags are available for purchase at various local home building stores. Items NOT ACCEPTED: microwaves, air conditioners, concrete, tires, construction material, televisions and computers.

WM has seen an increase of items placed for disposal in the recycling totes that are NOT ACCEPTABLE such as food, plastic bags, rugs, bedding, clothing, carpet, hoses, holiday lights, extension cords, clothes hangers, napkins, plates, cups, tissues, foam or plastic to-go containers, yard waste, wood, concrete, con-

struction debris, blow up pools, auto parts and hazardous waste.

For any questions on what is acceptable BULK or RECYCLABLES please contact WM Customer Service at 1-800-972-4545 or Village Hall directly. Our DPW picks up metal items (not e-waste) on a weekly basis.

UPCOMING BULK DATES:
November 30th, December 29th.

EXCESSIVE TRASH can be taken directly to the Eastside transfer station at 793 South Ogden, near Big Lots. There is a fee charged, based on weight.

ELECTRONIC OR E-WASTE recycling is now available at the Town of Cheektowaga Highway Garage located at 3145 Union, Monday through Friday from the hours of 7:30am to 1:00pm. This service is provided FREE to all residents!

FROM MICHELE KRAMARSYCK, YOUTH REC DIRECTOR

Happy Fall Sloan Residents! As we wind down from summer and approach the cooler months ahead, I would like to thank everyone who made our summer season a great success at Griffith Park. Our youth enjoyed their time at the splash pad along with craft days lead by our wonderful staff. A huge thank you to the Cheektowaga Sloan School District for providing 1,345 free summer lunches to our youth once again!

The Recreation Center, located at 140 Halstead Avenue, will re-

open for the season on Thursday, November 2nd. Hours of operation will be Thursday and Friday from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, and Saturday from 12:00pm to 6:00pm. To make our facility more inviting this year, we are allowing our resident youth to bring a non-resident friend with them! Valid ID cards are required for Village residents to enter and can be obtained at the Village Hall during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm. Two current proofs of residency,

such as a utility bill or school report card, are required and your parent or guardian must be with you when applying for an ID.

To kick off the opening of the Youth Recreation Center this season, we are having a pizza party for the kids! We invite Village Resident children (no non-residents for this event please!) ages 8 or older to join us on November 2nd from 5:00pm to 8:00pm! Come enjoy pizza, games, an air hockey tournament and more!



AS FALL APPROACHES, THE DPW CREW 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 BLOCKS THE STORM DRAINS AND CAUSES 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, DO NOT SHOVEL, BLOW OR PLOW SNOW INTO THE STREET. THIS RESULTS IN A DRIVING HAZARD AND IS AGAINST BOTH VILLAGE AND NYS VEHICLE & TRAFFIC LAWS.

FROM ALAN WIEBERG, FIRE CHIEF



Our department has been quite busy the last month as we have fought several fires in the Village. The most serious was a house fire on Griffith Street—pictured here. We received mutual aid assistance from Doyle 1 and 2, Rescue, Bellevue, Southline, UCrest and Forks. Fortunately, no residents or personnel

were hurt. Another fire recently occurred in a dryer vent. Before the snow falls, everyone should check their vents and clean out any lint or debris accumulation. As October is Fire Prevention month, it is time to change your smoke and carbon monoxide batteries. Working smoke/CO detectors save lives!

SLOAN COMFORT CARE NEWS

We are in awe of our bond with the Village and St. Andrew Parish with helping hands, motivating neighbors and financial support. We live month to month like all non-profits. On Nov 3rd, 6 to 9pm, we are having a meat raffle in the Parish Hall. Tickets are still available, at www.comfortcarewny.org or (716)931-5011. We are also raffling a signed XL Josh Allen jersey and Buffalo Bills t-shirt. Visit our Facebook page for the scan code.

SLOAN ARTS COUNCIL HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

We are sponsoring a house decorating contest this year. Judging will be on Monday, October 30th between 7:00 and 8:00pm so have your lights on! First place will receive \$75.00, second place \$50.00 and third place \$25.00.

16TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY 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 458 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. Andrew 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, Mighty Taco, the DPW and the Sloan Fire Department. A huge thank you to 2060 Auto Parts and the Gierlach Post for their generous cash donations to this cause. All monies raised are used to purchase gift cards and certificates from Tops, Camillo's, Wal-Mart and Price Rite, which are then mailed to our Sloan families most in need. If you are interested in donating a gift card or basket or know of a senior, individual or family that

could use some assistance, please call Karen or Debra at 716-897-1560. Ticket sales will be available for purchase at Sloan Village Hall beginning November 29th. Prices are (1) sheet of 25 tickets for \$5 or (5) sheets for \$20. Drawing will be December 19th via Facebook Live. The time will be announced at a later date on our Facebook page. Winners need not be present and will be contacted after the drawing.

Thank you all for supporting this worthwhile cause!!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST SLOAN BUSINESS, "PAWZ ON THE GO" PET SERVICES. LOCATED AT 127 ROLAND STREET AT REIMAN. OWNER SANDY SPECIALIZES IN GROOMING, DOG WALKING, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AND MORE. CALL (716)221-6319 FOR INFORMATION.

TRASH AND RECYCLING WILL BE DELAYED TO FRIDAY FOR THE WEEKS OF THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY. THE NEXT DELAY WILL NOT BE UNTIL MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.



Village Trick-or-Treating will be on Tuesday, October 31st. The fun begins at 6:00 pm in front of St. Andrew 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. Afterwards, take a walk to the Gierlach Post on Gates Street for a Haunted House and more treats. Neighborhood trick-or-treating is until 8:00pm. Be safe- carry a flashlight, apply reflective tape to costumes and if driving, watch for children and families crossing the streets!!!

The Village Youth Recreation Christmas celebration will be held at 6:00pm on December 18th at the Halstead Community Center. Santa and Mrs. Claus have been invited and pictures will be available. Crafts, face painting and refreshments to be served. Village ID will be required to attend.

The Salvation Army sponsors an Assistance Program that provides free toys for children in low-income families in Erie County. For an appointment, please call (716)888-6230. Photo ID, proof of residency and income, social security cards for all household members, and birth certificates of children are required.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

10/29/23 Trunk or Treat, Parking Lot, 2 to 4pm
 11/17/23 Meat Raffle, doors open 6pm, 7pm start
 11/18/23 Anointing of the Sick, after 4pm Mass
 11/23/23 Thanksgiving Day Mass 9am
 12/03/23 Holiday Carols, 2pm in the Church

12/16/23 Anointing of the Sick
 12/17/23 Breakfast with Santa inside the Parish Hall 9am-1pm
 12/24/23 Christmas Eve Masses 4pm & 10pm
 12/25/23 Christmas Day Masses 8am & 11am

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, CONTACT VILLAGE HALL. ALL ARTICLES PRINTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MAYOR AND ARE SUBJECT TO SPACE. **NOTE:** ANYONE KNOWING SOMEONE WHO LIVES OUT OF TOWN WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN E-COPY OF THE SLOAN CONNECTION MAY PROVIDE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES TO WEBMASTER@VILLAGEOFSLOAN.ORG.