

THE SLOAN CONNECTION

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER 2024

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR FERRUCCI

As I'm writing this article, Hurricane Milton has just devastated Florida so soon after Helene ripped through several southern states. Our changing weather patterns are resulting in our country experiencing extreme storms, heat, polar vortex events; and even tornadoes here in WNY. The forecast for our winter is of cold, wet weather with higher-than-average snow. Three years ago, the Village ordered two replacement snowplows and after numerous delays, the chassis were delivered in spring. However, we are awaiting the customization of the vehicles to be outfitted as plow trucks. Hopefully, by January these will be put into ser-

vice. They are four-wheel drive trucks that will handle heavier snow and both will have stainless-steel salters attached, allowing better service for our residents.

In August, we awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of the bathrooms in Griffith Park to meet ADA compliancy. The old bathrooms were original to the building, which is now sixty years old. This is made possible by the generous grant from our Assemblywoman Monica Wallace, who has been instrumental in funding so many projects for Sloan. She has secured monies to outfit both firetrucks with EV fire suppression equipment, as traditional water and foam application methods

will not work on electric vehicle battery fires.

Partnering with our Erie County Legislator Tim Meyers, we have secured \$85,000 in grant monies for the rehabilitation of our baseball diamond and replacement of some thirty-year old playground equipment in Griffith Park. The park has seen extensive upgrades the past six years: Splashpad, new shelter and sports courts, concrete work, bathrooms and equipment- it is something we can be proud of in our small Village!

On behalf of my family to yours... have a safe, enjoyable Holiday Season!! And, GO BILLS!!

Thomas Ferrucci



FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER MONICA WALLACE

This is an exciting time for Sloan! In Griffith Park, the new sidewalks are in and the pickle ball and roller hockey courts are completed, ensuring the park remains a hub of community activity that's accessible to all. I'm proud to have secured funding to make these improvements possible, along with funding to support earlier park enhancements like the splash pad and pavilion. Last summer, I invited Speaker Carl Heastie to Griffith Park to see the progress we've made, and together we announced funding to build new ADA accessible bathrooms in the park to make it

more inclusive for people with disabilities. We also announced \$100,000 in state funding for the Sloan Fire Department to purchase new hoses, a thermal imaging device, a Jaws of Life tool, and equipment to extinguish electric vehicle fires. I'm proud to have delivered this state funding, which helps reduce the local property tax burden. Sloan is a special place. Its small size allows residents to remain a tight-knit community where neighbors look out for neighbors and where local gatherings provide an opportunity to strengthen community bonds. That's why I'm proud to also have

delivered funding to support the summer concert series for the past few years. It's always a pleasure working with Mayor Ferruci and the entire Village Board to deliver for the residents of Sloan. And as always, my office is here to assist you with things like accessing public benefits and navigating government agencies. You can reach out by calling 716-686-0080 or emailing wallacem@nyassembly.gov.



FROM SUZANNE TOFTHAGEN, TRUSTEE

Happy Fall Season everyone! As the temperatures start to drop, now is the time to winterize your home. Replacing your filter now and halfway through the winter will keep your furnace running efficiently and is an easy DIY project. If you have a problem with freezing pipes, install insulation or heat tape around any located in crawl spaces or unheated basements. Drafty windows are costly to replace but installing plastic insulation sheets can be effective and will reduce heating bills. Be

prepared for any storms by having extra supplies and medications on hand. Should we have a snowstorm, take the time to check on your neighbors.

On October 3rd, I attended a meeting of NEST (North East South Towns) Solid Waste Management Board, which serves 37 municipalities in Erie County. The primary goal of NEST is to encourage higher levels of waste reduction, recycling and composting. A new legislative initiative being introduced is carpet and flooring recycling mandates, with the ultimate goal of reducing the

amount of tonnage deposited in our landfills and cost of disposal to the taxpayers. This is still in the planning stage and more information will follow in a future article and on our website.

This summer, I had the pleasure of meeting many of our residents at concerts and various events. I want to keep the communication going over the fall and winter months so will be hosting a coffee hour the first Sunday of each month at the Community Center, 140 Halstead from 11:30 to 1:00pm. Hope to see many of you on November 3rd.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

October 31st-Annual Costume Parade will begin at 6:00pm from St. Andrew Church, led by our Fire Department and leading to the Community Center on Halstead Ave, where treats will be provided for all our ghosts and goblins.

Trick or Treating will follow throughout the Village until 8:00pm. Be safe that evening by carrying a flashlight or wear reflective clothing and travel with a group or responsible adult.

The Sloan Arts Council will be sponsoring a Halloween House

Decorating Contest again this year. Judging will be on the evening of Wednesday, October 30th by the AC Board officers.

First prize- \$75.00

Second prize- \$50.00

Third prize \$25.00.

The Village Clerks Office is hiring for a full-time Deputy Clerk position. If you are interested in joining our team, please submit an employment application and resume to Village Hall at 425 Reiman Street. Candidates must have accounting, clerical and cash management experience; and have the ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing. Other responsibilities to include daily office operations, record keeping and the ability to develop and implement policies and procedures. Potential candidates should have a minimum of three years office experience and prefer a two or four-year college degree in business, government or a related field. Applications will be accepted until Friday, November 15, 2024.

TIDBITS AND NEWS

Election Day November 5th- Voting for Sloan Districts will be at the Fire Hall, 55 Gates Street, 6:00am to 9:00pm. Village Hall and the Highway Department will be closed that day.

Thanksgiving Holiday- Village Hall and the Highway Department will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th.

Board meetings as follows:

November 19, 2024 7:00pm- Regular meeting

December 10, 2024 7:00pm- Regular meeting

January 14, 2025 7:00pm- Regular meeting

FROM VINCE FERRARACCIO, CODE OFFICER

Earlier this month, working with our Village Attorney, we developed a Local Law amending our Code to address the rising concerns of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) across New York State. Although our representatives in Albany have sponsored some legislation, it addresses the registration but not the regulating, inspecting and permitting of STRs. The purpose of our Local Law is to regulate the safety and use of the STR according to Village of Sloan and NYS Codes;

and to prevent adverse impact to the community and its quality of life. The Law mandates inspections, limits the number of STR annual permits and also the Zoning Districts where they can be located.

We have seen an increase in the number of Animal Control violations in Sloan. Our Village Code prevents the breeding, harboring or slaughtering of any “poultry, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, other fowl, large reptiles, cloved or

hooved animals, except domesticated pets”. Domesticated pets are defined as dogs, cats, birds, small reptiles or fish.

On Sunday, November 3rd, we set our clocks back one hour as Daylight Savings Time ends. Now is the time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Also, check the expiration date on the detectors as most only last ten years and some as little as five regardless if they’re battery or hard-wired.

FROM ALAN WIEBERG, SLOAN FIRE CHIEF

The roles and responsibilities of serving in the Village of Sloan Fire Department are changing as the world changes around us. We are experiencing increased call volumes, additional training requirements for our members and major changes in technology. This affects how we respond and operate as a department. We are proactively planning for the challenges with electric vehicle (EV) fires. With a grant secured by Assemblymember Wallace, we ordered an Electric Vehicle Bat-

tery Extinguishing System for each of our Engines. These tools provide us the capability to extinguish electric vehicle fires. These fires require a much different approach to extinguishment compared to a regular vehicle fire. We encourage everyone to review the New York Lithium-Ion Battery Consumer Safety Guide (<https://on.ny.gov/3TPiTYc>) which we also will share the link on our Facebook page. The guide outlines how to prevent Lithium-

Ion Battery fires, which are becoming more common. Lithium-Ion Batteries are found not only in EVs, but cordless power tools, personal electronics and EBikes. Damaged, defective or recalled batteries have a higher risk of fire and can dispel toxic gases and metal shards when burning. Batteries should only be charged with the power cord supplied from the manufacturer. Chargers should plug directly into a wall outlet for safety as extension cords will overheat.

St. Andrew Church Programs and Events

October 27th– 3:00pm Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra Concert

November 15th– Giving Tree inside of Church

November 28th– 9:00am Thanksgiving Day Mass

December 1st– 5:00pm Lessons N Carols (Remembrance Tree)

December 8th– 9:00am to 1:00pm Breakfast with Santa

December 12th– Advent Penance Service 3:00 to 5:00pm at OLC and 7:00 to 8:00pm at St. Andrew

December 24th– No BINGO. Merry Christmas Eve!

December 31st– No BINGO. Happy New Years Eve!

January 20, 2025– Rectory Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AT ST. MATTHEWS CEMETERY

Wreaths are placed at over 700,000 Veterans graves throughout the United States to honor our fallen soldiers at Christmastime. Our local Veterans, AMVETS Post 4572 and other volunteers will place wreaths on Field of Valor graves following a brief service at 10:30am on Saturday, December 14th, at St. Matthews Cemetery, 180 Old French Road. Each wreath is ceremoniously placed on a Veterans gravesite, followed by a hand salute or hand to the heart. To purchase a wreath as a donation and support this program, representatives will be accepting orders on Saturday, November 16th at the Sloan Fire Hall from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The cost of each wreath is \$17.00 and our current goal is 460. In both 2022 and 2023, we met our goal and, with your help, we can achieve it again this year! Checks should be made payable to AMVETS Post 4572 and mailed to 50 Gates Street, Sloan, NY 14212. For further info or to volunteer, please call Greg (716)830-2995, Art (716)888-0229 or Carmella (716)771-1244.

THE SLOAN ARTS COUNCIL IS HOSTING A FREE CONCERT AT 7:00PM ON FEBRUARY 8, 2025 AT THE SLOAN FIRE HALL, 55 GATES ST. GATHER FAMILY AND FRIENDS (NO CHILDREN) TO ENJOY THE "TWO OF US" PERFORMING ALL THE BEATLE CLASSICS. NO REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SOLD SO BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND DRINKS!

TRASH AND RECYCLING WILL BE POSTPONED FROM THURSDAY TO FRIDAY FOR THE WEEKS OF THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE. TWO-ITEM BULK PICKUP WILL BE NOVEMBER 29TH AND DECEMBER 27TH.

Trash Tidbits and More...

What is considered "Bulk Trash"? Bulk is any items that are too large to fit inside of your trash tote ie. furniture, dressers, bedframes, rolled carpet etc. Waste Management does not accept construction material, concrete, fencing, dirt, sod, household hazardous waste, tires, electronics or extra bags. Our DPW collects metal and white goods (stoves, refrigerators etc.) and cut/securely bound branches on a weekly basis. All totes should be removed from curbside by 6:00pm on the day of pickup and must be stored alongside or behind your house, **NOT** in front. Erie County Sanitary and Village Code mandates that tote lids must be fully closed at **ALL TIMES** to prevent vermin/rats from entering. As this is becoming an ongoing issue throughout the Village, further complaints will be referred to the Erie County Health Department (716-961-6800) for fines and enforcement. Need an extra trash tote? Annual fee for a 95gallon is \$200.00, a 65gallon is \$140.00 and can be ordered through Village Hall. Recycling totes are a one-time fee of \$45.00.

Frank L. Gierlach Post Events

Friday, November 1st– Meat Raffle at the Lancaster Elks Lodge, 33 Legion Prkwy. Doors open at 6:00pm, First spin at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 presale, \$12.00 at door. Includes Beer, Wine, Soda and a Slice of Pizza. For tickets, call Bob at (814) 392-4531 or any member for more information.

December 7th– Craft Show 10 to 3:00pm. Tables to rent \$10.00. Call 716-896-2954.

December 21st– Holiday Food Drive. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Sloan Village Hall at 716-897-1560 and have your address placed on the list. Food item donations (canned and dry goods) can be made to Village Hall between December 2nd and 20th.

Parking passes for the Griffith Park, Fire and Village Halls will be available beginning November 1st. They are free for residents. For the convenience of our southside residents parking will now be available along Wrazen Park in the newly fenced area.

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.