



# Village of Brockport



Summer 2015

[www.brockportny.org](http://www.brockportny.org)

Issue 4

## From the Mayor's Desk

As summer arrives, the roof on Village Hall has been repaired to match the original slate, and the last piece of renovation for Village Court—an emergency exit door—has been completed. Court is running smoothly now, and we've been able to successfully choreograph routine village business alongside a very busy Friday afternoon Village Court.



In May, the village signed with Larsen Engineers to pursue solar power for village municipal buildings (49 State St., 1 Clinton St. and 38 East Ave.). Village Board members visited the Town of Williamson, NY in Wayne County to see their new solar farm. We project annual savings not as large as Williamson's \$27,000 but very worth making the shift. The solar "farm" will be erected on the village landfill.

May brought our third annual Low Bridge High Water canal opening festival. This time a partnership with Stoneyard Brewing for a Friday night craft beer event raised \$3,400 toward our goal of bringing rowing to Brockport as a community/high school/college sport, plus funds for Camp Abilities Brockport and Camp Good Days.

On June 18, 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Buck Noble's enrichment program at Fred Hill School visited the Department of Public Works, the Brockport Police Department, and Village Hall where they enjoyed pizza and participated in a mock Village Board Meeting. Videos of their interviews with village government officials can be found at [www.brockportny.org/about/about-brockport](http://www.brockportny.org/about/about-brockport). Pictured with the Mayor, left to right: Katarina Allen, Joe Murtaugh, Anthony Brodner, and Isabella Watson.

The village budget for 2015-16, for the third year in a row, was under the tax cap. We were able to make 3 major equipment purchases for DPW, replace two police cars, and continue improvements to village parks. There were no changes in staffing, nor in water and sewer rates.

Inside you'll find updates from the Brockport Police Department, Codes Department, and Department of Public Works, a business spotlight on Sunnking, a court primer, and news from the Emily L. Knapp Museum and the Welcome Center. Enjoy your summer and stop by the Farmers Market on a Sunday from 8am to 1pm through October 25 to benefit from local produce; hope to see you there!

**Newsletter News: The village newsletter will be moving to fall/spring publication. Look for the next issue to be inserted in the Suburban News in October.**

# Low Bridge High Water Festivities



Photos courtesy of Susan Smith

Below are some highlights from the annual Low Bridge High Water (LBHW) Festivities. The Friday night beer tent event, in partnership with Stoneyard Brewery, was a huge success. The barge set the stage for our 4th grade poster awards, opening ceremony, musicians, dancers, and even yoga. Kayak rentals were available and Genesee Rowing Club was on hand to answer questions and show their boats to the public. At the popular Pizza Olympics, Perri's pizza garnered the most votes, but all choices were thoroughly enjoyed by festival goers. Event t-shirts are still available for \$6 at Village Hall; stop by and pick one up!



1st place winner: Xia Hoffman



2nd place winner: Jenna Rivera



3rd place winner: Dominic Williams



Tent event—Stoneyard had an ale just for LBHW! Mayor Blackman, Trustee Kristansen, Walk!Bike! Chairman Ray Duncan, Superintendent Harry Donahue



Pizza Olympics



Bill Hullfish & The Golden Eagles String Band



Kayak demos & rentals



Rowing Ergometers or "ERGS" Demo



Beyond2Yoga on the barge



Bollywood Dancers



## A Letter from Chief Varrenti

Now that summer is finally upon us and the weather conducive to outdoor activities, I'd like to remind everyone that while our parks, sidewalks and other areas of the village are intended for enjoyment and pleasure, they are not intended for illegal or unruly activities.

Many times we are called to the downtown area of the village for people congregating on the sidewalks. While it's certainly within someone's right to sit on a bench, or engage in conversation while standing on a sidewalk, it is not within someone's rights to make a public sidewalk into their front yard or to block people from freely passing on a sidewalk.

Additionally our parks are there for people to enjoy without hearing foul language and/or ethnic slurs. Please understand this is not a philosophy of mine but rather New York State Law. I'm a firm believer that people should and will be able to visit our parks in Brockport without being subjected to swearing and/or loud unruly behavior.

Please let's remember to respect everyone and that personal beliefs do not supersede law. I believe if we all respect each other and we act as we would want to be treated, we can all enjoy our parks, sidewalks and other amenities our village has to offer.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone who traverses our roads, that the Brockport Police Department has the highest percentage of DWI arrests per officer in Monroe County. Members of the Brockport Police Department firmly believe every DWI arrest is potentially a life-saving event. Please don't drink and drive.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Village Court

The opening year of the Brockport Village Court is well underway! When you enter village hall, veer to the right and walk through the courtroom (which also functions as the village board room and community meeting room). The clerk's office is in the back on the left. Our court days are Friday. On the first and second Friday of the month, the judges have an arraignment docket only. This means that the defendant has not entered a plea either verbally or by mail. The judge will call your name, read the charge and ask how you plead. If you choose to plead guilty, the judge will set a fine. Most fines have a pre-determined range; however the state does impose mandatory surcharges.

If you plead not guilty, you will be given a date to return and speak with the assistant district attorney for a possible reduction in your charge. Remember, you can mail your ticket in with either plea. Following receipt of your plea, you will receive one of two responses from the court, either a fine notice (if you plead guilty) or a return date (if you plead not guilty). The third and fourth Fridays of the month the assistant district attorney is in Brockport to hear cases. The public defender (PD) attends all of our court days. If you have been charged with a misdemeanor or above, the PD will interview you to see if you qualify for his or her services.

Small claims, evictions, and code violations are also heard in the village court. If you need to file a claim or eviction, please contact a court clerk.

### **Court Clerk Contact Information**

[villagecourt@brockportny.org](mailto:villagecourt@brockportny.org)

637-5300 x21 for Corey or x22 for Lynette

## Building and Code Enforcement Office

As we move through summer, one item that the Building/Code Enforcement Department has keyed in on trash and refuse. In years past, the amount of trash left curbside has been overwhelming to residents in affected neighborhoods. Furniture and other unsightly trash left at the road makes for an unattractive environment and can pose a safety hazard to pedestrians.

This year we made great strides toward eliminating this problem. The department implemented a “zero tolerance” policy during the move-out period right before college commencement. Letters were sent to all rental property owners and notices were published in *The Stylus* (the college newspaper) and *Suburban News* noting how any trash left at the curb following trash collection day would promptly be removed by the Department of Public Works and billed accordingly to the property owners.

This new initiative stands to reduce the amount of trash left behind and keep neighborhoods safe for everyone. With the cooperation of property owners in the village, this year’s successes should continue into the future.

By the time of printing, the 2015 Exterior Property Maintenance Inspection Schedule will be completed. This is the second year the village has executed an annual inspection schedule, which is making a noticeable difference in our community. The list of streets inspected this year are below.

### 2015 Exterior Property Maintenance Inspection Schedule

Start Date	End Date	Street(s)
5/4/2015	5/8/2015	Brookdale Rd, Hillcrest Pkwy, Brook Terrace
5/11/2015	5/15/2015	South Ave, Fair St.
5/18/2015	5/22/2015	Park Ave. (East side)
5/25/2015	5/29/2015	Park Ave. (West side)
6/1/2015	6/5/2015	South St, Spring St.
6/8/2015	6/12/2015	Main St. (East side)
6/15/2015	6/19/2015	Main St. (East side)
6/22/2015	6/26/2015	Water St, Market St, Union St.
7/6/2015	7/10/2015	State St, Owens Rd.
7/13/2015	7/17/2015	High St, Gordon St, Oxford St.

The goal for these inspections is to uphold a quality standard of exterior property maintenance for all property owners, as regulated by the New York State Property Maintenance Code and the Code of the Village of Brockport. The streets slated for inspection next year will be designated in spring 2016, announced at the appropriate Village Board meeting, made available on our website in advance of inspections, and printed in the spring newsletter.

A new rule adopted by The Department of State for the State of New York requires carbon monoxide alarms in commercial buildings. The regulation encourages building owners to install alarms “as quickly as practicable” with a deadline of June 27, 2016. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.brockportny.org/departments-services/building-code>.

## Department of Public Works

Following a challenging winter, there are numerous restoration projects to be completed from winter digs and water main breaks. The major construction for the storm sewer project on Monroe Ave is complete. Some catch basins still need to be installed and some minor related restoration work will be completed soon. The fence in Corbett Park was recently replaced. Phase 1 of a water main replacement project on West Ave, between Rite Aid and Smith Street will begin soon. In the fall we expect to begin Phase 2, between Smith St. and Idlewood Dr. Sealing and paving work to be done on village roads is listed below.

As a reminder, if you have brush you need to dispose of, you can call and schedule a DPW truck to be parked at your house overnight. You load the brush and in the morning we'll haul it away. The 2014 Water Quality report has been published and available online at: <http://www.brockportny.org/departments-services/public-works>.

### The following streets are slated for slurry sealing at the end of July:

- Brookdale Rd.
- Coleman Creek Rd.
- Maxon St.
- Perry St. from Monroe Ave. to Erie St.
- Fair St.
- Quaker Maid St.
- Victory Dr.
- Graves St.
- Carolin Dr., both ends



### Milling and paving is planned this summer for the following streets, weather permitting:

- Clark St., from Kimberlin Dr. to Creekside Dr.
- Holley St., from the fork west to #234
- South Ave., from Main St. to Brook Ter.
- Oxford St.
- Locust St.
- Utica St., from College St. to Adams St.
- Park Ave., from the canal bridge to State St.

Your DPW at work on State St., patching in advance of the slurry sealing.

**Brockport Calendar of Events 2015** available online at [www.brockportny.org](http://www.brockportny.org)

Please visit our website to see the complete list of events through December 2015. Click on the "View the 2015 Event Schedule" located on the right hand side of the page at <http://www.brockportny.org/about/about-brockport>.



## Master Plan for Biking and Pedestrian Traffic

The Village of Brockport and Walk! Bike! Brockport's \$50,000.00 grant project with Monroe County's Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) will be completed in August 2015. This grant has made possible the development of a comprehensive Master Plan for Pedestrian and Biking Traffic for the greater Brockport area (towns of Sweden, Clarkson and the Village of Brockport). It places Brockport in the company of other similar local projects in Brighton, Greece, Rochester and Penfield.

The Rochester-based firm of Barton & Loguidice (B & L) and Project Manager Tom Robinson—brought on board thanks to the grant—have conducted extensive research on traffic patterns in our community and led bicycle and walking tours to identify key routes and intersections in need of change for safe walking and biking. Cases in point include the intersection of SUNY-Brockport's New Campus Drive and Redman Road, the Erie Canal crosswalk at the Main Street Bridge, and approaches to the Smith Street Bridge. Other routes in the greater Brockport area have been identified for multi-use trails [biking and walking].

To engage community involvement in developing the Master Plan, two public meetings have been held. In addition, Mayor Blackman and Walk Bike Brockport Chair, Raymond Duncan have appeared before the Rochester City Council and have met with members of BISCO, the Brockport Merchant's Association and SUNY-College at Brockport's Provost, Mary Ellen Zuckerman. The meeting with Provost Zuckerman was to encourage SUNY-Brockport to develop a Cycling Friendly University system—a goal now actively pursued by SUNY-Brockport.



June 30th active transportation plan public meeting

Please follow information for the active transportation and review related documents at:

[www.brockportny.org/community/clubs-organizations/walk-bike-brockport](http://www.brockportny.org/community/clubs-organizations/walk-bike-brockport)

### Spotlight on Business: Sunnking

Sunnking, located on Owens Road in a portion of the former Owens Illinois building, is a pioneer in the electronics recycling field and the second largest electronics recycling business in the State of New York. Owned by Duane Beckett of Brockport, Sunnking has been in business for 15 years and employs about 60 people along with two shifts of BOCES students from the area. They also own a building in Buffalo and are currently expanding into Syracuse. In April the Mayor and Trustee John LaPierre toured the facility with owner Duane Beckett.

Recyclables are sorted by type—we noted 4' square cardboard boxes of old waterproof cameras, boxes of headphones and expired video games, along with boxes of plastic coated wire containing so little copper it was not worth reselling and slated for export to China. We saw plenty of problematic old TV tubes, labor intensive to dismantle with a profit margin in mere pennies.

Resale electronics—from computer hard drives to medical equipment—also come to Sunnking where a staff of five lists and resells them on eBay.

Sunnking has been a generous donor to Brockport events and area charities, supporting the Holiday of lights Parade and Low Bridge High Water canal opening festival. The week of our visit their recycle sales were being donated to a fund raiser for Camp Good Days.



Trustee John LaPierre and Sunnking Owner Duane Beckett inspect a TV tube

## Historic Brockport on a Postcard



Brockport, New York, "The Victorian Village on the Erie Canal," was incorporated in 1829, 4 years after the completion of the Erie Canal.

Post Card

Place Stamp here

Dear Village Resident,

Post cards depicting two different Brockport murals by local artists Helen Smagorinsky and Stacey Kirby are available at Village Hall. For 75 cents you can share a beautiful picture of Brockport's history by sending it to a loved one while supporting the Bring Rowing to Brockport Fund.

Stop by today!

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30 pm

Village Hall

49 State St.

Brockport, NY 14420

Smagorinsky's "The Victorian Village on the Erie Canal"



Kirby's "Reconstruction of the Erie Canal as the Barge Canal"



## 10th Anniversary of the Welcome Center at Harvester Park



Rededication of the Welcome Center at LBHW festivities. Pictured: Ray Duncan, Chair of Walk!Bike!, former Mayor Josephine Matela, and Deputy Mayor Bill Andrews.

The Welcome Center, a project of former Mayor Josephine Matela's, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Doug Wolcott serves as volunteer Harbor Master, coordinating a roster of volunteers who assist boaters and towpath explorers alike. Located at Harvester Park, 11 Water Street, the Welcome Center offers many amenities, including restroom and shower facilities, a computer and internet connection, and proximity to downtown merchants. It is open through October, from 8 am to 8 pm.

Another amenity offered is a bicycle borrowing program. If you are interested in cycling around town or down the canal, all you need to do is come to the Welcome Center during their open hours, provide a form of photo identification and sign out the bicycle of your choice, to be returned before the Welcome Center closes for the day. Recently, two local citizens have donated 2 bikes to the Welcome Center and Russell Church, owner of Bicycle Outfitters on Main Street, has also donated a bike, as well as his labor for all Welcome

Center bicycle repairs. The collection numbers eleven men's, women's, and children's bikes.

The Welcome Center averages between 400 and 450 bike "rentals" per season. Gary Skoog serves as the Bike Coordinator. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Welcome Center at (585) 637-1000 or stop by.



## Emily L. Knapp Museum & Library of Local History

The Emily L. Knapp Museum & Library of Local History has undergone significant changes in recent seasons. Recent items of note include a museum board reorganization, with the retirement of long-time Museum Board Chair and Village Historian, Jacqueline Morris, who will continue to serve as a volunteer and Historian Emeritus. The museum board also accepted, with regrets, the resignation of board member Doug Wolcott and volunteer Rayleen Bucklin.

The Knapp Museum has continued its partnership with the College at Brockport's Museum Studies Program, in which College at Brockport students and faculty work with the museum to research and preserve Brockport's collection of local history.

You may have noticed The Knapp Museum's new social media presence this past fall, with the creation of a Facebook page and blog at [www.knappmuseum.wordpress.com](http://www.knappmuseum.wordpress.com). The museum will use social media to keep the community updated on events and local history items of interest. A link can be found on the community page of the village website, [www.brockportny.org](http://www.brockportny.org).

In January, the Village of Brockport hired a team of three temporary records clerks as part of the LGRMIF grant to work on the archival preservation and cataloging of village historical records according to New York State archival practices. This work was completed in June; researchers will now be able to access historical records more efficiently with the completion of a finding aid and a unified organizational system.

The museum has increased its hours to accommodate a growing number of visitors. Extended hours are Tuesday, 6-8 pm and Wednesdays from 2-4 and 6-8 pm. We'll also have additional open hours on the first Friday of every month from 6-8 pm, and the first Sunday of the month from 1-4:30 pm.

The Emily Knapp Museum invites the Brockport community to assist in the preservation of the museum's collection with the Adopt a Picture Program. Members of the Brockport community can "adopt" a photograph from our gallery by paying for archival glass and acid-free matting, which will protect the image from elements like indoor lighting and sunshine. Frame Wright Quality Custom Frames in Spencerport is offering their services at a reduced rate and has done a wonderful job with the photographs already adopted. Prices range from \$20 to \$125 depending on the size of the image; donations of any size are always appreciated. Restored photos will be displayed in the gallery and labeled with an acknowledgement of who preserved the photo or if it was preserved in memory of a loved one.



Please visit The Knapp Museum blog or stop in during open hours for more information.

## Brockport Historic Moment — by William Andrews, Deputy Mayor/Trustee

Using mostly census data, below is a comparison of housing in Brockport today versus a century and a half ago.

In 1865, Brockport had 495 family households (96.7%) and 17 non-family households

In 2000, Brockport had 1,220 family households (50.9%) and 1,179 non-family households

In 1865, Brockport had 3 vacant houses (0.6%)

In 2000, Brockport had 190 vacant houses (7.3%)

In 1865, the least valuable home was worth \$150 and the most expensive was worth \$6,500—43 times as much.

In 2004, the least valuable home was assessed at \$35,000 and the most expensive at \$205,000—5.9 times as much.