Brockport, Sweden and Clarkson have been working with the Seymour Library, reviewing the Bonadio firm’s report on the library and finalizing plans going forward for the maintenance, capital improvements, and repairs of the library building. Our code enforcement officer/building inspector, Chad Fabry, did a complete inspection of the building, prioritizing components for maintenance/replacement. The three municipalities have agreed to equally assume responsibility for capital improvements, maintenance and repairs of the building and each has established a reserve fund to do so.

Municipal Solar—Again. But very much underway this time. A field office for the installer has been established at our capped landfill, solar panels delivered there, and the connection to the grid is being installed. The library and fire district have signed the MOU with the Village for solar power. Completion before the end of the year—highly possible!

With the assistance of Ingalls Planning of Fairport we completed the Village’s Comprehensive Plan, a 60 page document that presents a vision for the Village, and a roadmap of goals and action plans to get there. The plan was rolled out as it took shape at two public open houses and the final draft posted on the Village website. The public was invited to respond to the plan at a public hearing on October 28th and online. The plan was adopted at the November 18th Village Board meeting. Now the work begins!

Pursuit of grants for Village projects continues unabated. We were disappointed that our plan for an ADA compliant sidewalk across the Smith Street bridge, a stoplight for traffic there, and repair of the crumbling cement wall was not funded by a TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) grant. Funding went to much bigger road and bridge projects. We did receive a second shared services LGRMIF award which will allow us to scan our large format maps and plans, improving access and long-term records storage solutions. We submitted two applications in the current round of statewide CFA grants, one for improvements at the Welcome Center that includes a permanent pavilion and an accessible kayak/canoe dock, and another for improvements at Corbett Park. Two smaller grant requests would fund the restoration of the Lift Bridge bookstore mural and the removal of diseased ash trees in Corbett Park.

We dedicated our state-of-the-art floating dock at Commissary Park at the College on August 17th. You can’t have a new dock without launching some boats, so we persuaded Rochester Community Inclusive Rowing (RCiR) to bring some boats and conduct a sculling clinic for us.

A new ZipKrooz two-way playground zipline now graces Barry Street Park and has proved incredibly popular with young park goers.

Mark your calendars for the annual Morgan Manning Candlelight Christmas sale December 6-7 and the annual Holiday of Lights parade December 8th. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Margay Blackman, Mayor
Welcome Center & Erie Canal Recreation

The Brockport Welcome Center, in operation for 15 years, closed for the season on October 16, 2019, which coincides with the canal boating schedule. Open 153 days this year, the most valuable feature of our facility is the volunteers. From Brockport and surrounding communities, 57 greeters served as Brockport ambassadors in 2019. Their dedication kept our doors open seven days a week, mid-May to mid-October. Volunteers logged in nearly 1,700 hours!

During the 5 months the open flag was out, over 4,000 people stopped by the center to stay overnight, borrow a bike, use the facilities, look for information, attend an event or just to have a chat. Some of the international visitors passing through Brockport were from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, and Germany to name just a few. Many passing through were cyclists who tent-camped overnight in Harvester Park or docked their boat on the canalfront. Greeters registered 682 boaters for 272 nights and checked in 60 tent campers for 29 nights.

On July 4th a group of 14 cyclists, traveling from Bangor, ME to Seattle, WA, camped overnight at the Welcome Center. The group was led by Ryan Conaughty and Johnny Lin, Tour Leaders with Adventure Cycling Association, an international non-profit organization. The Brockport Welcome Center is now a recognized service point on their mapping system. Since July, several members of their association have visited our village.

The annual Cycle the Erie Canal – Buffalo to Albany, came through Brockport on July 8th. Over 650 cyclists pedaled along our piece of the Erie Canal. Our volunteers partnered with Brockport Lion’s Club, Brockport Kiwanis, Brockport Buskers and Brockport Police Department to provide a water break, entertainment and safe street crossing. As always, the Village of Brockport provides free postcards and postage to cyclists who want to send a message from the trail, 329 were mailed this year.

Our “Borrow a Bike for Free” program brought over 500 people to exercise and enjoy the sights in our village and along the canal trail. New this year, we added individual bike locks that made an easier check-out and check-in of bike loans and gave cyclists the means to secure the bike during their travels.

The Brockport Welcome Center is a gathering place for people near and far. Spring opening of 2020 is scheduled for May 15th. Come down and check out all there is to do and see at our facility. There are opportunities for you to become a greeter. Positions are available for weekly, bi-weekly or substitutes for 2-hour shifts.

Contact Susan Smith, Director at 590-4238 or welcomecenter@brockportny.org if you have any questions.

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A “Soft Opening” and dock ribbon cutting was held on August 17th at Commissary Park, with a sculling clinic provided by Rochester Inclusive Rowing Boat Club. Superintendent Harry Donahue cut the ribbon with Brockport Community Boat Club board members.

We are working hard to set the stage for the Brockport Boathouse and greater recreation in the western waters of the Erie Canal!
Community Interaction and public safety continue to be at the top of our priority list. This summer and fall, we addressed driving complaints in many neighborhoods in an effort to have people drive slower, not talk on their cell phones, and be more aware of pedestrians. The increase in community interaction with business owners, village residents, students and all who visit our village has been well received.

Police Department building repairs continue under the supervision of DPW Superintendent Harry Donahue. His dedicated crew replaced aged siding and the roof, which outlived its effectiveness. The south side wall is the remaining item in need of repair, slated for next year. The front of the building was upgraded by removing old edging and replacing it with five large flower pots filled with a fall arrangement of flowers. Numerous people have complimented the improvements. Two new signs for the side of the building are on order.

BPD had a three day full reassessment for New York State reaccreditation by a panel of three assessors October 8-10th, who reviewed 110 standards. An extensive evaluation of policies, procedures, and supporting documentation was conducted. The panel unanimously recommended the Brockport Police Department for reaccreditation.

Congratulations to our team for all their hard work!

The Department is working towards a redesigned website; we look forward to unveiling an updated look to match our building upgrades and community presence.

The Stetson Club will once again sponsor the annual Holiday of Lights Parade on December 8th, and BPD will donate to families in the community through our annual Christmas “Shop with a Cop” event on December 18th.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,

Mark T. Cuzzupoli, Chief of Police
Labor Forman Change & New Faces

After 32.5 years of service to the Village of Brockport, David Moore retired from the Department of Public Works Labor Foreman position. He was a valued member of the DPW and will be greatly missed by all who worked with him! Retirement will keep him busy with his volunteering in the community, family and business obligations! Congratulations Dave!

Meter Reader Jeffrey Woodin was promoted to Labor Foreman. Jeff has 35 years of experience with the Village and is well-qualified for the position.

Jeremy Moyer has filled the position of Meter Reader. Jeremy has been with the Village for 9 years. Other staffing updates include a returning laborer who is a tree specialist, Bill Newbold, and a new part-time hire, Carl Lawrenz, who is on seasonal lawn maintenance. Congratulations to all!

Winter Hours

24 hour staffing begins December 1st, Monday - Friday and will continue through April 15th 2020. (Weather dependent)

CDBG Grant Funding Awarded

The Village of Brockport was awarded $75,000 for the replacement of existing concrete gutters and the paving of Havenwood Drive and Meadow Lane. This project is projected to start June of 2020.

“Out and About” with the DPW

The Village of Brockport DPW participated in the School of the Holy Childhood’s “Out and About” program on Wednesday, November 6th. The 25 plus participants toured the facility and equipment at 38 East Ave. DPW staff volunteered their time to provide a ride along for students to observe street sweeping, leaf collection and material handling.

Holy Childhood’s mission is to prepare children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for maximum independence and integration in communities.

Many thanks to Harry Donahue, Jeff Woodin, Bruce Hovey, Jeremy Moyer, Nick Jackson and Bill Newbold for volunteering your time!

Department of Public Works

(585) 637-1060

hdonahue@brockportny.org

Laborer Nick Jackson with a ride along student, having a great time!
A Message from the Building/Code Enforcement Department

IS YOUR DRYER A FIRE HAZARD?
Many houses I inspect have an intentionally installed fire hazard. Take a minute to read over the following statistics and the simple solutions to the risks. In 2010 (the most recent data available) there were 16,800 dryer fires; in the same year there were 51 deaths and 380 injuries caused by dryer fires; the resulting damage cost property owners nearly a quarter billion (that’s Billion) dollars.

Dryer fires are almost never caused by equipment failure and almost always caused by a failure of the installer to follow directions. Most dryer fires start in the dryer ductwork- that part of the system that acts as a conduit for the warm moist air to get outside. Dryer ductwork is supposed to be a “smooth metallic” material joined with a listed and rated metallic tape. Ironically, duct tape is not something you should use. Tape is the prescribed joining method because screws stick through the inner wall of the duct and they catch lint. Flexible metallic ductwork is allowed, but only to connect the dryer to the rigid metallic ductwork.

The big box stores all carry and sell a metallic looking duct that happens to be the same size as dryer ducting and there are a lot of dryer installations that currently employ this product. This product is actually a layer of aluminum that is just atoms thick bonded to a combustible Mylar or similar plastic film. It’s an appropriate choice for bath fans but since it burns about as fast as gasoline-soaked Styrofoam, it is a really, really bad choice for dryer ducting. Not every house that has this installed will catch fire but in almost all the houses that burn from dryer fires, this product was inappropriately used as dryer ducting. How can you tell if you have this product? Poke it. The allowed flexible metallic product will feel rigid and if you poke it hard enough, you can dent it. The combustible shiny plastic product will easily yield to pressure, like poking a baggie, but it won’t dent.

The next leading cause of dryer fires is dirty, lint-filled dryer ducting. As the duct gets filled or partially filled with lint, the lint reduces the airflow through the duct. As the airflow is reduced, the temperatures rise until one day, the temperature inside the duct is hot enough to set your cache of lint on fire.

TO AVOID DRYER FIRES:
• Make sure you do NOT have plastic ducting (plastic may be white but is usually shiny silver).
• Clean your dryer ducts annually. There are companies that provide this service, but you can probably do it yourself.
• Use a clothes line.

-Chad Fabry, Building and Code Enforcement Officer

Building and Codes Clerks & Updates
Barbara and Carol were instrumental in preparing large format maps and building plans to be scanned as a part of our LGRMIF grant; thank you for your hard work! Both Barbara and Carol also attended a Laserfiche Educational Workshop on September 27, 2019, expanding their knowledge of the electronic document management system where all building records will be maintained after the completion of the scanning project.

On July 1, 2019 the Village Board approved the following fee into the Fee Schedule:
• Smoke detector/carbon monoxide detector must be installed in appropriate locations and in working order prior to inspection, if not a $50 re-inspection fee will apply.
New swingsets, pollinator gardens, and a 66-foot zipline are just some of the latest improvements made to Brockport’s nine village parks. The Parks Committee works with the Board of Trustees and the Department of Public Works to ensure that our parks stay safe and attractive, providing recreational space for all ages and abilities.

Four village parks recently had new and safer swingsets installed, following a safety audit of the village’s six playgrounds, undertaken in 2016. Barry Street Park, Corbett Park, Evergreen Park, and Havenwood Park are all sporting new swings with both traditional and supportive seats.

An exciting new play structure was installed in Barry Street Park: a 66 foot long Zip Krooz zipline! With two parallel runs, multiple seating options, and a rating of 250 pounds per rider, the Zip Krooz promises to become a favorite park amenity for many. The zipline was erected through a community build on October 5 and opened with a ribbon-cutting on October 14. In addition to neighbors, DPW laborers, and Parks Committee members, over 30 students from The College at Brockport spent a full day working on the build. Student volunteers included members of two fraternities and several student clubs: Pi Kappa Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Organization for Students of African Descent, Men of Color, the African Student Union, and the Caribbean Students Association. Wegmans of Brockport kindly donated food for volunteers, and Eric Chick, owner of Brockport-based EC Construction of WNY, generously donated concrete for the build worth $600. Thank you, everyone!

Another exciting development is the recent installation of pollinator gardens in four beds around the Welcome Center at Harvester Park. Nicholas Bell and Hannah Beall, licensed landscape architects and co-owners of Bell Design and Landscape, donated their design work and installation time for the perennial gardens. Hannah explains that the design “takes inspiration from regional, local, and site-specific characteristics. Our research-based design process integrates natural systems such as the alkaline soil common in the lake plains, plant species native to western New York, and combines them with contemporary design strategies to evoke a unique sense of place.” Bell and Beall’s carefully contextualized design process enables the gardens to serve as living, multisensory educational spaces as well.

The pollinator garden project was championed by Gary Skoog of the Greater Brockport Development Corporation, who became aware of the Buffalo-Based Pollinator Conservation Association and their efforts to promote similar gardens in western New York and along the Erie Canal corridor. BISCO generously provided $5,000 toward the cost of plants as well as educational signage and curricular materials for high school students.

Going forward, Corbett Park, the largest park in the village, has emerged as a key priority. The village has submitted grant applications for major improvements to the pathways, play structures, tennis courts, basketball court, and parking lots of the park. The committee continues to look for resources to improve this space. Corbett has benefitted from some spruce-up work performed by students from The College at Brockport as part of the annual Saturday of Service program.

The parks committee meets at Village Hall the second Wednesday of every month from April through October. Guests and comments are welcome and can be directed to committee chair Linda Ketchum at ParksChair@brockportny.org.
It’s coming...several years in the making, finally a reality. A solar array to support Village government buildings, Brockport Fire Department, and Seymour Library is being installed by GreenSpark Solar on the Village landfill, long ago discontinued and capped. A ribbon cutting will be announced soon!

COMMUNITY AWARDS: SEEKING NOMINATIONS

Monika W. Andrews Creative Volunteer Leadership Award — Nominees must be residents of the Village of Brockport, the Town of Sweden or the Town of Clarkson. Individuals and organizations may make nominations. Self nominations accepted. Deadline for submissions to Village Clerk, Leslie Morelli, at 127 Main St., is noon on Dec. 31, 2019. Full rules available at www.brockportny.org

The Greater Brockport CommUNITY Award (Brockport/Sweden/Clarkson/Hamlin) will be announced in early to mid-2020 and open for nominations. Details to come.

Canal Embankment Update

During the spring and summer, Nick Schwartz, CHA Companies landscape architect on contract with the Canal Corporation, met with Brockport homeowners regarding possible plantings at the toe and top of the embankment. The original plan called for the work to be completed this fall, but that has now been pushed back until next spring.


Neighbors across the canal from Allied Frozen Storage should be pleased to know that plans also call for the planting of 18 Norway spruce along the south bank of the canal adjacent to the Allied Frozen Storage facility. These plantings will be installed in the spring at the same time as the others being planted to address adjacent homeowner concerns.
The first annual **Brockstock** event was hosted by the Brockport Merchants Association on July 12th, and it was a success! With live music, Jimmy Z’s food truck, Perri’s Pizza tent, and drinks on hand from Custom House, the only ingredient left for a perfect summer event was good weather, and we had it! The Welcome Center canalfront was filled with people dancing and having fun on a summer Friday night. A Chinese auction filled with items donated by local merchants and fireworks donated by Sunnking capped off the event; we look forward to **Brockstock 2020**!

BISCO held their 25th annual **Arts Festival** in August with quality vendors and performances, bringing crowds of people to our Main Street and downtown, working hard to raise funds for local projects. Thank you for all of your hard work and continued support of our community!

The College at Brockport worked with our Parks Committee to harness volunteer elbow-grease to improve our community and its public spaces during the annual **Saturday of Service** in August.

The Brockport Merchants Association hosted **Midnight Madness** in the historic shopping district, offering specials and hosting the annual Halloween costume parade, with treats, cider and donuts, topped off with a Haunted House at the Market St. Fire House and continued children’s activities, including costume contests, at the First Presbyterian Church. As has become tradition, Mayor Margay Blackman and Trustees Annie Crane and Kathy Kristansen kicked off the parade.

A citizen **tree pruning workshop** was hosted by the Tree Board in October. Professional instruction paid for by a NYS DEC tree planting grant.

Municipal leaders and new Library Director, Michael Boedicker, met to plan and support the future of **Seymour Library**.
Seasonal Ongoing

**Holiday of Lights Parade** on Main St.—see the back cover for full details! Sunday, December 8, 2019 5pm

**Community Caroling Downtown and along the Canal, Saturday December 14, 4-6pm.** Meet at the Welcome Center, 11 Water St., pick up a song book and instructions. Bring a flashlight. Singing will conclude in a circle around the north and south canal banks between Main St. and Park Ave. bridges, hot cocoa & cookies to follow.

**Brockport Merchants Association** “Holiday Passport” discounts and deals, shopping in the historic Main St & Market St. district, **Dec. 6-16, 2019.**

**Morgan Manning House:**
- **December 6 & 7, 2019 - Friday 10am-9pm** and **Saturday 10am-4pm** - **Candlelight Christmas.** Experience the mansion’s Victorian ambiance as you shop for handcrafted holiday gifts. Credit cards accepted. Suggested $4 donation at the door.

- **December 8, 2019, 3-5pm, Pictures with Santa**—Members of the Historical Society offer the opportunity to have your family come to the library at the Morgan Manning House and have a member take your picture(s) with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Bring your own camera. A $5 donation per family is appreciated.

- **December 18, 2019 (Wednesday) 7:00pm** - “Forgotten Christmas Stories, Remembered – Mary Jane Holmes” (Presenters: Mr. Christopher Albrecht & Brockport students) Mary Jane Holmes wrote the well-known, “Christmas Font.” However, she wrote many other Christmas stories, published in her book, *Christmas Stories.* You will be treated to a brief history of the authoress and a wonderful evening of her Christmas stories from 1884.

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**VILLAGE HALL - 127 MAIN STREET - DONATION DROP OFF LOCATION**

- Matt’s Coats for Kids: new and gently used coats, new mittens/gloves/hats
- Brockport Toy Shelf: new toys for all ages
- Brockport Ecumenical Food Shelf: non perishable food items and toiletries
- Seymour Library: used books, fabric and yarn for annual fundraisers/sales

Although collection is only once a year for some charities, we are willing to accept donations all year to pass on to these important community services. Call the Village Clerk with questions: (585) 637-5300 x112

Village Hall also hosts a locked tote for shredding sensitive documents for village residents to use. On a first come, first served basis until the tote is filled. The shredding service comes quarterly.

We also offer a collection box for recycling ink & toner cartridges.

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Village Hall is setting up a small medical equipment closet for our community- if you have a wheelchair or crutches you no longer need, we would gladly accept them for this loan closet. If you need to borrow an item, call to see what we have available at (585) 637-5300 x111 or email dherzog@brockportny.org
For over 100 years, artwork and detailed notebooks created by Helen Hastings were hidden in a trunk in the museum's attic. For three years, after discovering these gems, dedicated volunteers at the Knapp Museum worked to clean, photograph, frame, and document the art of Helen M. Hastings. On Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 all of their work culminated in the Hastings' Art Exhibition on the first floor of the former William Seymour home at 49 State St. The entryway, center hall, and original Seymour front parlor were filled with 23 oil paintings displayed on attractive easels built by Doug Hickerson and a collage of her illustrations.

Thanks to Caurie Putnam's detailed article in the Rochester paper and the exquisite poster created by Norm Frisch, enthusiastic visitors from the surrounding area filled the rooms. To add to the excitement, Sue Savard and Greg Lawrence created from Helen's notebooks a one-of-a-kind art book called Helen Hastings's Art In A Trunk. We hope art historians, researchers, and art lovers of all ages will enjoy it - and some day Helen's finished work will be discovered and she will be given the recognition she deserves. The book is available at Lift Bridge Bookstore.

Getting to Know Your New Water Bill

Water bills are now being printed on a white card stock with blue ink; they remain postcard size to save on postage. We hope the new printing is easier to read. If you are mailing a check or paying through your bank, please make sure you have our correct mailing address. You can sign up for paperless bills and/or pay your bill online by visiting www.brockportny.org and clicking on Pay My Bill.

**Items you will need for online access:**
- Your full account number 000001234.01
  (all accounts end in a decimal point 01)
- The name on the water/sewer account

Please contact Debbie Herzog, Water Clerk, if you have any questions about your water account.

(585) 637-5300 x111 or dherzog@brockportny.org

**CALL FOR CALENDAR ITEMS**

Will your group / service organization be organizing events that will be open to the public and held in Brockport in 2020? *If so, please fill out one electronic form per event by April 1st at: http://brockportny.org/departments-services/forms-and-applications to be included in our community events calendar, April—December 2020.*

If we don’t receive enough events information to produce the poster, the events will only be listed on the Village website as the information gets submitted. So please respond!

If the electronic form is not useful to you, feel free to email us with all details at: lmorelli@brockportny.org & elinden@brockportny.org. Once event fliers are available, please share them with us as well!
Staff from Bero Architecture PLLC will be conducting architectural survey work in the West Side neighborhood of Brockport. Survey staff will be photographing and recording observations about the exteriors of the buildings; this information will be used to prepare a State and National Register Historic District nomination for the area. The project is sponsored by the Village of Brockport and funded by a grant from the State of New York’s Certified Local Government program.

The West Side Historic District will be the third State and National Register-listed district in Brockport, joining the Main Street Historic District and Park Avenue / State Street Historic District. National Register listing is an honorary designation that recognizes the architectural and/or historic importance of a property or group of properties. This is a separate program from the village’s preservation ordinance, which is under the purview of the Brockport Historic Preservation Board.

**What impact would a West Side Historic District have on property owners?**

Owners of owner-occupied residences and income-producing properties that are contributing buildings in National Register districts are eligible to apply for state and federal tax credits before undertaking rehabilitation projects. Anyone who qualifies for and uses these tax credits must comply with rehabilitation guidelines set by the National Park Service. **If a property owner does not utilize public grants or tax credits to improve their building, there are NO special restrictions or requirements that would result from the creation of a State and National Register Historic District.** Properties in the district will not be subject to Brockport Historic Preservation Board review unless that board has designated them as local landmarks, a separate process.

If you have questions please contact Erica Linden at the Village of Brockport: (585) 637-5300 x110, or elinden@brockportny.org. FAQs about the State and National Registers as well as information about income tax credits, please visit [https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/frequently-asked-questions.aspx](https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/frequently-asked-questions.aspx).

**Historian Bill Andrews**

The Association of Public Historians of New York State awarded our very own Bill Andrews with the 2019 Award for Excellence in Promoting Local History in Albany, on September 10th. The Brockport Community Museum, headed by President Allan Berry, nominated Bill for the award, and many people added their recommendations for the nomination. “Bill Andrews has been, and continues to be, a dedicated partner in historic preservation with the State of New York,” said Daniel Mackay, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation at the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. “Through Bill’s leadership and persistence over the last ten years, the Village of Brockport has been awarded numerous federal pass-through grants from our office which have materially aided the community in advancing its preservation mission. His annual attendance at the statewide preservation conference has guaranteed that Brockport has a contributing voice in New York’s preservation community.” Congratulations, Bill, and thank you for your dedication!
Let's Get This Parade Started!!

Brockport's Holiday Light Spectacular & Parade

Sunday, December 8th at 5PM

Tree lighting in Sagawa Park and fireworks immediately following the parade.

Sponsored by the Brockport Stetson Club

Parade on Main Street from Clark Street to Holley Street

Fireworks sponsored by Sunnking