

# Mount Calvary Cemetery Group hands out awards

Mount Calvary Cemetery Group recently presented its 2018 Employee Awards. These include Outstanding Performance, Idea of the Year, Safety, and Customer Service along with one Longevity Award.

While only one award was presented in 2018 for years of service, two other employee awards (Outstanding Performance and Gregg Fronzak Award) combined to represent 99 years of service to the Cemetery.

Larry Durenbeck was recognized for his 35 years of service. He has been a member of the Grounds Maintenance Department for most of his Mount Calvary career.

He is the point person for all service requests regarding grave repair as well as equipment associated with burial sites. Durenbeck lives in West Seneca.

The Idea of the Year came from new employee Timothy Simmance. His previous cemetery industry experience, especially with foundation and grave preparation, enabled him to bring innovative methods enhancing Mount Calvary's position as the area's premier cemetery. The Kenmore resident also has a contagious "can do" attitude, said Jeffrey Reed, Mount Calvary Cemetery President.

Outstanding Performance

award was given to lead horticulturist Ralph Evert. He directs the cemetery's maintenance programs overseeing 365 acres of Mount Calvary's five properties. This encompasses overall planting design, to details of weed control. The 29-year Mount Calvary employee lives in Wheatfield.

Douglas Stanley could be called fanatical about safety, and so was presented the Safety Award. As a mechanic, he ensures that all the equipment is properly working and all safety measures are in place. He focuses on looking for small issues that could become large problems and on personnel operator safety.

Stanley was previously an Idea of the Year winner to acknowledge his finding innovative ways to reduce mechanical wear and tear and equipment costs. He lives in Cheektowaga.

The Gregg Fronzak Award was created several years ago in recognition of outstanding customer service. It is only presented when an exceptional employee goes above and beyond what is expected. James Wild is such an employee.

"The 34-year Mount Calvary veteran always looks for additional ways to assist families the cemetery serves," Reed said. "He is a problem solver not willing to take

'can't be done' as an answer."

Wild's responsibilities include caring for eight mausoleum buildings and immediate surrounding grounds. He also spearheads the cemetery's floral programs. The worth ethic of this Cheektowaga resident led to his being awarded the Fronzak Award.

Founded in 1859, Mount Calvary Cemetery Group is a corporation of five cemetery properties including Mount Calvary Cemetery, United German and French Roman Catholic, Buffalo Cemetery, Ridge Lawn Cemetery and Pine Lawn Gardens in Cheektowaga.

## Board denies North Seine cell tower application

During a special meeting held on Jan. 31, the Cheektowaga Town Council denied Upstate Tower Co. and Buffalo-Lake Erie Wireless Systems, known as Blue Wireless, a permit to build a 130-foot telecommunications tower at 294 North Seine Drive, the site of the Southline Athletic Association ball fields, setting up a potential legal battle with the cell phone service provider.

The resolution denying the permit passed 5-0. Councilman Gerald Kaminski was absent from the meeting.

In the resolution, the board spelled out five reasons for the denial, ranging from claims the tower will "negatively alter the essential character of the neighborhood" to concerns about safety due to the tower's proposed location, to a deed restriction from the mid-1980s maintaining the property be used only for recreational purposes.

Further, the board held that the companies

have not made "good-faith" efforts to find better suited, less intrusive sites for the tower, which the company is seeking to build to close a coverage gap in that area of town.

At a Jan. 22 board meeting, Corey Auerbach, a lawyer with Barclay Damon LLP and a legal representative for the companies, charged the town with holding up the process and refusing to honor a lease agreement for alternative sites for towers on Transit and Losson roads. The latter led to the companies filing a lawsuit, which is currently pending. The Southline site has been at the center of tower proposals for the better part of a decade, and with denial means the legal fight between the town and telecommunications companies will continue.

The council is scheduled to meet next at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. A work session is scheduled for 5 p.m. the same night, and both meetings will be held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 3301 Broadway.

## Red Cross opens shelter for flooding

The American Red Cross opened a shelter in West Seneca for residents who are displaced by flooding throughout the area. The shelter is located at Union Fire Company District 2, 1845 Union Road.

Volunteers will offer those who go to the shelter a warm place to stay, food, water, comfort and support.

According to information sent by the Red Cross, residents are being encouraged to take advantage of the services being offered at the shelter, regardless of whether they need lodging arrangements.

The Red Cross encourages residents who are at risk of experiencing flooding to make an emergency preparedness kit, create and practice a household plan and be prepared to evacuate quickly and to listen to local television or radio for updates.



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