

Supervisor Marc R. Smith

Inaugural Speech – 2006

I would like to introduce our guests of distinction in the audience tonight.

Congressman Tom Reynolds (Nick Langworthy)
Niagara County Legislature – Rick Updegrove
Niagara County Legislature – Gerald Farnham
Niagara County Legislature – Glenn Aronow
St. John's Church - Father Joe Gatto

Members of the Town board, ladies and gentleman good evening and thank you for joining me tonight.

I stand before you tonight because I love this community, because I want my children along with your children to have the opportunity to create a life here. It is with great excitement and anticipation that I stand before you tonight to discuss our town and our plans for the future.

Before I begin, I would also like to recognize some special friends and family in attendance this evening.

- My parents – Bart & Lynn Smith
- My Sister and Brother in law – Leslee and Michael Harmer
- My Wife Christina and my sons Stephen & Ian
- Scout Master – Robert Drury and the young men of Troop #4 – St. John's Church
- St. John's Church quartet under the direction of Kevin Capanyola

Allow me to also **recognize** and honor – my partners in leadership to the Town of Lockport this year.

Councilman: Paul Pettit
David Knight
Mark Crocker

Town of Lockport Deputy Supervisor: Debbie Gaskill

Town of Lockport Clerk: Nancy Brooks

Town of Lockport Highway Superintendent: Lew Hagen

Town of Lockport Justice: Judge Ray Schilling, Len Tilney

Executive Secretary: Kate Carter

Town of Lockport Budget Director: Bob Lipp

In addition, I'd like to **recognize** and salute my predecessors, the Honorable John Austin, Floyd Snyder and J.O. Thompson for their dedication and service to the Town of Lockport. Their legacy has already begun, and will continue tonight and beyond.

I would also like to recognize the fine staff from the Town of Lockport and our talented departments' heads. The dedication and service they provide each day gives us the opportunity to achieve what we are about to attempt.

The Town Board has established 5 goals for the next 24 months.

- 1) Combining our sewer and water districts.
- 2) Acquiring property for future pathways and roadways.
- 3) Establishing a gateway corridor along Transit Road
- 4) Establishing a resident satisfaction and complaint tracking system.
- 5) Conducting a bottom to top asset review of the Town infrastructure and equipment.

You will notice some exciting changes in the Town this year.

- You will see the Town of Lockport conducting open forum planning sessions to get public input upon such things as future retail development, themed architectural standards, and business and industrial recruitment.
- We will conduct a resident survey to further seek your input into our planning process.
- We will update our Town newsletter to make it much easier to get information about the Town and events. We want you to be as excited about our community as we are.
- We will keep our web site updated with the latest information regarding the Town of Lockport and how you can participate in the planning process.
- We will be changing the way we conduct public meetings. After this evening we will publish our meeting agenda 24 hours in advance and our open comment, public speaking portion will be moved to the beginning of the meeting from the end. The Town Board and I feel these changes will help us to receive greater input from residents and allow us to hear questions and concerns before voting on issues.

The Town Board and I believe that you, the citizens must always come first. We approach this responsibility with great care and constantly strive to be more efficient and conservative with your tax dollars, (It's not our money) yet at the same time we are striving to create a community that offers you a quality of life that we can be all proud of.

This year we will lay the foundation for our future. It is with an eye towards the future that I ask the Board and residents of Lockport to have faith in this program. Our planning over the next 12 months is the key to our future.

If we are successful in achieving our goals the Town of Lockport will be set upon a course for prosperity for the next 30 years.

I believe that we must never forget our history or the sacrifices that our parents and grandparents made to give us this wonderful community, and the opportunity to make a better life for ourselves and our children.

I look forward to working with all of you during this exciting journey.

May God bless the servicemen and women of the United States of America, and may God Bless You!

Thank You!