



Town of Clifton Park

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Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2017 September Recap

Summer ended in late September, but the warm weather continued throughout the month providing a beautiful backdrop to many fun events around Town.

This September, the Town celebrated the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Farm Fest. This family fun filled weekend event not only celebrates the Town's agricultural heritage but provides an opportunity for everyone to learn how farming continues to support our growing economy in Clifton Park. The farms hosted large crowds Farm Fest weekend and subsequent days in the month. Farm Fest is the kick-off to the season, but it is important to continue supporting the farming community throughout the year! Thousands of people enjoyed the opportunity to apple pick, take a hay ride, purchase fresh produce and baked goods and even get up close and personal with a real-life farm animal.

Nick's Run to Be Healed on the Common provided an opportunity for hundreds of Clifton Park residents to gather on a warm day for some exercise in support of a great cause. The Town's 5k was reenergized and given an important purpose when the Town and Catie Hoch Foundation partnered on the event in the early 2000s. At that time, the Foundation had outgrown the location in Country Knolls where they held their 5k, which led to the partnership. Since the partnership was initiated, the combined efforts have created a wonderful community event that continues today. Nick's Fight To Be Healed Foundation assumed the role of partner with the Town several years ago and the annual event continues to grow. Nick's Fight to Be Healed Foundation has made a difference in the lives of children fighting cancer and provided support to their families. We are very proud of our partnership with this wonderful organization.

You may have noticed our new modernized crosswalks systems that were installed across our burgeoning trail network. Since 2000, we have added 14 miles of new trails and completed strategic connections to improve the system. The new crossing system is part of a pilot program by the Town to gauge effectiveness and to create a more effective way to alert motorists that a pedestrian is about to cross, wants to cross or is crossing in the crosswalk. While reviewing options for increasing public safety, I noticed these signs used in conjunction with new roundabouts in a couple local municipalities. Pedestrians or bikers can cross by pressing a button on the sign which activates strobing lights to warn oncoming motorists. The new signs are approved for use by the NYSDOT in crosswalks that are not located at an intersection and have been installed at the entrance to Clifton Park Common, Clifton Country Road just South of Wall Street and on Moe Road just North of Arbor Lane.

Recently completed trails include two joint projects with the Town of Halfmoon. New trails on Crescent Road and within the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve have received positive reviews.

The Town and Shenendehowa School District held a joint press conference during September, to announce a conceptual agreement between the two entities. The agreement outlined a land purchase agreement, stating the Town would purchase 37 acres of property from the school district for \$1.1 million. This property was the subject of a public referendum conducted by the school district earlier this year and is located in the Exit 9 area

adjacent to Shatekon School. The results of the referendum overwhelmingly disapproved a proposed sale of the property to a developer for commercial development. The conceptual agreement has since been approved by both the Town Board and the Board of Education. The finalization of the sale is now contingent upon voter approval at a public referendum to be held on December 5th. If the sale is approved, the Town Board will conduct a comprehensive, public planning process. The process will follow the same template used in other long-term planning processes conducted by the Town Board in recent years and will include opinions and ideas from the community derived from public meetings. The Town is committed to investing funds to ensure there is a successful planning process and to complete short-term improvements to enhance the community's enjoyment of the public parcel. The Town Board has been extremely successful in acquiring grant funding and will aggressively pursue grants for every stage of the planning and execution processes.

The Town assumed management responsibility of the Clifton Park Senior Community Center in December of 2016. Since that time, we have continued the operation of the Center and continuously added new programs and activities. In September we held a luncheon to thank the many volunteers that work tirelessly on behalf of the Center. Thank you all for what you do!

Youth Court kicked off its fourth year in September! The program has continued to grow and provides a wonderful experience for hundreds of students.

Clifton Park's Hazardous Waste Day Collection Day served several hundred families that participated in this important event. Professionals in the field, ensured the safe handling and disposal of many potentially dangerous substances. Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted with this event!

The Town has been working with NYS DOT to consider improvements to the RT 146/RT146A/Vischer Ferry Road intersection. Through our efforts, DOT has committed funding for this project and is currently studying alternatives. When more information is available, we will work with DOT to establish a public meeting to disseminate important details about the planning process. The growth of commuter traffic passing through Clifton Park over the years has increased the number of automobiles in this corridor.

We were honored to host Liam Connell at Town Hall as he served as Supervisor for the Day! Liam was the winner of a drawing held at the Town's annual National Night Out event in August. Liam witnessed the many facets of operating the Town and attended meetings of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors. He enjoyed a full day and learned a great deal about his Town.

The Town Board also had the opportunity to recognize several heroes right here in our community at Town Board Meetings. First there was Colonel Denise Donnell who was recently named as Wing Commander for the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base where she oversees over 1300 personnel. As the first woman to assume the role of Wing Commander in the New York Air National Guard, Colonel Donnell is not only a leader but also a trailblazer and role model for the young women and men in the military.

Secondly, there was a recognition of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Emergency Corps thanks to local resident, Robert Fagan who would not be with us today if not for the extraordinary lifesaving efforts of the Corps. Mr. Fagan personally came to Town Hall to explain his survivor story and to request an opportunity to publicly thank the paramedics that saved his life. The Town Board was happy to join with Mr. Fagan in recognizing the Clifton Park Halfmoon Emergency Corps for the outstanding job that they do on a day-to-day basis.

Be sure to visit our Town webpage at CliftonPark.org regularly for more information or "like us" on Facebook.

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