



Town of Clifton Park

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Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2017 November Recap

The upcoming holiday season portends the end of the year is nearing. As we say goodbye to 2017 and complete the work of the Town this year, we continue to plan for a busy 2018.

One example is the designation of Clifton Park as a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The designation was obtained through the Town Board's commitment to reduce energy use and save money. We completed four of ten high-impact clean energy efficiencies identified by NYSERDA. Clifton Park is now eligible to receive up to \$50,000 toward additional clean energy projects with no local cost share. We are currently reviewing options for the grant funding through two prospective energy saving initiatives. The first project would replace lighting in the Clifton Park Ice Arena with new fixtures and LED lights. LED lighting in the arena would afford significant savings to the Town. The second project under consideration is the replacement of current lighting at the outdoor basketball courts on the Common. Both projects would allow the Town to take advantage of new technology and realize cost-savings.

That's not all being planned for the Common in 2018. The Town Board recently conducted a discussion about the playground on the Common adjacent to the ice arenas. After a complete review of the playground, with the assistance of professional engineers, alternatives to improve the playground are being considered. The Town Board would appreciate your ideas. Please send comments to my office at 1 Town Hall Plaza, Clifton Park, NY 12065 or via e-mail at pbarrett@cliftonpark.org. During the next several weeks we will establish priorities and a budget necessary to complete any approved alterations to the playground. To learn more about the initiative, visit the Supervisor's page on our Town website at www.cliftonpark.org

I've written in the past about the wonderful new programming and returning events happening at the Clifton Park Senior Community Center since the Town assumed operational responsibility in December of 2016. One of these events has been the monthly community dinners, hosting more than 120 people for an evening of dining and friendship. At our Fall Feast in November, we were joined by State Senator James Tedisco. Senator Tedisco has been a long-time friend of Clifton Park. His support of the Town continues as he announced a \$85,000 grant to execute improvements to the Center to enhance our members' experience when using the facility.

This November, the Town Board continued its tradition of recognizing our remarkable residents and local organizations.

We began by recognizing the life of Frank Tarbell. From 1986 to 1993 Frank served as the first Director of the Town's Building and Development Department. He developed many of the systems and methods for the operation of the Department, consolidating the fire marshal, code enforcement and building inspections functions. Prior to his time with the Town, Frank Tarbell served his country for over thirty years beginning in

World War II, the Korean War, during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War. Frank made a lasting impression on everyone he met and left a legacy of safety for all the residents of Clifton Park.

The Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park recently celebrated their 70th Anniversary. Originally incorporated as the Town of Clifton Park Fish and Game Club, for over 70 years they have provided popular shooting ranges where members test and improve their skills. Popular activities have included archery leagues, civilian marksmanship programs, trap shoots, bait and fly casting along with skills and safety training. The Board was especially proud to recognize the Sportsmen's Club for their contributions to gun safety by providing education and training for all their members in addition to hosting outside safety education events for the public.

In other Town Board related actions, the Board authorized the appropriation of funds to begin implementation of the Sitterly Road Corridor Improvement Project. The project is reimbursable through federal-aid and the New York Department of Transportation "Marchiselli" Program resulting in no cost to the Town of Clifton Park. The proposed Sitterly Road improvements would include interconnected traffic light signals, new turn lanes and pedestrian improvements. An initial Public Informational Meeting on the project will be held on Wednesday, January 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Emergency Corps and you are invited to attend and express your thoughts. We thank Supervisor Tollisen and the Town of Halfmoon for their partnership on this important initiative.

The Clifton Park Town Board has also approved the establishment of the Town Center Plan Expansion Advisory Committee. The committee will focus on the East Side of I-87. In 2011 the Town Board embarked on the Town Center Plan as a proactive approach to prepare for the future evolution of the Exit 9 Commerce Area, with a focus on the West side of I-87. The Town began with five goals: sustain the success of Exit 9, diversify the economy with complimentary uses, improve walkability and pedestrian access, improve connectivity and improve aesthetics. The Town will host public informational meetings and workshops along with sessions including stakeholders and professional consultants. The Town Board will be working with the Advisory Committee to schedule public meetings including workshops, hearings and stakeholder meetings in 2018.

The nearly two-year saga concerning the ownership of Kinns Road Park has now come to a close. Following the approval of state legislation authorizing the County of Saratoga to transfer the property without compensation to the Town; the Board authorized the execution of a contract for the acquisition of the park allowing the Town to fully accept ownership and designate Kinns Road Park as a public park in perpetuity. The Town has managed the park for many years and the ownership transfer will ensure the park remains an important part of the Town's growing recreational network.

The 2018 Town of Clifton Park Budget which I discussed last month was also passed by the Board this November. Once again there is no General Fund Property Tax and the spending plan does not exceed the New York State Tax Cap. The Budget can be found in its entirety on the Town Clerk's Office page of our website www.cliftonpark.org.

Finally, I want to take a moment and remember the life of Mike Handerhan, who for twenty-eight years served this Town and its residents in our Building and Grounds Department. Most of that time as Director. Mike passed away in November after fighting an illness. He was one of the hardest working and dedicated fellow employees that I have worked with in my career. Many people all over Town worked with Mike every day on various projects or concerns. Mike also served as a volunteer first responder but most importantly was a proud husband and father. Mike coined a simple phrase years ago that we use regularly through the calm days of managing the Town as the challenging ones such as severe weather. "It's another beautiful day in Clifton Park."

As we enter December there are numerous events to contribute to the betterment of our fellow citizens. On Wednesday, December 13th from Noon to 6:00 p.m. the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive at Town Hall. Residents can sign up to donate by contacting the Town Clerk at 518-371-6681. Until Thursday, December 14th residents can also donate a new, unwrapped toy to Toys for Tots by visiting the Clifton Park Senior Community Center during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the week.

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

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