



# Town of Clifton Park

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## Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2020 April Recap

April in the Town of Clifton Park is normally a time when our community starts to really come alive with the change of season. This year, April came and went much more quietly as our residents were living and working in a COVID-Conscious environment. Here within Town Hall, and our outside departments, the work continued to ensure the smooth operation and future enhancements of our great community.

The Clifton Park Town Board authorized the acceptance of a land donation of 93 acres on April 20<sup>th</sup> from the Beverwyck Development Corporation. The land is behind the Windhover Farms Subdivision on Grooms Road. The property is public land and has become protected open space through a planning process. We will add this property to more than 1700 acres of property we have permanently preserved since 2000. The current owner of the property is in the process of preparing the land for seeding, and will transfer ownership of the property when grass has been established.

The Town of Clifton Park marked the 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with Councilman Standaert and members of the Green Committee handing out 50 large saplings to visitors who stopped by Town Hall. We also want to thank the many volunteers who worked with us to conduct the annual park and trail cleanup. Normally a one day event involving hundreds of volunteers, this year volunteers were provided the necessary supplies and cleaned their designated location on their own time. The results were significant and many public areas were cleaned of trash and debris as Spring begins.

Our Buildings and Grounds Department has now relocated into their new shop next to Town Hall on Vischer Ferry Road. While completing the move to the new location the department transitioned from winter mode to spring mode, removing the salters and preparing landscaping equipment. March/April is always a busy time for Buildings and Grounds as we conduct Spring clean-up activities across the entire breadth of our growing and expansive parks system. As the COVID-19 Shutdown in NY began in March, we have experienced a large increase in visitors to Town parks on a daily basis. The department was tasked with ensuring the parks were safe and clean as usage increased and normal maintenance items were completed in a timely manner. The team performed admirably against a backdrop of consistent, new NYS guidelines that forced us to alter how we executed our workplace duties.

The Executive Orders related to COVID forced alterations to work schedules, including the personnel at the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station has been working with reduced hours through most of the COVID-19 situation. The current hours have been updated to Tuesday 8am-6pm, Wednesday-Friday 8am-12pm, and Saturday 8am-4pm. The permit fees for the 2020 Annual Season, which runs May 1<sup>st</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>, have been adjusted slightly. The Annual permit is now \$100, while a Senior permit is now \$50. Other specialty pricing can be found on the Clifton Park.org site under Transfer Station.

The Town Board has remained committed to the funding allocated for road paving and associated infrastructure improvements for 2020. In April seven companies provided bids for paving projects and Callanan submitted the lowest bid. Several neighborhoods will experience improvements including Clifton Knolls, Country Knolls West and Crescent Estates just to name a few. Since 2017, The Town of Clifton Park will have paved over 61 miles of roads, including this year's project.

The bid for the \$1.7 million Sitterly Road Traffic Improvement Project has been approved by the Town Board and will be a welcome improvement for the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon. New Castle Paving Company will be doing the widening, installing of new turning lanes and sidewalks, and paving on this project. The various utilities will begin moving and replacing their infrastructure in the near future. In addition to the road improvements, all existing signals will be replaced with Intelligent traffic signals which communicate with each other and adapt to changing traffic conditions to reduce the amount of time cars spend idling at a signal. This project has received funding assistance through grant awards from both NYS Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration and is a partnership with the Town of Halfmoon.

Finally, Our Summer in Clifton Park will, unfortunately, look a bit different this year. We have already made announcements regarding our July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration being cancelled and we truly hope that many of the festivities surrounding that day can be moved to a Labor Day Celebration. The three municipal pools, traditionally opened on Memorial Day weekend, have been postponed to July 1<sup>st</sup>, and as information is updated, we will assess the opening of the pools for the remainder of the Summer. The two June musical performances previously scheduled at the Clifton Common Stage have been cancelled. The Town is still reviewing the possibility of holding Full and Half Day Camps and is awaiting guidance based on the opening phases of the state. We know how important these camps are to our residents and we will post information regarding future plans as soon as it becomes available.

Be sure to visit our Town webpage at [CliftonPark.org](http://CliftonPark.org) regularly for more information or “like us” on Facebook.

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