



Town of Clifton Park

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Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2020 May Recap

As our Community entered Phase 1 of the Re-Opening process, The Town of Clifton Park remained committed to communication, coordination, and collaboration in order serve our residents, address needs, and provide invaluable information. Although our Town Hall staff was still operating at a 50% reduction, all departments worked diligently to ensure daily town functions were maintained, future improvement projects were on track, and additional events and programs were incorporated in association to our COVID-19 response.

May 17-23, 2020 has been declared as EMS Week and The Town of Clifton Park recognized the Clifton Park Halfmoon Emergency Corps for their dedication to the health, safety and wellbeing of the residents of Clifton Park and Halfmoon. Made up of 90 members, the Clifton Park Halfmoon Emergency Corps serves more than eighty square miles and responds to almost 7,000 calls per year. This year's 46th Annual National EMS week was marked by a Proclamation delivered to the EMS station by Supervisors Barrett and Tollisen recognizing their everyday commitment to emergencies in our community as well as their rally to support those affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Beginning with the Town Board approval in May, The Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, a 740-acre site along the Mohawk River is getting some welcome updates this summer. The Town of Clifton Park maintains the extensive trail system which features a wetlands habitat as well as the remnants of the original 1800's Erie Canal towpath. This summer construction will begin on a 100 foot bridge near Clute's Dry Dock that will allow pedestrians to walk over the Erie Canal connecting them to the recently restored trail that connects Clifton Park and Halfmoon along the enlarged Erie Canal. Additional improvements to be completed by the end of 2020 will be made to the parking area at Clute's Dry Dock and the Trail Head. The Town has seen an increase in the use and enjoyment of our parks and trails through the height of COVID-19 and remains dedicated to maintaining its 34 miles of trails and walking paths.

In the April Recap, we announced that a large traffic improvement project on Sitterly Road had been approved. This \$1.7 million project is underway and has many incremental steps to be completed, each one vital to the next. In May, the project began with New Castle Construction beginning with tree removal and completing the clearing and earth work two days ahead of schedule. The electric service in the project area is serviced by both National Grid and NYSEG. National Grid has completed power pole installations on their side of the boundary limits and now NYSEG has begun installation of their new service poles and overhead wires. The next sequence of construction will include Verizon, First Light and Charter Communications relocating their service feeds. Stay tuned for the next update as this much anticipated traffic improvement project continues to unfold.

Although the Re-Opening process was well underway in May, The Town of Clifton Park remained dedicated to meeting the needs of our citizens as we continued forward in a very COVID-Conscious way. A third Food Drive was held for CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services on May 20th allowing this vital community organization to continue to support local nutritional needs. The Town has held Four Mask Distributions to Clifton Park residents, providing PPE to thousands of residents who are working and interacting in the community. Keeping our Senior Citizens safe and feeling more secure as they began to venture out was important given their vulnerability. Thousands of masks were delivered to Senior housing facilities by Supervisor Barrett and members of the Town Board to help safely facilitate going to appointments and necessary errands. As businesses began to open or prepare to open, having masks for employees was extremely

important. The Town of Clifton Park in partnership with the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) purchased several thousand masks to help eliminate the extra expense of buying masks for their staff and customers who may need them. To date, over 7000 masks have been given to local Clifton Park businesses to help them get restarted.

Keeping our community informed and engaged as we navigate the challenges that the COVID-19 Pandemic brings has been paramount for Supervisor Barrett in the month of May. Several Zoom informational calls have been hosted by Supervisor Barrett along with experts in the field and business partners. These calls focused on “Your Health and Immune System”, “Virtual Economic Reopening Workshop”, and “Reopening Clifton Park”. In addition, Town Hall has been the site for Facebook Live presentations that featured topics like “Small Business Assistance” with SEDC President Dennis Brobston and SBA Regional Administrator Steve Bulger, “COVID-19 with Phil Barrett and Dr. Mike McEvoy” and “COVID-19 Mental Health and Well Being”.

Finally, our summer activities have begun to take shape with the announcement that Full Day Summer Camp would be able to open on June 29th. We are pleased to be able to offer this program and the return of some level of normalcy and socialization for the children attending. While the fireworks may not go off on July 4th in the Town of Clifton Park this year, we are excited to announce that we will still be having the parade at 12:00pm. Additionally, we will be Live Streaming the event so that people can enjoy watching the parade from the comfort of their home through the Town’s Facebook page. Our Town is in need of a celebration and what better day is there than Independence Day!

Be sure to visit our Town webpage at CliftonPark.org regularly for more information or “like us” on Facebook to keep up to date on the great happenings in the Town of Clifton Park.

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