



Town of Clifton Park

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Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2020 July Recap

Summer in Clifton Park began with a July that was a continuation of the beautiful, warm weather we experienced in June. As we continued our progression through the Fourth Phase of Re-Opening, The Town of Clifton Park devised safety plans and instituted new protocols that allowed Town programs and activities to proceed in a safe manner by following CDC guidelines for COVID-19. We are very proud of the plethora of programs the Town offers our families and we would not allow new challenges to thwart our efforts to operate successfully.

The Town of Clifton Park officially kicked off the Summer with our Annual Fourth of July Parade. This year the parade was a vehicle only parade comprised of over 35 groups and organizations that included various Fire and EMS departments, The ELKS, NYS Police, the Veteran's Float, and several Hot Rod and Classic Car groups just to name a few. Families lined the streets in social distance style and celebrated Independence Day with friends and neighbors, cheering on the parade participants while proudly displaying their Red, White, and Blue! The Town also offered a livestream of the parade for those at home to safely enjoy emceed by The B95.5 Breakfast Club, Sean and Andrea. The opening ceremonies, led by Supervisor Barrett, included a flag raising ceremony at the Common assisted by Boy Scout Troop 246 and members of the Town Board. Members of the Clifton Park Elks also read from historically important documents and speeches, from the Country's founding up to Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech.

July 4th celebrations continued with the opening of two municipal pools, Barney Road and Country Knolls. The Town of Clifton Park has hosted families at our pools for over 20 years and while this year we had to make some temporary changes to the operations of the pools, we have been pleased to see that over 3500 people have attended the pools in the month of July alone. This year's alternative to the summer membership, a daily ticket program, has been met with positivity by our residents. We have received positive feedback from our guests on the daily execution and sanitizing protocols that our staff employs each and every day for the comfort and safety of our guests. The Town opened the pools as soon as it was allowed by NYS. Our team performed important maintenance tasks during the Spring, to ensure we would be ready to open the pools if NYS provided the approval to municipalities across the entire state. Many other communities did not open their pools this Summer.

Families have utilized the thousands of acres of Town parks during the COVID shutdown, but athletes were eager to return to playing sports and children wanted to engage in recreational activities with other kids their age. The Town opened its 8-week Full Day Camp program as scheduled and soon lacrosse, field hockey, basketball, soccer, golf and other camps would be operating. Adult and Youth Tennis lessons would soon begin as well, encompassing a full menu of available sports programs. The Adventure Challenge Camp offered a different type of challenge and fun for our youth.

The staff at our Clifton Park Senior Community Center were thrilled to be able to open for outdoor activities on July 13th. There were many happy Seniors who had been isolating for months arriving to get in on a game of Bingo, sit with friends in a knitting or crocheting circle, or try a little woodworking. Bocce Ball and Golf at the Barney Road course rounded out the initial offerings for our Senior friends. The Town of Clifton Park takes the health and welfare of our Senior residents very seriously during this Pandemic and have many protocols in

place to ensure their safety as they re-enter their social activities, including temperature checks, sanitizing between guests and limiting class sizes.

The Town Board recently approved roof replacement projects for Town Hall and the Clifton Park Senior Community Center. Mid-State Industries of Schenectady has been awarded the \$500k bid to remove and replace the aging roofs this fall.

We have built and maintained a healthy fiscal surplus over the years. Although we have been criticized in the past for conservative fiscal policies, the rainy day funds ensures the Town can respond to any situation and consider every opportunity. The COVID shutdown has created unprecedented challenges for our business community and overall economy. We do not know for sure what the full, fiscal fallout of the shutdown will be for Clifton Park, but having funds available to maintain operations and our successful financial standing is vital. This Spring was a very good time to proceed with needed capital projects as the shutdown was instituted in full effect. This thought process was prescient as the Town was able to secure attractive bids for capital projects. We have also maintained our commitment to planned infrastructure projects such as road construction and repair.

Finally, the Town has remained vigilant in its continued response to the needs of Clifton Park residents due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. On July 17th the Town held its fifth public mask distribution at the Common. Working in partnership with the Clifton Park IDA over 50 Clifton Park small businesses and organizations have received donations of about 20,000 masks for their employees and customers as they re-open. The Town has also worked closely with the Clifton Park Industrial Development Agency to promote the IDA's Grant Funds to Local Businesses. This program will allow local small businesses direct financial assistance in the form of grants to offset expenses related to COVID incurred as they prepare to re-open. The Town of Clifton Park will continue to seek out and support programs that are impactful and assist our residents and business owners through these unprecedented challenges.

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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