



Town of Clifton Park

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Supervisor Phil Barrett's 2017 October Recap

As I sit down to write this recap it's clear that after the unseasonably warm weather of October we have finally moved into Fall. However, we made the most of the past month spending time outside both enjoying the weather and cleaning up for the upcoming Winter.

This October, we started off on the 1st with our annual Fall Shredding Day. Twice a year the Town of Clifton Park in conjunction with 3N Document Destruction hosts a free shredding day for residents. In exchange for the service, people generously donate non-perishable food items for the less fortunate in our community. Due to your donations, we are able to deliver over 1,000 pounds of food twice a year to the Jonesville United Methodist Food Pantry. The free service offered on our Shredding Days remains in high demand. Since we began the program about 10 years ago, many businesses and municipalities have subsequently offered the service during various times of the year. Thank you to all the volunteers that assist during these events. We also thank 3N Document Destruction for donating their service to safely and securely dispose of your sensitive documents and deliver the food donations.

The Town held our first social dinner at the Clifton Park Senior Community Center, since the Town assumed operations of the facility last December. The theme of the dinner was Oktober Fest and it was sold out with 120 attending. Thank you to the volunteers from Ballston Spa National Bank and the Center who worked the event. We also thank our dinner sponsor, CDPHP. Our next social dinner will be the Fall Feast on November 15th sponsored by MVP. Senator Jim Tedisco will also be joining us that evening. Every month the Town has added programs and activities at the Senior Community Center and that trend will continue. If you're not already a member, please visit the Center Monday through Friday from 9-4 PM to register and learn about the extensive programming offered every day. You can contact the Center directly at 518-383-1343.

We also were fortunate to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Fire Department. The business of firefighting has changed during the last eighty years, but the dedication to the community of the members of the department remains steadfast. We thank everyone in the department and all the members of Clifton Park's first responder community for their selfless service.

The Town Board often has the privilege to honor some truly amazing residents and American heroes. Our October Board meetings were no exception.

The Town Board was honored to recognize LTC Robert Giordano and his family for 34 years of military service in the Army National Guard. LTC Giordano recently retired after a long and distinguished career. In recent years he has been deployed to countries in the Middle East in support of military missions. He has also been involved with National Guard response efforts in NYC following 9/11 as well as numerous emergency response missions in support of state and local governments. A military colleague, Colonel John Andonie spoke on behalf of LTC Giordano. We thank LTC Giordano and COL Andonie for their service and their families for supporting their husbands and fathers. When military personnel serve and sacrifice, their families also sacrifice on behalf of the country.

We were also honored to recognize a 51-year civilian employee of the US Army, Robert Pfeil. An industrial engineer, Bob worked at the Watervliet Arsenal for 44 years. He was a member of the team that executed the modernization of the Arsenal which led to improved mobilization planning and the development of the Bunker Buster Bomb. Karen Heiser and Colonel Joseph Morrow were two of Bob's colleagues who spoke and joined us in honoring Bob.

Representatives of the Clifton Park Elks gave a presentation about Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an initiative to promote a drug free lifestyle. From a national perspective, the Elks have one of the largest volunteer drug awareness programs in the US! Thank you to the Clifton Park Elks Lodge for all your support of the community throughout each year.

Members and management of the Edison Club attended a Town Board Meeting to present a proposal for a planned development district amendment to allow for residential housing on the golf course. The Club has proposed converting nine of their twenty-seven-hole golf course into residential housing. The Edison Club believes it is necessary to convert a portion of their privately-owned land to housing to remain viable in the future. This presentation was an opportunity for the Town Board to publicly review the proposal and in turn for the Edison Club to answer questions and concerns.

Each year the Town Board extends the operating hours at the Town Transfer Station for Fall Clean Up on four consecutive Sundays. There are still two dates remaining, Sunday, November 5th & Sunday, November 12th. On these dates the Transfer Station will be open between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. for the collection of leaves and brush only. This is for Clifton Park residents only and no permit is required. Please have ID available for the attendant.

In other Town Board business, the 2018 Town of Clifton Park Tentative Budget was released. The proposed budget will ensure another year of no General Fund Property Tax. The Town spending plan does not exceed the New York State Tax Cap and does not use available carry over from previous budget years as allowed by the Tax Cap formula. The total proposed budget for the General Fund in 2018 is \$17,281,220, which is a 2.6% increase from the 2017 adopted budget. The 2018 budget continues our commitment to ensure Clifton Park remains one of the lowest taxed municipalities in New York State within our peer group. Daily successful execution and ability to implement new efficiencies are strengths of our organization and necessary to thrive in today's challenging environment for private and public entities. In fact, the Town's strong fiscal position was recently highlighted as part of the New York State Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring test results. Test results reflected the Town's positive cash flow, very low debt and significant fund balance. The Highway Tax and EMS Tax will both be lower in 2018 than they were in the year 2000. The EMS Tax has been in existence for many years and provides operating funds shared with other communities for the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Corps (shared with Halfmoon) and the Ballston Lake Emergency Squad (shared with Ballston and Charlton).

A Town Hearing for the public to comment on the 2018 Preliminary Budget will be held on Thursday, November 9th beginning at 7:01 in the Wood Memorial Room at Town Hall.

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

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