

# Clarkson

## Good Neighbor News



TOWN OF CLARKSON

FALL 2019 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2



### Clarkson Town Tax Rate Drops Over 12%

The Town of Clarkson has prepared a 2020 Tentative Budget that stays under the tax cap, lowers the tax rate significantly and preserves all services. Taxpayers are most interested in two things: the services they receive and how much they pay for those services.

The 2020 Tentative Budget is a \$3,486,430 spending plan that increases the total tax levy (including all special districts) by \$43,697. While many individual budget lines increased or decreased, the largest single line change was \$50,000 for a major overhaul of the Clarkson Town Code. The budget also includes increased funding for the Seymour Library and takes into account declining court revenues.

Assessments are the tool by which the tax levy is divided up among taxpayers. Clarkson underwent a major assessment update that took three years of preparation before going into effect for the 2020 town budget. The reassessment process was

difficult for many taxpayers as an update had not been done in 10 years.

The delay was caused by a rapid change-over in assessors; four assessors in the 10-year span. The update could have been implemented last year, however the former supervisor and current assessor decided to delay for one more year. While the process was difficult, assessments are now appropriately balanced and will be updated every two to three years.

Because the taxable assessed base grew by nearly \$65 million and because the Town Board is adopting a budget plan that raises the tax levy only slightly, the tax rate will drop dramatically from \$3.76 per thousand of assessed valuation to \$3.30 per thousand of assessed valuation. That is a over a 12% decrease in the rate.

What does that mean to a taxpayer? For someone whose assessment increased by \$33,000 the increase in the Clarkson Town Tax Bill from 2019 to 2020 will be \$23. A quick way for a homeowner to calculate their individual change will be to take your previous assessment and multiply by \$3.76 per thousand. Take your new assessment and multiply by \$3.30 per thousand. The difference between the two is your increase/decrease in town taxes.

The final component of the 2020 budget calculation is the tax cap. Since 2012, NYS has mandated that towns remain under a "2%" tax levy cap or pass enabling legislation to override the cap. The Town of Clarkson's budget is well under the tax cap.

In conclusion, the 2020 Tentative Budget is a responsible spending plan that provides all services at a reasonable cost, is distributed equitably amongst property owners, and is under the NYS tax cap.

~ *Christa L. Filipowicz, Supervisor*

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### Clarkson Community Award Established

At the August 24th Town Board meeting Councilwoman Leslie Zink presented her proposal for the creation of the Clarkson Community Award. The Town Board agreed that Clarkson should celebrate our many residents for their extraordinary service in support of the community we all love. The Clarkson Community Award was developed to honor a person or group who has made a contribution to our community through their time, actions, and dedication. The honoree selected should serve as a role model for service and strive to make our community a better place.

Eligible: All ages, must reside in the Town of Clarkson. Nominations: Written letters nominating individuals and/or organizations may be submitted at any time and will be selected by a bipartisan committee; self-nominations are also acceptable. Recognition: Certificate of Achievement, Good Neighbor News and ClarksonNY.org; given on a quarterly basis. Submit nominations to [leslie.zink@clarksonny.org](mailto:leslie.zink@clarksonny.org).

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### Good Neighbor Day Thanks

Our Bicentennial Good Neighbor Day was the one of the best ever and it wouldn't have been possible without the long hours and hard work from the bipartisan Bicentennial Committee: Charlie Cowling (Remembering Clarkson), Mike Farrell (Tractor Pull & Pancake Breakfast), Bill Fine (Beard Contest), Pat Galinski (Children's Play), Tom Guarino (Children's Recreation Activities & 58 Main), Leanna Hale (Walking Tour), Kathy Kemp (T-shirts, souvenirs), Sharon Mattison, (info booth & vendors), Anita O'Brien (Quilt Show), Emilio Sebastian (WEATHER! & German Dancers), Jackie Smith (ZuperBounce, Movie, Fireworks, Ruby Shooz), Bob Viscardi (facilities/electricity, Frog Jumping and 'all-round fixer', Leslie Zink (Operations & PR).

We honored Mr. Bicentennial Andy Rayburn and Ms. Bicentennial Helen Massar as they have called Clarkson their home the longest— 89 and 88 years respectively!

And last but not least, we thank our residents, who helped turn an ordinary August Saturday into a 200 year birthday party where we paused from the bustle of back-to-school/college activities in order to relax and be with neighbors. We ate some great food and danced the evening away with Ruby Shooz and capped it off together with sensational fireworks!



### Grant News!

#### Cyber Security Grant - \$49,239

Supervisor Christa Filipowicz applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Cyber Security Grant for \$49,239. It is difficult for small towns like Clarkson to stay on top of current technologies due to the expense, so this is a tremendous benefit to the community. Five areas were targeted and funded: SEIM/ SOC Monitoring, Cyber Security Plan, Cyber Security Employee Awareness Training, Upgrades to Firewall with Advance Data Guarding, and Windows and server upgrades and replacement.

Highway Superintendant Bob Viscardi applied for and received:

#### Windstorm Recovery, Dormitory Authority of State of NY (DASNY), State And Municipal (SAM) Grant Award – \$30,000.00

Originated by Assemblymen Joe Morelle and Steve Hawley to aid local towns with relief from expenses incurred as a result of the March 2017 windstorm cleanup.

#### NYSDEC Municipal Waste Reduction & Recycling (MWRR) Program

Clarkson purchased equipment for the Transfer Station totaling \$41,128 with \$20,564 covered by the grant.

#### Justice Court Assistance Grant

The Justice Court was awarded a grant to cover expenses of two new security wands and door replacement.

### Honor Roll Rehab Project

Councilman Pat Didas has initiated the repair of the large white Veterans Honor Roll sign located outside the Town Hall. Pete Sharpe, a teacher at BOCES and his class are happy to partner with Clarkson on the Honor Roll rehabilitation project. Our highway staff under the leadership of Bob Viscardi, will gently remove the sign and deliver it to BOCES. The names listed on this historic sign will be saved and remounted onto a new case back and a fully rebuilt natural wood case. New plexiglass and mounting posts will also be necessary.

When completed, the new sign and large boulder currently paired with the existing sign, will be installed at the Veterans Park on Ridge Road.

### 85 Acre Solar Project

In late spring, a Solar Law was created and passed, preparing the town for the many solar companies contacting residents because they are interested in their properties. Clarkson now feels confident they are prepared for commercial solar installations. Borrego Solar on Redman Road will be the Town's first commercial project to be received under the new law. It will cover 85 acres with 31,000 solar panels.

## Umpteenth Annual Childrens Holiday Party

The last official Bicentennial event will be Clarkson's Umpteenth Annual Holiday Party to be held Friday, December 13 at 7PM at the Stanley Pogroszewski Justice Court at 3655 Lake Road. Parents should drop off a \$10 gift for each child at the Clarkson Town Hall a few days prior to the party. Label all gifts with your child's first and last name. Santa will visit to hand out the gifts.

New this year, we will be lighting the large evergreen outside the courthouse and Brockport Fire Station after the party. Hot chocolate will be served!

## Great Gift Idea!

This past summer Kimball Park was gifted with 18 fruit and shade trees from residents who purchased trees to honor a loved one. The 2019 response far exceeded our expectations and we will continue this in 2020. A marker will be placed at the base of the tree and a sign posted inside the lodge identifying the tree sponsors.



Councilman Pat Didas initiated this project and has continued to work with Sara's Farm Market. Great gift for the holidays, Mothers/Fathers Day and birthdays! The order form is available at the Town Hall.

## Community Mobile Pharmaceutical Waste Collection

On October 1st we held a Community Mobile Pharmaceutical Waste Collection. Councilwoman Jackie Smith stated that "Storing unused, unwanted or expired medicines can lead to accidental poisoning and drug abuse situations. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends often from the home medicine cabinet". Many people dispose of their medicines on their own by flushing them down the toilet which can then end up contaminating our streams and waterways. This event provided the community with an opportunity to properly dispose of their pharmaceuticals and help with the prevention of drug addictions and overdoses. The residents were grateful for this opportunity as many had been storing items for years. We are proud to offer these programs and connect our residents to these services.

## Visit Mobile DMV!

Every Thursday (except holidays) at the Clarkson Courthouse 3655 Lake Road 10:00 am - 3:30 pm.



## Highway Projects & Events

Two noteworthy highway projects are well underway and will be completed by the end of the year. The first is the Cook Sewer on Lake Road with a depth of 16 feet and lots of bedrock. Once completed the crew will move on to the installation of the Roosevelt Highwater Water District. This serves residents in both the Town of Hamlin and Clarkson, and is scheduled for late October.

It should be noted that not only does our highway crew do their regular Clarkson summer work such as sewer and water installarions and milling/paving of town roads, but they also do county projects which annually bring in \$200,000-\$300,000. This directly offsets town taxes and reduces the amount of taxes that need to be collected. We are fortunate that we have this talented staff.

### **Town Highway Projects Completed**

Mill/pave Tearose Meadow, Debbie Lane, Laura Lane and Amy Lane. Summer Hill, Berry Grove, Lindera Lane, Storybook Lane and Mission Hill surface treated.

### **Monroe County Projects Completed**

Monroe County contracted with our highway to replace a Lawrence Road culvert, and surface treat Ireland Road and Clarkson Hamlin TL Road, Monroe Orleans County Line Road from Rt. 31 to the former Brockport Country Club was milled and paved.

### **Junk Days**

Fri 10/25: 7AM- 3PM Sat 10/26: 8AM - 4PM  
Bring your junk to the Clarkson Highway Department, 3623 Lake Road.

*Clarkson residents only. No household garbage, hazardous waste, boats/motor vehicles of any size. Maximum of five pick-up truck loads per household at no charge. Also accepting collection of most electronic equipment free. Charges will be posted for other items.*

### **Brush Pick Up**

10/28 the highway will make one pass down each road to pick up brush (max 6ft lengths) placed parallel to the road prior to start date.

### **Leaves Pick Up**

On Mondays 10/28, 11/4, and Tuesday 11/12 the Highway will pick-up leaves placed in paper bags only.

### **Brush Trailer**

Our brush trailer may be reserved by calling 637-1132 to schedule an appointment. We will drop off/pick up trailer at your home after you have loaded it.

### **Brush Drop Off**

Brush and leaves may be dropped off in front of the Highway Garage, 3623 Lake Rd. until 11/15, or at our Transfer Station, 3078 Redman Rd; Wed 2-7PM and Sat 8AM-4PM (no permit needed for this). At the highway department, use front lot areas designated 'brush' and 'leaves'. No other debris, rocks, dirt, garbage or bags.

**TOWN OF CLARKSON**

Town Supervisor: Christa L. Filipowicz	637-1131
Councilperson: Allan Hoy	
Councilperson: Patrick Didas	
Councilperson: Jackie Smith	
Councilperson: Leslie Zink	
Town Clerk: Sharon S. Mattison	637-1130
Deputy Town Clerk: Kathy Kemp	637-1130
Highway Superintendent: Robert M. Viscardi	637-1132
Highway Clerk: Ursula Liotta	637-1132
Judge: Ian E.W. Penders	637-1134
Judge: Christopher T. Wilcox	637-1134
Building Inspector: Kevin Moore	637-1145
Code Enforcement: Kevin Moore	637-1145
Building Clerk: Anna Beardslee	637-1145
Assessor's Office: Liz Spencer	637-1135
Historian: Leanna Hale	637-1130
Dog Control: Dave Maynard	Cell: 353-8177 Pager: 525-1608
25th Congressional District: Joe Morelle	232-4850
27th Congressional District:	(716) 634-2324
56th Senatorial District: Hon. Joseph Robach	225-3650
139th Assembly District: Steve Hawley	589-5780

## Matt's Coats for Kids

Again this year Sharon Mattison, Town Clerk is hosting "Matt's Coats for Kids". This marks fifteen years of practicing kindness and brightening the day of others, illustrating the character Matt displayed during his life. Matthew Fitton lost his life in a tragic car accident at the age of 20 in 2003. We know Matt would be happy that his memory is being kept alive through the generosity of the community. Thousands of donated coats have kept many children warm in the winter months. Please help by dropping off gently used or new items of winter outerwear at the Clarkson Town Hall. Free items will be distributed at Brockport FD on West Ave on December 6 & 7.



## RV Storage Reminder

As you begin to move your recreational vehicles and trailers and ready them for winter storage please note that Town Code requires that they be stored behind the front set back of the home. If you need more info see our Town Code online at ClarksonNY.org

## Holiday Food Drive

The holidays are another tough time for many families so the Town Clerk's Office will be hosting a Non-Perishable Food Drive for our community. Food may be dropped off at the Clarkson Town Hall or after hours in the bin located near the front door. Suggested items: stuffing mix, gravy mix, pudding mix, canned pie filling, boxed pie crusts, canned corn, etc. Money for holiday meats may be dropped off during regular hours. For more info contact Town Clerk Sharon Mattison or Kathy Kemp, Deputy at 637-1130.

## Carrie Ray Blood Drive

Carrie Ray, a Clarkson resident, beloved 2nd grade teacher and hockey mom, lost her life in a tragic biking accident. We mourn her loss and are happy to partner with her friends and family on this endeavor.

You may donate blood in honor of Carrie's life and memory by "giving back" and helping to save the lives of patients in need. Carry on her generous and loving spirit with your donation.

The Town of Clarkson will host the Blood Drive on Friday, November 8 from 2-7PM at the Lodge at Hafner Park—3645 Lake Road. Appointments: visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter keyword: ClarksonLodgeBrockport or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. 1-800-733-2767.

## Town Holiday Closings

Veterans Day, November 11  
Thanksgiving, November 28 & 29  
Christmas Day, December 25  
New Years Day, January 1

## Visit Us online!

[www.clarksonny.org](http://www.clarksonny.org).

Facebook: 'Town of Clarkson', 'Town of Clarkson Supervisor' & 'Remembering Clarkson'. Friend/Follow Us!

## Remember to Set Your Clocks Back!

It's almost that time of year again! Be sure to set your clocks back an hour on November 3rd! Check the batteries in your smoke and CO2 detectors as well.