

2014 was a very good year for the Town of Clarence.

2/25/15

What a ride! While I knew that 2014 would be a good year, I had no idea that it would turn out to be a GREAT year. We were able to finish many of the projects that had been in the planning stage since 2012 and to continue with several that are multi-year in nature. The most important goal we achieved was to cut the tax rate for the fourth year in a row. While outsiders think that Clarence is expensive to live in because of all the large homes, our tax rate is actually one of the lowest in Erie County and it continues to fall as the Town Board and Department Heads run the Town of Clarence like the \$21,745,963 dollar business that it is. The Town of Clarence has started a multi-year flood plan for the North Country. The Highway Department cleared a major obstacle from Tonawanda Creek this summer as well as continuing to clean out many of the ditches in the North Country, and Engineering has mapped most of the streams that flood every spring, and the County is in the process of ditching and repaving Goodrich Road. The newly acquired Youth Center on Main St. has undergone a dramatic makeover. New siding on the front, extra storage space in the rear and the elimination of the dated wood paneling on the inside had turned this former post office into a warm, inviting space for our youth to meet. The Town Board worked with the Amherst Town Board to provide crossing guards from the Town of Clarence to Transit Middle School. The intersection in front of Transit Middle School is a disaster, and it was a matter of time before someone was injured. The new guards will provide safe passage for all of the middle school children from the Town of Clarence who attend Transit Middle School on a daily basis. The Town of Clarence dispatched lifesaving highlift tractors and snowplows to both Lancaster and Cheektowaga to help clean up from the November snowstorm. Lancaster Supervisor Dino Fudoli and Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holtz both expressed their gratitude for the rapid response of our Highway Department during the crisis, and I received many letters from citizens thanking us for our generosity in this most critical time of need. Students at The University of Buffalo completed an analysis of the Bike Path that was presented in December to interested Town Board and Department heads of the Town of Clarence. In addition to an exhaustive analysis of the current use of the bike path, the students also presented ideas on how the system could be improved in the future. The Parks Department finished an NBA quality basketball court (with a Clarence High School Red Devil logo at center court) in the park on Goodrich Road. Also on Goodrich road is a newly striped Pickelball court. Pickleball started on the West Coast during the 60's and seems to be growing in popularity every year. Parks also finished a new bathroom at the Parker Road baseball field and installed a gate to protect the entrance to the main trail at Beeman Creek Park.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 741-8930, email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or stop by the Supervisors office at Town Hall. My door is always open!