

Results from the 2013 Town Wide Survey-Part two.

The first of three articles on the 2013 Town wide survey ran last month. In it, I detailed all the things that residents of Clarence **loved** about their special town. This month, we will tackle the second question in our trio 'what do residents dislike about the Town of Clarence?' Next month, we will finish up the circuit by answering the question 'what would you change about the Town of Clarence?'

There was an overriding consensus that residents of Clarence are concerned about overdevelopment. For many years Clarence was a quiet farming community that had minimal traffic, low taxes and was small enough for everybody to get to know each other. To a large extent, it still remains that way. But...continued development and all of the problems that it brings with it threaten to change Clarence into a bustling suburb that looks like every other suburb in the US. On at least a dozen surveys Clarence residents were emphatic that they " don't want Clarence to turn into another Amherst." I heartily agree!

The second and third items that resident took note of was a byproduct of their first response, and that was traffic and congestion. Unkempt property, especially in the hollow, was the number four response. The fifth was a surprise, and that was 'the lack of town wide garbage pickup'. While many residents were extremely determined to keep their personal choice of Garbage companies, an equal number were **just** as convinced that the Town of Clarence should have town- wide garbage pickup. After that, the replies were spread over a fairly wide spectrum. Some on the things that residents disliked were the lack of sidewalks, too many geese and deer, drainage, rising school costs, lack of sewers, lack of affordable housing for our seniors, proposed new apartments and the rule that prohibits dogs in Town of Clarence parks(with the exception of the peanut line).

On the last town-wide survey was taken in 2009, residents felt that sewers, roads and attracting new businesses were the most pressing issues facing the Town of Clarence at that time. Since the 2009 survey was completed the Town has addressed these three concerns by planning two new sewer lines, one that will run the length of Harris Hill Rd and a second that will run up Goodrich Rd. from Greiner to Main St. We have been working with Erie County to repair and re-sign many of the County Roads that run through Clarence. Lastly, the Clarence Industrial Development Agency (CIDA) has been very active in bringing new business to the Town of Clarence. Residents should know that their feedback is not wasted or in vain. Results of the 2013 survey were given to all department heads at the last monthly meeting, and they have started to work on the issues that residents were most concerned about.

Should you have any questions or positive comments regarding this article, please feel free to call, email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or stop by and visit me at Town Hall. My door is always open!