

Clarence State of the Town: 2014.

The 2014 State of the Town was sponsored by The Clarence Chamber of Commerce during a packed lunch meeting at Orazio's. Because of the noon hour, it may have made been difficult for many of you to attend, so I have included the highlights.

During this State of The Town I will recap my first two years in office, highlighting both the promises I made, the results that have been achieved and my projections for 2014.

During the first two years in office I promised not to increase taxes. With the help of the Town Board and Department Heads, General tax rate actually went down in 2013. In 2014 our general tax rate will drop too exactly to 1.030988 per thousand, far and away the lowest in Erie County for a town of 30,000 people.

I promised new senior apartments on Transit Rd., and Clover Management is finishing up 129 brand new senior apartments which should be ready for occupancy by Christmas 2014.

I promised a new outdoor ice rink, and Parks Superintendent Jim Burkard opened Meadowlakes Park shortly thereafter. It has proved to be the most popular outdoor ice rink in Clarence.

I promised to bolster the Youth Department by adding a curvy slide and a new handicapped lift to the Town pool on Main St. and an NBA size basketball court at the Town Place Park that abuts Town Hall. The slide and lift were both installed last summer. The basketball court was constructed last summer and will be striped this summer.

I promise to conduct a Town wide satisfaction survey to see what issues were critical to Town of Clarence residents. The survey was completed by

June 1st, 2013 and it gave us a unique window into thought and aspirations of the taxpayers of the Town of Clarence.

I promised to help renowned furniture manufacturer Kittinger move from Buffalo to Clarence. The City of Buffalo and the ECIDA signed off on the move in 2013, and the new facility at Eastern Hills is nearing completion.

There were other positives in 2013, like the county wide FBI seminar that dealt with the protection of public officials and the new multifamily law. If you combine the new multifamily law with the Clarence Industrial Development Agencies vote to eliminate subsidies for multifamily housing, the number of apartment complexes that will be built in the town of Clarence over the next 20 years will be unbelievably low. This means fewer people, less traffic, lower school and town taxes. In 2014 our town wide sewer survey will be completed, and

we will be working to with the Town of Amherst to secure approval for our new sewer line that runs past Spaulding Lake on Goodrich Road. In addition, we will work with Erie County to rebuild Goodrich Road. The design firm of Clark, Patterson, Lee has been hired to design and rebuild the road, and soil borings have already been taken. Goodrich Road is a death trap and this project is long overdue. We are working on an aggressive flood control plan. I will be meeting with the Town Board in March to propose additional flood control measures that will help keep the Clarence dry. If you combine our efforts as a Town Board with an aggressive policy of ditching by our highway department, we will work to keep the water in Tonawanda creek instead of our Taxpayers basements.

I urge you all to get involved and to make this town a better place to live. My door is always open, and, please, stop by and visit. After all, public officials work for you, not the other way

around. Good luck in 2014, and may God continue to bless you and your families in the coming year.