

October 2012

The Town of Clarence Works Overtime to Prevent Illegal Signs!

As you may have noticed, the highways and byways in and around The Town of Clarence looks a LOT cleaner lately. One of the reasons is that the town has recently started putting **extra** emphasis into enforcing the sign law, which has been on the books for many years. The section of the law that deals with the problem signs reads ***"No sign shall be located in, nor project into, the public right-of-way."*** The increased attention to the sign ordinance is the result of several Buffalo based businesses that have started to pepper the Town of Clarence with hundreds of illegal signs. It is not unusual to have a Buffalo company come into Clarence and drop 200 signs in the right-of-way during a Sunday evening. There is an industrial capacity dumpster in back of the Highway department that contains all of the illegal signs that Park Security has picked up, and it is not unusual for it to be completely **full** of signs. While Town of Clarence/ Park Security is tasked with picking up these signs, Clarence taxpayers pay the bill for Park Security services. I have asked the Town Board to look into a 'fine per sign' ordinance, similar to what the City of Buffalo is contemplating. Companies that come into the Town of Clarence and drop over 50 signs in our right of way would have to pay a fine for each and every sign they leave behind. The problem, both in Clarence and the City of Buffalo is that the fine for dropping hundreds of signs on the public right-of-way is so minimal that no one worries about getting caught. If we were to raise the fine to \$25 per sign, the ordinance suddenly gets some teeth and **Clarence taxpayers get out from under a burden they did nothing to create.**

Should you have any questions about our amazing town and how it runs, please feel free to email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or come and visit me in Town Hall. My door is always open!