



# Clarence Bee

Founded 1937



### CLARENCE COMMUNITY GUIDE

Keep this useful section on hand year-round.

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Richard Milewicz is the Clarence Chamber's Lifetime Achiever.

### NEWS ■ Page 3

Teagan Faran organized a benefit for children with heart disease.

## Legislators, school officials discuss budget woes

by STEVEN JAGORD  
Clarence Editor

A panel of local and state legislators fielded questions and comments from administrators and board of education members on Saturday at the Erie County Association of School Boards' annual legislative breakfast, held at Michael's Banquet Facility in Hamburg.

(See editorial on page four)

The educators and board members basically made the same plea: Please help us.

"Increases in key expense areas outpace any increase in aid," said Kathyann Lorka, a member of the ECASB and East Aurora Board of Education. "Funding is fundamental, and we know it is imperative to ensure a sustainable system of public education over the long haul."

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## Two board members stepping down

by STEVEN JAGORD  
Editor

Two members of the Clarence Board of Education will be stepping down after their terms expire on June 30.

Elaine Diederich and Jean Ranney announced during Monday's School Board meeting that they will be vacating their seats, meaning two new members will be elected in May.

Diederich has served five terms on the seven-member board, and Ranney has served two terms. School Board terms are for three years.

The district's business administrator, Rick Mancuso, said those interested in serving on the board need to file petitions containing at least 46 signatures with the district by April 22 in order to be eligible for the May 21 election.

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Motorists will be better able to see the T-shaped intersection at Goodrich and Tonawanda Creek roads thanks to newly installed signs in front of the home of Clarence resident Andrew Kirisits.

Photo by Jim Smerecak  
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## Goodrich, Tonawanda Creek roads Enhanced signs warn drivers of intersection

by STEVEN JAGORD  
Editor

A north Clarence homeowner is feeling a little safer these days with the enhancement of signage warning motorists of the impending intersection in front of his property.

A meeting at the home of resident Andrew Kirisits in January helped bring town and county officials together to address conditions in front of his house, located on the north side of the T-shaped intersection at Goodrich and Tonawanda Creek roads.

Clarence Supervisor Dave Hartzell, Erie County Legislator Ed Rath, and Charlie Sickler, principal civil engineer at the Erie County Department of Public Works, met with Kirisits after he came to a Town Board meeting in December to raise concerns about insufficient warning signs at the intersection.

Kirisits said there had been at least two accidents on his front lawn within the last 12 months, one in which an intoxicated motorist crashed into his

front porch and fled on foot.

"It's an intersection that has had a track record of trouble," Rath said. "We took several very important steps to ensure that will never happen again with larger signs, arrows signs and florescent accents that quite honestly should have been there to begin with."

"I am very pleased with the work that county DPW has done, as we were out there looking at the warning signs to the intersection," he added, referring to the earlier signs as "grossly insufficient. I didn't think they were large enough."

In addition to increasing the size of the signs, the DPW installed a "Stop Ahead" sign a few hundred feet before the intersection, dual fluorescent-orange, 12-by-12-inch end-of-road markers in front of Kirisits' home, a new two-way arrow board and a T-intersection warning sign.

Kirisits had hoped for blinking lights a few hundred feet before the intersection but is pleased with the immediate actions taken by local officials to make improvements.

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**"...they upgraded all of the signs which is good because there is much more notice leading up to the intersection."**

— Andrew Kirisits resident



**With love and gratitude**

Erie County Legislator Edward Rath receives valentines from Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary honor students Lauren Bergman and Brian Wolf on Feb. 5. The valentines will be distributed to area veterans. See story on page three.

Photo by Jim Smerecak  
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