

Clayton Community Newsletter

Important Meetings

Clayton Town Board
2nd & 4th Wed., 5pm
405 Riverside Drive

Clayton Village Board
2nd & 4th Mon., 6:30pm
425 Mary Street

Joint Town/Village Planning
1st Thurs., 7pm
405 Riverside Drive

Joint Zoning Board of Appeals
3rd Mon., 7pm
405 Riverside Drive

Clayton Local Development Corp.
1st Thurs., 4pm
405 Riverside Drive

Clayton Fire District
2nd Wed., 7pm

Clayton & Depauville Fire Halls

TIERS
4th Tues., 6:30pm
Clayton TIERS & LaFargeville Town
Offices

Public is welcome
at all meetings!



Community Cleanup Day at the Frink Site: Aug. 5, 2009
Photo by Kristi Dippel

this issue

Clayton Riverwalk & Frink Project **P.1**

Local Government News **P.1-2**

Clayton Community Calendar **P.2-3**

Clayton Community Band & Hawn Library **P.3**

Community Notes **P.4**

Clayton Continues Tradition, While Embracing Its Past...

The Clayton Riverwalk is a key component of the future of Clayton, as it integrates the water's edge with the community. The Riverwalk was created to bring together key destinations within Clayton, while conveying the history and traditions of our community and will create a walking community, where people can enjoy the cultural sites, the varied commercial shops and restaurants, and the magnificent views of the St. Lawrence River all in one walk.

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) and the Town of Clayton received a \$300,000 grant from NYS Department of State to design and construct Phase I of the Riverwalk, along the Frink property. EDR, based in Syracuse, NY, designed the Riverwalk and ActSI Construction of Gouverneur, NY, built the walkway along the shore of the St. Lawrence River. Construction of this section of the Riverwalk began in May and was completed in June, 2009.

On August 5, 2009, there was a Community Clean-up Day. Community volunteers and crews from the Town and Village Highway Departments cleared out the brush along the shoreline of the Riverwalk.

The CLDC and the Town have recently received grants from NYS Department of State and NYS Parks. These grants will be used to continue work on the Riverwalk—adding lighting, benches, outlooks, and other amenities. The grant money will also be used to stabilize the shoreline along the Riverwalk property.

Ultimately, the goal is to extend the Riverwalk around the downtown peninsula—creating a link between the Antique Boat Museum; our Historic Downtown District; the T.I. Museum, Thousand Islands Arts Center, and the Clayton Opera House; the former Frink property; and the downtown commercial district.

Joint Courtroom Project Moves Forward

The Town and Village recently agreed to move forward on the joint municipal courtroom project, which would provide for a separate courtroom in order to provide safety and security; rest rooms; a ventilation system; and exterior painting of the Village municipal building. The total project cost is not to exceed \$250,000, to be shared equally between the Town and the Village. A NYS Justice Court construction grant of \$60,000 and a \$6,000 equipment grant will contribute toward those costs.



Community Cutting the Ribbon at the Riverwalk Dedication: August 23, 2009
Photo by Christiana Langer

Community Calendar

Nov 21-Dec 31
15th Annual Festival of Trees
T.I. Museum

Dec 1, 7pm
Clayton Community Band
Holiday Concert
Clayton Opera House

Dec 3
Shoppers Poker Run
Clayton-Clayton Shops

Dec 3
Tree Lighting Ceremony
Downtown Clayton

Dec 5, 3pm
"Santa Central"
Clayton Opera House

Dec 5, 6pm
47th Annual Christmas Parade
Downtown Clayton

Dec 5
5th Annual Dickens Festival
Hawn Memorial Library

Dec 10, 7pm
Warren Miller's "Dynasty" film
Clayton Opera House

Dec 11, 7-9pm
Ballroom Dance Lessons &
Open Dance Session
Clayton Opera House

Dec 31
New Year's Eve Dance
Clayton Opera House

Jan 22, 7-9pm
Ballroom Dance Lessons &
Open Dance Session
Clayton Opera House

Jan 29-Mar 19
The Glass River Exhibit
Thousand Islands Arts Center

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23—7-8:30pm
Country Line Dance Lessons
Clayton Opera House

Feb 5-6
Save the River
"Winter Weekend"
Clayton Opera House

Feb 12
"Moby Dick Rehearsed"
Theatre Production
Clayton Opera House

Feb 12-13
TIYLO's Upstate Ice Jam 2010
Clayton / LaFargeville

Feb 19, 7-9pm
Ballroom Dance Lessons &
Open Dance Session
Clayton Opera House

Feb 20
Clayton Fire Dept./K of C
Ice Fishing Derby
K of C, Clayton

Feb 27
Clayton Rotary
"Taste of the Town"
Clayton Opera House

Town of Clayton Reduces Overall Budget for 2010

The actual total Town of Clayton budget for 2010 is down by just under \$4,000,000 due to the completion of the Frink Remediation project this year. The General Fund, which deals with most of the Town services—with the exception of Special Districts such as Reed Point, Heritage Heights & Depauville sewer districts and Heritage Heights & Depauville lighting districts—saw appropriations increase approximately 2% due generally to contractual raises to staff and a 15% increase in contractual health and retirement benefits. We also increased our legal expense—a little over 100% from \$12,000 to \$25,000 in the Assessment budget—in anticipation of increased actions. We also anticipate a small increase in "County Chargebacks" which were \$101,665 in 2009. We have no control over these and they directly impact our Town tax rate. Our tax levy is up \$12,182, or 1.5%. Our tax rate will remain the same, at \$1.30 / \$1,000 of assessed value for 2010. The appropriations for 2010 include a \$30,000 financial commitment to a Joint Town/Village Courtroom Facility, repair and upgrade to the 37-year-old heating and filtration system at Cerow Recreation Park, and a \$100,000 payment on the recently completed \$400,000 Salt/Sand Storage Facility. Also of interest, we have budgeted \$600,000 in grant income and expenses for enhancement to the Dee Riverwalk and shoreline stabilization at the recently remediated Frink site. These improvements to Town property will have no impact on the General Fund or the tax rate. The grants were secured by the Town from the New York

Town of Clayton Makes Strides Towards Energy Efficiency

The Town of Clayton has made a serious effort to become more energy efficient. Based on the results of energy audits completed on all town-owned buildings in late 2008, the Town made an investment in energy-efficient measures at its Cerow Recreation Park facility and shared the venture with the Village at their Joint Highway facility. As a result of these actions, the Town received a New York State Energy Research & Development (NYSERDA) energy rebate of \$5,455 for Cerow Recreation Park and \$2,815 for the Highway facility. Additionally, the Town has entered into an agreement with Fourth Coast Inc, a Clayton headquartered renewable energy and municipal consulting firm, to proceed with a plan to replace the Cerow Recreation Park Arena's 37-year-old swimming pool filtration system, heating system, electrical panels, and roof. The plan also includes a thermal pool cover that will allow energy to be conserved while heating the pool.

Restore NY Grant

The CLDC and Village were recently awarded a Restore NY grant for the renovation of the former Golden Anchor Site and RJ Marina building, both located on Riverside Drive in downtown Clayton.

Other energy efficient goals for the Town include the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Pool House to offset the electrical usage. The Town is working with Fourth Coast Inc. to secure NYSERDA funding. In the future, the Town hopes to begin energy-efficient implementations at the Opera House and Highway facilities.

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In addition, the Town has initiated communication with the New York Power Authority to participate in a 100 MW Solar PV initiative program, which, if chosen, could provide the Town with competitively priced solar powered electricity.

TIYLO PRESENTS
FRIDAY DEC. 4th - 8:00
ANTIQUA BOAT MUSEUM
Christmas Masquerade Ball
DRESSY TO FORMAL - SUIT TO TUX
CATERED HORS D'OEUVRES - CASH BAR - DANCING
PHOTOGRAPHER - SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
CONTACT MELISSA 405-3864 & FOR MORE INFO: TIYLO.ORG

A portion of the proceeds of this event will benefit local families in need during the holidays. The silent auction proceeds will benefit a scholarship to a local high school student exhibiting community service. *Presale tickets are available at Bella's and the Clayton Chamber.*

Department of State and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in 2009. Of importance, the Town will continue its financial support for the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, TIERS, the Paynter Center, Depauville and Hawn libraries, Jefferson Volunteer Transportation Center, and the Joint Youth Commission. The Town Board has worked diligently on this budget to ensure that our Town is providing quality services in the most efficient manner for our taxpayers. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the Town Supervisor, Justin A. Taylor, at 315-686-3512, ext. 20.



Photo by Jan Brabant

Clayton Community Band Brings in the Holiday Spirit

Ushering in Clayton's week of pre-Christmas holiday excitement, the Clayton Community Band will fill the Clayton Opera House with the joyous sounds of holiday music on Tuesday evening, December 1st at 7 PM, as the Band presents its "Bringing in the Holiday Spirit" concert. The Clayton Community Band, Resident Ensemble of the Clayton Opera House, will present their annual holiday concert as a dual benefit for both Hospice of Jefferson County and Hospice of St. Lawrence County.

Under the direction of Gloria Hvizdos Musser, the Clayton Community Band has prepared a program of upbeat and exciting wintertime and Christmas holiday favorites for its December 1st program.

The Clayton Community Band continues its tradition of performing its concerts as benefits for charitable organizations. On Tuesday, December 1st at 7 PM, the Clayton Community Band invites you to come and enjoy its "Bringing in the Holiday Spirit" concert at the Clayton Opera

House, and at the same time, to support Hospice for the invaluable, compassionate care it provides.

Admission for the December 1st Hospice Benefit Concert at the Clayton Opera House is \$5.00. Students will be admitted free if accompanied by an adult. The program is open to the public, and the Opera House is both heated and handicapped accessible. Tickets are available at the Opera House.

Hawn Library Celebrates in Dickens Style

The Hawn Memorial Library in Clayton will again this year be celebrating in Charles Dickens fashion. Ebenezer Scrooge, the main character in Charles Dickens' 1843 novel, *A Christmas Carol*, is a cold-hearted, tight fisted, greedy man, who despises Christmas and all things which hold true to the season. The Ebenezer Scrooge character will be celebrating with the library's activities during the week long activities from December 3rd through the 9th.

Particularly popular in Northern European countries, wassail is the act of toasting the gods for a bountiful harvest with a hot, spiced punch often associated with Christmas. The library will be serving a lovely mulled cider during our Wassail celebrations on the evening of December 3rd.

The first weekend in December feature the celebrations on the 5th. Choral groups through the morning, the Young People's Theatre with Betty Giles will perform early in the afternoon, draft horses with wagon will be hosting holiday rides throughout the day, Ebenezer Scrooge is looking for the true meaning of Christmas, storytelling and activity books are some of the projects that are on the calendar. An emporium for juveniles to shop for their parents will be set up a small store for children under the age of ten to come and pick out an item or two for mom or dad. Children will be paying for the gift by a promise to read a book that we will provide to them. So for the price of a promise, they will pick out a book and a gift for their parent and complete their Christmas shopping.

Our final celebrations will be a Scrooge Story time at 3:30 on December 9th. Ebenezer Scrooge will spend the afternoon with young people as well as a fantastic costumed story teller until 4:30. Come and enjoy the afternoon with us. The library will close at noon 12/24 and reopen 12/28, 9am, and will close at noon 12/31 and reopen 1/4, 9am.

Clayton Local Development Corporation Looking For Downtown Interest

The CLDC is considering applying for the 2010 New York Main Street Program. This program would provide financial resources to help Clayton preserve and revitalize our downtown area. The New York Main Street grant program is a "bricks and mortar" program that provides funding for building renovations, façade and streetscape improvements. Property and business owners in the downtown area are encouraged to call 315-686-3512, ext. 26 for more information and program details.

Community Calendar

Mar 12-13, 7-9pm
Ballroom Dance Lessons &
Open Dance Session
Clayton Opera House

Apr 3
Easter Egg Hunt
Village Park, Mary Street

Apr 9-11
39th Annual 1000 Islands
Spring Boat Show
Cerow Recreation Park

Apr 16, 7-9pm
Ballroom Dance Lessons &
Open Dance Session
Clayton Opera House

Apr 23-25
Psychic Fair
Clayton Opera House

Apr 27, 7pm
Clayton Community Band
Clayton Opera House

May 2010
T.I. Museum Opens

May 2
Cashore Marionettes Puppets
Clayton Opera House

May 14
Antique Boat Museum Opens
Open 9am-5pm Daily

May 14
TI Arts Center: Handweaving
History Conference
Clayton Opera House

Do You Know?

Parking

No parking on village streets from 2am-6am until after April 1st.

Snow Removal

Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner & must be cleared within 24 hrs. of a snow event. This enables our DPW to get the street cleared and provide a safe environment for all walkers. Also, snow around fire hydrants should be removed as soon as possible.

Santa is Coming to Town

The Clayton Lion's Club is sponsoring a DIRECT LINE TO SANTA from 12/15-17. Santa can be reached at 315-686-3464.

Holiday Lights Competition

Judging for the annual Holiday Lights Competition will be Dec. 17. Stop in at the Town Clerk's Office or sign up at: www.townofclayton.com.

Hawn Memorial Arts Alliance

The Hawn Memorial Library Arts Alliance has been active for over three years. The Alliance was founded in 2006 by Frank Kirkey to identify existing artists and to promote the individual and fine arts in the local community. With that purpose, President Robert Marr continues to encourage artists of all ages and skill levels to participate with the many talented people in the River community.

To date, there are over 70 members in the HML Arts Alliance. Talent is diverse among several mediums in the arts and free art classes, offered in Clayton, New York, have been on-going through Alliance history.

As an active member, an artist is allowed to display his wares through the connections created by the Alliance. The Hawn Memorial Library offers its space to the Alliance who has often had organized group themes. Currently, the Alliance will be sponsoring individuals for an "artist of the month". The Key Bank of Northern New York has also opened its space to artists for display in their offices and lobby giving exposure to the artists and hopefully, pleasure to the public.

Several special events, as well as, art classes have been offered at the TILT building on the riverfront. The HMLA Alliance held classes nearly every

Community Notes

1000 Islands Snowmobile Club Inc.

The 1000 Islands Snowmobile Club was founded in 1998 with 21 members. Today with its 82 miles of groomed trails and over 300 members the club ensures that snowmobiling in northern Jefferson County is a great family recreational pleasure. The club's trail connects the villages of Redwood, Alex Bay LaFargeville, Clayton, Cape Vincent and Chaumont. These trails with their panoramic views of the river and rolling farm lands have been touted as some of the best in the state. This was accomplished by a group of dedicated club members who work many hours to maintain these safe trails.

In 2007, the club was granted 501-C(3) non-profit status. With this carries certain responsibilities. The club annually sponsors two Safety training classes for young snowmobilers. We have sponsored a fundraiser for TIERS (Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service).

This year we are expanding our trail to make downtown Clayton accessible to snowmobiles, plus expanding to connect with St Lawrence County. This will mean opening up our trails to snowmobilers as far away as Plattsburg and all points in between. For more information on our organization, visit: www.1000islandssnowmobileclub.com.

Tuesday and Friday throughout the 2009 season. During several of those sessions, guest speakers were introduced to present or demonstrate different topics of interest to the members and to the public. Brian Kirby, Andy Anderson, Linda Palmer and Frank Kirkey have presented their take on developing art skills through sharing information they have gathered in life experience.

Twice in 2009, the HMLAA sponsored an Invitational Art Show and Sale at the TILT building. Each show was free to the public, but the artists were

asked for an entry fee which was placed in a scholarship fund. The first scholarship was awarded in 2009 by the Arts Alliance to two graduating seniors.

Further support to the River community was put on view after Alliance members first painted a large Christmas mural over the construction wall on Riverside Drive. This beautification project was later taken over by the Thousand Islands Art Center. Youth groups have also participated with the Alliance in an art challenge.

Don't Hibernate! Winter at the Clayton Opera House

While some may think that the sidewalks roll up in Clayton during the cooler months, the jam-packed calendar of events at the Clayton Opera House proves differently! The Thousand Islands Performing Arts Fund kicked off the fall/winter season at the Clayton Opera House with a nearly sold-out performance by Richie Havens in late October, and offerings such as dance lessons, movies and concerts scheduled through May promise to provide entertainment opportunities for people of all ages. Please check our website, www.ClaytonOperaHouse.com, regularly for an updated listing of events as programs are often added when individuals or businesses rent the facility.

SAL Clayton Community Christmas Fund

The Clayton Community Christmas Fund again asks that you think of others less fortunate and in need of assistance this holiday season. For over 30 years, the Clayton Sons of the American Legion Squadron #821, in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 46, have been administering this fund in an attempt to provide food and gifts to deserving families at Christmas time. At this time, we are requesting cash donations to be used to fund our efforts. All monies received will be dispersed entirely to Town of Clayton residents in financial and/or spiritual need.

Last year, as a result of your efforts, we assisted 30 families—including 53 children! Each family received a LARGE food basket including a holiday turkey, gift certificate for food items at the Big M, clothing, toys and other gifts.

Donations can be made payable to the Clayton Community Christmas Fund and sent to Cerow Agency, Inc., 221 John Street, Clayton, NY 13624. Your thoughtful contribution will benefit many. Donations should be received by December 17, 2009.

Clayton Community Newsletter Winter 2009

Their works of art are still on display in the Youth Room in your local library.

Information is easily found at the Hawn Memorial Library on 220 John Street or by calling 315-686-3762.

Village Receive Grant

The Village recently received a \$100,000 grant for the upgrade of the water and sewer pump station on Riverside Drive.

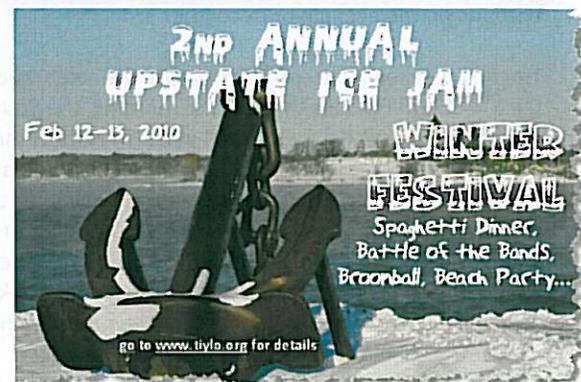
More Community Notes...

Antique Boat Museum : Family Miracle Day

The Antique Boat Museum offers FREE ADMISSION from noon-4pm on Saturday, June 12, 2010, to their Family Miracle Day. In conjunction with Children's Miracle Network of Northern New York at Samaritan, the Museum celebrates an opportunity to introduce the campus to friends and neighbors and host the miracle families in northern New York. Donations for lunch and the boat rides are ALL directed to Children's Miracle Network and benefits the children served by area medical facilities.

Clayton Figure Skating Club's Annual Christmas Show

The Clayton Figure Skating Club's annual Christmas Show is December 13, 2009, at 5:00pm at Clayton's Cerow Recreation Park Arena. The club accepts non-perishable food items for the local food pantries in lieu of admission fees. A raffle is also held with proceeds benefiting the food pantries.



Town of Clayton, 686-3512

Justin A. Taylor, Supervisor

Town Board: George E. Kittle, Donald Turcotte, Lance Peterson, Robert Cantwell, III
www.townofclayton.com

Village of Clayton, 686-5552

Norma Zimmer, Mayor

Village Board: Doug Rogers, Shauna Sherboneau, Mary Burke, Dennis Honeywell
www.villageofclayton.com