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 Actsil 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 Island’s 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 $5,000 equipment grant will contribute toward those costs.
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 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.

Town of Clayton Makes Strides Towards Energy Efficiency

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 Four 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.

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.

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.
Clayton Community Band Brings in the Holiday Spirit

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 throughout 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.

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 15, 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 2
Cashore Marionettes Puppet Show
Clayton Opera House

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

May 14
11 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.
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 360 members the club ensures that snowmobiling in northern Jefferson County is a great family recreational pleasure. The clubs 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 snowmobiles. We have sponsored a fundraiser for T.I.R.E.S (Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Services).

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

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

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 their experience.

Twice in 2009, the HMLA 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. The beautification project was later taken over by the Thousand Islands Art Center. Youth groups have also participated in the Alliance in an art challenge.

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.

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.

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.

More Community Notes...