



Town of Clifton Park

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Town of Clifton Park Response to COVID-19

There is no one in our community that has not felt the affects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Whether we know someone who is personally struggling with the virus, someone who has lost employment, or had our way of life change so dramatically that parents have now become part time educators, we have all seen the many faces of this virus. Each one of us in our town has played a key role in keeping each other safe and secure. The Town of Clifton Park, its employees, volunteers, and friends have all done tremendous things to ensure that our most vulnerable have been touched and their most immediate needs met.

As schools and businesses began to close or reduce staff as of March 16th, the Town of Clifton Park operations and departments were also required to reduce our workforce by 50%. Working with the New York State mandate, we carefully ensured that all departments within Town Hall were still open and operating. We have been working to support our residents by phone, appointment, social media and website updates, as well as our Virtual Town Board Meetings. Keeping our residents informed has always been a priority for our staff. Our Senior Van staff has been working every day to get our residents to their appointments and urgent medical needs. They have been a vital part of our Town services and our Senior residents have expressed their gratitude for this continued service during the Pandemic.

We have seen an outpouring of generosity from our Clifton Park citizens. Anytime we have put out a call to action, it has been responded to. We have had more than 130 volunteers donate their time to grocery shopping, running errands, and delivering meals for our Senior Citizens and vulnerable residents. Approximately 100 trips for residents in need have been made and new friendships have been forged. Our staff and volunteers have reached out to over 2000 Seniors and at-risk residents through our Town's R.U. OK? Program and utilizing our Senior Center Membership list. This has allowed us to stay in touch with those people who may not have any local family, may need help accessing basic services, or just need to hear a friendly voice during this long period of isolation.

Our Town knows no limits when working together to solve a problem and this was never more evident than when we held food drives for CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services on March 21st and April 10th. These drives collected over 12,000 pounds of food for the CAPTAIN Food Pantry which has helped fill over 350 food orders for local families since Mid-March. Sadly, another result of COVID-19 is food insecurity for so many additional families within our community. We are proud to have helped facilitate these drives and encourage residents to continue to donate to CAPTAIN.

Prior to the Pandemic, many of our townspeople had enjoyed dining at the Ravenswood Restaurant here in Clifton Park. Going forward, however, the Ravenswood, and owner Scott Schreifels, will be remembered for their generous donation of 825 dinners to hundreds of Clifton Park Seniors during the most isolating weeks of the Stay at Home order. Councilman Amy Standaert worked tirelessly to coordinate the recipients and volunteers delivering the dinners from March 29th to April 10th. Their dedication to this generous program impacted lives from a financial need as well as social perspective.

Protecting our most vulnerable has always been top of mind during these last few months and acquiring protective equipment like masks is still an ongoing challenge. We were fortunate to be able to obtain several thousand masks and have ensured they were delivered to Senior Living residences first and then followed up

with two drive through opportunities at The Common on May 2nd and 7th. In addition, we had enough to hand out as needed to residents who stopped by Town Hall and the Senior Center for multiple weeks. We will continue to look into acquiring more supplies in the future.

Finally, I would just like to say Thank You to all our volunteers as well as the residents of Clifton Park for your dedication to helping one another and protecting yourself and others in everything you do each day. It is our sense of community and caring that will see us through this difficult time. Together we are strong and I look forward to seeing everyone as we progress toward opening.

Be sure to visit our Town webpage at CliftonPark.org regularly for more information or “like us” on Facebook to keep up to date on the great happenings in the Town of Clifton Park.

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