

After 32 years serving in the Clerk's office, and 26 years serving as our Town Clerk, Nancy Metzger retired December 31, 2021. Nancy was the longest serving Town Clerk and Elected Official. Her very successful tenure with the Town was marked with many awards from the Erie County Town Clerks Association, recognizing her outstanding service for the citizens of Clarence. Coming from the banking industry, Nancy started Clerk's office as Deputy Clerk for then Clerk, Dorothy Harbison. When Dorothy retired Nancy ran for the Town Clerk position and continued to be reelected by the residents for the next 26 years. Always a high vote getter, during one reelection she won more votes than any other elected official had ever received.

Many other Town Clerks would often contact Nancy when they needed advice. Every year, minimally ninety-two million dollars passed through the Clerk's office. During tax time, Nancy would not leave Town Hall until the days receivables balanced out. Nancy rarely missed work, town board meetings, and rarely took vacations. Congratulations Nancy and thank you for your 32 years of dedicated service to our Town.

Karen Hawes, former Deputy Town Clerk was appointed Town Clerk last week at the Town's Organizational meeting. She brings with her over 22 years of financial experience, most of which was with the Bank of Akron, including a position as Branch Manager. Karen brings knowledge, experience, and leadership to the Clerk's office. Congratulations Karen and thank you for the seamless transition into your new position.

I would also like to congratulate my Town Board colleagues, Peter DiCostanzo and Paul Shear for starting their next 4-year terms, and Dan Michnik for joining the Town Board for the first time, as he resumes the position that was formally seated by Chris Greene, before his election as our County Legislature and also congratulations to James Dussing for his reelection to another 4-year term as Town Highway Superintendent.

The Town finally received home COVID test kits late last week – but unfortunately the supply was extremely minimal. We received less than one thousand kits for Town with over 32,000 residents. These first round of home-kits will be allocated to essential town employees, first-responders, medical personnel and to the Senior Center, who will be distributing to their senior members (which happen to consist of the most vulnerable population to COVID).

Included with the take home kits will be KN95 masks. A larger quantity of test kits are expected within the next two weeks, and we will be communicating with the residents via our website – home page when the kits arrive. The next round will be available for all Town residents, while supplies last. A drive through event at the Town Park Club house will be planned after the Town receives more kits.

The County was very specific on how the kits are to be handed out. After proof of residency in Clarence one kit per family will be distributed.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we try to navigate through this, while also adapting to the ever-changing rules, guidelines, and general information. The who, what, where, why and how of these test kits are just as unpredictable as everything else has been.

Hopefully 2022 will bring health, happiness, and the end of this pandemic once and for all!

