

A successful summer in Clarence

Our Town Recreation Programs and Pool are winding down from a very successful summer season. The summer programs had many challenges heading into its first year back from COVID. Even after COVID restrictions were lifted, many communities did not open their pools and or had summer recreation programs due to difficulty with hiring staff. Our Directors of Recreation, Chip Trapper and Chris Durr, went beyond the call of duty finding and hiring summer help for our pool and summer recreation programs.

Director Chris Durr started early this spring reaching out to our lifeguards in an effort to have enough attendants for the pool to be open daily this season – and we were able to do so thanks to his work. The pool had several days of record attendance this year. The Parks Department did a great job getting our pool ready for the season - one would never know that it was shut down for almost two years. Thank you all for your incredible work this season.

We also saw the comeback of our summer concert series. The Clarence Concert Association did a wonderful job bringing this special weekly event back to our town – and you never missed a beat (pun intended).

Earlier this month, Amy Englert, Executive Director of the Chamber literally “Hit one out of the Park” with one of the best Taste of Clarence and Cruise events we’ve had in 17 years. Amy reorganized the event with new, extended hours, many new restaurants as well as expanded entertainment that made an always great event even better. The event had delicious food, a wide variety of cars (ranging from Model T’s to the New C8 Corvettes), and as a bonus – perfect weather. Thank you, Amy and Chamber volunteers, for having a great event for our residents – and bringing us back to some normalcy!

As we started the summer with Softball and Baseball, and transitioned now to Soccer and Football, I would like to thank all of the parents, coaches and volunteers for our youth sports for also working hard to give hundreds of our youth a dynamic sports program this year. I again can’t thank you enough for bringing such enrichment to our youth, while also helping life feel normal again.

We’re rounding the corner of summer – and we are all looking forward to the Labor Day activities at Clarence Center Fire Hall. This is yet another event that wouldn’t happen without the hard work of our fellow Clarence residents, and the dozens of volunteers that help make this happen.

Lastly, I ask you to send special prayers to the Byers’ family, and all the Gold Start families that lost a loved one serving in Afghanistan. Their son Andy was killed in action, during a battle with the Taliban back in 2016. His passing inspired the creation of the Clarence Veterans Memorial – which pays tribute to dozens of other Veterans that fought in Afghanistan. We don’t know the could’ve, would’ve, should’ve of the recent events in Afghanistan. We also don’t know what

will continue to unfold – either for the worse or the better. But we do know that this situation is opening wounded hearts, and our support is needed.

Have a safe and wonderful remaining summer.