

# Clarence is ready for summer

As a lifelong Clarence resident, I've had the pleasure of seeing and participating in hundreds of events over the years. The Dedication Ceremony for the Clarence Veterans Memorial was by far one of the most special events this town has seen in recent history.

We saw a large, patriotic crowd, beautiful weather, dozens of community members involved in the ceremony, ranging from high school students to our local US Congressman, the United States Air Force Band, Rotarians, and dozens of other community organizations.

The dedication ceremony had thousands of guests, and hundreds of Veterans gathering to honor, remember and celebrate this special occasion. We even had a few WWII Veterans in attendance, with the eldest Veteran being 98 years old. One of my close friend's father, who has limited mobility, made a special effort be there. 92-year-old Navy Korean Veteran, William Cumminsky was one of the many in attendance at the dedication, and it was an honor to have you join us.

Since the dedication ceremony, there have been an average of about 100 visitors each day. The Clarence Rotary Club, and the town offices have continually received letters, and commentary for this project. The most touching part is meeting not only the family members, but many of the Veterans that are placed on the Honor Walls, and hearing about their history in the military, and their gratitude for this project.

Memorial Day is the unofficial kick-off to summer, and our town is ready to bring back some normalcy.

Recreation Administrators Chip Trapper and Chris Durr, both fulltime educators, have spent 12 months dealing with COVID at their schools so they have become well versed in dealing with COVID restrictions and the public.

As of two weeks ago most restrictions have been removed. Due to hiring difficulties the Town Recreation and pool will be open with limited programs and pool hours. The Town pool will be opening June 25<sup>th</sup>. The Swim Programs and pool hours are very close to what they were pre COVID. Besides open swimming, swimming lesson are planned.

Limited recreation programs are being held this summer at the Main Street Town Park. The most popular programs are planned, and the Town web site soon will them posted.

Dawn Kenny other Youth Department Executive Director is in the beginning stages of open the Department back up for regular business. The summer Youth Department activities are posted on the Town web page. More to follow in the next few months as well.

The Clarence Concert Association first event this year is July 4<sup>th</sup>. Since this spring, the Concert Association was planning on COVID restricted events. Most of their restrictions have been lifted also and they are planning on a full summer schedule of concerts.

There will be no Hollow Fest this year, but the Clarence Chamber is planning on the Taste of Clarence August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lastly, congratulations to the Class of 2021. I know it's been a tough year, but you persevered. Best of luck with your next endeavors!