

## **Looking Ahead: Clarence's 2026 State of the Town**

At the end of January, the State of the Town address was held at a new location and featured a refreshed presentation format. Attendees learned about several exciting projects planned for the coming year that will bring new events, amenities, and services to Clarence residents.

This year's address took place at the newly rebuilt Brookfield Country Club. Two years ago, Brookfield demolished its original clubhouse, which had served members since 1938. The new facility opened this past summer, and the Clarence Chamber of Commerce was among the first outside organizations to use its banquet space. As part of the revitalization, the golf course was restored to reflect its original design. The Chamber's annual golf outing is also expected to be held there later this summer.

Rather than a traditional speech, Town Planner Jonathan Bleuer led an interview-style presentation that was easy to follow and engaging. Visuals displayed on multiple screens gave attendees a clear look at what is planned for Clarence in 2026.

Since beginning my tenure as Town Supervisor, my goal has been to make Clarence the best town in Western New York. Whether keeping taxes low or ensuring projects are the right fit, all decisions are made with the town's best interests in mind. As noted in last month's Bee column, 2026 will be a major year for parks and recreation improvements.

One of the largest initiatives is Clarence's first Recreation Center, now in the design phase. Plans include renovating the former highway garage next to the Clarence Center Pocket Park, with hopes of beginning construction in early summer. The center will feature two maple-floor courts for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, storage for town league equipment, and space for league events, youth programming, and large community gatherings.

Additional details were also shared about the new Pocket Park planned for Clarence Hollow. For more than 20 years, the Clarence Farmers Market has operated from the Hollow parking lot each Saturday during the season. The town has been acquiring nearby properties to allow for a large pavilion, expanded lawn space, and year-round public restrooms. Vendors will be able to set up off the parking lot and closer to live music at the pavilion.

The new restrooms will serve the hundreds of market visitors each week and will also be available year-round, including for snowmobilers using the Hollow as a staging area.

Wednesday night summer events hosted by the Clarence Hollow Association will also benefit from the new pavilion, providing a dedicated space for live entertainment and allowing visitors to enjoy the park before walking to local restaurants.

I would like to thank our town officials and employees for their continued service, as well as the Clarence Fire Department volunteers who responded to more than 3,300 fire and first aid calls last year. Thank you to Amy Engler and the Clarence Chamber of Commerce for hosting an outstanding event.

It will be difficult to top this year's State of the Town in 2027.