Town Hall Continues to Invest in Our Future

Week of May 7, 2018

Local government’s primary mission to provide basic services necessary for the wellbeing of its citizens. Police protection, sanitation, stable infrastructure: these are the things we simply cannot live without in any civil society.

Across New York State, towns like Irondequoit continue to work hard to preserve these basic services in a world where the property tax cap, which I support, has put limits on the growth of government. Our efforts to maintain these government services, however, must not entirely come at the expense of investments that can enrich a community like Irondequoit.

I’m proud to say that over the past several years, starting with our wonderful library, Town Hall has worked to make significant investments in our community, and has done so without seeing the tax rate increase. All projects that were not fundamentally necessary towards protecting the wellbeing of the community, yet, one might argue are indeed necessary to keep Irondequoit competitive with surrounding towns.

Last week, we formally dedicated the completion of Phase Two of the Irondequoit Ballpark complex in the back of Town Hall. In my years of playing Little League Baseball, I remember travelling to Penfield and Fairport and thinking to myself: why doesn’t Irondequoit have a complex like this? Indeed, our children should have access to the same amenities enjoyed in other communities.

In 2016, the three new ballfields were open for play, largely thanks to a grant secured by Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle. As we looked to enhance the complex, Senator Rich Funke stepped to the plate to secure a $300,000 state grant, which allowed us to construct a concession stand, bathrooms and dugouts for the fields. Thanks to a generous donation from the Irondequoit Rotary Club, we were able to install scoreboards.

As we approached the complex during the annual Opening Day parade, it was wonderful to see the looks on the eyes of our children. Such excitement! This is now their field of dreams and will be for future generations of Irondequoit residents, for many years to come.

This momentum continues, with the upcoming grand opening of four new athletic fields in the rear of Camp Eastman, which will help meet the growing demand for fields created by our youth soccer and lacrosse leagues. As with the ballpark complex, we couldn’t have done this without the support of our State Legislative delegation.

Again, these aren’t things we needed to survive. However, I am happy that there seems to have been a paradigm shift in Irondequoit – one that doesn’t allow fiscal challenges to be a sole reason not to look towards the future. Let’s continue to grow as a community!