

# Town of Clinton Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

ISSUE #126



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## FROM THE MAYOR

As we finish another year, I'm reminded that this is the time for reflection. For 2021, I will take the glass half full approach. I am grateful that our community has come together. Like a family it is not all perfect but, also like a family we learn, grow, and come to help each other. I ask that each of you continue to practice patience with your family, friends, neighbors and strangers. Everyone is struggling in their own way, so take a breath, listen, and be a good neighbor. We don't always have to agree, yet we can always find ways to be kind to others and celebrate our common values as Clinton residents.

With 2021 coming to a close, I want to single out the extraordinary contributions of two Clinton leaders. Please join me in thanking Councilwoman Lisa Intrabartola for all she has given to the town over the last three years and wish her continued success. And I also want to thank the dedication of Councilwoman Rielly Karsh, who after four years of hard work on Council made the difficult decision to step down in order to focus on her growing business. Council will appoint her replacement at the

December 21st meeting.

I want to welcome Nick Bruno and Kyle Perloff, our new Councilmen who will be sworn in January 2022, We look forward to your energy and work for the Town of Clinton. Both Nick and Kyle have made Clinton home for their young families, so please join me in welcoming them to Council.

Clinton is a magical place during the Holiday Season. From Dickens Days to the Christmas Parade, and everything in between, we should take great pride in how our town businesses make this time of the year special. Return the favor by going out of your way to shop and dine in Clinton this year.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year. Please feel free to reach out to me at [jkovach@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jkovach@clintonnj.gov) or 908-399-8921.



**JANICE KOVACH**



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## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

#### Former Administrator Bob Cutter

Mayor Kovach asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of former Business Administrator and friend, Bob Cutter. Bob was the administrator from 1995 to 2010.

#### Hurricane Ida Town Helps

Hurricane Ida devastated many of Clinton's businesses and homes. The Police and Fire Department helped out tremendously. Additionally the Town supplied dumpsters located in the municipal parking lot to help residents dispose of their items.

#### Demolition of Historic Structures

An ordinance was introduced to amend the code to add Article XV to require review by the Historic Preservation Commission prior to the issuance of demolition permits.

#### Suicide Awareness Week

Week of September 6 is Suicide Awareness Week. There are multiple hot lines for people suffering from depression. Suicide Prevention number is 1-855-654-6735 or text 741741. For adolescents the number is 888-222-2228. Reach out for help there are many services available.

#### Platinum Brunch

The Platinum brunch to be held on September 12, 2021 at the Clinton Fire Department. Music performed by one of the musicians from Music and Main. Round tables will be set up in the bays.

### SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

#### Dedication to Robert B. Smith, P.E.

Councilman Humphrey, Liaison to the Sewer

Committee, offered a suggestion to dedicate the new Wastewater Treatment Filter building to Bob Smith, former Councilman and Mayor of the Town of Clinton for his experience and dedication to the Town which spanned over 40 years. Everyone agreed that was a wonderful idea!!!

#### Crew Leader Positions

Two new Crew Leader positions were created within the Department of Public Works, Division of Water & Roads. Congratulations to Robert Hoffman and Kevin Gonzalez.

#### Milling and Paving

Union Road sidewalk project has been completed and milling and paving to take place next week. New electronic signs to go up also.

#### Successful Platinum Brunch

The Platinum Brunch was a success and many thanks to all the volunteers, Mary Ann Shea, Liz Hedden, Laura Burr, Dino Rentoulis, a number of businesses and students. Also thanks to the Clinton Fire Department for the use of their space and help setting up all the tables and chairs.

#### Welcome to Clinton Signs

The Historic Commission is having Karen Romagna repaint the Welcome to Clinton signs through the Façade Grant Program which has raised \$1,000 in donations.

### OCTOBER 13, 2021

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Year of the Haunted Mill

The Haunted Mill's 30<sup>th</sup> year opened Friday, October 8, 2021 with a "Bloody ribbon cutting" and A&E team of Ghost Hunters to kick off the season!!!

#### Hurricane Ida Proclamation

A proclamation was presented to members of the South Branch Emergency Services, Clinton Fire Department and our Police Department acknowledging their outstanding efforts the night of Hurricane Ida and the days following.

#### Hiring of DPW Laborer

We welcome new employee, Jay Fike, to the Town of Clinton Water/Roads Department.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

*continued*

### Annual Curfew

A resolution was passed to impose a temporary curfew for people under the age of eighteen commencing at 9:00 pm October 13, 2021, up to and including 6:00 am November 8, 2021.

### Holiday Luminaries

In partnership with the Clinton Guild, the Recreation Committee is planning a fundraiser by selling holiday luminaries. Non-denominational luminaries will be on sale starting Dickens Days weekend. More information will be on Facebook with a page dedicated to purchasing.

### Electronic Speed Signs

Electronic speed signs will be placed on Leigh Street, Union Road and Halstead Street.

## OCTOBER 27, 2021

### “Coffee with a Cop”

Mayor Kovach thanked Police Officer Andrew Lerner for suggesting and holding “Coffee with a

Cop” along with fellow Officers, Melissa Tornberg and Joe Pietraszewski. The turnout of residents coming to meet the officers, chat, enjoy coffee, breakfast sandwiches donated by Just Subs and biscotti donated by Johnny “Biscotti” Marucci was a huge hit!!!

### Resignation & New Member

A letter of resignation was received from Richard Miller, Town Historian and Chair of the Historic Commission. Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Miller for his knowledge and service for several years. We welcome Norma Kania as the new member to the Historic Commission.

### Volunteer Fair

With the support of Council, Mr. Humphrey would like to produce another Volunteer Fair and schedule it for Martin Luther King birthday, Monday, January 17, 2022, from 5:00-7:00 pm, to be held at the Clinton Community Center.

**Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, at the Municipal Building at 43 Leigh Street. All meetings can be attended live and on Zoom.**

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## GARBAGE & RECYCLING

The garbage collection services that are provided by the Town are for residential customers only, not commercial entities. Commercial entities are required to arrange for private collection.

Residents are invited to take advantage of free scrap metal recycling offered by the Town.

Recycling dumpsters are located at the Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant (2 Ramsey Road), and are open Monday through Friday from 7AM – 3PM.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees will be collected curbside the first two weeks of January (weather permitting).

## MATTRESS & BOX SPRING DISPOSAL

The Town has been advised by our trash hauler, Republic, that for health reasons, all mattresses and box springs that are picked up as part of the Town's Bulk Collection Services must be placed in plastic mattress bags and sealed with duct tape. When purchasing a new mattress or box spring, keep the plastic packaging to use to wrap the discarded items. Disposal bags are available at Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, Amazon, etc.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

If you know anyone who may be eligible to qualify to purchase affordable housing, please visit the Town's website at [www.clintonnj.gov/affordable-housing](http://www.clintonnj.gov/affordable-housing) to obtain an application. These units offer a valuable opportunity for income qualified participants to become homeowners in Clinton.

## GAS LINE INSTALLATION

The Town worked closely with Elizabethtown Gas for the installation of a new natural gas line to service residents of Lingert Ave., Georges Place and Fairview Ave. earlier this year. The trenches that were dug to install the new lines have been

temporarily repaired and will be scheduled for permanent repair in the Spring of 2023. This will allow sufficient time for the trenches to compact naturally, which will significantly reduce the changes of the road needing further repairs in the future.

For residents who did not connect to natural gas as part of this project and are now considering it, please contact the Town's Business Administrator, Rich Phelan, at 908-735-8616, who will walk you through the process.

## UNION ROAD REPAVING

The Clinton's Road Committee recently completed the re-paving of the upper section of Union Road. This project was fully funded through a grant from the NJ Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Local Aid Program. This project also included the installation of several hundred feet of sidewalk at the top of the street to further increase with pedestrian safety.

For quite some time, the Town's *Complete Streets* policy has been in effect, which promotes the installation of alternative methods for transportation beyond motorized vehicles. This policy, which also increases our ranking for our grant application process to the NJDOT, enables safe and convenient access for all users, including bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, motorists, seniors, movers of commercial goods, pedestrians, and users of public transport.

The Town's Road Committee is committed to creating a pedestrian and bikeway system that makes walking and cycling a safe, viable alternative to driving.

**Rich Phelan**  
**Business Administrator**  
**(p) 908-735-8616**  
**(e) [rphelan@clintonnj.gov](mailto:rphelan@clintonnj.gov)**

## TOWN UPDATES

## TOWN INFORMATION

There are many different ways to learn about what is going on in the Town of Clinton as well as the entire County. We recommend visiting the following websites and signing up for e-mail updates:

- ◆ Town of Clinton:
  - \* Website – [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov)
  - \* Facebook – [www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov](http://www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov)
  - \* Twitter – [twitter.com/clintonnj](http://twitter.com/clintonnj)
- ◆ Town of Clinton Police Department – <https://bit.ly/3bTpljK>
- ◆ Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad – [www.clintonems.org](http://www.clintonems.org)
- ◆ Clinton Fire Department – [www.clintonfd.org](http://www.clintonfd.org)

## GROWING OUR SENIORS COMMUNITY

Platinum Club, which is the new committee that serves Clinton's active 55+ residents, saw a sizable turnout of volunteers for its first two "launch" meetings on November 5th and 19th. Everyone was excited about the committee's simple vision: Create programs to build a strong seniors community in Clinton.



## PLATINUM CLUB

Attendees shared a multitude of ideas, including the creation of classes, trips, activities, games, movies, dining events, health programs, costs-savings programs, and much more. They also expressed interest in connecting with other established local seniors clubs, as well as the Hunterdon County Senior Center. Norma Kania stepped into the Chairwoman role, with Galen Tinder becoming Vice Chair.

The Platinum Club was initiated by the Clinton Town Council and organized by Councilmen Michael Humphrey and Ross Traphagen. COVID-19 delayed organizing this committee and recruiting members for more than a year. Yet with the help of the Clinton Recreation Committee, the reimagined Platinum Brunch was held and

provided a springboard event to launch the Platinum Club seniors committee.

This is a great opportunity to have fun and meet other residents in Clinton. Keep a close watch to the town calendar and Facebook posts on events and meetings for the Platinum Club. And we invite you to explore the numerous opportunities to volunteer and bring your great ideas to life. The next meeting will be on December 17th, at 4:00 pm in the Council Room on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building.

Please feel free to call Norma Kania at 908-803-0720 and Galen Tinder at 908-566-6764.



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## BRILLIANT IMPROVEMENTS

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## MAIN STREET REQUESTS

Land Use Board is still meeting via zoom. Agendas and zoom links are found on the website in the calendar feature if you would like to join in on the fun.

Here's what has gone down since August:

Continuation of the public hearing for Clinton Moebus 34 – “Clinton Commons” – was carried to September 21<sup>st</sup>. . . upon which date it was then cancelled and carried to a future date. A new notice of meeting date and place will be advertised and mailed again to property owners within 200 feet.

The rest of the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting heard the final site plan for Tejomaya LLC – 111 West Main Street (previously the Holiday Inn). The hotel is to be

converted to an assisted living facility. The final site plan was approved subject to conditions for establishing a crosswalk and removing the hotel brand signs throughout the site. They also agreed to conform to the sign ordinance for any future signage needs.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the board met to hear a request from Mr. Steve Ackaway, new owner of 37 Main Street, for a waiver of site plan. The Board was unclear how the space would be configured and used so the waiver of site plan request was denied. We look forward to a full site plan review in the future!

November 5<sup>th</sup> the Board heard another request for a waiver of site plan by Mr. Frank Gallagher, 12 East Main Street (upcoming Maine on Main storefront). He wishes to expand a retail

presence into the adjoining retail space. The site plan waiver was approved.

Our next scheduled meeting is December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Look for an agenda to be published on the website when it is available.

Regular Land Use Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. We hold second meetings on the third Tuesday as needed. Location information and the proposed agenda can be found in the calendar link on the website.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Allison Witt at 908-735-2275.

## LAND USE BOARD

## BLOWN OPPORTUNITY

Clinton did a phenomenal job picking up litter at the town-wide cleanup day last April, picking up dozens of large bags and a truck load of bulk items polluting out town.

A close examination of the results revealed that most of this garbage came from our own residents. Trash and recycling blown from tipped-over recycling bins and exposed bags ripped open by animals created a number of critical unintended pollution issues...issues that can be minimized by using lidded trash containers for our garbage and recycling.

Let's examine those problems:

1. Bacteria, insects and vermin thrive from garbage, causing any number of major illnesses.
2. Overflowing waste causes air pollution and respiratory diseases, including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane.
3. Garbage contaminates surface waters, which affects all ecosystems (including the food that you eat)
4. Direct handling of exposed and blowing waste creates serious health risks for garbage and recycling collection staff.

5. Waste mismanagement is bad for municipal wellbeing...people don't want to live and shop in a town with under-controlled trash issues.

How to can you prevent any of this from happening? Use trash and recycling containers with lids. If your containers tip over or are torn into, pick up all items (even those blown down the street. And let the town know of if you see any unusual garbage issues. Let's all do our part in keeping Clinton clean and safe.

Environmental Commission meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. If you have interest in attending, or being a member, please contact Chairwoman Veronique Lambert at 908-735-8616.



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## CLINTON RECEIVES 2021 AWARD FOR COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

### 2021 AWARD

Go Hunterdon, a public-private non-profit corporation that promotes safe and sustainable transportation in Hunterdon County, has recognized the Town of Clinton with

a 2021 award for its adoption of a Complete Streets Policy. The policy states that public street projects that fall under the jurisdiction of the Town will be designed and constructed as "Complete Streets" (whenever feasible to do so and subject to certain conditions) to safely accommodate travel by pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit, and motorized vehicles and their passengers, with special priority given to pedestrian safety.

Clinton's Complete Streets achievements are celebrated in a one-minute video posted by Go Hunterdon. The video's script is copied below. The video may be viewed here:



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDyWSKBWOJI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDyWSKBWOJI)



*The Town of Clinton is one of Hunterdon County's most charming walkable communities. Visitors come to stroll along Main Street, stop into quaint shops and restaurants, or take in the iconic view of the Red Mill. Generations of children have walked to school in Clinton and residents regularly walk to local destinations.*

*Maintaining walkability has been a priority in the Town of Clinton. The town has made several investments to improve pedestrian movements and participated in Street Smart New Jersey pedestrian safety campaigns. In 2020, the Town of Clinton adopted a Complete Streets Policy to formalize the town's commitment to walkability. The policy sets forth that all public street projects will be designed and constructed to safely accommodate travel by pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists. Go Hunterdon applauds the*



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## THE HOLIDAYS IN CLINTON

Decorated Christmas trees and an abundance of light are sure to stir holiday spirit at the 12th annual Festival of Trees. The Red Mill Museum Village transforms into a sea of colorful lights as you wander among the 12 decorated buildings on 10 acres. Featured Christmas trees, designed and decorated by community members, local businesses and organizations, will be displayed throughout the grounds to create a unique holiday experience.

The Festival of trees opened on Thanksgiving weekend, Friday, November 26th through Sunday, November 28th. The opening weekend coincided with the wonderful Winter Village, an outdoor holiday market hosted by Marketspace Vendor Events ([www.marketspacevenorevents.com](http://www.marketspacevenorevents.com)) with over 45 unique craft artisans who helped wrap up seasonal shopping.

Visitors watched Artisans create their wonderful products as well. If that was not enough, the museum's Blacksmith worked and created something special for museum guests. Unique food options such as Cousin's Maine Lobster and Polish cuisine were onsite as well as a beer garden

with commemorative annual cups serving up delicious craft brews from Lone Eagle Brewing. After visiting the German-style holiday market, visitors stepped back into the Victorian era in Downtown Clinton with "Dickens Days", and enjoyed Father Christmas, carolers and a ride on a horse-drawn carriage ([www.visitclintonnj.com](http://www.visitclintonnj.com)).

## UPCOMING

The display of trees will continue to be on view Saturdays and Sundays, December 4th – 19th from 12:00–6:00 pm. To further enhance the experience, live musical performances will be occurring each weekend ranging from solo artists to harmonizing groups. The trees and lights can also be viewed on the evening of Candlelight Night in Clinton on December 16th from 4:00–8:00 pm. \$10 Museum Admission will benefit the Red Mill Museum Village, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Free admission for Red Mill Museum Members, Children (under 6), Veterans and Active Military. Discounted Museum Memberships are available the weekend of the Winter Village. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online at [www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org).

CLINTON GUILD



## EVENTS

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

#### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade** **7:00 pm, E. Main, Main, & Center Streets**

A wonderful Clinton tradition with bands and over 40 floats!!! For more info, including street closures, visit [www.clintonchristmasparade.com](http://www.clintonchristmasparade.com).

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

#### **Light the Night**

Visit Facebook at *Clinton Holiday Lights*

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

#### **Candlelight Night** **6:00 - 9:00 pm, Downtown Clinton**

A night for strolling the streets of Clinton by the warm glow of candlelight. Candlelight Night is an opportunity to find a special gift or two for friends, family or even yourself!

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

#### **The Run Before Christmas** **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Con 8K** **8:00 - 11:00 am**

Family-friendly 8k run focused on fun and the spirit of the season. Holiday attire required!  
Register at [www.santaconrun.com](http://www.santaconrun.com)

#### **Santa visits your home!** **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Fundraiser for Clinton Fire Department. \$35 suggested donation. The first 25 families can have Santa come on the fire truck and deliver gifts to their families. Email [ehedden@cpsnj.org](mailto:ehedden@cpsnj.org) for more information.

### DECEMBER THRU JANUARY 9

#### **Current Exhibitions on View at** **Hunterdon Art Museum**

- Companion Species: The Works of Marie Watt -
- Alisha Wormsley: Remnants of an Advanced Technology -
- Doug Herren: Color-Forms/Ceramic Structures -
- 2021 Members Exhibition -

### MONDAY, JANUARY 17

#### **Clinton Volunteer Fair** **5:00-7:00 pm, Clinton Community Center** **63 Halstead Street**

Learn about the opportunities to get involved with two dozen organizations who are the heartbeat of the Clinton Community.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

#### **Free Rabies Clinic** **8:00 - 11:00 am, 43 Leigh Street**

Bring your dog or cat – leashed or caged please – for a free rabies vaccine. Held in the red barn behind the municipal building. Pre-registration is suggested at [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov).

### FEBRUARY 7 THRU 14

#### **Sweethearts Week** **Downtown Clinton**

Enjoy Valentines related festivities in town

### **TOWN OF CLINTON MEETINGS**

Explore our important town committees, commissions and boards, where the work of the town gets done. Visit the town calendar at [www.clintonnj.gov/calendar/month](http://www.clintonnj.gov/calendar/month)

## COUNCILWOMAN RIELLY KARSH

Being a Council Member has been deeply rewarding in so many ways. In particular the time I spent interacting with people. Getting to know neighbors, business owners, and visitors to town was a real joy. The trust that I received from so many residents was heart-warming. This role was personal to me, and one I treated with the utmost integrity. All of those experiences continue to motivate me to move forward in my personal and professional life with a sense of purpose and clarity.

As Council Members, we are privy to the inner workings of the town and the lives of so many of our residents. While we share in the celebrations and excitement of the community, we also gain a deeper understanding of the community's trials and tribulations. It is a vantage point that not many receive, and one that I am humbled to better understand. In fact, this understanding is part of what drove my desire to keep working for improvements, changes, and impactful projects.

When you can make an impact on the lives of the community at large, an individual resident in need, or set in motion long term plans that will benefit future generations...these are the most rewarding experiences as a Council Member. It is not about personal celebration, putting yourself first, or standing in the limelight. There is no glory in near-volunteer government roles; there is only the knowledge that what you are doing is meant to help and improve the lives of your neighbors and the local community. This is what I will take away from my time; that all of my efforts to improve safety, infrastructure, economic stability, and communications will serve the community well into the future.

As I move away from my seat on Council I ask that residents step up, please get involved, and make Clinton a better place. Even if there isn't a special project, and you simply love this community, become a volunteer. So many people are unaware of the amount of time and energy that goes into the running of the Town. I am not ashamed to admit that I was woefully unaware when I first got involved as a volunteer many years ago. You don't have to know all the answers in order to raise your hand, all you need is to care enough to dig in, learn, and help.

We are all neighbors together; our children attend school together; we sip coffee and tea by the river together. This is our Community. In order to maintain it and make it welcoming to all, we must work together side-by-side for the benefit of the greater good. This has been a true pleasure. It is something I will most assuredly miss, though I am certain you will see me in the mix from time to time. I am so grateful for this time serving the Town and for all of the people I have had the pleasure to get to know.

*With Great Thanks,  
Rielly Karsh*

## COUNCILWOMAN LISA INTRABARTOLA

Aside from becoming a parent, being on Council has been one of the most time-consuming, challenging, and rewarding experiences of my life. There were moments of pure satisfaction during my tenure when I accomplished goals that seemed insurmountable. Just as there were bouts of frustration when I'd come to the hard realization that it's impossible to please everyone. Regardless of the outcome, I did my best to approach every one of my duties as Councilwoman in earnest and with the intent of leaving this town a little better than I found it.

I ran for a seat on Clinton Town Council for two reasons. The first was to give back to the community I've called home for 16 years. I've had a running to-do list for Town since taking office: modernize our website, revamp and start mailing the newsletter again, seize affordable ways to improve walkability; extend natural gas services to underserved areas of town; expand summer recreation to full day; and revitalize our parks. Achieving many of these goals in tandem with fellow council members and many dedicated town employees and volunteers rank among my most rewarding experiences as a councilwoman.

My two children are the second reason I ran for Council. I wanted them to know that women deserve a seat at the table where decisions are being made. As someone who has called Hunterdon County home since sixth grade, the thought of joining a female-majority Council in Clinton headed by a female mayor seemed unfathomable to me just a decade ago. It is hardly the norm at the local, state and national levels where women are still woefully under-represented in elected office. I had the luxury of being surrounded on Council by other working moms who encouraged me to run and include my children in events and meetings. We understood when one of us occasionally needed to say, "No" to Town and, "Yes" to our families. And we pitched in to pick up the slack for one another without hesitation. Being a part of that very special symbiotic group is an experience I will always cherish and hope that my children will not forget.

In the last three years, I've had the pleasure of meeting a number of people across the political spectrum who selflessly give to this town. Clinton would cease to be the special community we love without their efforts. It's also become plain to me how many of us rely on social media as our sole news source and mistake Facebook comments for civic engagement. After working behind the scenes, I see that while social media does present opportunities to enhance community dialogue, it is no substitution for the real thing. I encourage you to attend a meeting, volunteer at an event or sign up for a committee where you can lend your talents. Clinton's continued success depends on all of us.

*Thank you for allowing me to serve my community with pride,  
Lisa Intrabartola*

## COUNCIL FAREWELLS

## LOOKING FORWARD...AND BACK

As we close out 2021 we want to thank Carl Sabatino and Brendan McIsaac for the service on the Clinton Glen Gardner Board of Education. Carl began his service in 2016 and Brendan began serving during January 2013. Over the past several years they have supported and engaged in activities to support strategic

planning, curricula revision, collaborative collective bargaining sessions and securing a relationship with Lebanon Borough. Through their efforts the Clinton Public School is on solid footing as we chart our course for the next decade. We thank you for your service and welcome Theresa Tsakalakos and Ashley Dunker as they begin their service on the board.

Thank you to the entire CPS Community for their support and collaboration as we opened school for the 2021-2022 school year. It is so wonderful to have full session school days! The cross country, volleyball and soccer teams just completed the interscholastic competition season and we are gearing up for the winter session.

We are excited to welcome our new friends from Lebanon Borough and look forward to increased opportunities and experiences. We will begin to develop a new strategic plan this winter and look to develop a shared vision for the next several years.

As we look forward, one practical item that needs to be addressed is the outdoor play and

## CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL



recreation space at Clinton Public School. Our students love to be outside and our students need to be outside. It is time to upgrade our space, equipment, and accessibility. The current design and equipment has served us well over the past 20 years. We will be developing a project for your consideration in a special January 2022 referendum. If approved, the state will cover 40% of the project. All students have a scheduled outdoor recess and this referendum will allow for greater access, more recreation options, year round outdoor play and a continued focus of the health and wellness of all CPS Bulldogs! Stay tuned for more information.

The Clinton-Glen Gardner School District is a community who values traditions. Our MISSION is to nurture and cultivate each child to be a compassionate, curious, and creative thinker, entrusted and empowered to build and lead the future.

## 2022 UPDATE

After a two-year hiatus, Town of Clinton is working to restore our Summer Recreation program from July 5 -29, 2022.

In 2020 we expanded the program with half

and full-day options and wrap around care, only to have to cancel Summer Recreation along with many other local municipalities because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Last year space was tight at Clinton Public School while they

hosted a federally funded summer enrichment program to assist students after a year of educational disruptions. Our goal this year is to once again provide full and half day options with wrap around care for parents with a streamlined trip schedule.

This year we are also discussing the possibility of adding



interested members of Clinton Public School faculty to the Summer Recreation staff so that our children can enjoy several more structured specialty classes throughout the day with the teachers they know and love. We also still plan to incorporate some of the tried and true games, crafts, contests and activities that our students and staff love.

All positions will be posted in December, with registration to follow in January 2022. Please check [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov) and Clinton's social media pages for updates.

## SUMMER RECREATION

## HISTORIC FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM

The Town of Clinton Historic Preservation Commission has been hard at work raising funds for the newly launched Historic Façade Improvement Grant Program. This grant program is a public-private partnership between the Historic Commission and the Red Mill Museum Village. All funds for the grant program are through private donations. The Commission has raised \$1,000 so far, and hopes to continue to raise more to formally launch in the new year through more private donations and potential special event fundraisers. Potential fundraisers include historic plaques for historic homes and historic home tours. Stay tuned to learn more! Once launched, property owners within the historic district can apply for a grant.

Interested in contributing to the Historic Façade Improvement Grant Program to support historic preservation in Clinton? Please contact Councilman Ross Traphagen by phone at (908) 894-9026 or email at [rtraphagen@clintonnj.gov](mailto:rtraphagen@clintonnj.gov).

The Commission would also like to thank Richard Miller for his many years of service. Mr. Miller recently resigned from his role as Chairman of

the Commission and Town Historian. Mr. Miller dedicated many years to assisting in the preservation of Clinton's historic district, and the Commission is forever grateful for his service. Thank you Richard!

The Commission welcomed new member Norma Kania of West Main Street to the group. Ms. Kania is a local real estate agent with Weichert of Clinton, and resides in a beautiful late 1800's home. Ms. Kania has been passionate about historic preservation her whole life. She moved to Clinton nearly fifteen years ago from Union County, which she left out of great sadness for the increasing development and thus destruction of historic homes as a result. She believes Clinton is a true treasure in New Jersey, and we must work to ensure it remains that way for generations to come. Welcome Norma!

There are a few openings presently on the Commission, so if you are interested in getting involved, please visit Clinton's volunteer page ([www.clintonnj.gov/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.clintonnj.gov/volunteer-opportunities)) and fill out a Citizen Involvement Form.

## HISTORIC COMMISSION

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## MEET SBES VOLUNTEER EMT AND RESCUE ASSOCIATE JASON MAYER

South Branch Emergency Services Volunteer EMT Jason Mayer was barely 20 the day his ambulance crew rushed to the accident.

### SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

“The car had overturned, and there was a newborn covered in mud and debris from the highway and crying,” he said. “The parents didn’t speak English. It was hard at

first to find out from them what was going on, but they were clearly and understandably very worried.”

One SBES volunteer spoke enough Spanish to glean information from the baby’s parents and assure them that the team would make sure every member of the family was ok. “We are always able to rely on each other, on every volunteer’s different set of skills,” Jason said. He saw the parents’ panic lessen as they saw that their child was getting help.

“I got in the back of one ambulance, and I will always remember those doors closing and how the inside was quiet as we got the baby cleaned up and saw that the baby was not injured,” he said. The baby became calmer, too.

While no injuries were found, two ambulances took the family to the hospital as a precaution. “It was such a good feeling to be able to help a child,” Jason said.

Jason, who lives in Union Township, is now 22. He joined one of South Branch’s founding squads in 2016, took the EMT class the following summer, has served as an EMS Lieutenant and is now a Team Leader, which means he’s the person in charge, and is hoping to become a CPR instructor. He’s also a Clinton firefighter, which was his entry into volunteer first response. “We work closely with the ambulance squad on calls, and that drew me into the medical side of things,” he said.

In addition to teaching him life saving skills, South Branch has taught Jason how to be calm, confident, and professional even in the most stressful situations. “No matter what your career goals are, you have experiences with the squad that are going to help you get there,” he said.

Jason is a full-time student in his senior year at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he studies



Information Technology and Computer Forensics. But he makes time to serve an overnight volunteer shift with South Branch every other Saturday.

“We have a high call volume, and every call that happens is an opportunity to help someone and also to learn more and further yourself in emergency health care,” Jason said. “Plus, it’s a real family atmosphere at the squad – it’s like we’re all brothers and sisters. It’s a fun place to be.”

South Branch Emergency Services is looking for volunteers like you! No experience is necessary, and training and gear are provided for members. Visit [sbes365.org](http://sbes365.org) to sign up or learn more.

**SBES is a non-profit organization that depends on your financial help.  
Please donate today**



[www.sbes365.org](http://www.sbes365.org)

## LULUBELLE IS STILL KICKING

Lulubelle, as she is affectionately known, was Clinton Fire Department's first mechanized apparatus. The antique pumper is a 1926 American LaFrance. She was refurbished in the late 1980's to her current state and in 2012 several CFD members overhauled the engine to ensure she continues running strong for years to come. Lulubelle continues to be the pride and joy of The Clinton Fire Department.

That is why on October 18th, a drill was arranged to show some of the younger members that the old engine is still capable of pumping water just like she did 95 years ago. Assisted by a few neighboring departments with some older apparatus, Lulubelle came out of her bay and began to draft water out of a folding tank in the fire department parking lot.



Assisting with water supply was Tender 91-1. A 1992 Mack Saulsbury 3000 gallon

water tender. We were also visited by Annandale Hose Company's "Old Mack" which is a 1944 Mack pumper. Many other fire departments and members of the community stopped by to see Lulubelle at her finest.

## SANTA VISITS CLINTON

Firefighter Santa is coming to town! Clinton Fire Department will continue with it's annual Santa delivery of presents to your children on Saturday, Dec. 18th between 1-5PM. Bring all children's gifts, along with a donation of \$35 to the Clinton Fire Department, on Monday, Dec. 13th between 6-8PM. Please make sure that all gifts are wrapped and labeled with each child's name on them. Photo ops with Santa will be allowed during delivery.

The Clinton Fire Department Needs Your Donations Today. Scan this QR code or visit the website address below:



[www.clintonfd.org/donate-online](http://www.clintonfd.org/donate-online)

## CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HOLIDAYS AND SAFETY

The happiness of the holidays unfortunately can also be a time of tragedy. Colder weather is fast approaching and safety concerns need to be forefront.

Decorations placement should be thought thru with care to prevent combustibles from being too close to a heat source such as a fireplace, chimney, or heater. Even a heat diffuser can tend to "dry" out combustibles, which lower their ignition range. Make certain to have all of the heat producing appliances checked and serviced ASAP (including the chimney).

Do not use extension cords if at all possible. **IF** you must, only use the proper type and understand how to properly connect items to the extension cord. It's not as simple as just plugging in an item to the cord. An example would be using a "space heater" plugged into a

normal residential type extension cord. The heater typically draws much more power than the extension cord is capable of handling.

Also be conscientious when cooking, not just for the holidays but all of the time. Cooking fires contributed to approximately 50% of residential fires in 2019.

Frequently test and check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, All smoke alarms must be replaced if they are older than 10 years from the manufacture date. Do not replace an electrical



type alarm device with a battery-only device. All new battery-only devices are required to be the sealed 10 year lithium battery style.

The Clinton Fire Department in conjunction with the Town of Clinton Fire Prevention Bureau and the State Division of Fire Safety have a limited supply of sealed lithium battery type alarms available for those families in need. The DFS received these alarms through the generosity of Kidde Fire Safety. If anyone has a need please contact the Clinton Fire Department [www.clintonfd.org/contact](http://www.clintonfd.org/contact) or me.

If anyone would like to speak to me regarding anything dealing with fire prevention matters, please contact me via email ([jdaniels@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jdaniels@clintonnj.gov)), my office at 908-735-2275 or cell at 908-468-1696. Jack Daniels,

## FIRE SAFETY

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## INSECTS AND TREES

Trees and insects have co-existed for hundreds of millions of years. They pollinate many plants we eat; provide food for birds, frogs, and other animals; and recycle leaves and branches into nutrients for new plant growth. By planting certain species of trees or how you manage your home landscape, can make a world of difference for these beneficial species of insects.

The Clinton Conservancy has created beautiful butterfly gardens throughout the town. Insects thrive in these gardens and amongst our shrubs and trees. Oak trees in particular are a haven for butterflies and a multitude of other insects to lay eggs. The oak foliage, in turn, feeds the caterpillars.

According to Edge of the Woods Nature Plants nursery website, Sweetbay Magnolias host Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail, Sweetbay Silkmoth and Spicebush Swallowtails. In spring, Sweetbay Magnolias produce a profusion of creamy white flowers with a light lemon scent. Beautiful Willows provide food in the larval stage for the Striped Hairstreak, Compton Tortoise Shell, Northern Pearly Eye, Cecropia Moth, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, and Viceroy butterflies. Willows are fast growing and will tolerate many soil types. They come in a

variety of sizes and shapes. These trees are an important host plant to butterflies and are an impressive addition to your landscaping.



Pesticides kill not just the insects but decimate the bird populations. Even our beloved honeybees when exposed to sublethal levels of neonicotinoids (a common component of agricultural and landscape insecticides), have problems with flight and navigation, reduced taste sensitivity, and slower learning of new tasks. These toxins can impact on their foraging ability and hive productivity. Pollinating trees include tulip trees, fruit trees, dogwood, wild black cherry, common choke cherry, catalpa, black locust, and many lindens. Some hybrid ornamental trees have blossoms that look



pretty, but don't provide nectar for pollinators. Native plants serve as food sources, but your pretty ornamental provide no food. If you want a songbird to awaken you in the morning, don't poison its food or plant shrubs and trees which the insects cannot live off of.

Another group of insect species that has seen a sharp decline are fireflies. Habitat destruction, light pollution, and pesticide use on lawns has caused their numbers to dwindle over the last few decades. To help fireflies, plant native pine trees, cut down on landscape lighting, retain areas of natural leaf beds on your property, keep an organic lawn and garden by avoiding pesticides, and keep your grass as long as possible until firefly breeding season is over by late June. Think of planting violets in your lawn so the fireflies can feed off of the flowers.

Remember not all insects are bad. They provide beneficial tasks for the environmental and encourage healthy ecosystem.

The Shade Tree Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month. Learn more about how to help by contacting Chairman John Kashwick at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com)

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## FREE RABIES CLINIC FOR DOGS & CATS



**JANUARY 22, 2022**

**8:00 - 11:00 am**

Preregistration is required to participate, and online forms will be available soon. The last day to register will be on January 19, 2022.

The Town of Clinton requires that all dogs and cats residing in the Town be licensed. Learn more at [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov), or contact the Town Clerk at (908) 735-8616,

## RABIES CLINIC

## CLINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### WINTER ON-STREET OVERNIGHT PARKING

(Ordinance 135 -4) Parking is prohibited on all streets in the Town between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am parking when “snow has fallen and the accumulation is such that it covers the public road, street or highway”. Vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance are subject to be towed and ticketed to facilitate snow removal operations. If you are in doubt about the weather forecast, we suggest that you play it safe and move your vehicles off-street. If you have a special circumstance where you can't move your vehicle, please contact the police department immediately so that we are aware and can try to accommodate your needs BEFORE you get a summons or get towed.

### PLANS BEGIN FOR NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING

As many of you are aware the Mayor and Council, along with Chief Kubinak, recently began the process of planning for a new Police Department. The current location is lacking in the space needed for our officers to operate.

Our initial discussions focused on the existing municipal building, 43 Leigh Street, as well as the finance office at 47 Leigh Street. Yet because both of those buildings are considered historic, they have restrictions placed on them by the State Office of Historic Preservation. Additionally, the parking lot of both buildings is prone to flooding from the Beaver Brook, which presents additional constraints.

Hurricane Ida also exposed the limitations of our current emergency shelter at the Clinton Fire Department, which experienced flooding as well.

Discussions moved to identifying a location outside of the flood zone that can provide a long term solution for our community. The option that

### SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

(Ordinance 115-1) So that school children and adult pedestrians can find safe passage on our sidewalks, The owner or tenant of property abutting or adjacent to a sidewalk must remove all snow and ice from that sidewalk or public right-of-way within 12 hours of daylight from the time that the snow or frozen precipitation ceased to fall or accumulate.

### WINTER OFF-STREET PUBLIC PARKING WHEN SNOW IS FORECAST

Overnight off-street public parking is available in the Water Street Lot, the Lower Center Street Lot, the Municipal Building Lot and in authorized spaces in the Firehouse Parking Lot. Please remember however that the these parking lots are 24 hour

lots and your vehicle must be moved after each 24 hour period to facilitate snow removal. If you have any questions please ask a police officer prior to making any assumptions regarding parking in these lots.

### NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

Things got a little hairy in Clinton. CPD Officers participated in No Shave November to raise cancer.

### CONTACTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Although there are police officers on-duty and patrolling Clinton 24/7 Headquarters is not staffed fulltime. Therefore, to immediately contact a police officer you must call our Communications Center at 908-735-8611 or 911 in an emergency. You will reach a civilian dispatcher, who will contact an officer.

provides us with the most flexibility is at the Community Center. The existing community center has been owned by the town since the 1920s and is in need of substantial repair. The facility is rarely used because it lacks a number of amenities such as insulation, air conditioning, internet connectivity, and rooms that accommodate the needs of an emergency shelter.

Our ultimate objective is to create a space that meets the need of our Police Department for the next 50+ years as well as provide the town with a multipurpose Community Center. This would be a one time permanent fix rather than Band-Aids we have continued to place on the PD and the CC. This will mean a tear down of the existing building, to redesign the footprint.

We have not yet hired an architect yet, as we are in the beginning stages and would have to fund an ordinance for the design of the new building. We encourage you to attend the Town Hall meeting on Monday, December 6 at the Community Center to ask questions and share your thoughts.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or cannot make the meeting on December 6th, [jkovach@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jkovach@clintonnj.gov) or 908-399-8921.



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# TOWN OF CLINTON NEWSLETTER

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## STAFF & MEETINGS

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**COUNCIL |** Sherry Dineen  
Michael Humphrey  
Lisa Intrabartola  
Megan Johnson  
Rielly Karsh  
Ross Traphagen

**CLERK |** Cecilia Covino

**ADMINISTRATOR |** Richard Phelan

**TAX ASSESSOR |** Fran Kuczynski

**CFO |** Kathy Olsen

**ZONING OFFICER |** Allison Witt

908.735.8616

[contactus@clintonnj.gov](mailto:contactus@clintonnj.gov)

### MEETINGS

#### COUNCIL MEETING

- ◆ 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

- ◆ 7:30 PM 3rd Thursday of each month

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

- ◆ 7:30 PM 2nd Monday of each month

#### HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

- ◆ 6:30 PM 3rd Wednesday of each month

#### LAND USE BOARD

- ◆ 7:00 PM 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

#### SHADE TREE COMMISSION

- ◆ 7:00 PM 2nd Monday of each month

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- ◆ 7:30 PM 2nd Tuesday of each month

#### PLATINUM CLUB (Seniors Committee)

- ◆ 4:00 PM 1st Friday of each month (starting 2022)



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TRASH PICKUP: EVERY TUESDAY



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