

# Town of Clinton Newsletter

JUNE 2022

ISSUE #128



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Dear Clinton Residents,

I'd like to begin by congratulating all the Clinton graduates, from the Clinton Public School and North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools, as well as all the college graduates. It is a joyous time that brings our community together!

## FROM THE MAYOR

As we ended the second year of dealing with a pandemic and begin a new normal, I am so proud to call Clinton home. We are a community that may occasionally fight like a family, but share a love for our home and will rally around each other every time it is needed.

If you read the 2022 budget letter you should be aware that we kept our tax rate flat. While that doesn't necessarily mean you will not see an increase, it does mean that we continue to manage our finances prudently and pay down debt.

I am beyond thrilled to notify you that in addition to the \$900,000 infrastructure (for sewer line infrastructure) grant we received through Congressman Malinowski's community funding project he was also able to secure us the additional

\$2.6M needed to complete the water infrastructure for our system. This is a significant savings to our residents and ratepayers as well as critical infrastructure replacement we identified as part of our asset management plan.

As we head into summer, I look forward to seeing you out and about. We have had some wonderful additions to our downtown shops and restaurants you simply must try. We have so many great activities and events happening in town please take the opportunity to participate. And If you have vacations planned, please be safe and enjoy.

Finally, it is with sadness that I share of the passing of former mayor, Christine Schaumburg, after an eight-year battle with cancer. We send our deepest condolences to her family, especially her children, Jessie, Mia, and Garrett.

Please feel free to reach out to me for any reason at [jkovach@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jkovach@clintonnj.gov) or 908-399-8921.



**JANICE KOVACH**



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## FEBRUARY 23, 2022

### Summer Recreation Program

100+ students have signed up and interviews for a director will begin taking place next week.

### Kiwanis Club

This international organization helps children around the world and are looking to partner with our community for events. Bringing back the Relay for Life event on Friday, June 3 from 3:00–10:00 PM at Voorhees High School.

### Historic Façade Improvement

The Historic Façade Improvement Grant Program will go live March 1. Available to residents and commercial properties in the historic district.

### Clinton Bonfire

Bonfire was a huge success! 500 lbs. of food were collected for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and \$13,000 for the Clinton Fire Department.

### Platinum Club

Thanks to Norma Kania and Councilman Michael Humphrey for pulling this together and scheduling games nights on the fourth Friday of each month.

### Crossing Guards Needed

Police Chief Kubinak stated that the Town of Clinton is in dire need of crossing guards!

## MARCH 9, 2022

### St. Patrick's Day!

Union Township Mayor David DeGiralomo and Mayor Kovach will be tending bar at Pattenburg House to raise money for the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge! Mayors have discussed joining forces in future fund raising for non-profits.

### CASA Presentation

Trace L. Heisler, MC, Executive Director for CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, Inc. explained how the organization, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children works to mayor and council.

### New Summer Recreation Director

Samantha Lestrangle has been selected as Summer Recreation Director.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY 26, 2022

### Two Employment Resignations

Resignations were accepted from Kevin Fleming, Clinton's Construction Official and Electrical Sub-Code Official for 15 years, and Dennis Allen, Temporary Fire Sub-Code Official and Inspector.

### Committee Appointment

Suzanne Pisano was appointed to the Communications Committee. Welcome Suzanne!

### Free Rabies Clinic

Held Saturday, January 22 at the municipal barn. 258 pets were given shots and the process went smoothly!

### Volunteer Fair

Held Monday, January 17 at the Community Center. Despite the foul winter weather, the attendance and volunteer sign-ups were very good.

### New Appointments

The Historic Commission named Rosemarie Platt as Chair and newly appointed member, Holly Lione as Vice Chair.

### Community Tree Recovery

Shade Tree Commission will be applying for Community Tree Recovery program to replace trees lost due to Hurricane Sandy and insect damage.

## FEBRUARY 9, 2022

### Grant Awarded

\$70,000 Local Recreational Improvement grant awarded for the outdoor amenities including the playground, athletic fields and community center. Great job Councilwoman Megan Johnson.

## Autism Awareness

April is Autism Awareness Month. Patches are for sale at a cost of \$20. Proceeds go to the Hunterdon Arc Foundation. \$3,000-\$4,000 have already been raised!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

*continued*

### Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

April 1, flashlight egg hunt at Hunts Mill from 6:00–9:00 PM for residents and children from CPS.

## MARCH 23, 2022

### Moment of Silence

Mayor Kovach asked for a moment of silence for Jacqueline (Jackie) Harney, a long-time resident. She served on the town's Guild and Historic Commission and volunteered with the Clinton Sunrise Rotary Annual Rubber Ducky Race and other organizations.

### Municipal Building Lit Up

The Municipal Building is lit up in Ukraine colors, blue and yellow, to show our community support.

## Safety Concerns

There are issues of children climbing onto the roofs of buildings in town. The Mayor is asking parents and kids to be respectful of property owners and the safety for the kids. If anyone hears of or sees anything please reach out to the Clinton Police.

## Leaf Collection

The owner of Grow-a-Row is very willing to accept all leaves collected, saving the town \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year and will help the town stay sustainable.

## Basketball Game Night

Clinton Public School PTO is having a fund raiser April 8. It will be a basketball game between the Harlem Wizards and the staff to be held at North Hunterdon High School.

## NJ Local Government Week

Held the week of April 3. Many activities will be happening such as a Children's Town Hall at CPS and "Touch a Truck" event.

**Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month at 7:30 pm, at 43 Leigh St.**

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## WATER DEPARTMENT

Through the efforts of Congressman Tom Malinowski, the Town of Clinton will be receiving \$2.4M in grants to upgrade our water system!!!

We are in the final stages of the capital upgrades to two of the booster pump stations, which are anticipated to be completed by June. The much-needed improvements will ensure that the outer areas and higher-elevated regions of our water system receive adequate water pressure. While the project may sound simple, it was more complicated than many realize as temporary facilities needed to be constructed to house temporary pumps while the main facilities are being upgraded to make sure that service was not interrupted during construction. Thankfully, the project went relatively smooth and there was little to no interruption in service to customers services by these stations, and the upgrades that were made will last for 25+ years.

The Town's annual hydrant flushing program has begun. During this time, we physically inspect each hydrant in our system (approximately 750), as well as perform several tests on the hydrants themselves. The goal of these annual tests is to ensure that each and every fire hydrant is in proper working order and ready to use by the Fire Department in the event of an emergency. Additionally, all of the hydrants are digitally mapped using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to which all of the supporting Fire Departments have access to the maps for their use during emergencies as well.

In accordance with New Jersey P.L. 2021, Chapter 183, all public water systems are required to fully inventory their customer service lines and develop a replacement program to remove all identified lead or galvanized service lines. While the Town of Clinton Water Department (CWD) has no known or identified lead services lines in its entire system, the State of New Jersey is requiring that we identify all galvanized service lines on the property owner's side as well.

All water customers are being asked to complete and submit an online "Water Service Line Survey" to properly identify the customers type of water service line. The survey, which should take less than five (5) minutes can be accessed by scanning this QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Clinton Water Department at 908-735-2265.

## SEWER DEPARTMENT

The multi-year project at the Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant for the repairs/upgrades to the Filter

and Residuals Building is nearly at an end. The \$4 million project replaced aged and outdated treatment equipment as well as replaced the exterior of the building. The Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant is permitted to accept and treat 2.03 million gallons per day, and is a 24/7 operation. As you can imagine, for equipment that runs all day and night for 20+ years require periodic replacement. What makes this project especially hard is the fact that sewage flow never stops, To ensure an uninterrupted flow, temporary facilities need to be put in place while the old equipment is removed. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the employees of the Town of Clinton Sewer Department, we have been able to extend the useful life of much of the equipment, while we systematically invest in replacing the older parts of our system.

Earlier this year, Mayor Janice Kovach announced that the Town of Clinton was the recipient of \$900,000 in Federal grant funds for replacement/upgrade of sewer lines on Rt. 173 (East of Leigh Street). As part of the Town's ongoing capital improvement program, these funds will be used to increase the size of the sewer main in order to account for additional sewer flows from the Town of Clinton and the other municipalities that we serve. This improvement will provide upgrades to our sewer infrastructure that will last 50+ years at no additional cost to our customers.

## BRUSH COLLECTION

The 2022 Brush Collection Schedule began in May. Small debris can be placed curbside in a bucket or garbage can. All brush, including any off-season clean-up, will be picked up during your scheduled brush collection zone. Scan this QR code for more information.



## RECYCLING

For a list of all the 2022 Hunterdon County Recycling Events (Hazardous Waste, Electronics, Smoke Detectors and Propane Tank recycling, please scan this QR code.



## 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.

## TOWN UPDATES

## OUR VIBRANT SENIORS COMMUNITY

The Platinum Club serves residents over 55 years of age. Our mission in creating this Club is to promote healthy aging, independence, and the well-being of

## PLATINUM CLUB

older adults through health, wellness, educational, cultural, and recreational programs and services. Our goal is to create a fun and enjoyable atmosphere to

connect with one another and the community.

The Club has already provided Game Days in March and May, with members coming out to play board games and mingle. There will be more in the future!

## THE PLATINUM CLUB BRUNCH

The next big event is The Platinum Club Brunch! It will be held Sunday June 5 at the Clinton Town Fire Department located at 1 New Street in Clinton. Doors open at 11:30 AM and brunch is served at noon until 2:00PM. The brunch is free to Clinton Town Residents. For non-residents there will be a small fee of \$5. Watch your mail for postcards! There will be entertainment, door prizes and much more provided by our great sponsors! **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!**



## HUNTERDON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Located at 4 Gauntt Place in Flemington, the Senior Center is open to all residents of Hunterdon County age 60 and over. Many activities, lectures, and events are available.

Membership is required and it is free. Here is the website where you can access the membership form. If you are unable to get the form on line, please contact Norma Kania and one can be sent to you. [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/seniorcenter.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/seniorcenter.htm).



Please feel free to contact Norma Kania, Chairperson at 908-803-0720 for any questions you have about The Platinum Club of Clinton or any activities. There is no charge to be a member.



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## MEETINGS ON ZOOM

The Land Use Board continues to meet via zoom. The meetings are open to the public and agendas with zoom links are found on the website in the calendar feature. Join us!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was cancelled and moved to March 15<sup>th</sup>. On that evening we swore in Donna VanWeeren. We also deemed completeness for a minor site plan change for 37 Main Street. The change of use to retail and residential was approved with some agreed upon conditions. See the March 15<sup>th</sup> minutes on our website for more detail.

## ORDINANCE CHANGES

We also did a review of two proposed ordinances. One to amend permitted uses in the C-1 Zone and a second to create

assisted living, age restricted housing and independent living housing in the AH1 Zone at Block 3 Lot 2 (the property that used to be the Holiday Inn). Both were found to be consistent with the Town of Clinton Master Plan

At our April 5 meeting we did a completeness review for the Ansuya Riverbend LLC property (Marriott on Route 31 North - Block 17 Lot 2; Block 17.01 Lots 2.03; 2.04 & 6) who are seeking approvals for Preliminary & Final Site Plan Phase 3 and Preliminary & Use Variance approval Phase 2. The application was deemed complete, and the hearing was scheduled for May 3-

## MAIN STREET CHANGES

On May 3, the Variance & Minor Site Plan application for 2-8 Main Street was deemed complete and a public hearing was scheduled FOR June 7, 2022. The request is to square off the end of the building.

A Waiver of Site Plan application was deemed complete for 43A Main Street. The request is to change the use from retail to restaurant and the public hearing will be held on June 7.

The public hearing ON May 3 for Ansuya Riverbend LLC, to amend the phase 2 and 3 major preliminary site plan to build a fast-food restaurant, an 8,040 SF mixed use building (restaurant/bar, conference room, and 21 hotel rooms) and a 1,200 Sf office building began. It is still in progress and will continued May 17. This property has always been zoned for additional buildings behind the existing hotel.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is June 7th.

*Thank you to Councilwoman Sherry Dineen for her great Land Use Board reports each issue.*

## LAND USE BOARD

## THE PATH FORWARD

The Economic Development Committee presented the Economic Sustainability Study for the Town of Clinton at the March 23 council meeting and it was met with excitement for what lies ahead. The branding concept *"Fall in Love with Clinton"* was introduced, focusing on the practical advantages and emotional connections that this versatile brand can enable. Examples of it's limitless variations included:

*Fall in Love with the Red Mill*

*Fall in Love with Clinton Falls*

*Fall in Love with Clinton's Holiday Season*

*Fall in Love with our Hometown Clinton*

The committee will be brainstorming with local experts to fine tune the message and the stories from our residents. Share how you fell in love with Clinton at [creechjohn6@gmail.com](mailto:creechjohn6@gmail.com).

The EDC will use this input to start building our creative strategy. Our focus will include promoting retail tourism in media throughout the region and creating a cohesive signage strategy for the town. We will be working with the County and State for grants to

secure long-term funding for these efforts, which is an extensive process.

Our goal is to highlight Clinton's economic advantages to strengthen our local economy (including the easy access to highways, our charming Main Street, our beloved historic riverfront, and so much more).

## TIME TO CELEBRATE

We'd like to recognize our recently opened businesses in town:

**Maine on Main Restaurant**  
**The Curious Plantaholics**  
**Primose & Poppy's Children's Store**

And lets all celebrate the 9th anniversary:

**The Front Row Barber**

We encourage you to visit our new businesses, and frequent those that you love. Keep your eyes open for exciting times ahead for our great Town of Clinton.

## ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

## DRIVING CLINTON'S BUSINESSES

What is the Guild of Clinton? Simply it is a group of business owners who are passionate about creating an amazing downtown for residents and visitors. However there is much more.....as you walk down Main and East Main Streets and see flowers planted, trees trimmed, various seasonal

## GUILD OF CLINTON

decorations, it is the work of dedicated volunteers who are also business owners in downtown Clinton, who provides the beautification of our wonderful small town. Not all businesses are members, but those who have chosen to dedicate their time to provide beautification, events and special experiences are really the ones who get Clinton recognized in all those travel lists and press articles.

Creating a thriving small downtown adds value to the surrounding homes, offers vibrant shopping and dining experiences and presents cultural experiences such as the weekly Come Together Music Series for residents. The business owners realize the value of a vibrant downtown to the residents and they passionately pursue every effort to deliver an unmatched small town experience. Most recently Clinton Main Street was recognized as the Best Main Street by Hunterdon

Happenings in their 2022 survey!

If you are a business owner who hasn't joined yet, or are new to town the Guild is your business support network. Guild Members are always at the forefront of opportunities, especially during challenging times like during the Pandemic. The Guild made sure members had immediate information and access to all relief programs. In fact the Guild established their own relief program awarding 4 grants to member businesses. The Guild is also a community for business owners to share and grow together.

As events return to a more normal state come out to an event or the Come Together Music to enjoy. Look for opportunities to meet some of those Guild members who work hard as the Guild is planning evening social gatherings open to residents and non-member businesses. The Guild always realizes we are stronger together! While the Guild is a member organization and the more businesses that are members the more the Guild can do for the community, the key is that the members are always working to promote downtown, create experiences, deliver events and keep the Town of Clinton one of the best places to live in all of New Jersey! Scan this QR code and learn more about the Guild.



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## MEET ART DYSART, SUPERINTENDANT OF WATER, ROADS, BUILDING & GROUNDS

*an interview by Michael Humphrey*

I had the honor of interviewing Art Dysart, Superintendent of almost everything. Art has served the town for more than 26 years, leading an incredible team of people who provide your water, plow your snow, mow your parks, and take on all of the hard tasks that keeps Clinton running.

**Q** *What are your responsibilities in Clinton?*

**A** Overseeing the operations of the Water Department assets & distribution system. Keeping the Water Department compliant with Federal and State drinking water requirements. Submittal of Monthly, Quarterly and Annual reporting. Maintenance and daily operation of the Water, Roads, Buildings and Grounds Departments.

**Q** *What are the things that you and your team do that people may not know, or are under the radar?*

**A** The Clinton Water, Roads and Buildings are three of the four entities within the Public Works Department, excluding the Sewer Department. While our personnel mow grass, chip brush, collect leaves, repair roads and signs, paint, clean, plow roads and clear walks, they are the same 7 people who repair water main breaks, maintain 10 wells, two booster stations and three storage tanks and provide water to over 12,500 customers in 6 Towns with over 100 miles of water main 24/7. They are a busy crew to say the least.

**Q** *Who are your team members?*

**A** We have a great team, which includes:

**Rich Phelan**, *Town Administrator*

**Nancy Burgess**, *Water Clerk*

**Steve Higgins**, *Foreman*

**Bob Hoffman**, *Water Crew Leader*

**Kevin Gonzalez**, *Roads Crew Leader*

**Kyle Monthony**, *Operator*

**Ryan Maszczak**, *Operator*

**Anthony Duarte**, *Operator*

**Vincent Cerca**, *Operator*

**Q** *What were some memorable moments?*

**A** I remember when we recused kittens from a storm basin. There was that time we helped to get a Bear out of a tree...what a heart pounding moment. And there have been many nights and days dealing with snow storms, flooding and water emergencies.

**Q** *What do you like best about your job, and about Clinton?*

**A** That I have the privilege to work for the Town that I love, and have a hand in making it a better place.

**Q** *What advice to you give to people living and working in town?*

**A** To slow down, take a walk around Town to really see and appreciate the beauty and history of Clinton.

*This is a series of interviews with the people behind the scenes who get the work done, keep the trains running on time, and help make Clinton a beloved community.*

## TOWN PROFILE

## SUMMER TIPS

**Check Your Car.** Even a cool 78-degree outdoors means the interior of a car can quickly reach upward of 120-degrees within minutes, so check your car before you lock up for any pets or children .

**Know How to Handle Heat Stress.** If you or someone you're with outdoors starts profusely sweating, feels faint or dizzy, or has a weak pulse, stop all activity to rest, drink plenty of fluids, and get into the AC or a cooler place.

**Pay Attention to Poisonous Plants.** Poison ivy, poison sumac or poison

oak, causes issues for about 85% of the population. Also be aware of the plants you're exposing yourself to when working or playing outside.

### **Practice Smart Home Safety.**

Summer Vacation season is prime time for residential burglaries. Consider setting up light timers, motion lights and landscape lighting, and let your neighbors and local police know when you will be away.

**Wear Daily Sunscreen.** Reduce your skin cancer risk (and the early onset of wrinkles!) by wearing sunscreen daily.

**Stay Hydrated.** When spending a lot of time outdoors, keep water with you and drink it often. Consuming foods with high water content — think melons, lettuce, cucumbers, etc. — can also help you stay hydrated to avoid heat illnesses.

**Use Insect Repellent.** Protect yourself from diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks like dengue fever, malaria, West Nile Virus, and Lyme disease by wearing bug repellent.

## SUMMER SAFETY

# EVENTS

## **SUNDAYS, MAY 1 – OCTOBER**

Clinton Farmer's Market  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, County Library,  
65 Halstead St.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**

Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day  
Clinton's Come Together Friday Night Music  
7:00 – 9:00 pm, Main Street

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 4**

British Car Day  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Red Mill Village  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 4**

Town-wide garage sale – *rain or shine!*  
9:00 am

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 5**

Art on Tap...Reimagined  
2:00 – 5:00 pm, Hunterdon Art Museum  
A benefit for Hunterdon Art Museum  
[www.hunterdonartmuseum.org](http://www.hunterdonartmuseum.org)

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 10**

Flag Day Parade  
6:30 – 8:00 pm, Downtown Clinton

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

Garden Party  
Proceeds to support the Town of Clinton  
Historic Facade Improvement Grant Program  
6:00–9:00 pm, 46 Center Street

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 18 & SEPTEMBER 10**

Music at the Mill  
Red Mill Village  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

## **SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 16-17,**

## **AUGUST 13-14**

Music at the Mill Concert Weekend  
Red Mill Village  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 24**

Community Grill Night  
5:30 – 8:00 pm., Clinton Fire Dept.  
[www.clintonfd.org](http://www.clintonfd.org)

## **WEEKS OF JUNE 27, JULY 5, 11, 18,**

## **AUGUST 8, 15**

Children's Summer Programs at the Red Mill  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

## **SATURDAY, JULY 9**

Cardboard Canoe Races  
1:00 – 5:00 pm., Red Mill Village  
[www.clintonssunriserotary.org](http://www.clintonssunriserotary.org)

## **SUNDAY, JULY 10**

Rubber Ducky Races  
2:00 – 4:00 pm., Downtown at River  
[www.clintonssunriserotary.org](http://www.clintonssunriserotary.org)

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

Kids Day at the Mill  
Red Mill Village  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Beer Fest  
Clinton Fire Department  
[www.clintonfd.org](http://www.clintonfd.org)

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Main Street Half Marathon of Hunterdon  
Hunts Mill Park  
[www.mainstreetmarathon.com](http://www.mainstreetmarathon.com)

## CLINTON'S DIRTY TRUTH

Over a three-week period that spanned April and May, a historic amount of garbage was picked-up out of Clinton's streams, wooded areas and areas abutting both residential and commercial properties. And this follows a record haul just a year earlier. If stacked into one pile, the hundreds of garbage bags and bulk items would tower nearly 10 feet high.

The dirty truth is that most of this pollution comes from inside of Clinton.

Let's take a few minutes to explore why.

### No Containers

Garbage bags that are deposited outside without being placed in trash containers are randomly torn open by wildlife and are more prone to leaks and tears. The result is solid waste that blows in all directions and liquid waste that drains into our delicate watershed areas. Add to that the rain and snow, which add considerable weight to the garbage bags, increasing the cost to Clinton for the tonnage weight that we pay for at the county facility.

### No Lids

It is not uncommon to see open containers that are nearly overflowing with recycling waste, sitting on our streets each Friday morning. On windy days, many of these containers tip over, blowing trash down our streets, into neighboring yards, and into our streams and wooded areas. And again, the rain and snow will contaminate our recycling and add weight (and tremendous taxpayer cost) to our town's disposal efforts.

### Commercial Property Abuse and Neglect

Much of the trash pollution that our volunteers pick up come from our commercial properties. We have witnessed employees using leaf blowers to clean their sidewalks and parking lots, only to blow the items into our streams, wooded areas, sewer drains, and streets.

Torn trash bags and loose junk are left in the back of properties, blowing and washing waste into our environmental zones over time.

### Belief That There Is No Consequence For Littering and Waste Management

Trash is an unpleasant reality of life, one that some people treat with disdain and mismanagement. Since people perceive there is no consequence for their action when they throw items anyhow and anywhere, it has created the "I don't care attitude." The act of pedestrians getting rid of chewing gum wrappers and other wastes on the roadways and streets or motorists throwing garbage from their cars clearly reveals this kind of attitude. But just as harmful are the casual attitudes towards trash management by residents that were mentioned earlier. So when litter magically appears, the majority of people believe there are others who will pick or clean it up.

### Easy Solutions

1. Put your trash and recycling in containers with lids.
2. Pickup and dispose of trash on commercial property several times each week
3. If you see litter, pick it up and dispose of it.

We are all responsible for the sustainability of our community. It is time to step-up our game, make some adjustments to our daily routines, and brag with pride to our neighbors and customers.

### Thank You

The town and the Environmental Commission want to thank all of the volunteers who picked up trash on Clinton's Cleanup Day in April and the Keller Williams team in May. Thank you to Councilman Michael Humphrey for again organizing the April event, and for the Clinton Public Works team for helping move the garbage to our dumpsters.

ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMISSION

## BEAUTIFYING CLINTON

The Clinton Conservancy is a non-profit gardening group created by long-time resident Kathy Madden in 2017 with help from a Sustainable New Jersey grant.

Our mission is to increase the number of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials that support our bird, bee, and other pollinator populations in our town. Gardens

are located in Hunts Mill Park, Millview Park, DeMott Pond, and at



the end of Water Street. We are seeking more volunteers to help us create and maintain gardens. Work times are typically on Saturday mornings from spring through fall. Email Denise Birmingham at [dbquilts184@gmail.com](mailto:dbquilts184@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.

CLINTON  
CONSERVANCY

## 2022 STARTED STRONG

The Town of Clinton Recreation Committee is thrilled to continue providing events for our community, and is so grateful for the support we receive from our residents.

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

### Starting an Easter Tradition

April 1 brought Clinton's First Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt! The event was held at Hunts Mill Park, and was open to Town of Clinton Residents and students of Clinton Public School. The hunt was a great success, with kids ranging from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade collecting over 800 eggs, which had been stuffed with goodies by members of the Town Recreation Committee. Several special "Golden Eggs" were available to each age group, redeemable for larger prizes.

Thanks to the Town of Clinton Fire Department, who chauffeured the Easter Bunny to Hunts Mill Park on one of their fire trucks for a special appearance. And a very special thank you to KM Gomes and Sons HVAC, who sponsored the event!

### Vintage Baseball Game

Clinton's Gebhardt Field hosted a Vintage Baseball Game on April 23<sup>rd</sup> between the Flemington Neshanock and Hoboken Nine. The not-for-profit league plays by 19th Century rules, uses authentic replicas of 19th Century equipment and wears 19th Century uniforms. As was the custom in the mid-19th Century, participants do not wear gloves - all fielders play barehanded! Clinton Recreation Committee hopes to host more games in the future.

### Annual Town Picnic

The Annual Town Picnic is scheduled for September 10 (rain date September 17). Like last year's amazingly successful and

fun picnic, this year's event will feature vendors, fireworks, and games for the whole family.

Dates for additional events, like the Summer Movie Series, Music on the Art Museum Pavilion, Mr. Hooper's Canoe Races, and the Light the Night event will be announced throughout the coming weeks and months.

Please stay in touch with the Recreation Committee through our new Facebook page by scanning the QR code or visiting

[www.facebook.com/Recreation-Committee-Town-of-Clinton-NJ-101904725822349](https://www.facebook.com/Recreation-Committee-Town-of-Clinton-NJ-101904725822349), where you



can find information about events, ask questions, and see pictures of past events!

Have a great summer, and we'll look forward to seeing you at a Town of Clinton Recreation Committee event soon!

## HALSTEAD STREET PARK UPDATE

Town has raised \$194,000 in county and state grants since 2020 to revitalize Halstead Street Park.



Those interested in learning more about how you can support the park project's second phase, visit us on Facebook at [@FriendsofClinton](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofClinton) or by scanning this QR code. Our email is [friendsofclintonparks@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofclintonparks@gmail.com).

## CLINTON PARK PROJECT

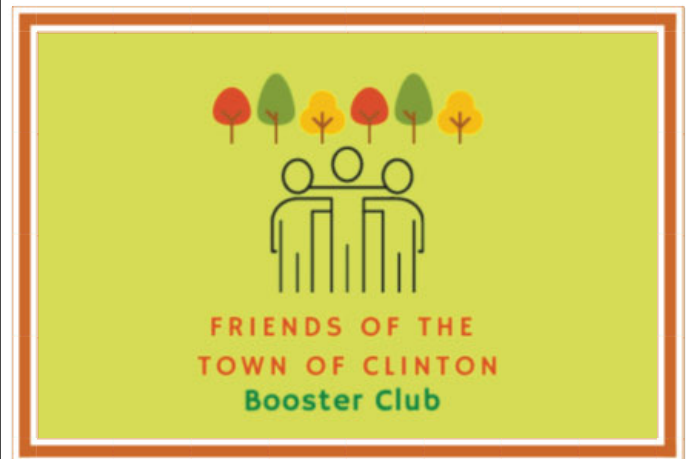
### Tennis Court

This spring, Council approved using a portion of those funds to

finance phase one of the project: replace the shuttered tennis court with a new dual pickleball/tennis court. Currently, construction specs are being completed so the project can go out to bid. The estimated time of completion for the new court is Summer 2022.

### Playground

Town is also moving forward on the playground project, and is now working to secure engineering professionals. A formal inclusive design should be presented to Council by Fall 2022.



## HISTORIC FAÇADE GRANT

The Clinton Historic Preservation Commission and the Red Mill Museum Village have launched the Historic Façade Improvement Grant Program. Property owners, both residential and commercial, can apply for grant monies to assist with a variety of façade improvements, such as paint, replacement of shutters, repair and replacement of front porch materials, and much more. To learn more and find the application, scan this QR code or visit [www.clintonnj.gov/historic-commission](http://www.clintonnj.gov/historic-commission).



## Fundraising Events

To maintain monies in the grant program (as it is funded through private individual and business donations), we will be hosting several fundraising efforts for the façade grant program. Starting in the coming weeks, we will be selling historic plaques! These plaques will allow property owners in the historic district a uniformed way to highlight the date and history of their home. Plaques will be displayed on the front of the properties near the front door, so residents and visitors alike can appreciate the history of our community.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Garden Party fundraiser for the Grant tickets are limited. Help us preserve Clinton's history and experience the magic of the unique gardens at 46 Center Street from 6-9pm on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Learn about the history of the home and experience the beauty of the garden, all while enjoying



hors d'oeuvres, wine, music, and a silent auction! Find out more and get your tickets by scanning this QR code or visiting [www.tinyurl.com/clintongardenparty](http://www.tinyurl.com/clintongardenparty).

And Join us in October for a historic and spooky cemetery tour! There will be more information soon.

2021 was an exciting year for historic preservation in Clinton! You can read more about some of our accomplishments as a group, such as the façade grant and the demolition review ordinance, in this fabulous article from Preservation New Jersey: [www.preservationnj.org/demolition-ordinance-and-public-private-partnership-helps-preserve-clinton](http://www.preservationnj.org/demolition-ordinance-and-public-private-partnership-helps-preserve-clinton).

Lastly, if you are interested in getting involved in our exciting work, we are always looking for new members!

## HISTORIC COMMISSION

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## MEET SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER MIMI POWERS

### Becoming an EMT Connects Her With Our Community and Confirms Her Career Path

## SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mimi Powers was always drawn to helping others and health care. Her first year as a volunteer South Branch Emergency Services

EMT has shown her she can use those interests to give back to her community and also helped her realize that she wants to be a nurse.

### A Place in Her Community

Not quite 21, Mimi is a special education teacher's aid at High Bridge Middle School, has worked as a lifeguard, and recently earned an associate's degree in exercise science. Last spring, her friend, SBES volunteer Tiffany Osti told Mimi how much she loved volunteering with SBES and that she thought that Mimi would, too. Tiffany was right.

"The other EMTs and the officers are wonderful, and so are the patients and the nurses, doctors, police officers, firefighters, and everyone you meet," she said. Mimi lives in Bethlehem Township. "In a spread-out area like Hunterdon County, it can be hard to feel like you're part of a community," she said. "Now that I'm older, I wanted to try to find my spot, and South Branch has given me that. Every time you meet somebody new, it makes you realize you are part of an organization that's an important part of this community."

### Making a Difference

Mimi became a certified EMT in December after taking classes at SBES's training facility. "My favorite part about it is I get to provide more direct, one-on-one patient care and get to talk to them a bit more – it's really special," she said.

But volunteers can ride the ambulance and assist EMTs and paramedics as soon as they have CPR training. "You are very quickly in the thick of it and making a difference," Mimi said. "You learn to anticipate what the EMTs and paramedics need. You can get equipment ready, or get the stair chair to help move the patient, which saves time. And especially if someone is having an emergency like a heart attack or a stroke, that time can make a big difference."



### Nursing Calls

Mimi was not certain of her career path when she joined SBES, but the more she learned, trained, and helped her neighbors, the more she knew she was meant to be a nurse. "Being at South Branch has really helped me realize what path I want to go on, when I had been really unsure," she said. "It made my decision easy."

Her nursing classes start at Raritan Valley Community College in the fall, and they will be easier because of all that she's learned and will continue to learn as a South Branch volunteer EMT.

### SBES is for Everyone

A person doesn't have to be interested in medicine as a career to provide emergency medical care, rescue services, and hospital transport with SBES or to take on a non-emergency role with the organization. "It's such a good opportunity to learn useful skills, and meet people, and grow your understanding of the community we live in," Mimi said. "There are countless reasons why a person should join."

*If helping your Hunterdon County neighbors while learning new skills and forging new friendships*

*appeals to you, reach out to learn more! Fill out a contact form and read more about the many volunteer opportunities SBES offers by scanning this QR code or visiting [sbes365.org](http://sbes365.org). No experience is necessary and training is free for members.*



## FIRE IN UNION TOWNSHIP

At approximately 3:48 am on Sunday, May 1, 2022, Clinton Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire with reported occupants trapped on Sam Bonnell Drive in Union Township (CFD primary response area). Annandale Hose Company, Lebanon Borough Fire Company, Quakertown Fire



Company, High Bridge Fire Department, Califon Fire Company, Pattenburg Fire Company, North County Tender Task Force, EMS units from South Branch Emergency Services, as well as New Jersey State Police also responded.

Upon arrival, companies found heavy fire from the building as well as multiple victims both inside and outside of the structure. Evacuation of residents and fire attack was initiated. The fire was determined to be under control around 6:45 am. Extensive overhaul was conducted to fully extinguish the fire. CFD cleared the scene a little after 12:30 PM

Three civilians suffered injuries, including two burn victims who were flown to different trauma centers, and one person who suffered injuries after falling and was transported to a local hospital. Two firefighters were treated for minor injuries and released on scene.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office.

## CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## ARBOR DAY 2022

After two years of celebrating virtually, this year we recognized Arbor Day in the fresh air with our friends and neighbors amongst the trees at Hunts Mills Park! Sponsored by the Clinton Shade Tree Commission, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Clinton Public School read poems and sang for the trees. Shade Tree Commission member Dan Shea, along with Town Arborist Lou Spanner, and Clinton Conservancy Gardens President Denise Birmingham instructed the children on how best to plant and care for them. Mayor Janice Kovach read the Town's Arbor Day proclamation. Councilwoman Megan Johnson was in attendance along with other members of the public.

We dug in to plant a handsome white oak to provide shade for spectators at Hunts Mills Park for the next



100 years. This year's tree is dedicated to Kathy and John Madden. Kathy founded the Clinton Conservancy Gardens—which planted and maintains several pollinator gardens at Millview Park, Hunts Mills Park, and Demott Pond. John was a member of the Town's Land Use Board and chaired the Environmental Commission. John and Kathy have since relocated to Hackettstown but their legacy has made Clinton a better place to live!

These wonderful gardens continue to be maintained by Denise and the Conservancy. If you have not visited these gardens please stop by and take a look and let Denise know if you want to help maintain them at [dbquilts184@gmail.com](mailto:dbquilts184@gmail.com). And, if you want to attend our Town's Shade Tree Commission meetings, please contact Chairman John Kashwick at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com).

It was a wonderful experience to revive our tradition of including the schoolchildren in the process. Each student was provided with a white oak sapling (thank you to Councilman Nick Bruno for ordering and picking up the saplings!) It was a glorious sunny day and hopefully, all of the children and the saplings they planted will thrive!

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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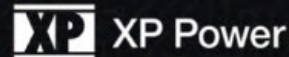
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## COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

This notice announces relief measures for residential ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety. For more information please go to our website at or contact.

### Installment Plan Availability

BE ADVISED that State law requires residential customers to be offered an installment plan for any Town of Clinton Water and Sewer arrearages accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022. To maintain the installment plan, a residential customer must make timely payments on all current charges. More information is by contacting the Sewer or Water Collector at (908) 735-8616 or by email at [ccovino@clintonnj.gov](mailto:ccovino@clintonnj.gov) (for sewer accounts) and [nburgess@clintonnj.gov](mailto:nburgess@clintonnj.gov) (for water accounts). Sewer liens that were sold before January 1, 2022 cannot be included in the installment plan.

### Late Fees, Charges, and Penalties

BE ADVISED that P.L. 2021, c. 317 prohibits local governments from charging residential customers interest, fees, or charges for late payment of charges accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022 until after March 15, 2022 at which time interest and penalties may begin to accrue. This prohibition does not apply to sewer liens that were sold before January 1, 2022. Late interest, fees or charges may be enforced against arrearages accruing before March 9, 2020 and after March 15, 2022.

### Bill Assistance & Arrearage Forgiveness Programs

The application period for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open. This federally funded program will provide financial assistance to low-income households to reduce the balances on their residential water and sewer bills. LIHWAP will provide benefits directly to water and sewer service providers on behalf of residential customers. The assistance can be used, in order of priority, to:

- restore services where services have been

terminated and pay reconnection fees and other charges accrued due to a disconnection;

- avoid service disruption for those residential customers who are in danger of disconnection (i.e., received shut off notices or have past due balances) and to help them afford bill payment going forward; and
- support those household customers who are current in their bills but might be in danger of falling behind in the near future.

Priority will also be given to families with elderly or disabled household members and/or with children under the age of five, no matter which category they fall into.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for LIHWAP assistance, applicants must be water/sewer bill holders who are responsible for paying their water and sewer bills directly to the water/sewer provider. Also, applicants' total gross household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$6,439 a month for a family of four). The LIHWAP frequently asked questions webpage, available by scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/lihwapfaq](http://www.njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/lihwapfaq) has additional information about maximum income limits and other items.

Participants in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are automatically eligible for LIHWAP assistance so long as they are water/sewer bill holders.

People can apply online through the DCAid application portal at: [www.njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/dcaid-services](http://www.njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/dcaid-services).

Those without computer or internet access can call 1-800-510-3102 to be directed to one of the community action agencies to assist them with starting, completing, and submitting an application online.

## BILLPAYER RELIEF



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## MEET OUR POLICE OFFICERS

As a police department we get caught up in our day to day responsibilities. As Chief, I encourage my officers to openly engage with our community. This is beneficial in many ways to both The officers, and all who live, work, and visit our special town. This helps us know who the people we are sworn to serve, so we can understand and relate better as people.

## CLINTON POLICE

To help the community spark a little interest and conversation with our officers, here is a little information about each of us you may not have known. Maybe the next time you see one of us it will help you break the ice with a little conversation.

**Chief J. Cory Kubinak**, Police officer 27 years, Clinton officer 24 years, US Marine, Married, 6 kids, enjoys exercise, family activities, hiking, motorcycles, Jeeps, snowmobiles, ATV's and all maintenance, welding, repairs and fabrication done by me. *"I also love Lisa's (my wife) gourmet cooking!!"*

**Sergeant Tim McGuire**, Police officer 22 years. Served in the US Army/National Guard enjoys travel and camping with his family. Volunteers as a coach in multiple sports. Serves on a local Board of Education. He is also a licensed NJ Real Estate Salesperson.

**Sergeant Anthony Robbins**, Police Officer 8 Years, Clinton Officer 6 years, US Marine served in Afghanistan. BBQ Master specializing in high quality smoking!

**Ptl. Jim Crilly**, Police Officer 22 years, has a BA in Sociology, an AA in Criminal Justice. Enjoys Golf, Judo, Jiu-jitsu and traveling.

**Ptl. Peter Tilstra**, Police officer 18 years, Clinton officer 16 years, Married, 2 kids, enjoys hunting and fishing, cornhole, skiing, and scuba diving.

**Det. Alberto Bonilla Jr.**, Police Officer 8 years assigned as Detective, served as United States Marine Corps. Worked for the United Nations as a Police Officer and the Hunterdon County Sheriff department. He likes to compete in Jiu Jitsu competitions, play sports with his kids, and watching Marvel movies with his family.

**Ptl. Matthew Ellis**, Clinton Police Officer for two years, West Chester University Alum, Married, enjoys sports, fishing, and exercising.

**Ptl. Jose Gonzalez**, Clinton Police Officer for 2 years, served in the Marine Corps Infantry for 4 years, father, husband, foodie, fitness fanatic and a gamer.

**Ptl. Melissa Tornberg**, Clinton Police Officer 1 year, EMT 10 years, Paralegal 6 years, Middlesex County College and Centenary University Alumni, Married with 1 child and 2 dogs, classic cars, hiking, travelling, family time, shopping and MOUNTAIN DEW!!

**Ptl. Joseph Pietraszewski**, Hunterdon county resident, studied criminal justice at RVCC and Rowan University. Started with Clinton Police in 2021. Enjoys all things outdoors especially motorsports such as dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and ATV's. Also enjoy traveling and working on vehicles during my time off.

**Ptl. Andrew Lerner**, Police Officer 4 years, enjoys the Jersey Shore, Hiking, Kayaking, Fishing, Tough Mudders, Fitness, spending time with family and friends. (Very Much likes Chocolate!)

## CONTACTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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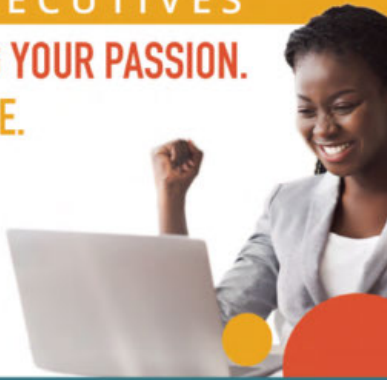


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## STAFF & MEETINGS

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**COUNCIL |** Nick Bruno  
Sherry Dineen  
Michael Humphrey  
Megan Johnson  
Kyle Perloff  
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



RECYCLE PICKUP: EVERY FRIDAY



TRASH PICKUP: EVERY TUESDAY



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