

Town of Clinton Newsletter

MARCH 2022

ISSUE #127



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So much is happening this year that it might be hard to keep up. It started with one of the best Holiday Seasons in Clinton history. The traditional kick-off of the Red Mill's Haunted Village celebrated thirty years of screams and scares, with record breaking attendance over four weekends.

FROM THE MAYOR

Over the preceding weeks, thousands of people attended a multitude of events, including the Red Mill's Winter Village, the ever popular Dickens Days, the Santacon Run (with a thrilling run on the southern rim of Spruce Run Reservoir), the jam-packed Holiday Parade, and the touching ceremonies lighting the town Christmas Tree and Menorah. It was exactly what we needed during a tough two years.

2022 started with our Volunteer Fair, which showcased dozens of opportunities for residents to make a difference for our community. Our new seniors program, lovingly called the Platinum Club, held a revamped and highly attended Platinum Brunch at the Clinton Fire Department. And our cherished Town Bonfire was a roaring success.

Our Summer Recreation program is back, and now it is jammed packed with full days of activities for our children. Two new playground initiatives were kicked off, at CPS and Town itself, which will replace aging and often broken equipment with new apparatus that will be accessible to all kids.

We can't wait for St. Patrick's Day Parade (and the great fundraiser events that follow), the Spring Platinum Brunch, the April Town Cleanup Day, the Town Picnic this Summer. Also stay tuned for the premier of "Haunting on the River" this summer - a movie filmed entirely in Clinton with hundreds of residents participating.

We are seeing new projects taking shape, at the old A&P site and the old Shell gas station. And a bunch of new shops, restaurants and businesses. All of this just proves what we all know already...that Clinton is an incredibly strong and resilient community.

Please feel free to reach out to me at jkovach@clintonnj.gov or 908-399-8921.



JANICE KOVACH



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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall Meeting was announced for Monday, December 6, 2021, at the Community Center to discuss the future of the Community Center and the proposed Police Department.

Clinton Holiday Lights

A fundraiser was announced, offering for purchase a bag of 12 luminaries to put in front of properties to light up the Town. The goal is to illuminate all the neighborhoods on December 5. Mr. Traphagen said he will have a drone to capture the event.

DECEMBER 8, 2021

Town Hall Meeting Results

Mayor Kovach gave an update from the meeting held at the Community Center for discussion on the relocation of the Police Department. Also in attendance was the Police Chief and Council Members. This event was well attended and many residents voiced their ideas and concerns. More discussions will be scheduled for 2022.

NHHS State Titles

A proclamation was presented to North Hunterdon High School's Athletic Department for an outstanding winning season in three programs: Field Hockey Team, Boys Cross Country Team, and Girls Volleyball Team. GO NORTH!!!

Complete Street Award

Tara Shepherd and Ryan Fisher presented an award to Mayor Kovach in recognition of adopting a Complete Streets Policy for 2020 – 2021. They also presented an award to Chief Cory Kubinak for the department's involvement in conducting a Street Smart New Jersey Pedestrian Safety Campaign.

Special School Board Election

Dr. Seth Cohen, Superintendent & Principal of the Clinton-Glen Gardner School District, along with Bernadette Wang, Business Administrator & Board Secretary, delivered a presentation about the referendum question scheduled for vote on January 25, 2022. The School Board is seeking public funding for a new playground and to revamp the outdoor space.

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Board Member Resignation

A letter of resignation was received with regrets from former Councilwoman and current member of the Board of Health, Beth Sosidka.

Dog Park Presentation

Clinton Town resident John Bohnel presented to the Council his options on how a dog park may be feasible. Maps were distributed showing the two properties owned by the Town to illustrate the potential for the various community park amenities and a dog park located at the Community Center and Gephardt Field.

Summer Recreation

Board of Recreation updated the packets for registration, offering half-day and all-day programs, and an overhaul of the programs scheduled. Summer Rec will run July 5 through July 29, 2022.

Platinum Club

Platinum Club is the seniors Committee for the town. Norma Kania will take the position as Chair and Galen Tinder, Vice Chair. Events will be planned for 2022 for the 55+ community.

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Councilwoman Karsh Resigns

Mayor Kovach thanked Ms. Karsh for her contribution to Council and the Town of Clinton over the past four years. Council accepted her resignation with regrets.

DECEMBER 8, 2021

Local Pediatrician Retires

Mayor Kovach announced a special proclamation was presented to Dr. Michael Coraggio on December 23, 2021. Dr. Coraggio has been cherished pediatrician to so many in Clinton.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

continued

End of Council Term

Councilwoman Intrabartola expressed her sincere thanks to everyone who works for the Town, including the employees, Council Members, and the volunteers on the boards, committees and commissions.

JANUARY 3, 2022

Reorganizational Meeting

Swearing in of new Councilmen Nick Bruno and Kyle Perloff. Reorg resolutions were adopted for the year.

JANUARY 12, 2022

The Volunteer Fair

To be held January 17, 2022 at the Community Center.



(Councilwoman Megan Johnson absent from photo)

Mr. Humphrey has arranged for more than 20 key local organizations to attend.

Small Town America, Civic Plus Citizen Award

Councilman Humphrey, Councilwoman Johnson and Former Councilwoman Intrabartola nominated Mayor Kovach for this nationwide award, WAY TO GO MAYOR!!!

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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RECYCLING CHANGES



With changes in recycling coming in the future, it is important to practice good recycling habits, including breaking down all of your cardboard boxes, rinsing clean your containers before

discarding, and throwing your greasy pizza boxes in the garbage.

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 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the Town's ongoing capital improvement program, we will be making upgrades to two (2) booster pump stations that ensure that there is proper water pressure in our water system. Some of the preparation for the projects has started over the winter, but we expect the major part of the work to commence in the Spring.

By making these much-needed improvements, we will have the ability to ensure that the higher-elevated regions of our water system receive adequate water pressure. Residents should not be impacted in any way during the actual construction, but will be better served when the project is completed.



NEW PROGRAM FOR STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS

The Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance Program (ERMA), administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), will provide up to \$35,000 in assistance to cover mortgage arrearages, delinquent property taxes, and other housing cost delinquencies for eligible homeowners negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. New Jersey's program utilizes \$325.9



million of federal Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) money, and offers struggling families a lifeline. Learn more by scanning this QR code or by visiting at www.njerma.com.

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 to obtain an application. These units offer a valuable opportunity for income qualified participants to become homeowners in Clinton.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

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.

NOTE: The trash cans located throughout the Town are for trash generated by pedestrians, not for commercial or residential use.

Rich Phelan, Business Administrator
(p) 908-735-8616
(e) 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
 - * Facebook – www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov
 - * Twitter – twitter.com/clintonnj
- ◆ Town of Clinton Police Department – <https://bit.ly/3bTpljK>
- ◆ Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad – www.clintonems.org
- ◆ Clinton Fire Department – www.clintonfd.org
- ◆ Hunterdon County – www.co.hunterdon.nj.us

FRIDAY FUN FOR LOCAL SENIORS

If you are looking for few hours of free fun in Clinton, the Platinum Club has your answer. Games, expert presentations, and new friendship opportunities are now open to the public on the fourth Friday of each month, from 2:00 -4:00 PM, at the Clinton Fire Department.

PLATINUM CLUB

Join us on March 25th.

SENIOR FREEZE PROGRAM (PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT)

The Senior Freeze Program reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax increases on their principal residence (main home). To qualify, you must meet all the eligibility requirements. Visit www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/eligibility.shtml to learn more about your eligibility and next steps.

The deadline to file the application is October 31, 2022.



RETIREMENT INCOME EXCLUSIONS

You worked hard during your career to provide income through your retirement. The State of New Jersey offers some retirement income exclusions you may qualify to use that can reduce your taxable income. Beginning with Tax Year 2021, the income limit for a Retirement Income Exclusion increases to \$150,000. Find more information at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/njit7.shtml

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



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MAIN STREET REQUESTS

With the Omicron variant on the loose, 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 if you would like to join us.

This is what we've been up to since November . . .

On December 7th the board did a completeness review of the property at 37 Main Street. The new owner is requesting to be permitted to change the building use from office space to a mixed use of residential and retail space. The application was deemed

incomplete, and we look forward to architectural drawings of the second floor and a flood survey from them soon.

We also heard a request for a sign variance for the complex being built on the old A&P property, LUB approved a sign that would be placed on the temporary fence facing Old 22 and will be removed when the site opens.

In January, we re-appointed Craig Sailer as Chairman and Jim Smith as Vice Chair for the coming year.

We also appointed our professionals and swore in 2 new members for 2022. We are excited to welcome Jonas DeVita and Jeremy Padmos to the Board!

We approved an extension for Puleo International, LLC (13 Moebus Place) until June 15, 2022 for submitting revised plans.

We also heard a review from Dr. Seth Cohen and Mrs. Bernadette Wang for the Clinton – Glen Gardner Board of Education, outlining plans to renovate the existing school playground.

Our next scheduled meeting is March 1st. 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



THE PATH FORWARD

Despite the hardship that hit Clinton businesses over the past two years, we are seeing how the extraordinary loyalty of the local community has provided the economic strength to first survive, then to start growing again.

Clinton's Economic Development Committee (EDC) is focused on sustaining this growth while maintaining the town's beloved charm.

In 2020-21, the EDC focused on battling the effects of the pandemic. We promoted our shops, restaurants, and service businesses through short films, social media promotions, directories, and more. Since the restart of the EDC this year, we have the groundwork already laid to shift priorities, kicked off



with Clinton's first Sustainable Economic Study, which was grant-funded.

Using the study as a springboard, we are developing effective strategies for brand-building, regional marketing, signage improvement, and a collective vision moving forward for the Town's business districts.

Setting the path forward the EDC is ready to present the economic study, our database of businesses and properties, and our strategies for the near future. Join us at the March 23rd Town Council Meeting to learn more.

We are excited about the future of our town that we love, and that the hard work behind the scenes will now start taking shape for everyone to see.

New stores are moving into town and the new development at the old A & P site is starting to move to the next phase.

Keep your eyes open for exciting times ahead for our great Town of Clinton. And to contact the EDC, reach out to John Creech at 908-797-8616 or creechjohn6@gmail.com.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

MAYOR KOVACH WINS NATIONAL AWARD

2021 AWARDS

In 2021, CivicPlus held their Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award program that recognizes and honors the Nation's top 100 public service

and public safety volunteers from towns and counties of less than 25,000 in population. The program received nearly 700 nominations from 49 states.



Council Members Megan Johnson, Mike Humphrey and Lisa Intrabartola nominated Mayor Janice Kovach for this award. We are pleased to announce that she was selected as one of the top honorees throughout the Country! Here is a

quote from the nomination:

"The number of lives that Janice Kovach has touched is impressive, but it is how she touched people that makes her truly special. She is equally as passionate

leading the NJ League of Municipalities as she is racing with costumed children with a broken foot; working on the New Jersey Film Commission as she is emptying dozens of overflowing Main Street trash cans during the weekend; from being a three-term Mayor to being repeatedly dunked in a dunk tank to raise money for a worthy cause. She takes all calls, addresses any problems, and makes each interaction feel special."

CLINTON RECEIVES RECREATION GRANT

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program was established to address the large increase in the number of residents and visitors looking to enjoy our outdoor amenities and congregation areas, including our playground and athletic fields.

Through the hard work of Councilwoman Megan Johnson and former Councilwoman Lisa Intrabartola, the Town was one of only 162 local governments that were awarded funding (out of more than 1,200 entities). The \$70,000 grant will be used toward the overall park and playground upgrade project currently being designed.



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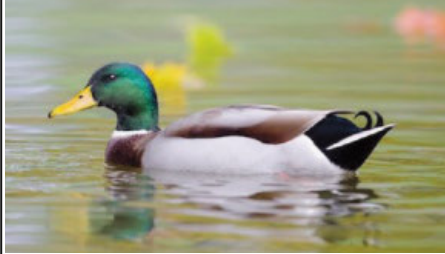
IT'S WHAT WE LOVE

Whether you're a city-dweller or rural native at heart, it's near impossible for anyone to resist the undeniable charm of Clinton's quaint small town business district, be it our charming mom-and-pop businesses that you can't find anywhere else or the completely idyllic scenery. Whether enjoying a hot drink, a cold dessert, or quick bite while strolling along our brick-lined sidewalks, historic buildings, and gorgeous riverfront, Clinton is easy to fall in love with.

As the weather becomes warmer, we encourage you to visit our

growing number of picturesque ice cream stores, restaurants, gift shops, coffee houses, museums, and special annual events. Not to mention the beautiful ducks that call Clinton home.

In the morning you grab some mocha at one of our coffee shops and a delicious breakfast at one of our eateries. Clinton has terrific



options for lunch before picking up your dry-cleaning and a greeting card for that up-coming birthday.

And you can capture the sunset over the Red Mill after

exploring your vast dinner options, from Thai, Italian, Seafood, Hot Dogs, Steaks, Subs, and much more.

To learn more, scan this QR code or visit www.visitclintonnj.com.



We look forward to seeing you again!

CLINTON GUILD

MEET CECILIA COVINO, TOWN CLERK

an interview by Michael Humphrey

I keep hearing from residents that Clinton has such a charming and close-knit small town feel. This can be attributed, in part, to work that Ceil Covino and her great team in the Town Clerk's office does to help our



town residents every day. Ceil has served in one of Clinton's most important roles for more than 22 years. In 2013 she was awarded the *Outstanding Municipal Clerk of the Year* by the New Jersey Municipal Clerks Association.

Ceil took time out of her busy schedule to answer my questions:

Q. What does a Clerk do for a town like Clinton?

A. The clerk is certified by the state to manage many official roles, including the Secretary to the Governing Body, the Administrator of Elections, and so much more. Among the duties of the Clerk's office is the management of the agendas and minutes of all council meetings; maintenance of records, deeds, bonds and vital documents of the Town; issuance of non-construction permits and licenses; registering of voters; and

coordination elections in town.

I really enjoy helping our residents and merchants to explore our town that I love and help new and prospective residents. I enjoy the merchants, the shops, and the wonderful restaurants. And I love planning celebrations, such as our 150th which was wonderful! Clinton's history and charms need to be shared and enjoyed!

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. Serving residents and working with my Deputy Clerk Nancy Burgess and assistant Chris Raposa, who do an amazing job. The most rewarding part of my job is helping when a frustrated resident calls or comes into our office. They want someone to listen, to understand, and to connect them with the best person to answer their questions or solve their issues.

Q. What do you want your legacy to be in Clinton?

A. That I was pleasant, helpful and fun! That I was organized, efficient, and professional. That people could come to me with a problem and I would do everything I could to help solve it!

This is the first of many 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

EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

8th Annual Run of the Mill

8:00 am, Halstead Street

www.therunothemill5k.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

St. Patrick's Day Parade

3:00 - 4:00 pm, Downtown Clinton

www.fssphunterdon.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Free Electronic Waste Recycling

9:00am - 1:00pm, Hunterdon County Rt 12 Complex

www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling/electronics.html

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Friday Game Day for Seniors

2:00-4:00 pm, Clinton Fire Department

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Makers Day

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, County Library on Halstead St.

www.hclibrary.us/branches/northcounty.htm

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 2-3

Military Heritage Weekend

12:00 - 4:00 pm, Red Mill Museum

www.theredmill.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

31st Annual Clinton Town &

Raritan River Cleanup

9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Main Street at Red Mill

www.raritanheadwaters.org

SUNDAYS, MAY 1 - OCTOBER

Clinton Farmer's Market

9:00 am - 1:00 pm, County Library, 65 Halstead St.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Clinton Fishing Derby

8:00 am - 12:00 pm, DeMott Pond

www.clintonsunriserotary.org

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Wheels for the Wheel Car Show

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Red Mill Village

www.theredmill.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

British Car Day

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Red Mill Village

www.theredmill.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Flag Day Parade

6:30 - 8:00 pm, Downtown Clinton

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Cardboard Canoe Races

1:00 - 5:00 pm, Red Mill Village

www.clintonsunriserotary.org

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Rubber Ducky Race

2:00 - 4:00 pm, Downtown at River

www.clintonsunriserotary.org

...AND COMING THIS SUMMER

Inaugural Summer Olympics

Clinton Town vs. Union Township

Spruce Run Park (date & time TBA)

PREVENT YOUR LAWN FROM BECOMING A DRUG ADDICT

It is a myth that pesticides are a mandatory part of landscape care. Pesticides are toxic substances that may pose a health risk to your family, pets and wildlife if they are overused or carelessly applied. According to the American Water Works Association, there is mounting evidence that such chemicals may pose an unacceptable and unnecessary risk to humans and the environment.

There is no such thing as a weed-free or insect-free lawn.

Finding a few weeds or insects in your lawn is not a cause for alarm. Eliminating weeds and insects altogether is not realistic nor necessary for a beautiful lawn. Pesticides can disrupt the ecological balance of your landscape by killing the microbial life, earthworms, beneficial insects and birds that keep “bad” insects in check.

The good news is pesticides are not necessary for a beautiful, low maintenance landscape. So why take the chance if you don't have to? By following some simple practices, you will be able to naturally control most insect and weed problems.

Routine chemicals aren't necessary

If you have been using a chemical program in the past (either do-it-yourself or lawn treatment service), you can stop and still have a beautiful lawn. You may initially experience an increase in weeds; however, this will change as the healthy grass crowds them out. Once restored, it is still important to replenish the soil nutrients. A lawn in transition may need more fertilizer (test your soil to find out for sure), but as your soil gets healthier, the fertilizer requirement will decrease.



Your best defense is your mower

Taller grass (mowed to approximately 3”) will help prevent weeds by shading out the competition. Be sure your mower blade is sharp or you will rip and tear the grass blades, which invites disease.

If you have a few weeds, eliminate them before they spread

Use the “ounce of prevention” approach to weeds – if you stop ten from developing, you won't have a million

to deal with. Look for weed seedlings every time you mow and persistently eliminate them before they get a foothold and spread. Pull them out by hand using a weed fork, making sure to remove the whole plant and the long taproot. To treat recurring weeds, use a vinegar-based herbicide.

Prevent weed germination organically

Corn gluten meal can help prevent weed seeds from germinating, particularly crabgrass. Corn gluten is a natural by-product of the wet milling process of corn. Follow the directions on the bag and apply to trouble areas in the early spring before the forsythia blooms (do not apply at the same time as grass seed). Corn gluten contains 10% nitrogen, so be careful to avoid over-fertilization. Corn gluten may require up to three years of application to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Overseed to crowd out weeds

Weeds are opportunistic and will take advantage of any thin or bare spots in your lawn. Overseeding a thin lawn will thicken it up and crowd out the weeds. Spring or fall is the best time to overseed, but do not apply corn gluten at the same time. Follow these five easy steps, and repeat annually for best results:

- **BUY.** Regardless of what type of lawn you inherited when you moved in, now is your chance to choose the best seed for a great looking lawn. Choose a drought-tolerant variety that has a high percentage of turf-type tall fescues.
- **RAKE.** Give your lawn a good raking to get rid of the dead grass. This will help the new seeds to grow and allow the air, sunlight and rainwater to give your existing lawn new life. This is the hardest part – but it's good exercise and you can even recycle the old grass in your compost bin or pile.
- **COMPOST.** For best results, top-dress the lawn with ¼” of compost (or more in bare spots) before overseeding – but only if your soil test indicates you need to add nutrients. This will help the seeds germinate, take root and grow quickly.
- **SPREAD.** Evenly distribute the grass seeds using a mechanical spreader. Set it at a light setting and go over your lawn several times for the best coverage. Some people find this part fun and very satisfying.
- **WATER.** Give the new seeds a good drink of water to get them started. The seedlings will need to stay moist for a couple of weeks or they will die. Usually in the spring and fall, Mother Nature will take care of this, but if not, give the over seeded areas of your lawn a quick drink every few days.

2022 STARTING STRONG

The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District is proud to recognize the selections for the 2021-2022 Governor's

HIGH SCHOOLS

Educator of the Year Program:

TEACHERS: Michael Owdij, Science teacher at North Hunterdon High School and Reid Kirby, Social Studies teacher at Voorhees High School.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

PROFESSIONALS: Ann Semanchik, Special Education ESP at North Hunterdon High School and Patricia Tomczyk, School Nurse at Voorhees High School. Congratulations to these valuable and hardworking education professionals!

The second semester and 3rd marking period began on January



25, 2022, but the district is already planning for next year. We hope the 8th graders from Clinton Public School enjoyed their orientation in early January at the high schools (Save the date for the North Hunterdon PTSA's 8th Grade Move Up Dance from 7:00-9:00pm on Friday, May 6, 2022). Students have already submitted their course requests for the 2022-

2023 school year, and the calendar can be found at this QR code or at www.nhvweb.net.



Freshman Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022, with the first day of school for all students on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY (and playgrounds)

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. It is through play that children engage and interact in the world around them,

allowing them the chance to create and explore a world they can master and help conquer their fears. Undirected play allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills.

Recognizing how important play is for our students, the Clinton Glen Gardner Board of Education sponsored a referendum on January 25, 2022, to fund the renovation of the Clinton Public School (CPS) playground and outdoor space. The referendum was approved through a vote by residents of the school district.

The focus of the plan is to enhance safety and

eliminate barriers for the more than 430 students who use the space each day, including the following:

- **Undertake the renovation of the existing playground at CPS**
- **Acquire and install new playground equipment**
- **Increase wheelchair accessibility to both the upper and lower parts of the field**
- **Pave the path**
- **Repave the courts**



If you have any questions please reach out to Dr. Seth Cohen via email scohen@cpsnj.org or phone 908-735-8512 x603.

CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

TREE CITY USA

If you are new to the Town of Clinton or a long-time resident, welcome to a Tree City USA! Clinton is one of over 3000 towns and cities across the United States to achieve and maintain this status within the National Arbor Day Foundation. In order to maintain our status, which we have held for nearly 40 years, the town has established by ordinance a Shade Tree



Commission (Dan Shea, Pat Daley, Whitney Wetherill, John Kashwick, Denise Birmingham, Kim Stentz, and Council Liaison Nick Bruno), a budget for tree maintenance and replacement, an

inventory of town trees, a town arborist, and much more.

So what is a town tree? If a tree qualifies as a town tree, its maintenance is the responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission, by law. If the tree does not qualify, it is either on private land, like your yard, or it is on state land. If you have additional questions, please see the Town of Clinton code by scanning this



QR code or visiting

www.ecode360.com/CL0749.

The Shade Tree Commission meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month, and the meetings are open to the public. Currently our meetings are virtual thru Zoom.

Please check the town's website calendar at www.clintonnj.gov for the link to join the meetings. We love to have members of the public join our meetings!

One of the current projects our a program to distribute trees to our residents. The State of New Jersey is providing us with an allotment that will be chosen by the state's arborists. The list of available trees includes several species native to this region (like the White Pine), and a few unusual and relatively exotic species (like Japanese Dogwood). These trees are usually three-foot saplings. It is important to note that when planting your tree, it is essential to choose a location that is safe from deer and foot traffic, which can impede its growth.

And please check the website for our town's Arbor Day celebration and our tree planting ceremony, which will be held in late April.

SHADE TREE

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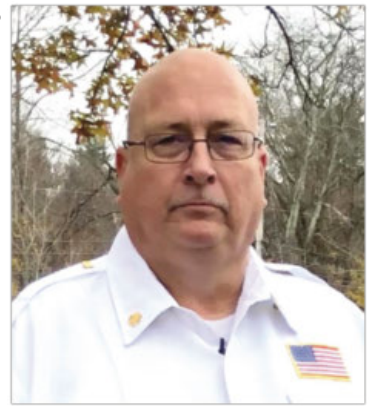
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FRANK SETNICKY BECOMES FIRST FULL-TIME PAID CHIEF

South Branch Emergency Services is pleased to appoint long-time volunteer Chief Frank Setnicky as the organization's first full-time paid chief.

Setnicky has lead SBES and the former Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad for decades. He already had six year's experience as a volunteer EMT when he joined Clinton in 1984, and has been chief for the majority of those years. He also has significant experience as a full-time paid EMT and EMS chief. He retired in fall 2021 as chief of Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad, a job he held for 15 years. He had served Princeton as a career EMT for the previous two decades.



Frank Setnicky

As of January when the merger with Hampton takes effect, Setnicky will oversee the emergency services that SBES offers to the Town of Clinton, Clinton Township, Lebanon Borough, High Bridge Borough, Hampton, Glen Gardner and portions of Bethlehem, Franklin, Union, and Tewksbury townships. He will lead 90 volunteers, 32 career EMTs, and 15 instructors who teach the courses offered at the SBES Training Center.

"Now, I will have even more time to commit to South Branch Emergency Services than when I volunteered here but worked full-time elsewhere," Setnicky said. "I will still ride the ambulance once a week, as I do now."

Setnicky and Burham both acknowledged the contributions Buchanan has made to first Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad and now SBES and thanked him for his dedication.

"Bucky brought us a long way, and did a terrific job as the day-to-day face of the squad. He has put us in a great position to move forward," Setnicky said. "We will miss him, but we're happy for him."

SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

The chief's responsibilities have grown significantly along with an increase in service area and people served. In 2020, the former Clinton First Aid & Rescue and High Bridge Emergency squads merged to create SBES. On January 1, 2022, Hampton Emergency Squad and SBES completed their merger.

"The decision to reconfigure SBES's top job was two-fold," said President Sharon Burham.

The chief's responsibilities have



Bucky Buchanan

When Deputy Chief of EMS/Operations Bucky Buchanan announced he would leave SBES in January to serve on the New Jersey EMS Task Force, "It seemed like the right time to combine most of the two leadership positions into a single, full-time, paid role," Burham said. "We were very lucky that Frank - with his years of experience in volunteer and career EMS leadership, his vast

knowledge of the profession, and the tremendous relationships he already has with our career and volunteer staff - was available."

The Town of Clinton is excited to bring back the Summer Recreation Program this July. The Summer

Recreation Program has been around for decades here in Clinton. Many children



year brings some updates in order to better serve our families and community. We will be offering both half-day and full-day options as well as before-care and after-care.

We know this is going to be an awesome program and we can't wait to see the kids again this summer! To learn more, scan this QR Code:



SUMMER RECREATION

and families have enjoyed spending the summer hanging with friends, enjoying ice cream trips downtown and spray downs from our very own Clinton Fire Department. Our four-

week program features engaging activities, contests, workshops, demonstrations and field trips in a safe, familiar environment for students entering K-7th grade. This

GIVING BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Clinton Fire Department has been a priceless partner in our beloved holiday celebrations. Here are just a few highlights from 2021:

11/21 - Assisted with setting up the Christmas Tree at Dora Restaurant. The tree was donated by the Wintermute Family, who have served the CFD for generations.

11/26 - Escorted Santa downtown to the Christmas Tree Lighting to visit with families.

11/24 & 11/26 - Boot Donation Drive at the I-78 Exit 15 off ramp



OPEN CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

A lovely set of parents walk in to the pantry and stops at the front desk. This is their first time here, so they're a little nervous and unsure of the procedure. So a volunteer greets them with a warm smile, hands them a tablet, and reassuringly explains the simple steps to get started.

In a matter of minutes, their basic food and personal care list is assembled by volunteers. While that is happening, the couple fills a bag with staple items of their own choosing, like bread and fresh fruits and vegetables. The bags are weighed and then loaded



12/3 - Participated in the Clinton Christmas Parade in town. Along with our mutual aid partners we also provide fire standbys (considering the large number of people in the town that night).

12/10 - Supported the Union Township Tree Lighting ceremony.

12/11 - Hosted annual awards and holiday party.

12/18 - Assisted with Santa delivering gift around town to families.

12/20 & 12/21 - Ushered Satna around town on his sleigh to see the residents of Clinton and Union Twp before his Christmas Eve trip.

12/25 - Christmas Night the CFD staffed the station as Squad 51, a program that is part of the North Hunterdon Fire Alliance and provides a staffed Engine Company for 5 towns every Saturday night.

**CLINTON FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

The Clinton Fire Department Needs Your Donations Today. Scan this QR code or visit www.clintonfd.org/donate-online



into their car. They are so thankful for everything that the volunteers have done for them as they head out.

This is the part that most people don't see, even those who donate regularly. But it's what the pantry is all about – helping to feed hungry residents of our own community. Although less visible than in urban areas, there is significant need in Hunterdon County.

Neighbors helping neighbors

When you donate to the pantry, or shop in the Thrift Shop, you are supporting your neighbors who need assistance buying food for themselves and their families. Though you may never see the people you're helping, know that they are there and filled with gratitude for your generosity.

Open Cupboard Food Pantry, Inc., is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency. The pantry is staffed by volunteers and funded by donations of food and money, and by proceeds of our in-house Thrift Shop, which accepts and sells gently used clothing and household items. We also gratefully welcome donations of your time and talents as volunteers. To learn more, call us at 908-730-7320 or visit opencupboardfoodpantry.org.

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KEEPING CLINTON GREEN

If you like that idea of beautiful native gardens sprinkled throughout Clinton, then you will love The Clinton Conservancy.

2021 was a very productive year for the group. A new Children's Garden was started at Hunt's Mill Park complete with an Alphabet Fence, Hop Scotch game and a secret garden. Group members, neighborhood families, and Kim

Rogan and her Girl Scout troop helped paint some of the fence slats. Each colorful slat not only featured a letter of the alphabet but flowers, animals or insects whose name started with that letter. MSI Plumbing donated an arbor entrance to a secret garden. A scent garden and more pollinator garden plans are in the works for 2022.

Starting with a grant from Sustainable Jersey in 2017, the

Conservancy has grown to build several gardens all through our parks and along our waterways. If getting out into the warm sun and spending a few hours making our town more beautiful, then reach out to Denise Birmingham at dbquilts184@gmail.com to get a friendly overview.

CLINTON CONSERVANCY

ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Braving a cold wintery night on January 17th, numerous local residents and more than twenty organizations celebrated Clinton's 2nd Volunteer Fair. It was simply fascinating to hear about the exciting opportunities that are available.

One example is Volunteer Guardianship One-on-One, which recruits, trains, and provides ongoing support to individuals willing to serve as legal guardians for incapacitated adults. It is one of the only organizations of its kind in the United States, and worth learning more about.

(www.volunteerguardianship.org).

Another is the Raritan Headwaters Association, which serves as the watchdog for the 470-square-mile North and South Branch Raritan watershed. Safeguarding these "headwaters" means clean, safe water for 300,000 watershed residents and 1.5 million New Jerseyans living downstream in more urban areas that depend on the water that comes from our rivers and reservoirs. They help sponsor Clinton's Annual Town and River Cleanup Day, on Saturday, April 23rd this year.

(www.raritanheadwaters.org)

Here is a partial list of organizations who are seeking people who want to make a difference in our community:

- Clinton Fire Department
- South Branch Emergency Services
- Clinton Environmental Commission
- Clinton Historic Commission
- Clinton Shade Tree Commission
- The Platinum Club
- The Guild of Clinton
- Hunterdon Art Museum
- The Red Mill Village
- Clinton Sunrise Rotary
- United Way of Hunterdon
- Volunteer Guardianship One-on-One
- Open Cupboard Pantry
- Raritan Headwaters
- Clinton Conservancy
- Friendly Sons of St. Patrick/Hunterdon
- The Outreach Connection
- Basecamp 31
- CASA Shaw
- CPS PTO
- North Branch Hunterdon Library

[Reach Out Today!](#)

VOLUNTEERING

GETTING BACK TO FUN

The Town of Clinton Parks and Recreation Committee wishes to thank all the town residents who joined us for the variety of events that were hosted in 2021, including:

Movie Night at Clinton Public School, co-sponsored by the PTO.

Canoe Races. Sponsors included the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and the Pender Family.

Town Picnic at Hunts Mill Park, which included a brilliant fireworks display.

Whitehouse Wind Symphony performed on the patio at the Hunterdon Art Museum, then returned later in the Summer for a free event at the Red Mill.

1st Annual "Light the Night" was a huge success with hundreds of Town residents placing luminaries in front of their homes for the holidays.

Annual Yuletide Bonfire (highlighted on the next page).

The Parks and Recreation Committee looks forward to bringing you these events and more in the 2022 calendar year. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Councilman Kyle Perloff at kperloff@clintonnj.gov.

RECREATION

A HOT NIGHT!

The Town of Clinton Recreation Committee held its 13th Annual Yuletide Bonfire on Saturday, February 12th at Hunts Mill Park.

CLINTON BONFIRE

This year's event, according to Recreation Committee member Sean Rogan, was "the biggest crowd we've ever had. It's a perfect time to get everybody out, especially with the pandemic

calming down a bit. We can have some fun and get the community together. I am super grateful for all of



our sponsors, and everything we are able to do for the Clinton Fire Department, over \$13,000 raised. We also raised just under \$1,000 for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. This is what community means."

Braving the crisp weather, the event started at dusk. As the Clinton Fire Department built a controlled fire with stacks of wooden pallets, local neighbors climbed aboard horse-drawn wagons, roasted marshmallows, and enjoyed music by the St. Ann's of Hampton Pipes and Drums.

Despite issues related to the pandemic, the bonfire has become a cherished event by the Town of Clinton.

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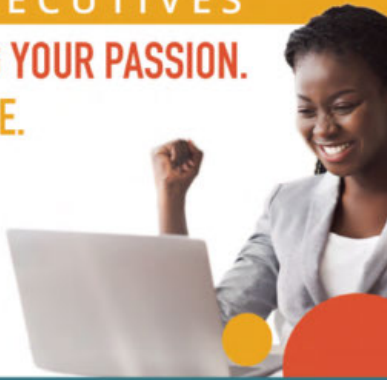


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ZONING OFFICER | Allison Witt

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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



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TRASH PICKUP: EVERY TUESDAY



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