

Town of Clinton Newsletter



Photo by Ross Traphagen

SEPTEMBER

2020

Fall in the
Town of Clinton

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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FROM THE MAYOR



**JANICE
KOVACH**

2020 has felt like a never ending Groundhog Day for most us...and seemingly with no end in sight. I've used this time home to re-connect with family and friends. Most of those connections have been virtual and the hysterics of watching relatives try to navigate technology are well worth it.

This time has also shown us the strength of our community and coming together to support one another. I know we would all like to "bounce back" and get back to normal. We reject the unknown and yearn for the old normal. But what if we took a different approach and embraced a **"bounce forward"**? Could this be an opportunity to write a new

story? Can we gain strength and become more resilient in the process? Every January 1st we all have our good intentions of re-writing what our year will look like - this year has given us an extended version of planning our year!

As we continue to navigate this unprecedented time, with children back to school, residents back to work, businesses struggling to remain open, and our normal activities suspended, remember that we are here for one another - reach out to us and ask for help. There is no shame in leaning on one another during difficult times and that is what we are here for - as always please feel free to reach out via cell 908-399-8921 or email jkovach@clintonnj.gov at any time.

Be well and stay safe and we will come out on the opposite side stronger and better!

#clintontownstrong



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TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 27, 2020

DONATION TO FOOD PANTRY

Mayor Kovach reported that the teachers at Clinton Public School donated \$1,478 to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, and sent bagels to the town employees to thank essential employees. North Hunterdon High School teachers' association sent breakfast to first responders.

VIRTUAL ARBOR DAY

The Shade Tree Commission held their annual Arbor Day celebration virtually. The tree was planted on East Main Street and named Angel. Seedlings were made available to third graders at CPS.

RESTART COMMITTEE

Council has formed a new "Restart/Reopen" Committee comprised of Mayor Kovach, Councilman Humphrey, and Councilwoman Karsh. The group met with business owners in Town to listen to their struggles and concerns during this difficult time and learn how the town can provide assistance.

2020 BUDGET

Council adopted the 2020 Municipal Budget.

JUNE 10, 2020

GRADUATION MOTOCADE

Chief Kubinak shared the routes for the Clinton Public School graduation motorcade on June 11, 2020, and for the North Hunterdon High School graduate car parade on June 12, 2020.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENT

Kathy Olsen, CFO, reported that residents are now able to pay their taxes, water, and sewer bills via the Town website at www.clintonnj.gov.

FRIDAY MUSIC NIGHTS

The Guild of Clinton is holding the Come Together Music Nights on Fridays from June 12, 2020 through September.

RESCUE SQUAD MERGER

Effective July 1, 2020 the Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad will merge with High Bridge, and the joint venture will be named South Branch Emergency Services.

MAYOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NJLM

Mayor Kovach will be sworn in as the President of the NJ League of Municipalities on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

The Clinton Fire Department announced their new officers: President Tim Vansalous, and Vice President Bob Hoffman.

JUNE 15, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING

Council passed Resolutions 103-20 and 104-20, allowing for outdoor dining and allowing the Clinton House to extend their liquor license to the outdoor seating area.

JUNE 24, 2020

NEW HIRE

Anthony Duarte was hired to work with the DPW and Water Department.

A&P REDEVELOPMENT

Geoff Long, of Ingerman, presented an updated plan for the redevelopment on the site of the former A&P. The revised plan changes the initial two building concept to one building. It will still house retail space on the ground floor with housing units above.

PLAYGROUND REVITALIZATION GRANT

The Recreation Commission received a grant for the planned revitalization of the playground at the Community Center. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the project.

ONLINE DONATION FOR FIRE

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

JULY 8, 2020

POLICE CHIEF APPOINTMENT

J. Cory Kubinak received his permanent appointment as Chief of Police.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CENSUS

Katherine Abarca, Community Outreach Liaison from United Way of Hunterdon County, asked to spread the word to have all town residents complete the 2020 Census so we will have an accurate count and ensure proper funding for services such as Medicaid, public transportation, housing, etc.

CLINTON NAMED A TREE CITY USA

The Arbor Day Foundation sent a letter of congratulations to the Town of Clinton for earning recognition as a 2019 Tree City USA.

JULY 22, 2020

NEW HIRE FOR FIRE INSPECTOR

Dennis Allen was hired as Fire Sub-Code Official and Fire Inspector.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE

The Recreation Commission is working with the Guild of Clinton to host a drive-in movie in Hunts Mill Park. More information will follow.

NEW BENCH

There is a new bench downtown with a plaque bearing the name of the owner of the Clinton Five and Dime, Mr. Ballentine. His children purchased it in celebration of their father's 85th birthday.



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TOWN UPDATES

TAX AND UTILITY BILLS

The Town of Clinton will now accept tax, water and sewer payments via our website. If you pay your utility bills via your bank's online bill pay, PLEASE CHANGE THE ACCOUNT NUMBERS to correspond with the new account numbers assigned in January 2020. Please see important information about this at www.clintonnj.gov/billpayFAQ.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

While the Town does collect grass clippings each week, we strongly encourage residents to mow their lawns with a lawnmower that is equipped with a mulching blade. First, the clippings actually help to improve the strength and health of your lawn. Second, by not bagging the grass clippings, the Town does not have to pay the trash hauler to dispose of them. For more information on our trash, recycling, brush and leaf collection schedules, please visit our website at www.clintonnj.gov/sites/clintonnj/files/uploads/recycling_brochure_2020_for_website_0.pdf.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

If you know anyone who may be eligible to qualify for affordable housing, please download an application from our website at www.clintonnj.gov/forms.html. Complete the application and return to us at PO Box 5194, Clinton, NJ 08809.

RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

By following three simple guidelines, you can save your family and the town taxpayer dollars:

- **Know what to throw** - Cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs.
- **Empty. Clean. Dry.**™ - Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid.
- **Don't bag it**—Never put recyclables in containers or bags.

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
 - * YouTube—<https://bit.ly/2P8uINh>
- ◆ Town of Clinton Police Department - <https://bit.ly/3bTpiJK>
- ◆ Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad - www.clintonems.org
- ◆ Clinton Fire Department - www.clintonfd.org
- ◆ Hunterdon County - www.co.hunterdon.nj.us
- ◆ Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety - www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/911

BRUSH COLLECTION

The 2020 Brush Collection Schedule is active now thru October. 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.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE

For residents with shrubs/plants that overhang into the sidewalks, we ask that you please trim them accordingly. The last thing we want is for a pedestrian to be forced into the street due to an overgrown shrub.

GARBAGE

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.*

RECYCLING

Residents are invited to take advantage of free scrap metal recycling offered by the Town. Recycling dumpsters are located at the Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant (2 Ramsey Road), and are open Monday through Friday from 7AM – 3PM.

Rich Phelan
Business Administrator
(p) 908-735-8616
(e) rphelan@clintonnj.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RESIDENTS SUPPORTING CLINTON BUSINESSES

The Economic Development Committee thanks all of the residents who have gone out of their way to buy local and support our community businesses. We continue to work together to find creative approaches to the challenges facing our Town, from imminent threats to our small business community to long term sustainability concerns.

As the Founding Chair of the EDC we have worked with our business owners and recognize first-hand the struggle that our businesses are facing. That is why we continue to pursue long term plans that will support and sustain not just the existing business community, but the entire community. Sound planning takes not only time and patience, but experience and creative thinking.

As the Fall approaches, the challenges we face will likely increase. Our charming Main Street will continue to need your loyal support. To help residents we provided a listing of our local

merchants on pages 8 & 9 of this Newsletter. Please make them your first choice whenever you can.

As you may have seen, the EDC created a video series that highlighted participating businesses and the various parking options in town. Feel free to visit and share the entire series at www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov. If you own a business in Town and want to participate, please reach out.

In the days and months to come, I ask that you continue to support our community by shopping locally, contributing to our local economy, sending me any thoughts and ideas you have, and lending your support to our business owners who are working so hard right now.

Rielly Karsh
Economic Development Chair
(e) rkarsh@clintonnj.gov
(p) 917-478-8699



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LAND USE BOARD

BUSY FALL SCHEDULE

Fall is quickly approaching, and thanks to Zoom, the Land Use Board is fully operational and expects to be busy in the coming months.

Our regular monthly meeting on September 1st will be the Site Plan Application hearing for 82 West Clinton, LLC. This is the location of the Shell gas station on West Main Street. They are seeking to expand the use of the property to include the location of a drive-thru Dunkin Donuts.

No new business will be taken after 10 PM so should the hearing for this application go longer, it will be tabled until the next scheduled monthly meeting. The

Land Use Board may call additional meetings, upon approval.

This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Please go to Calendar events on clintonnj.gov for the Zoom link, meeting ID and passcode. Questions from the public are welcome.

The Board also anticipates receiving an application from Ingerman Development for the redevelopment of the A&P property in the near future. Once the application is deemed complete, it will be added to the schedule and the Board will determine how that hearing will be handled (whether in person or virtual, etc.) Look for more details to follow.

Deegan Roofing and Siding has also reached out the Board saying they are in the process of purchasing the property at 9 Old Highway 22 (previously Bill's Garage). We expect an application from them in the next coming months as well.

Our regular monthly meetings are held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month. 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.

Allison Witt
Zoning Officer
(p) 908-735-2275
(e) awitt@clintonnj.gov

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WEST MAIN STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Clinton Water Department undergoes many infrastructure projects throughout our service area each year. Whether it is replacing a water main or making upgrades to our well houses, all of these projects ensure that the water we provide to our customers is of the highest quality with the least interruption in service. As part of our ongoing Capital Improvement Plan, the water main located on West Main Street (from Exit 15 to the Clinton House), which is the source of water to your property, is scheduled to be replaced this summer as it has reached the end of its useful life. However, for obvious reasons, working on this road can be extremely difficult and can be an inconvenience for residents and visitors alike

The first phase, which will start on August 17, 2020 during daytime hours, will involve the installation of temporary water services to all affected properties. This will ensure that all customers will have uninterrupted water service during the entire

project. The second phase of this project will commence during overnight hours and will be more invasive, and involves the removal and replacement of approximately 3,000 feet of aged water main and replacement with new pipe in the same location.

During this project, we expect intermittent road closures and/or alternating traffic. While drivers may experience some inconvenience, these much needed projects will replace infrastructure that has reached its life expectancy, while significantly improving mobility for pedestrians and vehicles alike. We understand that anytime infrastructure improvements occur, they can be an inconvenience for both pedestrians and vehicles alike, and thank you in advance for your patience. The Town will be providing updates via our website, Facebook and Twitter during the duration of the project with the ultimate goal of minimizing any inconvenience.

If you have any questions or concerns before, during or after the project, please contact the Town's Administrator, Rich Phelan at 908-735-8616 or rphelan@clintonnj.gov.

CLINTON RESTAURANTS/FOOD STORES

Baja Burrito

5 Old Hwy 22
(908) 335-8175
www.bajaburritoco.com

Basil Bandwagon Natural Market

38 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-3822
www.basilbandwagon.com

Bo Bo Kitchen

42 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-5010

Clinton Bagel Co

38 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-9800
www.clintonbagelcompany.com

Clinton Burger Co.

10 Leigh Street
(908) 335-8238
www.clintonburgerco.com

The Clinton House & Bakery

2 W Main Street
(908) 730-9300
www.theclintonhouse.com

Clinton Towne Restaurant

31 Main Street
(908) 735-7559
www.clintontownerestaurant.com

Christie's Artisan Bread & Pastry Shop

27 Leigh Street
(908) 735-0402
www.christiesbakeshop.com

Citispot Tea & Coffee

44 Main Street
(908) 735-0307

The Clean Plate Kitchen

49 Main Street
(908) 200-7610
www.cleanplateclinton.com

Designer Dawgs

3 Main Street
(908) 200-7353
www.designer-dawgs.com

Dominick's Pizzeria

44B Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-4412
www.dominickspizzaclinton.com

Dora's Restaurant

17 Main Street
(908) 735-4171
www.dorarestaurant.com

Elite Meat

23 Old Hwy 22
(908) 200-7350
www.elitemeatnj.com

El Quetzal

23 Main Street
(908) 713-0104

Grounded for Life Café

12 Lower Center Street
(908) 894-5258
www.groundedforlifecafe.com

JJ Scoops

1 Main Street
(908) 730-0988
www.jjscoops.com

Just Chill Frozen Desserts & Creperie

47 Main Street
(908) 963-3491
www.justchillfroyo.com

Just Subs Clinton

39 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-7373
www.just-subbs.com

Krauszer's Food Store

10 Old Hwy 22
(908) 238-0132

Lenny's House of Pizza

27 Old Hwy 22
(908) 238-1010
www.lennypizzaclinton.com

Neo Sushi

42 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-8889
www.neosushiclinton.com

Pru Thai

6 E Main Street #101
(908) 735-0703
www.pruthai.com

Riverside Coffee & Tea

51 Main Street
(908) 894-5808

Rosemarie's Cucina

10 E Main Street
(908) 323-2380
www.rosemariescucina.com

Subway

32 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-2280
www.subway.com

Waterfall Patio Holiday Inn

111 West Main Street
(908) 735-5111

Ye Olde Sub Base

29 Main Street
(908) 735-8870



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www.audiovideositynergy.com

Balic of Clinton

20 Main Street
(908) 713-9463
www.balicofclinton.com

Bearpaw Leather Shop

40 Main Street
(908) 735-7351
www.facebook.com/Bearpaw-Leather-Shop-143571535656328/

Beyond Bijoux

12 Main Street
(908) 200-7721
www.facebook.com/BeyondBijoux1

Chameleon Blue

19 Main Street
(908) 730-0058
www.chameleonblue.com

Charlie's Bootery

40 Main Street
(908) 735-5020

Christine's Bath & Gift Boutique

49 Main Street
(908) 735-7627
www.facebook.com/christinessoaps

Clinton Bicycle Shop

51 Main Street
(908) 735-5451
www.clintonbicycleshopllc.com

The Clinton Frameworks

19-20 Main Street
(908) 397-2433
www.clintonframeworks.com

Clinton Guitars

6 E. Main Street
(908) 894-5332
www.clintonguitars.com

Clinton Pharmacy

30 Main Street
(908) 735-5316
www.facebook.com/ClintonPharmacy

Dickens Jewelers & Design Studio

22 Main Street
(908) 730-6644
www.dickensjewelersnj.com

Expressive Stitches

8 Main Street
(908) 735-2140
www.expressivestitches.com

Fourchette

36 Main Street
(908) 442-8675
www.fourchette-fromage.com

Fox Lumber

11 West Main Street
908-735-5178
www.foxlumbernj.com

Greens & Beans

19 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-5011
www.greensnbeans.com

Heartstrings

10 Main Street
(908) 735-4020
www.heartstringslifestyle.net

Hunterdon Christian Books

26 Main Street
(908) 238-0988

Hunts Mill Pharmacy

14 Main Street
(855) 612-1387

Jayne's Hallmark Shop

11 Main Street
(908) 735-5229
<https://stores.hallmark.com/nj/clinton/>

Kristopher Mark Designs

33 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-9695
www.kristophermark.com

Made To Order Jewelers

44 Main Street
(908) 735-4244
www.madetoorder.net

Mavis Discount Tire

68 Old Hwy 22
(908) 271-2362
www.mavistire.com

NAPA Auto Parts

53 1/2 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-5012
www.napaonline.com

ShopRite Wines & Spirits

41 Old Hwy 22
(908) 735-7205
www.shopritewine.com

Spruce Run Printing

24 Main Street
(908) 638-6464
www.sprucerunprinting.com

The Vintage Shoppe

21 Leigh Street
(908) 735-0404
<https://www.facebook.com/thevintageshoppeclinton/>

Walgreens

37 Old, US-22
(908) 735-4131
www.walgreens.com

39 Mine on Main

25 Main Street
(908) 200-7874
www.39mine.com

For the next issue of the Clinton Newsletter, the EDC will list Service Businesses (salons, auto repair, real estate, attorneys, accountants, financial, etc.).

If you are based in Clinton and wish to be included on the list of services, please reach out EDC Chair Rielly Karsh at rkarsh@clintonnj.gov.

SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

IT'S DONE !

The merger of Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad and High Bridge Emergency Squad is complete. The mission to provide the highest quality emergency medical care continues. More volunteers are needed now.

SERVING CLINTON, HIGHBRIDGE, AND MORE

When someone in these communities needs urgent medical treatment, emergency rescue, or rapid and safe hospital transit, South Branch Emergency Services now answers the call.

South Branch Emergency Services was created by the merger of two long-serving emergency service organizations: Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad and High Bridge Emergency Squad. Research convinced leaders of both founding organizations and a Steering Committee of residents, business owners, and elected officials from both communities that a merger would yield quicker response times and other efficiencies.

The Committee provided planning and guidance that resulted in the new South Branch Emergency Services (SBES), which launched July 1. SBES serves the Town of Clinton, Clinton Township, High Bridge, Lebanon Borough, and parts of Franklin and Union Township.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED NOW

The need for emergency medical care has never been greater. South Branch Chief Frank Setnicky and Battalion Chief John "JT" Silliman agree that the key to continuously improving service as call volume rises is simple: More volunteers.

"There is a nationwide shortage of volunteer first responders, and we have felt the impact here in Hunterdon County, too," Silliman said. "Once people realize we are a predominantly volunteer organization, we need volunteers now, and that no experience is necessary to join, they will want to help.

Training begins with specialized CPR and first aid classes, after which volunteers can assist EMTs on ambulance calls, gaining experience that helps prepare them for the EMT course and exams. Training includes learning how to safely lift a patient to preventing the spread of viruses, including COVID-19.

Those interested should visit www.SBES365.org to learn more.

Chief Frank Senicky
(p) 908) 735-4012
(e) mhumphrey@clintonnj.gov

CPS STUDENTS RAISE \$600+ FOR NJ CHARITIES

This summer, the cancellation of many camps, sports and recreational activities left Clinton's children with a lot of unscheduled time on their hands.

Several CPS students chose to keep busy by getting crafty and giving back to people and pets in need. They painted decorative rocks, wove friendship bracelets, baked sweet treats and launched Facebook campaigns – with the help of their parents – to sell their wares to friends and neighbors. Their efforts raised more than \$600 – and counting – for local and state nonprofit organizations.

Fifth-grader, Maeve Rogan, 10, raised \$147 for St. Hubert's Animal Shelter by organizing a cookie sale. She baked more than 125 sugar cookies and delivered them to neighbors and classmates. This



summer she generated another \$96 for the Madison-based nonprofit by making homemade dog treats and delivering them to friends around town.

"I chose to help St. Hubert's because I thought that the animals might need more help now during COVID than they did before," Maeve said.

Sixth-grader Skylar Burr, 11, and fourth-grader Ella Hingelberg, 9, formed "Hingelburr Bracelets," during a socially distant play-date in

Skylar's backyard spent weaving bracelets for their stuffed animals.

Since one of Ella and Skylar's neighbors is a member of the Clinton Fire Department, the pair dedicated their \$150 profit to Clinton Fire and Rescue. In August, they came out with all new designs and plan to donate the proceeds of that sale to Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton.

Sixth-graders Keegan Hissner, 11, and Katie Sampson, 11, decided to pour their creative juices into painting garden rocks with colorful designs and inspirational quotes.

The two raised \$237 for The Last Resort Animal Rescue and Refuge, where Keegan's family had recently adopted their 8-month-old black Lab mix, Bailey.

Their colorful and uplifting rocks are in now nestled in gardens throughout town and scattered around the grounds of CPS.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MULCH

I'm an avid listener of Mike McGrath's "You Bet Your Garden" radio program and podcasts. McGrath, the former editor of *Organic Gardening* magazine, promotes mulching of leaves. As we enter the fall leaf season, I want to extoll the virtues of leaf-mulching. Lawn care experts see those leaves as money on the ground. They are happy to suck up and take it from you.

Be a savvy gardener, as the leaves fall use your mulching mower with a grass catcher to collect the leaves. If you have a leaf-blower you can apparently get attachment to vacuum and grind the leaves, but that is not necessary. Make sure the lawn is dry! After collecting the leaves, store them in plastic bags. You can then use as a top layer to keep plants at a more even temperature throughout the winter. The following spring and summer mulch your vegetable and flowerbeds to reduce weed growth and keep the soil evenly moist. Ground up leaves are far better than commercial wood chips which may contain toxins and dyes. The decomposing leaves provide organic nutrients to your plants.

If you compost, just mix the leaves with the vegetable waste from the kitchen or compost them on their own. The compost can then be bagged to give to unsuspecting relatives over the holidays or used to enhance the soil in your gardens.

But even if you don't want to use the ground up leaves for any of these purposes, you can still leave them to decompose on your lawn. I have a mulching mower, if you do not have one, you may have to go over them a second time to make sure the bits are small enough. Just grind up the leaves and grass clippings with the mower and leave them. It may not look pretty for a while, but soon the leaves melt into the ground to feed your lawn. For centuries we never used chemical fertilizers on our lawns, and they thrived. It's only after WWII that we started bombing our lawns with fertilizer and pesticides.

I was skeptical, but last fall we just mowed over the leaves and left the particles on the lawn. No raking! No dragging of leaves to the curb! We have huge ash trees we are keeping alive with treatments every other year. They produce a load of leaves. I was concerned that the leaves would become matted down and kill the grass. Nope. This spring, the lawn was fine and the weeds were kept to a minimum.

Remember there is no need for raking and leaf-blowing. Leaves can be re-used and recycled on your own lawn or garden to provide nutrients to your soil. organically like nature intended.

John Kashwick
Chair, Shade Tree Commission
(p) 908-735-8616
(e) jkashwick@gmail.com

HISTORIC COMMISSION

REDEVELOPMENT ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

The Clinton Historic Preservation Commission has been active over the last few months with discussions about the redevelopment of the vacant former A&P property.

The developer for the property attended one of the commission's meetings to go over the architectural design of the building. The commission provided feedback on ways to design the building to better fit in and blend with the historic character of Clinton.

Many examples of fine historic architecture in town were mentioned, such as the Municipal Building which was once the Leigh Family Mansion, as well as the many unique buildings on Main Street. Various specific architectural details were discussed, such as brick work, the style of porch columns, cornice styles around windows, use of shutters, and more. The cupola atop the Municipal Building was also referenced as an interesting feature that could be incorporated.

The developer has since taken this feedback and has been working on revising the plans,

and will be meeting again with commission once the revisions are complete. Soon after meeting with the Historic Preservation Commission for a final discussion, it is the developers intent to begin to officially start the process with the Land Use Board.

Roger Mellick
Chairman
(p) 908-310-0545
(e) mellickr@cs.com

CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

WELCOME

We are looking forward to welcoming back our students and getting back to as many of our cherished CPS routines as possible! Although our Kindergarten Orientation was virtual, we have in-person Newcomers Day scheduled for Thursday, August 27th! Our teachers have been attending workshops this summer to hone their skills for both in-person and virtual learning, so we are well prepared to meet the educational and emotional needs of our students.

We are determined to create a safe haven for our students where they can express their thoughts and know that they will be heard as important and integral part of our bulldog community. We are confident that the upcoming school year will provide an enriching experience in a variety of ways. If you have any curricular concerns or thoughts you would like to share, please feel free to email the Assistant Principal, Jacqueline Turner, at jturner@cpsnj.org.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

Over the last month, CPS staff and community members have been working on plans to safely reopen our school. As you are aware, these plans and requirements are comprehensive. The schedule that

has been chosen will reduce the number of students in each class allowing for social distancing and a lower student to teacher ratio. Additionally, families have the option to have their children continue to learn remotely. Parallel to these decisions, the Special Education Department has been brainstorming and researching best practices to ensure student needs are being met through the hybrid and fully virtual model.

During this time, all providers on your child's IEP team are working collaboratively to ensure enhanced delivery of instruction and related service. Therapists, teachers, and child study team members will continue to be available for virtual meetings to provide additional support and consultation about the learning process when we transition back to school in September. The goal of our teaching staff and therapist is to continue to provide services to our students with disabilities through different modalities designed in consideration of the student's needs and learning format (hybrid or fully remote).

Therapists and teachers will be available to meet one on one or in small groups to provide their instruction. Please visit the Special Education Website for more information at www.cpsnj.org/domain/63 or email Dr. Jenine Kastner, atjkastner@cpsnj.org.

NJ DEPT. OF HEALTH COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children may be similar to those of common viral respiratory infections or other childhood illnesses. The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms and other common illnesses means that many people with symptoms of COVID-19 may actually be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year. Symptoms range from mild to severe illness. There is not a single symptom that is uniquely predictive of a COVID-19 diagnosis. A COVID-19 viral test is needed to confirm if someone has a current infection.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include the following:

**Fever or chills • Cough •
Difficulty breathing • Fatigue •
Muscle or body aches •
Headache • New loss of taste or
smell • Sore throat •
Congestion or runny nose •
Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea.**

**Parents should not send
students to school when sick**

Seth Cohen
Superintendent/Principal
Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Ed.
(p) (908) 735-8512
(e) scohen@cpsnj.org

NORTH HUNTERDON-VORHEES HIGH SCHOOLS

REOPENING

At the time of this article, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District will be reopening for the 2020-2021 school year with some in-person instruction per the guidelines released by the New Jersey Department of Education and the Governor. The high school district will implement a hybrid schedule of in-person and virtual instruction, along

with an option for students to be on 100% virtual instruction. The district's reopening plan has been published on the district and high school websites - <http://www.nhvweb.net/index.php/reopening-plan-for-2020-2021-school-year/>. This plan is subject to change per any new or revised guidelines received from the Governor or Department of Education.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

NORTH HUNTERDON - VORHEES HS (cont.)

Through the hybrid schedule, the student population will be split in half alphabetically: Group A are students with last names A-L and Group B are students with last names M-Z (groups will be reorganized each marking period). The Groups will alternate each week for in-person instruction in the buildings. The Group that is at home on a given week will follow the same bell schedule as students in school for synchronous learning. Teachers will live stream their classes through Zoom or Google Meet for students at home on virtual instruction. All students in the high school district are provided with a Chromebook and school email and Google Drive accounts, which they will utilize each school day. Only four blocks will meet per day in order to minimize the amount of times students and teachers are changing classrooms. The district will follow an early dismissal schedule with the school day ending at 12:00pm as the district is unable to accommodate serving lunches while maintaining health and safety guidelines.

As per the Governor's announcement on August 3rd, all students are required to wear masks throughout the school day (unless it will inhibit the student's individual health or per exception in student's IEP).

Masks must be worn on the buses as well. Mask wearing will be strongly enforced. All employees are required to wear masks throughout the day.

Classrooms and facilities will be reconfigured to achieve six feet of social distancing wherever possible. Signs and floor markers will remind students and staff to maintain six feet of distance from each other, as well as to practice regular hand washing. Touchless hand sanitizers will be installed in every classroom and mobile sanitizing stations will be at the main entrances and in common areas. Disinfecting spray or wipes will also be in every classroom to disinfect desks between classes.

Fall sports will be held starting September 14th following all guidelines and protocols set forth by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletics Association.

In regards to screening, parents will need to fill out a form every school day for their child. All employees will also have to complete a pre-screening form. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated from others and sent home. The high school district will work in conjunction with the Hunterdon County Department of Health for all reporting of positive COVID-19 cases and to complete contact tracing.



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SCHOOL

With the start of schools, drivers should be mindful of the children along the school route to CPS and our high school pick-up locations. Our crossing guards will be returning to assist the children. Pedestrians and drivers should obey our crossing guards as they are there for your safety and the safety of our children. Failing to obey a crossing guard can result in a ticket.

If your child can't maintain social distancing outside, they need to wear a mask. That includes standing in a group waiting to cross the street. If we want to keep all of our kids safe, it is worth the effort.

UNGUIDED CHILDREN

Our children have been out of school for a long period of time, developing cabin fever. Our officers know the stress, from their own home experience and from our residents, and that everyone may need a break or at least a change in their environment. Be cautious giving your kids free reign of the town. We love our community, but we simply do not have the resources to manage children who are bored and causing problems to other people or their property.

Skateboards and scooters are prohibited by ordinance downtown for the safety of all, as it is a pedestrian heavy environment. Bicycles are fine but need to stay off the sidewalks, unless being pushed. Bicycle riders need to follow the rules of the road and NOT ride against the flow of traffic, even on Main Street.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Town of Clinton Street Smart campaign was conducted last month in collaboration with GoHunterdon, the local nonprofit transportation management

association. Together, we worked to educate motorists and pedestrians on their responsibilities in maintaining a safe pedestrian environment by reducing speeds and focusing on driving. The department received grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Association to conduct additional patrols within our community. Officers issued 115 tickets and gave out 184 warnings to help keep our Town safe.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Across the state there has been an increase in scams designed to trick you into handing over your hard earned money. Scammers use tricks and are often very convincing. The scammers may impersonate your loved ones, playing on your emotions, and insisting that you send money or other forms of payment right away. In some instances, the scammers may even come to your house!

Never give cash, checks, gift cards, Google Play, Money Gram, Western Union, bank account numbers or any other personal information to a stranger. We have had Clinton residents give away tens of thousands of dollars to these scams. Do not act impulsively and be sure to verify who you are talking to and what they are telling you. Some examples of SCAMS we regularly receive in Clinton;

- **IRS Scams:** The IRS will not call you and demand money over the phone, they will not threaten you with arrest over the phone!
- **Social Security:** They will not call and tell you you're in violation or your SSN was stolen. Lately they have been calling, leaving a message and asking you to return their call before action has to be taken. ALL SCAMS!
- **Bail Scam:** These low life's will call you and tell you a relative

has been arrested and request you send money ASAP, before your relative/friend is thrown in jail, SCAM!

- **Seeds in Mail:** Yes, weird things are happening. Seeds from China are not good, DO NOT EAT. Call us.

SOCIAL DISTANCING – MASK USAGE

Who entered the new year with a resolution that involved Social Distancing? Strange how this term now dictates how the world, not just our Town, has to behave to keep each other safe. Be thoughtful and help your friends and neighbors out. Practice safety and guide your kids to wear their masks, it helps every person in our community.

NOTICE SYMPTOMS? Fever, cough, shortness of breath? Stay home, do NOT go to work, quarantine yourself!

TIPS FOR ALL OF US TO STAY SAFE

- When in doubt wear a mask
- Keep 6 feet apart
- Wash Hands
- Restrict travel and stay within your family group
- Do not go out if your SICK!

Beware of the travel restrictions when leaving and returning to NJ. If you leave NJ and travel to certain states you maybe subject to a 14 day quarantine. Most Covid-19 information can be found here <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

The state is now seeing an increase in Covid-19. We all need to do our part and follow the governor's orders to keep our families safe. If we fail and the virus increases, be prepared to see the restrictions tighten up again.

Do not hesitate to call the Town of Clinton Police Department 24/7 at (908)735-8611 to speak with a Police Officer



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MEETINGS

COUNCIL MEETING

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

BOARD OF RECREATION

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

- ◆ 7:30 PM 2nd Monday of each month

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

- ◆ 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

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