

Town of Clinton

Newsletter



JUNE
2023



TOWN
OF
CLINTON

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Clinton, NJ 08809



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info@clintonnj.gov



www.clintonnj.gov

FROM THE MAYOR

Janice Kovach, Mayor

As we kick off summer I would like to take a moment to congratulate ALL of the graduates from Kindergarten, 8th grade, High School and college. To all of the student moving up - you did it! Take the summer to enjoy time with your family and friends! Also to all of the new residents that have moved in or are getting ready to move in WELCOME!! We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

We have been busy in town, we kicked off the beginning of the season in March and we are going full steam ahead with all of the amazing events planned from now until December. We have also celebrated new businesses opening and anniversaries of many who have been here for decades. We appreciate our small business community as well as the Red Mill

and Art Museum that bring to town friends and visitors.

I will share with you that we have identified a building for our new police headquarters, the Doctor Is In building will officially become the new home of the Clinton Police Department. I hope you join us as we watch the transformation that will take place with the use of grant monies received from the State last year.

I hope you all enjoy your summer, take some time to visit with friends and family, BBQ, stroll downtown and enjoy the time spent outdoors. As always feel free to reach out with any questions you may have, my cell is 908-399-8921 or email jkovach@clintonnj.gov.



Louis Tranquilli
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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Richard Phelan

Please note the following important reminders:

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



LEARN MORE

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 e-mail updates:

Town of Clinton
www.clintonnj.gov

Clinton Police Department
www.clintonjpolice.com

South Branch Emergency Services
www.sbes365.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

Additionally, several of the entities above have separate Facebook pages as well, so feel free to "Like" them for additional updates.



Our annual Free Rabies Clinic will be held on November 11th this year! More information to follow.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2023-April 2023

January 25, 2023

Volleyball Tournament

8th Graders from Clinton Public have challenged the Council and other administration to a volleyball game. Mayor Kovach guaranteed a team from the municipal side!

Environmental Commission

Interested in getting the Green Team active again and earning the Bronze certification from Sustainable Jersey. River Clean Up is Saturday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Shade Tree Commission

Working on getting a tree to be planted in honor of the late Jack Holt. The Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for April 28 at Hunt's Mill Park.

Historic Commission

Planning Cemetery Tour Park II on October 7. The commission is going through historic documents in the Clinton National Bank from the 1700 – 1900's. Plans are to scan photos and documents.

February 8, 2023

Safe in Hunterdon Proclamation

Mayor Kovach read a proclamation in support of Safe Hunterdon, declaring February, 2023 to be Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in Hunterdon County.

Police

Chief Kubinak reported that the officers have named Patrolmen Jose Gonzalez Officer of the Year! Congratulations, Jose!

Appointments

Congrats to Rachel Young – Recreation Commission and Claire Birmingham – Shade Tree Commission.

Bonfire

Held January 28 without any cost to the town. Recreation raised \$17,000 and 280 lbs. of food for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry.

Egg Hunts

Guild Egg Hunt will be held March 31 at Hunts Mill Park. United Methodist Church will host their Egg Hunt April 1 at the Clinton Community Center.

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM)

Nourish to Heal is partnering with HAM at a ticketed event on February 25 at Nourish to Heal. It is a behind the scene culinary journey! HAM is also starting a poetry and film workshop on February 28. HAM is hosting two paranormal investigations February 25 and March 25.

Looking for a rewarding career in power technology?

We have a number of new opportunities available in our High Bridge, NJ location.

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St. Patrick's Day Parade

Will be held March 12 with and after party to follow. March 11 is Run O' the Mill 5K and Pub Night at the Red Mill.

Platinum Club

Enjoyed a very informative Presentation on identity theft presented by Patrolman Ellis and Sgt. Robbins at the Library. The Club is working on planning future bus trips and tours. Senior Brunch is scheduled for June 4 at the Fire Department. Summer Recreation Program Signups are closed, over capacity with 153 children enrolled. Senior counselors over 17 years old are still needed.

Hunterdon Games & Garage Sale

Hunterdon Games will be held on August 19 (rain date August 20). Axe throwing will be added to the activities! Town-wide Garage Sale will be held June 4 rain or shine! No fee to join!

March 8, 2023

Mayor Kovach

Thank you to everyone who joined the 10th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting at Fourchette. Definitely an epic celebration! Mayor Kovach enjoyed visiting the school children for Read Across America with Ms. Rudd, the Kindergarten teacher. Reading in PJ's - fun!

Booster Club

Planning an adult kickball tournament on June 10 at Hunts Mill Park. Food trucks and possible adult beverages may be available.

March 22, 2023

Girl Scouts of American Proclamation

Mayor Kovach read a proclamation on the importance of Girl Scouts to today's girls, declaring March 12-18 to be Girl Scout Week. Four Girl Scouts with their leader were present for the reading and were presented a copy of the proclamation.

Environmental Commission

Congrats to Amy DeVita for being appointed to the Environmental Commission.

April 12, 2023

Clinton Guild

They had a very successful scavenger hunt through town even through the rain. Upcoming events - Car pool cinema and Cruising in Clinton on April 23 for Autism Awareness.

Playground Committee

Appointments

Megan Johnson, Nick Bruno, Molly Padmos, Nicole Ayers, Jonathan Donath and Phil Franzone.

Green Team

Met for the first time. Discussed river cleanup and planning other events for spring and summer. They are continuing to work on the Sustainable New Jersey Application - a non-profit organization that acknowledges and rewards municipalities for their efforts on sustainability.

April 26, 2023

Friends of Clinton Park

Members of the Clinton Booster Club presented a check to Mayor Kovach and Council for the playground in the amount of \$22,263.47! More fundraisers are being planned, such as the Color Run and a Sunken Silo fundraiser.

Appointments

Congrats to Mary Jo Kurtiak - Environmental Commission and Norma Kania - Shade Tree Commission.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Kovach read the Arbor Day Proclamation. The celebration with the third graders will be held April 28 at Hunts Mill Park. A tree will be dedicated to Dan Shea, former Councilman, Shade Tree Commission member and Town Crier!

Local Government Week

Local Government Week was a huge success! Visit to the school, rock painting and more. Thank you to everyone who participated: Police, Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Creech, Chairperson,
creechjohn6@gmail.com

Fall in love with Clinton. The EDC is proud to welcome the following new businesses to town: The Lady of Leitrim, Scoops, Daily Dose, Clinton Corners, Clinton Music Studios and we recently have celebrated the anniversaries of Kilhaney's Pickles and Fourchette. Congratulations. Upcoming celebrations are the 10th anniversary of Just Chill, Beyond Bijoux & Chameleon Blue. There are exciting times ahead for more businesses coming to our

vibrant town. We encourage everyone to shop local. The EDC and our Fall in Love with Clinton campaign in conjunction with Government Week sponsored a Rock Painting event at the community playground with lots of families participating. The EDC is continuing our branding campaign for Fall in Love with Clinton through social media posts and our traveling picture frame that has been at multiple recent events around the Town.

More to come!



Fall In Love With Clinton!



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PLATINUM CLUB

Norma Kania, Chair, nkania@aol.com

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 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. Call or write to Norma Kania for more info! 908-803-0720.

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

If the last time you thought about meditation was when the Beatles made the White Album – you're in for a surprise. Research shows that sometimes meditation can be almost as effective as medication.

Meditation Benefits Older Adults

Research keeps growing on meditation's benefits, from boosting the immune system to easing depression to helping mild high blood pressure – and many of those benefits focus on adults over age 60. One of the most powerful is the stress reduction aspect.

Amid so many potential stressors (bad news and the pandemic, to name a few), accessing something so portable, readily available and helpful is incredibly powerful.

Mindfulness and Meditation

Mindfulness is one form of meditation, it's described as "paying attention on purpose, and being in the present moment with an open, accepting attitude without judgment." Mindfulness can take many forms and any activity can be done mindfully, even getting dressed, waiting in line or waiting for your doctor's appointment.

Even five minutes of meditation in the morning helps people start the day on the right foot.

Meditation is described as a more formal practice of quieting the mind and body, often while sitting relaxed with eyes closed. While people may think they need many minutes or even an hour for meditation, that's not true. The internet is full of five-minute meditations to try. Even five minutes of meditation in the morning helps people start the day on the right foot. It makes people feel more resilient. While it won't change the events of the day, it will change how you respond to those events.

Meditation Benefits

Among the benefits of meditation or mindfulness for older adults, reported in the last five years or less:

- Walking meditation may be comparable to balance training to improve balance abilities in older adults who have had falls.
- Virtual reality meditation could reduce chronic pain in older adults with osteoarthritis of the knee.
- For some, meditation, along with yoga, could be an alternative to blood pressure medication, but the benefit varies by age and severity of the blood pressure problem.
- Meditation and mind-body exercise, when done longer than 12 weeks and workouts are three to seven times a week for 45-60 minutes each, may improve cognitive ability in those age 60 and up.
- Mindfulness meditation, compared with no meditation, improved depression, a review of 19 published studies found.
- Virtual reality meditation reduced chronic pain in older adults with knee osteoarthritis enough so they could participate in everyday activities more up to 48 hours after the session.



The Town of Clinton invites you to




JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Shade Tree
- ◆ Seniors
- ◆ Historic
- ◆ Environmental
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Economic Stability
- ◆ Fire and Rescue

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WWW.CLINTONNJ.GOV/VOLUNTEER-OPPORTUNITIES



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THE GUILD OF CLINTON

Paul Muir, President
clintonguild@gmail.com

The Guild of Clinton was formed to establish a vibrant and therefore sustainable business community in the Town of Clinton. Obviously the member business owners understood the value of promoting their businesses and creating a strong support network for each other. However over the years these business owners have become part of the very fabric of the Town of Clinton and the desire for a strong business community turned into a commitment to the residents of Clinton.

This commitment to a vibrant downtown creates a sense of place, adds to home values, and influences the culture of the community. The Guild supports most of the events in the downtown throughout the year, as well as performs all of the maintenance along Main and East Main Street as well as seasonal decorations.

The Guild would like to form a stronger partnership with the residents so that they can offer even more support and recognition to the Town of Clinton. The Guild of Clinton now offers membership to residents and supportive community members through a new Friends of the Guild membership.

For just \$100 annually residents and supportive community members will help the Guild keep the streets and sidewalks weed free, beautifully decorated and festive with events such as the upcoming Flag Day Ceremony and the now famous Dickens Days! Join the Guild in making the Town of Clinton the Best Downtown it can be by becoming a Friend of the Guild!

Sign up today
<https://www.visitclintonnj.com/friend-of-the-clinton-guild>



HISTORIC COMMISSION

Rosemarie Platt, Chair

The Clinton Historic Commission was given a phenomenal tour of Bonnell Tavern by Hank Bonnell, who is the 8th direct descendant of Captain Abraham Bonnell. Captain Abraham, as Hank calls him, began operating the Tavern in 1765. Hank Bonnell is working feverishly to restore the Tavern so the public may enjoy it in some capacity. The Commission was treated to a rich history lesson of the Tavern most importantly: when the Militia Act was ratified in Trenton in August of 1775, Abraham Bonnell, was one of three representatives from Hunterdon County to attend the ratification. Approximately three days later, the first group of 'Minute Men' in colonial America was assembled at Bonnell Tavern. The Historic Preservation Commission also got a peek at restored original parts of the tavern, Bonnell family heirlooms in the Tavern, and relics found on the property.

The commission is working weekly in our archives at 47 Leigh Street to comb through the many artifacts and photos and find the best way to catalogue and preserve them. Should you have a piece of Clinton history or photographs of Clinton from days gone by you would like to donate to be preserved, please reach out to us!

In the beginning of April, the commission applied for a grant through the State of New Jersey Historic Trust that will assist historic signage for Gebhardt Field and Grandstand. We are in the process of having the Field with it's covered wooden Grandstand designated as an historic site. We would like to give a shout out to our Mayor, Janice Kovach, for pointing us in the direction of a number fantastic grants that will help us in preservation and cost savings!

If you don't follow us on Facebook already, please find us on Facebook at

Town of Clinton, NJ - Historic Preservation Commission. We have already have a plethora of old photographs, an extensive history of The Bonnell Tavern, a summary and photographs of the Great Clinton Fire of 1891 as well as a history of baseball in Clinton. We add more of Clinton's history every week and welcome the community to tell us what you know about anything you see in the photos or know about the articles.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events, as we intend to hold a Garden Party/Silent Auction in June, more local cemetery tours as well as an Holiday Historic Homes Tour.

If you wish to become part of the Clinton Historic Preservation Commission please reach out to our Historic Commissioner, Rosemarie Platt or Town of Clinton Historian, Holly Karpinich Lione. If you have any questions about your home, the town, or another Clinton historical matter, please reach out to any the CHPC members found on our Town of Clinton page.

June 2023 | Newsletter Edition

GREEN TEAM

John Kashwick, Councilman

Big news on the environmental front! After a pause of several years, we have re-activated the Clinton Green Team. We are working toward bronze certification with Sustainable Jersey. This certification will make the town eligible for an additional pool of grant moneys to fund various projects to make Clinton a healthier, greener place to live.

Some of the actions the Green Team has taken so far:

- We joined with a total of 47 volunteers with Raritan Headwaters to collect litter as part of the annual river clean-up on April 15.
- We successfully asked the Mayor and Council to pass two resolutions...a sustainable land use pledge and a resolution encouraging green building designs.
- We had an invasive plant removal/seed-planting day with the Clinton Conservancy Gardens during Local Government Week.
- We are working on a green municipal grounds maintenance policy.
- We are planning a firefly count/dark sky event at the Red Mill on June 24. (We will be showing a film, have some exhibits, and a short walk to observe the fireflies. More to come on this!)
- We are partnering with Clinton Township's Green Team to

hold a Green Fair and EV Car Show on July 8 at Bundt Park from 10 AM – 1 PM.

The Green Team includes members of the Environmental Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, Clinton Conservancy Gardens, and the Governing Body. We would like to expand also to include members that have interest and expertise in culture and creative arts, local businesses, and other community-based experience. We would love to have you as part of the Team! Please check the town website for more information or email Councilman John Kashwick at jkashwick@clintonnj.gov.

Saturday
July 8, 2023
11am - 2pm

**The Highlands
GREEN FAIR &
EV CAR SHOW**

Brought to you by:
Sustainable Jersey
High Water

Bundt Park
8 Red School House Rd
Lebanon, NJ 08833

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FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH

Flag Day Ceremony & Parade
6:30 - 9:00 PM, Main Street

Family friendly event celebrating Flag Day.

SATURDAY, JULY 15TH

Card Board Boat Race
2:00 PM, Water Street

Race in your cardboard boat in the South Branch and compete with friends and neighbors!

SUNDAY, JULY 16TH

Rubber Ducky Race
2:00 PM, Main Street

Enter the race and watch the rubber ducks race down the falls and see who will win!

FRIDAY, JULY 21ST

Sidewalk Sale
All Weekend, Main Street

Enjoy discounted items on the sidewalk for sale from Clinton businesses on Main Street.

EVERY SUMMER FRIDAY EVENING

Come Together Live Friday Night Music
7:00 PM, Main Street

Enjoy live music downtown every Friday throughout the summer, ending Labor Day weekend.

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

Clinton Community Farmers Market
9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Clinton Community Center,
63 Halstead Street

Organic food and hand-crafted gifts!



CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jeff Hedden, Chief

During the first quarter of 2023, CFD volunteers answered 69 emergency calls for service. We are always looking for new members to help answer calls and also for administrative and support positions to help with fundraising and running our organization. CFD is 100% volunteer with no compensated staff. If you are interested in helping with any position please send us an email to officers@clintonfd.org

So far this year, CFD has been awarded two separate federal grants to help fund radio equipment upgrades and for our volunteer recruitment & retention program. The Clinton Fire Department is grateful for the support of the Town Council on their recent purchase of a new pumper truck to replace our 2001 Fire Engine. The new truck has been in planning phases for over a year and is estimated to be delivered in 2025.

CFD has been active in our community, supporting the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the Town of Clinton Touch-A-Truck, the Cruise Clinton Car Show, and also hosted a local preschool class for a tour of the firehouse.

Friday Night Grill Nights are back! Join us for burgers, hot dogs, cheesesteaks, clams, and feel free to BYOB! Check out the dates below:

- Friday May 19th 5:30-8PM (Classic Car Night... come show off your ride!)

- Friday June 16th 5:30-8PM (Fire Department Open House)
- Friday August 11th 5:30-8PM (Ice Cream Night)
- Saturday September 9th @ Town of Clinton Picnic
- Friday October 20th 5:30-8PM (Military Appreciation Night)

To stay in the loop with our upcoming events, make sure to follow us on Facebook (Clinton Fire Department) and Instagram (@station45fire) Finally, the department participated in the Yuletide Bonfire hosted by the Town of Clinton Recreation Committee. The department would like to thank all the sponsors that helped to make the night possible and such an enjoyable tradition for everybody.



SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

Frank Setnicky, SBES Chief, chief@sbes365.org

Meet SBES EMT Marv Freedman

A Retired Programmer and Catskills Hiking Guide Takes an Unexpected Path to Volunteer EMS



The earliest steps on Marv Freedman's unusual path to becoming a South Branch Emergency Services EMT began with a desire to improve his own health.

The now-retired programmer and married father of two had always loved the outdoors, but became less active when family and career responsibilities grew. "I had gained a lot of weight and was way out of shape," he remembers. In 2012, he started with the exercise that didn't hurt: walking. By 2013 he was hiking, mostly in the Catskills with the Catskill 3500 Club, a hiking club and community service organization.

Marv, who is now 72 and retired from programming several years ago, became a club board member and a wilderness hike leader. To help protect the well-being of those he led into the woods, he took a wilderness first aid class. When the Catskill 3500 Club formed a search and rescue team, Marv joined it and took more first aid classes, but that didn't feel like enough.

"I was talking to the leaders of the search and rescue team and asking their advice on how to learn more first aid so I would be more comfortable," Marv remembered. "Both of them happen to be EMTs and both had the same suggestion: 'Why don't you take an EMT training course?'"

Marv and his wife, Suzanne, live in East Amwell. Seeking a place that provided high-quality EMT training, he found SBES. Marv was about 70 when he signed up with SBES. The COVID pandemic was still in full-swing. "I thought, 'If I learn these skills, I'll volunteer,'" he remembered.

Marv learned at his own pace. "I didn't become a competent EMT as quickly as some of my younger peers from EMT class, but I was patient with myself and SBES was patient with me," he said. "By riding on the ambulance, I've grown in competence and confidence." Once he had earned his EMT license, Marv became an EMT candidate.

From the start, he was a third set of hands to help lift patients or grab the right equipment and a caring conversationalist who helped patients feel more at ease. As his skills and confidence level grew, he was given more responsibility for care – but always as the 3rd member of a 2 person team.

Marv continues to plan and guide hikes in the Catskills and trains other hike leaders in wilderness first aid. He can now also help guide other SBES EMT candidates as they learn the ropes in the field. On April 11, 2023, Marv was promoted to SBES Team Member.

He recommends volunteering with SBES to all who have interest. "It's interesting and it feels good to be useful and to help people," he said. "There's nobody who isn't contributing, and it feels good to be working with people who give a darn, to be part of a strong team with people who care."

Interested in becoming an SBES volunteer? Learn more or sign up at www.sbes365.org

NHVHS UPDATE

Maren Smagala, District Communications Coordinator

June is an exciting time for students – school comes to an end! North Hunterdon and Voorhees students can celebrate the last day of school on June 13, 2023. Final exams will be given June 7, 8, 9, 12, with make-up exams given on June 13th. Exam days are all early dismissal days at 11:55am for students. We are excited to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2023 on Wednesday, June 14th at 10:00am. The ceremony will be live streamed and you can find the link on the school's website if you'd like to watch along.

The summer will be busy with construction projects as the district begins work on the referendum projects that were passed by voters in November 2022 (thank you again for your support!). At North Hunterdon, interior stair doors will be replaced and the boys' locker room and PE teacher and coaches' offices by gold gym will be renovated (girls locker room is in newer main gym wing so renovation is not needed at this time). At Voorhees, exterior staircases leading to stadium field and "The Pit" will be replaced, along with replacement of insulation for chiller piping. HVAC work and ventilation upgrades for both high schools may be moved to next summer.

In addition this summer, the North Hunterdon High School parking lots will be relined and expanded in order to rearrange staff and senior parking to make way for the new Polytech facility that will be built in what is currently the lower-level student parking lot. Construction start date for the new Polytech facility is to be determined at this time.

Academically, the high schools both offer Summer Enrichment Courses that are open to any student that will be in the high schools next year. A variety of courses are offered that are not in the regular academic program. Courses will run in late June. Also, North Hunterdon is hosting a STEM Camp for incoming freshmen at either high school. Teachers and upper-level students will coordinate labs and activities related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) over four half days in late July. Sign-ups are closed for both of these academic opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming the incoming Class of 2027 at Freshman Orientation on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, beginning at 9:45am. First day for all students is Thursday, August 24, 2023.

Wishing all of our students, families and staff members a wonderful and relaxing summer! See you soon for the 2023-2024 school year!

Nick Bruno, Councilman

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/ROADS

On May 12th, 2023 our Congressman Tom Kean Jr. sent his field director to Clinton to meet with concerned residents as well as members of the Town Council to discuss issues related to the Route 78 overpasses in Clinton. If you find yourself on Leigh Street between School Street and Alton Place during CPS drop-off or pick-up then you will see hundreds of students and parents flowing in and out of the area in cars, on bikes, or on foot. A major concern that many residents as well as the parents of our students have brought up is the safety of this area. Our crossing guards do a phenomenal job ensuring everyone makes it to school safely, but among the things they cannot control are the level of wear and tear to our sidewalks or the dilapidating Route 78 overpass. In addition to falling concrete from the overpass itself, major concerns include debris from Route 78 landing on the walking route, the constant noise of cars and trucks passing overhead, and the dangerous conditions present from crumbling sidewalks.

For many years now, Mr. Kenneth Fischer of Leigh Street has been vocal about the noise, water runoff, and safety issues created by Route 78. Mr. Fisher not only took the initiative by documenting ongoing structural issues and reaching out to elected officials at local, state, and federal levels, but also by creating a petition with hopes of sparking action by the NJ Department of Transportation. To date, this petition currently has over 300 signatures and can be found in person at Thompson's Seafood and Towne Restaurant. This petition is available for any members of the public to review and/or sign if they do chose. The petition will be submitted to Congressman Kean so this crumbling infrastructure and safety hazard can finally be addressed.

In addition to Mr. Fischer's efforts, recently the Buildings & Grounds committee has elected to fix the sidewalks underneath Route 78 as a part of the New Street paving/ Old 22 sidewalk project. This project shall be heard and voted on by Town Council on June 14th. This will alleviate the tripping hazards from broken concrete as well as the pooling of water and ice which cause hazards to pedestrians. While this work will be a step in the right direction, it is likely that without addressing the water runoff from Route 78 the sidewalks will eventually corrode and become hazardous again. This is one step in a long process that I hope to report positively on in the coming months.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MaryAnn Shea, Chair

The Town of Clinton Recreation Committee would once again like to thank the residents of Clinton for participating in our 2023 events to date. We strive to provide fun and exciting activities for townspeople of all ages.

The Recreation Committee held an exciting Flashlight Egg Hunt on March 31st at Hunts Mill Park. We had over 150 enthusiastic children participating in this 2nd annual event. There were games, music, the Easter Bunny arriving on the firetruck and a great egg hunt for kids from kindergarten through 8th grade. The golden eggs held special prizes for those lucky hunters.

The Committee has been busy planning for some fun events this coming Spring and Summer. The Summer Recreation Program is at capacity and will run for the month of July. For the second year in a row, the program offers half day and full day options with many fun activities and field trips for grades K-8.

We will once again be hosting the Whitehouse Wind Symphony on Friday July 7th at 7pm for a free concert at the Red Mill in the evening. Bring a chair and enjoy a beautiful evening under the stars.

The annual Hooper Clinton Canoe races will be held in August with a date and time to be announced. Join us alongside the river just over the Halstead Street Bridge for the races. Come compete against other neighborhood families in a variety of different categories. Our Fire and Rescue teams will also be participating. All are welcome.

On August 12th, there will be a Vintage Baseball Game played at Gebhardt Field at 11am. It will be hosted by the Neshanock Baseball Club of Flemington and played by 19th century rules. Come out for a fun game of baseball played by the rules of yesteryear.

On Friday August 25th, we will be hosting a family movie night at the Red Mill. Come on out and bring your blanket to watch a movie under the stars. The annual Town Picnic will be held on September 9th at 3pm. Join us for music, games, food, and fireworks at dusk. It's a great time for young and old to come together and celebrate what makes our town so special. The rain date is Saturday September 16th.

Finally, our premier event for the summer season will be a Drive-In movie night at Hunts Mill Park featuring Ghostbuster's. This will be held Saturday September 23rd at dusk and is sponsored by the Clinton Guild. Come out for a great time and support all our

merchants who make Clinton such a special place to live and shop. The Recreation Committee is excited to share all these special events with you and look forward to seeing you there.

We greatly appreciate those who volunteer their time to help us make these events happen and encourage those who are interested in volunteering to reach out to us. We are in need of volunteers to help with the Town Picnic. A couple of hours of your time would be so helpful. The Committee maintains a Facebook page where you can keep up to date on the hosted events which can be found by searching "Recreation Committee - Town of Clinton, NJ". You can also reach out to us via the Town of Clinton website www.clintonnj.gov/recreation-committee.





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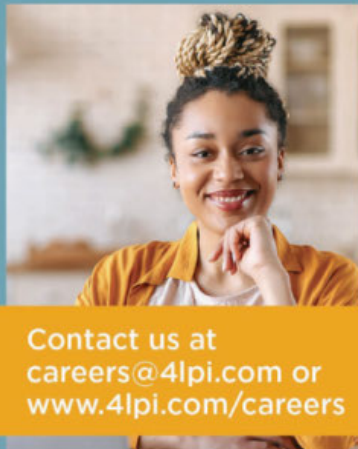
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LOCAL GOVT WEEK RE-CAP

Molly Padmos, Councilwoman

Each year we celebrate Local Government to highlight the work of our town and the volunteerism that is essential to everything that we accomplish. This is a time to celebrate our community and the attributes that make us special! Thank you to everyone who worked to make this possible and to the residents that participated.

Kindness Rock Painting

The week started with Kindness Rock Painting at Halstead Park. Lots of children and adults joined in the fun. This event was hosted by the Economic Development Committee to share with the community our new town logo and slogan, "Fall in Love with Clinton". After giving the beautiful rocks time to dry they were distributed along Main Street. Keep an eye out for them and feel free to move them and share the kindness with others.



Afternoon in the Children's Garden

This event included a tour of the Children's Garden located in Hunts Mill Park and an opportunity to plant some saplings. Hosted by the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions as an opportunity to share with our youngest residents a respect and love for our green spaces and encourage them to be involved.



Kids Town Hall

Town Council members visited Clinton Public School and spent the morning with the fourth grade students. They have been learning about Government and Mayor Janice Kovach explained how our local government works. She explained the importance of volunteerism and serving in our local community. Each Council member also talked to the students about their jobs and favorite part of serving on council. The floor was opened for questions and all kinds of topics were covered, including taxes and roadways.

Touch a Truck

One of the most popular events is the annual Touch a Truck event held at the municipal building. Perfect for both the young and young at heart! Firefighters, EMS and Police Officers were on hand to inform residents about their role in our community. And of course, everyone could sit behind the wheel, run sirens and see all the equipment that is on board each vehicle. There were lots of smiling faces and fun but this time together also gave us a chance to be grateful for the many volunteers and staff that keep our community safe.



SENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

John Kashwick, Councilman

TURN OUT THE LIGHTS FOR FIREFLIES

Visitors travel thousands of miles yearly to Congaree National Park in South Carolina to see the display of synchronized fireflies. Visiting Congaree a few years ago, I was impressed not only of the synchronized timing of flashes in the murky swamp, but I learned that the density of our Clintonian fireflies are even more impressive.

While walking the Landsdown Trail for 16 years on warm summer evenings, I've seen spectacular displays amongst our tall grasses, but today, the display is not nearly as brilliant as it was a decade ago. Even at the end of Water Street, the charm of the firefly dance became obscured by the brilliance of a replaced streetlight.

The Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that aims to protect the natural world by conserving invertebrates and their habitats, argues that at least one in three species of North American fireflies assessed may be at risk of extinction. There is an urgent need to study firefly populations more closely to fully understand their plight and ensure conservation efforts are effective.

A major cause of the decline in firefly populations is light pollution, which, according to the International Dark Sky Association, is defined as the inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light. The components of light pollution include: glare (excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort); skyglow (brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas); light trespass (light falling where it is not intended or needed); and clutter (bright, confusing, and excessive groupings of light sources).

LED lights are readily available and inexpensive to operate. As a result, we are flooding the darkness with artificial light to the detriment of fireflies. Light pollution adversely impacts pollinators and other insects, birds, turtles, other wildlife, and even human health, but for the purposes of this article, I am sticking to fireflies.

Fireflies use the light of their own making to communicate. Growing evidence shows that artificial light from streetlamps, residences, and other sources may obscure natural firefly bioluminescence, with potentially catastrophic outcomes. Fireflies depend on these signals to find mates or ward off predators. Along with habitat destruction and pesticide use, fireflies are in decline because they just can no longer see.

Unlike other types of pollutants which harm our land, water, and air and can last for generations, millennia, or longer, light pollution goes away literally by the flick of a switch. And that is the ask...when not in use, turn off your outside lights. Even if they are energy-efficient—it is still a waste of your money. When replacing exterior light fixtures, see if you could use ones that are motion-sensing. Also look fixtures that are full cut-off so that light gets directed where it is supposed to go—not toward the sky, not on nearby woodlands, and not in a neighbor's window.

On June 24, the Environmental Commission and Green Team will be hosting a screening of the film "Dark Sacred Night" at the Red Mill. The 15-minute film is a special project of the Princeton University Office of Sustainability. Produced by filmmaker Jared Flescher, it features Princeton University astrophysicist Gaspar Bakos.

Bakos is one of a growing number of experts championing simple, commonsense changes to outdoor lighting that can dramatically reduce light pollution. Flescher will be on hand to introduce his film and for a Q&A session afterward.

Please check the Green Team web page for more detailed information.

We hope you can join us!



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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 3rd 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

TRASH PICKUP: EVERY TUESDAY

RECYCLING PICKUP: EVERY FRIDAY