

# Town of Clinton Newsletter



MARCH

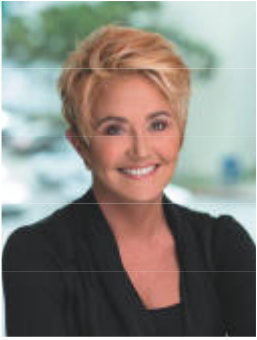
2020

Celebrating  
Spring in the  
Town of Clinton

## TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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## FROM THE MAYOR



**JANICE  
KOVACH**

Happy 2020!! This year will be busy for the Town, including our hard-working Land Use Board and Economic Development Council. As you may be aware we (mayor and council) have begun the process of redevelopment, starting with the old A&P site and eventually moving down to the Global Ag. Both have been vacant for 5 and 14 years respectively.

After several years of attempting to get another grocery store to no avail, we began to look at other opportunities while at the same time addressing the state mandated affordable housing obligation for the Town. It made sense to look at vacant and underutilized properties to address the need.

Our January 28<sup>th</sup> town hall had over 200 people attend (including online), where the developer who is purchasing the A&P site shared preliminary sketches and answered questions. Please note that

NO application has been submitted yet and the mayor and council must first adopt a redevelopment ordinance (hearing will take place on March 11th at 7:30pm). Then the applicant will begin the process with the Land Use Board, which will also include public hearings.

As for the Global Ag, the property owner is still working on plans for the property and has only shown preliminary sketches for the existing building. The same process will apply: a Redevelopment Ordinance, then a Land Use Board review. Again this property would include both market-rate and affordable housing units.

Many residents are still curious about the court settlement on our Fair Share Housing obligation and the total number of affordable units for the Town. I am preparing a letter (similar to the budget letter) that will go into detail about our history and future with Fair Share Housing and the Town's obligation.

Please feel free to reach out to me 908-399-8921 or [jkovach@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jkovach@clintonnj.gov) or any of the other council members with questions or concerns.



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# TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**OCTOBER 22, 2019**

## TRAFFIC ISSUES

Mayor Kovach is working with the Department of Transportation on traffic issues such as the large trucks using Halstead St., and the length of time it takes to go from the traffic light at Leigh and Old Route 22 to Exit 15. DOT is sending a team to study the situation.

## LEBANON BOROUGH STUDENTS

The Department of Education has been discussing Lebanon Borough 7th & 8th grade students coming to CPS as they did in the early 1980's. Clinton Township challenged it and it is now in the hands of an administrative law judge.

## POLICE PROMOTIONS

Two of our finest have been promoted to Sergeant: Jeffrey Ollerenshaw and Timothy McGuire. Congratulations to both!!!

## NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

The Town of Clinton police looked a little un-kempt for November. They participated with the Hunterdon PBA 188 in a "gofundme" campaign to raise awareness about cancer and men's health.

## THE BALLOON WITCH

The Balloon Witch was very popular at the Pumpkinfest this year. The event was a huge success.

**NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

## CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION

A proclamation was presented to Andrew Plumpton, a Clinton Public School 8th grader, who is the North-Voorhees Junior Athletic Conference Cross-Country Champion. Andrew secured his title on a 1.5 mile course with a time of 9:46. Great Job!!!

## CPS BOYS SOCCER TEAM

The CPS Boys Soccer Team was presented with a proclamation for achieving the 2019 North-Voorhees Junior Athletic Conference Champions title. Under the guidance of Coach Tim Bidwell their season record was 5 wins, 0 losses and 3 ties.

## TOWN HONOR ROLL

At the council meeting there was a rededication of the Honor Roll Board, which is located at the Municipal Building, to the citizens of the Town of Clinton who served their country. Town resident, Collen William Randolph, who is a Vietnam Veteran, was added. To be added to the board the individual must have been a resident of Town when entering the military service, and must have received an honorable discharge.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Communications Committee is discussing putting together a directory of businesses to go on the Town's web site possible in 2020.

**NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

## NEW TOWN CRIER!!!

Dan Shea is the new Town Crier. He will make his debut by ushering in the 33rd Annual Christmas Parade..

## 40 YEAR CELEBRATION

The Towne Restaurant celebrated 40 years on Friday, November 22, 2019. Congratulations!!!

## FULL DAY SUMMER RECREATION

Tiffany Cinquermanni has been working hard with the Recreation Commission to offer a full day option for the summer recreation program for 2020. It will run from June 29 through July 24 with wrap around care options for before and after.

**DECEMBER 10, 2019**

## YEARS OF SERVICE HONORED

Mayor Kovach presented a beautiful plaque to Mr. Robert Smith in recognition of his 38+ years of service to the Town as councilman and mayor. The Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad and the Clinton Fire Department were present. Bucky Buchanan, Deputy Chief of EMS, presented a plaque to Mr. Smith for his support as liaison to the Squad for years. Mayor Kovach also read a proclamation prepared and submitted by the State Legislators, Doherty, DeMaio and Peterson, signed by Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Clerk, Dana Burley. **!!!Thank you Mr. Smith for your service!!!**

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

**DECEMBER 10, 2019**

## CPD RAISES FUNDS

The No Shave November campaign raised over \$2,500. The campaign was in remembrance of Lt. Henry Scott Oldenburg of the Readington Police Department. The Foundation bearing his name was formed to help families in return for the help his family received after his passing of pancreatic cancer in 2008.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Walt Dorf is stepping down as Chief of the Clinton Fire Department. Jeff Hedden has been elected as the new Chief for 2020 and Scott Wintermute as Deputy Chief.

**JANUARY 1, 2020**

## RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD

**JANUARY 14, 2020**

## PURPLE LIGHTS

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of New Jersey ratifying the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, purple flood lights will be installed on the Municipal Building porches for the month.

## NO TRUCK SIGN

Four "No Truck" signs will be placed at sections coming into Town by DOT to prevent heavy tractor trailer trucks from traveling through the small streets in Town. The locations are at Halstead Street by the Route 31 entrance and at Center Street's Clinton Township entrance.

## NEW COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The town council meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm starting February 12, 2020 due to a conflict with the Town Attorney's schedule.

*Clinton Town Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Clinton Municipal Building*



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06-5343

# TOWN ADMINISTRATION AND POLICE

## BRUSH COLLECTION

The 2020 Brush Collection Schedule begins in May. Small branches and twigs 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.

*Read about important changes to recycling on page 11.*

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

## 2020 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

In our continued effort to ensure that our water, sewer and road infrastructure is current and operating properly, the Town will be undergoing several Public Works projects this year.

This includes the replacement of approximately 1,600 feet of water main on West Main Street, making necessary repairs to the filters and sludge press equipment at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, as well as paving several roads in Town.

All of these projects are either being currently bid, or will be in the near future. Once final construction start dates have been finalized, updates will be placed on our website.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

If you know anyone who may be eligible to qualify for affordable housing, please visit the Clerk's Office to fill out an application, or download one directly from our website at [www.clintonnj.gov/forms.html](http://www.clintonnj.gov/forms.html).

## CLINTON POLICE

### Safe Passage for All

People come to Clinton for a variety of reasons. Some live here, while many shop, visit friends and family or just enjoy the town's charms. Regardless of the reason, people have different things on their mind and are not always focused on driving. Add electronic devices to the mix that further distract a driver, and it can lead to unwanted outcomes, such as accidents.

A small town such as Clinton has a lot of pedestrian traffic and crosswalks. These well-marked crosswalks and signs help identify safe passages across roads for pedestrians. If a driver is distracted they can miss these, leading to a absolutely horrible situation for everyone involved. We have seen this in Clinton and do not want to see it again.

Please pay attention to what you are doing and help keep Clinton's friends, families and visitors safe.

Our door is always open, so contact us at 908-735-8611 with any questions.

## TOWN INFORMATION

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

- ◆ Town of Clinton:
  - \* Website – [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov)
  - \* Facebook - [www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov](https://www.facebook.com/clintonnjgov)
  - \* Twitter - [twitter.com/clintonnj](https://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](http://www.clintonems.org)
- ◆ Clinton Fire Department - [www.clintonfd.org](http://www.clintonfd.org)
- ◆ Hunterdon County - [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## WORKING TOWARDS A VIBRANT BUSINESS DISTRICT

Our downtown is a vital part of Clinton, and we recognize the need for a focused effort to keep our business district vibrant and economically healthy. The impact of online retail on small town shopping districts in New Jersey (and throughout the country) has changed how local governments lead future business efforts.

For more than a year, the Economic Development Committee (EDC) has undertaken strategic measures to create the tools and infrastructure needed to make a lasting impact on the community. The addition of our newly redesigned newsletter, website, and social media presence is increasing our ability to communicate. The development of our printed, online and video promotional materials throughout this year will provide powerful tools to attract and retain additional businesses, both retail and otherwise, to our highly rated downtown region.

The EDC is also in the midst of a data-driven survey

of the current state of the Town's commercial district, both to better understand the needs of the community, and create goals to achieve those needs.

Our 2020 plans include the establishment of a comprehensive business directory app that is both web and mobile friendly. Our plan is to increase the visibility and accessibility of every business in town that opts-in.

Going forward the EDC will continue to seek ways to improve the economic sustainability of our charming and effervescent community by making it more walkable, visitor friendly, and open for business. We appreciate input from our stakeholders, residents, business leaders, and building owners alike. Please feel free to send any inquiries, suggestions and thoughts to Rielly Karsh.

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



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# LAND USE

## BUILDER SHARES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON A&P SITE

Town Council and the Land Use Board held a Town Hall meeting on Jan. 28 at the North County Branch Public Library for a presentation by Geoffrey Long, Development Principal from Ingerman, who is working on the redevelopment of the former A&P site on Route 173.

Ingerman is very active in Hunterdon County, and the company builds and manages everything they develop. They are purchasing the A&P lot and surrounding lots to build inclusionary housing of 111 units with 6,000 square feet of retail and commercial space. No more than 20% of the units will be affordable housing. 1, 2 and 3 bedroom rental units will be available. The design includes two "L" shaped buildings surrounding a courtyard with seating and a pool for residents.

The presentation of the proposed project was followed by an audience Q&A, and was streamed on Facebook live and recorded for those unable to attend. Copies of the site plan design can be viewed in person in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Here are a few of the Q&A's from the presentation:

### **Q: How tall will the building be?**

A: Part of the building will be 3 stories high and other parts will be 4 stories to accommodate penthouse style apartments. The goal is to break up the roofline and make it aesthetically pleasing.

### **Q: How will parking work?**

A: There will be some retail parking in the front of the building facing Old Highway 22 and additional assigned parking spaces for residents behind the buildings. Both residents and shoppers will use the same entrance to the site.

### **Q: Will the retail portion of the project compete with Main Street?**

A: Careful consideration is being given to the 6000

square feet of retail with the goal of putting convenience retail or entertainment in the space so as not to compete with downtown.

### **Q: How long will construction take?**

A: They are currently allotting 2 months for demolition of the existing site. Once a shovel goes in the ground, they anticipate 16 months for completion and hope to complete the entire project in one phase.

### **Q: Will you be tearing out trees in the landscaping between the project and the homes on Center Street?**

A: No, the buffer will remain the same and the old tree growth will remain. The developer expressed a desire to share landscaping plans so impacted residents can provide input.

### **Q: What about lighting and its impact on Center Street residents?**

A: Again, the developer would like to share lighting plans for feedback.

### **Q: What are the next steps?**

A: The redevelopment plan needs to be adopted by Mayor and Council. It will be introduced first making the document available to the public, followed by a public hearing for questions and concerns.

### **Several things to note:**

While the scale of this project seems big, we do have a court-ordered COAH obligation to meet. The goal is to keep housing of this size in areas that are already developed. We will be incorporating existing ordinances and creating zoning variances to accommodate the development. Nothing has formally been presented to Land Use Board and when it is, the public will have another chance to come to ask questions and express concerns.

Allison Witt  
(p) 908-735-2275  
(e) [awitt@clintonnj.org](mailto:awitt@clintonnj.org)

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## TOUR OF CLINTON'S HISTORIC HOMES

The Clinton Historic Preservation Commission is creating several community based events, topped by a historic house tour that will guide visitors and residents through many of our beautiful homes in town. Look for more information to come later this year.

Most recently, the commission has been working on brochures that explain the commissions role in Clinton, including our historic guidelines which were approved as part of the 2018 Master Plan Reexamination. These guidelines provide recommendations for how to best preserve and maintain your historic property, whether that involves basic maintenance,

property re-freshening or additions.

Look these brochures later this year on our website, at our events, and distributed to those who live in our historic district.

Ross Traphagen  
CHPC Council Liasson  
(p) 908-894-9026  
(e) [rtraphagen@clintonnj.org](mailto:rtraphagen@clintonnj.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday,  
March 14**

## **Run O'The Mill**

**8:00 am start  
Clinton Community Center**

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual 5K road race. For more info and to register visit:  
[www.therunothemill5K.com](http://www.therunothemill5K.com)

**Sunday,  
March 15**

## **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**3:00 - 4:00 pm  
Downtown Clinton**

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual parade presented by the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick featuring bands, Irish dancers and more. For more info on the parade and to purchase tickets for the after party visit:  
[www.fssphunterdon.com](http://www.fssphunterdon.com)

**Saturday,  
March 21**

## **Free Electronic Waste Recycling**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Hunterdon County Route 12  
Complex**

For more information visit:  
[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling/electronics.html](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/recycling/electronics.html)

**Saturday,  
April 4**

## **Military Heritage Day**

**12:00 – 4:00 pm  
Red Mill Museum**

Commemorate America's military history. Reenactors will interact with visitors, special artifacts on display. For more info visit:  
[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

**Saturday,  
April 18**

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Raritan River Cleanup**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Volunteers will meet at the Main Street bridge near the Red Mill to register, pick up supplies and be assigned a location to cleanup. Visit [www.raritanheadwaters.org](http://www.raritanheadwaters.org) for info or just show up! Bags and gloves provided.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bring the Heat Chili Cook-Off**

**4:00 pm  
Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad**

Enjoy great chili, DJ, 50/50 raffle, tricky tray and vote for the People's Choice! To purchase tickets, or to register to compete in the cook-off visit:  
[www.bringtheheat.org](http://www.bringtheheat.org)

**Saturday,  
April 25**

## **Art Party**

**6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Hunterdon Art Museum**

Annual signature fundraising gala  
For more info visit:  
[www.hunterdonartmuseum.org](http://www.hunterdonartmuseum.org)

**Friday,  
May 1**

## **Mr. Fix-it Appliance Day**

**9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
County Senior Center  
4 Gauntt Place, Flemington**

County residents age 60 and over are invited to bring small appliances in need of repair. Volunteers will repair items while you wait. Only charge is for parts, if needed. Call Jane Griffith 908-788-1361 for more information

**Saturday,  
May 2**

## **Clinton Sunrise Rotary Fishing Derby**

**8:00 am registration  
DeMott Pond, Route 173**

DeMott Pond will be stocked with trout for this **free** family event! Bait, bobbers and hooks will be supplied, bring your own pole. Open to ages 4 – 16. Each participant receives a raffle ticket for door prizes. For more info visit:  
[www.clintonssunriserotary.org](http://www.clintonssunriserotary.org)

## 7TH ANNUAL FSSP ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

### SAVE THE DATE - March 15th

A wonderful Clinton tradition, kicking off at 3:00 pm through downtown. Join the thousands celebrating this great day! . And learn about the Parade After Party immediately after the parade at the Red Mill. For more info visit:

[www.fssphunterdon.com/2020/01/16/2020-fssp-st-patricks-day-parade/](http://www.fssphunterdon.com/2020/01/16/2020-fssp-st-patricks-day-parade/)





# UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

**Sunday,  
April 26**

## **Open Paddle Clinton**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**FREE** event sponsored by Raritan Headwaters. Spend an hour paddling their kayaks with instruction for new paddlers. Registration required in advance, visit [www.raritanheadwaters.org](http://www.raritanheadwaters.org)

**Sunday,  
May 3**

## **42nd Annual Senior Luncheon**

**12:30 – 3:00 pm**  
**Clinton Firehouse**

Free luncheon for Town of Clinton residents over the age of 60. RSVP to the Town Clerk before April 26.

## **Clinton Farmer's Market**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**County Library, 65 Halstead St**

Beginning May 3rd and running Sundays through October, come support local farmers and artisans! Visit the Clinton Community Farmers Market Facebook page for more information.

**Saturday,  
June 6**

## **Town Wide Yard Sale**

**9:00 am Rain or Shine**

Send \$10 to the Town Clerk to participate in the sale, get your house in the advertising and on the map!

For more information call 908-735-8616 or email [contactus@clintonnj.gov](mailto:contactus@clintonnj.gov)

**Sunday,  
June 7**

## **Art on Tap**

**2:00 – 5:00 pm**  
**Hunterdon Art Museum**

For more info visit: [www.hunterdonartmuseum.org](http://www.hunterdonartmuseum.org)

**Friday,  
June 12**

## **Flag Day Parade**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**Downtown Clinton**

Parents and children alike get decked out in Americana gear and ride their bicycles through Clinton during this special parade!



## **CLINTON FIREHOUSE BANQUET HALL**

Beautiful facility, with a full kitchen, which can accommodate up to 100 people for meetings and celebrations.

Email for more info at [partyrental@clintonfd.org](mailto:partyrental@clintonfd.org)

## **CLINTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

A great venue for athletic, community, and private events.

For more information, email us at [contactus@clintonnj.gov](mailto:contactus@clintonnj.gov), and visit <https://bit.ly/355cmNi>

For more information on these events, please visit our website at [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov)

An advertisement for 'THE CLINTON HOUSE'. On the left is a black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building. To the right of the photo, the text reads: 'THE CLINTON HOUSE. Serving travelers and neighbors since 1743. 2 West Main Street, Clinton, NJ 908-730-9300 | TheClintonHouse.com'. On the right side of the ad are three small images of food: a plate of roasted vegetables, a plate of fried items, and a plate of pastries.



## RECREATION

### Town Bonfire Success

More than 600 residents participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Clinton Yuletide Bonfire on February 7. Attendees enjoyed horse-drawn carriage rides and music by Saint Ann's of Hampton Pipes and Drums while warming themselves before a roaring stack of Christmas trees.

The event also yielded 197 pounds of canned food for the Open Cupboard Pantry Food, and the Clinton Fire Department, on hand to control the blaze, raised \$500 in donations.

Many thanks to Boy Scout Troop 121 and the volunteers who assisted them as they handed out hot cocoa and cookies during the festivities. We also extend a big thanks to all the merchants in and around town who sponsored the family-friendly event.

The Summer Recreation numbers are in. Our new extended-day option was a popular choice among parents, making enrollment a huge success! We are very happy to

know more of our town's young residents can enjoy in this trusted and affordable summer tradition. If you missed the deadline, we are still accepting signups – with a \$50 late fee – through 4 p.m. March 13. Mail in or drop off your registration forms and checks at Town Hall, 43 Leigh St.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 6-8 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 19, and join us on the second floor of Town Hall for Trip Sign-up Night. This will be the ONLY opportunity to sign up your children for Summer Recreation trips. If you have an extenuating circumstance and cannot attend trip night, we will allow a surrogate to sign up children in your place. However, we recommend sending that person with a blank signed check if you plan to sign your child up for one of the trips that has a maximum enrollment – just in case it is full when that person arrives.

Brad Cohen  
Chair, Recreation Commission  
(p) 908-735-8616  
(e) [contactus@clintonnj.gov](mailto:contactus@clintonnj.gov)

## CLINTON CONSERVANCY

### Spring Gardens

It's time to start planning your spring garden. Hopefully you are considering native trees, shrubs and flowers. Not only do they provide shelter and food for native species, but will improve the environment. They will thrive in their native soils, weather conditions and reduce pest problems. Removing invasive species will also help.

Some sources for information include Clinton Conservancy Gardens. They are always looking for volunteers and have a lot of information on their website [ClintonConservancyGardens.org](http://ClintonConservancyGardens.org). The Native Plant Society has monthly meetings/programs at the library that are open to the public. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is a great place to visit in the spring.

Rutgers University has many good articles and listings of plants including:

**Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape:**

## ELDERS OF CLINTON

### Join An Exciting New Committee

Advances in healthcare and healthy living allows us to get older in healthier bodies, we recognize a need for fostering a more vibrant seniors community that includes people who don't think of themselves as "seniors." To honor our residents celebrating the second half of their lives, the Town has established The Elders of Clinton Committee.

In addition to working with Hunterdon County Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services to increase access to their wonderful programs, the Elders of Clinton Committee will be working on recreation activities and affordability efforts for our active seniors.

One of the great county services is the Mr. Fix-it Program, which help keep seniors in their own

homes by providing health and safety related repairs. To be eligible, you must be a Hunterdon County resident, age 60 and over, or a person with a disability. The only cost involved are for materials (if necessary). Please contact Jane Griffith for more info at [jgriffith@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:jgriffith@co.hunterdon.nj.us) and 908-788-1361. The County offers plethora of information, programs and services. Please visit their website at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging).

The Elders of Clinton Committee is looking for volunteer members. Contact Mike Humphrey at [mhumphrey@clintonnj.gov](mailto:mhumphrey@clintonnj.gov) and 908-399-0698 for more info, or visit [www.bit.ly/2SHZND2](http://www.bit.ly/2SHZND2).

Mary Ann Rodenberger  
Office on Aging  
(p) 908-310-3312  
(e) [mrodenberger@hotmail.com](mailto:mrodenberger@hotmail.com)

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## IMPROVING RECYCLING

We have all done it: a greasy pizza box, a disposable coffee cup, the odd plastic bag. Sometimes, we want things to be recyclable, so we put them in the recycling bin.

Waste managers often call this wishful or aspirational recycling. But, unfortunately, putting these objects in with the rest of the recycling can do more harm than good.

As part of a broad antipollution campaign, China has banned imports of various types of plastic and paper, and tightened standards for materials it does accept. China's stricter requirements also mean that loads of recycling are more likely to be considered contaminated if they contain materials that are not recyclable.

Contamination is created when the wrong materials are put into the system (e.g., hoses, propane tanks, etc.) or when the right materials are prepared the wrong way (e.g., recyclables in plastic bags, food left in containers, etc.). Instead of being accepted at recycling centers, contaminated loads are being sent to the landfill, costing Clinton thousands of taxpayer dollars every year.

Acceptable materials for curbside recycling are relatively few, including bottles, cans, containers, cardboard and printed paper. Nothing else.

John Madden  
Chair, Environmental Commission  
(p) 908-735-8301



### Know what to throw

Cardboard, paper, glass containers, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs



### Empty. Clean. Dry.™

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

Cover your bins when outside



### Don't bag it

Never put recyclables in plastic bags

# SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Arbor Day, a worldwide tradition, first took root at a tree-planting festival in the village of Mondoñedo in northern Spain, 1594, after the town's Mayor went out on a limb and suggested the village plant lime and horse chestnut trees.

In the United States, J. Sterling Morton, founder of the Arbor Day Foundation, newspaper editor and member of the Nebraska agricultural board, championed Nebraskans to hold their first

Arbor Day on April 10, 1872. By 1885, Nebraska City celebrated Arbor Day with a "grand parade" with schoolchildren planting trees labeled with their grades and the date.

Here in Clinton, the grade school children help plant and dedicate a tree to celebrate Arbor Day. They receive education on the how to plant and care for trees as well as why the conservation of trees is important for the future. Last year, the Clinton Shade Tree Commission sponsored a planting of white oak tree at the Community Center.

We are in the process of finalizing the details for this year's celebration—which will take place at the end of April depending on the school calendar. Check our Town's web site for date, time, and location and please come out and join us! If you can't attend the ceremony please remember that anyone can celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree!

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

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## FIRST AID & RESCUE SQUAD

### Calls Increase 72%

Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad answered 4,119 calls for emergency medical and rescue services in 2019 – an increase of more than 14% from 2018 and a whopping 72% hike since 2012. CFARS's 93 volunteers volunteered a total of 23,000 on-shift hours.

"To say that we need more volunteers is an understatement," said CFARS Chief Frank Setnick. "With more residences and hotels being built, greater highway traffic volumes, and an aging population, we expect this trend to continue."



### EMT Training Class for Volunteers

No experience is necessary. CFARS teaches the EMT course at its own training facility, with a new session starting June 24. The course is free for CFARS volunteers. Volunteers can learn first aid and CPR, after which they can assist EMTs.

From the sense of purpose that comes from helping your neighbors, to the adrenaline rush of responding to an emergency, to the life-long friendships that feel like family, there are many rewards for those who volunteer.

"If you're interested in the Squad, but not quite sure if it's for you, sign up for our ride-along program," added Setnick.

To learn more or inquire about joining or a ride-along, please visit [www.joinclintonems.com](http://www.joinclintonems.com).

Bucky Buchanan  
Deputy Chief  
(p) 908-528-7502  
(e) [opschief@clintonems.org](mailto:opschief@clintonems.org)



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# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## INTERVIEW WITH NEW CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF JEFF HEDDEN

### Q. Why did you become a firefighter?

A. Coming from a long line of firefighters (great-grandfather, grandfather and father) our family has long been embedded in the fire service. I joined my local department as a junior firefighter at the age of 16 with a bunch of my high school friends. Upon moving to the Town of Clinton in 1998, I immediately reached out to the Clinton Fire Department and became an active member in town.

### Q. How has firefighting changed?

A. Numerous changes have taken place in my 28 years of fire service. One of the biggest changes is the training requirements: 80-100 hours of training was required when I was enrolled in the academy in 1993. Now it is 230 hours of classroom and practical hours.

### Q. What is special about the CFD

A. The Clinton Fire Department is based on a long, rich history of over 125 years of service. We take pride that our membership is family centered and is heavily involved in the community. We participate in numerous annual community

events such as The Bonfire, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Summer Grill Nights, Town Picnic and Fireworks, Santa Delivery and Ride Through Town and the Clinton Christmas Parade.

### Q. What are your plans as Chief?

A. I will work with my Fire Officers to keep the Clinton Fire Department a respected and cutting edge department in the county. I look forward to working with our North Hunterdon Fire Alliance Mutual Aid Departments and the Clinton Town Council to maintain a high level of fire protection for the Town of Clinton and surrounding municipalities.

### Q. What can residents do to help?

A. Residents can continue to support the fire department through donations or visit the firehouse on any Monday night to inquire about membership. We do not only need firefighters but also need support personal that can help with grill night fundraisers and other fire department functions.

Chief Jeff Hedden  
(p) 908-442-4448  
(e) [jhedden@clintonfd.org](mailto:jhedden@clintonfd.org)

# FIRE SAFETY

## STATE FIRE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME SALES

Are you considering selling your home? Prior to inspection, check the State Uniform Fire Code requirements for all smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguisher, including:

- All smoke alarms must be within 10 years of the manufacture date
- All battery-only operated smoke alarms must be of the sealed battery type
- If the home has any AC powered and/or interconnected smoke alarms they must remain that type and not be changed to a battery-only

- Smoke alarms are required on each level including the basement
- All battery-only smoke alarms must be within 10 feet of all sleeping rooms
- Proper placement is near the base of any stairs
- No smoke alarms are to be within 3 feet of any tip of a fan blade, an HVAC diffuser, or a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower
- Carbon Monoxide alarms are required within 10 feet of all sleeping rooms
- A fire extinguisher is required within 10 feet of the kitchen and permanently mounted along the exit path from the kitchen

- The fire extinguisher must be mounted in plain view and not behind a door or hidden (as in a closet or under a cabinet)
- The maximum weight of the fire extinguisher is 10 pounds and the minimum rating is a 2A10BC **(the rating is very important)**
- A receipt for a new fire extinguisher must be provided OR any current one needs to have been re-inspected by a certified company who will tag the fire extinguisher (maximum of 1-year intervals)

For more information visit

<https://bit.ly/37A5qZq>

Jack Daniels  
Fire Marshal  
(p) 908-468-1696  
(e) [jdaniels@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jdaniels@clintonnj.gov)

# PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

## CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

There has been much to celebrate this year from championship-level performances across fall and winter sports, ongoing performances and showcases in the arts, and student involvement in a variety of fundraisers, contests, and family outings. All of this helps Clinton Public School leverage what is best in a small community school.

Our recent auditors report has affirmed our good financial stewardship in managing both costs and improvements to our facility. We continue to operate within the state's parameters of

fiscal responsibility despite the challenges of decreased state funding.

The school has developed programs to keep students at CPS as well as attract students from other districts, and we are currently awaiting a commissioner review to potentially establish a send-receive relationship to bring seventh and eighth-grade students from Lebanon Borough.

Additionally, the board is in the process of negotiating a one-year contract extension with staff to keep up the good work of the vision and mission of the school.

The board and the administration remain committed to seeing that the school is well run and to create unique learning experiences for our children, our school, and our community. We continue to appreciate and need your support and look forward to the challenges and the opportunities of the year ahead.

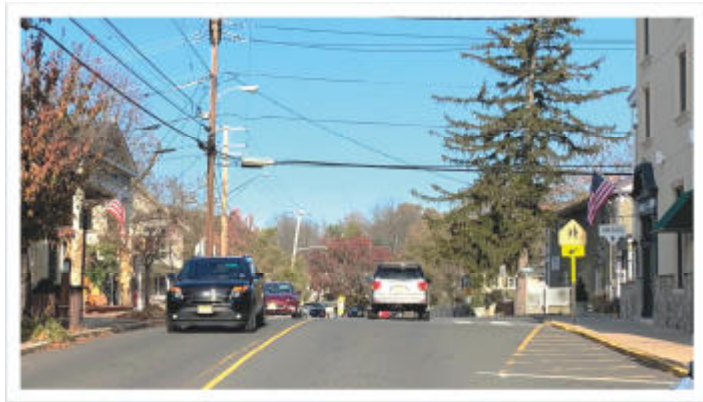
Seth Cohen  
Superintendent/Principal  
Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education  
(p) (908) 735-8512  
(e) [scohen@cpsnj.org](mailto:scohen@cpsnj.org)

## THEN & NOW



**Leigh Street & Center Street (facing north)  
Early 1900s**

This photo shows Leigh Street with the Grandin Library to the left and the Union Hotel on the right. Straight ahead on Center Street is a three story building with an awning, and a one lane truss bridge that connected Leigh Street with Halstead street across the South Branch of the Raritan River.



**Leigh Street & Center Street (facing north)  
Today**

The exact same spot is almost unrecognizable from a century ago. The Riegel Credit Union is now the largest occupant of old Union Hotel, which has lost it's Leigh Street porch and has changed its façade.

Most striking is the loss of the Center Street building, which sat on what is now the northbound lane of Leigh Street. The bridge was replaced several times, with the latest version constructed a decade ago.

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## STAFF & MEETINGS

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**MAYOR | Janice Kovach**

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

**CLERK | Cecilia Covino**

**ADMINISTRATOR | Richard Phelan**

**TAX ASSESSOR | Fran Kuczynski**

**CFO | Kathy Olsen**

**ZONING OFFICER | Allison Witt**

908.735.8616

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

### MEETINGS

#### COUNCIL MEETING

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

#### 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



RECYCLE PICKUP: EVERY FRIDAY



TRASH PICKUP: EVERY TUESDAY

For information regarding this newsletter, contact **Nancy Burgess** at **908.735.2265**



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