

# OUR TOWN

Issue 63

December 2005

## From the Mayor's Desk...

**Matthew Holt**

**19th  
Annual  
Christmas  
Parade  
Friday,  
December  
2nd  
2005  
7:00 PM**



As a famous baseball player once said, "I am the luckiest man alive."

Reflecting back over the past ten years, I have learned more, experienced more, and been able to become a better person through my tenure on the Governing Body of the Town of Clinton. For this I thank you, as you placed me here for just over a decade. I would not be who I am were it not for the experience of having been a true public servant, and no better place to do so than in the Town of Clinton.

I want to thank so many people from the community who have been supportive of so many projects we have undertaken over the past 10 years. The Town is blessed with the absolute best in volunteers, who dedicate many thankless hours to making our Town a community.

I thank every employee of the Town, and can say that after working with them for a decade, they care so deeply about what they do. The impact it has on all of us is so very positive. They are simply some of the most dedicated employees possible, and we all owe them a true debt of gratitude for their time,

efforts, and expertise.

However, I owe the greatest debt of all to my parents, family, son (Justin) and most especially my wife (Megan), all who have given up so many hours of our time together to allow me to follow my passion, working for our community for so many years. As I walk and drive through Town, I see so many things that have quietly been accomplished, and those that are even now in the works. It has been a great honor and privilege to have served all of you for so many years.

Matthew Holt  
Mayor

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### RESIDENT ADVISORY

**NO PARKING** on any street in the Town of Clinton between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM from November 15th to April 1st, except on Main Street and East Main Street where the hours are 11PM to 6 AM.

Snow & Ice are to be removed from sidewalks, parking areas and rights of way used by the public, by the owner/occupant of premises within 12 hours of daylight after the snow falls or ice forms.



### SAVE THE DATE

**Town Wide Garage Sale: June 3, 2006.**



## Department of Fire Prevention by Jack Daniels



*In October we commemorated National Fire Prevention Week. If you have children in school, they probably brought home some information. Have you practiced fire drills at home, explained how to get out in case of a fire, where to meet when you do get outside, explained to the babysitter what the procedure is in case of a fire? All of these and more are just some of the issues discussed during fire prevention week. Please remember that Fire Safety is something that is taught not caught. Plan for the worst just in case; your lives might depend on your planning.*

*The upcoming holidays typically lend themselves to some sort of tragedy. Please remember to **USE CANDLES WITH CARE, WHEN YOU GO OUT BLOW OUT!** Also, holiday decorations need to stay clear of any heat source including decorative lights. Remember to make sure the nearest fire hydrant is cleared of all snow or obstructions during the winter.*

**Business owners: NO LIVE CUT HOLIDAY TREES ARE PERMITTED INSIDE OF A BUILDING.**

*The following is a portion of an article from the MARKET WIRE. It points to the importance of properly located and working smoke detectors in our homes. Please make sure your home has the proper amount of WORKING detectors.*

**Smoke Alarms Invaluable as Home Fires Burn Hotter, Faster**

**Study Shows Time to Evacuate Reduced to as Little as Two Minutes**

NORTHBROOK, IL -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 10/04/2005 -- Home fires are burning hotter and up to five times faster than they did 30 years

ago, according to federal research. As a result, properly maintained residential smoke alarms are even more valuable to families than a generation ago.

Last year, a study developed by the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST) determined that residential fires are more aggressive today than when smoke alarms first became widely available, reducing the time needed to escape some fires from 15 to 20 minutes to as little as two to five minutes.

"Fires may behave differently because homes today typically contain larger quantities and different types of materials than before," said John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs for Underwriters Laboratories (UL). "This means you need as much early warning as possible to evacuate safely. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms remain the most effective way to protect you and your family from the risk of fire."

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration, the number of home fire fatalities has been cut in half since smoke alarms first became widely available during the mid-1970s. Currently, 95 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, but 43 percent of all fatal fires occur in homes without working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms have been around a long enough time that most people know to evacuate immediately when they hear one," Drengenberg said. "Unfortunately, people are prone to forget that the batteries in smoke alarms need changing at least once a year and the smoke alarm itself should be replaced every 10 years."

Drengenberg also offered these tips for purchasing, maintaining and installing smoke alarms:

-- When you purchase a smoke

alarm, look for the UL Mark. The symbol indicates representative samples of the alarm have met UL's stringent safety standards;

-- You may need several smoke alarms to adequately protect your family. Install at least one on every level of your home, including the basement and outside each sleeping area;

-- If you or family members sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside the bedroom;

-- Some individuals, particularly children, older people, and those with special needs, may not wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. You should be aware of this when developing a home fire escape plan;

-- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing smoke alarms;

-- Test smoke alarms at least once a month;

-- Don't disconnect a smoke alarm or "borrow" the batteries;

-- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms twice a year;

-- Replace the smoke alarm every 10 years, or as the Manufacturer recommends.

*For information about fire prevention matters please contact my office at 908-735-2275. I would be happy to answer any questions or assist you in any way that I can.*

*Jack Daniels, Fire Official*



## Newsletter and Website Committee by Pat Hatalla



### Website Enhancement is Coming in Early December!!!

A Resident Notification Service will be implemented to make the web site experience more proactive. Instead of you coming to the site to see if anything new has been posted, you will receive an email notification when the web site has been updated. The email states what has been updated/posted and provides a link directly to the updated/new page. This would be applicable for notification on agendas, meeting minutes and any other updates.

This notification service can also be used by the municipality to send out emergency or other notices such as road closings, reminders to renew pet licenses, etc.

A visitor registers at the web site using an online form. Their information goes into a database that is used as the mailing list each time a notification is sent out. You can change your information or unsubscribe at any time.

This is completely secure so you do not have to worry about being on someone else's email list. The list

will not be sold, shared or given to anyone.

As always, we are looking to improve the website. If there are any additional topics that you would like see, please contact Pat Hatalla on 730-7708.

I would also like to thank Ann Holt, who has recently resigned, for her many years of dedication to the Town newsletter. She has authored the Around Town section and has kept us informed of the many fine events in our community.

## Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad by Chad Newsome



The Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad (CFA&RS) announces that it recently became the first squad in New Jersey to

equip one of its ambulances with a revolutionary new tool to help their Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). The ZOLL AutoPulse™ Non-invasive Cardiac Support Pump offers the promise of achieving normal blood flow to the heart and brain during SCA. The AutoPulse can achieve these never-before-seen levels of circulation because of the unique, consistent chest compres-

sions it generates. It can move more blood more effectively than any other method available to squads today. The new equipment was made possible through the generous support of **The Private Advisor, Inc.**, a local Clinton financial planning firm.

The AutoPulse is comprised of a backboard and a simple LifeBand™ that fastens across a victim's chest. It compresses the entire chest in a unique, consistent "hands-free" manner, moving much more blood than could ever be done with human hands during CPR. Additionally, it offers the benefit of freeing up rescuers to focus on other life-saving interventions.

The Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad provides Basic Life Support (BLS) and Rescue services (vehicle extrication, water rescue, and technical rescue) to the Town of Clinton, and portions of Clinton Twp., Lebanon Borough, Franklin Twp., and Union Twp. The squad covers approximately 48 square miles, and answers about 1400 calls per year. They utilize a combination of paid (6am-6pm, M-F) and volunteer (remaining hours) Emergency Medical Technicians, with approximately 80 volunteer members at this time. The squad operates 4 ambulances, a rescue truck, a marine support vehicle, 3 boats, a command vehicle, a technical rescue services trailer and a first responder car.

## Tax Relief By Lou Pennucci



### Did you know that...

\*Certain veterans or unmarried surviving spouses are entitled to a \$250 property tax deduction?

\*100% disabled veterans or unmarried surviving spouses may be entitled a full property tax exemption?

\*Senior citizens, disabled persons or

unmarried surviving spouses may be eligible for a \$250 real property tax deduction?

If you think that you may qualify for these property tax deductions or if you are entitled to other New Jersey Tax Benefits, you can log on to [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation).

Clinton residents may call Nancy Smith, Town of Clinton Chief Financial Officer, at 735-2275, if they have questions about these or other property tax benefits.

## Historic Preservation Commission by Craig Rogers

What's so historic about Historic Clinton? It's not just the picturesque mills, bridge and downtown. In fact, the Town of Clinton has a Historic District with over 200 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places; has 8 sites and a Historic District recognized by the State of New Jersey; and a Local Ordinance 90-14 (adopted in 1990) that established the Clinton Historic Preservation Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission consists of nine town resident volunteers and one Town Council representative. The Commission was created to promote the conservation of historic areas and the preservation of cultural, social and architectural history in the Town of Clinton.

This year the commission focused on updating a survey of Clinton's historic properties and sites. The sites identified in the survey (which includes structures and cemeteries), will become the focus of the Commission. The survey will ultimately become the foundation of a database that will house information about each of these historic sites in Clinton. This database will be made available to the public and will include information and photographs, both recent and archived. The intent is to provide residents with a single resource where they can research their home and it's history.

Also this year, we created a Recognition Committee. This committee has

been charged with identifying properties in the town that have been recently revived by their owners. It's not easy to maintain an old home, and it's even more difficult to bring one back to its original glory. We feel these people should be recognized for their efforts.

Curious if your house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places? Visit [www.historicclinton.com](http://www.historicclinton.com), the Commission's official website.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets the 3rd Wednesday every month at 7:00 PM at the Clinton Municipal Building in the council room. Meetings are open to the public, please come and join us!



### Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Day

Saturday, March 11, 2006

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Route 12 County Garage,  
Hunterdon County Complex  
Flemington, NJ 08822

Any questions, call 908-788-1110 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm

## Dept. of Public Works by Robert Cutter



### “Capital Improvements Project Update

1. County of Hunterdon Project – Halstead Street Bridge 2006
2. State of New Jersey D.O.T. Project – Rt.173/I-78, Exit 15 2005-2006
3. DeMott Pond Dam Construction 2005-2006
4. Fox Drive – Milling and Overlay September, 2005
5. School Street – Milling and Overlay 2006
6. 47 Leigh Street – Rehabilitation 2006
7. Clinton Mills Dike and Dam Project 2006-2007

### Grass Bags

Will no longer be available at the Municipal Building. You may purchase bio-degradable grass bags at most hardware and/or home improvement stores, i.e. Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

Within the next several weeks, please visit the Town of Clinton Web site at [www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov) for education information on our program.

### Leaf Collection



Leaf collection will begin in Mid-October and will continue until approximately Mid-December. There will be multiple trips through

all neighborhoods for the duration of the leaf collection program, so if leaves are not out when the crew goes by they will be picked up next time. We are also requesting that neighbors be cognizant of others and, if possible, cover leaves with a tarp so that leaves don't blow on other properties.

### Reminders:

I will be available for appointments in my office in the Municipal Building, every second Tuesday, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss any problems or questions that can't be handled during regular business hours. Please call Mrs. Peterson at the Municipal Office (735-8616) to arrange an appointment.

## Police Department by Sergeant Cory Kubinak



The below Town of Clinton Ordinance pertains to Skateboarding, Rollerblades and more...

### Ordinance 114-1 Operation on Public Streets and Public Areas

No person shall operate, or cause to be operated, any human-powered locomotion device on the streets, highways, or other public areas designed for motor vehicles within the Town of Clinton. Such human-powered devices for locomotion included, but are not limited to, skates, skateboards, sleds, tricycles, or scooters, etc., but shall not include bicycles, or other properly

equipped Peda cycles.

In addition to these restrictions, another Town of Clinton Ordinance further restricts the operation of the above identified devices on certain sidewalks along the following streets:

### Ordinance 114-2 Operation on Certain Sidewalks Prohibited

- Center Street:* Both Sides, Leigh Street to New Street
- East Main Street:* Both Sides, Leigh Street to New Street
- Leigh Street:* Both Sides, Halstead Street to Route 173
- Lower Center Street:* Both Sides, Main Street to Leigh Street

- Main Street:* Both Sides, Route 173 to Leigh Street
- New Street:* Both Sides, Center Street to Route 173

The only time you can use these devices on private property is when you have specific authorization from the owner of the property. These ordinances are in place to protect, you, residents and business owners. Please respect the personal property of others. Your failure to do so could result in a fine, community service or loss of drivers license. Any questions about the ordinances or laws pertaining to this topic, please visit or call the Town of Clinton Police Department.

## Parks & Playgrounds by Rosemary Pendergast



Clinton's first Halloween Tailgate & Trunk-or-Treat event held on October 30 was a huge success! Forty fami-

lies from Clinton and Glen Gardner set up tailgate style to hand out candy to hundreds of costumed children. The weather was perfect which allowed our rescheduled fire-

works to go off without a hitch. Thanks to the Clinton Police, Fire Department and Rescue/EMS for being on hand to make sure all were safe.

## Overcrowding Ordinance by Cecilia Covino, Town Clerk

The Town of Clinton has recently adopted an Ordinance regulating the rental of housing units.

All landlords must register *each* rental property with the **Town Clerk by February 22, 2006.**

Applications are available on the Town of Clinton website or at the Municipal Building.

### Citizen Involvement Application

Applications are available in the Clerk's Office for anyone interested in being considered to fill an appointment to vacancies on Town Boards, Commissions or Committees. Applicants should complete the application and return it to the Clerk's Office. Any questions, please call 735-8616.

## Board of Health News by Cecilia Covino, Town Clerk

### RABIES CLINIC

A rabies clinic sponsored by the Town of Clinton and Clinton Township will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, January 14, 2006

Time: 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: TOWN OF CLINTON MUNICIPAL BARN



### LICENSE RENEWAL



Renewals for annual dog and cat licenses will be mailed in December, due January, 2006. Proof of current rabies is required.

## Council Highlights by Colleen O'Reilly

### August 9, 2005

~ The Town of Clinton was informed by the Department of the Army that we will be receiving the Thermal Eye, which senses heat and will generate real time video in all lighting conditions. This could assist in finding a lost child, someone hiding in the woods, etc.

~ There was a discussion regarding the current Sign Ordinance pertaining to temporary signs. The Sign Committee will be meeting with local business owners to further discuss the ordinance.

~ The Planning Board is looking at the redevelopment of the Wargo tract, the land next to Krauser's. An initial study will be conducted. There may be Highlands funds available if the land qualifies for it.

~ The first anniversary of the Highlands act will be celebrated on 8-10-05 at the Hunterdon Art Museum.

~ In accordance with the Stormwater Management Program, repairs have been made to several storm drains and medallions have been applied to them.

~ Proposals from architects have been received for the 47 Leigh Street project and will be reviewed at the next Buildings and Grounds meeting.

### August 23, 2005

~ Mayor Holt reviewed a letter sent to the NJ DOT regarding three items of signalization at the Leigh Street and Old Highway 22 intersection.

~ A Pampered Chef Fundraiser was held on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to assist with funding for the new firetruck. Councilwoman Garber thanked everyone involved and presented a check for \$2,000 to the Clinton Fire Department.

~ The Clinton Sunrise Rotary presented donations to the Clinton Police Department. The Rotary members thanked the Police Department for supporting their efforts in holding the Rubber Ducky Race and Sprintin' Clinton and made a donation to the Police Department for the purchase

of a new laptop computer for a police car and the purchase of a digital camera.

~ Members of the Clinton Fire Department returned to discuss the funding for the new 100' aerial truck. A Federal Grant was applied for earlier in the year and announcements of recipients have begun. The truck will cost \$850,000 and renovations to the building will be approximately \$350,000. After much discussion, the Council agreed to pay the \$850,000 toward the truck if the cost of the renovations go beyond the \$350,000 initially projected. If the costs to renovate the building are at \$350,000 or below, then the Town will pay \$750,000 toward the truck and the Fire Department will pay the additional \$100,000.

~ Clinton Guild supported the filming of a commercial by Comcast Cable that was aired at the end of Sept and beginning of October.

~ The Environmental Commission discussed correspondence received from the DOT Commissioner regarding highway noise. Technical info will be provided for a response.

### September 13, 2005

~ The minutes from the prior meeting were corrected to show that the fire departments building renovation could cost as much as \$500,000.

~ Michael Cobb, a former Public Works employee was honored after retiring after 27 years on the job. The Council gave Mr. Cobb a retirement gift, thanked him for his many years of hard work and wished him well in his retirement.

~ Mayor Holt and Nancy Smith attended a meeting of the Finance Committee at the North Hunterdon Municipal Court. An increase in security measures such as metal detectors was discussed.

~ An update on the 47 Leigh Street project was given by Mr. Christenson. An architect was selected after receiving three proposals. Susan Rochelle, AIA was selected. She is from Milford, NJ and has a back-

ground in historic building work.

~ The Municipal Building was retrofitted with new energy saving lighting fixtures and a rebate check from Jersey Central Power & Light was received for \$1,920.

~ David Zyck, Water department employee for 10 years submitted his resignation.

~ Parks & Playground rescheduled the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks to October 30<sup>th</sup>.

~ The Road Committee is discussing speed platforms for Rupells Road.

~ Councilman Christenson resigned from the Town Council as his family is moving to Clinton Township. Mr. Christenson was wished the best from all of the Council members.

~ A letter of thanks was received by Detective Jay Hunter who is serving a term of military duty in Iraq. Jay received letters and boxes of personal items from Clinton Public School children.

~ The Clinton Guild sent a donation to the Fire Department for the truck fund.

### September 27, 2005

~ Mayor Holt announced that Police Chief Matheis will be attending FBI National Academy Training program from Oct. 2 to Dec. 16.

~ Recommendations from The Planning Board were discussed to:

\*adopt the amendments of the Industrial Zone

\*adopt the Planning Board Fee Schedule amendments

\*grant the Planning Board the authority to extend the 190 day period on Minor Subdivisions.

The Fee schedule and the extension of the 190 days were approved. The Industrial Zone was further discussed. The 57 acre industrial zone is located on Ramsey Road heading toward the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Some recommendations were made and will be taken back to the Planning Board.

~ The DEP Grant regarding the Dam and Dike work was discussed. The

## Council Highlights (continued) by Colleen O'Reilly

original job estimates covered the dike only and the preliminary work was completed by the private owners. Mayor Holt explained that "The Town is willing to oversee and manage the project subject to the availability of Grant funds. However, the Town does not wish to commit the taxpayers of Clinton to unfounded and unknown liability for improving private property, nor does it wish to own the dike and dam." The Town Engineer will be hired as project manager and all costs will be covered by the DEP grant.

~ Clinton Public School Partner in Education Foundation will hold a raffle on 2-24-06 to be used for education foundation grants.

~ The Clinton Guild Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

~ Notice was received that the left turn signal at the intersection of Leigh and Old Highway 22 will be installed within 4 to 6 months.

~ The Shade Tree Commission will be replacing four trees on West Main Street, trees on Halstead St., Helen Road, and the 9/11 tree.

### October 11, 2005

~ The Police department received two defibrillators on a grant from the State.

~ The NJ Chapter of American Public Works will be honoring Paul Klitsch and Tom Tharp for long term dedication.

~ The Town received the second phase of the Stormwater Grant for \$6,822.

~ The Town also received \$12,500 to cover the preparation and implementation of COAH Round Three regulations.

~ With Councilman Christenson resigning at last meeting, the Vacancy Law dictates that the party of the vacant seat submit three names within 15 days to fill the seat. The names submitted were John Harri-

son, Martin Pendergast and Robert Smith. The Council interviewed each man and a unanimous decision was made to appoint John Harrison to fill the vacant term.

~ Carrie Davison was appointed as a new Crossing Guard.

~ The Planning Board has approved a subdivision on the Fox property and was asked to assist in the naming of the road. Springhouse Court was approved, subject to the approval of the Historic Commission.

~ The Overcrowding Ordinance was proposed as a result of the fire above the Tomato Café a few years ago. It was discussed and Mr. Cushing will continue researching information and update the Committee.

~ The Board of Adjustment has a vacancy. Anyone interested should complete the Citizen Improvement Application.

~ A Hair-cut-a-thon will be held at Arlene's in Clinton to benefit the Clinton Fire Department on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Around the Town stay busy as we fall into winter! by Ann Holt

### Running through January 8

LUMINAL STATES: NEW YORK

BY JEANNE JAFFE

HIGH CALIBER; GUNS IN CONTEMPORARY ART

RAGS TO RICHES: HANDCRAFTED RUGS

Hunterdon Museum of Art

Tuesdays through Sundays 11-5



### Friday, December 2

ANNUAL GALA CHRISTMAS PARADE

starting at 7 p.m.



### Saturday, December 3

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Hunterdon Chorale Union and Symphony

Clinton Presbyterian Church 8 p.m.

### Thursday, December 8

DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

Mary Harrison dressage rider and musician  
in a multi-media presentation

North Hunterdon Library 7 p.m.



### Thursday, December 15

CANDLELIGHT SHOPPING NIGHT

gifts, refreshments, and fun in downtown Clinton,  
starting at dusk

### Wednesday, December 21

LECTURES IN SONG: FRANK SINATRA

North County Library 2 p.m.



### Tuesday, January 10

AMERICAN REVOLUTION LECTURE SERIES

The French and Indian Wars in New Jersey:

Dave Pitchell

Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.

### Opening Sunday, January 15

ART RUG: THE ART OF PLAYING CARDS

Hooked rugs of unusual designs

2006 MEMBERS' EXHIBITION

Hunterdon Museum of Art

### February 7-14

SWEETHEARTS' WEEK IN DOWNTOWN CLINTON

### Tuesday, February 14

AMERICAN REVOLUTION LECTURE SERIES

The Trenton Barracks and New Jersey

in the French and Indian War

Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.





Newsletter  
Town of Clinton  
43 Leigh Street  
P.O. Box 5194  
Clinton, NJ 08809

[www.clintonnj.gov](http://www.clintonnj.gov)

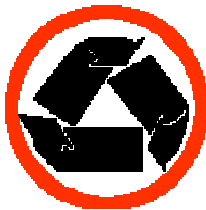
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#### RECYCLING DATES FOR 2005/2006

December 13, 27

January 10, 24

February 7, 21



## Calendar of Town Committee Meetings at Municipal Bldg.

**ASSESSOR** — 4:30 to 5:30 PM Second Wednesday of each month

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** — 7:30 PM Fourth Monday of each month (as needed)

**BOARD OF HEALTH** — 7:30 PM Fourth Monday of each month (as needed)

**BUILDING INSPECTOR** — 7:00 to 8:00 PM Every Wednesday; 9:00 to 12 Noon Thursdays

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** — 6:30 PM First and Third Thursday of each month

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION** — 7:30 PM Fourth Monday of each month

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION** — 7:00 PM Third Wednesday of each month

**PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS** — 7:30 PM Third Thursday of each month

**PLANNING BOARD** — 7:30 PM First Tuesday of each month

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION** — 7:30 PM Third Monday of each month

For information regarding placing articles in this newsletter, contact  
Nancy Burgess (735-2265) or Pat Hatalla (730-7708)