

OUR TOWN

Clinton, NJ

Issue 56

March 2004

From the Mayor's Desk...

2004 is upon us and with it some changes in the Municipal Building. Post election, both new and old members of Council began working together to "pass the torch" in order that the best interest of the Town be the primary focus. Never have I been more proud of the way Clinton has been run, than to work in November and December putting together new committees and commissions, and be a part of our Council and our Town employees as they work to insure a smooth transition.

We have been so very fortunate to have been represented by employ-

ees, volunteers, and elected officials who truly do what they do for the love of the Town and the Community. An enormous thanks for a job well done to former Mayor Allie McGaharen and Councilman Bob Smith.

The primary job of the Council in January and February is working on the annual Budget. This process was carried on, as in the past, with many public meetings during which the budget was discussed and debated at length.

This year, we saw an actual decrease in the assessed valuations of the Town, and began our budget work with a loss of potential revenue. This was not unexpected, and continues to remind us all that ratables and revenue sources are paramount in the planning of the future of the Town.

Despite this, our Council, CFO, Town Clerk, Business Administrator, Chief of Police, and Auditor worked for many weeks, to provide a budget that meets the needs of the community, and provides no cuts in services provided to the residents. I thank them all for their work.

We will continue funding to maintain our roads and sidewalks, and will proceed with two large capital projects this year, rebuilding the Demott Pond Dam and Olsen Lane. The maintenance on our ball fields, parklands, and various buildings will be ongoing. Recycling and full service solid waste service will remain with no changes. We will also continue to provide support to our emergency services, Police, Fire, and Rescue, as they work to protect our community.

We look forward with much excitement, watching our Rescue Squad as they see the results of decades of planning, as their new building rises from the dust of their old facility. While the Town provides support to both our Fire and Rescue Squads, I urge all of you to make individual donations to both Emergency Service organizations as we are truly thankful for our volunteers who respond when we need them the most.

I am honored to have been chosen to serve as Mayor of the Town of Clinton.

As the Spring approaches, and after what seems to have been a overly cold and snowy winter, I join you all in looking forward to the coming months, and watching our Town as it comes into its full beauty.

Matthew Holt, Mayor

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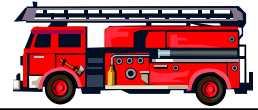
Planning Board Update

A request has been made by Summit Manor Company to amend the Town of Clinton's master plan to enable retail development of property, 52 acres

located off of the access road approaching WalMart Plaza, which is presently designated in the plan for and zoned for industrial use.

If you are interested, the next Planning Board meeting will be held on March 16th at 7:30 at the Clinton Firehouse.

Department of Fire Protection by Jack Daniels



The winter season is almost over and soon spring will be upon us. Spring is the time for new growth. Here are some fire safety tips to keep in mind.

Be careful when cooking outdoors. Use of propane grills and charcoal grills can lead to an accidental fire. Keep all cooking materials in an approved container and in a safe location. Propane tanks should not be located so close to buildings that a fire could affect the tank or grill fires affect the building.

Please be sure to continue to prac-

tice fire safety in and around your home. Know at least two ways out of your home in an emergency.

Make sure that your hot water, heating and ventilation systems are still functioning properly. Verify that your chimneys are clear. Improper functioning devices or clogged chimneys can lead to Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

Regarding the sale or rental of a residence, the State Division of Fire Safety has established the fees associated with a smoke detector/carbon monoxide certificate. This fee is

based on the amount of time the application is made before the closing. Please make every effort to make the application to the Town of Clinton Department of Fire Prevention as soon as you know that you are planning on selling or renting a residential occupancy.

If anyone would like to speak to me regarding any of the above-mentioned items or anything else, please contact my office at 908-735-8616. I would be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

Parks & Playgrounds by Rosemary Pendergast

Town Picnic

The third annual Town of Clinton Picnic and Fireworks will be held on Saturday June 26, 2004 at 3:00pm at the Hunts Mill Park behind the Kings Crossing Neighborhood. All town residents and merchants are invited to attend. Plans include a DJ, band, games and activities for all ages. Volunteers are needed in many different areas. If you are interested in getting involved in either the planning of the picnic or helping that day, please call Rosemary Pendergast @ 908-730-9464 or email dentboy@ptd.net.

Senior Luncheon

Attention all Senior Citizens! The Parks and Playgrounds committee

will be sponsoring a Senior Luncheon on Sunday May 2, 2004 at 1:00pm at the Clinton Firehouse for all senior citizens living in the Town of Clinton. Entertainment and Prizes will follow the catered luncheon. Please call Nancy Smith at 908-735-2275 to let her know if you would like to attend.

New Playground Equipment

As people come out of hibernation this spring, they will notice some changes at the Community Center Park. The dome shaped monkey bars and the fire truck have been replaced with a new and safer climbing unit geared to ages 2 to 5. Last year we had also added a swing for children with disabilities

which caused the removal of two baby swings. We are happy to report that we were able to add an extension onto the baby swing unit, and bring back the two swings, which are always at a premium!



Summer Rec Program

The Town of Clinton will again be sponsoring the Summer Rec Program for all Clinton Public School children that have completed grades K thru 8 as of June, 2004. The program will run from Monday June 28 to July 23 from 9:00am-12:00pm at Clinton Public School. Look for registration forms to come home with your child this spring.

Annual Town of Clinton Fishing Derby



The annual Town of Clinton Fishing Derby will be held, rain or shine, at DeMott Pond on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 AM to noon, with registration from 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM

All area young people, ages 4 to 16, are invited. There's no charge to enter!

The pond will be stocked with rainbow and brook trout, and each participant will receive free fish hooks,

worms, and bobbers, courtesy of Pender's Clinton Canoe and Kayak Co., who sponsor the event.

Lots of prizes and Lots of Trout!

Come and Have Fun!

Dept. of Public Works by Robert Cutter



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

The Olsen Lane Improvement Project is scheduled for Summer 2004. Town-wide Concrete Paver Repairs is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2004. The start of the construction of the State of NJ DOT Project - Rt. 173/I78 Exit 15 is scheduled for 2004-2005. The County of Hunterdon Project-The Halstead St. Bridge Replacement is currently scheduled for 2005.

REMINDERS:

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

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT:

Applications are available at the Municipal Building for Summer, 2004.

CHIPPING

January 7, 2004 and will continue until October 13, 2004.

BRUSH/YARD DEBRIS

Curbside on the **Wednesday, the week following recycling Day.** (See Town Trash & Recycling Card)

Tree Limbs and Branches to be placed at curbside. Raked debris to be in plastic bags ONLY. (No buckets or garbage cans.)



TOWN-WIDE SPRING CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

RAKE LEAVES TO CURB - NO BAGS, PLEASE

TWO WEEKS ONLY

MONDAY, MARCH 29TH THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH

If you have any questions, please call the Dept. of Public Works on 735-8616.

Spring 2004 Stream Clean-up by Don Goeh

The 2004 South Branch Watershed Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 24..

The Clinton Town staging area will be the West End of the Main Street Bridge from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

To register, contact Hoyt Baucom on 730-8405. We are looking forward to another great turnout.

Citizen Advisory Committee

For all residents, both new and old, the Citizens Advisory Committee wants you to know what the Committee has worked on in the past and some coming attractions for the future.

Past events/issues include:

- Town Yard Sale
- Donation to the Town Clock fund
- Welcome to Clinton signs and landscape
- Dimming of business center lights at night

Coming attractions:

- Town decals for resident automobiles
- Resident and business beautification project awards
- Town yard sale

The Committee is dedicated to enhance and facilitate communication for all town residents and the town counsel. Therefore, we have established an e-mail address at clintoncitadvisory@yahoo.com or you may directly contact any of the

members.

The Committee members include Lou Tranquilli, Mary Iazzetta, Joyce Van Natta, Ethel Kastenschmidt, Eric Van Nostrand, Christine Schaumburg and Janice Kovach

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30 PM and is open to the public. We welcome your suggestions, comments and concerns. Please contact us directly or through our e-mail address at clintoncitadvisory@yahoo.com.

Police Department by Chief Matheis

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

With warmer weather comes increased pedestrian traffic throughout Clinton.



It is extremely important that our pedestrians and motorists are aware of their separate but equal responsibilities at a crosswalk. Pedestrians must stop at the curb, look both ways and proceed into the crosswalk only when safe to do so. Motorists must yield the right of way to a pedestrian who has entered the crosswalk. After dark, pedestrians should wear bright or reflective clothing and motorists should pay extra attention at intersections and crosswalks for the unexpected. If either a pedestrian or motorist neglect their responsibilities, the results can be tragic and expensive. The police department takes pedestrian safety very serious and will be actively enforcing the law at our crosswalks.

HOUSE NUMBERS

There are still numerous homes and commercial properties in Clinton that are not properly marked with a street number. When an emergency happens, seconds are critical to responding police, fire and rescue personnel. Please take the time to make sure that the street number of your home or business is clearly marked and visible from the street.

OVERNIGHT PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Annual winter overnight parking regulations end March 31st until next winter.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of our Child Safety Seat.

Technician Patrolman Jeff Glennon and schedule an inspection for your child safety seat. The inspection takes about one half hour and there is no cost.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Each week, officers are directed to spend extra enforcement time in specific areas which residents have identified as needing "extra" attention. If you have a specific traffic safety concern in your neighborhood please contact the department so it can be scheduled in our Traffic Management Program.

SKATEBOARDS, SKATES and SCOOTERS

The department receives numerous inquiries annually regarding State law and our local ordinances governing skateboards, scooters and other locomotion devices which are gas or electrically powered. Skateboards, skates and non-motorized scooters are considered "human" powered locomotion devices.

They are prohibited from being operated on any street, highway or other area of the Town designed for motor vehicles by ordinance. In addition, they are prohibited from being operated on the sidewalks of Main Street, Lower Center Street, East Main Street and the section of Leigh Street from Route 173 to Center Street. Although they are sold in stores and on the internet, gas or electrically powered skateboards, scooters and other "motorized" devices are considered motor vehicles under the law and the operation of these powered devices is prohibited on any public street in New Jersey. The operation of these motorized devices on a public street can subject the operator to being charged with operating an unregistered and uninsured vehicle in addition to any other traffic law they may be in violation of, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

If you have any questions regarding the laws and ordinances regulating these devices PLEASE ASK a police officer FIRST. When you are operating one of these devices in a lawful manner, please always wear an approved helmet.

Town-Wide Garage/Yard Sale - May 15th @ 9:00am

Spring is really coming!!!! Clean out your attics, basements and garages. Set up a table on your lawn and rake in the money!!!!

Cost is a \$10 registration fee (payable to the Town of Clinton)

In the past years, funds raised from the town-wide yard sale have been put towards many projects such as

landscaping around the "Welcome to Clinton" signs, donated to the Town Clock fund, helped two local families directly affected by 9/11 and donated to families affected by Hurricane Floyd.

We welcome your ideas of how best to use the raised funds.

Mail your registration fee to:

Town of Clinton
Attn: Nancy Smith
P. O. Box 5194
Clinton, NJ 08809



Clinton Seniors by Lois Terreri

FILE OF LIFE:

Very few of the Town's seniors have picked up their "File of Life" envelope.

The Hunterdon County Office on Aging is offering, free of charge, a File of Life to each county senior (60+) resident. The File of Life is a plastic red magnetized envelope to be kept on the front of a refrigerator. The envelope contains important medical information to be used in case of an at-home emergency.

Also included in the package is a File of Life sticker to be placed on the outside of the main entrance door of a person's home.

To receive your free File of Life (one per senior) contact the Municipal Clerk's office or call me at 735-5504.

SENIOR'S LUNCHEON:

The annual luncheon will be held on May 2nd. Entertainment will be by "The Morrisons". I have heard nothing but rave reviews from those who have seen their program. Details regarding the luncheon can be found in a separate article under Parks & Playgrounds in this newsletter.

EXPECT TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!

SNOW SHOVELING:

In the last newsletter I asked for people to contact me if they were available to shovel snow for either seniors or any other town resident unable to do their own snow clearing.

Happily, ten people called to be placed on this list. Unhappily, only

one resident made use of it.

This could mean:

- 1) Neighbors are taking care of one another (a good thing);
- 2) Those unable to handle the snow headed to warmer climates for the winter (also a good thing); or
- 3) There were those who thought they had to sign up ahead of time or felt they weren't qualified (a bad thing).

I'm optimistic that we've seen the end of the heavy snow for this year, but if I'm wrong, the service is still available. For more information you can call me, Lois Terreri, at 735-5504.

Free Health Services

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center is offering free Cancer Screening for:

- Breast
- Cervical Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Prostrate

For Men and Women:

- Without Adequate Health Insurance
- Who Meet Eligibility Guidelines

Services are provided at several locations throughout Hunterdon County.

For more information, contact the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center at 908-237-5409.

Free Income Tax Help for Seniors



Volunteers trained to prepare Federal & State income tax returns will be available to assist low income and elderly tax payers in Hunterdon County at a site near them (including the North County Branch Public Library in Clinton).

The free income tax assistance will be available until Thursday, April 15.

The volunteers are part of V.I.T.A. (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program provided by the IRS & NJ Division of Taxation.

The service is provided at no charge and with complete confidentiality.

For more information, call the office on aging at 788-1361.

Council Highlights by Colleen O'Reilly

December 9:

~ Ordinance #03-21 was introduced and will be published to discuss at the next meeting. The ordinance is amending the Patriot Media Communications agreement to include language pertaining to a tree trimming and the length of the franchise to be amended to 15 years.

~ Chief Matheis explained that the municipality would be receiving \$2400 for emergency management purposes for completing a new annex for the weapons of mass destruction annex. An additional \$4000 will be received from the state.

~ Councilman De Cleene and Councilman Bahto submitted that the Alton Place Board of Trustees have requested that the town restrict or ban parking on Mountainview Road to ensure the safety of the residents. Mr. Smith suggested that an ordinance be prepared for introduction.

~ The 2003 Environmental Awareness Award has been awarded to the Gulbrandsen Company, whose entire staff helped on the River Clean Up Day.

December 30:

~ Resolution 101-03 Community Dispute Resolution Program was discussed by Mr. Cushing. He explained that the purpose of establishing this program is to service the interests of residents by channeling a wide range of disputes from the Municipal Court to a mediation process. The resolution was adopted as submitted.

~ The Main Street Merchants voiced their concern over food vendors using public parking spaces during special events. Mayor McGaheran tabled the discussion

and said it will be discussed with the new council in January.

~ The Women's Club of Clinton has donated \$1300 for three new flagpoles to be erected in front of the Municipal Building.

~ \$10,984.78 was received from the State Police Emergency Management as the federal share of the Presidential Emergency declared for the snow emergency of February 16 & 17, 2003.

~ Councilman Christenson and Councilwoman Pendergast thanked Mayor McGaheran and Councilman Smith for their years of service and contributions to the town.

~ Municipal auction took place on 12-13-03 and we sold over \$9500.

January 1:

~ Swearing in of Mayor J. Matthew Holt and Council Members Joelle Garber and Janice Kovach

~ Mayor Holt welcomed the newcomers and thanked Mayor McGaheran for "helping to build Clinton to what it is today."

~ Mayor Holt presented some of the challenges for 2004 including the rebuilding of DeMott Pond, traffic problems at exits 15, 17 and 18 off of Route 78, work on 47 Leigh street, the new emergency services building and parking problems in town.

~ The Municipal positions and resolutions were appointed and are posted for review on the bulletin board

January 13:

~ Introduction of Ordinance #04-01-Index Rate A motion was made to adopt this ordinance to increase the 2004 operating budget by 5%.

~ Introduction of Ordinance #04-02-Amendment to No Parking

This ordinance would prohibit parking on Mountainview Road from Alton Place to the Town line. The Ordinance will be published and discussed on February 10, 2004.

~ Councilwoman Kovach questioned status of A&P property (Wargo Tract).

~ David Osborne, John Harrison and Louis Tranquilli all expressed interests in continuing in their roles on the Board of Adjustment. Council reappointed all three to their positions.

January 27:

~ John Baka asked Council to consider making budget worksheets available to the public for review. Mayor Holt explained that budgets are a work in progress and will be available once finalized.

~ Resolution #31-04- Alternate Access Road was discussed. It refers to the alternate access from exit 15 to I78, which will connect the prison access road to Frontage Road and provide access to exit 12. The resolution was adopted.

~ Resolution #32-04 Emergency Management was discussed. An Emergency Management coordinator was appointed to a three-year term.

~ Councilwoman Kovach discussed that the Historical Commission is looking into grant funds available and a professional to write the grant application if necessary. Historic Preservation Week is May 5-9.

Around the Town by Ann Holt



Saturday, March 6:

BOOK SIGNING

Clinton 's own Vincent Cardarelli and his new book,
Toward Serenity
Clinton Book Shop 2 -4

March 7 through May 16:

TRANSCULTURAL NEW JERSEY

Artistic Diversity throughout the state
Hunterdon Museum of Art
Tuesdays through Sundays, 11-5

Tuesday, March 9:

LECTURE SERIES:

The Revolutionary War in 1779 New Jersey
Historian William Schleicher tells the story of
Samuel Sutphin, slave and soldier.
Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4:

CIVIL WAR DAYS

Reenactment brings history to life- Drills, weapons,
music parade RED MILL/MULLIGAN QUARRY DAY
on
Sunday_Red Mill Museum

Saturday, April 3:

CIVIL WAR PERIOD DANCING
Clinton Community Center 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 4:

BUNNY "HOPPENINGS"

The Easter Bunny arrives in
Downtown Clinton
.....Easter Egg search in shop windows



Saturday, April 17:

HUNTERDON HILLS ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Proceeds benefit our local charities
Mountain View Chalet, Pattenberg
For reservations, call
Doris Cramer (735-7544) before April 7

Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24:

ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Special boutique of new and used items. Refreshments.

Friday 9 to 1 Saturday 8 to 1 -

Clinton Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 24: (See related article for details)

STREAM CLEAN-UP DAY - 9 to 12

Meet at the Main Street Bridge

To volunteer or get more information, call
the South Branch Watershed Association- 782-0422

Saturday, April 24: (See related article for details)

TOWN OF CLINTON FISHING DERBY

DeMott Pond 9 to 12 (Registration 8 to 9)

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25:

HUNT'S MILL MILITIA MUSTER

18th century colonial militia drill and other living history
activities Red Mill Museum 10 to 4

Tuesday, April 27:

LECTURE SERIES:

The Revolutionary War in 1779 New Jersey
Historian Chuck Speierl describes the
Minisink Massacre of 1799
Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2:

PANSY FESTIVAL

Special Sales and events in Downtown Clinton

Sunday, May 2:

RED MILL ANTIQUES SHOW-

Country and primitive dealers on
the Red Mill Museum ground 9m to 4

Wednesday, May 5:

CPS/PTA GOLF OUTING- Beaver Brook Country Club

For information and registration, call
Mary Ann Shea- 735-8591

Opening May 23:

48th ANNUAL JURIED PRINT EXHIBIT

Hunterdon Museum of Art

....and plan ahead for June.....

Saturday, June 26:

ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC

Save The Date!!



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Clinton, NJ 08809

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RECYCLING DATES FOR 2004

March 9, 23

April 6, 20

May 4, 18



Calendar of Town Committee Meetings at Municipal Bldg.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING — 7:30 PM Third Wednesday of each month

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

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

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE — 4:00 PM Second and Fourth Wednesdays 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
Pat Hatalla (730-7708) or Lou Pennucci (735-5641).