

# OUR



# TOWN

## From the Mayor's Desk...

### Matthew Holt






**18th  
Annual  
Christmas  
Parade  
Friday,  
December  
3rd  
7:00 PM**









































Allow me begin with by thanking our 2004 Newsletter Committee. They have continued the work of our former Committee in producing our newsletter, but also have taken on the large task of establishing our new Town of Clinton website. Congratulations on an exceptional job.

As we reach the end of 2004, the following are some highlights of things accomplished this year:

#1 We undertook the goal of seeking solutions to find additional parking in the center of Town. While not an easy task, my wife Megan and I walked through Town and studied existing parking. We provided a memo of potential space changes to on-street parking to the Road Committee, and Mr. Bob Cutter, Municipal BA. As a result, some new spaces have been created. While not a massive gain, every extra space will be well utilized as we continue to look for additional solutions.

#2 Our State Mandated Storm Water Management plan is near completion, months ahead of schedule. We thank Mr. Cutter, for not only spending hours working on this plan, but also for taking the time

out of his schedule to teach several hours of classes to the students at Clinton Public School. His work is being utilized as a model for other municipalities by the DEP.

#3 The Town of Clinton official website is near completion and will provide an wonderful source of information concerning many aspects of the Town of Clinton. Please be sure to go online and check out the site.

#4 The new Grants Committee, which I instituted this year, was put into action. The Town has submitted applications for close to \$1,000,000.00 in grants as part of our commitment this year.

#5 Completion of all planning work to begin to rebuild a portion of our recreations facilities and dam at Demott Pond. Look for an 05' start date.

#6 The Halstead Street Bridge Reconstruction Plans are in the works for 05'-06'. Like the Leigh Street bridge, this project is a County project, not a municipal project.

#7 Olsen Lane Residents have a new street and curbs.

#8 Road Crack Filling was

done this year with our own Town crews. Part of our continuous maintenance program which provide us with some of the best roads in the County.

#9 The front of our Historic Municipal building looks great as the front and side decks have been replaced, and the trim work painted.

#10 A section of the Halstead Street Sewer Infrastructure has been re-lined, with little disruption of service to the residents served by that line.

#11 Our police department continues to protect us all, and began working under their new schedule. Our thanks go out to the department for their part in keeping Clinton a great place to live, work, walk, and reside.

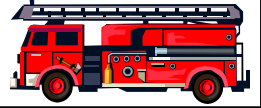
This list could go on, but space prevents it. The Town of Clinton continues to be a great community, combining residents, businesses, and our school, to truly create a place we all proudly call home.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Matthew Holt - Mayor

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## Department of Fire Protection by Jack Daniels



The winter season is just around the corner. This year there is a prediction of cold days ahead for us. Here are some winter fire safety tips that you should remember all year round. Enjoy the holidays and be fire smart and fire safe.

The outdoor cooking season using barbecue grills is drawing to a fast close. Important for this time of year is what to do with the unused propane tanks. PLEASE DO NOT put these tanks inside of any building. Not only is it a fire code violation but if you have internet access, go to this site and read the article about how a propane tank fueled a residential fire that killed a deputy fire chief,

<http://www.thnt.com/thnt/story/0,21282,1046934,00.html>. Don't become a statistic!

Please be sure to continue to practice fire safety in and around your home and business. Know at least 2 ways out of your home or business in the event of an emergency. Plan for the worst and have a meeting spot for everyone to assemble at once outside. Conduct regular fire drills. Also know where the fire extinguishers are located and more importantly, how to use them.

### Remember PASS –

**P**ull the pin;

**A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire standing about 8 to 10 feet away;

**S**queeze the handles together;

**S**weep the nozzle side to side.

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

When the time changed in October did you change your battery in your

smoke detectors? If you didn't, now would be a great time to do it. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide devices should be tested and cleaned regularly. Cleaning can be accomplished with a quick swipe of a vacuum cleaner hose. This will help the device to last longer too.

Please be careful during the upcoming holiday seasons. This is a time when candles and decorative lights are frequently used. Candles can lead to an accidental fire if not placed properly or watched over. Verify that your holiday decorative lights are still intact and working safely.

As snow covers our streets, remember to keep your nearest fire hydrant clear and accessible.

### **REMINDER:**

A Certificate of Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance is required for the change of tenancy or ownership in all homes and rentals. The State Division of Fire Safety has established the fees associated with this 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 type occupancy.

### **Business Owners:**

The purpose of the State of New Jersey Uniform Fire Code is to verify and maintain a minimum level of fire safety. This entails an inspection of your business to verify fire safety compliance. This inspection is conducted once a year and if any violations are determined or discovered, subsequent re-inspections are conducted. Each and every business in the Town of Clinton is subject to

the State of New Jersey Uniform Fire Act, even if you are a tenant within a commercial building. It is the business itself that creates the need to conduct the fire inspection. There have been questions raised regarding this matter as I have conducted some inspections. I hope this will help to clarify this issue.

A reminder to the businesses at the use of extension cords when used in place of permanent wiring is not permitted by the Uniform Fire Code. Check your businesses to verify that extension cords are of the correct type (not the residential type), not plugged into other extension cords, are not over loaded and are not used instead of permanent wiring.

A frequent violation noted is regarding exit and emergency light fixtures. These units are required to function at all times. Please remember to replace blown bulbs in the exit signs and test the battery function of these devices at least monthly.

During the Christmas season, a business is only permitted to have an artificial or a fully balled Christmas tree within their building. Please remember that cut trees are not permitted as per the Uniform Fire Code.

If anyone would like to speak to me regarding the above-mentioned items or anything else, please contact my office at 908-735-2275.

I would be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

Jack Daniels, Fire Official



## Dept. of Public Works by Robert Cutter



### “CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS” – UPDATE

1. Olsen Lane Improvement Project in progress
2. Concrete Paver Repair – Town-wide in progress
3. County of Hunterdon Project – Halstead Street Bridge 2005-2006
4. State of New Jersey D.O.T. Project – Rt.173/I-78, Exit 15 2005-2006
5. Halstead Street Sewer Line Relining complete
6. DeMott Pond Dam 2005

**REMINDEES:** 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.

### TRASH:

**TRASH RECEPTACLES:** Please take all necessary steps to keep your trash dry.

**No garbage** shall be put out for collection more than 12 hours prior to 12:01 a.m. of the day of regular garbage collection.

**No person** shall place any garbage, litter, refuse, rubbish or other materials put out for collection on any public street, road, thoroughfare, lane or alley of the Town of Clinton or in such a way so as to block any public sidewalk or other public right-of-way.

### SNOW:

**The owner, occupant or tenant** of premises abutting or bordering on any street in the town shall remove all snow and ice from the abutting sidewalks of the street or the abutting right-of-way actually used by the public, or in the event of ice which may be so frozen as to make removal impractical, shall cause the same to be thoroughly covered with sand or ashes, within 12 hours of daylight after the snow falls or the ice forms thereon.

**The owner, occupant or tenant** of premises used by the public or business invitees shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks, streets, right-of-ways and parking areas used

by the public in the transaction of business thereat, and in the event of ice which may be so frozen as to make removal impractical, shall cause the ice to be thoroughly covered with sand or ashes, within 12 hours of daylight after the snow falls or the ice forms thereon.

**No owner, tenant or occupant** of premises abutting on a street shall deposit snow or ice on any street, it being the intent and purpose to prohibit all persons from depositing snow and ice which accumulates within the private property belonging to that person on the sidewalks or streets of the Town.

**BRUSH / YARD DEBRIS:** Scheduled to resume on or about January 15, 2005

Curbside – WEDNESDAY, the WEEK FOLLOWING RECYCLING DAY.

TREE LIMBS AND BRANCHES to be placed at curbside.

RAKED DEBRIS to be in plastic bags ONLY— NO BUCKETS OR GARBAGE CANS.

(See Town Trash & Recycling Card).

## Parks & Playgrounds by Rosemary Pendergast



The Parks & Playgrounds committee received Mr. Richard Messenger's resignation as director of the Summer Recreation program at the end of the summer. We thank him for 25 years of service to the program, and wish him well in his retirement. He will be missed by many, adults and children included. The committee then began the task of finding a replacement. We are happy to announce that Tiffany Cinquemani

will take over the position as director for this year's Summer Recreation program. Ms. Cinquemani has served as a counselor for Summer Rec for seven years. She is familiar with the activities and the children who participate. While keeping the program familiar by including yearly activities that the children have come to look forward to, Ms. Cinquemani will also be incorporating new and exciting events. She will be sending a form home to all students and their families at Clin-

ton Public School for feedback on Summer Rec. Both parents and children are encouraged to give their likes and dislikes on past programs. The forms are due back to the school by December 3, 2004. Please take the time to give your input. It could only help improve an already fantastic program!

## Police Department



With the Holiday season fast approaching, everyone will be doing a lot of shopping. Much of this shopping will be done with credit cards.

While Holiday shopping is an exciting time, it is important to remember to protect yourself from credit card fraud and identity theft. On the average, it takes a victim of identity theft about two years to clear their name and the effects it has on their credit rating.

One of the fastest growing credit card scams is called "skimming." Skimming is a criminal tactic in which an employee of a business accepts a credit card for a legitimate transaction. In addition to handling the charge in the usual way, the employee also runs the credit card through a hand held skimming device that retrieves and stores credit card data from the card's metallic strip. The customer has no idea that the card has been copied. The card information is later downloaded and a duplicate credit card is produced.

Some of the ways to protect yourself from "skimming" and other credit card scams are:

- Always keep an eye on your credit card.
- If a store, restaurant or gas station employee wants to take your credit card out of your sight, do not allow the purchase.
- Order a copy of your credit report every year from all three of the major credit reporting agencies in order to check for fraudulent activity or discrepancies.
- In the State of New Jersey, you can obtain one free report each year from each of the credit reporting agencies.
- Protect your mail by removing it from your mailbox as soon as possible. Consider using a locked mailbox.
- Shred any discarded paperwork that contains personal identifiers or financial information, including pre-approved credit card and loan applications. If a vendor uses carbon copies for credit card bills, ask for and destroy the carbons.
- Know where your personal information is kept, who has access to it, and who you may have provided it to in the past. Protect your wallet and purse and never leave them unattended.
- Be aware of your surroundings when using ATM cards, making credit card purchases, using telephone credit card numbers and utilizing pin numbers or passwords.
- Carefully review your bills, bank statements, credit card statements and other financial accounts, to ensure that all balances and receipts match and no activity is unaccounted for.
- If you use a computer, install virus protection and firewall software to discourage hackers. Be aware that others could view personal information you send over the Internet.
- If you believe you are a victim of identity theft or a credit card scam, promptly notify the Police.
- Informational packets on Identity Theft can be obtained at Clinton Police Headquarters.

Also in the Holiday season, the Police Department's volume of emergency calls for service increase. Here in Clinton, the Police Department takes great pride in its speedy response to emergency calls, whether it's a medical emergency, car accident or a criminal event. At times, the Police have been unable to immediately locate a residence or business, in the event of an emergency due to poor or non-existent numbering. In order to better serve the community, it is important that residents and business owners properly and conspicuously number their homes and businesses.

On behalf of all the officers of the Town of Clinton Police Department, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Holiday season.

Detective Jay R. Hunter

## 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.

## Clinton Seniors by Lois Terreri



**SNOW SHOVELERS.** Yes, it's that time again---time to start thinking about removal of that white stuff.

As I mentioned in a previous article, last winter we had more volunteers than "customers" and it would be nice to be able to say that again. I have already received requests from two individuals who will be needing someone to clear

away their snow, so I will be compiling two lists again this year. One list of those able to shovel snow for a neighbor and another list of those in need of this service. Remember, that these individuals will pay you for doing this.

To be included, call me at 735-5504.

"SEASONED YEARS". A reminder that if you have recently turned 60 or are a new senior resident in the

Town, you should be receiving "Seasoned Years", a quarterly newsletter put out by the Hunterdon County Office on Aging.

This publication holds a wealth of information on services available, health issues and social activities.

If you are not receiving "Seasoned Years" you can either call me or call the Office on Aging at 788-1361.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday!

## Newsletter Committee by Pat Hatalla

We are excited to announce that the official Town of Clinton website will be available by mid-December. Check out the website by clicking on <http://www.clintonnj.gov>.

The website provides a resident guide, which will be informative whether you are new to the community or have lived in town for many years. It also provides information

regarding the different departments, committees and council members. All of these articles are established to enhance your knowledge with what is available in town by providing you with up-to-date information.

If there are any specific topics that you would like covered on the Town of Clinton web page, don't hesitate

to complete the "Contact Us" form on line or you can call Pat Hatalla on 908-730-7708.



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

### *DOG and CAT CENSUS*



Thank you to David Klippstein who completed an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project for the Town of Clinton. David spearheaded a group of 26 Scouts from Troop #121 to conduct the Dog Census, which is required by New Jersey Public Law and is to be completed every two years. The door to door survey which took place this summer uncovered 57 unlicensed dogs and 68 unlicensed cats. Thank you, David, for a job well done.

### *RABIES CLINIC*



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

Date: Saturday, January 15, 2005

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, 2005. Proof of current rabies is required.



## Council Highlights by Colleen O'Reilly



August 10, 2004

~ Mayor Holt commented that the Building & Grounds Committee has contacted the DEP regarding the recent flooding incident. They have asked the DEP and the State to visit Clinton and look at the Brook to determine if anything can be done to remedy the situation.

~ The cross signal at the corner of Leigh and Old 22 is very short and Mr. Cutter explained that the Town has been in touch with DOT to address this problem.

~ Clinton Police Department received a BMW Bike donated by the Borough of Lebanon.

~ The Mayor and Council received a letter of thanks from the Clinton Guild thanking them for their support in the Flag Day celebration.

~ The Mayor and Council received a letter from Dr. Schilder, CPS Superintendent, thanking the town for the Good Kid Award which was presented to Jessie Schaumburg.

~ JCP&L has notified Clinton that they will be conducting a statewide geographic information system audit of their electric facilities between now and the end of 2005. The auditors will be driving marked vehicles and carry photo identification.

August 24, 2004

~ Mayor Holt congratulated Nancy Smith on her re-certification as Tax Collector for 2004-2006.

~ A 50/50 raffle license was approved for Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, which is scheduled to take place November 24, 2004 at 44 Main Street in Clinton with proceeds going to the care and release of orphaned and injured NJ wild animals.

~ The Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in making their recent car wash a success. \$700 was raised to put towards their

new squad building.

~ Councilman DeCleene reported from the Road Committee that parking spaces on Main, East Main and Center streets were being repainted to allow 6 additional parking spaces.

~ Mayor Holt advised Council that he had been approached by the Hunterdon Museum of Art to discuss a project to replace and stabilize the retaining wall that is next to their building along the banks of the river. The Museum is considering a grant program through the DEP, which is available to non-profit organizations and their municipality.

September 14, 2004

~ Mayor Holt announced that he received a resignation letter from Barbara Aspin, a Board of Adjustment, alternate #2 member.

~ The Clinton Fire Department attended the meeting to discuss their 1987 ladder truck which no longer meets new DOT regulations. Refurbishing the vehicle would cost \$500,000 and to replace the vehicle would cost \$800,000 to \$900,000. The Council asked the Fire Department to come back to the next meeting to discuss this situation further.

~ Councilwoman Kovach advised the Council that she has been in contact with the DEP and that they have agreed to have someone from the State come into Clinton to survey the Beaver Brook.

~ Councilmen DeCleene reported that the Olsen Lane project is scheduled to begin on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

~ Mr. Cutter reported that grants have been applied to the NJDOT for the Halstead Street project, which is expected to take place next year.

September 28, 2004

~ Members of the Sunrise Rotary attended the meeting to present the

Fire dept, First Aid Squad, Police dept and Council with donations raised from the Rubber Ducky Race. \$11,000 was donated to the American Cancer Society. Anyone interested in joining the Sunrise Rotary can attend their meetings held Thursday mornings at 7:15 at the Clinton Holiday Inn.

~ Councilwoman Garber advised Council that Attorney Cushing has approved the agreement with City Connections, LLC to develop the Town of Clinton website. This is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

~ Council approved a request for a raffle license from the Clinton Guild to help raise money for the Christmas Parade. The raffle will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> with first prize being 35% of money collected and second prize 15% of money collected.

~ The Christmas Parade will take place on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

~ North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District is holding meetings to discuss facility needs; check their website for up to date meeting announcements.

~ Councilwoman Pendergast reported on the success of the Summer Rec program.

~ Councilwoman Kovach reported that Commissioner Bradley Campbell of the DEP is looking into the Beaver Brook flooding situation.

~ Mrs. Kovach has been appointed to the Governor's Highlands Commission.

~ Councilmen Bahto reported that he attended a meeting discussing the Route 78, exit 15 access road. The project is a couple of years off but is entering into the design stage.

~ Power outages at Clinton Knolls have been a continual problem that Mayor Holt addressed, stating that

Mr. Cutter has reached out to JCP&L and a meeting is being set up to discuss the situation.

October 12, 2004

~ Mayor Holt discussed the results of the recent meeting with the DOT concerning the intersection of Leigh St. and Old Highway 22. Phase 1 will include a left turn arrow on Leigh St. for both approaches and a 21 second crossing count down for pedestrians. Phase 2 will address the abutment at the corner, obstructing the view of pedestrians.

~ Members of the Clinton Fire Dept. attended the meeting to further discuss their need for an updated ladder truck. A future date will be scheduled to discuss this matter further, with Nancy Smith getting further information on the debt service.

~ Police Chief Matheis reported that

he has met with Dr. Schilder, Superintendent of CPS to discuss security issues.

~ Chief Matheis also reported that the DARE program is beginning its 15<sup>th</sup> year at CPS.

~ Mr. Cutter reported that leaf collection will begin on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

~ JCP&L will be performing line clearing at Clinton Knolls because of complaints of outages.

~ Nancy Smith reported that two applications have been received for the position of Recreation Director, to replace the retiring Dick Messenger.

~ Councilwoman Kovach reported that the next Planning Board meeting will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> and Summit Manor is on the agenda.

~ Councilman Bahto reported that

the Rescue Squad open house is being planned for April, 2005.

### October 26, 2004

~ Mayor Holt explained the new process of filling positions on Boards and Commissions. Interested residents should use the Citizens Involvement Application should be used to apply for an open position.

~ Carol Gallo was nominated and approved to be the Alternate 2 member of the Board of Adjustment. She will be sworn in at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

~ Councilwoman Pendergast reported that the Town Rabies Clinic will be held on January 15, 2005.

~ Mayor Holt thanked the members of the Cross Acceptance Committee and explained the background of the committee.

## **Around the Town Events to keep you warm and busy this winter by Ann Holt**

*(Items for the Dec./Jan./Feb. newsletter should be submitted to Ann Holt [735-0964] by Feb. 10)*

Continuing through January 9:



### “OUTRAGEOUS HOUSE”

Eccentric yet functional furnishings and accessories for the home!  
Hunterdon Museum of Art

Tuesdays through Sundays 11 to 5



Friday, December 3:

CLINTON'S GALA CHRISTMAS PARADE- 7 p.m.

Floats, Bands, and Santa Claus at the end!  
Stop at the Presbyterian Church for Cocoa and cookies after the festivities

Saturday, December 4:

### BOOK SIGNING

Malachy McCourt will be sharing his special wit and signing his newest book, *Ireland*.

Clinton Book Shop 1 to 3

Wednesday, December 8:

LECTURES IN SONG SERIES: *An American Christmas*  
North County Library (Free, but register at 730-6135)



Thursday, December 16:

### CANDLE LIGHT NIGHT

Do your holiday shopping with candlelight and refreshments in our local stores  
Downtown Clinton Dusk to 9

Sunday, December 19:

### SANTA CLAUS VISITS MAIN STREET WINTER CONCERT:

Hunterdon Chamber Orchestra and Choral Union  
The works of Vivaldi and Buxtehude  
Clinton Presbyterian Church 3 p.m.



Tuesday, January 11:

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR LECTURE SERIES

Topics to be announced-  
Call 735-4101 for details

Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.

January 23- March 7:

### 2005 MEMBERS' EXHIBITION and ART RUGS EXHIBIT

Hunterdon Museum of Art  
Tuesdays through Sundays 11 to 5



Sunday, January 30:

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sponsored by the Hunterdon Hills Lions Club  
Clinton Public School 8 to 1 Tickets at the Door

Tuesday, February 8:

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR LECTURE SERIES

Call 735-4101 for topic

Clinton Community Center 8 p.m.

February 7 - 14<sup>th</sup>:

SWEETHEARTS' WEEK IN DOWNTOWN CLINTON



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

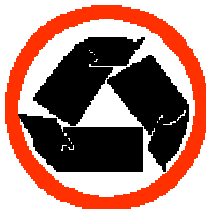
PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS  
MAIL  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLINTON, NJ  
Permit No. 2

#### RECYCLING DATES FOR 2005

January 11, 25

February 8, 22

March 8, 22



## 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** — 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  
Pat Hatalla (730-7708) or Lou Pennucci (735-5641).