



Clinton Community Newsletter



HOLIDAY CLOSING SCHEDULE

New Years Day
Monday - Jan. 1st

Martin Luther
King Day
Monday - Jan. 15th

President's Day
Monday - Feb. 19th



Plowing Snow into Town Roadways Is Against the Law for a Reason!



This Notice is for Homeowners AND Plowmen.

The issue for homeowners is convenience - just get the snow out of the yard as quickly as possible. But, for the Town of Clinton the issue is highway safety and liability. The kind of liability the homeowner and the plowman should think twice about!

Think about these questions? If snow plowed into the town's travel lane causes a personal injury accident or a fatality can the homeowner be held responsible because of a negligent act to public safety? If a homeowner hires a plowman to clear snow from the property and he plows snow into the roadway - who is responsible

in the event of an accident? Who will be named in the law suit? The homeowner, the plowman or both?

It is the town's responsibility to keep town road surfaces clear of snowfall - meaning snow that Mother Nature has deposited on the roadway, NOT snow homeowners have chosen to disposed of by plowing or shoveling it into the roadway. Snow moved into the road becomes a traffic hazard and is a very serious matter in Clinton.

Therefore, the winter road maintenance contractor and the Clinton Police Department are working together to identify problem areas.

Fines for violations of this public safety highway law begin at \$50 for the first offense. The Clinton Police Department is hoping the word gets out that Clinton roadways must be kept safe for all citizens and that citations will not be necessary. If you have questions please contact the Road Commissioner at 426-8511.

Don't have time to get to the
Town Clerk's Office to
License the dog?

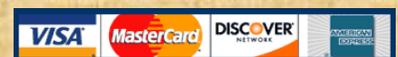


Here is what you need:

- * Credit Card
- * Current Rabies Certificate
- * Veterinarian's Information
- * Spay or Neutering Certificate
- * License/Tag number (if renewal)

No Problem!
Do it online!

www.maine.gov/dog_license





The *Clinton Parks and Recreation Committee* has developed and is maintaining a lighted public skating rink on the south end of the Old Mill Park on Main Street again this year.

Jeff Pierce

We invite anyone interested in getting fresh air and exercise to use the rink whenever the conditions allow. We have two sign posts at the entrance with yellow tape tied across them. When the yellow tape is NOT tied between the posts the rink is open. However, if the yellow tape is tied between the two posts please stay off the ice surface as it is in need of water, snow removal or more cold weather. We have a small group of volunteers working very hard to keep the rink open for YOUR skating pleasure but there is a bit of a science to making good ice for skating, so as much as we appreciate good intentions, when it comes to individuals trying to help with snow removal or other maintenance to the rink please leave it to us. It does not take much to ruin the ice surface if it is not tended properly. We will do our best as time allows to keep the rink in usable condition.

The Town's road maintenance contractor will keep the parking lot plowed so please remember to use the rink is "at your own risk" and please be respectful of others while using the rink. We would also appreciate citizens keeping an eye out for anyone misusing or damaging the rink. We had a couple of minor incidents of vandalism, so just notify the Clinton Police Department if you see anything that does not look right.

The *Parks and Recreation Committee* hopes to have a community skating party complete with a bon fire before the season is over IF Mother Nature cooperates. If you have questions please feel free to contact me by Email at jeff.pierce3478@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at the Rink!

This is wonderful family fun!



Budget Committee

The Clinton Budget Committee will begin meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of developing a Municipal Budget for fiscal year 2018/2019. With the exception of Monday holidays the committee will meet every Monday evening until April. These meetings are open to the public and are held in the Selectmen's Conference Room located at the Town Office Building.

Every year the Selectmen and the Budget Committee meet with department heads and the Town Manager throughout the budget season to discuss and analyze the amounts requested to maintain the town's infrastructure and town owned equipment and to insure the public will continue to receive town services. Historically, Non-Property Tax Revenue (federal, state and local income to the town) off-sets about half of the dollars needed to operate the town - the other 50% is raised through property tax for education and county tax.

The process of developing a \$2.5 million municipal budget every year is tedious and stressful while balancing the needs of the public with the competing pressure of keeping property tax bills as small as possible. The task is often thankless but remains the backbone of effective municipal financial management.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Judy Irving
- Terry Gerow
- Myron Whittaker
- James McFarland
- Robert St. Pierre
- Crystal McFarland
- Arthur Glickman
- Naomi Wiswell

General Assistance Program

This State of Maine program, administered by the Town, is designed to assist individuals and families with basic necessities, i.e., shelter, heat and food.

If you or someone you know does not have heat or food and will soon need shelter call the GA Administrator at 426-8511 to make an appointment to determine eligibility for benefits.

Get the Help You Need!



Valentine's Day

Wednesday
February 14th

Don't forget to do something special for the ones you love!



THANK YOU

A heart felt "Thank You" and much appreciation goes to Marydee Monk for again decorating the plant pots for the Holiday Season. Marydee arranged small trees and boughs to add a beautiful and festive atmosphere to the entrance of the Town Office Building.

Marydee often epitomizes the true spirit of volunteerism with more than just her beautiful smile! She uses her time and talent to make a real difference in the Town of Clinton in small ways - some things that show and in ways that do not, proving there is more than one way to show love for the neighborhood!

Thanks, Marydee!



While we are saying "Thank You" we do not want to miss the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the phenomenally generous spirit displayed by the citizens of the Town of Clinton during the 2017 Holiday Season. There was an abundance of non-perishable food items and holiday goodies donated to the Clinton Food Bank which, of course, "made the season bright" for those in need.

Citizens were equally generous with gift donations to the annual Lion's Club Children's Christmas Project which made it a wonderful success again this year providing many families with Christmas Cheer! "THANK YOU" from the hearts of all the children in those households.

APPRECIATION





Fire Safety Tips for the Home



- Have all heating appliances - furnaces, water heaters and wood stoves - checked and serviced yearly by a reliable professional.
- • Make sure no flammable materials have been placed near any heating appliance over the summer, when the appliance was not in use.
- • Use space heaters with care and inspect electric heaters for damaged cords.
- • Make sure there is a working smoke detector on every level of the home. Check the batteries every six months (Daylight Saving Time in April and October are a good rule of thumb) and replace them yearly.
- • Develop a home fire escape plan with two exits from every room. Establish a meeting place in a safe location so all family members can be accounted for. Call the fire department from a cordless phone, at a neighbor's home or other safe location. Never re-enter a burning building for any reason. Practice your home escape plan every six months and consider practicing it at night when most home fires occur.
- • Consider installing carbon monoxide detectors on every level of the home, near sleeping areas where the audible alarm can be heard. If the alarm goes off, exit the home and call 911.
- • Recognize the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and exit the home immediately if you suspect the presence of carbon monoxide. Call 911 from a safe location.

Fire Chief Travis Leary



As frustrating as snow removal can be please be aware of neighborhood safety and as a courtesy ...



Maine State Law : Title 17: Crimes - Chapter 91: Nuisances Subchapter 4: Dangerous Buildings, § 2851

To adjudge a building to be a nuisance or dangerous, the municipal officer must find the building is structurally unsafe, unstable or unsanitary; constitutes a fire hazard; is unsuitable or improper for the use or occupancy to which it is put; constitutes a hazard to health or safety because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment; or is otherwise dangerous to life or property.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON
DANGEROUS BUILDINGS
IN THE TOWN OF CLINTON
Tuesday, January 23rd - 7:00 p.m.
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



Questions? Call CEO Frank Gioffre - 877-5235



Did you know that
January's
Full Moon is
called the
Wolf Moon?

Monday - January 1st

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule



6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9th
Tuesday, January 23rd

Tuesday, February 13th
Tuesday, February 27th



Keep Clinton Warm Drive

Thank you very much for all the warm hats, mittens and scarves donated this year during our "Keep Clinton Warm Drive" The donation box provided at the Town Office was overflowing with your generosity and kindness. The items have all been given to the Clinton Elementary School and will keep Clinton Kids warm this winter season.

Clinton Food Bank



WABI TV recently aired a piece on hunger in Maine which stated that one in every six Mainers suffer serious food insufficiency in the home. That statistic does not have to be a reality for the Town of Clinton! Clinton has a good Food Bank and it gets better every time YOU make a donation.

Non perishable food items are excellent but also appreciated are items for personal hygiene which is sometimes hard to acquire on a limited household income. Pet food is also a much appreciated item.

- The Food Bank is open the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and can accept donations of fresh produce, dairy, meat or poultry which will be disbursed immediately because of a lack of refrigeration.
- For your convenience the Town Office maintains a donation drop box for non-perishable items for the Food Bank near the Lobby door.

It's probably no surprise the Town of Clinton sports dozens of snowmobile owners and enthusiasts. The Maine Inland & Fisheries report there are 70,000 plus snowmobiles registered in Maine every year - that is no small piece of change! In December the *Portland Press Herald* reported that out of state snowmobilers represent as much as 11% of the number of snowmobiles registered in Maine. To further whet the appetite of these multi state sledders the Maine Snowmobilers Association of Maine reports there are 14,000 miles of snow trails available to riders in Maine each winter.

In the interest of keeping Clinton's snowmobilers safe and well informed the last page of this newsletter is the *Maine Snowmobilers Association* Guidelines for Safe Sledding as published on their website.

BE SAFE!

Snowmobilers
Contribute \$350 Million
to Maine's economy
Annually!

MAINE





Guidelines for Safe Snowmobiling

RIDE TO THE RIGHT - It is required by law that a snowmobiler operate to the right of center on the trail when approaching or navigating a curve, corner, grade or hill - stay to the right, even on straight-aways.

RIDE SOBER - Don't drink and ride. Don't let anyone in your group drink and ride. Maine has a tough snowmobile OUI law. Restaurants, Inns, Lodges and Resorts welcome snowmobilers who want to have a few drinks with their friends. But please do it after you've finished sledding, not while riding.

RIDE AT A REASONABLE SPEED: Speed on a Maine snowmobile trail is measured on a standard of reasonable speed for the existing conditions. If you cannot control your sled safely at the speed that you are traveling in the current conditions - you're speeding. Slow down. Snowmobile clubs across the state host radar runs, hill climbs and races. If you want to ride hard and fast, try one of these events, and take home a trophy to boot!

USE HAND SIGNALS: The consistent use of a simple set of [standardized hand signals](#) on the trails keeps movement orderly and predictable. These standardized signals inform other sledders of your actions and allow everyone around you to anticipate the need to slow down. The MSA has distributed thousands of copies of these hand signals over the past decade and reports from the trails are that signal usage is up significantly.

RIDE DEFENSIVELY: You and your group can do everything right, and still encounter a sledder who's doing everything wrong. Don't let their poor judgment or illegal behavior injure you. Always expect the unexpected from the sledder coming toward you. If there is a problem, you'll be prepared to respond and avoid a dangerous situation.

...And keep an eye out for wild animals as well. Moose and deer live where you're sledding.

Wildlife always have the right of way.

If you come up behind a moose on the trail keep your distance and wait for the animal to lumber off. If the moose shows an interest in the fact that you are on the trail, back off even further or leave. Please don't turn off your sled and follow animals on foot to get a better look. You may get a much closer look than you want.

These additional steps will further protect you:

Carry a map and stay on the marked trails. The snowmobile clubs work with landowners to determine the best location for the trails, considering landowner preference, rider safety and the protection of resources.

Don't snowmobile alone. If you run into mechanical trouble, you'll have someone along who can truck you back home; bury your sled, and there's extra hands to help dig out; take a wrong turn, and there's someone else to blame...

Take care crossing public ways - on busy roads have a member of the group check for traffic and direct sledders.

Let someone know where you're planning to go and when you plan to return. An itinerary form left with a friend, the motel staff, etc. is invaluable if you actually run into trouble on the trail. If your return is delayed, contact the person aware of your trip plans if at all possible, to head off an unnecessary search effort. Print out a few [itinerary forms](#) and have them available for your next trip... and check weather reports before heading out.

Dress appropriately (layers) and wear a helmet. No one should operate a snowmobile without the protection of a helmet. A life saver in the case of an accident, your helmet will also keep you protected from the occasional tree branch "face slapper" and inclement weather.

Carry a basic repair kit. Saves a lot of frustration if you have a spare belt, a couple tools, etc. with you. An even better idea is to give your sled a good going over before every trip.

Don't cross frozen bodies of water unless you are absolutely sure of ice thickness. Trails generally will not lead you across ponds or lakes. Bridges are provided to cross rivers and streams. However, you will encounter some places where you may cross water, such as marked passage on well frozen lakes - check locally for current ice thicknesses.

Don't overdrive your lights. Don't tangle with a wire, stump or rock on a fast machine in the middle of a cold, dark night.

Remembering these safety guidelines will help you to **Ride Right in Maine** and enjoy snowmobiling the way it should be - Fun and Safe!

