

November ~ December
2018

Clinton Community Holiday Season Newsletter

A Community Partnership at it's Finest

The Clinton Lion's Club has been a fixture in town for many years and has always been a good "neighbor" to the local government. The Town and the Lion's Club Children's Christmas Project has partnered up for several years in a joint effort to provide Christmas cheer.

But this year the Clinton Lion's Club stepped it up a notch!

Hearing the Town was struggling with ways and exploring means to provide better communication with residents regarding town events and public and legal notices the Lion's Club chose to donate the entire purchase price of a double sided *Northern Signs* roadside electronic message center - a gift of \$15,975!

Words simply cannot express how very grateful town administration is for such a generous gift. The sign, which will be installed within 6 weeks, will stand roadside for many years serving as evidence of a truly generous Lion's Club membership that caught the vision of how they could contribute and make a real difference to their community.

The Clinton Board of Selectmen and the Town Office Staff are very excited about the new opportunities this partnership provides. Instead of a static message board standing roadside, that can only provide one message at a time, the new sign will be able to provide dozens of messages per day. The message inventory will now be capable of announcing much more than government related notices and meeting schedules, but will also be used to announce events for non-profit organizations located in Clinton.

This article would not be complete without acknowledging the efforts made by "King Lion" Mike Watson, and Town Clerk, Melody Fitzpatrick who diligently researched the project and ultimately provided information to the Lion's Club that made this great partnership possible.

Our sincerest "Thank You" to each member of the Clinton Lion's Club for this wonderful gift!





Veteran's Day ~ Sunday, November 11th

CANDLELIGHT OBSERVANCE TO HONOR VETERANS
CLINTON TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE
CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LIBERTY THAT EACH CLINTON
VETERAN MADE DURING THEIR TIME OF SERVICE FOR OUR COUNTRY

WE ARE PROUD THAT YOU CALL CLINTON HOME.



*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Get
Your Flu
Shot!



Selectmen's Meeting Schedule 6:30 p.m.



Tuesday, November 13th
Tuesday, November 27th

Tuesday, December 11th
Thursday, December 27th



State of Maine General Election
and
Clinton Special Town Meeting
Tuesday, November 6th
Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**YOUR VOTE
IS
YOUR VOICE**



For the Holidays!

Veteran's Day ~ Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving Day ~ Thursday & Friday
November 22 & 23

Christmas Eve ~ Monday, December 24
Christmas Day ~ Tuesday, December 25



TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY



Contrary to popular opinion towns do not like acquiring property from delinquent tax payers - they would much prefer the taxes to be paid. The process is not optional for Maine towns given state law dictates a lien shall be placed on a property for non-payment of taxes and after 18 months of waiting for the original tax to be paid the lien will mature and go to foreclosure. At midnight on the foreclosure date the town automatically acquires title to the property, hence the term "acquired property", and the town is free to dispose of the property at will with no obligation to consider the original owner.

This year the tax collector will send approximately 60 thirty day notices for the 2016 overdue taxes in the amount of \$48,619.57. The 30 Day Notices request final payment before automatic foreclosure takes place at midnight, **Thursday, January 24th.**



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE HOURS



Tuesday through Friday
8:00 am to 3:45 pm

Effective Tuesday, November 6th
Code Enforcement Officer
Frank Gioffre

will be available for in-house
appointments at the Town Office Bldg.
located at 27 Baker Street

Tuesday Mornings - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday Afternoons - 1:30 am - 3:30 pm

Call his office to make an appointment at
426-8320 or cell phone 509-6719 please leave a
message and I will return your call as soon as I
become available.

**Dog owners are required to license their dog(s)
during the month of December!**

January is a grace period.

**A \$25 Late Fee per dog will be assessed
beginning February 1st.**



LION'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2018



NANCY WRIGHT Contributions for the *Lions Club Children's Christmas Project* may be dropped off at one of the locations mentioned below until **426-8845 Friday, December 7th.** Contributions should be unwrapped toys, scarves, mittens, hats and socks or other gifts appropriate for children of all ages.

**Contributions may be dropped off at:
GALUSHA'S ~ TRADEWINDS ~ TOWN OFFICE**

The Lions Club is grateful to all those who contributed so generously to the *Children's Christmas Project* in years past and present to make the program a success for Clinton's children!

Applications for the *Children's Christmas Project* are now available at the Town Office - 426-8511





Let's Talk About Mailboxes

It seems way too early to be talking about mailboxes and snow plows, but in reality winter weather is just around the corner. So, it is time to discuss a very sensitive subject with homeowners. The town office or the snowplow contractor receives several calls each year from homeowners demanding repair or replacement of their roadside mailbox because the snowplow has damaged it.

Although administration sympathizes with homeowners' frustration there is nothing the town or the contractor is going to do about that collateral damage. Here's why.

Mailboxes are the homeowners personal property placed in the town's right-of-way by the homeowner. The town has no obligation to protect, repair or replace objects placed in the right-of-way, and further, the town is not allowed to spend public money on personal or private property.

The snowplow contractor is required by the town to keep the road surfaces of 104 lane miles clear of snow and safe for traveling, and the only place to plow that snow is in the town's right-of-way where hundreds of mailboxes are also located.

Homeowners can help themselves out a bit if they would shovel the snow away from the mailbox during the storm as well as after the storm ~ this makes the mailbox much more visible to the snowplow driver. And, the Post Office appreciates it too.

So, I hope your mailbox fairs well this season, but in the event it does not please do not call the town office seeking repair or replacement. Thank you for your understanding as we try to deliver winter road maintenance as efficiently and effectively as possible.

This sign is not a joke, so please do not ignore it!

The Town of Clinton is very serious about stopping the after hours dumping of debris and the pilfering of salt and sand. The town owns the salt and sand shed, but it does NOT own the salt and sand in the shed, that is the property of the winter contractor, Nitram.

Be advised the town will prosecute violators.



Good News from DOT for 2019

The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently provided the Road Commissioner with a list of paving locations for 2019.

**Route 23
River Road
Hinckley Road
Pleasant Street**



In Maine winter roads are always a challenge for towns to keep road surfaces clear of fallen snow and safe for travelers. Snow and ice purposely placed in the roadway by thoughtless homeowners or indifferent hired plow drivers not only adds to the cost of winter maintenance, but more importantly causes extreme hazards on our roadways.

This year the Road Commissioner, in concert with Nitram, Clinton's snow removal contractor has asked the Clinton Police Department to **double down on enforcement of the STATE law that actually forbids and makes it a crime for anyone to purposely place snow from a driveway or parking lot into a public roadway.**

Be advised, Nitram drivers will be reporting violations to the Clinton PD. We encourage homeowners to provide a place for their hired plow driver to put the snow, otherwise, their driver or the homeowner will be subject to a citation if they deliberately plow snow into the road way.



Just imagine how much snow private plow drivers place in 104 lane miles of road, and how many hazards are created for residents in just one winter. It has to stop!

Please help us keep roads safe!

Clinton Police Department - Winter Enforcement

Viewing Pleasure

If you have visited the town office lately you probably noticed the addition of a flat screen TV in the lobby, and there is also a 70" flat screen mounted in the Selectmen's Conference Room. Don't be dismayed - it's all at NO COST to the taxpayers! The large flat screen TV was made available as a result of good policing in our community and the second unit was donated to the town by Yankee Communications.

Although the TV in the Lobby is strictly for tax payers Viewing pleasure, the larger TV will serve the town well for training purposes and provides opportunity for viewing documents at the Selectmen's meetings and spreadsheets for the Budget Committee.

Since the cable TV franchise provides **FREE** cable service to the town office, and **FREE** TV's have been donated -

It's a WIN -WIN for Clinton!



Please be advised town owned cemeteries will close to all vehicle traffic on **Thursday, November 1st.**

Clinton Cemetery Notice

Residents are strongly encouraged to remove all memorials placed at grave sites before that date.



The cemeteries will open again on **Wednesday, May 1st 2019**



Clinton Board of Selectmen

*Jeffrey Towne, Chairman
Ronnie Irving, Vice Chairman
Edward Blanchard
Stephen Hatch
Brian Bickford*

Wishing You Happy Holidays



Clinton's Fireman of the Year!

At the annual dinner for the Clinton Fire & Rescue Department, held Sunday, October 28th, long term fireman Randy Caswell was awarded the honor of being chosen as “Clinton’s Fireman of the Year for 2018”.

Fire & Rescue Chief Travis Leary stated Randy had for many years exhibited an outstanding work ethic and loyalty to the twin missions of the department, fire suppression and rescue.

The citizens of Clinton are grateful for the service of all the members of the Clinton Fire & Rescue Department, and today, we are especially proud to honor Randy for his exemplary service to our town.

CONGRATULATIONS, RANDY!

Fireman Randy Caswell and State Senator Scott Cyrway at the 2018 Fire & Rescue Department’s Annual Dinner

The second picture is with his wife, Johnna, and their two lovely children



We are trying something different this year which we hope will work for the public as well as employees. We will be closed Christmas Eve but open all day on New Years Eve.

Please have a safe and happy New Years!

