

Clinton Community Newsletter



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2019

**The Town Office will be closed
Monday, October 14th for
Columbus Day.**

***Dog Licensing starts
October 15th!***

**DON'T
FORGET**



***The Town Office will be closed
Monday, November 11th for
Veteran's Day***

**The Town Office
will be closed
November 28th & 29th
for Thanksgiving.**



**RABIES CLINIC
with Dr. Danner
Saturday, November 9th
1 pm to 3 pm
Clinton Town Office
27 Baker Street**

\$20.00 per animal



**Stay Tuned.
Coming Soon!**

***The Town of Clinton's
NEW website is coming
soon!***

A MATTER OF SECURITY AT 27 BAKER STREET

During the last year the Clinton Police Department was not able to leave off-duty cruisers or the officer's unattended private vehicles behind the Town Office Building at night without fear of vandalism.



As a result Chief Bell made the decision that officers would begin their shift from a safe and monitored location until such time that town assets and the officer's vehicles could be protected with a dependable security system. Unfortunately, that location was out of town.

Without understanding the circumstances and the fact that Chief Bell was trying to protect the town's investment a few citizens became concerned because the cruisers were not being kept in town. Additionally, they supposed all sorts of nefarious reasons as to why such a decision had been made when, in fact, it was **simply a matter of security**.

The problem has now been solved with the installation of a new and improved security system. Every night two high powered cameras cover and record the activity in the back parking lot as well as in the Cindy Blodgett Park. Everyone, including Chief Bell and the police officers, are glad to be back in town in a secure environment.

**We would like to invite the vandals that created this problem
back for a nice photo op!**

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 19th

Tax Relief at the Counter!

Maine Public law affecting Motor Vehicle Fees included the authority for municipal agents to increase the annual renewal of vehicle registrations from \$3 to \$5; and for new registrations from \$4 to \$6. This law also allows the agent to collect \$5 for duplicate registrations.

Clinton's Motor Vehicle Agent, Katina Hubbard has taken the conservative approach and announced she would increase new registrations and renewals only by \$1 for the remainder of this fiscal year (June 30) but, will increase the fee to \$5 for all duplicate registrations.

To continue for counter collections to offer tax relief Ms. Hubbard noted the agent fee for registrations will increase another \$1 effective July 1st.

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 19th

HANDS FREE LAW

Per state law the first offense fine for holding a cell phone while driving or stopped at a light is \$50 but could go as high as \$230 for additional offenses.

**Please keep yourself, your family
and Clinton roadways safe. Hang
up your phone while driving!**

It's the law!

Clinton Police Department will enforce this law as a matter of public education and public safety.



A message from the Fire Department

October is Fire Prevention month, and October 6th-12th is Fire Prevention week. Clinton fire members will be conducting fire prevention classes at Clinton Elementary in October. The department will also host classes for pre school and kindergarten students at the station. Members work very hard to push fire prevention and safety onto our community's youth. Please take the time and check your smoke and CO detectors to make sure they are functioning properly and change the batteries if they have not been changed recently. Also, if your alarm is more than 10 years old, it should be replaced. If you cannot afford a smoke or CO alarm, please contact the fire department and we will try to assist you.

Also, with the cold weather unavoidably approaching us, please have all your heating appliances serviced and cleaned for smooth operation this heating season. Please have your chimneys cleaned and inspected prior to usage as well. A chimney fire can seem miniscule but, can destroy your home. Many fires across our stated in the winter are caused by chimney fires. A small failure in the chimney lining can release fire into the combustible space of the home and burn undetected for hours. If you believe you may have a chimney fire, please call 911 and have the fire department respond.

Are You Fully Protected?

Having functioning alarms installed throughout your home is the first line of defense for fire prevention. They work around the clock to give your family an early alert in the event of an emergency, allowing you time to safely escape. Smoke and CO alarms should be placed on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as inside and outside each bedroom. Fire alarms should also be placed on every level of the home, especially in the kitchen and garage. *-Chief Leary*



“Owner of Record” Responsible for Property Tax

Clinton’s property tax year runs from July 1st—June 30th with two installment payment dates of October 1st and April 1st. Per state tax law changes to a property within the tax year, for example; additions to a property, exemptions, sale/transfer of ownership etc., would all have to be made known to the town’s Assessor before April 1st which will affect the tax bill published in August.

For example, if a property is sold in May, the tax bill published in August will be in the name of the “owner of record” on April 1st. State law makes it their responsibility to pay that year’s taxes. Usually banks and mortgage companies pro-rate and collect the taxes from the old and new owners at the closing. The bank then pays the tax to the town directly and records the deed for the NEW owner of record at the Registry of Deeds. This process allows the new owner to receive the next tax bill in their name.

So, if you received a tax bill for a property you sold AFTER April 1st - per state tax law YOU are responsible for the tax unless your bank has failed to pay the tax they collected from you at closing. If that is the case, it is your responsibility to provide the tax bill to the new owner.



Fee Increase for Tires on Rims

Effective October 1st

For liability reasons the tire changing machine at the Transfer Station that allowed employees to separate rims from tires before disposal has been removed from operations. The Transfer Station will continue to accept tires on rims for a fee of \$5 instead of \$3. The increase in fee allows for handling and arranging disposal with an off-site vendor.

Please welcome
David Woods, a long
time Clinton resident as the
**Administrative Manager of
the Clinton Solid Waste
Transfer & Recycling
Center effective
Wednesday, October 2nd.**



The towns of Benton and Clinton are collaborating to find realistic ways to redefine recycling at the Clinton Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling Center. The conversation and research is far from over but one new practice is looming on the horizon for a November launch - a **Recycling Exchange Center!** A place created where residents from both communities can leave usable items and take away items that may be useful to them.

Many transfer stations throughout Maine use this method to reduce transportation cost and tipping fees by removing tonnage from the solid waste stream while providing citizens an opportunity to exchange usable items. Using the successes of other communities practicing this recycling method we are currently working on guidelines for the type of items that will be acceptable in the Exchange Center. More information will be made available as we approach the November 1st target date.

We are aware that change is not easy and recognize there will always be a collection of citizens against virtually everything new. We must move past the noise to achieve goals that prosper and enhance lives of the majority of citizens in Clinton and Benton.

REDEFINING RECYCLING

State of Maine Election



November 5, 2019

8:00am-8:00pm

at Clinton Town Office



Absentee Ballots

Available October 8, 2019.

You can get an absentee ballot by:

- Stopping at the Town Clerk's Office and filling out an application .
- An immediate family member can request one for you; **you** can call the Town office (426-8511) and request a ballot;
- You can request a ballot online at www.maine.gov.

The last day to request an absentee ballot is by close of business on
Thursday, October 31, 2019.

Absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's Office
by 8:00 p.m. on November 5, 2019.

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, October 8th

Tuesday, October 22nd

Tuesday, November 12th

Tuesday, November 26th

6:30 p.m.

Please do not forget to donate to the Clinton Food Bank! They are currently servicing 50 to 55 households per week - ALL Clinton residents.



Cash donations actually buy more grocery items through the GOOD SHEPHERD food outlet than what can be purchased retail but all donations are appreciated and promptly used.

Let's work together to end hunger in Clinton!