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Town Manager's Corner

Autumn in Clinton is one of my favorite times of year. The air turns crisp, the shoreline glows with color, and our community comes alive as we shift from summer's bustle to the excitement of the holiday season. Along with pumpkins and cozy sweaters, this time of year brings both major progress on key infrastructure projects and the start of Clinton's most cherished holiday traditions.

One of our most significant ongoing projects is the Beach Park Road Bridge and Tidal Gate Replacement. The project is progressing, with a current timeline for completion by July 16, 2027. I know at times it may feel like progress moves slowly, but even during quieter periods, there's important work happening behind the scenes planning, engineering, and coordination. We understand that construction and detours can be frustrating. The Clinton



Michelle Benivegna, Town Manager

Police Department continues to actively patrol Beach Park Road, address resident concerns, and enforce traffic laws. To keep the project on track, my office holds bi-weekly status meetings with our contractor and Ducks Unlimited, and we've created a Project FAQ page on the town's website to keep residents informed. This is a vital investment in our town's infrastructure, resiliency, and safety, and I want to thank everyone for their patience as we move forward.

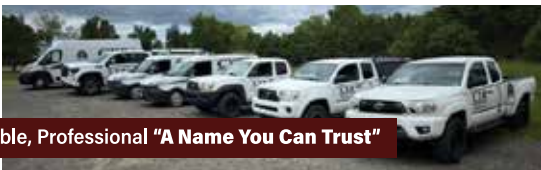
Another exciting initiative is the Fishway Dam and Viewing Platform Project located near the Indian River Shops. In 2022, the Town of Clinton received a \$500,000 grant for the design and construction of a fishway at the Upper Mill Pond Dam (DEEP #2703).

This project, managed by RiverWork, LLC, is already underway and scheduled for completion by March 2026. The dam

Continued on page 5



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CONTENTS

Town Manager's Corner	3-5
Morgan School Science Department.....	6
Clinton Historical Society	7
Beach Cleanup.....	7
Town Clerk's Office.....	8
St. Mary's Church of the Visitation.....	8
Zoning Regulations for Signs.....	8
From the Desk of Tax Collector Lisa Bibbiani.....	9
CFMC Fostering the Joy of Reading for Every Child.....	10
Clinton's Historic District Commission.....	11
Probate Court	11
River Valley Transit Travel Program.....	12
The Henry Carter Hull Library	12
Clinton's Shellfish Traditions.....	13
Clinton Land Conservation Trust	14
Clinton Arbor Garden Club	15
CHRC Documentary Series.....	17
Clinton Senior Connection.....	18



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Town Manager *Continued from page 3*

currently blocks migratory fish such as alewife and blueback herring from accessing upstream habitats where they spawn. Restoring these pathways improves the health and biodiversity of the entire watershed and benefits local ecosystems, from birds to marine life.

The project also includes a public viewing platform with an ADA-compliant ramp, offering residents and visitors a chance to observe the fish runs up close. Educational signage will highlight the importance of the project to both the Indian River and Long Island Sound. This yet another example of Clinton's commitment to conservation, collaboration, and community engagement.

And now onto something a little more festive! Are you ready to get into the holiday spirit?

The Town of Clinton, in partnership with Placemakers, is thrilled to host Christmas in Clinton on Saturday, December 6th, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This beloved community event takes place at Clinton Town Hall and along East and West Main Streets, transforming downtown into a holiday wonderland.

Returning favorites include the wreath and tree sale by the Clinton Arbor Garden Club, performances by local schools and theater groups, free kids' crafts, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus himself arriving by firetruck at 5:00 pm to light the town tree! After the tree lighting, families will have the opportunity to take photos with Santa.

This year's event will also feature food trucks serving up seasonal favorites and sweet treats, as well as multiple entertainment location. Stroll through downtown and you'll find live music, carolers, dance performances, and festive displays filling the air with holiday cheer. The streets will be lined with luminaries, local businesses will be open and beautifully decorated, and community groups will host fun activities and giveaways.

New additions this year include a Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, a Soup Cook-Off, and a Kids Zone with bounce houses and festive games. The event also complements several local holiday craft fairs happening the same day making it the perfect time to spend the day in Clinton, support local artisans, and kick off the season in true hometown style. More information can be found on the town website: Clintonct.org and Facebook page.

Be sure to mark your calendars, you won't want to miss it!

As we move through this busy and beautiful time of year, I want to thank all of you, our residents, business owners, volunteers, and town staff for your continued support, kindness, and community pride. Clinton's success comes from the people who live and work here, and I'm honored to serve as your Town Manager.

From my office to yours, have a wonderful autumn and a joyful start to the holiday season. I look forward to seeing you around town and at Christmas in Clinton!

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Morgan School Science Department **Authentic Research in Action**

While serving the students of Clinton every day, The Morgan School Science Department is redefining what high school science education looks like. The Morgan science teachers have firmly established the department as a program with influence stretching from Long Island Sound to the national stage. At the core of this excellence is a rigorous curriculum and a commitment to action-based learning. The department has developed a strong academic partnership with the University of Connecticut, allowing Morgan students to choose from six college-level courses that offer UConn dual enrollment credit. This preparedness is further demonstrated by annual student participation in the UConn Marine Science Symposium and challenges like the prestigious Yale Physics Olympiads.



The six educators in the department are not just teachers — they are scientists. This year, the department earned the honor of presenting and showcasing its innovative approach in July at the 2025 Empowered to Lead Symposium, hosted by the CT Teacher of the Year Council at Mohegan Sun. The department's presentation titled *From Phenomena to Partnership: A Journey in Justice-Centered Science Teaching* shared their experiences and processes for building university and local collaborations, and creating science learning that place student experiences, voices, and community connections at the forefront of learning. We're

not just teaching science; we're empowering our students to explore ethical issues, consider impacts of human actions, and become agents of change who are able to analyze real-world issues.

In our local community, the department actively partners with the Connecticut Audubon Society on conservation efforts. Students are directly involved in the stewardship, management,

and restoration of vital habitats for at-risk bird species, providing unparalleled, hands-on environmental experience. In Physics, students explore how tidal marshes reduce storm surge and wave impact by creating annotated scientific models showing how marshes act as natural barriers, dispersing wave energy and protecting infrastructure, and illustrating the importance of current tidal marsh restoration in their own town. These lessons demonstrate how local, real-world data can ground student understanding of wave energy and concepts in authentic, meaningful phenomena. Physics teacher Abigail Walston was invited to present this innovative work to the American Association of Physics Teachers conference in Washington D.C. in July.

We celebrate the accomplishments of these six dedicated educators: Program Chair Emily Lisy, Karen Martino, Abigail Walston, Alexandra Patterson, Kelly Gilbert, and Jake Rowe. Thanks to their leadership, The Morgan School is cultivating a generation of critical thinkers and problem solvers prepared to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.



**The Clinton Historical Society
would like to invite one and all to our holiday
celebration events in December.**

During the town-wide Christmas in Clinton on Saturday, December 6, the historic Old Brick building at 103 East Main Street will be festively decorated and open for guided tours and light snacks, and the Buell Tool Museum will be open to visitors, from 1 to 4 pm. Also, the society's Museum Room in the Andrews Memorial Town Hall will be open for viewing of historical exhibits.

A few days later, on December 10 and 11 will be our annual holiday luncheons. Menus had not been determined as of press time, but will be available soon on our website and Facebook page.

Please visit the Clinton Historical Society on the web at www.clintoncthistory.org, on Facebook by searching Clinton Historical Society, or in person at our Museum Room in the Town Hall which is open every Thursday evening from 5 to 7 pm or by appointment. Email us at info@clintoncthistory.org for more information.

Beach Cleanup

On Saturday, September 27th, 2025, over 75 volunteers gathered at Clinton Town Beach for a cleanup event organized by the Clinton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) as part of a Save the Sound initiative. Volunteers not only cleaned the town beach but also ventured to Cedar Island and various waterways across Clinton. Removing trash from shorelines is crucial, but the data collected during these efforts is equally important. This data will be combined with information from other cleanups to educate the public about marine debris and support legislation to protect waterways. In total, 352 pounds of trash were removed from Clinton's waterways. CLCT extends heartfelt thanks to the amazing volunteers who gave their time and energy to make this cleanup a success.

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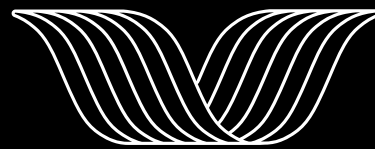


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Town Clerk's Office

The holiday season is approaching. A great gift for your loved ones is their Fishing and Hunting or Shellfish license. Licenses will be available beginning in December.

If you would like to submit your application for the Permanent Absentee Ballot list, please send your completed application along with a doctor's note (presumably on letter head), stating that you are unable to appear in person at your polling place.

The Town Clerk's office is open Monday – Wednesday 9 am to 4 pm, Thursdays 9 am to 7 pm, and Fridays 9 am to noon.



St. Mary's Church of the Visitation 37th Annual Heart of Christmas Fair

54 Grove Street, Clinton, CT

Saturday, November 22, 2025 • 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

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Zoning Regulations – Sign Rules

When do I need a sign permit?

What kind of signage is allowed?

How big of a sign can I have?

All commercial signs need Administrative Sign Permits whether they are new signs, temporary signs, or re-facing of an existing sign. There are Zoning Regulations for the dimensions of a sign, the location of a sign, and the lighting of a sign.



Sandwich Board

Administrative Sign Permits are also required for sandwich boards signs. Sandwich board signs must be placed on private property. If the sign advertises a use located on a different property, the owner of the property on which the sign is to be located must give permission, via signature on the Administrative Sign Permit Application, for the sign to be erected.

Per Zoning Regulation 34.9.3 No sign shall be located within any town or state right-of-way, except town or state-owned signs.

Permanent commercial signs are also reviewed by the Design Review Board, which is an advisory group. They review signs for aesthetics. Signs that are part of a shopping center, multi-tenancy commercial building, multi-building complex, or commercial center, are reviewed to be sure they are the same type, character and relative location on the building, so as to provide integrated, harmonious design.

Certain sign types are prohibited. Per Zoning Regulation 34.9.8 No feather or swooper flags are permitted.

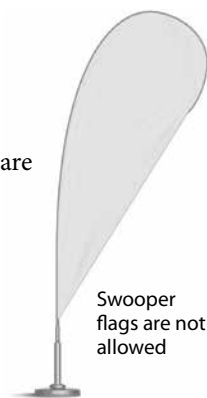
This means swooper flag signs are not allowed at all, as a permanent sign type or as a temporary sign type for a sale or grand opening.

The number of square feet of signage that a business is allowed to have is based on many factors including the zone district, whether the business is located in a stand-alone building, or if it is part of a shopping center or multi-tenant building, and the ratio of square footage of signage to the number of linear feet of the building or unit the business is located in.



Per Zoning Regulation 34.9.7 No sign shall be permitted which has blinking, flashing, fluttering, oscillating, rotating or pulsating lights or other illumination devices which have a changing light intensity or color.

If you have any questions about signs, or if you have any other land use questions, please feel free to contact the Land Use Office at 860-669-6133. We're here to help.



Swooper flags are not allowed

From the Desk of Tax Collector Lisa Bibbiani

Tax Payment Due Dates

The second installment of town tax for real estate and personal property taxes will be due on January 1, 2026. The last day to pay without penalty is February 2, 2026. Of course, you can pay anytime between now and February 2, 2026.

- Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes will also be due on January 1, 2026.
- This supplemental bill is for any motor vehicle registered after October 1, 2024, and before August 1, 2025.
- Supplemental taxes must be paid by February 2, 2026, to avoid interest.

Penalty and Interest

Interest accrues at 1.5% per month from the due date, which is 18% per annum.

How to Send Your Tax Payments

Please take care in how you send us your tax payments. We have had many taxpayers who use the US Postal Service suffer from fraud.

Please consider using your bank's electronic banking to send payments, or use the new & improved online portal.

- Online Portal: Go to www.clintonct.org. Click on the Tax Payment Icon.
- You may pay by credit card, debit card, or electronic check online.
- Fees for Online Payments: There is a \$.95 processing fee when paying by electronic check and a 1.50% processing fee for using a debit and 2.50% credit card.
- In-Office Payment: You can pay with cash, check or credit card over the counter in the office, same fees apply as paying through the online portal.

Motor Vehicle Adjustments

Two forms of proof are required to make any type of adjustment.

Both documents must be dated and include the vehicle's identification (VIN).

Required documentation may be needed for vehicles that were:

- Sold
- Registered out of state
- Transfer of title
- Stolen
- Totaled
- Confiscated
- Junked
- Donated
- Traded in



REQUIRED: Plate receipt from the DMV indicating that the registration has been Cancelled or Lost or Stolen.

All paperwork must be sent to the Assessor's Office for credits to be issued.

QUESTIONS? CALL THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE 860-669-9269.

Income Tax Information is available online at www.clintonct.org, click on the Tax Payment Icon.

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CFMC Fostering the Joy of Reading for Every Child

There is something magical happening in Middlesex County – thanks to River Valley Family Fund (RVFF). The Fund, housed at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC), was created to target unmet needs facing children and families with grantmaking that centers health, education, and social supports. RVFF's continued commitment to children's literacy is a shining example of what a community united in heart, hope and love can do for its children to help them achieve. The focus is on free, recurring access to books and literacy programming across seven local libraries at once. With incredible community support and, thanks to the amazing fundraiser at the Ivoryton Playhouse, RVFF was able to award grants to continue to put books into little hands and joy into hearts through public libraries in Essex, Ivoryton, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook.

These initiatives don't just deliver materials – they foster connection and celebrate the belief that literacy matters, and every child deserves a chance to read. RVFF is a true celebration of community, learning and supporting the bright futures of the children it serves. Every story of a child discovering the joy of reading is a reminder of the strength of generosity and hope that comes from Good People Doing Great Things. CFMC is deeply grateful to the community for their unwavering support and dedication. Your involvement, generosity and commitment truly show that this is a community that cares and supports everyone who works, plays, and lives here. For more information on how you can help your community thrive, call the Community Foundation at 860-347-0025 or visit online at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.



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truly show that this is a
community that cares and
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Where you live, work or play.

Call us at (860)347-0025 or visit us online at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.



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Historic District Commission

Clinton's Historic District Commission is awarding an Honorable Mention for the restoration of Lobster Landing. The building, which sits at the south end of Commerce Street, is on the National Register of Historic Places and has had multiple reincarnations since its inception over a century ago. For a period of time prior to 1995, it was known as J&J Lobster. Then, from 1995 to 2002 it was BB & G Lobster, owned by two brothers from Italy. Yet one went back across the pond and following his departure, the business was renamed Lobster Landing by the one who remained — a name that has been synonymous with the site since its inception over one hundred years ago. The building itself is owned by John Andrews, a Clinton native and member of the San Francisco, California Police Department. Recently, it underwent a major renovation, as the piers upon which it sits needed to be replaced. When the structure was removed from the old piers, it was in such poor condition, it needed more comprehensive reconstruction than anticipated. The end result looks similar to the original, though its exterior is of modern materials, rather than those used when first constructed.



Photograph by Rich Geer

Probate Court

Do I Avoid Probate if I Have a Revocable Living Trust?

It is a very well-advertised and common belief that having a revocable living trust (RLT) means you will avoid probate. It is very important to clarify this misconception; however, because having a RLT does not completely, absolutely, and unconditionally avoid probate. Having a RLT can avoid the need for what we term “full probate”. Full probate has an unpleasant reputation in the public eye partially due to the fact that highly contested, high-profile probate matters typically utilize a full probate process. Full probate is the form of probate used when the solely owned assets of the deceased exceed \$40,000.00, and/or there is solely owned real estate. The individuals appointed to administer these estates are given one year to complete the steps needed to settle the estate, but when there is discord, this process can be significantly extended.

The reason an RLT only partially avoids probate is that an RLT is somewhat of an alter ego of the person who establishes

it (the Grantor or Settlor). For example, RLT income is typically reported under that person's social security number. Although RLT property will pass to the RLT beneficiaries on the death of the Grantor according to the terms outlined in the trust agreement, this form of partial probate avoidance leads people to mistakenly believe that probate is not needed at all.

Connecticut law requires each person in actual or constructive possession of any property of the deceased person to file a Form CT 706 NT (a Connecticut Estate Tax Return for Nontaxable Estates) with the Probate Court. This requirement applies to assets that are in an RLT. The Form CT 706 NT must be filed for each deceased person who, at the time of death was a Connecticut resident, within six (6) months after their date of death. It is especially important to note that probate is needed if there is a residence, land, a Water's Edge time share, or a mobile home in an RLT. The reason why these property interests must be listed on the Form CT-706 NT even if they are placed



Judge Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook District Probate Court, Photo courtesy of Laura Matesky Photography

in an RLT, is because a release of estate tax lien and probate fee lien is needed from the Probate Court in order to clear title to these properties so they can later be sold. If the release is not obtained soon after death, it will still need to be obtained before the property can be sold.

Continued on page 15

RVT Brings Encompass Travel Program to Clinton

River Valley Transit (RVT) is pleased to announce the launch of Encompass, an exciting new program that allows seniors and anyone in the disability community to travel within select towns in the Middlesex County area up to eight miles for just \$5— any day, for any reason. RVT has partnered with M7, Connecticut's largest taxi operator, to provide the service.

The low-cost rides will first be available in Clinton, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook.

"We wanted to do everything we could to help our seniors and our passengers with disabilities get where they need to go — to the doctor, the pharmacy, the grocery store, or just to see family," said Bill

Scalzi, owner of M7. "We want to help get America moving again, and this innovative partnership helps Connecticut make that a reality."

"We are always looking at ways to improve mobility in our region. We are excited to partner with M7 to expand this innovative transportation solution to Clinton," says Joseph Comerford, Executive Director of River Valley Transit.

Anyone can apply in minutes to be included in the program by going to Encompass.M7Ride.com and clicking the "Apply Now" button for Middlesex County. Passengers must be 60 years of age or over or provide proof of a disability to apply. Trip payments are made online through

a personal Encompass account created by the passenger. Passengers can easily load funds into the account via credit card payments or direct bank transfers. When a ride ends, the trip is automatically paid and the passenger simply exits the vehicle. There is no limit to the number of trips a passenger can take, and trips beyond eight miles are charged at a rate of \$2 per mile. The passenger is given the exact trip cost at the time of booking and the fare is automatically deducted at the end of each ride.

All M7 drivers are fully trained and vetted, and all vehicles are fully licensed, inspected and insured.



Did you know? Library programs are funded by generous donations from our community. Find ways to support library programs and say "I Love My Library" at: hchlibrary.org/donate.

Contact: Sarah Borgnis-Tobin

Head of Outreach & Adult Programs,

sarah@hchlibrary.org | (860)669-2342

** No Registration Required Unless Noted*

Greetings from the Children's Room!

Thanks to a grant from Traveling Toys, Inc. and the Madison Racquet & Swim Club, our Library of Things Toy Library has expanded, adding more than 50 new toys and games to our collection. Items include the classic board games Sorry!, Trouble, and Monopoly, a variety of manipulatives like Magna-Tiles and Lincoln Logs, and dozens of educational toys for babies, toddlers, school-aged kids and teens. We also received a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County which allowed us to purchase 25 more Wonderbooks — which are print books with a built-in audiobook. They help cultivate a love of reading and improve literacy skills. Items in our Library of Things can be borrowed for two weeks. We are filled with gratitude for the generosity of these community organizations.

In addition to our regular weekly and monthly children's programs, we are looking forward to hosting two new

special programs. On Thursday, November 20th at 5:00 pm children in grades K-6 are invited to learn All About Axolotls with Ashley Hunt, owner of Amphibian & Reptile Center in Clinton. Ashley will bring a few of her rescued Axolotls and teach us about the importance of proper amphibian and reptile husbandry, which encompasses the practices and knowledge required to properly care for reptiles in captivity. We will end the program with an Axolotl craft and coloring sheets. On Saturday, December 20th at 10:30 am, all are welcome to join us for a holiday sing-along with local musician Mary Melillo. For more information and to register for these or any of our programs, please visit us at www.hchlibrary.org.

All of our special programs are made possible by proceeds from our book sale and from monetary donations. Thank you to the Clinton Land Conservation Trust for sponsoring our StoryWalks and to our wonderful patrons for your support.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

MONDAYS:

Young Picassos @ 4:15 pm – Grades K-4

Read to Bee the Therapy Dog @ 4:00 pm – Grades 1-4

TUESDAYS:

Baby & Me @ 10:00 am – Birth-24 Months

WEDNESDAYS:

Playdough Playdate @ 10:30 am – Age 2-6

Crafternoons @ 4:15 pm – Grades K-4

THURSDAYS:

Sign Language @ 10:00 am – Birth-Age 6

FRIDAYS:

Stories & More @ 10:00 am – Age 2-6

Stay & Play @ 10:30 am – Birth-Age 6

Continued on page 16

The Bounty Beneath the Tide: Clinton's Shellfish Traditions

Shellfish have adorned some of the finest tables throughout time. They have been relished by royalty and working families alike. Along the coasts of America they have been a staple since before the revolution and even consumed by the native peoples before Europeans arrived. They have been enjoyed for their nutritional value and exotic flavors.

Your Clinton shellfish beds support mostly oysters and eastern hard shell clams. In the past scallops were plentiful as were mussels and soft shell and razor clams. All can still be found in our waters but most plentiful now are the eastern hardshell clams otherwise known as quahogs. You will see hardshell clams being marketed in restaurants and fish markets under several names. littlenecks, top-necks, cherry stones and the largest are the chowder clams or quahogs. These designations are all about size and only about size. All of these are quahogs.



Although they are all the same species, in clams size does matter. And all these sizes can be taken from Clinton's shellfish beds. The smallest are the littlenecks they are perfect for clams and linguini or steamed open on top of a paella. The middle sized clams are the cherrystones and middlenecks. They are best for clams on the half shell or an appetizer of stuffed clams or clams casino.

Some prefer the littlenecks on

the half shell but as my father would say "those are the people who like the taste of cocktail sauce better than the clams." The largest clams, often labeled quahogs or chowder clams, are best for dishes where they will be chopped into small pieces. They work best in chowder (hence the name) or filling out a meaty stuffed clam family dinner. They can also be used in clam fritters.

Recipe for all these dishes can be had from any of 10,000+ New England seafood cookbooks or these days, we can just do a web search. My experience has been that chefs who write these recipes know not to mess with a good thing. There may be an additional spice or herb or vegetable but the recipes are all similar and all good. We all know what flavors we like and don't like, so read the recipe and decide if it sounds good to you. I have tried many and I have never been disappointed. But maybe I'm just easy when it comes to fresh New England seafood.

The most basic clam dish is clams on the half shell. This is simply raw clams opened and served cold with a wedge of lemon and a dollop of cocktail sauce. For many of us brought up along the coast, clams served this way capture the smell of the sea, sand in our shoes, and the feeling of good times to come. The middle

sized clams (topnecks cherrystones and middlenecks) are the most versatile. The smaller ones can easily be opened and eaten raw on the half shell, and many love just putting them on the grill with a nice herb butter to dip them in. This is an easy way to get lots of clams in the hands of your hungry guests before their beer gets warm. Just put the fresh clams on the grill and serve them when they open.



Others like to steam open the larger clams and chop them and mix them with seasoned breadcrumbs and butter. I like the recipes that include minced green pepper and garlic. The mix is returned to an open shell and baked in the oven with a shake of Parmesan on top. These are stuffed clams or for many

locals known as "Stuffies." The size of the clamshells control how many you serve each guest. I have found with these that, if dinner is to follow, it is best to leave them wanting for more. Clams casino and clams oreganata are similar but more garlic and herbs in the stuffing and they are often layered in the shell, clam, then stuffing, and then sometimes bacon on top. To get these right please consult your Italian grandmother.

Now the New England clam chowder is a luscious combination of aromatic vegetables, potatoes, clam broth (the water you steamed the clams in) and in New England, cream. Seasoning is kept to a minimum to let the flavor of the clams shine. The chowder clams are steamed open and chopped. I like to hand chop the tender parts of the clams and use a food processor to chop the foot and the other parts that can be tough. As with all clam recipes the clams are added last to be sure they are never over cooked.

The use of cream in chowder is not essential. Rhode Islanders use no cream. I have read that classic Connecticut chowder uses just a little evaporated milk. Boston and parts north use pure cream and even thicken it with a little flour. In Manhattan they make vegetable soup and flavor it with clams. Who are those people?

Clinton has almost 140 acres of recreational shellfish beds. They are best accessed from Clinton Town Beach parking. To harvest from these beds all you need is a license, a rake and something to take home your catch. Proper clothing appropriate to the season goes without saying. See clintonshellfish.org for detailed regulations and where to get a license. The waters of our beds and clam samples are collected by your shellfish commissioners and tested regularly at state labs to be certain your catch will be as safe and tasty as possible. Remember each license entitles you to bring a friend to help you catch your limit. We look forward to seeing you out there.

Clinton Land Conservation Trust

We are thrilled to share CLCT's biggest news of 2025!

Thanks to a generous grant from the state in the amount of \$103,350.00 we have now secured the full funding needed to purchase the "Greystone Ledges," located on Route 81 in Clinton. This 23-acre parcel is a key addition to an existing 150-acre open space corridor, which includes CLCT property and land

owned by Eversource. One of the most exciting aspects of this acquisition is our plan to create a loop trail that will pass through the Eversource property and connect to another CLCT property, as well as the designated parking area for the Greystone parcel. CLCT and Eversource are working together to develop this public access trail system. This project will provide a

unique opportunity for the community to explore and enjoy diverse landscapes, including open areas filled with native grasses, striking rock outcroppings, and the Indian River watershed. We believe that acquiring and preserving open space is not only essential for protecting wildlife and natural resources, but also for ensuring that future generations have access to the beauty, peace, and ecological value of our shared natural heritage. Land conservation today helps build a healthier, more sustainable tomorrow.

Stay tuned—more updates will be coming throughout the year!

2025 was another year of many CLCT accomplishments. I am proud to be leading such a motivated and selfless group of volunteers. I am so grateful for the work that CLCT does for the people of Clinton.

- We maintained ALL our properties, (totaling close to 1,000 acres) which include cleaning up of parking areas, repainting vandalized signs, trimming dangerous limbs, clearing blockages on trails, mowing meadows, weed whacking, posting "preserved by CLCT" signs, mulching and so much more.
- We sponsored the winter "Tracking program" and the spring "Peeper Prowl" at Indian River.
- We sponsored scholarships to the Bushy Hill Nature Center summer camp and Ecology camp that takes place at Peters Woods and the Clinton Town beach.
- We awarded TWO 2025 Alice and David Crosby Scholarships to Joe O'Brien and Aleia Aleman.
- We led stations at the 4th grade Marine Science Day.
- We partnered with the HCH Library for many summer educational programs and co-sponsored 2 story walks at the library.
- We sponsored the reusable-recyclable "toy library" at the beach in conjunction with the HCH library.



- We organized and participated (in conjunction with Save the Sound) in the Clinton Town Beach cleanup.
- We monitored and kept track of the osprey pairs nesting in Clinton and took great joy in watching the development of all the chicks!

CLCT also pledged money toward the Upper Millpond Dam Fishway project on the Indian River in Clinton. This fish ladder will restore a strong alewife population to the river and allow the fish to reach their spawning grounds and support the health and sustainability of fish, and in turn, the osprey population.

Membership Info

CLCT is a nonprofit organization that depends on your generosity to acquire additional property and provide educational programs. We want to thank our members, volunteers, and supporters because without them, we would not exist. We are a private, non-profit land trust that is supported solely by private donations and volunteers. If you are a member, now is the time to renew your membership. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Your CLCT membership will notify you of upcoming educational programs, trail days, workdays and special events.

Please consider making a financial contribution or a donation of property, which will go a long way towards protecting and preserving precious land now and for future generations. You can make your check payable to CLCT for your tax-deductible contribution today.

Clinton Land Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 121 • Clinton, CT 06413

info@clintonlandtrust.org

www.clintonlandtrust.org



Annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths

While carols fill the hallways of Clinton Town Hall and echo onto the streets, it's David Bowie's lyrics *Turn and face the strange, Ch-ch-ch-changes!* that might come to mind this year when visiting the garden club's annual Festival of Trees and Wreaths. While there will be changes — some planned, others not — what will remain the same is the overarching sentiment of the holiday season.

The Clinton Arbor Garden Club continues to be a mainstay of Christmas in Clinton, which will be held on Saturday, December 6, from 2:00-5:00 pm all along Main Street. This year you will find the garden club set up on the lower level of Town Hall in the main hallway. Available for silent auction or immediate sale will be faux wreaths and trees. This year, however, we will also be offering a selection of tiny trees that are suitable for small spaces like foyer tables and wide window sills or for use as centerpieces and hostess gifts. We will also offer mantel garlands, swags, and table-top decor using live cuttings, as well as our uniquely decorated mini trees made of boxwood cuttings. Conical trees covered in mussel shells will also be added to the mix!

Please find us at our new spot, peruse our new offerings, and — for the first time — choose to buy something you love on the spot! As in years past, we will be on hand to wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season. Fortunately, the important things still stay the same.

Probate Court *Continued from page 3*

The need to file the necessary forms in Probate Court at a later date can cause an unwelcome delay at the time of the real estate closing, and penalties and interest will be charged if the Form CT-706 NT is filed late.

Fortunately, there are two other options to full probate: a “tax purposes only estate” and a “small estate affidavit”. If all assets of the deceased person are in an RLT, an abbreviated process called a tax purposes only estate, allows probate to be completed quickly, often in several months’ time. A small estate affidavit can be used when assets outside of the RLT which are solely owned by the deceased do not exceed \$40,000 and there is no solely owned real estate.

While the Probate Court cannot give legal advice about whether an RLT is right for you because this question is highly individualized and a conversation best had with a skilled estate planning attorney, if the deceased had an RLT, we are happy to guide you through the necessary steps for probate to ensure you comply with Connecticut law and properly administer the assets. For further information, contact the Saybrook District Probate Court at (860) 510-5028.



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For more information, program descriptions, and to register, please visit www.hchlibrary.org.

HELLO FROM THE TEEN ROOM!

The generous grant from Traveling Toys, Inc. and the Madison Racquet & Swim Club also expanded the teen game library — we're thrilled to add eight books and items to our DND collection, nine board games, and 20 new games to the Nintendo Switch library. We've also added a green screen and a lighting kit to our Library of Things.



We're running a weekly Dungeons and Dragons campaign on Wednesdays from 3-5 pm — no experience required. Registration is recommended! For teens 12-18.

On Tuesday, 12/9, Kristin Cafferty will run an art program for teens! Kristin has been a big hit in our children's room for years, and we're so excited for this program. We will continue to have a monthly craft for teens — planned events include beading, junk journaling, book bedazzling, and slime. Stay tuned for more information!

On Tuesday, 12/30, we will be hosting a video game event for neurodiverse teens and their families, in collaboration with Spectrum of Light. Check out our calendar for more details.

Every Monday at 3 pm we screen a movie in the teen room. Have a movie request? Let us know and come hang out!

WHAT'S ON FOR ADULTS?

We have some exciting events lined up for adults this winter. In November we have Pizza and Puzzles for families. Richard Taylor, DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist, is back to present a lecture on Eastern Wild Turkeys. In December, stop by Henry on Main during Christmas in Clinton for a special event.

Starting December 3rd Swan Funeral Home will be presenting a series of seminars discussing different aspects of end-of-life decisions and arrangements from an obituary writing class, to considerations for veterans, to green burials, and more. January brings us Slot Car Racing with Shoreline Model Raceways and The Musick of Connecticut's Revolution with Richard Donohue.

In addition, every month we host a creative writing group, Bad Art Night, cookbook club, craft night, and multiple book clubs. We also offer weekly virtual meditation, scrabble club, fiber artist gatherings, and more. If you have tech related questions, stop by during our Tech Guide's office hours. Our Tech Guide also runs informative programs aligned with community interests to help keep people safe online and learn to navigate the complexities of technology.

During November and December, we'll be exhibiting a beautiful collection of lighthouse illustrations by Ed Canty. Make sure to come by and view them!

Looking for something to do this winter? We offer a variety of passes that offer free or discounted admission to several museums around the state. Check our website or call for more information.

And if you prefer to stay indoors where it's warm, make sure you're using Palace Project for all your ebook and downloadable audiobook needs. You can check out three items at a time and best of all, they return on their own on the due date so you don't need to worry about returning them.

Go to hchlibrary.org/events/upcoming for more information, additions, and to register for programs.

CHRC Presents a Documentary Series

Join us on four Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm starting January 10 and continuing through the 31st for a fascinating film series featuring documentaries on topics related to Human Rights when our Clinton Human Rights Committee moderates its 4th annual "What's Up Doc?" series at the Henry Carter Hull Library. These compelling, often award-winning works take a deeper look at a variety of diverse contemporary subjects and historical events. Each film is followed by an audience



discussion. In previous years we have explored a wide range of stories including the threat from far-right extremist groups, the cultural bias that exists against fat people, America's emotional connection to firearms, the famous 1920 trial and execution of Italian immigrant anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti, the troubling history of U.S housing policy, teen suicide on a Native Reservation, and the 400-year history of racism in America. Watch for announcements soon on this year's selection of must-see documentaries. There will be popcorn!

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Clinton Senior Connection



September was National Senior Center Month and November is dedicated to Alzheimer's Awareness.

Almost every month has a cause that can be related directly back to seniors. National Elder Law Month is May, immediately followed by Elder Abuse Awareness in June. These campaigns are designed to help educate the public about issues affecting older adults and to promote a healthy quality of life among our senior population. In February, we have National Senior Independence Month: a month dedicated to the importance of independence and mental well-being for older adults who are aging in place.

Raising awareness to the varying issues that impact our senior population everyday is important to talk about. At the same time, if we don't have opportunities for meaningful connection, education, and socialization to experience hands-on, well then, they might as well be just words on a calendar.

The programming for older residents in Clinton is constantly evolving to fit the needs of the growing senior population. The number of individuals joining Clinton Senior Connection still increases by twenty or more seniors each month, and we are in the third year of our program. There are currently over 1,000 individuals subscribed to our monthly newsletter and classes and programs are often at capacity.

Through human connection, affordable programming and outside-the-box opportunities, Clinton seniors continue to broaden their networks, engage in new friendships, and are always reminded of ways to stay healthy, strong and independent. We have legal seminars and support groups, balance workshops and exercise classes, brain-teasers and author visits, bus trips, dancing, trivia, music, cooking and more. If you are over the age of 55, don't wait for a special month to enrich and/or educate yourself or a loved one. Subscribe to the Clinton Senior Connection e-newsletter, and/or view our online calendar for upcoming senior activities and events.

For more information, email cacampora@clintonct.gov or visit: clintonct.org/723/Senior-Program.

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