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# Town Manager's Corner

## Consensus and Collaboration

Effective local governments are leading their communities into the future, focusing on important decisions, and setting a tone of partnership. One of the ways local governments become effective is through consensus and collaboration.

Our chosen form of government has a Town Council that enjoys all the importance of a Board of Directors (legislating and policy-making) and a Town Manager that is appointed by the council to serve as Clinton's chief executive officer overseeing the day-to-day management of town business and fulfilling the policy direction of Town Council. This system is based on working with others to achieve what is best for the collective whole – teamwork. Teamwork requires negotiating through a process of give and take, respecting differences, supporting the majority decision and compromise.

Today's world has a tendency to put an emphasis on "I" or "My" rather than working towards consensus. Teamwork does not always come easily and takes work. Nevertheless, it is important to focus and practice teamwork so we can learn and adjust for the next issue to be addressed.

Our next challenge as a community is to have an eye on the horizon - to spend less time worrying about set-backs and more

time on improving for the future. Setting long-term goals and objectives for Clinton keeps us ready for the next issue to be faced as a community. New hurdles may come our way, but we will still have the course charted for the community. If COVID-19 has taught us anything, we need to be prepared to embrace change quickly and adapt.

As a community and a region, we all adapted. As the town government, everyone at town hall quickly shifted gears to respond to a changing landscape and a long series of Executive Orders. From that experience, I can see the need to change our business model to deliver services differently in the future – to refine our process and improve – still focused on delivering quality services to our residents and visitors.

Maintaining a focus on the long-term helps position Clinton for future success be it in a list of strategic projects for grants to fund or building next year's budget to be financially sustainable.

**continued on page 4**



Karl Kilduff, Town Manager



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## Town Manager... continued from page 3

A long-term vision puts us in a place where we can influence the outcome and have more control. As we adjust and adapt to the next issue our collective team will be a success. As a duplicate success, we will become a champion. Enjoy your summer and all that our unique part of the coastline has to offer. Stay cool and stay safe.

Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

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## From the Desk of the Tax Collector

### COVID-19 HAS CHANGED ALL OF OUR LIVES.

Tax collection has been very different and we apologize for things not being the same when you came into the Town Hall to pay your taxes. We have strived not to just keep us safe, but you safe as well.

The town adopted the low interest program, so if you were not able to pay all your tax bills by August 3, 2020, the interest rate is .25% per month which expires on October 1, 2020, unless the State Government extends the program.

The safest option for everyone is to mail your payments or use our drop boxes. We will continue to use the black drop box to the left of the front door for payments or the box just outside of our office.

The top portion of the bill is your receipt, along with your canceled check. You will also be able to use the online system to view your payments and print reports. If you have trouble navigating the online system, give our office a call during office hours, and we will be glad to walk you through the process. 860-669-9067.

Online Payments: [www.clintonct.org](http://www.clintonct.org). If you use the online payment option, please remember the fees associated with its usage. The online system defaults to credit card payments which carry a fee of 2.95%. You can change that to electronic check and put in your routing number and account number for a flat .95 cents. My staff will be available to help you navigate through the online process, give us a call during office hours, 860-669-9067.

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Closed your business? Please contact the Assessor's Office to give them proper documentation to correct your bill. They can be reached at 860-669-9269.

Motor Vehicle Supplemental Vehicle Bills will be mailed during the month of December. We do not send out new bills for your second Installments for Real Estate and Personal Property which will be due January 1, 2021 and delinquent on February 2, 2021.

Tax Office Hours: Mon-Tues-Wed: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thurs 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Fri-9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

## From the Town Clerk's Office

**Election:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020

**Hours:** 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

**Green room** – lower level – Town Hall

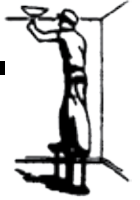
**Presidential Election Absentee Ballot applications:** Available in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town Clerk's website. Click on Elections. AB ballots become available on October 2, 2020.

**Permanent Absentee Ballots:** An elector can file an AB application together with a doctor's certificate (presumably on letterhead), stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to

**continued on page 8**

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## Town Clerk... continued from page 7

appear in person at their polling place. This will allow an elector to be on our Permanent Absentee ballot list. AB ballots will then be automatically mailed to the elector for the election.

**Election Day Registration** will be available. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-669-9101.

Sharon Uricchio, CCTC, Clinton Town Clerk

## Clinton Economic Development Commission

Despite our "challenging environment" the Clinton Economic Development Commission (EDC) has been quite active. The Clinton Manufacturing Coalition ("CMC") continues to grow both in size and activity. Spearheaded back in 2018 by hardworking EDC Commissioner, Bob Werner, it is joint venture of the EDC and a group of seven manufacturing firms located in Clinton.

Early research indicated that a major challenge facing CMC businesses is finding qualified workers. Accordingly, the CMC went to work to help develop its own trained workforce (an overarching goal of both the EDC and Clinton School Board as well). A locally-trained workforce fuels the growth of small business, leads to broader economic growth across the entire community, and provides much needed future career paths for our youth.

In early January, the EDC, CMC, Clinton Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools and Chairman of the Town Council met to identify action steps and goals

## Community matters...now more than ever.

This is the time for us to join together. Let's put our hearts and dollars to work for the benefit of all in Middlesex County.

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to strengthen the STEM Program (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in the Clinton School System.

**As a result, a number of actions were enacted:**

- Weekly "Tailgate Briefings" -- facilitated by Eric Bergman, (Town Council member and Morgan teacher). A series of informal meetings which communicate the manufacturing jobs available in Clinton. Scheduled presenters include members of Clinton's EDC, CT's Chief Manufacturing Officer, executives from the CMC businesses and others from across the state.
- CMC's Participation in the Morgan student Career Day - again to expose students to the career opportunities available right here in Clinton.
- Secure Funding through Grant Programs - CMC assisted the the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Marco Famiglietti, in being awarded a Perkins Grant. As a result, the school is currently purchasing equipment such as software, and drones in support of advancing STEM programs.

As we return to "normal," the EDC will expand this initiative to other business types as well. Getting our schools, kids, government and local businesses unified in this effort is a great achievement for Clinton; It's a win for our businesses, our kids and our entire town.

John V Allen, Chair, Clinton EDC



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## Henry Carter Hull Library

### A note from the Adult Programming Coordinator

Whether you drop in, register for virtual programs, or attend an event in our garden, your HCH Library community is here for you and we've been busy adapting and improving our services and programs.

In July, we started weekly *Virtual Yoga* and *Virtual Meditation* programs for adults, with live instruction from local teachers. We're also enjoying the outdoors with *Garden Meditation*, *Creative Writing On The Lawn*, and *Garden Stitches* - a weekly meetup of friendly fiber-art enthusiasts. Check back soon for more details about upcoming special events such as our *Creativebug Craft Challenge*, *Painting On The Lawn*, *Mask Decorating Contest*, various discussion groups, and a poetry festival featuring two local poets recognized by the Poetry Foundation, an "open mic," and our own Poet Laureate, Patricia Barone.

During these times it can be challenging to connect, so we're also providing opportunities for virtual community conversations, like Virtual TEDxHCH Library Talks curated by Lynn Hidek, a Homeschooling 101 forum, financial webinars on how to navigate debt and avoid financial scams in the time of COVID-19, and more.

You'll find us downtown in September celebrating *National Library Card Signup Month* at the 2020 Michael B. Ierardi, Jr. Memorial Fund Concert Series, presented by the Clinton Chamber of Commerce - Stop by our table on Sundays between 9/13 - 10/11 from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm to register for a library card and learn about the valuable free services your card can unlock. We'll also be offering free on-site internet access from our WiFi HotSpots which are available for check out at the library, and complimentary water generously donated by Connecticut Water.

For security and safety purposes, all virtual and some outdoor adult programming now require registration. See something you're interested in? Have a question, or an idea? Please email [sarah@hchlibrary.org](mailto:sarah@hchlibrary.org) to sign up or learn more and visit [hchlibrary.org](http://hchlibrary.org) and our Facebook page for the latest updates. We're here for you!

Did you know? If you're not receiving our emails, you're missing out on valuable library updates and announcements. Sign up is quick and easy! Call us at (860)669-2342 and ask to be added to our email newsletter, or visit [hchlibrary.org/subscribe](http://hchlibrary.org/subscribe) to start receiving weekly library news and events.

- Sarah Borghis-Tobin, Adult Programming Coordinator

### A note from Head of Children's Services

#### Greetings from the Children's Room!

I am happy to report that we had over 150 children participate in our 2020 Reading Program! Our Read & Bead program was very popular, as was our new BINGO game. Children earned special beads and brag tags for reading and doing fun activities.

This year's theme was "Imagine Your Story," and although we were disappointed to cancel our planned in-person programs, we made the best of it by providing a virtual weekly storytime, Baby & Me ZOOM Class, and Grab & Go Activities. Each week we offered a different Craft Kit for ages 3-6, a STEAM Kit for grades 2-6, and a Tween Craft for grades 3-6. Thank you to Clinton Girl Scout Troop 62191 for sponsoring the tween crafts.

Our fall children's programs will start on Tuesday, September 8th. We plan to continue providing our programs virtually through the end of the year. Some of the programs planned are Sign Language, ABC Amigos, Yoga, Stories & More, Nutmeg



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Mile completed her BINGO card and earned bonus beads for her Summer Reading necklace. Great job, and thanks to everyone who participated!

Book Club, and a Take & Make family pumpkin carving event. We are busy planning additional programs so please check in with us regularly for more information, additions, and updates.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate and adapt our programming due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19.

*Coralie Williams, Head of Children's Services*

#### **A note about our library's online resources from the Reference Department:**

Stay in and stay safe but do not miss out on the world class services offered by your library - Check out our new comprehensive guide to the Henry Carter Hull Library's online resources at [hchlibrary.org/online-resources](http://hchlibrary.org/online-resources).

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# Clinton Land Trust News



The Clinton Land Conservation Trust awarded the 2020 Alice and David Crosby Environmental Scholarship to Emma Lorene.

Emma is a 2020 graduate of The Morgan School where she participated in the Environmental Club and the Morgan Goes Green Community Project as well as many other activities. She will be attending the University of New Hampshire majoring in Environmental Science/Biology.

*CLCT wishes her great success!*




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## Middlesex Health: Continuing to Provide the Care You Need

You have been told to stay at home - and to wear a mask - but what happens when you have a doctor's appointment scheduled or if you experience a possible medical emergency such as chest pain?

Even during a pandemic, it is important to keep up with your medical care, including routine physicals, and you should absolutely seek emergency care if you need it. Nationwide, there has been a significant increase in mortality rates - more deaths than can be attributed to COVID-19. The worry is that people are not seeking emergency care when they feel very sick.

Middlesex Health knows the idea of leaving home to go to a medical facility can be anxiety provoking, but it is doing everything it can to ensure that you get the care you need safely. This includes offering virtual (telehealth) visits when appropriate.

Please know that visiting a Middlesex Health Emergency Department location is safe. Patients in a Middlesex Health Emergency Department are separated: one area for possible COVID-19 patients; another for patients who may have other problems.



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All patients, regardless of why they are visiting, are expected to wear masks.

Middlesex Health is also taking extraordinary measures to ensure your safety in its primary care and specialist offices. From extra cleaning and screening staff and patients, to making sure everyone is properly masked and limiting the number of patients in its waiting rooms, Middlesex's goal is not only to keep you safe, but to make you feel comfortable.

If you have put off getting the care you need, now is the time to make an appointment. Putting off annual exams and important tests and procedures can have unintended long-term consequences. It could mean that you miss identifying a problem early, allowing it to become a much bigger problem. The goal is to stay healthy - not to make things more challenging.

For more information about Middlesex Health during this pandemic, visit [MiddlesexHealth.org/safe](http://MiddlesexHealth.org/safe).



**Clinton Insurance Center**



## **Remember Medicare Open Enrollment**

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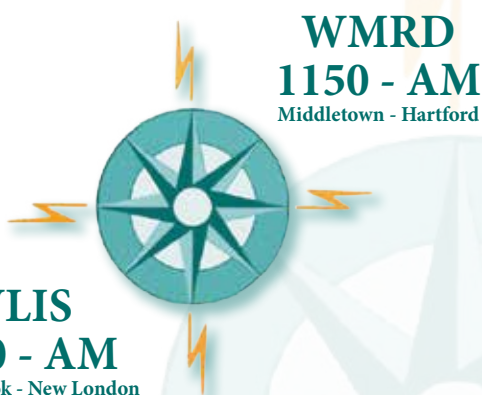
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## New Questions; Some Silver Linings

by Morgan McMinn

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives inside out. We went from the normalcy of work and school, attending events, going to gyms, restaurants and bars to a state of emergency, social distancing and new protocols. As we continue to grapple with the struggles that have come with the pandemic, it is important to reflect upon what we have learned to date. Uncertainty remains, but perhaps we are better prepared for what may lie ahead.

### THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY RESPONDS TO CHALLENGING TIMES



We have been living amid constantly evolving information about just what COVID-19 is? Is there immunity from the virus? Will the virus mutate? How is the virus transmitted? “We are always

learning new information” notes Amanda Falcone, Public Relations Director for Middlesex Health. “As of today, there is still much that is unknown. There’s no clinical playbook - no established standards of care for this virus. Knowledge changes rapidly.”

COVID-19 has altered what “normal” health care entails. Insurance has, at least for an interim period, approved telehealth visits. Telehealth is an important option especially for those who may lack mobility, access to transportation or the time for typical health care appointments. Middlesex Health stresses the importance of keeping up with your medical care. “Putting off annual exams and important tests and procedures can have unintended long-term consequences,” states Falcone.

Organizations like Middlesex Health are working to find out more about COVID-19. Middlesex Health is a part of a national initiative, led by the Mayo Clinic, that is investigating the use of convalescent plasma. Middlesex Health is also part of a study on Remdesivir, which, according to Falcone is the only medicine so far to show even a moderate benefit with respect to treating COVID-19.

Early on the healthcare industry faced worldwide supply shortages with respect to items such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Middlesex Health quickly made adjustments in how care is provided (additional cleaning, masks, care areas segregated based on COVID-19 status, additional safety equipment, etc.)

“We are actually using our pandemic plan as we work,” states Falcone. “When things get better, we will take a close look at our emergency and pandemic plan and adjust accordingly so that we are even more prepared should we ever need to use them again. Over the past several months we’ve learned a lot. We are now more knowledgeable and more prepared as we move forward, and we recognize that we will be dealing with this virus for a long time to come. It will likely be a moving target for a while yet to come.”

### A RETURN TO NATURE?

With families and individuals confined to their homes across the globe, our planet was able to take its own breath and get slightly healthier. Startling images show clear waters in the Venice canals and the India Gate War Memorial in New Delhi became more visible as air pollution decreased (above right).



Some studies indicate that, while pre-pandemic levels of daily emissions were rising steadily every year, COVID-19 restrictions brought numbers comparable to 2006, mainly due to a reduction in surface transportation, power and industry (cars, electricity, fossil fuel, etc).

Mr. Robert Klee, Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, notes that “clean air is important and this is a link to the pandemic being a respiratory pandemic - those who suffer from dirtier air and depressed or compromised health from dirty air are more susceptible to the likes of COVID-19. There are correlations with bad air quality and higher incidents.”



People are taking walks, running, hiking, biking, kayaking, etc. The pandemic “reconnected people in interesting ways,” observes Klee. “People locked in the house go on walks, hike on a trail, want to go out and experience nature.”

Cities like Bogota, New York, Paris and Berlin, along with local communities, have made new street spaces for safer individual mobility (walking, cycling etc.). Will this lead to more permanent change? “Part of the question as we restart our economy is what are we restarting it for and to? What is our goal?” And don’t forget climate change is still an existential threat and a huge crisis and we can’t forget about it for one moment.”

### MENTAL HEALTH – RESILIENCE AMID UNCERTAINTY

COVID-19 has taken an emotional toll. “There is so much uncertainty. It’s unprecedented,” observes Nancy Randall, a psychologist at East Lyme Psychological Associates. “People are more isolated than they have been. People are stressed about going back to work. They are anxious about the reopening and not sure what it will look like. The anxiety is really the biggest thing. Not knowing what’s coming next.”

Is there a silver lining? “We adapt pretty well to things,” she says. Many are enjoying nature, adopting pets, finding time for relationships and hobbies. People connect via facebook groups or Zoom. They have found ways to make a difference, whether sewing face-masks or checking in on others. “People are resilient,” notes Randall. “We’ve found ways to adapt and try to find the positive in things. Things we learned we can take with us. That doesn’t have to go away.”

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