

The Borough of CLAYTON 2020 NEWSLETTER



The Borough of Clayton's community newsletter, bringing information right to your doorstep

A Message from Mayor Tom Bianco

This has been one of the most difficult and stressful years in the history of our country. We have all been impacted and challenged in so many ways because of the Coronarvirus pandemic. All of us should be very grateful for the extraordinary efforts of frontline workers and essential personnel who have given so selflessly day in and day out to care for those combatting the disease. Our police officers have bravely continued to keep order and ensure the safety of our residents. Our fire fighters have answered calls for service with complete dedication to helping people even in potentially unsafe situations. Many retail professionals have worked selflessly to keep food on our tables, gas in our cars, and household essentials in supply. We cannot express enough thanks to those of you who have worked to keep everyday life functioning.

It is also fitting to express admiration to our local businesses that have come up with innovative and creative ways to continue offering goods and services for us all. From curbside pickup to parking lot dining, they have been forging new ways to operate during COVID-19. Please continue to patronize them.

While it can be hard to stay positive and keep stress at bay, it is important that we recognize the great strides we have made against this disease. We have drastically lowered the rate of infection in NJ since April by following the preventative measures of wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping social distance. By

pulling together, our Borough, County, and State are managing to hold steady in this crisis.

Please know that Council members and I will strive to keep our employees and residents safe, and that we will work hard to keep public services available and affordable. In fact, knowing the financial strains many residents are especially facing this year, we were able to adopt a municipal budget that has no local purpose tax increase - the fifth year in a row we have been able to accomplish this. We will endeavor to keep Clayton strong, resilient, and affordable even in a pandemic. Staying united we can get through anything.

The Borough of Clayton would like to remind residents and local business owners that valuable COVID-19 information and resources can be found on our website at www.Claytonnj.com. We'd also like to remind everyone to continue practicing proper hygiene and safe social distancing. Together we can all do our part to help stop the spread!

Did You Know?

If you are cleaning out your home because you are moving, have "left-overs" from a yard sale or basement cleanout, have a large volume of trash due to a construction

or renovation project you've completed, or need to remove materials due to water damage, please know that the Borough's current trash and recycling provider, Gold Medal Environmental (GME), will only pick-up normal (limited), weekly household trash in bags/containers each collection day. The Borough Trash Ordinance states:

"Garbage and Trash....shall be limited to a maximum of (4) thirty-gallon containers (or equivalent) for each collection day. Any garbage or trash in excess of said quantity shall be stored, collected, removed and disposed of by the owners."

GME will only pick up the equivalent of (4) thirty-gallon containers and (2) pieces of furniture per household or rental unit on each collection day. The property owner is responsible for disposing the rest of the trash. By planning ahead, you can pace for collection the maximum amount of trash each week to get rid of your refuse. Just remember, you are responsible for excessive trash. If you choose to eliminate it all at once, there are options for disposing unusual amounts of trash:

- 1. You may take your trash to the Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex is South Harrison Township. Please call to get instructions. The Solid Waste Complex main number is 856-478-6045.
- 2. You may contract with a private hauler or a dumpster provider.
- 3. You may utilize one of the commercial home improvement companies who offer services for collecting trash.

To be a steward of the environment, please donate usable items to organizations in need and bring electronic waste and scrap metals to the Public Works yard, Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM, for recycling. You can reach the Public Works Department at (856) 881-3778.

Also, please remember that trash must be curbside by 4:00 AM on your trash day, but it cannot be placed more than 10 hours prior to 4:00 AM.

Clayton Community Garden

The Clayton Community Garden is underway! Founders Sean Newlin, Matt Paden, and Mike Smith have worked hard to bring the garden to fruition. According to the Clayton Community Garden Mission Statement, the goal is "to create a shared vision, to work collaboratively, and to cultivate a place for individuals, families, and friends to learn about and experience the rewards of gardening. Our garden will foster community service, educate our youth, and build a sense of affiliation and commitment among residents, businesses, and local veterans alike."

With the support of Councilwoman Christina Moorhouse, the garden became a reality this year. It is located on the grounds of Faith Tabernacle Community Church on N. Delsea Drive, whose assembly has kindly permitted the garden to be developed on church land. Sean, Matt, and Mike have worked hard to prepare the ground using their own tools and money, and began seeding in March. Their plantings include many vegetables, some fruit, and a few spices. Water for the garden is primarily collected by eco-friendly rain barrels provided by the Gloucester County Improvement Authority. Williamstown Organic Garden and McCann Farms kindly donated plants and gave invaluable guidance and gardening tips.

The Clayton Community Garden team has a Facebook page – Clayton Community Garden. There is a waiver form on the page to be completed by any person wanting to participate. Currently, the group is seeking volunteers to water and weed the garden. This is a great opportunity to get outside and do something meaningful during the pandemic.

Council Committes: The Council Bylaws for the Borough provide that each council member is to chair one Council Standing Committee and serve on two others. The Council-person who chairs each committee is the liaison between the committee and the governing body and reports to the governing body on the activities of the committee. For 2020, the Council committee appointments are:

- Finance/Economic Development: Frank Brown (Council Liaison), Darlene Vondran, & Charles Simon
- Public Safety/Municipal Alliance/Special Events: Darlene Vondran (Council Liaison), Frank Rollo, & Frank Brown
- School Affairs/Park and Recreation: Charles Simon (Council Liaison), Tony Saban, Christina Moorhouse
- Veterans Affairs/Historic: Frank Rollo (Council Liaison), Tony Saban, Christina Moorhouse
- Public Works/Public Buildings/JIF: Tony Saban (Council Liaison), Frank Brown, & Charles Simon
- Environmental/Board of Health: Christina Moorhouse (Council Liaison), Frank Rollo, Darlene Vondran