



# THE BOROUGH OF CLAYTON

Fall  
2023



The Borough of Clayton's Community Newsletter,  
bringing information right to your doorstep.

## Autumn Skies & Pumpkin Pies, Fall Has Arrived!

Back-to-school excitement, cool nights, bright skies – Autumn is here! All of the fall activities we enjoy are underway. The Clayton Youth Soccer Association held opening day on September 9th and the Clayton Clippers Youth Football and Cheer Association celebrated its first game on September 17th. Scotland Run Park Nature Center will be hosting several fall activities including bird watching and discovery walks. The park also offers fall paddles, which are guided canoe and kayak tours, and these events are all free to the public. The link to these activities is <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/694/Scotland-Run-Park>. Another resource to check out for fun activities is Visit South Jersey at <https://visitsouthjersey.com/things-to-do/>. Whatever you do, enjoy the beauty of the season.

## Clayton's Big Break!

The South Jersey Film Office Cooperative, a joint venture between Camden and Gloucester Counties, is proactively working to get film production companies to consider towns in the two counties for their production needs. Gloucester County Economic Development is the primary contact for Gloucester County, and is building relationships with film companies, showcasing the great locales in Gloucester County that can be backdrops for a variety of scenes. Our town has been scouted for potential sites, and one film crew has already shot clips at Liberty Diner! And, another writer and producer are also interested in filming at Liberty Diner in 2024! Stay tuned for updates as we move into the new year!

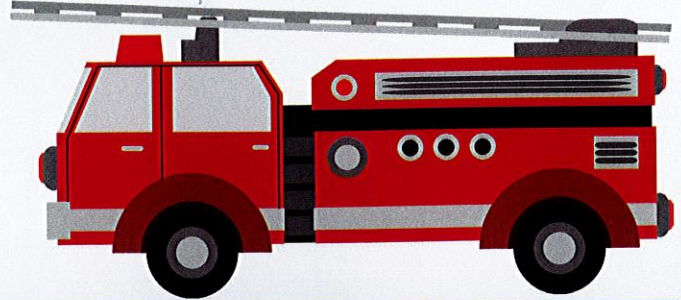
## Improving the Downtown Corridor - Infrastructure & Beautification:

The Borough plans to address urgent needs in its downtown corridor. The water mains that are under Delsea Drive are over 100 years old, and need to be replaced. The Borough is timing this project to coincide with the NJ DOT repaving Delsea Drive. The Borough is also seeking a grant to make enhancements to the appearance of the downtown and to make it more pedestrian friendly and attractive. TRIAD Associates is the consultant the Borough retained to help in this effort and a grant is expected to be announced soon.

## Exciting News for Clayton Volunteer Fire Company #1

The Clayton Fire Company is getting a new ladder truck! The company's existing ladder truck is a 1998 Spartan and has limited range in its ability to service tall buildings and to operate in tight radiuses for fighting certain fires. The cost for a new truck is significant - approximately \$1.5 million. However, Senator Booker recently announced recipients of Congressional Direct Spending he championed, and Clayton will receive \$715,000 in grant funds towards the new truck! The new apparatus will take approximately 2 years to be built, outfitted and delivered. As well as the Direct Spending funding, the company also received \$43,000 from the FY2022 American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant for a new compressor system and fill station which are needed to fill air packs.

Finally, the company was also recently awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) which will provide approximately \$946,000 in grant funding for the purchase of air packs, which are an essential component of Personal Protective Equipment needed for fighting fires. With forward thinking, Chief David Rehm worked with a consultant to submit an AFG application for a grant that covers a consortium of 5 companies: Clayton VFC, Williamstown Fire Department, Cecil Fire Company, Aura VFC, and West Deptford Fire Company.



## AutoPay, On The Way!

We've got exciting news - the Borough is introducing AutoPay for tax and utility bills! Besides convenience, there are 3 key benefits to this program:

- 1) Effortless Payments: once enrolled, your tax and utility bills will be automatically deducted from the account you specify by the Due Date each quarter.
2. Secure and Reliable Payments: your payment information is securely stored, and payment processing is highly reliable, ensuring your payments are on time.
- 3) Flexible Payments: you choose the payment method that best suits you, and you can modify payment details at any time.

For more information on how to get started, please visit the Borough's website.

## Fully Packed Summer in the Borough

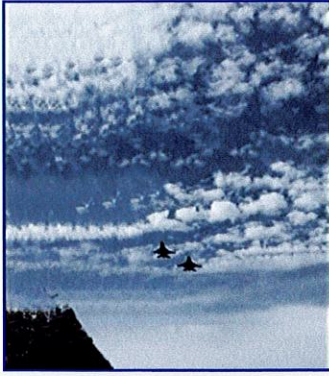
As always, the Clayton Special Events Committee organized a great Clayton Day! There were many activities: a water slide, pony rides, craft and informational vendors, and Hands Down BBQ. Former Philadelphia Eagle Barrett Brooks was the judge for The Battle of the Burgers contest, and Neri's Café won the battle - congratulations Neri! A concert by TK and the Howlers, sponsored by the Gloucester County Commissioners, followed Clayton Day. The day ended with an incredible display of fireworks generously sponsored once again by Mr. Greg Ruggiero, CEO of Innovative Vending Solutions. What a great day - and night!



But that's not all that happened this summer! The YMCA of the Pines held a 10-week camp at the Ed Bell Recreation Center. The camp was open to children between the ages of five through twelve. The camp offered a sports activity, an arts and crafts activity, and a STEM activity each day, as well as a healthy lunch. The group would also travel to a YMCA facility on certain days for swimming. The camp afforded a "before and after" program so that working parents could drop their children off early and pick them up after their workdays ended. The majority of children who attended each week were from Clayton, and they enjoyed a reduced rate as the Borough hosted the camp. The YMCA of the Pines intends to return next year, so if you have interest in the 2024 camp, please visit the Gloucester County YMCA website at <http://ymcagloc.org>, or you may call the Welcome Center at 856-845-0720.

The Clayton Public Works Department was also very busy this summer installing new water mains on West Clinton Street. As are all municipalities in New Jersey, the Borough is required to replace all lead water mains and services. DPW is strategically installing these mains to coincide with Community Development Block Grant street paving projects. DPW will install the mains, and the paving contractor will follow with milling and paving. The DPW crew will next install new mains on West Linden Street. The team works hard to complete these projects along with all the regular tasks - cleaning sewer stations, picking up brush, maintaining our parks, operating the water treatment plant, and maintaining streets and roads. Thank you Public Works!

## A Memorable Day in Clayton



The 2023 Memorial Day Parade and Service were indeed memorable. The parade kicked off at 10 AM and the Grand Marshall was Margaret (Peg) McMahon, LTC, USAR (Ret.). The Parade began at ACME and proceeded to Borough Hall for the laying of wreaths at the Clayton Veterans Memorial. The US Army 177th Fighter Wing approved a flyover of two F-16 aircraft during this time. The flyover was spectacular! It was very impressive to see these aircraft up close, and the flyover certainly added to the poignancy of the day. The parade then proceeded to Cedar Green Cemetery for a moving ceremony. The parade and services were planned and organized by Clayton Elks Lodge #2132 and the Clayton Veterans Committee. Both organizations are to be commended for conducting a respectful and meaningful event which honored all the veterans who have served our country.

## A Night out with Clayton PD!

The Clayton Police Department held another successful National Night Out event at Sandelier Park on August 1st. After the safety walks, everyone enjoyed good food, great prizes and cool giveaways. This is always a well-attended event, and the 2023 NNO was no exception. A special thanks goes out to Officer Ed Hyder, who has done an exceptional job the last 7 years planning and organizing the event. A good time was had by all!



## Straight to Treatment

The Clayton Police Department held a Straight to Treatment community outreach event on Thursday, September 21st in the Rite Aid parking lot. The Straight to Treatment Program (STP) is an addiction recovery program for those dealing with substance abuse to get immediate professional screening and guidance to mental health services. The Clayton PD has offered this program for over two years, and the community outreach was intended to remind people that this great resource is available for those in need.

Gloucester County Prosecutor Christine Hoffman was the emcee and also gave opening remarks. County Commission Director Frank DiMarco, Commissioner Nicholas DiSilvio, and Commissioner Christopher Konawel, Jr. attended. Chief Davis, while focusing on STP, also provided information on other substance abuse programs available. Sgt. Nick Carr gave a demonstration on how to observe Opioid overdose signs and apply NARCAN, and Ms. Michele Schreffler-Perez, representing the NJ State Police Rise Program supplied 100 units of Narcan for distribution. Michele Jeneby, Assistant Gloucester County Prosecutor, explained the County's role in the STP program. Mr. Rob Lauarina of My Friends House spoke of how this group serves the STP. Rite Aid's Dr. Jennifer Warriner noted that the company sponsors its own Narcan Distribution Program. Having all of these professionals together to talk about the multiple facets of STP was very beneficial to all who attended.

## Coming Soon: Pickleball!

In the near future, the Borough will be installing four Pickleball courts at Autumn Pasquale Park. With the rising popularity of the sport and the importance of physical fitness, Mayor and Council approved installing four pickleball courts for everyone to enjoy! Public Works plans to get the site preparation work underway this fall, and hopes to have the courts in use by Spring 2024.

## Veterans Committee

The Clayton Veterans Committee is a robust and dedicated committee which is always seeking ways to help and unite veterans. In May, the committee held its first "Coffee and Donuts" gathering at the Clayton Senior Center. And the gathering will be ongoing and held on the first Wednesday of each month. This free coffee klatch is open to all Gloucester County veterans and provides an opportunity for vets to gather socially and share information.

The Veterans Committee encourages all Clayton Veterans to come out to meetings and consider joining. If you have interest, please contact Borough Hall. We value and appreciate all of our veterans and their families.

# First Ever "Claychella" Music Festival

The Special Events Committee held a new event, "Claychella" on October 7th. This is the committee's creative spinoff version of California's annual Coachella Music and Arts Festival. Claychella featured music by Dave Cudrak, Texas Leggs, Ian Goode, and Cosmic American Derelects. Activities included rock climbing and axe throwing. Local artists showcased their talents. Good food was provided by several vendors, and Core 3 Brewery participated too. A very fun night for everyone who came.



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## A Day That Will Never Be Forgotten



(Photos provided by The Sentinel of Gloucester County)

Mayor Bianco, Councilman Dave Chapes, Clayton Police Officers and Crossing Guards, Clayton Fire Company personnel, Borough office and Public Works employees, members of the Clayton Veterans Committee, and residents gathered on the front lawn of Borough Hall on September 11th for a moment of silence in remembrance all those who lost their lives on that horrific day, and to honor first responders and numerous others who selflessly helped however they could during the aftermath of planes striking the twin towers and the Pentagon and the plane that crashed over Shanksville, PA. The group also remembered all those who are dealing with the physical and emotional trauma that resulted from the tragedy. We must never forget the bravery and resiliency of our fellow Americans during one of our country's darkest days.

## Upcoming Events in the Borough!

Fall Cleanup	Begins in October	See website for schedule	Throughout Town
Senior Strength & Mobility Course	October 4th - End of Year	1:00 PM to 1:45 PM (Every Wednesday)	Clayton Senior Center 1 Garwood Blvd.
Gloucester County Drive Thru Flu Clinic	October 26, 2023	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM	Gloucester County Complex 1200 N. Delsea Dr., Clayton
Elks Lodge 2132 Blood Drive	November 6, 2023	1:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Clayton Elks Lodge 2132 Broad Street
Christmas Village	December 9, 2023	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Borough Hall
Christmas Parade	December 9, 2023	Begins at 6:00 PM	Throughout Town
Borough Tree Lighting	December 9, 2023	Immediately following parade	Borough Hall