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Town Manager's Corner

Making Progress

Thus far, 2020 has certainly brought a great degree of uncertainty to a number of our lives. We have all had to adapt to a dynamic, rapidly changing environment. While certainly challenging, it has also been an opportunity to move forward, make progress and find new ways to do business. There have been moments of opportunity since the start of the pandemic to improve the operation of the Town. Reduced demand for fuel created the opportunity to buy electricity at a low price, saving the taxpayer money. We also had an opportunity to refinance some of the Town's bonds to a lower rate which both reduced our future cost to retire debt and "shaved" the top off of our peak of debt payments.

More physical signs of progress have also been made. In early October, the Town finally closed on the sale of the Old Morgan School site which will allow the property to be transformed into the Indian River Shops at Clinton. This project will bring new life to an old site that was central to the lives of many from this community. New commercial investment during a time of COVID is a vote of confidence in Clinton and the desirability of this community as a destination for business. Construction of the first phase of the project is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2022. Phase I includes demolition of the old Morgan School, construction of infrastructure and a new approximately

73,000 square foot retail center inclusive of a Big Y grocery store, Starbucks coffee shop, and one retail building. Phase II promises more retail development opportunities.



Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

In a time of uncertainty, we all look at a guide post or touchstones to help make decisions. The Town is no different. The Town Council completed its first-ever goal setting process. A clear set of goals serves as the destination point for the efforts of both Council and the Administration. The Council also established a shared vision for the Town. The purpose of the vision statement is to align the whole Town organization with a unified direction moving forward. In its vision, the Town Council is; "committed to providing quality, efficient and effective services for our citizens; serving as stewards of the Town's finances, assets and environmental resources; maintaining our desirable location by encouraging opportunities; and displaying honesty, respectfulness, and fairness in all relationships."

We are a community committed to moving forward and making progress. The current uncertainty in our lives will pass and some sense of normal will return. The Council's joint vision and goals will be our guide and sets the destination.



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How we reach that destination will always change as we adapt to the environment and the times. Please continue doing your part

to keep Clinton safe by wearing a mask, washing your hands and keeping a physical distance of 6 feet.

Enjoy your fall and winter holiday season. Stay safe.
Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

From the Desk of the Tax Collector

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

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 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.

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. 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. 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.

Sold, lost, stolen, traded your vehicle? Please contact the Assessor's Office to give them proper documentation to correct your bill. They can be reached at 860-669-9269.

Change of address for motor vehicles is done through the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. A change of address for your license and each registration is required within 48 hours

continued on page 6

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Tax Collector... continued from page 5

of moving. Changing your address for your license does not change the address for your registration(s). You can log onto the CT DMV website to do those changes at www.ct.gov/dmv.

The timing of a change of address may still result in bills being sent to the old address. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the requirement to pay a bill(s). Consequently, if you do not receive a tax bill(s), the tax is still due with any interest, fees and charges due at the date of payment. Please call our office 860-669-9067 if you have not received a bill(s).

Please check-out the online services provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Go to the DMV website www.ct.gov/dmv. Here are just a few of the services as listed on the DMV website.

- Make appointments
- Check driver's license status
- Sign up for official notifications (such as a registration renewal notice). You will need to provide an e-mail address.
- Cancel registration and license plates (be sure to print out a receipt)
- Check property tax, insurance, emissions and other compliance issues
- Lookup registration status
- Pay emissions test late fee
- Renew registration
- Reprint registration certificate
- Print forms

Please take the time to check your license, vehicle registration(s) and emissions status.

If you owe municipal motor vehicle property taxes, you cannot register or re-register a vehicle. You will need to resolve your tax issue(s) before attempting to register or re-register a vehicle. If you owe taxes to the Town of Clinton, contact the Clinton Tax Office: 860-669-9067.

If you receive a tax bill from another city/town that you did not reside in or garage your vehicle in as of October 1, 2019, contact the Assessor of that city/town to request a transfer to the correct city/town of residency as of October 1, 2019.

If you have not received a tax bill from Clinton and your vehicle was registered per the Department of Motor Vehicles on October 1, 2019 to the Town of Clinton, contact the Clinton Assessor's Office: 860-669-9269.

Lisa Bibbiani, Tax Collector



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The Clinton Parks & Recreation Department

Parks & Recreation has looked very different this year. We were so happy to be able to offer summer camps for the kids this year! There may not have been as many as years past but we snuck some in.

We have had to make some changes to acclimate programs to the restrictions but we made things work. We offered outdoor Zumba classes from July through November. One of our Zumba instructors, Mary-Lou Capobianco, is providing virtual classes for the winter as well. She has Zoom Zumba on Saturdays at 9:30 and she posts classes on Zumbadance.com. Anyone interested in finding out more and how to get the zoom link can contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 860-669-6901.

Unfortunately, because of the uptick in cases we will not be offering Park and Rec Basketball at this time. Please check our Facebook and Instagram pages (Clinton CT Parks & Recreation) to keep up to date on our programs as things change on a daily basis. Or go to our website at <https://parkrec.clintonct.org>.

We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season ~ see you next year!

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Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutionssm program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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Families Helping Families

As we approach the end of 2020 we are all optimistic that 2021 will certainly be a better year for everyone. Families Helping Families continues to fund and operate four community outreach programs in Clinton. Our goal is to help improve the lives of the children and families of Clinton who are experiencing some very difficult and unforeseen circumstances. COVID-19 virus has altered the lives of many of the residents of our community. One of the biggest needs in Clinton has been the increased need for food for our families. The number of families using the Clinton Food Pantry has increased dramatically. Families Helping Families has responded to this need by increasing the support to our local pantry. Every week since the crisis started we have delivered two shipments of food.

We have been able to partner with a wholesale food distributor which allows us to buy food at greatly reduced prices. We also have developed online sources from which we can buy at 20-25% less than the prices you will find at local supermarkets. Purchasing food in this manner has allowed us to buy more food with the dollars you have donated.

Since April 1 (as of the deadline to submit this article October 23) we have been able to provide 53,068 pounds of much needed produce, non-perishable food items, and personal care items to The Clinton Food Pantry. The only way this community effort has been possible is because of your donated dollars. We thank you for your continued support and we plan to continue this effort into 2021. To help us continue this mission you can donate at fhfclinton.org or send a check to P. O. Box 166 Clinton, CT. 06413.

Miner T. Vincent, President
Families Helping Families



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From the Town Clerk's Office

The holiday season is approaching. A great gift for your loved ones is their Fishing and Hunting license. 2021 licenses will be available beginning in December 2020.

If you would like to submit your application for the Permanent Absentee Ballot list, please send your completed application along with a doctor's certificate (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, Thursday - 9 am to 7 pm, Friday - 9 am to noon.

Please call us with any questions at 860-669-9101.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

Sharon Uricchio, CCTC
Clinton Town Clerk

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Historic District Commission

Clinton's Historic District Commission (HDC) has recently created a picturesque and detailed website, <https://clintonct.org/182/Historic-District-Commission>. It can be found at the Town of Clinton's website, at Boards and Commissions, or through a newly created Face Book page of its very own. There, you will find every document you would ever need to understand the different types of historic districts that we have here in Clinton, be they local or national. Come visit us there!

Peggy Adler, Vice Chairman, HDC

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CHILDREN'S EVENTS

November & December

Call (860) 669-2342 or email askus@hchlibrary.org to reserve or schedule pickup. Supplies limited - priority given to Clinton residents.

Stories & More - Weekly / Mondays @ 10 am. New storytime video posted on our website every week. No registration. Ages 2-6.

ABC Amigos - Weekly on Tuesdays @ 10 am: New Spanish, English, and bilingual videos posted on our website every week. No registration. 18 months-6 years.

School-Age Storytime - Weekly on Wednesdays @ 10 am. New storytime video posted on our website every week. No registration. Grades 1-6.

Sign Language - Weekly on Wednesdays @ 4 pm. Virtual sign language class for children and caregivers. Registration required. Ages 18 Months-6 years.

Yoga & Mindfulness - Weekly on Fridays @ 11 am. Virtual yoga class for children and caregivers. Registration required. All ages welcome.

Baby & Me - Weekly on Wednesdays @ 10 am: Virtual story, song, and social time for babies and caregivers. Registration required. Birth-24 months.

Owl Pellet Dissection - Mon. 12/21 @ 5 pm. Celebrate the first day of winter with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center.

Use a Grab & Go kit to find out the secrets of an owl's life by dissecting an owl pellet, then join us online to meet a live owl! Registration required. Grades K-6.

Grab & Go Stories & More Craft - Weekly: A new craft each week to accompany our Stories & More video. Contact us to reserve for pickup. Ages 2-6.

Grab & Go ABC Amigos Craft - Weekly: A new craft each week to accompany our ABC Amigos video. Contact to reserve for pickup. Ages 2-6.

Grab & Go Saturday Craft - Weekly: Stop in on Saturdays to pick up a new craft each week. Contact to reserve for pickup. Ages 2-8.

Grab & Go STEAM Challenge - Monthly: A new kit each month. In November we'll make Native American Dwellings.

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In December, help save the gingerbread man from the fox!
Registration required. Grades 1-6.

Grab & Go Tween Craft - Monthly: A new kit each month.
In November, try your hand at Finger Knitting crafts.

In December, make a mini gingerbread house. Registration
required. Grades 3-7.

Grab & Go Book Bundles - Ongoing: Choose one of the follow-
ing book categories and receive a corresponding activity pack:
Classics, Bears, or Community Helpers. Contact to schedule
pickup.

For more updates and special events, visit www.hchlibrary.org.

ADULT EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Call (860)669-2342 or email sarah@hchlibrary.org for more
information or to register.

Virtual Meditation - Weekly on Mondays @ 11 AM. Registration
is required for this free, live, virtual program.

Virtual Yoga - Weekly on Fridays @ 9:45 am. Registration is
required for this free, live, virtual program.

Virtual TED Talks - Monthly on the 3rd Tues. @ 9:30 am. Join
us online to watch and discuss a selection of inspiring TED Talks
curated by Lynn Hidek on various subjects. To view the talks
in advance, visit: www.hchlibrary.org/event/ted. Registration is
required for this free, live, virtual program.

Virtual Book Chat - Monthly on the 4th Tues. @ 9:30 am. Book
Chat is back! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and log online for a chat
with fellow bibliophiles about the latest faves and flops. We'll also
take a look at the library's new arrivals and talk about some great
classics. Guests will receive a monthly list of titles recommended
by the group. Registration is required for this free, live, virtual
program.



Celebrate the first day of winter by learning about owls on
Mon. 12/21 with Henry Carter Hull Library and the Denison
Pequotsepos Nature Center. Contact us or visit www.hchlibrary.org for details on how to register for this virtual
children's program.



Join a Virtual Yoga class led by Instructor Amy deLucia-Ferri
of The Well Yoga & Mindfulness Studio! Live classes for adults
are held online every Friday at 9:45 am - Email
sarah@hchlibrary.org to register.

Virtual Discussion Group: The Atlantic Magazine - Monthly on
the 4th Wed. @ 9:30 am. Since its founding in 1857, The Atlantic
Magazine has had a goal of "challenging assumptions and
pursuing truth" through journalism with a focus on literature,
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HCH Library... continued from page 13

Grab & Go Wellness - Monthly. A new kit each month.

Make time for self-care with our "Wellness-To-Go" series, featuring a kit that will introduce you to a different form of self-care each month. Participants will also receive access to an exclusive video tutorial and a themed wellness guide with links to eBooks, movies, music, and audiobooks available online with a Clinton library card. Registration is required for this free grab & go program.

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Henry Carter Hull Library is currently open for limited hours and services.

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Our current hours are:

Mon. 12 pm - 6 pm
Tues. 10 am - 6 pm
Wed. 10 am - 6 pm
Thurs. 10 am - 6 pm
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Clinton Art Society News



Margaret Dean, St. Nicholas, oil is one of the holiday-themed works that will be on display at Water's Edge, 1525 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, through January 31.



Low Tide Repairs, watercolor is one of 20 spectacular watercolors featured artist Richard Raicik will have on display through January 31, 2021 at Liberty Bank/ Stanton Professional Building, 8 East Main Street, Clinton.



The watercolor Cezanne and Me by Betsey Evarts is the Best in Show winner at the Exhibition of 98 Works by Elected Members on view at Andrews Memorial Town Hall, 54 East Main Street, Clinton through January.

Clinton Art Society's new exhibit of 98 Elected Member's paintings is now on view at Andrews Memorial Town Hall, 54 East Main Street in Clinton. It is one of the largest fall exhibitions CAS has ever mounted. "Its exciting, that after months of not having works on view, we now have one of the largest and most beautiful exhi-bits we have ever presented," said Liz Egan, president of Clinton Art Society.

Cezanne and Me, a watercolor by Clinton resident Betsey Evarts received Best in Show. The \$300 prize, donated by former CAS president Joanne McCarty was selected by Susan Stout. Susan has been a docent at the Yale Center for British Art for the past decade. The former Associate Director of ARTS Inc., a Los Angeles based arts consulting group and a past consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge and Advancement Grant Programs, Susan not only judged the art by overall impact - composition, technical skills, and color - but she also examined brushwork, paint application and aesthetic.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Pat Seekamp's autumnal pastel, *The Road Less Traveled* and Donna D. Favreau's textural oil painting *Blue Skiff*.

"The pandemic and the social distancing that has come along with it has provided us the opportunity to re-vision how Clinton Art Society fulfills its mission to support visual arts making through exhibition, education, and scholarship in order to make arts participation accessible to all people," Egan said. In addition to this public exhibit at Town Hall, each of the paintings in the Elected Member's exhibition will be presented each day, one painting per day, on Facebook.

"By bringing the art of our members to the people we have been able to expand and enrich our audience. Thousands of people see the work of our members now." The entire exhibit is also available as a link on the Clinton Art Society website, www.clintonartsociety.info. "Our audience can choose the way they want to view art - in person, as a single work, or as an entire exhibit - at the exhibition site or from the comfort of their own home."

The Clinton Art Society Elected Members Exhibition is on view through January 28th at the Clinton Town Hall. Masks are required. The exhibit is open Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm; Thursdays from 8:30 am - 7:00 pm; and Fridays from 8:30 am - 12 noon.

Clinton Art Society was founded in 1949 by a group of artists dedicated to expanding art along the Shoreline. Members come from throughout Connecticut and create in all media and techniques. For more information contact 860-669-4487 or go to www.clintonartsociety.info.

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Partners in Community

As cold and bitter weather descends upon us, so does the joy of the holiday season and the magic that courses the air during this time of year. The only difference is that joy is not the only thing traveling in the air- so is COVID-19. The past 8 or 9 months have been interesting, to say the least, and they have been a different experience for everyone. Some people, like myself, had their senior year of high-school finish virtually and then started their first year of college remotely. Others lost their jobs due to massive layoffs due to the recession caused by the pandemic. Others are essential workers and no matter how much they might want to stay safe at home, they go to work and do their job to keep our communities running smoothly and safely. There are countless other scenarios within the past 9 months, as many scenarios as there are people, and because of this, we must remember that we are all different but yet the same. We all have very different lives, are in different places in our lives, at different stages in our journeys and we are all humans walking this Earth

trying to do our best each and every day to make sure we are ok, to help others, and to improve our surroundings.

Nobody wishes any harm to others, intentionally acting in a way that negatively impacts their neighbor, but sometimes we perceive actions as if that is the intention. A decision made by a local board, an elected official, or any community leader might seem like they are out to get you but they are acting in what they think is your best interest. We are allowed to disagree and take issues with other's actions and we certainly have the right to voice our concerns in a respectful manner. This collective agreement we have all made to be citizens of the same community and to work together to improve our community only works when we work out our disagreements and come together. It is in our differences that we find our voices, and our voices are strong and powerful. We can harness that goodness, that energy, and channel it into improvement. Take that conviction you feel and wield it with dignity, respect, and where necessary, restraint. Refrain from bashing and finger-wagging and instead start embracing. Embrace the good parts of our community, state, and country instead of just the bad. Embrace the differences between yourself and your neighbor. Embrace the reality that we are all just doing our best. And once we get to a place of mutual understanding and respect for one another, we can carry on through the bitter winter and still feel the magic of the season, together as a community.

People involved in Partners in Community (PiC), our town's coalition helping to prevent drug abuse and underage drinking, work to unite all of us for one common goal: community health.

In the past few months, PiC has been working to reduce the stigma around mental illness, train adults and teens in suicide prevention, educate about the harms of vaping, and share information about medication misuse. Even then, PiC is only where the conversation begins. Reality

Even Affects Clinton Teens (REACT) is the youth portion of PiC and works to bring the mission of PiC to the high school and now the middle school. REACT teaches young people about these same harms that PiC knows to be true and harnesses the voices of teens to share this knowledge with their peers. REACT focuses on leadership development, prevention, promotion of mental health and well-being, and creates connections that are long-lasting between the youth and their community. Most recently, REACT has been working with a local marketing company to develop a campaign against vaping.

At REACT and PiC, we understand that "community" is built from the ground up and is best when we all work together. We know that every member of our community can contribute to our well-being or our demise, and we encourage all residents to come to the table to help us achieve our mission of promoting an environment that supports a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and positive development for our youth.

We seek to develop leadership in our youth and empower them to lead their peers and their community through Eliot and Morgan REACT. All Clinton adults can connect with our youth to form positive relationships that support healthy and drug-free lifestyles. As we grow into the next generation of adults, we need to see communication, collaboration and unity to help us make good choices. Thank you for working towards this for the health of us all!

This article was penned by Sarah Auletta, who is a 2020 Grad of Morgan. Sarah is interested in Public Health and has been involved with Clinton's prevention coalition, Partners in Community and the Youth Group, REACT, for the last 9 years. Sarah also works for Clinton Human Services and serves as a Prevention Peer Assistant, mentoring her peers.

Submitted by Kelley S. Edwards, MS, MFT, CPS REACT advisor ~ Partners in Community coordinator



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News from the Land Use Office

Did you know that if you have a question about your property, you can find a lot of information yourself online through our town website?

Type clintonct.org into Google, and click on the hyperlink called “Town Online GIS” on the right hand side about halfway down the screen. Type in the property address, and you can access information for that property for things such as septic as-builts, Building Permits, Inland Wetlands Permits, ZBA Variances, Planning and Zoning Permits, and correspondence.

Also, you can use the “Layers” feature to see if your property has inland wetlands on it, if it’s in a flood zone, what zone your property is in, and you can even measure

distances for property setbacks with our measuring tool.

If you hover over the word “Departments” on the home page, and click on “Building Department,” you can apply for an online permit for Building, Zoning, Signs, Vendors, HVAC, etc.

When you click on “Town Online GIS”, the following hyperlinks will pop up with detailed instructions and pictures to guide you each step of the way.

- Searching Documents
- Searching for a Property (Street or Address)
- Picking from List

- Identifying Properties and Viewing Details
- Panning and Zooming
- Printing Property Map
- Changing Maps
- Adding Additional Data
- Showing Legend
- Measuring
- Printing a Screen Map
- Emailing a Link to Map

As always, please contact us with any questions. We’re here to help.

Kathy King
Zoning and Wetlands
Enforcement Officer

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Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of "Joanie, Joanie," the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women's fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as "The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time." Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women's softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce's softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women's Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA's existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women's Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women's National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women's softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the Year Awards.

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

"I don't know," she says. "The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I'd shake hands. But I'd say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time."



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. "We would end up going to my father's softball games," she recalls. "We had no gloves. We'd run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they'd put the gloves under the bench. We'd take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they'd have to come and get the gloves back from us." When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron. She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron her favorite moments. "It's the easiest thing I've ever done in my life," she relates. "They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance." She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

"It was the first team ever invited to China," she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. "When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I'm thinking, 'Oh, my God!'" The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. "Only one walk. And we picked her off," notes Joyce. "It would have been a perfect game." She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? "It didn't work," she laughs. "You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself, keep doing that 'cause you're never going to beat me. I just didn't like to lose."

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.

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