



Bringing in Industry is Part of Our Growth Plan



Mayor Jody McLeod

With all the residential growth that's been happening in Clayton the last few years, the importance of having business and industrial growth to match might seem to have gotten lost in the shuffle.

It might look like it got buried in the effort to maximize the opportunities and minimize the problems that rapid growth brings.

But, you can rest assured that people in town government will

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never stop working to keep growth balanced, even if it's something that others can forget about from time to time. And, we're fortunate to have help with this from both the state and from Johnston County Economic Development, led by Director Michael de Sherbinin.

Working with the County Economic Development team gives us clout and expertise that we wouldn't have without teamwork. Even if another part of the county benefits more directly from time to time, it still helps us.

Part of our job is to position Clayton to be the best option, and that's a big reason for some of the new projects we've been announcing lately. We have an opportunity now to "make hay while the sun shines," as the old saying goes.

"Clayton is making a significant contribution to the vitality of the County," Director de Sherbinin said recently. He went on to say that the future is looking brighter and brighter, and teamwork with Clayton is a big part of the reason why.

We want to be a bigger and bigger part of that teamwork as time goes on. We're committed to bringing in more and more new business and industry, and we're happy to have the County Economic Development team working with us.

Historical Association Appoints Founding Board of Directors

Clayton now has its own historical association.

On February 20 nine interested residents were appointed as the founding Board of Directors of the newly formed *Clayton Historical Association*.

The mission of the *Clayton Historical Association (CHA)* is to preserve and share the history of Clayton and to recognize and preserve its historic properties.

CHA's new president, Porter Casey, Jr. said one of the first orders of business is setting up a membership

database. "We want to identify the long-time and new residents of Clayton who have an interest in history and culture and to begin scheduling some programs." He added, "One of our goals is establishing a *Clayton Historical Museum* to display and share the Town's history."

For more information about becoming involved in one of these committees or for membership information please contact Porter Casey at 553.5334 or by email at claytonnchistory@gmail.com.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bottom Row from left to right: Vice President Barker Edwards, Noury Buttry, Jackie Smith, Timpla Stewart-Casey, President Porter Casey
Second Row left to right: Mary Thomas-Compton, Secretary Judy Edwards, Michael Grannis, Treasurer Kimberly Lancy.

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Johnston County Arts Council Director Jessica Meadows and Downtown Development Coordinator Bruce Naegelen discuss the proposed Cultural District at the February Town Council Meeting.

Johnston County Arts Council Requests Cultural District

One of the Town Council's top goals for the near future is to establish an arts community in Clayton.

At the February 19 Town Council meeting the Johnston County Arts Council requested that a *Cultural District* be established in downtown Clayton to promote the arts. Jessica Meadows, Director of the Johnston County Arts Council said it would go a long way toward achieving the Town Council's goal.

Council members agreed that a *Cultural District* would bring the Town one step closer to achieving its goal.

The Town, including the Downtown Community Development Committee, will work with the Arts Council to figure out the size and scope of the new district.

It Just Keeps Getting Better and Better - at The Clayton Center



Thank you for helping make this one of our most successful seasons since our grand opening in 2003.

A season filled with sold-out and nearly sold-out shows have included *Riders In The Sky*, *James Gregory*, *The Diamonds*, *Harlem Gospel Choir*, *The Celtic Tenors*, and *Blues Bash II*.

And the season isn't even over yet!

We invite anyone who hasn't yet experienced *The Clayton Center* to sign-up for our mailing list by visiting our website at theclaytoncenter.com.

Keep checking the website during the upcoming summer months. That's



when we'll be announcing our *5th Anniversary* season of extraordinary artists.

Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office or online by visiting our website at theclaytoncenter.com.

Please contact Wanda in the Box Office at 553.1737 for more information or visit us at 111 E. Second Street.

Two Clayton Residents Join Panel to Study GMC Recommendations for Land Use in the County

At the suggestion of Mayor Pro Tem Bob Ahlert, council members picked one councilman and one member of the Town's professional staff to represent Clayton on a county-wide "blue ribbon committee".

Councilman Alex Atchison and Town Manager Steve Biggs were selected to serve on a 40-member panel to study recommendations made by the Growth Management Committee

(GMC) for land use in Johnston County.

A little over a year ago, county commissioners tasked the GMC with examining the county's land-use ordinances and devising strategies for handling growth.

Commissioners received GMC's recommendations in December, but voted to create another committee comprising "all stakeholders" to study their recommenda-

tions further.

The new 40-member panel includes two representatives from each county municipality as well as members from the school board and real estate and homebuilder associations. Bankers, surveyors and county residents selected by the Farm Bureau also will serve on the panel.

Panel members will study the GMC's recommendations and report back to county commissioners by June 1.



Clayton Fire Chief Lee Barbee (left) talks with members of Hargett's Crossroads Fire Department at the February Town Council meeting.

Extrication Gear Donated to Rural Fire Department

Thanks to the Clayton Fire Department (CFD), the Hargett's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department (HCVFD) no longer has to wait several minutes to begin freeing victims from motor vehicle accident entrapments.

Previously, HCVFD, which is located in Jones County and serves an area that is the main link to Camp Lejeune, had to wait 28 minutes for an out of county department to respond with the appropriate extrication equipment to free a person pinned underneath their vehicle.

In the fall of 2006, CFD purchased new extrication equipment to replace the older equipment on their heavy rescue that was not compatible with the rest of their extrication equipment cache. With this purchase, the older equipment was made available.

HCVFD expressed interest in obtaining the equipment and a request was submitted to the

Clayton Town Council.

At the February 19 meeting council members voted to donate the equipment to Hargett's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

HCVFD currently has 18 members trained to perform extrication and 12 members taking a Rescue Technician class to certify them in extrication techniques.

Fire Chief Lee Barbee has also offered to send Clayton Fire Department's Training/Safety Officer Jason Dean to Hargett's Crossroads VFD to train them on the specifics of the newly acquired equipment.

The equipment consisted of an electric dual-pump power unit to run the equipment, 1-Hurst spreader (Jaws-of-Life) with variable tips, 1-Hurst cutter, 3-Hurst rams, 1-Hurst ram accessory kit, 1-Hurst hand pump, 2-base plates, and hydraulic lines for the power unit/tools.

DDA Plans Main Street Vision Forum

Residents from throughout the Town of Clayton are invited to participate in the *Main Street Vision Forum* on Tuesday, April 24 from 7 to 9 PM at The Clayton Center.

Be sure to register ahead of time so there will be an adequate supply of materials and nametags available.

The forum/workshop will be facilitated by NC Main Street Director Rodney Swink and Assistant Director Meg Dees.

During the forum, participants will be divided into groups and develop lists of downtown Clayton's strengths and weaknesses.

From those lists, the participants will develop individual and group vision statements which will be shared at the end of the workshop.

Based on that information the Downtown Development Association (DDA) will synthesize the best themes and ideas to forge a single vision statement for downtown Clayton.

The DDA is anticipating between 75 to 100 people to participate in the *Vision Forum*.

At a special meeting in late February, DDA members developed a broad list of stakeholder groups that they would like to have represented at the forum:

- Property Owners (downtown)
- Business Owners (downtown)
- Home Owners (residents downtown)
- Home Owners (residents outside downtown)
- Subdivision residents (identify Homeowner Associations)
- Newcomer's Club
- Civic Organizations
- Arts & Cultural Groups
- News Media
- Educational Community
- Industry



NC Main Street Director Rodney Swink, left and DDA Chair Joyce Blackley, right

- Civic Leaders (political types)
- Church Pastors/Deacons
- High School Youth (scouts, etc.)

DDA Chair Joyce Blackley said this is a very important event in that DDA's future plans of work and NC Main Street's future assistance will be based on the visioning that takes place at this event. She said, "Downtown Clayton is the social and cultural center of the whole town and belongs to everyone in town, so we really need participation from residents and property owners from throughout Clayton." Mrs. Blackley added that, "We want input from generational residents to newcomers and from all the different cultural communities within Clayton and we are reaching out to all these groups in town."

An activity leading to the *Vision Forum* was *Picture Downtown*. This activity involved 36 volunteers from throughout the community using disposable cameras to photograph aspects of the downtown that they "like" and "dislike" as a means of developing a record of design

issues. The photographs will be on display during the *Vision Forum*, then used in design training and informing the public about the downtown effort.

The *Vision Forum* will be followed later in the spring by a *Design Workshop*. The workshop will introduce property owners and local officials to the *Main Street* philosophy of design rehabilitation and the system they use to provide design assistance. This will also be a public workshop.

If you would like to participate in the *Main Street Vision Forum*, please contact Joyce Blackley at (919) 553-6813 or Downtown Development Coordinator, Bruce Naegelen at (919) 553-1545 or at bnaegelen@townofclaytonnc.org.

Filing Dates for Council, Mayor Set for July 6-20

Beginning at noon on July 6 candidates may file for Town Council seats and the mayor's job.

Filing must be done at the County Board of Elections office at 205 South Second Street in Smithfield. The deadline for filing is noon July 20.

The filing fee is \$10 for mayoral candidates and \$5 for council candidates.

In Clayton the four year terms of mayor (McLeod) and two council seats (Harding and Atchison) expire this year.

To become a candidate, a person must be a resident of the Town of Clayton, 21 years of age, a registered voter and never have been convicted of a felony.

For more information about filing, contact the Board of Elections at 989.5095 or by e-mail at elections@johnstonnc.com.