



At the Top of the List: More Curb Appeal for Clayton

It doesn't matter how much the Council does regarding the appearance and beautification of the town if we don't all do our part.



Mayor Jody McLeod

The Town Council retreat in April was very successful.

At the top of the list we discussed beautifying Clayton.

With all the recent reconfiguration and additions to Highway 70, the Council decided to improve and enhance the appearance of Highway 70 along the corridors or gateways

into and around Clayton with beautiful landscaping.

There are thousands of people passing thru Clayton on a daily basis and the Council thought having appropriate landscaping in these areas would continue to promote and welcome people to town. However, it doesn't matter how much the Council does regarding the appearance and beautification of the

Town if we don't all do our part.

It is that time of year again when we want to create awareness about the upkeep and appearance of all our properties in town.

Beautification is appreciated by everyone and it takes everyone doing their part in every neighborhood and every community!

Book Sale is a "Smashing Success"

The annual spring book sale was termed a "smashing success" by the *Friends of the Library*.

The sale, which was held March 24, brought in \$2400 for used books and \$1193 in Scholastic Book sales.

Guest author/poet Kerry Chestnut was present to offer autographed copies of his book, *Life's Wilderness*, his newest book of poetry and photography.



Young and old alike browsed through the tables loaded with used books. Offered for sale were childrens books, adult fiction, non-fiction, cook books and self-help books. Books could be purchased by the box full or by the bag full.

The younger children enjoyed visiting, and being photographed with, *Clifford the Big Red Dog*.

Volunteers from Clayton High School were on hand

to provide face painting for the kids.

Funds raised from the book sale will go towards the computerized Clayton History Room project.

Town to Enforce Safe Drinking Water Regs, Seeks Measures to Lessen Impact on Businesses

Town officials, attempting to balance safety standards and cost concerns, intend to enforce safe drinking water regulations while they search for ways to lessen the impact on area businesses.

At its April 2 session, the town council directed the Public Works & Utility department to study how other municipalities handle the sometimes costly requirement for all commercial and a few residential customers to have Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control equipment—devices that make sure contaminated water from customers can't accidentally get into the public water system. The Department already knows the guidelines of neighboring towns, but now they'll extend their study to other areas, including Winston-Salem, which handles some procedures differently.

"We want to know how others have solved the problem of cost and fairness," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "Keeping our drinking water safe is a top priority, of course, but we don't want to hurt the businesses that have helped make us one of the fastest growing towns in the country. We're looking for answers."

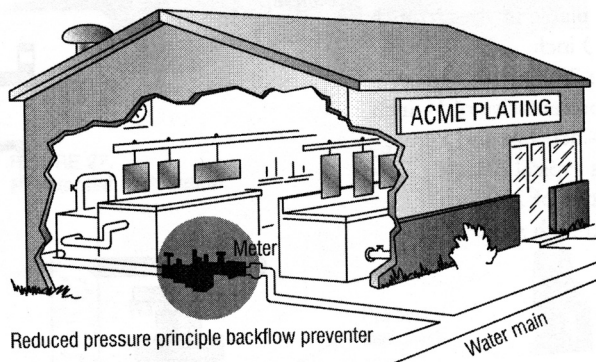
The issue is cost.

Backflow devices are relatively inexpensive to purchase and maintain where the potential for contamination is small. But for large commercial and industrial customers, where the potential for problems is much greater, the required devices are larger and more complicated, and therefore more costly. Sometimes, depending on the site and device location, the installation can be costly, too.

Residents with residential

irrigation systems are feeling the pinch, as well.

"We know this poses a financial burden for some of our water



customers, but the need for protection can't be overstated," said Public Works & Utilities Director Tim Simpson. "We'll try to keep the cost down as much as possible, but we have to protect our drinking water. Consumers have to have absolute confidence in the water we send them each day."

The devices have been required for years, but enforcement and inspection schedules have been stepped up recently, in part due to the influx of new businesses and residential development. Simpson said the rapid growth has placed added emphasis on the need for safety.

Utility experts recommend yearly inspections, but commercial users say that's too often, especially since the cost of inspections—which ranges from \$65 to \$125, depending on the complexity of the system—is borne by the owner. Some on the town council agree.

But, Simpson says regular, yearly inspections are important. Already, he said, several faulty devices have been discovered.

"Right now, we don't know the answers to all the questions we have," Mayor McLeod said, "but, we're confident we can find the right solution."

Last year, neighboring Cary suffered a contamination of its water supply that required the shutdown of a significant portion of the town while crews worked to find the source of the problem and then purify the system. The disruption had a serious financial impact on the area involved, closing down businesses for days.

Residents were required to boil their drinking water, and many ended up leaving town until the water was cleared to drink.

Ride...

JCATS

Clayton residents now have an alternate means of transportation—whether it's to school, to work or to an appointment. And it's affordable!

The Johnston County Area Transit System (JCATS) provides county-wide transportation at minimal cost to you.

By calling 24 hours in advance you can reserve your seat for just \$1 per ride in the county and \$10 per ride out of the county.

With gas prices skyrocketing, this may be the perfect solution to your transportation dilemma.

For more information, or to reserve your seat, please call 919.202.5030. Some limitations apply, so call now for details.