



January 2008 • Premier Community for Active Families

## Mayor Says "Thank You"

Four years ago, when I was first elected mayor, I really had no idea what I had gotten myself into and perhaps didn't know all the details of the role of Mayor and how demanding it would be. Without support from Town Hall management and staff I wouldn't have experienced so much success.

We have wonderful employees at Town Hall who give 100 percent everyday, as well as a cohesive council that is visionary and accessible.

The next four years will pass quickly, but I'm well equipped and more prepared than ever now to lead and represent Clayton in every way.

I am honored that your support was strong and clear.

Thank you for your



Mayor Jody McLeod (center) takes the oath of office for four more years as Mayor of Clayton. Will Crocker (left), Clerk of Superior Court, administered the oath, while the Mayor's wife, Amelia, holds the bible

continued support, as we all work together helping Clayton to prosper and grow in a well organized fashion. The citizens of Clayton are simply the best!

Proudly serving you  
"to the best of my ability,  
so help me God."

## Winter Weather Operations Reviewed

Based on forecast conditions, the Town undertakes brine pre-treatment of local streets 48 hours or less before a frozen precipitation weather event to help prevent ice from bonding with the pavement surface. Snow removal/plowing are also conducted following the weather event to remove frozen precipitation and sand is applied on hills and at intersections to improve traction.

Primary emergency routes for fire/rescue and areas where primary elec-

trical feeders are located are cleared first. Secondary streets are cleared next, then local/internal subdivision streets are cleared, if warranted. Some streets within the Town's municipal limits are maintained and cleared



by the NC DOT. They include: Highway 70, Main Street, Robertson Street, West Stallings Street, Guy Road, Shotwell Road, Amelia Church Road, Barber Mill Road, Dairy Road, City Road, O'Neil Street, Highway 42/ Lombard Street, Boling Street and Glen Laurel Road.

Pictured left- Spreader and brine rig are stored, ready and waiting for any winter storm events.



# Utility Lines Are Disappearing from Main Street

There is a clearer view of the sky and architectural beauty in downtown Clayton since a layer of utility lines was removed recently from utility poles.

As a result of system upgrades Clayton Electric Department workers removed obsolete overhead utility lines on East Main Street from the *Wagner House* at 121 East Main Street to *Clayton Furniture Outlet* at 425 East Main Street.

According to Ronnie Wood, Director of the Town of Clayton Electric Department, the lines were by-passed and no longer needed. He said, "They were some older lines that were not being used any longer and, as part of the Town's efforts to improve the appearance of downtown, we were able to remove them."

The remaining lines, Wood added, are telephone and cable lines. There are hopes that, in time, those lines may be rerouted also and downtown can be free of overhead lines entirely.

The Town of Clayton has been

in the process of upgrading electrical service in the downtown area since early 2006. The upgrade consisted of the extension of the 23 KV facilities and the removal of the 4 KV systems which included removing the substation facility on Moore

Coordinator, Bruce Naegelen, it will be a very expensive project, but the DDA is working toward that goal. In the meantime, Naegelen said, the DDA is improving the ground level appearance of downtown. He said, "Just putting utility lines underground does not bring more visitors and customers to downtown, but improving the appearance of downtown

Clayton at the pedestrian level, will be a more effective way to bring more people to downtown."

The Downtown Development Association (DDA) is doing this by working with property owners to upgrade downtown building facades, working with

business owners to develop attractive and inviting window displays and by developing easy access parking from Robertson Street to Smith Street, informational and directional signage, cross-walks and other pedestrian-friendly improvements.

Naegelen reminds residents that revitalization is an incremental process. "Lots of small steps lead to realizing the vision and progress being made."

*"Just putting utility lines underground does not bring more visitors and customers to downtown, but improving the appearance of downtown Clayton at the pedestrian level, will be a more effective way to bring more people to downtown."*

*Bruce Naegelen  
Downtown Development Coordinator*

Street. In the process, certain power poles and lines were consolidated and rerouted so they would be less noticeable.

The *Downtown Clayton Vision Statement* developed in the spring, suggests underground utility lines by 2012. According to Downtown Development



*The photo on the left shows what the utility lines (upper three) looked like before they were removed and the photo on the right shows the poles with the lines removed.*



*Photos courtesy of Bruce Naegelen*