



This is Something We Really Need



Next month, we'll be going to the polls again, to vote in the primaries and also to consider a bond issue to pay for street repair and park land.

Bond issues aren't a run-of-the-mill thing for us in Clayton. We don't do them much, because we only ask you for one when we need it. And this one, we need.

In fact, I can't think of a bond issue that

could come closer to serving all the residents of Clayton better than this one. The extent of street improvements is so extensive that everyone who drives around in

Clayton will certainly enjoy the benefits. And when it comes to park land, we had better get some of it while we can, before it's so expensive that we can't afford to build new parks anymore.

This isn't some extravagance that you sometimes read about in other places. Nothing sexy. Nothing fancy. This is streets and park land. The basics.

I can't think of a bond issue closer to serving all the residents of Clayton better than this one.

There may be a time when someone in my office asks you to vote for some multi-million-dollar luxury

that we don't really need. But, it won't be me.

We need more park land and better streets. We NEED them, and everybody knows it. And, on top of that, it won't raise taxes.

Has there ever been a better time to vote *Yes for Clayton?*

Clayton Named Tree City USA

Clayton has been named a *Tree City USA* community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It's the second year Clayton has received this national recognition.

The *Tree City USA* program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Clayton has met the four standards to become a *Tree City USA* community: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

"Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our daily lives," said John Rosenow, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"*Tree City USA* designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest. Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environmental and economical benefits. A community, and its citizens, that recognize these benefits and provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks."

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Call...911
 For ALL
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 Emergencies

Public Works Director Talks Trash

The Town of Clayton provides residential solid waste (trash), recycling and yard waste pickup services thru contract with the company, *Waste Management*. The following facts and figures are provided by Tim Simpson, Public Works Director, for last year.

Amount of solid waste disposed	4,864 tons
Amount of material recycled	252 tons
Amount of yard waste disposed	489 tons
Cost for solid waste services	\$562,790.40
Cost for recycling services	\$112,197.96
Cost for yard waste services	\$106,855.20

A breakdown of monthly service costs for a residential account is provided below. These figures are for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Solid waste collect/dispose	\$ 9.11
Recycling collect/dispose	\$ 1.89
Yard waste collect/dispose	\$ 1.80
Miscellaneous refuse	\$ 0.05
Total	\$12.85

For more information contact the Operations Center at 553.1530



James Boyd (center) and Bruce Dogherty (right), both of Clayton, were awarded official town seal pins at a recent town council meeting by the Mayor, who praised them for attending town meetings. Attending town meetings is part of the requirements for earning a "Citizenship in the Community" badge that each is after. It's all part of becoming an Eagle Scout.



This group was a huge success when they entertained young and old alike last year at one of the Town Square Concerts. They return to liven things up in Clayton on May 1.

Nantucket Kicks Off Second Town Square Concert Series

The second season of Clayton's Town Square Concert Series will feature headlining and popular bands, according to Lyn Austin, Promotion Committee chair for the Downtown Development Association. "Last season we had a very good mix of entertainment with respectable audiences. This year, our goal is to attract as many people as we can to Clayton so they can see all the good things we have here and in our downtown," she said.

Opening the series on May 15 will be the return of *Nantucket*, which attracted the largest audience of the monthly series last year.

All concerts begin at 7 PM and will end around 9 PM.

Refreshments available at the Town Square will include pizza, hot dogs, beer, wine and soft drinks. Although folding chairs and blankets are encouraged for people to sit on, coolers are not allowed.

Sponsors for the concerts include the Town of Clayton,

Downtown Development Association, and Time Warner Cable.

The Town Square is in downtown Clayton and sits between West Main Street and South O'Neil and Fayetteville streets. For more information call (919) 553-1545. To check for updates go to the Downtown Clayton blog at downtownclayton.blogspot.com.

TOWN SQUARE CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May	1	Nantucket with Groove Pilot
June	19	Liquid Pleasure
July	2	Craig Woolard Band
Aug	7	Breakfast Club
Sept	18	Battle of the Bands

Center Offers Unique Backdrop for Weddings, Receptions



Many brides have discovered the beauty of the enclosed courtyard off the main lobby at The Clayton Center. The courtyard area makes a beautiful setting or backdrop for those special wedding pictures.

Photo courtesy of RLY Photography

The fifth anniversary season of The Clayton Center's *Palladian Series* came to a close March 29 with a sell out performance by *Punch Brothers* featuring *Chris Thile*. Record numbers attended the six shows plus the *Sundays in Clayton* series.

Events for the 2008-2009 series will be announced this summer, and season tickets will go on sale in late August.

Throughout the spring and summer The Clayton Center will remain busy with rentals of the auditorium and conference center.

The auditorium is always available for performing arts events, and the five meeting rooms, plus council chambers and main lobby area, are available year-round for business meetings, receptions and other events.

Rental bookings for wedding receptions are at an all-time high as The Clayton Center is fast becoming a popular regional wedding destination. The main lobby and landings make a unique backdrop for receptions for up to 400 people. More and more companies, civic organizations and non-profit groups also are using this area of the building for a variety of social events.

For more information about renting space for your next meeting or event, contact Cathy at The Clayton Center, 553.3152, ext. 2, or send an email to cmarraccini@townofclaytonnc.org. To join our mailing list please visit The Clayton Center web site at theclaytoncenter.com.

Proposed Bond Issues On May Ballot

The May 6, 2008 national primary election ballot will also include items of great local importance for Clayton voters. The Town Council has authorized referenda on two very important initiatives: three million dollar *Streets* and four million dollar *Parks General Obligation Bonds* will be on the ballot for decision.

THE STREETS BONDS HAVE been proposed to address the many street maintenance and safety needs throughout the Town including resurfacing, pedestrian access, speed mitigation and connectivity. The *Parks Bonds* have been proposed to address improvements to existing Town park facilities, to develop recently acquired parkland, and to secure additional open space for future park development.

THE TOWN HAS BEEN playing "catch-up" on street maintenance for the past several years and the Council determined that if we are to ever get ahead of the continuing problem with deteriorated street conditions a more ambitious approach would be needed. Currently the Town spends approximately three hundred thousand dollars per year on street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements. Through use of *General Obligation Bond* financing we can undertake significantly more work in the near term and channel approximately half the annual allocation towards debt service on the Bonds. This approach provides the resources necessary to undertake more work now, preserves a reasonable amount of funding for ongoing projects, and avoids any need for an adjustment to the property tax rate. The Bond related streets projects will emphasize resurfacing of existing streets which have been rated in fair, poor, or very poor condition, installation of traffic and speed mitigation

devices such as traffic humps in neighborhoods which have voiced concern with speeders, sidewalk installation throughout Town, and a connector road between Barber Mill Road and Highway 42 in order to eliminate congestion and improve safety in the vicinity of West Clayton Elementary School.

THE PARKS AND OPEN *Space Bonds* are targeted for use towards a number of different priorities including redevelopment of quality playing field space and new restroom facilities at Municipal Park on Stallings Street, construction of restroom facilities and a community picnic shelter at All-Star Park on Front Street, initial phase field and restroom development at the recently acquired park property on Glen Laurel Road, and acquisition of open space for additional, future parkland use and development. Although Municipal Park has been the backbone of Clayton Recreation programs for decades, it is now showing its age and needs some attention. The proposed plan would reposition and add to the existing playing fields for better use. Also the existing, dilapidated restroom facilities would be replaced and relocated to a more central and convenient location and new fencing and lighting would be installed. All-Star Park, the only true neighborhood park that the Town owns, would be substantially improved through the installation of permanent restroom facilities and construction of a community picnic shelter for gatherings and neighborhood events. This facility would be constructed adjacent to the exiting playground on property recently acquired by the Town to support expansion of facilities at All-Star Park. During the past year the Town stepped in to purchase sixty-five acres on Glen Laurel Road that had been slated for

new homes. This land will serve as the next jewel in the crown of Clayton's park system by hosting playing fields, natural areas, and less conventional activities such as Frisbee golf. Initial phase development will be funded by the *May Bond Program* and will include two million dollars for multi-use playing field space, public restrooms, and internal driveway access with parking.

FINALLY, LOOKING TO THE future and the rapid loss of land that is suitable for recreation and open space purposes approximately \$1.8 million in funding is targeted for acquisition of additional land for future park development.

EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN that availability of funding for parkland development and open space preservation serves as leverage to attract other funding such as Federal and State grants or nonprofit foundation support. In fact, the Town has utilized one million dollars of State Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant funding towards facility development at Community Park on Amelia Church Road. Upon successful passage of the *May Bond Program* we will again be well positioned to pursue additional PARTF and other grant source funding.

THE BEST PART- the Town has enlisted the services of a professional financial advisor to model the impact of the *Bonds* on Town revenues and no adjustment to the tax rate will be necessary for the debt service.

PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME to check our website: www.townofclaytonnc.org to learn details about the scope of the *Bond* program, the location and nature of the projects included, and to review the financial model prepared to analyze the impact on taxes and revenues.