



It's Been a Good Summer for Clayton—Despite Poor Economic Climate



Things are looking up in Clayton.

Despite the poor economic climate that put a damper on things in other places, we've had a good summer. The Town Council held the line on taxes; our credit worthiness was upgraded yet again and our Finance Department won another award; the new medical center and new Community Center are opening; important utility infrastructure work is getting done—the list goes on

and on.

In a small town like ours where progress seems to come slowly sometimes, we're on a good run.

Important things are getting accomplished. Our people are doing a good job.

And now, as the upcoming Harvest Festival ushers in the fall, let's all take time to come together downtown and celebrate the "Harvest." This will be a very special festival since it's likely to be the last one with carnival rides in the Municipal parking lot. That area is due to be remade into a *Downtown Centerpiece* in the spring. Downtown merchants need something like the *Centerpiece* to jazz up the area, but I'm going to miss having the rides there. They've been a part of the Festival for a long time, just as the Festival has long been part of our heritage.

The Chamber of Commerce calls the Festival "the largest,

most exciting event of the season," and I'm sure it is. Thousands of people will visit our town September 16-20, many of them from outside the area. It's a great way to show them who we are, and the progress we've made.

Different people like different parts of the Festival best, but me, I'm looking forward to "Clayton Idol." I'll also be spending some time in the Town's booth at the annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Main Street Saturday, September 19. Other town officials will be there, too. It gives us a great chance to spend time with Clayton folks and a good excuse to eat some festival food.

Come on out and see us and celebrate.

★ Public Service Announcement ★

As a Clayton resident, wouldn't you like to get to know the Town and its people better? Then consider the opportunities serving on a Town board or committee could provide to you.

The Clayton Town Council is seeking citizens to serve on the following advisory boards and committees:

- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Development Association (DDA)

- Clayton Library Board
- Planning & Zoning Board
- Clayton Recreation Advisory Committee
- Fire Department Advisory Board

Appointments are made by the Town Council when vacancies occur or when terms of service expire.

Information about the Town boards and committees and applications are available on the Town's website at: www.townofclaytonnc.org.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like additional information or an application, please contact Town Clerk Sherry Scoggins at 919.553.5002.

Citizens wishing to be considered for an appointment to a board or committee are encouraged to return a completed application to the Town Clerk by Friday, September 18, 2009.

The Clayton Center
111 East Second Street
P.O. Box 879
Clayton, NC 27528
(919) 553-5002
www.townofclaytonnc.org
E-mail: citizen@townofclaytonnc.org

Mayor Jody McLeod
406 S. Fayetteville Street
Clayton, NC 27520
919.553.7197
Mayor@townofclaytonnc.org

Mayor Pro Tem Robert J. Ahlert
100 Cherry Laurel Drive
Clayton, NC 27520
919.550.0845
bahlert@townofclaytonnc.org

Councilman Bob Satterfield
2045 Walden Way
Clayton, NC 27527
919.553.2273
bsatterfield@townofclaytonnc.org

Councilman R.S. "Butch" Lawter, Jr.
467 E. Second Street
Clayton, NC 27520
919.553.4466
blawter@townofclaytonnc.org

Councilman Alex Harding
310 Parkridge Drive
Clayton, NC 27527
919.359.2075
aharding@townofclaytonnc.org

Councilman Michael Grannis
507 East Second Street
Clayton, NC 27520
919.550.8547
mgrannis@townofclaytonnc.org

Call..911
For ALL
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and
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Emergencies



With the new on-line payment option, customers can avoid late fees and have access to pay their accounts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Payments can also still be made by regular bank draft, in person or by mail.



file photo

Residents Can Make Payments On-Line for Town Services

On July 13 an on-line payment feature was implemented for residents paying for town utility service.

With this new technology payments can be made by credit card, debit card or check simply by going to the Town of Clayton website at: www.townofclaytonnc.org.

"The Town of Clayton is continuing its efforts to become more accessible to its utility customers," said Customer Service Director Ann Game. "With the new on-line payment option, customers can avoid late fees

and have access to pay their accounts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

A convenience fee of \$3.95 will be added to each transaction.

With the new service in place, the Customer Service Department no longer accepts credit card payments by telephone.

In addition to on-line payments, residents can also make their payments by monthly bank draft, in person or by mail.

An "Equal Payments Plan" option is also available.

Two Exciting Performances Coming in October and November to The Center

The Clayton Center will open the 2009-2010 *Palladian Series* on Saturday, October 17, with two performances by bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs and his band *Kentucky Thunder*.

Performances by the 14-time GRAMMY award-winner are scheduled for 4 pm and 8 pm.

The Clayton Center also will present *The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion* on Sunday, November 15, at 4 pm. Modern-day Houdinis Kevin and Cindy Spencer will entertain and amaze you with one of the largest touring illusion shows on the road today.

Details about the full 2009-2010 season will be released on Wednesday, August 19. New season ticket packages also will be available on this date. Individual tickets to all

of the shows will go on sale Thursday, August 27, at 10 am.

Be the first to know when the full season is released by joining our mailing list on line at www.theclaytoncenter.com. Also look for season information to be posted on The Clayton Center home page.

Information about the upcoming *Palladian Series* also is available through the Box Office at 919-553-1737. Or, stop by the Box Office, located in The Clayton Center at 111 E. Second Street, Monday-Friday, 10 am to noon and 1-5 pm.



Ricky Skaggs

The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion



Semi-Annual Book Sale to Be Held in September

The *Friends of the Library* will hold their semi-annual book sale on Saturday, September 12, from 8 am to 2 pm at the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library.

In addition to hundreds of used books to choose from there will also be new children's *Scholastic* books available for sale.

Donations of used books are welcome up to the day

before the sale. The month of August is a great time to clean out your bookshelves and donate your old books to the library—making space for the great bargains you're sure to find at the sale.

For those new to the community, the library is located at 100 South Church Street in downtown Clayton.



At previous book sale events folks enjoyed browsing among hundreds of books, with fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, biographies, autobiographies, children's books, and much, much more to choose from.



Oktoberfest is a sixteen-day festival held each year in Munich, Germany during late September and running to early October. It is one of the most famous events in Germany and the world's largest fair, with some six million people attending every year, and is an enjoyable event with an important part of Bavarian culture. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations molded after the Munich event.

CDDA to Bring Oktoberfest to Downtown Clayton

Get out your lederhosen and green felt hats and "wollen wir deutsch warden!" That's "let's get German" in celebration of the first Clayton Oktoberfest scheduled for October 16-17 in downtown Clayton. The Clayton Downtown Development Association, Inc. (CDDA) is organizing this event.

The parking lots behind the Avent-Permenter Group and Hometowne Realty will be transformed with the aromas and tastes of Germany, including bratwurst and frankfurters, sauerkraut, pretzels, and other foods with a Bavarian flair. Of course, German beers and wines will be offered along with domestic favorites and soft drinks. To add to the authenticity, the *Foothills Oom-Pah Band* will perform Friday and Saturday evenings.

Hours will be Friday from 5-11 pm and Saturday from 11 am-11 pm.

This will be a ticketed event and the price of admission will get you into the event

along with a commemorative stein and a ticket for your first beverage. There will also be special prices for designated drivers and youngsters.

Plans include the food, beverages, music, and even some inflatable children's games to keep the younger set interested. CDDA member Jeme Avent said, "We really envision this as a family-type event to experience different foods and music."

CDDA President, Ed Knight, said, "We are seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks in two to four hour shifts."

Downtown will be hopping that weekend, with the Clayton Visual Arts *Art ala Carte House Walk and Art Tour* and two performances by bluegrass star Ricky Skaggs at The Clayton Center.

For more information and updates about Clayton Oktoberfest visit www.downtownclayton.org or e-mail Bruce Naegelen at bnaegelen@townofclaytonnc.org, or call (919) 553-1545.

Water Conservation Tips From Public Works

While memories of the recent record setting drought linger, please consider these simple steps that may help everyone join together to conserve our valuable water resource and enable an average family to reduce their monthly water usage significantly.

1. Consider installing water efficient appliances and fixtures in place of conventional ones:
 - Vintage toilets (*manufactured before 1978*)
4 to 6 gallons per flush
 - Conventional (*manufactured between 1978-1994*) 3.5 gallons per flush
 - Water efficient toilets (*manufactured after 1994*) 0.5 gallons per flush
 - Conventional shower head
3 to 10 gallons per minute
 - Low flow shower head
2 to 2.5 gallons per minute
 - Faucet aerator (*manufactured before 1978*)
3 to 6 gallons per minute
 - Flow regulating aerator
0.5 to 2.5 gallons per minute

Data supplied by AWWA, 1999

2. Even if you do not replace an older toilet, you can save a gallon per flush by placing two half gallon milk jugs filled with water in the tank.
3. Repair leaking faucets and toilets. One drop of water every five seconds is equal to five gallons per day from a leaking faucet. A leaking flapper valve in a toilet can leak up to **200 gallons per day**. You may check for leaks in the toilet by placing several drops of food color in the tank, if the color appears in the bowl after 30 minutes you have a leak. You may also check for leaks by recording your water meter reading and waiting for two hours and recording the reading again, if the meter has changed without water use you have a leak in your system.

4. Take a shower instead of a bath; a bath uses between 30 and 50 gallons of water. A five minute shower with a low flow shower head would use 10 to 15 gallons of water. For even more savings turn off the water while lathering or place a small bucket in the shower and use it for hand watering outside.
5. Do not leave the water on while shaving or brushing your teeth. Use a cup to wash out your toothpaste.
6. Only run washing machines and dishwashers when the units are full. Consider a front loading washing machine which uses one half as much water.
7. Use a compost pile or trash can instead of the garbage disposal; these units can consume a great deal of water.
8. Use native plants and turf which are drought resistant for landscaping and gardens and use mulch in the garden to retain moisture. Use soaker hoses when watering your garden or landscaping and water during the cool periods of the day because much of the water used in landscaping can be lost to evaporation.
9. Do not leave a water hose running when you wash your car; this practice uses over 100 gallons of water on average each time.
10. Keep in mind, the alternative day irrigation rules remain in effect.

The Town's Public Works Department hopes you find these tips useful. Using less water saves you and the entire system money and most importantly, protects one of the most vital resources we have.

For more information please contact Byron Poelman at 919-553-1530 or James Warren at 919-553-1536.

**Don't forget to visit the
Town's booth at the
Harvest Festival
September 19th.**

