



Looking Back At 2009: It Was A Solid Year



With the year quickly winding to a close, this is a good time to look back at 2009 and the progress we've made as one of the state's brightest up-and-coming municipalities.

Despite the harsh economic climate, Clayton had a solid year, one of the best in recent memory.

Here's a brief look at some of the milestones:
RANKING IN THE NATIONS TOP 10:

By now, you probably know that BusinessWeek Magazine has ranked Clayton the tenth best town in the nation for affordability and quality of schools. That's an awesome honor, and we should all feel quite proud. We earned it by making the right decisions and doing the right things over a period of years, and all of us are a part of it.

TOP 10 RANKING FOR THE US 70 CLAYTON BYPASS:
In addition to being ranked among the nation's top 10 highway projects, the bypass was up for the country's top two transportation awards. It won a regional award, and was named a "NC Scenic Byway." Almost forgotten in all this glory is that it eased the load of traffic through town, which has equated to fewer traffic accidents and citations. More than one person has told me they

enjoy driving around town again.

OUR FIRST HOSPITAL:
The year 2009 will be a date that our children and grandchildren will have to memorize in school some day, because it's the year that *Johnston Medical Center-Clayton* opened. Yes, it's that big. A town moves to a new level when it gets a hospital.
IMPROVED FINANCIAL RATING:
At a time when you would least expect it, Clayton received an upgrade in its financial rating from the nations two top rating agencies, moving us into some elite company. This is a major accomplishment that will save the town a ton of money moving forward. We were lauded for both our financial strength and our professionalism—and that's enough to make any Mayor proud.

YET ANOTHER FINANCE DEPARTMENT AWARD:
Our Finance Department won the financial world's highest honor in Financial Reporting again this year. That's eight in a row. Wow!

HOLDING THE TAX RATE:
We had to scale back a little to do it, but we managed to hold the line on taxes again this year, largely by holding the line on our spending. We're being impacted by the harsh economy, just like everybody else, but we're doing our best to hold things together without putting an additional burden on taxpayers.

OUR FIRST PUBLIC ART:
We unveiled our first public art this year, a mural of town scenes called "Clayton Patchwork" on an upstairs wall of The Clayton Center. And that's just the start. We've got another public art project in the works for the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:

A team of assessors for the *Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies* plans to recommend "full accreditation" for the Police Department, a major accomplishment that demonstrates the professionalism of our police. Our Police Department will be the only one in Johnston County to earn the lofty status. And, that's on top of the Department's many other major accomplishments over the last few years.

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT:

The *National Register Advisory Committee* recently made a formal recommendation for the Clayton Historic District, moving it just one step away from reality. If approved by the US Interior Department, the District will be listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, which brings with it some tax advantages for downtown buildings.

DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES:
Once again our series of monthly concerts on Town Square drew hundreds downtown each week, helping to build an alive central business district. Add to that the many other events and initiatives during the year, and it's easy to understand why the downtown area continues to make great strides.

As you can see, we've had quite a lot to be proud of this year, and I haven't even mentioned the success of the new Farmers Market, our support of Hospice House, the excellent series of shows and concerts at The Clayton Center and a dozen more things. But, I'm running out of room.

This is Clayton, and we're all a part of it.

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Talecris Biotherapeutics Announces Plans to Begin Manufacturing Expansion, Bringing 259 Jobs to the Clayton Area



Governor Beverly Perdue

Gov. Bev Perdue and several top state officials joined executives of Talecris Biotherapeutics and officials of Clayton and Johnston County at the Clayton Center Friday to announce a \$268.7 million manufacturing expansion that will bring 259 new high-paying jobs to the area.

Work on the huge expansion of the pharmaceutical company's already large manufacturing facilities in Clayton will begin soon and take more than five years to complete. The new facilities will expand the company's work with blood plasma in developing medicines to treat a number of diseases. Officials also hinted that more expansions could be coming in future years.

"A lot of people worked hard on this," the Governor told a large crowd of state, county and local officials at the Clayton Center Auditorium. "It's kind of awesome. We're being talked about nationally, because we're able to bring and keep large industry in our state.

The fact that Talecris has found the tools it needs to succeed in North Carolina shows why this state's business climate is consistently named as the best in the nation."

Gov. Perdue praised the work of officials from Clayton, the county and state who worked with company executives to convince them to expand here rather than build a new facility elsewhere. Talecris was considering a few other sites, but decided to expand its presence here, partly because of financial incentives in the millions. The Governor said incentives are necessary to keep industry—and the prosperity it brings—in the state and to lure others to locate in North Carolina.

Talecris officials said the quality of the work force in Clayton and the town's close proximity to the area's major universities was also key to their decision.

"We're extremely pleased to be investing in our company's growth while at the same time contributing to the economic prosperity of Johnston County, a region that has been a historic partner in the development of our industry," said Mary Kuhn, executive vice president of operations for Talecris. "Our manufacturing capabilities have grown exponentially in recent years, creating more jobs and local opportunities. We're excited to continue expanding in a region that has been so supportive of the biotechnology industry."

Clayton, which boasts the largest number of pharmaceutical jobs in the

state, is also home to Novo Nordisk and Hospira.

Research Triangle Park-based Talecris, which added 200 new jobs last year, employs about 1,800 full-time workers in Johnston County. The new jobs created by the expansion will pay an overall annual salary of more than \$51,000, not including benefits, which is higher than the county average of about \$34,000.

"This is one of the greatest days in the history of Clayton," said Mayor Jody McLeod, "Not only is the Governor getting a good look at our town, but so are many of the top officials in the state. And they say they like what they see."

US Rep. Bob Etheridge said the announcement "proves it's good to invest in Clayton and Johnston County. It's about the people," he said, "the people who do the work."

County Commission Chairman Wade Stewart called Friday "an exciting day."

"It's always a good day when you can announce jobs being created rather than jobs being lost," he told the crowd.

Talecris has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund, which assists in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments.

In addition, the state Economic Investment Committee has awarded a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG), which goes to

new and expanding businesses and industrial projects whose benefits exceed the costs to the state and which would not be undertaken in North Carolina without the grant. Under the terms of the JDIG, the company is eligible to receive a grant equal to 65 percent of the state personal income with-holding taxes derived from the creation of new jobs for each of the 12 years in which the company meets annual performance targets. If Talecris meets the agreement and sustains them for 12 years, the JDIG could yield as much as \$3.66 million in maximum benefits for the company.

The company will also get tax breaks for the next few years from the county.

Talecris Biotherapeutics discovers, develops and produces critical-care treatments for people with life-threatening disorders in the areas of immunology, neurology, pulmonology and hemostasis. The company employs about 4,700 world-wide.



Before the press conference Mayor Jody McLeod presented Governor Bev Perdue with a gift of flowers.



Bond Issue Provides Pavilion for Clayton's All-Star Park

All-Star Park on Front Street is getting a new pavilion with bathrooms and a picnic shelter through the bond issue for parks and streets approved by voters last year.

Town officials are talking with prospective builders and hope to have details worked out in time for the project to be completed in the spring. The building features a Bungalow design, worked out with the help of a committee of area residents.

"It's much more of a

neighborhood kind of look," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "It's very cool."

Town officials hope to have details worked out in time for the project to be completed in the spring.

The building will go at the front of the park, which will require relocating the playground equipment to the rear.

"Good design," said Councilman Bob Satterfield. "I think this is a very good job."

Town officials have set aside \$300,000 from the bond issue for the work. The park presently operates with portable restroom facilities.

Town Council Election Results



Michael Grannis Bob Satterfield Art Holder

Incumbents Michael Grannis and Bob Satterfield won reelection to the Clayton Town Council, but incumbent Bob

Ahlert lost his seat to newcomer Art Holder. Mr. Holder lives at 16 Oakmont Court in Clayton and can be reached by phone at either 919-320-4900 (cell) or 919-550-2693 (home). Contact information for the incumbents is located at the left of this page.

New Medical Alert Program Implemented by the Town's Customer Service Department

As your public power provider, the Town of Clayton recognizes the importance of maintaining electric service to homes, particularly to homes of customers with chronic or critical health concerns.

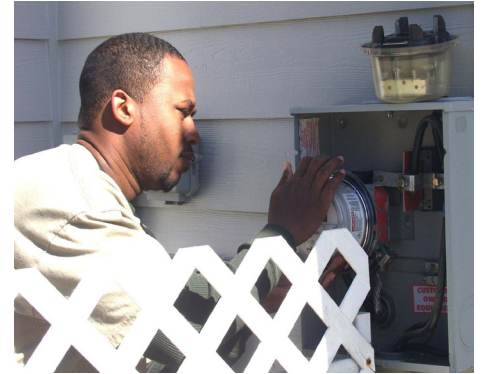
In an effort to assist customers with chronic or critical health concerns in maintaining electric service, the Town established the *Medical Alert Program*. Qualifying homes are identified by a *Medical Alert Seal* which is affixed to the electric meter of the home.

The *Medical Alert Seal* designation ensures that the Town will make every possible effort to make personal contact (by phone, in person, or through certified mail) with the customer before service is terminated for non-payment. It is important to note, however, that the *Medical Alert* designation does not prohibit electric service from being interrupted for non-payment. The *Medical*

Alert designation provides for an expanded level of communication with the customer, but in no way guarantees electric service.

From time to time electric service may be interrupted due to conditions beyond the control of the Town and its employees such as storm damage, loss of generation, etc. In the event of a loss of electric service resulting from conditions (other than non-payment) the Town will make every effort to restore electric service to those homes registered with the *Medical Alert Program*. Each customer registered with the *Medical Alert Program* should have a back-up plan in place, however, in the event the Town is unable to restore electric service quickly.

To apply for the *Medical Alert Program*, you must supply the Town's Customer Service Department with a certification



file photo

from your physician or hospital stating medical necessity.

Blank certification forms can be requested from the Customer Service Department or downloaded from the Town's website at www.townofclaytonnc.org. The Customer Service Department is located at 111 East Second Street in The Clayton Center. Participation in the program must be renewed annually in January. For questions please contact Ann Game, Customer Service Director, at 553-5002 ext 5200 or email her at agame@townofclaytonnc.org.

The 2009-2010 Palladian Series Continues to Offer Fun and Excitement In the Months Ahead

Tickets to the Center's *Palladian Series* shows make fun – and affordable – holiday gifts for family and friends. You can select tickets for a specific performance or we can customize a gift certificate that allows the recipient to choose the show he or she is most interested in seeing. A partial season ticket package, that includes the five remaining shows in our *Palladian Series*, are also still available.

Give the gift of laughter to begin the new year when Etta May, star of the wildly popular *Southern Fried Chicks*

Comedy Tour, brings her new one-woman show to the Clayton stage on Friday, January 22. *Dr. Etta: Family Specialist* is a hilarious look at family life today. Tickets are only \$20 plus service fees.

The Canadian tenor trio *Destino* chases the February chill from the air with their warm and powerful voices. They appear on Saturday, February 13, just in time to capture the romance of Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$22 plus service fees.

The remaining *Palladian Series* performances include *Blues Bash*

V: Featuring Eric Bibb and Ruthie Foster; John Pizzarelli; and Mike Farris & The Roseland Rhythm Revue.

For details on *Palladian Series* events or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 553-1737, ext. 2. Tickets also can be purchased online at www.theclaytoncenter.com.

The Clayton Center Box Office is located at 111 East Second Street in downtown Clayton and is open from 10 AM until noon and from 1-5 PM, Monday through Friday. All seats for *Palladian Series* shows are reserved.