



## Mayor's Message to Citizens: 2008 Was a Banner Year for the Town



Though we decided to cut spending and conserve this year, anticipating the economic downturn that's caused problems all over the country, 2008 was still a great year for Clayton, one of the most important years in recent memory.

The list of accomplishments is much too long to write about here, but there's a few whose impact is so strong that I'd like to talk about them briefly.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment is one we all did together, passing the bond issue that insures we'll have good streets and good parks for decades to come. It's hard to get 75 percent of any group to agree on anything, but we stood up together on that one.

Here's a few more things that came together this year that are huge for our community:

- The new hospital: The new medical center going up on NC 42 will provide residents the quality health care they need at a facility close to them, plus provide good job opportunities for

young professionals. It will also stimulate growth.

- Environmental victories: The town was able to make major environmental gains this year, while saving money at the same time, with our new recycling program

*...If we do only half as well next year as we did this year, we'll be in great shape.*

and by providing irrigation to a local golf course. Residents are recycling triple what they did last year, which means the town saves thousands in landfill costs. And, by sending millions of gallons of treated wastewater to the golf course, we're going to save millions in discharge fees to the state. And the golf course pays us for the water on top of that.

- Completion of the US 70 bypass: Anyone who drives in Clayton can testify to the tremendous impact this has had on our ability to get around town—and to the quality of the air we breathe. Driving in town is a lot safer now, too.

- Improvements along the US 70 corridor through town: New lighting, better landscaping and better road signs have made a huge difference—not the least of which is the colorful, new gateway to downtown where Main Street meets US 70.

- The new Community Center: After years and years of wanting and needing one, we started work on a Com-

munity Center this year. The construction is coming along great, and we should be using it in the spring.

- Downtown revitalization: This has been the most important year for our downtown in as

long as I can remember. We were able to get into the state's *Main Street Program*, which will bring huge benefits for years to come. We also started grant programs that provide funding and incentives to help with building renovation, façade improvements, new construction and other building improvements. And, we're turning the vacant lot at the corner of Lombard and Main Streets into a beautiful downtown centerpiece, complete with our first public art project.

There's lots more, of course, and I'd love to list them all right here, but I've run out of space. I could fill up the whole newsletter if they let me!

So, let me just say this: If we do only half as well next year as we did this year, we'll be in great shape.

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**Call..911**  
**For ALL**  
**Police**  
**Fire**  
**and**  
**Rescue**  
**Emergencies**

## Fire Department Wants You to Beware of Invisible Killer: CO

The Clayton Fire Department wants residents to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A by-product of a fuel burning process, carbon

monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that is **DEADLY.**

Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are even aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu.

Many home appliances are capable of producing *Carbon Monoxide* when a faulty or unusual condition exists. Since the source may be transient in nature, the source may not always be detectable.

*Carbon Monoxide detectors* are available at local stores. Some manufacturers even offer a combination *smoke detector/CO detector.*

Maintenance on a *CO detector* is basically the same as for a smoke detector (change batteries every 6 months).

In the event of a *CO detector* activation and/or the sudden onset of headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea or fatigue fire department personnel recommend that you leave your building immediately,

leaving ALL windows and doors **CLOSED**, and call 9-1-1 from a safe place (neighbors, cell phone, etc).

Leaving windows and doors closed allows fire department personnel to detect specific levels in an area.



Fire department personnel will enter the structure wearing full personal

protective equipment, breathing air from a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and use a multi-gas monitor to take readings throughout.

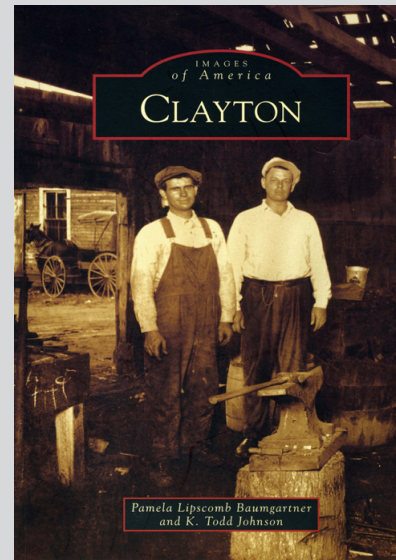
Contact Jason Dean, Training/Safety Officer at 553-1520 for more information on the prevention of carbon monoxide poison in the home.

## Dialing 9-1-1

Parents/Guardians need to teach children how to dial **9-1-1**. Make sure they know this is an emergency number only and explain some possible situations where dialing **9-1-1** would be necessary. Use a toy phone to practice or a phone that has been disconnected from the wall.

Do not use a non-active cell phone for practice as it can still connect to a 9-1-1 center.

Preparing children on how to respond to an emergency could help save a life!



## Exciting News from the Library: Long-Awaited Book on the History of Clayton Now on Sale

A long awaited book on the history of Clayton, written by two local residents, is on sale at the downtown Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library.

"Images of America: CLAYTON," a compilation of facts, photos and stories, was written by Clayton Historian Pamela Lipscomb Baumgartner and K. Todd Johnson.

"We're so proud of this book," said Library Director Betty Coats. "It's a great book, something that I'm sure everyone in Clayton will enjoy. It's an important book."

The book, which takes readers from the beginning of the town up to the year 1946, costs \$19.95 and proceeds will benefit the library.

Baumgartner is currently working on a sequel that will chronicle the years since 1946.

## DDA Announces Clayton's Main Street Champion for 2008



Following the announcement that she was named Clayton's 2008 NC Main Street Champion, DDA Chair, Joyce Blackley and DDA Coordinator, Bruce Naegelen pose with the new plaque honoring Clayton's Main Street Champions.

The Clayton Downtown Development Association (DDA) announced at its Annual Meeting in November that DDA Chair Joyce Blackley was named Clayton's 2008 NC Main Street Champion.

Each of the state's active *Main Street* programs is given the opportunity annually to recognize a local *Main Street Champion.*

Blackley was selected for this special recognition by the DDA in appreciation of her exceptional contributions

to the downtown revitalization process. She has served on the DDA, a town council-appointed advisory committee, since 1988. She has been chair since 2006 and will step down from the DDA when her current term ends at the end of December, due to term limits.

The DDA also unveiled a plaque Monday which will honor past and future recipients of the recognition. Last year, Barry Woodard was recognized as Clayton's first *Main Street Champion.*

"Joyce Blackley has been a staunch supporter of downtown Clayton for many years," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "Among other things, Joyce has a special passion for the appearance of downtown and the Tree Lighting Ceremony which she organized for 18 years."

A certificate commemorating this honor will be presented to Blackley at the NC *Main Street Annual Awards Dinner* which is being held in Statesville on

January 29, 2009.

In recognizing Blackley for this designation, the Clayton Downtown Development Association offered the following:

*Joyce Lee Blackley is the owner of Blackley's Printing Company. She started the business in her garage in 1976 and moved it to the center of downtown Clayton in 1986 where it has been located ever since. Joyce has been active in downtown activities since the mid-1980's. In 1989, Joyce was one of the original town appointees to what was then known as the Downtown Advisory Committee. One of her passions is the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and she has been in charge of that event for 18 years. Joyce has served as chair of the Downtown Development Association for the past three years.*

*Just prior to her tenure as DDA chair, the Town created and hired a downtown staff position. Since that time she has overseen a number of organizational changes as well as the Town's application to*

*and ultimate selection into the Main Street program. Joyce has been strongly involved in improving the appearance of downtown, and pushing to get a new entrance sign into downtown.*

*On top of running a busy and successful business, she is also involved in her church, is a Rotary Club member and is a board member of the Clayton Woman's Club.*

*Joyce's reign on the DDA has come to an end this year, the "victim" of term limits imposed several years ago, but plans to remain an unabashed champion of downtown Clayton.*

*"Main Street" is a downtown revitalization program for smaller towns based on economic development within the context of historic preservation. Clayton has been a "Main Street Community" since 2006. The North Carolina Main Street Program, which provides technical assistance to its communities, is part of the Office of Urban Development in the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance.*

# The Clayton Center Begins the New Year with the Southern Fried Chicks Comedy Tour

Remember your family and friends this holiday season with the gift of entertainment. The Clayton Center makes it easy to give a gift that will delight and excite! Whether you choose tickets for a specific performance or a customized certificate that allows the recipient to choose the show, your gift is sure to be remembered.

*The Palladian Series* kicks-up again January 16 with the *Southern Fried Chicks Comedy Tour* at 8 PM. Starring Etta May and featuring Trish Suhr, Beth Donahue and Sonya White, the Old South, the New South, and the Deep South come together for an evening of clean, clever

story-telling for every generation. Tickets are \$25 plus service fees.

*Sundays in Clayton* just became a lot more fun – you can *Expect the Impossible* with juggling by Mark Nizer. The juggling sensation takes the stage on February 1, at 4 PM with a show the whole family will enjoy. Whether juggling four lasers at 1,000 revolutions per minute, throwing five ping pong balls 20 feet in the air using only his mouth, or juggling a burning propane tank with a running electric carving knife and a 16-pound bowling ball, Nizer makes the impossible possible and the improbable probable. Tickets are \$12 Adult, \$8 Child, or \$35 for a Family Four

Pack (2 Adults + 2 Children), plus service fees.

Don't miss out on the rest of the Clayton Center's season which includes the comic musical revue *The Four Bitchin' Babes: Hormonal Imbalance*; *Blues Bash IV: Featuring John Dee Holeman and Johnny Winter*; *Jesse Cook*; and *Kathy Mattea*.

For tickets call the Box Office at 553-1737, ext. 2, or you can order online at [theclaytoncenter.com](http://theclaytoncenter.com). The Clayton Center Box Office is located at 111 East Second St. in downtown Clayton and is open from 10 AM until noon and from 1-5 PM, Monday through Friday. All seats are reserved.



Top: from left to right: Trish Suhr, Beth Donahue, Sonya White and center front, Etta May. The Southern Fried Chicks Comedy Tour is full of humorous, clever story-telling guaranteed to entertain every generation.

Right: The Sundays in Clayton Series features juggling by Mark Nizer. This juggling sensation will amaze everyone, young and old.

