



Thanks Should be Spread Around to the People Who Give Back to the Town



I was at lunch the other day when a couple of people came up and thanked me for the fine shape the town is in these days.

I was quick to point out that all the folks who work for the town play a role in that, and the thanks should be spread around. Then, afterward, I got to thinking about it, and I believe the thanks should be spread around even further than that. It should include all the regular citizens who give of their time and expertise by serving on boards, committees and other groups that make the town work.

That's where the heart

of Clayton is. The people who give back.

People like the folks you see out every once in a while, picking up litter on the side of the road, answering a call town leaders made last year to keep things looking good. The people who volunteer to help put out fires or be of service in other emergencies. The people on last year's Bond Committee who worked hard to get the support we needed for the bond issue to finance street repairs and more parks. And speaking of parks, several residents have been busy the last few months, working out a plan for the new park on Glen Laurel Road and improvements at other parks. That's a big job.

And then we have the Planning Board, Board of Adjustments, the Library Board, the Downtown Development Association, the Recreation Advisory Board, the Fire Advisory Board and the Public Art Advisory Board. These boards do real work that

requires time and expertise. These regular citizens have made a commitment to the town and to each other to make things better, to make things work.

It's people like you and me, who want to give back and be a part of something. Those are the ones who deserve the thanks. They're the main reason our town is in such fine shape.

People like Rochelle Harrison Bolyard, long active in civic affairs and athletics here, who decided recently to donate \$20,000 for more town athletic facilities, so that future generations can experience the thrills that she and her family have been part of for so long. Gifts like that make the town work, too.

And, as Mrs. Bolyard said while making her contribution, "Maybe some others will come up and do likewise."

I think they will.

Community Center Still on Schedule for Planned Spring Opening

Despite some minor delays caused by materials shortages and a well-publicized instance of vandalism, the new Community Center complex on Amelia Church Road is on schedule to open this spring as planned.

Current estimates set the opening for early May.

"It's exciting, watching the Center take shape," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "Clayton has waited a long time for a Center like this, and it feels good seeing it come along."

The 30,000-sq.-ft., six million dollar Community Center at 715 Amelia Church Road will have classrooms for a variety of classes, a childcare center, a gymnasium and a lighted outdoor patio suitable for events and receptions. It will also be the new home of the Parks & Recreation Department.



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
Police
Fire
and
Rescue
Emergencies

Farmers Market Coming to Downtown

Organizers intend to bring a Farmers Market to downtown Clayton in the spring, probably located at Town Square.



Service, the Downtown Development Association and town officials to put together the financing, location and other details. The committee, headed by Mary Mazio Bevier and

Town Manager Steve Biggs said rules, regulations and other details have been worked out between the town and the Market's Steering Committee, clearing the way for the sale of locally-grown produce on Saturday's downtown.

Organizers, who intend to launch the Farmers Market on April 4, want to use the Town Square, a request that has been approved by the Town Council. Mr. Biggs said a plan is in place to move the Market to the proposed new aesthetic space at the corner of Lombard and Main Streets for its second year.

What began as casual interest a few years ago has grown into a 10-person Steering Committee that is working with the NC Cooperative Extension

Betty Giacco, has formed a non-profit corporation called the "Clayton Farmers' and Community Market" that will oversee operations.

The committee has already put together a detailed business plan.

"We think it will bring a great deal of business to downtown as well as a lot of foot traffic," Giacco said.

She said the group envisions a farmers market of 10 to 15 vendors selling a variety of fresh produce and other farm products on Saturday mornings from April through October.

Joining Giacco and Bevier on the Steering Committee are Mike Stancil, Sun Temple Helgren, Deborah Hooker, Debbie Monroe, E. L. Wheeler, Amie Newsome, Adair Pickard and Jennifer Holt.

Historical Facts and Artifacts Available at the Library

The Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library is proud of its collection of books, artifacts, and historical reference materials related to the long and rich history of Clayton and its residents. These materials are available for viewing on-line at ClaytonHistoryOn-line.com

or by visiting the library at 100 South Church Street.



Johnny Winter



John Dee Holeman



Jesse Cook

March Events Will Chase Away The Winter Blues

If you've got the winter blues, The Clayton Center has the cure. Join us for two exciting shows that promise to heat up the month of March.

The annual *Blues Bash* returns to Clayton for its fourth year on Saturday, March 14, with blues guitar legend Johnny Winter headlining the show. A guitar hero without equal, Johnny has been one of the most respected singers and guitar players in rock and the clear link between British blues-rock and American Southern rock (a la the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd).

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Johnny was the unofficial torchbearer for the blues, championing and aiding the careers of his idols like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. Johnny will be joined by master local bluesman John Dee Holeman. Tickets for the 8 PM show are \$25 plus service fees.

Later in the month, the *Palladian Series* sizzles with the return of the Jesse Cook Band. In Jesse's last visit to Clayton, he left the audience breathless and cheering for more. He returns Friday,

March 27, bringing his mix of flamenco/jazz/world/pop music.

Jesse Cook is a musical sponge who has spent a lifetime listening to and absorbing sounds from cultures as diverse as Spain, Africa, Cuba, Egypt, France and Brazil. Only one characterization is universally agreed upon by critics and fans alike – Jesse Cook is a guitar virtuoso – a wizard with the tips of his fingers – who is known for leaving audiences spellbound with electrifying performances and speed-defying ability.

Cook's live shows are legendary and he regularly sells out stadiums in Canada. Since his last appearance in Clayton, Cook's U.S. audience has only grown stronger. Catch this star while you still can!

Tickets for the 8 PM performance are \$25 plus service fees.

Tickets to all *Palladian Series* shows may be purchased from The Clayton Center Box Office or online by visiting our web site at www.theclaytoncenter.com. Please contact Cathy in the Box Office at 553-1737 for more information.

Town Names Employee of the Year for 2008



Steve Blasko, Streets and Property Maintenance Superintendent, was presented the Employee of the Year award at the annual Employee's Banquet in December.

Steve Blasko, Clayton's Streets and Property Maintenance Superintendent, has been named town "Employee of the Year."

Blasko, an employee for nearly two years, was nominated for the honor by a co-worker and won the support of the town's department heads.

"We recognize what a good job he's done," said Town Manager Steve Biggs. "We're happy he's part of the team that serves Clayton's residents."

Blasko, a Pennsylvania native, oversees the maintenance of 70 miles of roads, eight town buildings, four cemeteries and nearly 100 utility easements.

"I like to think of this as a team award and would like

to thank all our crew members for making this possible," Blasko said. "Clayton is a fantastic place to live and work, and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by such great people. I think that our town's positive can-do attitude starts at the top and resonates through our employees into everything we do."

Public

Works and Utility Director Tim Simpson, Blasko's boss, called him "a great addition to the Town's staff."

"His background and experience in both private and public sectors serves him well in his service delivery to our customers, both citizens and other town departments," he said.

Blasko, an area resident for the last 12 years, is married with two children.

Before he joined the town staff, he spent more than 20 years playing bass guitar for several different bands.

"I've played a little bit of everything," he said, "from Rock-a-billy to Rock-&-roll and even Heavy Metal."

He said that his other great love is riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

ElectriCities To Hold a Free Energy-Saving Seminar for Clayton Residents

Want to save money on your electric bill?

If the answer is YES, then the free, town-sponsored seminar, "Trimming the Fat from Your Electric Bill," is for you.

Energy-saving experts from ElectriCities, the town's energy supplier, will be at the Clayton Center Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 PM to work with residents on ways to get more value from the electricity they use. They will also go over ways to save electricity, as well as ways to cut costs.

"This is certainly something that every resident should take advantage of," said Customer Service Supervisor Ann Game. "This could definitely be a money-saver for a lot of people. Efforts like this have been successful in other places, and we're expecting

...energy experts are being made available to residents one-on-one, free of cost, to perform "Energy Audits" of homes, to pinpoint the source and cause of any energy waste.

it to be successful here."

As a part of the effort, energy experts are being made available to residents one-on-one, free of cost, to perform "Energy Audits" of homes, to pinpoint the source and cause of any energy waste. The audits take about an hour and should provide residents

with opportunities for savings, as well as low cost recommendations on improving energy efficiency. Please contact the Customer Service Department at (919) 553-5002 to schedule an energy audit. Customers will also have the opportunity to sign up for a free energy audit on the night of the seminar.

Residents who sign up for an energy audit will also get an Energy Kit containing several energy-saving tools, including energy-saving light bulbs, a low-flow shower head, outlet and switch insulators, an air thermometer, a hot water gauge and a "whistle" that lets you know when its time to change your air filter.

For more information, please contact the Customer Service Department at (919) 553-5002.

Officials Formally Unveil Clayton Center Mural



Guests at the unveiling of the Clayton Patchwork mural enjoyed identifying local landmarks in the mural.

A large crowd packed the upper floors of the Clayton Center in January to watch town officials formally unveil Clayton's first public art project, a mural of town scenes called "Clayton Patchwork."

Mayor Jody McLeod and an array of town officials also honored local artist Dorothy Demboski, who put the last few dabs of paint

on the third-floor wall a few weeks earlier, giving the Center a permanent 10-foot by 10-foot mural featuring icons from around town. "I'm as proud of this as I can be, our first public art," the Mayor told the crowd. "I'm happy that so many of you have come out to see it. And I want to thank Dorothy for the great work she did. This is something that the people of Clayton will enjoy for many, many years to come."

Ms. Demboski, an artist for more than 40 years, began working on the mural back in the summer, chatting with visitors who stopped to watch her work and becoming something of a fixture at Town Hall in the process. She said she's going to miss all the friends she made while working on the project, especially folks at Town Hall, but she's proud of be part of Clayton's history.

"This is such a hopeful beginning to Clayton's vision as an arts community," she said. "And what an experience! It's just been a good one."

A smaller version of the mural on canvas has been part of two recent exhibitions at the Center.

Town leaders worked with Clayton Visual Arts to raise \$10,000 for the project, with the town covering \$4,000 of the cost. The idea for a mural got its start when town employees noticed Ms. Demboski's painting at an exhibition last year. "That piece struck us," said Town Manager Steve Biggs.

Ms. Demboski has won many awards for her work over the years. She has a BFA Degree from *Carnegie Mellon University*, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She has also taught at the *Art Institute of Chicago* and at *Carnegie Mellon*.