



Today's Technology Making Roads Even More Dangerous for Everyone



Though speeders on Clayton streets remain a problem—as the large number of stops in a crackdown on speeding, along with some tragic accidents recently, can attest—our police are noticing another problem that is getting more and more worrisome.

They call it “distracted driving.”

In years past, it was unruly kids in the back seat or finding the right station on the radio. But with today's technology, drivers have much, much more to distract them, and it's making the roadways more dangerous.

Researchers say the thousands of accidents across the country caused each year by distracted driving is certain to go up as more and more dial their cell phones, send text messages to their friends, check directions on their GPS and find music on

their iPods—all while driving down the street. In fact, experts are saying that a distracted driver is just as impaired as a drunk driver, which is frightening. If they're speeding on top of that, which many do, the danger is much greater, and bad news for the rest of us.

If you look around, you'll notice the same kind of distracted driving right here in Clayton.

While people usually don't admit to it themselves, they are quick to tell a dozen stories of near misses and crazy maneuvers caused by distracted driving. It's become what people talk about at parties.

And while the state's ban on texting-while-driving might have a good effect, the new internet devices being added to the dashboards of some new automobiles is certain to make the problem much worse. The devices, which will probably start showing up in most new cars over the next few years, will pretty much turn the dashboard into a computer, where drivers can surf the internet. Some will

have a place to plug in a keyboard.

Safety experts are howling, but car companies call it progress. A notice pops up when the system is turned on which reads: “Please only use the online services when traffic conditions allow you to do so safely.” Think that

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will take care of the danger?

It's a complex problem and nobody quite knows

what to do about it, but one thing is sure—unless we pay attention to the road, the term “distracted driving” is destined to become a household word. And that's not something we want for Clayton.

Please slow down and watch the road as you drive around town. The bypass has made it enjoyable to drive in Clayton again. Don't let speeding or distracted driving make it dangerous.

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Pizzarelli Jazzes Up Clayton Center's Palladian Series

The Clayton Center's *Palladian Series* continues in March with the cool jazz stylings of guitarist John Pizzarelli on Friday, March 26, at 8 PM.

Smooth vocals and inventive guitar playing are the trademarks of John Pizzarelli's long and successful career. Using greats like Nat "King" Cole and Frank Sinatra and the songs of writers like Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen as inspiration, Pizzarelli is among the prime contemporary interpreters of the great American songbook, bringing his signature style to the songs and his pleasant personality to his performances.

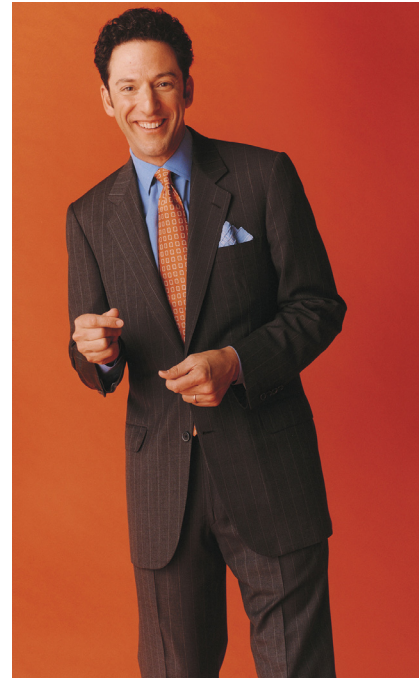
With guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli as his father, John Pizzarelli's guitar prowess comes as no surprise. But it is the entire Pizzarelli package – masterful instrumentals, smooth vocals and his easy, witty banter with his audience – that shapes his performances. Internationally known for the cool jazz flavor he brings to his music, Pizzarelli has established himself as the consummate entertainer. He has cultivated a multi-faceted career as a singer-guitarist,

bandleader and radio host.

Pizzarelli is known as a master in the art of reinventing jazz classics – injecting them with accents of swing and pop – and was honored with the 2009 *Ella Fitzgerald Award* for his extraordinary contributions to the evolution of jazz. He has recorded more than 20 albums since his first release in 1990, including 2008's *With a Song in My Heart*,

a tribute to composer Richard Rogers, and 2007's collaboration with his father, *Generations*.

Tickets for the John Pizzarelli performance are \$25 plus service fees and are available through The Clayton Center Box Office, located at 111 East Second St. in downtown Clayton, or by calling 553-1737, Ext. 2. Box Office hours are 10 AM until noon and 1-5 PM, Monday through Friday. Tickets also can be purchased online at www.theclaytoncenter.com.



John Pizzarelli



Pictured left to right: Clayton Fire Chief Lee Barbee, Clayton Fire Captain Larry Such, FM Global Manager Michael Spaziani, and Clayton Fire Marshall Tony Atkinson

Fire Department Awarded Grant for "Pre-Fire" Planning

The Clayton Fire Department was awarded a \$2,500 Fire Prevention Grant this week to help with "pre-fire" planning.

The grant, from insurance giant FM Global, will pay for digital cameras and a computer, which will be used to chart buildings across town so that firemen will have immediate access to information and photos should any of them catch fire and require emergency service. The information should help firefighters respond more effectively to emergency situations, said Chief Lee Barbee.

"We'll put this money to good use," the Chief said. Michael Spaziani, manager of the insurance company's grant program,

The grant will pay for digital cameras and a computer and will help firefighters respond more effectively to emergency situations.

said the Department made a compelling case for the new equipment in a grant request put together recently by Captain Larry Such. "At FM Global, we believe the majority of property damage is preventable—not inevitable—and we are pleased to make funding available to organizations like the Clayton Fire Department that share the same philosophy," Spaziani said.

"After all, it's much better to prevent a disaster than to recover from one."

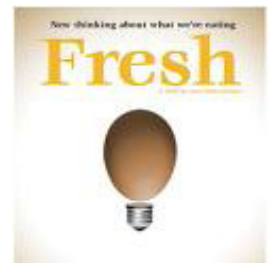
FM Global, named "Best Property Insurer in the World" by *Euromoney* magazine, has awarded millions of dollars to fire departments and related agencies around the world over the last 30 years.

Clayton Farmers Market to Sponsor Local Food Fair

The Clayton Farm and Community Market, also known as the Clayton Farmers Market, is sponsoring *Johnston FRESH: A Local Food Fair* on February 27 at The Clayton Center in downtown Clayton from 5-9 PM. This is an opportunity for Clayton residents and others to learn more about locally grown food and meet local farmers.

At *Johnston FRESH: A Local Food Fair*, you will have a chance to talk to local gardening experts about simple ways to grow food in your own yard and community. Local farmers will have booths at which you can ask questions about local farming and get information about local products and farming practices, and even buy a subscription to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which provides you a weekly box of fresh local produce, eggs, and meats.

A screening of "*FRESH: the Movie*" will be a highlight of the event. It is about the modern food production system, but it is also about farmers who are doing



things differently by growing food and raising livestock sustainably, humanely and profitably. *Fresh* focuses on alternatives to the industrial food model that offer people more choices and better food and farmers more freedom and greater return on their blood, sweat and tears. It will be shown at 6 PM.

Make an evening of it. Come downtown and have an early dinner at one of our great restaurants, then walk over to The Clayton Center.

Admission to The Clayton Center Lobby to talk to farmers and ranchers is free.

Movie tickets for *FRESH: the Movie* are \$5 plus service charge, and are available online at www.theclaytoncenter.com or by calling the box office at (919) 553-1737.

For more information contact claytonmarket@earthlink.net. You can also become a fan of the Clayton Farm & Community Market on their *Facebook* page.

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The Clayton Police Department is now on Facebook.
Sign up on Twitter and receive Clayton Police's Tweets.

Fire Department Names Fireman of the Year

Winning the “Clayton Fireman-of-the-Year” award is certainly an honor, but it often means more to some people than to others.

For Mitch Boyette, who won the honor for 2008, it’s huge, because he intends to be a fireman for the rest of his life.

“I like being in on all the action,” he said. “I want to work hard and advance. This is a good Fire Department to work with, a lot of good people who care about each other and work together. We make it fun to work here.”

The 22-year-old Archer Lodge resident already has a degree in Fire Protection Technology, and he’s working on a degree in Fire Management at Fayetteville Community College.

“He’s a model employee,” said Chief Lee Barbee. “You tell him what you want done, and he gets it done.”

Mitch, who still helps out on the family farm, got into firefighting a few years ago when a group of his buddies in Archer Lodge decided to help out the local fire department and asked him to join them.

“I just wanted to help out in the community,” he said. “I liked it so much, I decided to do it full time.”

He started out with the Department here in 2006 as a part-timer and then moved to full-time a little over a year ago.

Though his passion in life is firefighting, Mitch also has a second love—all things *John Deere*.



2008 Fireman-of-the-Year winner Mitch Boyette

He’s been collecting all sorts of *John Deere* equipment models since he was young.

“He’s a model employee. You tell him what you want done, and he gets it done.”

Fire Chief Lee Barbee

Green.”

He also has a love of flying that’s been nurtured by family members who are pilots, and he intends to pursue a pilot’s license “for fun.”

Clayton has a “combination” Fire Department, with 15 full-time and 55 part-time on-call positions working out of two main stations, with a third in the planning stages. The Department gets about 800 calls a year, though only a fourth are fire-related. Many of the calls involve rescue and other

John Deere equipment is what we have on the farm,” he said. “I love *John Deere*. In my bedroom, the top two-thirds of the wall is *John Deere Yellow* and the bottom third is *John Deere*

calls for service, including assisting Emergency Medical Services.

The Department regularly goes to the aid of other communities in the area, including Archer Lodge, Cleveland, Garner and Wilson’s Mills.

Training of all sorts has been a huge part of Department life in recent years, with full-time firefighters required to get 240 hours of training each year and part-time firemen 100 hours. Drills, training events and classes go on all year long. Just recently, the Department graduated a new advanced class of “Black Helmet” firefighters. “When we see a Black Helmet, we know they’re Firefighter Certified,” said Training/Safety Division Chief Jason Dean. “That’s a milestone for these guys.”

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