



Think Clayton: Think Arts Community



At the town's annual planning session back in April, we talked a lot about our vision for Clayton, and what we want others to think and feel when they come here.

For several years now, an important part of that vision has revolved around the arts. We see Clayton as an arts community, a place where artists and the arts thrive.

Already, the Clayton Center, with its excellent programming and concerts, is attracting people to Clayton, people who probably wouldn't visit our town otherwise—and wouldn't spend their money here. For a small town, that's a big thing.

Over the last couple of years, our new Cultural Arts Grant Committee has awarded \$44,000 in grants to local artists and arts groups, including the Clayton Youth Theatre. And we hope that's just the start.

More public art projects like "Clayton Patchwork,"

We want Clayton to BE an arts community, not just SEEM like one.

the mural at the Clayton Center, are in the works, too.

But, like our state's motto: *To Be, Rather Than to Seem*, we want Clayton to BE an arts community, not just SEEM like one. We want everyone in town to get involved in some way. Last month, the free, monthly art exhibit at the Clayton Center featured 30 high school artists from

right here in Clayton. Did you come to see it?

How about the mural? Did you drop by the Clayton Center last year to watch local artist Dorothy Demboski paint part of it? Have you come by to see the finished product?

Did you come to the Millstock Music & Arts Faire June 6? How about the bands that play downtown once a month during the summer months—how many times have you come out for that?

That's a lot of questions, and I hope there's a lot of "yeses" out there. If not, I hope there will be soon.

Clayton IS an arts community. Those of you who are tangled up with your daily life might not have noticed, but something to do with the arts is going on here virtually all the time—and we're picking up speed.

It's time to get out of the house. Come on out and enjoy it—you live in an arts community!

Warm Weather Means Yard Sale Season



Now that the weather is nice and warm, you'll probably be seeing yard sale signs going up all over town. It's that time of year.

But, if you're thinking about having one of your own, here are some common-sense town rules you will need to know and follow about posting your *Yard Sale* signs:

- They're not allowed on utility poles or on the street right-of-way.
- They can't be posted more than seven days in advance.
- They must be removed within 48 hours of the sale date.

These rules are intended to help keep Clayton free of unnecessary clutter. For more information, please contact the Community

Development Department at 533-1545.

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Pictured left-Sergeant Kenneth Lunger; right-Sergeant Tamra Gentry. Lunger is assigned to Special Operations-Traffic Unit and Gentry is assigned to the Patrol Division.

Two Officers Earn Promotions

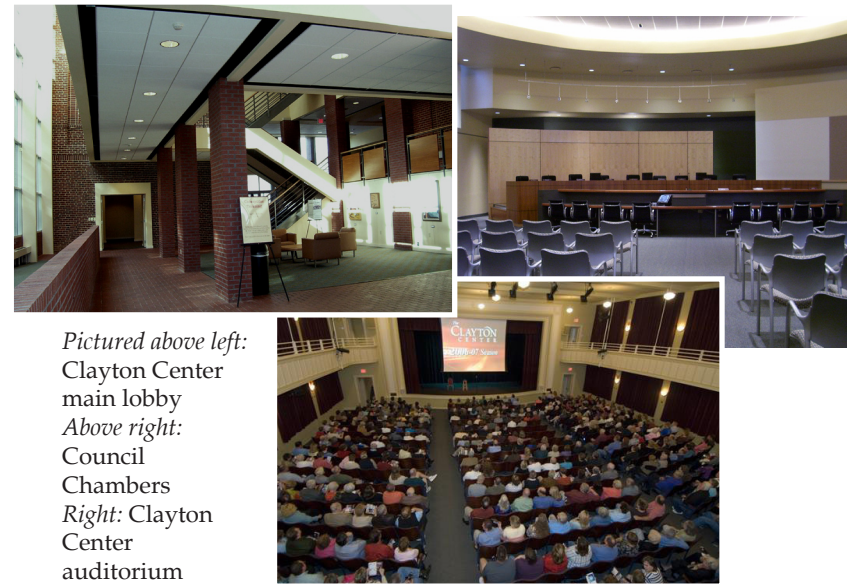
Tamra Gentry and Kenneth Lunger have both been promoted to Police Sergeant effective in April.

Sergeant Gentry, a twelve-year police veteran, began her career in 1997 as a Domestic Violence Detective with the Johnston County Sheriff's Office. In 2000, she joined the Clayton PD as a patrol officer. She later served as a Field Training Officer before transferring to the Investigations Division where she served until this promotion. Gentry has been an advocate for victims of domestic violence and in arresting Internet child predators through cyber investigations. Sergeant Gentry has an Associate's Degree from Mount Olive College.

Sergeant Kenneth L. Lunger, Jr., is a six-year

police veteran, serving with the Selma Police Department before joining the Clayton PD. He has been a leader in traffic safety efforts, including DWI enforcement. Sergeant Lunger was named the department's 2009 *Police Officer of the Year* and recently was awarded his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission. He served in the patrol division prior to this promotion. Sergeant Lunger has a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Gentry is assigned to the Patrol Division and Sergeant Lunger is assigned to Special Operations-Traffic Unit.



*Pictured above left: Clayton Center main lobby
Above right: Council Chambers
Right: Clayton Center auditorium*

Clayton Center Stays Busy- Even During the Off-Season

Throughout the spring and summer, *The Clayton Center* staff will remain busy with rentals of the auditorium and conference center.

Our beautiful 600+ seat auditorium is available for performing arts events, pageants, ceremonies, film screenings, church services, and all kinds of audio-visual presentations. *The Clayton Center* boasts five historic and well-appointed classrooms that serve as meeting space for various types of businesses, civic organizations and non-profit groups. In addition, the Council Chambers is a state-of-the-art gathering space, accommodating up to 130 people—terrific for hosting both business and social events. Finally, the spacious *Clayton Center's* main lobby is an ideal gathering space for your next private or corporate social, or even a trade show or business fair.

Rental of the facilities for wedding receptions is at an

all-time high as *The Clayton Center* is fast becoming a popular regional wedding and reception venue. The main lobby and upstairs terraces make a unique backdrop for receptions of up to 400 people. We are fortunate that more and more companies, civic organizations and non-profit groups are using this space in our building for a variety of social events.

To check dates or reserve space for your next meeting or event, contact Pam McLamb at *The Clayton Center*, 553-3152, ext. 5708, or e-mail her at pmclamb@townofclaytonnc.org. Please also visit our website at theclaytoncenter.com for more information.



Youth Basketball Coach Awarded Top Honors by Jr NBA/Jr WNBA

Jeff Jennings, a girls basketball coach in the Parks & Recreation League, has been honored by the Junior NBA/Junior WNBA as one of the top youth coaches in the world.

The six-year coach was one of 32 chosen for the honor from more than 83,000

nominations that came in from all over the world. It's the first award of its type for a coach in Clayton.

The announcement was made at a recent Town Council meeting where Mayor Jody McLeod presented Jennings with a special proclamation praising him "for his commitment to the Town's youth athletic program."

"We are very honored and very proud," the Mayor said.

Jennings coaches a team of 11 and 12-year-old girls in the town's Recreational League. It's the second time he has been nominated.

"He's the face of what youth coaching should be," said

Athletic Program Supervisor Jonathan Allen. "He's done a great job, and he's what youth sports is all about. I've been very impressed."

Though he coached the All-Star team this year, his girls team, oddly,

didn't have a good record.

"You would never know that from the way the team was playing, though," Allen said. "He teaches them to give it their all, no matter what. He's teaching them life lessons, not just basketball."

The Junior NBA (National Basketball Association) and Junior WNBA (Womens National Basketball Association) assists more than two million players, coaches, officials and parents in 1,700 recreational youth basketball leagues across the world.

Clayton's leagues have been a member of the Association for the last three years.



Mayor (left) presents Jeff Jennings (right) a special proclamation for his commitment to the Town's youth

Citizens Encouraged to Check Out Their Local Farmers Market

The Clayton Farm and Community Market (CFCM) is open every Saturday from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM on the Town Square in downtown Clayton. Farmers, artisans and crafts persons offer locally-grown and seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, herbs, perennials, baked goods, arts, crafts and more every Saturday through October.

Opening day was April 4 and attracted quite a crowd, including US Congressman Bob Etheridge, Mayor Jody McLeod and others to join in the festivities.

To be added to the market mail list or to seek vendor information, send an email to claytonmarket@earthlink.net or by US Mail: CFCM, P.O. Box 1452, Clayton, NC 27528

Town Honors Rochelle Bolyard for Gift to Parks



Pictured above left- Mayor McLeod; center- Rochelle Bolyard; right- Parks & Rec Director, Larry Bailey

"You have really set the example, and we thank you very, very much. You have said you want to give back to the community, and you have done

so in an awesome way."

Those were the words of Mayor Jody McLeod during a ceremony at Town Hall honoring lifelong resident Rochelle Bolyard, who last month donated \$20,000 for the town's parks.

Assisted by Parks and Recreation Director Larry Bailey, the Mayor presented Mrs. Bolyard with a plaque at a recent Town Council meeting, symbolizing the town's appreciation for her gift and her long devotion to the Senior Games.

Mrs. Bolyard, who made the donation in the name of her parents, Brinton and Bettie Coats Harrison, said her family has long had a love for the town of Clayton, and she believes they would be happy with the way

the town has developed.

"It's people are still down to earth," she told the Mayor and Council, "and I hope they stay that way."

Though she worked in state government for many years and as Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, many know Mrs. Bolyard best as a record-setting athlete who loves to compete. She's participated in the Johnston County Senior Games and North Carolina Senior Games for the last 21 years, except for last year when her health wouldn't permit it, and has placed at the National Senior Olympics. Mrs. Bolyard even carried the Olympic Torch through town.

Police Department Offers New Way to Fight Crime

Working with the Chamber of Commerce and several community leaders, the Clayton Police Department is giving residents a new way to help them fight crime.



It's called "Crime Stoppers" and offers a special phone line where residents can anonymously leave information about crimes—and get a cash reward for doing it. The program has worked well in other towns over the years.

"It's good to provide a way for people to provide information to the police without having to come to court or even identify themselves," said Chief Glen Allen. "We have no way to identify callers on that line, so it's completely confidential."

The special *Tip Line* number is 919-359-TIPZ (8479). Police will follow up on all information received on the line. If the information leads to an arrest, cash rewards of up to \$2,500 are available. A *Crime Stoppers* web site is also in the works.

The reward money will come from a non-profit organization, *Clayton Crime Stoppers*, organized recently by several local businessmen. The group will raise money, mostly through donations, and then provide it for rewards. Already, the Johnston County Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police and SCA Adventures have donated \$1,000 each and the Town of Clayton has promised another \$500 to get the program started.

Hensley Scott, owner of Clayton Residential Rentals, has agreed to be the new organization's first chairman. Joining him on the executive board are Vice Chairman Russell Cotten, Assistant Pastor of Mount Vernon Christian Church; Treasurer Sara Martin of Crescent Bank and Secretary Elaine Wilson, a local attorney. "Crime Stoppers is a way to help the police and community work together in a partnership to take care of each other," Scott said. "Everyone is very passionate about any effort to lower crime rates, because it is the low crime rate we enjoy, plus the quality

of our schools, which keeps attracting people to Clayton; we want to continue to make the Town of Clayton a wonderful place to live and work." Added to the various *Neighborhood Watch* programs around town, the new program should help police solve more crimes, Chief Allen said.

Already, violent crime in Clayton is on the decrease, and the Police Department's increasing level of sophistication in fighting it is getting the credit. Even traffic accidents and citations are declining.

According to the Crime Stoppers International 2008 Annual Report, the organization has helped catch nearly a half million felony suspects and solve nearly a million crimes in this country since its start in 1976—and many more across the world. The program's anonymous tips have helped police recover more than \$4 billion in stolen property and illegal drugs. Last year, the program paid out more than \$6.6 million in reward money and helped solve more than 100,000 crimes in this country alone.