



Mayor Says Community is Once Again Coming Together for a Common Cause

I get a different sort of feeling down in my stomach when I see our town come together for something important, a common cause. It's a mix of pride and excitement that's made me happy to claim Clayton as my home town since I was a schoolboy.

The first time I felt it was way back in 1969, when as a youngster, I witnessed a marvelous coming together to celebrate the town's centennial. It seemed to me that everybody in town was talking about our history—and our hopes and dreams for the future. I was impressed!

I was impressed again last year when we came together to approve a multi-million-dollar project for streets and parks, and I'm feeling that same feeling now when I see the way we're coming together to help those hurt by the economic crisis.

By now, you know that

we at Town Hall (led by Town Manager Steve Biggs, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Ahlert and Councilman Michael Grannis) have been working with bankers, businesses, agencies and churches for the last few weeks, putting together a series of workshops that we hope will assist people in getting back on their feet. Residents in our community, who may never have needed help before, are being matched with the people and agencies who can help them. They're learning the details of programs and initiatives that can be a lifesaver.

From employment and health care issues to managing finances in a crisis and saving money on their utility bill, people are finding answers. The workshops are called "A Do-It-Yourself Bailout," and their success depends on everybody working together and pitching in for something important. It's not a pile of money or a tax credit. It's people helping people, working together to do what



we can.

Nobody will be able to say for sure just how many people will be helped and just how much better off they will be. One thing I am sure of, though, is that the community will be better off. Because we worked together.

So to the guy in the grocery store the other day wearing the t-shirt that said "Where's MY Bailout?," the answer is—right here in your home town.



Pictured left to right: Capt. R.W. Bridges, Capt. J.L. Gerrell, Chief Glen Allen, and Capt. J.E. Coley

The Clayton Police Department has 42 full-time sworn police officers managed by Chief Glen Allen and three Captains. Captain R.W. Bridges is responsible for the *Administrative Services Division*, Captain J.E. Coley runs day to day operations for the *Patrol Division* and Captain J.L. Gerrell oversees the *Investigative Services Division*.

The department works closely with local law enforcement from the Johnston County Sheriff's Department and the numerous municipal agencies serving throughout the county.



It Rained—But Folks Still Came to the Book Sale

Proving that book lovers cannot be dissuaded from a great opportunity, the rainy weather did not keep hundreds of people from all over the area from crowding into the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library for the recent book sale. People crowded the aisles, carrying books, DVDs and videotapes by the arm load.

The sale, made up mostly of duplicates that the Library doesn't have room to keep and books donated for fund-

raising purposes, attracted people of all ages and walks of life.

Besides the annual book sale, there was also face painting for the children, food vendors, *McGruff the Crime Dog*, and authors Todd Johnson and Pam Baumgartner were on site to sign their book *Images of America: CLAYTON*".

Children of all ages moved in and out with painted faces, adding a carnival atmosphere to the sale.

Funds from purchases,

which totaled \$3,700, will go towards a new computer lab. "We need to build a new computer lab as our present computer space is very crowded," said Library Historian Pam Baumgartner, who also serves as president of the *Friends of the Library*, who sponsored the sale. "This will help."

"The public was just great," beamed Library Director Betty Coats. "I guess the rain wasn't enough to keep them away after all. Everything went just great."

Police Department Names Officer of the Year for 2009

The Clayton Police Department is pleased to announce that Officer Kenneth L. Lunger, Jr. has been named the department's *Officer of the Year* for 2009. The *Officer of the Year* honor is awarded annually by the department based on a nomination procedure and selection process that recognizes responsible service to the Town and dedication to the agency and the Clayton community.

Clayton's *Officer of the Year* will represent the department in various law enforcement recognition and appreciation events over the year by a number of clubs, churches, etc.

Kenneth Lunger has a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Lunger completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at Johnston Commu-

nity College in 2002. He started his career with the Selma Police Department where he served 4 years before being hired by the Clayton Police Department in January of 2007. Officer Lunger currently serves in the Patrol Division.

In the past year Lunger has been very proactive in DWI enforcement, leading the department by arresting several dozen impaired drivers and getting them off of our roadways.

Officer Lunger has proven to be an effective communicator and has helped with presentations/talks to area schools and groups. Additionally, he has participated in several department events, such as the basketball challenge with the churches and other programs. He was recently awarded his Intermed-

*Officer
Kenneth L.
Lunger, Jr.
has been
with the
Clayton
Police
Department
since
2007.*



iate Certificate from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission. The dedication that Lunger showed to this community along with the superior work product of this officer has earned him the police department's nomination for this award.