



Clayton Named One of the Top Ten Most Affordable Places to Live in the US

It's no news to us that Clayton is one of the top ten places in the United States for affordability and quality of schools, but it was still fantastic to get that recognition recently from *BusinessWeek* magazine.

It's obvious that we do a lot of things right, and we've got lots here to make us proud. We've known it all along, and, now, everybody knows it.

But, there's one thing we're not doing that could make our town even stronger if we did it—spending our money here at home.

Residents here still go other places to buy things far too often. Business people call that "leakage." It's when we go elsewhere to buy things that we could

have gotten here.

Though the leakage is easing a little, probably due to the sluggish national economy that's keeping people at home more, it's still huge. And, it's hurting the businesses that help keep our local economy strong, as well as local tax revenues. When you spend money locally the sales tax stays in Clayton and Johnston County.

Clayton has lots of top-notch businesses as well as unique shops. Our restaurants are great, and the services you find here get the job done. Most of the time, there's nothing to gain by going to Wake County to shop. After all, Clayton is one of the most affordable places in the country. *BusinessWeek* just said so. You can save money—and time—by getting what you need right here at home.

As the holiday season



Mayor Jody McLeod

approaches, and we're out shopping more, lets buy a few more things here this year. Spend a little more time, and a little more money, in your home town. Being an affordable place to shop is one of the reasons it's an affordable place to live.

Plus, you might find that exploring what your friends and neighbors have to offer can be a lot of fun.

We'll all be the better for it.

From the Town's Parks and Recreation Department: Fun for the Holidays

SANTA CALLS

The little folks can begin the holiday season by getting a call from Santa.

He'll be calling children ages 3 years to second grade on Wednesday, December 9 or Thursday, December 10, between 6:30 - 8:30 PM. To make sure your child gets a call parents have to make sure they get their child's name

on Santa's call list.

Forms will be sent home with children from most schools and child care centers in late November and will also be available at the Parks & Recreation office, Town Hall, and the Library.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Children can make and wrap Christmas gifts for loved ones at a Santa's Workshop

on Saturday, December 12, from 10 AM -12 Noon.

Sponsored by the Clayton Youth Council, the cost is only two canned goods per child, which will be donated to a local food bank.

There will also be a special visit from Santa.

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 553-1550 for the workshop location.

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Modern-Day Houdinis Make Magic at The Clayton Center

Prepare to be mystified! The Spencers are bringing their magical spectacle *The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion* to The Clayton Center on Sunday, November 15, at 4 PM.

For more than a decade, Kevin and Cindy Spencer have dazzled the world with their engaging personalities, entertaining stage magic and breathtaking illusions. These modern-day Houdinis have redefined the art of illusion and are shattering the stereotype of the traditional magician.

The Spencers have baffled and entertained millions of people in venues across America and around the world, and they continue to bring a fresh meaning to the word "magic" for a new generation of spectators. *Theatre of Illusion* is one of the largest illusion companies on tour today. The Spencers work with some of the leading inventors, creators and builders in the industry to incorporate original, never-before-seen illusions into their production. *Theatre of Illusion* is a sophisticated stage experience filled with original magical creations designed exclusively for The Spencers.

The Spencers are entering their 20th professional year, and they have left a trail of



accolades in their wake. They have earned more than 20 national awards, making them one of the most recognized and honored performance teams in the industry. Arts

event programmers have named them *Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year* an amazing six times; and their peers recognized them as "the best of the best" by naming them the 2009 *International Magicians of the Year*, joining the ranks of Doug Henning, Penn & Teller, and David Copperfield.

Tickets for *The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion* are \$15 adults, \$12 children 12 and under. A \$50 family four pack also is available.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at 919-553-1737; at The Clayton Center Box Office from 10 AM - Noon and from 1-5 PM, Monday through Friday, or online at www.theclaytoncenter.com. The Box Office is located in The Clayton Center at 111 E. Second Street in downtown Clayton.

The next performance in the 2009-2010 *Palladian Series* is January 22, 2010, when Clayton audience favorite Etta May brings her new solo show – Dr. Etta (Family Specialist) – to The Clayton Center.



Residents may leave loose-leaf piles behind the curb for removal by the Town or they can bag or containerize the leaves for pick up by Waste Management.

With Fall Comes Falling Leaves

Loose-leaf collection for the Town is scheduled to begin November 2, 2009 and will continue thru March 1, 2010. Collection day will be the week-day following scheduled household trash pick-up.

In accordance with the *Solid Waste Ordinance*, during this period residents may place loose-leaf piles behind the curb for removal by Town forces. If residents wish to bag or containerize the leaves, Waste Management will continue to remove them.

Only leaves are permitted in the piles. No limbs, branches, rocks, trash or other yard waste should be placed in the piles. Piles containing a mixture of the above will not be removed until separated. The piles should be placed off of the street. When placed in the street or gutter, they contribute to storm drainage problems and can become a hazard for traffic.

Loose-leaf collection will be within the Town's municipal limits and is for residential accounts only.

DDA Plans Christmas Village and Tree Lighting Event for Downtown Clayton

On December 3, just a week after Thanksgiving, downtown Clayton will be transformed into a Christmas Village with decorated store fronts, holiday shopping and a merry attitude.

Organized by the Promotion Committee of the Clayton Downtown Development Association (CDDA), this is the third year that Clayton's Main Street will close for 2 1/2 hours of music, holiday cheer, business open house and the traditional tree lighting on the Town Square. "Christmas Village & Tree Lighting" will be from 6 - 8:30 PM. Main Street will be closed from Smith Street to O'Neil Street from 5:30 - 9 PM so a special environment of festivities and

activity can be created there. Ed Knight, Chair for the CDDA noted, "The main focus is to bring the activities to the street and let people in Clayton know about the wonderful opportunities available in downtown Clayton."

Activities include the *Merchants' Open House*, the *Downtown Storefront Decorating Contest*, a *Pet Costume & Parade*, and dance and choral performances given by students



Students from Clayton's Turning Pointe Dance Studio performed on Main Street at last year's Live Christmas Village and Tree Lighting event.
~ Photo Credit: Robert Yarborough

from Clayton schools, local churches, and studios.

The evening's excitement will draw to a close with the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Town Square at 8:30 PM sharp.

Committee Recommends Historic District

The National Register Advisory Committee has made a formal recommendation for the proposed *Clayton Historic District*. The proposal now goes to the US Interior Department in Washington D.C. for a final determination. If it passes that final hurdle, the District will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We're very pleased," said Downtown Development Coordinator Bruce Naegelen. "The preservation of our town's history is something that will benefit everyone in Clayton."

The federal agency is expected to make a determination by the first of the year. Naegelen said local officials are confident of approval.

The Advisory Committee made its recommendation at

an Oct. 8 meeting in Raleigh. The proposal had previously gotten the blessing of the State Historic Preservation Office.

The expanded proposed historic district is bounded by Mulberry Street, West Barnes Street, Mill Street, South Lombard Street and Blanche Street. It includes 294 contributing buildings and sites and 102 non-contributing buildings. The proposed district's period of significance is 1890 to 1960.

One of the tangible benefits for a property owner with a contributing building is the availability of a Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, a federal incentive program that is matched by the state.

Historic preservation encourages reinvestment in existing neighborhoods, enhancing property values

and the local tax base. Experts believe historic buildings are an important element in a community's quality of life, because those buildings provide a sense of community and identity that sustainable economic growth requires.

A copy of the District document is available for review at the Hocutt Ellington Library at 100 South Church Street and in the Town Clerk's office at The Clayton Center at 111 E. Second Street. It may also be reviewed online at www.townofclaytonnc.org. Click on "For Business," then click "Downtown," then "Business Development," and then the link for Clayton Historic District "Final".

For more information, please contact Bruce Naegelen at 553-1545 or via email at bnaegelen@townofclaytonnc.org.

Fire Department Conducts Live Burn Training

Driving down Hwy 42 West during the first weekend in October gave people passing by something to look at!

On October 3 Clayton Fire



Department conducted a live burn training exercise off of Hwy 42 West between the new hospital and Hwy 70 Bypass. The training was led by Training/Safety Division Chief Jason Dean and was conducted for Clayton Fire personnel continuing education on fire ground operational practices. This training is very essential for firefighters, new and seasoned, and started with basic one room fires and built up to multiple room fires. Due to the fact that materials found in today's homes and businesses differ from those found years ago, fires burn hotter and quicker, (temperatures of fires in a room during flashover-where everything in the room ignites- can be between 1200-1800 degrees). Also, the way present-day

homes are constructed causes other hazards to deal with as far as fire travel and spread, collapse, and firefighter orientation within a structure.

The process for conducting a live burn after a house is given to the fire department is rather lengthy and involves a lot of paperwork,

but it is necessary to ensure the safety of fire personnel. The fires set during a live burn are relatively "controlled"

but even the set fires can become uncontrolled quickly and therefore several instructors are on hand during the burn, with 2-3 instructors with each

team during the fire attack practicals.

Not only does the fire pose a hazard to firefighters but the equipment and fatigue factor keeps Rehab personnel busy. Clayton Area EMS assisted with the Rehab of the firefighters. Firefighters have to wear protective equipment that easily adds 60-70 pounds .

The training not only provides valuable fire control training, but also valuable



training dealing with *Incident Command, Water Supply, Hoseline Advancement, Teamwork, Communications, and Ventilation*, just to name a few.

At the conclusion of the day, over thirty personnel participated in the drill, seventeen burns were conducted, and a complete burn down of the house and two barns was completed.

