

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

DECEMBER 2003

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City Hall/Fire Station Complex Project Update

Last December, City administrative staff moved from their offices in City Hall on Bemiston Avenue to temporary facilities in the Police Department building at 227 S. Central Avenue, so that work could begin on the construction of a new Fire Station and renovation of the office space. The site has undergone significant changes since then. Approximately two-thirds of the former City Hall space was demolished and excavated in preparation for a three-level parking facility and the new five-bay Fire Station. Over the past six weeks, concrete has been poured for the parking garage decks. Electrical wiring, HVAC systems and an emergency generator have been installed in the basement of the soon-to-be renovated section of City Hall, and duct work has been installed throughout the facility. Plumbing and drainage systems have also been installed in the basement of the Fire Station and the parking structure.



Although weather could slow progress on the project, the work is proceeding steadily, with an expected completion by the fall of 2004.

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April 2004 Municipal Election

On Tuesday, April 6, 2004, the City of Clayton will hold an election to select an individual to serve as Mayor of the City of Clayton.

Persons interested in running for the office of Mayor are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the City Clerk at the current City Hall location at 227 South Central Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A filing fee of \$50.00 is due at the time of candidacy declaration. The first day for filing the forms for the April election is December 16, 2003, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2004.

Candidates for the position of Mayor must: be at least 25 years of age, be a registered voter, and have lived in the City of Clayton for at least two years prior to the election date.

Those candidates who file a declaration on the first day of filing will be placed on the ballot by random drawing. Candidates filing after December 16 will be placed on the ballot in the order declarations are received.

For more information, contact Catherine Moore, City Clerk, at 314.290.8469.



Francis L. Kenney III
Mayor

About this time last year, a developer approached the City administration asking if the City of Clayton had any interest in selling its property (a parking lot) located at the corner of University Lane and Clayton Road to be combined with other abutting properties on Clayton Road for a planned unit development (commercial and residential units), an eligible use for commercially zoned property, requiring Plan Commission and Board approval. The Board unanimously felt it should put out an RFP (request for proposals) to allow other interested parties to come forward. None did. Ward I aldermen met with the residents living near the site and provided them with sketches of the proposed building. The developer then put together a project and submitted it to the City's Plan Commission and then met with the Plan Commission in June of 2003 for what is called a conceptual review. It is an open/public meeting where the developer asks for feedback from the Plan Commission for the project. The developer then submitted the project, with some modifications, to the Plan Commission asking for permission to build. The particular application required a public hearing before and approval by the Plan Commission.

The Plan Commission has seven voting members: five residents, an aldermanic representative, and the city manager. This particular proposal

would have required an affirmative vote by a majority of the members and the matter would then be referred to the Board of Alderman for public hearing and consideration.

A group of residents in the area opposed the development. The public hearing was held in front of the Plan Commission at their October 20, 2003 meeting. After closing the public hearing the developer was informed by the chairman of the Plan Commission that it did not appear as if the project had the support of the Commission. The developer opted to withdraw the proposal. The parking lot is still a parking lot owned by the city and the administration is beginning a public engagement process of the area residents to assess issues and additional planning concerns in that area of the city.

This same process of applying to develop a site has taken place with great regularity over the last fifty years (since Clayton's charter was adopted). So what is the big deal. So why take up a whole article. The big deal is there is a process in place of which any developer may avail itself and after submission, any such application requires consideration by the Plan Commission, including public hearing, then review with a public hearing before the Board of Aldermen. The process takes place over a period of time (too long according to most developers and too short according to those who oppose a given development). In fact, a recently approved development at the intersection of Hanley and Forsyth was submitted and considered by both the Plan Commission and the Board of Aldermen over a shorter period of time than the Ward I proposal. The process ensures that all have an opportunity to be heard. To do otherwise, as some would suggest, turns an open and public process into a closed secretive one. Some wanted the proposal rejected out of hand prior to any hearing. That would have been unfortunate.

I applaud the opponents of the given project for stepping forward and getting involved, but opponents of any given project should not attribute illegal or corrupt means or methods to those that don't agree with them. I have always been impressed by the civility and class with which public debate and discourse takes place in Clayton, at every level. That is just one of the many qualities that makes Clayton a unique community. Let's make sure that continues. I don't think paranoia is usually a healthy trait.



December Meeting Schedule

The following list of public meetings contain all regularly scheduled meetings of the City of Clayton. Meetings may be added, canceled or rescheduled, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as the need arises.

- Dec. 1 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 1 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Art Commission
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18 Landscape Committee
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.

MetroLink Construction Update



In the summer of this year, work on the Clayton business district section of the 8-mile cross-county extension of MetroLink began at Forest Park Parkway and Forsyth Boulevard. One of the first significant events was the closing of the westbound on-ramp to Forest Park Parkway from Ritz-Carlton Drive when construction began on one of the two passenger stations planned for the Clayton portion of the new route. Access to westbound Forest Park Parkway continues to be available via the Meramec Avenue and Brentwood Boulevard ramps. The Meramec Avenue on-ramp will remain open until late spring of 2004; the Brentwood Boulevard on-ramp will remain open during the construction. Construction activity continued and increased steadily during October and November. Contractors were required to establish detours for Hanley Road vehicular traffic to Maryland Avenue, Brentwood Boulevard and Clayton Road corridor when demolition of the Forest Park Parkway overpass at Hanley Road commenced. Also during November, Shaw Park Drive from Hanley Road to South Central Avenue was closed; workers started the process of clearing the right-of-way on the south side of the Parkway from Bemiston Avenue west to Clayton's Public Works facility; utilities were relocated; and excavating for foundations to support the elevated track began.

Metro is working with Clayton's Architectural Review Board (ARB) on approval for various features of the Clayton portion of the new route. The ARB has been asked to review and approve designs for the Central Avenue Station which will include a walkway leading to the new Shaw Park Garage and Transit Center, the pedestrian bridge south of The Ritz-Carlton hotel, and various sound walls and screens, substations and landscaping.

Metro has pledged to keep the public informed of additional changes in traffic flow using message panels. Metro will also publish fact sheets and press releases to the media. Residents may contact the Metro project team at 314.923.3050 for answers to specific questions about the construction; crosscountyconstruction@metrostlouis.org is the e-mail address for the construction team. For more information about street closures, visit www.crosscounty.org.

Clayton Receives MEDC Marketing Awards

At the annual conference of the Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) at the Lake of the Ozarks in early October 2003, the City of Clayton's Office of Economic Development received four of the eight marketing awards presented to Missouri economic developers who entered the competition.

The MEDC competition offers entities an opportunity to showcase their material that has been created or revised in the past 12 months. Clayton received awards in the Community/Area Profile category with the City's profile packet; in the Marketing Event category with promotional material for the Taste of Clayton; in the Print Advertising category with retail and corporate advertisements; and in the Web Site category with examples of pages from its newly designed web site which is still in the testing stages. All of the materials were displayed during the conference and evaluated on the basis of overall impact to economic development in Missouri and general professionalism and quality of the entry.

Urban Design District Standards Are Recognized

Clayton's Planning & Development Department received a 2003 Outstanding Local Government Achievement award in the Innovation in Local Government category recognizing the work it has done on its Urban Design Districts (UDD). The award was presented on November 21st at the 38th annual meeting of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council.

UDDs are a proactive approach to protect the character of neighborhoods experiencing infill development. The Board designated five neighborhoods for inclusion: Clayton Gardens, Topton-Brighton, Clayshire, Westwood Corridor and the Christian Brothers Campus. Through a public engagement process, stakeholders shared their visions and special standards were developed as a result. New construction in these areas must conform to the new standards, thus preserving the significant neighborhood characteristics.

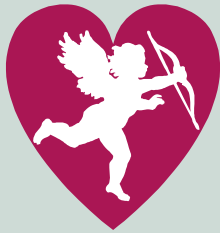
Parks & Recreation Department Activities

Introduction to Tumbling

The Parks & Recreation Commission is forming a subcommittee that will be responsible for reviewing matters pertaining to Clayton's historic Hanley House. Subcommittee members will conduct research to learn more about the background and usage of the building. Members will also look into how other communities have handled operational issues related to historical sites, and repairs needed now and in the future. If you are interested in being part of this undertaking, please contact Director of Parks & Recreation Patty DeForrest at 314.290.8464.

The Center of Clayton Crowd Is Spinning

Spinning has become a national craze. Joining thousands of people around the country, clients of The Center of Clayton are making Spinning a part of their regular exercise routine. Starting in January 2004, the Parks & Recreation Department will offer several Spinning classes Monday through Saturday starting at 6:00 a.m. Orientation classes on how to have a safe and enjoyable Spinning experience are available for those who are not experienced cyclists. Call The Center at 314.290.8500 to register for these and many more fitness programs including Pilates, Yoga, Water Exercise, and Climbing.



Cupid's Ball

Leap year or not, Clayton's Parks & Recreation staff encourages young ladies (age: 3 to 13) to ask their

favorite guy (dad, uncle, grandfather, etc.) out on a special evening at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. Activities will include a buffet dinner, followed by dancing, a commemorative photo opportunity and a special gift for the ladies. The festivities will be held on Monday, February 9, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets for Clayton residents are \$19 per person and nonresidents are \$23 per person. Call The Center at 314.290.8500 by January 31st to register. This event sells out every year, so please register early!

Introduction to Tumbling

To learn acrobatics, rolling, springs, partner skills, jumps, tumbling passes and dance choreography, join the new tumbling program at The Center of Clayton. Classes will be held Mondays, January 5 through February 23. Classes for 6 to 9 year olds will be 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., for 10 to 14 year olds 7:25 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The registration fee for residents is \$45; \$50 for nonresidents. Class size is limited -- please register early.

Shop 'til You Drop

Clayton's Parks & Recreation Department presents a dream opportunity for shoppers. The Drop Off/Dine Out Program offers shoppers a one-Friday-every-month series -- while you do your holiday shopping, Center staff will supervise and entertain your children in the pool. December is probably the month to check it out -- on Friday, December 12th, in addition to supervision and fun for your kids, you will also receive a gift certificate for shopping. For details and to register, call The Center at 314.290.8500.

Extended Leisure Pool Hours during the Holidays

During the holiday season, hours at The Center of Clayton Leisure Pool will be extended. On days that the Clayton School District is not in session, the pool will be open for recreational swimming at 11:00 a.m.

Become a Supporter of the Arts

The Clayton Art Commission is getting very close to achieving its initial goal of raising \$100,000 for The Center of Clayton art project. The 20-foot, anodized aluminum and thermoformed plexiglass sculpture by internationally recognized artist Alice Aycock will be installed in the circle in front of The Center of Clayton. When the financial goal has been achieved, Ms. Aycock will begin work on an engineering plan and construction of the sculpture.

The Commission invites Clayton business and residential citizens to participate as supporters of the arts. Call Meridith McKinley at 314.664.5902 for more information about the project and opportunities to become involved with underwriting the first major commissioned artwork for the City of Clayton.

New Ordinances

At its November 11 meeting, Clayton's Board of Aldermen approved four ordinances pertaining to Noise, Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (Segways), Animals and Fowl, and Dangerous Animals.

Noise Ordinance: The previous ordinance stipulated that any type of construction activity was prohibited on weekends and holidays without approval of the City Manager. The ordinance now allows owners or occupants of residential properties to perform construction work on their own property on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays, work can be performed from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., as long as the noise created by the work cannot be heard past the property line. No change was made to the Monday through Friday restriction on work performed on commercial properties and by contractors on residential properties. Emergency work permits can still be obtained through the City Manager, if needed.

A new section was also added restricting the use of power lawn maintenance equipment such as lawnmowers, trimmers, and chain saws to Monday through Saturday between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Use of such equipment following storms is exempt from the restrictions.

Personal Assistive Mobility Devices: Better known by their trade name, Segways, Personal Assistive Mobility Devices are two-wheeled and operated by an electric motor. The ordinance restricts their use to roadways with only one-lane in each direction, sidewalks if the operator yields to pedestrians, and private property if allowed by the owner. Due to safety concerns, the device is also prohibited in crowded events such as the Art Fair, unless the operator has a demonstrable mobility-related disability requiring its use. Consistent with State law, persons operating Segways must be at least 16 years of age, unless disabled.

Animal and Fowl: This ordinance has been completely revised and updated in accordance with State law. The new ordinance now clearly defines animal abuse and neglect, the handling of animals involved in such cases, and punishment for offenders. Two new sections of the ordinance prohibit the possession of baiting or fighting animals, and of predatory animals such as lions, tigers, and poisonous reptiles.

Dangerous Animals: The ordinance allows the Chief of Police to classify any animal which has bitten someone causing injury or attacked without provocation as a "dangerous animal", and outlines the handling of such animals as well as owners' appeal rights. Staffordshire Bull Terriers or "Pit Bulls" are automatically presumed dangerous because of their propensity to attack, and are covered under the requirements listed below.

Owners of dangerous animals are required to register the animal with the Police Department. The animals are not allowed outside of the residence unless in an enclosed pen or on a leash not longer than 6 feet. Owners must post a sign on their property indicating the presence of the animal. Owners are also required to carry a minimum of \$200,000 liability insurance. **The ordinance will not take effect until March 1, 2004, to allow owners of such animals time to comply with the ordinance and provide proof of insurance along with a photograph of the animal to the Clayton Police Department.**

To request copies of any of these ordinances, please contact the City Clerk's office at 314.290.8469.

Winter Weather Preparedness

HOME: Clayton's Police Chief Tom Byrne recommends tuning into local radio and television stations' weather forecasts to prepare for and stay one step ahead of severe weather. He suggests having the following items readily available in case of a winter storm:

- several days' supply of nonperishable food and drinking water
- extra blankets
- battery-operated radio
- flashlight and supply of new batteries
- emergency or backup heating system

"Stay indoors as much as possible during winter storms. Maintain an adequate supply of heating fuel, but be aware of the fire hazards involved with prolonged use of stoves, fireplaces and space heaters," cautions Chief Byrne.

When outdoors, dress properly. Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent and hooded. Avoid overexertion when outdoors, which includes shoveling snow. Be aware that cold weather itself, even without any physical exertion, puts an extra strain on the heart.

AUTOMOBILE: Avoiding car problems during cold weather is a matter of preparation. Before winter arrives, automobiles should be winterized. The engine, fuel line, ignition and exhaust systems should be checked. Tires and brakes should be in good condition, and the heater, windshield wipers and lights must be in good working order. Check the level of antifreeze, and always keep the gas tank filled.

Each vehicle should be equipped with an emergency winter storm kit which includes: nonperishable food, extra clothes, blankets, flashlight, fresh batteries, a shovel, booster cables, flares and bags of sand.

Motorists who become stranded in their vehicles should never try to walk to safety. To conserve fuel and heat, the engine and heater should be run sparingly. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, open a car window slightly and periodically clear the snow away from the exhaust pipe. Motorists can avoid dangerous problems that come with travel during the winter by following these safety measures and staying prepared during cold weather.

For more helpful winter weather tips, visit www.fema.gov/storm/winter.shtm.

How to Dispose of
Your Holiday
Wreath and Tree

Holiday trees will be collected at the curb during the month of January according to the regular yard waste collection schedule. Alley pickup will not be available. After January, holiday trees must be cut and assembled into 4' X 2' bundles, which will be considered yard waste and will be picked up at the rear of the home on regularly scheduled yard waste pickup dates. Please dispose of wreaths as trash. Any greenery attached to a metal or synthetic frame is also considered trash.

**PUBLIC WORKS
HOLIDAY
SCHEDULES**

Holiday Trash Pick-Up

During the holidays, waste pickups normally scheduled for Thursday, December 25, 2003, and Thursday, January 1, 2004, will be picked up the following day. During these weeks, customers whose trash is normally picked up on Friday will remain on that schedule.

In Case of Snow

When two or more inches of snow is predicted, the City asks residents to park vehicles off the street. Cars parked on narrow streets and in cul-de-sacs hamper the City's snow and ice removal operations. Anyone leaving an automobile on the street may not be able to get into their cars due to the snow drifts left by plows.

Property owners are also reminded that they are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. Please do so promptly for the safety of school children and other pedestrians.

Greening Your Residence

Clayton's Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee (EEAC) encourages the gentle use of our environment. The Committee's mission is to develop and support ecologically sound programs and practices for Clayton's municipal government, the Clayton community and the metropolitan St. Louis region. It offers strategies that reduce environmental impact, which is known as "greening". Greening reduces energy consumption, protects the ecosystems and addresses occupant health.

The EEAC encourages the use of the green building approach to home improvements. The green building movement focuses on the life-cycle environmental impact of different materials that: are made with recycled waste content, conserve natural resources, avoid toxic emissions, reduce environmental impacts during construction, save energy and water, and contribute to a safe, healthy indoor environment. The EEAC suggests various methods for greening a residence, such as using wood without urea formaldehyde; buying paint products with low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds); and shopping for energy-efficient appliances.

Web sites with information about environmentally safe practices include the U.S. Green Building Council, www.usgbc.org and the Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov. For information about the EEAC or Clayton's recycling program, contact the Public Works Department at 314.290.8540.

**2004
Clayton Retail Guide**



Clayton's Office of Economic Development has recently completed the annual revision of the Clayton Retail Guide. Free copies of the 2004 edition are available in the lobby at Clayton City Hall or by calling 314.290.8473.

Grants Received for Fire Protection

Homeland Security Grant

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response has awarded the City of Clayton \$80,328 in federal assistance funds to purchase new equipment and to support local fire operations. The Assistance to Firefighters grant program awards one-year grants directly to local fire departments to enhance and support their abilities to respond to fires and other emergencies in their communities. "This is a huge benefit for the community," said Chief Mark Thorp of the Clayton Fire Department. "The new equipment will include a thermal imager for search and rescue operations, radios for inter-district communications, upgrades for breathing apparatus units and personal locating devices." A total of \$8,925 from the City's FY 2003-2004 budget has also been earmarked to assist with the purchase of this equipment.

Grant from FEMA

The Clayton Fire Department also received a grant for \$89,219 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These funds are being used to improve the health and wellness program for firefighters. Clayton's Fire Department purchased additional exercise equipment, developed professional fitness plans for each employee, and had all Clayton firefighters undergo comprehensive medical exams. According to the National Institute of Health, heart attacks are the number one killer of firefighters nationally, and this wellness program will help insure that the Clayton firefighters are working towards a higher level of fitness to improve their overall health.

Clayton's Police Department Purchases Valuable Equipment

The Clayton Police Department recently purchased equipment that will not only help to preserve the safety of its citizens and officers, but also will help to maintain the department's efficiency and effectiveness.

The department purchased portable radios for all of its officers, which will facilitate communication between the officers as well as with dispatchers. An emergency button on all the portable radios, when activated, will enable dispatchers to immediately identify an officer calling for assistance, eliminating the need for the officer to announce his identity over the radio.

Additionally, in-car laptop computers were purchased. The computers will be installed in all marked police cars, making it possible for officers to obtain information about individuals with whom they come in contact while on patrol. An officer will be able to check the criminal history of a suspect, obtain a picture, and track known associates of the suspect without ever leaving his vehicle.

"We have an impressive group of competent and conscientious officers," said Clayton's Chief of Police Tom Byrne. "This equipment will enhance their ability to serve and protect Clayton citizens."

The department also intends to purchase Weapons of Mass Destruction protective gear for all Clayton police officers. A grant obtained from the State Emergency Management Agency by the Missouri Police Chiefs' Association will provide funds for protective suits and gas masks, which will help protect the officers while they perform their duties during hazardous situations.

National Child Identification Program

A year ago, the Clayton Police Department joined other departments across the country in the National Child Identification Program. Clayton police distributed Child Identification Kits to all elementary and junior high students who attended schools in the City of Clayton. This year the kits were distributed to all kindergarten classes.

The kits contain a fingerprint card, ink pad, instructions on how to take a child's fingerprints, and a swab for taking a DNA sample. After taking the fingerprints and the DNA swab, parents are urged to keep them with other identifying documents such as birth certificates.

Fingerprints are still the most commonly used and accepted means available for rapid identification. They can be classified into a digital code that can be transmitted across the country and can be highly useful when attempting to locate a missing person. The Optimist Club of Clayton provided significant funding in order to make this program available in Clayton.

For additional information about the program, or to obtain a kit, please call the Clayton Police Department Community Service Office at 314.290.8425.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q. Where can I find out more about the events and activities in the Old Town section of Clayton?

A. Although not affiliated with the City, the City is aware of a new web site that has recently been created by the neighborhood association with information about Old Town. The site helps Old Town residents stay abreast of relevant issues and special events. At www.oldtownclayton.org, citizens can register to receive periodic e-mail updates.

For historical information about Clayton neighborhoods, the City still has available copies of the book, "Clayton: a History" for \$5.00 each through the City Manager's office at 314.290.8460.

What would you like to know? Clayton citizens are invited to ask questions of their City officials. Forward your questions to: City of Clayton, ATTN: Judy Kekich, 10 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105; Fax them to 314/863-0295; E-mail them to: jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<i>In Case of Emergency</i>	911
City Manager	290.8460
Economic Development	290.8473
Finance	290.8443
Fire (non-emergency)	721.9566
Planning and Development	290.8453
Mayor/Board of Aldermen/City Clerk	290.8469
Parks and Recreation	290.8500
Park Program 24-Hour Registration	290.8501
Personnel	290.8449
Police (non-emergency)	727.4130
Public Works	290.8540
TDD	290.8435

STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL CITIZENS

It is the City of Clayton's goal to make programs and facilities accessible to all individuals. If you or someone you know has a disabling condition and would like more information and support for accessibility of all programs and facilities, please contact us at 290-8501 (V). Sign interpreters may be scheduled upon request. Suggestions for future programs are welcomed.

City of Clayton

227 S. Central Avenue
Clayton, Missouri 63105

MAYOR

Francis L. Kenney, III

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"The Mission of Clayton City Government is to foster a vital, balanced community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions, and a healthy natural environment through an open, accessible and fiscally responsible government."



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by Srenco Photography