

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

APRIL 2004

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2



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Final Passages

I was informed I have the privilege of writing this letter or address as my mayoral term winds down. This must be what it would feel like to write ones own obituary. However, I will try to avoid lowering myself into the sinkhole of self-pity. And I apologize up front for the randomness of this missive. I have so many thoughts (so few of which are terribly worthwhile).

Not to minimize the well intended and well written "Mission Statement" of Clayton (it is set forth on the last page) but I have always felt that the function of government is to provide services that support and enhance the community as a whole. In order to do that government must generate revenue. And each year it must raise more revenue to maintain service levels, let alone improve them. Therein lies the primary difficulty inherent in all government institutions, ever increasing taxes and fees. During the last six years, we have been able to hold the line on tax increases while maintaining and often improving services.

During that time, we have been able to double our cash reserve, improve our employees' pension plans, become more competitive in salary levels and enhance or maintain employee health benefits. We have done all this while completely replacing the Shaw Park pool and renovating and upgrading City Hall and Fire Station (over \$11,000,000.00 in projects). We continue to maintain and replace our



Francis L. Kenney III
Mayor

streets on a scheduled basis. All this without going to the voters for a bond issue or tax increase We did seek and obtain approval from the voters to include wireless cell phone use in the group of utilities on which we levy a tax (the "gross receipts tax").

We have done this while enhancing services through increased efficiencies within departments and through joint ventures and partnerships with our neighboring communities, Richmond Heights and Maplewood.

In spite of all this we can do more and I know the current Board of Aldermen is committed to that end. It will become harder and harder to do because all public institutions are facing budgetary woes. We are all competing for the same tax dollar. In Clayton, that is magnified by the system of taxing property. Even if the amount going to the City of Clayton grows little, the increase in Clayton property values results in Clayton residents paying a higher proportion of taxes going

Final, Page 2

Final, continued from Page 1

to other regional public institutions dependent on the property tax. But we need to understand Clayton's responsibility to, and in some ways, part of Clayton's contribution to the region.

But it isn't just money and institutions which make Clayton a great place to live and work. The tolerance and the respect those in the community show each other and the Board makes problem solving what it should be, a rational process. There have been thirteen different aldermen during my tenure. This weak mayor appreciates all of their hard work and diversity of well thought out opinions, it was never dull. And I am grateful to the City's employees who go above and beyond the norm on a daily basis. I have said and written it often, stop them and say thanks; they are the lynch pin of our first class public image. Last, to that unpaid employee, the first lady, my wife, as she always tells me, now we will figure out if I have any friends. I was recently at a Starbucks in Indianapolis. One of its employees, noting the Clayton logo on my jacket, volunteered that he had attended Washington University and told me what a great place Clayton was. The pride I felt was enormous, ridiculously so. But that sentiment expresses my sense of appreciation for having been permitted to be Clayton's mayor for the last six years. It has been a privilege and an honor. The first lady and I thank you.



Alderman
Jill Belsky

by Alderman Jill Belsky

As the senior member of the Board of Aldermen, it has been my honor to serve under Mayor Kenney's leadership for the past 5 1/2 years. Frank's genuinely unassuming nature, punctuated by a certain amount of healthy tenacity to just "get things done" has made it a pleasure. His modest nature is evidenced by his "Final Passages" article, which cites only a few of the City's accomplishments that occurred under his stewardship. However, during his 6 years as Mayor, many other milestones were set.

For example, Mayor Kenney participated in the negotiation process that will finally bring the Cross County MetroLink Extension through Clayton; he initiated the establishment of the Urban Design District (UDD) Standards, which are design criteria for neighborhoods undergoing high levels of redevelopment; and he supported the Ellenwood Neighborhood Improvement District process in which residents of this private subdivision are able to fund and construct improvements with the City's assistance. In addition to the Shaw Park Pool and City Hall/Fire Station projects, Oak Knoll Park was also renovated. Streets in Clayton subdivisions underwent a preventive pavement maintenance process called microsurfacing. During his tenure, some of the City's most significant

commercial projects were developed including The Plaza in Clayton, Shaw Park Plaza, Merrill-Lynch Centre, Clayton on the Park, Maryland Walk and the Renaissance Towers. To say the City grew and prospered during Mayor Kenney's terms of office would be an understatement. His devotion of time and energy to our City has been truly remarkable. We will miss Frank's presence, insight and leadership, and wish him all the best.

April Meeting Schedule

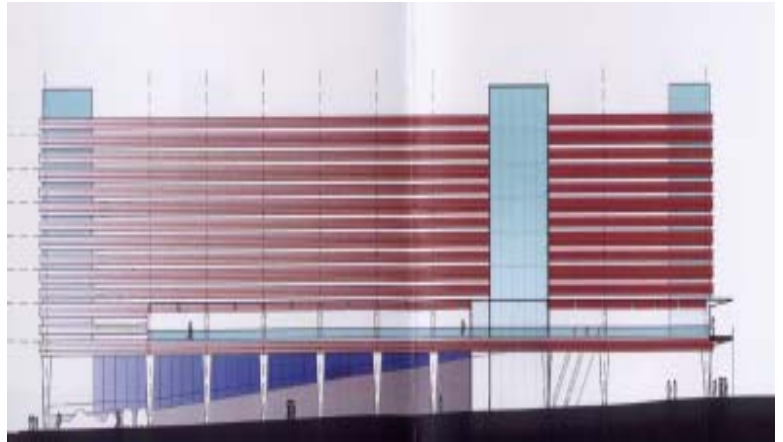
The following list of public meetings contain all regularly scheduled meetings of the City of Clayton. Meetings may be added, canceled or rescheduled, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as the need arises.

- April 1 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 5:00 p.m.
- April 7 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- April 12 Art Commission
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- April 13 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- April 15 Landscape Committee
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
- April 19 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- April 23 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.
- April 26 E.E.A.C
High School - 5:30 p.m.
- April 26 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- April 27 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.

Transit Center Update

In conjunction with the 8-mile MetroLink extension through Clayton, St. Louis County began construction on the eight level, 1287-space, transit center in the summer of 2003. The Shaw Park Garage & Transit Center will combine the Bi-State bus terminus with parking for Clayton business commuters and MetroLink riders. A tunnel connection will link the MetroLink passenger station on Forest Park Parkway to the Transit Center.

Concrete decks have been completed. Exterior brick precast panels have been hung and glass panels installed. Installation of the elevators and escalators and site work are nearing completion. Metro took occupancy on March 8th and expects the facility to be in full use by May 30th.



Shaw Park Garage & Transit Center (south elevation)



MetroLink Update

Work on the Clayton portion of the Cross County MetroLink extension started at Forest Park Parkway and Forsyth Boulevard in the summer of 2003. During the construction, on and off ramps to the Parkway have been closed, detours have been created, utilities have been moved and workers have excavated in preparation for foundations to support elevated tracks.

Work started on 3 of the 11 piers and foundations that support the MetroLink route over Forest Park Parkway along its way west to the point where the extension turns south. The foundation for the Central Avenue station is underway. The South Bemiston overpass has been demolished. The west side piers and foundations for Forest Park Parkway at Hanley Road are completed. The City of Clayton, Metro and general contractor Fred Weber are in constant communication to minimize the negative impact on the vehicular traffic and street maintenance.

City Hall/Fire Station Update

The changes to the site at 10 North Bemiston are visible. The new section of City Hall/Fire Station project, which will be home for the Clayton Fire Department, is under roof. Stone and brick work have been added to all exterior walls, and the clock tower has been constructed. The interior walls are ready to be painted and 85% of the HVAC system has been installed. The Fire Department staff is scheduled to move into the new quarters in May. At that time, renovation on the existing portion of City Hall will begin. City administrative staff anticipates moving back to City Hall this fall.





The City of Clayton will once again host the Clayton Farmers' Market. The 2004 season is scheduled to begin on Saturday, May 22nd. The market will set up on North Central Avenue between Forsyth Boulevard and Maryland Avenue in Clayton's central business district every Saturday morning through October between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

The market has become a weekly, summer ritual for those looking for just-picked products. Mid-May through October, shoppers can select from a wide array of locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers and plants...plus farm eggs, antibiotic and hormone-free, humanely treated lamb, chickens and goat cheese. "Everyone, the farmers as well as the shoppers, looks forward to the beginning of the market season," stated Market Master Julie Ridlon.

Weekly activities will include live music; chefs' demonstrations on how to prepare the ultimate in fresh products; plus booths serving coffee and omelets using eggs and produce from the market. Representatives from St. Louis University's Nutrition and Dietetic Department will be on hand to provide helpful information. There will be book signings by cookbook authors, weekly drawings for restaurant gift certificates and the heirloom tomato festival.

The market is chef-founded and chef-run, and teaches people how to cook local, seasonal products. For more information about the Clayton Farmers' Market and recipes by demonstrating chefs, visit www.saucecafe.com



The spring production of the Clayton Community Theatre will be *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller: a drama of collective evil and personal conscience, and at its center a vastly moving story of guilt, love and redemption.

Performances are scheduled for April 2,3,4 and 16, 17, 18. Productions will be held in the Clayton High School auditorium at #1 Mark Twain Circle. Tickets, \$15 for evening performances and \$12 for matinees, are on sale at Metrotix on-line or by calling 534.1111, at The Center of Clayton and Spicer's 5 & 10. Friday and Saturday performances at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. matinees on Sunday. For more information, call 314.854.6646 or visit www.placeseveryone.org.



The Clayton Symphony Orchestra has scheduled two performances for the Spring of 2004.

Spring Classics is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, at Clayton High School. The concert will feature violinist, Benjamin Hart. The performance will include Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto No.1 in D (1st movement) and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4. Tickets for adults are \$8, for students \$4.

The Pop Concerts will be held in Clayton High School's Quadrangle at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25. The evening will feature violinist Derrick Dortch and percussionist Kelsey Tamayo. The performance will include Mozart's Violin Concerto No.3 in G Major (1st movement) and Fantasy on Japanese Woodprints by Hovhanness. Admission is free. For more information, call 314.434.4589.

Proposed Ball Field Improvements

Recently, the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Education were each approached by a citizens group with proposed master plans for improvements to the ball fields at both Gay Field and Shaw Park. Gay Field is School District property, while most of the fields in Shaw Park belong to the City.

Due to the special status public school districts currently have with regard to municipal zoning authority under State law, the proposed improvements at Gay Field are within the purview of the Board of Education. Therefore, any improvements, such as installation of artificial turf or ball field lighting at Gay Field, will be the Board of Education's decision to make. Due to the long-standing partnership with the School District, however, the City has requested that, after the Board of Education has determined which improvements will be undertaken, the architectural design elements and building materials of those improvements be submitted to the City's Architectural Review Board for its review and input. Also, the School District would be required to obtain building permits for any improvements, and to complete construction in accordance with all relevant codes.

As for Shaw Park, because the majority of the land is owned by the City of Clayton, any final decision affecting the City's land would be made by the Board of Aldermen. Although the Board of Aldermen has held some very preliminary discussions with the citizens group related to improvements on the City's property, no final decisions have been made, nor has a timeline been established for any future discussions. The citizens group is pursuing Gay Field improvements first. The City anticipates that discussions about the City's Shaw Park property will resume at a later date.

Adult Spring/Summer Sports Leagues

Clayton's Parks and Recreation Department has opened registration for spring/summer sports leagues. This season adults ages 18 and older can sign up for coed softball, men's doubleheader softball, men's basketball, women's basketball, men's 50+ basketball, kickball, sand volleyball, and women's micro soccer. For more information, contact Darren Noelken at 314.290.8519 or dnoelken@ci.clayton.mo.us.

Summer Camps

To help students enjoy the summer, Clayton Parks & Recreation Department is offering a wide variety of sport and aquatic camps. Register for camps soon, because rosters are filling fast. To register or to find out more, call The Center of Clayton at 314.290.8500.

Shaw Park Tennis Center to Open May 15th!

The Tennis Center will open for the season on May 15th. Hours of operation will be:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 4:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. & 4:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Holidays - 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. & 4:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The City of Clayton is pleased to announce that its Parks & Recreation staff will provide new tennis instruction programs. A program that was developed by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the leading tennis organization in the United States, and sponsors of the US Open Tennis Tournament. All lessons will be held at the Shaw Park Tennis Center. For more information, please contact Eric Gruenenfelder at 314.290.8509 or egrueenfelder@ci.clayton.mo.us.

Youth Recreation Advisory Council (YRAC)

The Parks & Recreation Department is forming a Youth Recreation Council. The Council will focus on the following goals during the development phase:

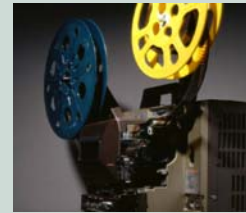
1. To establish the activities, events and programs that interest youth in the community.
2. To determine how the recreation staff can better utilize the space available for youth programs.
3. To decide on other short and long term goals that will address the needs of youth in the community.

The YRAC will be comprised of Clayton students who are interested in programs, activities and events that take place at The Center of Clayton and in the City's parks. Students who are currently freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible to participate for the remainder of the 2003-2004 academic year. There will be three students chosen from each grade level.

For more information or an application, contact Kyle Henke at the Center of Clayton, 314.290.8507, khenke@ci.clayton.mo.us

Movie in the Park

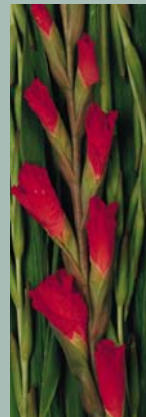
Friday, May 7
7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Shaw Park



A movie classic for all ages. Families bring your lawn chairs or blankets for an evening of fun which includes popcorn and soda. Register by April 27; resident - \$2; nonresident - \$3.

Gardening Classes

Clayton Parks & Recreation Department offers FREE classes in gardening. Beautify your landscape or even a kitchen window box with ideas from the City's professional horticulturist Susan Renard.



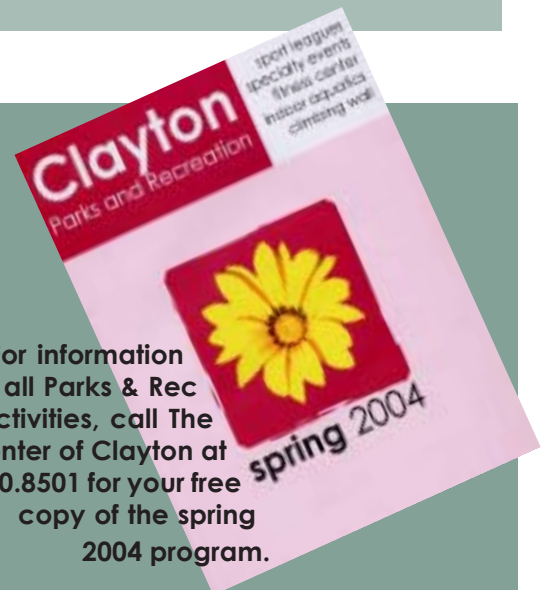
"New Annuals on the Market"

Saturday, April 3
second-floor Health Classroom
register by March 28.

"Ideas for Container Gardens"

Saturday, April 17
second-floor Oasis Classroom A;
register by April 10.

All classes will be held at The Center of Clayton from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Registration required.



Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch program was created to elicit citizens' assistance in discouraging and preventing residential crime. The program encourages citizens to secure their homes and personal property. It also emphasizes the importance of calling the police to advise of suspicious activity, such as:

- an unfamiliar person roaming the neighborhood
- an unknown person taking a shortcut through your yard
- an unscheduled or peculiarly dressed delivery person
- an unfamiliar vehicle in a neighbor's driveway or parked on the street.

The two main principles of the Clayton Neighborhood Watch Program are:

- to encourage friends and neighbors to properly secure their homes and belongings
- to immediately call the police when you see suspicious activity or become a victim of crime.

The more "eyes and ears" we have focusing on criminal activity, the greater our chances are of preventing crime. To join our crime prevention team and to learn who your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is, please contact the Clayton Police Department's Community Services Unit at 314.290.8424 or 314.290.8425.

New Recruits



City Clerk Catherine Moore swears in new Fire Department recruits: Daniel Pellegrini, Andrew Kerckhoff and David Casey

During the FY2004 budget process, the Clayton Board of Aldermen added three new firefighter/paramedic positions to the Fire Department staff. On February 2, 2004, Daniel Pellegrini, Andrew Kerckhoff and David Casey, were added to the roster to fill these positions. Firefighter/Paramedic Pellegrini is a recent graduate of the St. Louis County Fire Academy and obtained his EMS experience through Abbott Ambulance where he worked since 1995. Firefighter/Paramedic Kerckhoff was with the St. Louis Fire Department since 1998, and is employed part-time by DePaul Hospital. Firefighter/Paramedic Casey comes to us with over 20 years of EMS experience at Christian Hospital EMS. Firefighter/Paramedics Kerckhoff and Casey are currently attending the St. Louis County Fire Academy and will graduate on April 19, 2004.

Fire Training at the New Maryland Walk Site



Before razing their temporary sales office building at Maryland and Brentwood, Conrad Properties Corporation and Residential Constructors, LLC granted the Clayton Fire Department access to the building for some real-life training exercises. Access to a building that will eventually be demolished allows for training that cannot be done in any other circumstances.

"The most beneficial part of the training was a full day of smoke training with search and rescue evolutions for all three crews," said Clayton Fire Chief Mark Thorp. During these exercises, the building was filled with dense smoke, producing a realistic environment for the firefighters. Teams made rapid entry into the building with the necessary equipment to simulate saving trapped occupants or firefighters. Participants in the training used a Thermal

Imagine Camera (TIC) which was recently acquired through a joint federal grant and city funding. The TIC allows firefighters to more efficiently locate "hot" areas, such as body heat from downed individuals or hidden fires in walls and void spaces. Training also included ventilation drills by cutting holes in the roof to allow gases to escape creating a safer environment and better visibility for occupants still inside and for the firefighter entering the building.

Training under these realistic conditions greatly enhances future fire rescue operations by the Clayton Fire Department. A special thank you to Conrad Properties Corporation and Residential Constructors, LLC for making it possible.



Taste of Clayton 2004

Shaw Park

Sunday, June 6th

The twelfth annual Taste of Clayton is set for Sunday, June 6th. From 2:00 until 9:00 p.m., Shaw Park will be the site of the finest alfresco dining in the region.

In addition to sampling the region's best cuisine, guests will be treated to live entertainment throughout the day and evening with music by the Ralph Butler Band and Fanfare.

Radio and television personalities will be on-hand with live broadcasts. There will be special appearances by area media and sports celebrities who will judge the restaurant booths for the most creative design. New this year will be a chefs' demo tent, where the area's best-known chefs will demonstrate how to prepare their mouth-watering dishes.



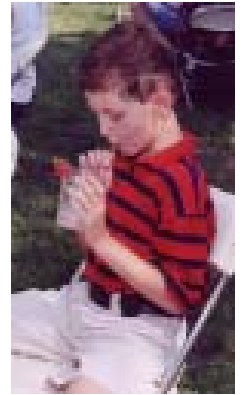
Taste Jr., the "everything for kids" area, will include an array of games and inflatable sports activities and cuisine just for the younger set. Taste too! with a selection of restaurant specialties, delicious desserts, beer and wine starts at 7:00 p.m. and features music by the Ralph Butler Band. At 9:00 p.m., a fireworks extravaganza will be "the icing on the cake" of a perfect day.

The event is known for its generosity to its charitable organizations: St. Vincent's Ministries and Lift for Life. Additionally, each year the event selects an organization to fill its "rotating charity" position.

This year, LaClinica was chosen.

Last year \$60,000 was donated to the charities, which brought the total contributed since the event's inception to \$600,000.

For details, call Clayton's Special Events Hotline at 314.290.8474.



Volunteers Make the Difference

Enthusiastic individuals to volunteer for the Twelfth Annual "Taste of Clayton" and "Taste too!" are needed. Earn Taste tickets and a Taste of Clayton volunteer T-shirt. By volunteering, you will join the City of Clayton and the Clayton Restaurant Association in throwing one of the hottest food festivals and charitable benefits in the entire region. Shift times are from **noon to 3:00 p.m.**, **3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, and **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Diane Reedy 314.290.8448 to sign up.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q. Is it possible to rent trash/recycle containers from the City's service providers?

A. Midwest Waste is the trash hauler for the City of Clayton. Container rental rates range from \$47.30 for an 8 cubic yard container to \$4.75 for a 90-gallon cart per month. For information about rental and the trash pickup schedule, call Midwest Waste at 636.947.5959.

Recycle and yardwaste services are provided by Waste Management. Their 95-gallon toter can be rented for \$3.00 per month; 1-6 cubic yards steel containers can be rented for \$25 a month. Waste Management's telephone number is 314.506.4700.

Please remember that dumpsters from one company will not be handled by the other.

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