The City Views newsletter schedule will be irregular due to frequent changes in services and various projects causing most content to become outdated.



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE Mayor Michelle Harris

Dear Clayton Neighbors,

As fall approaches, it is a good time to update you on City happenings.

We want to assure you that Clayton operations continue as usual, with standard services, streets and infrastructure well maintained. Public safety is always our top priority, and our officers as well as Fire and EMS personnel are busy patrolling and responding to calls for service.

In addition to our pandemic focus, Clayton has been the site of some Black Lives Matter protests. If you haven't witnessed these activities, we want you to know we received compliments from protesters and were proud of management by our police.

Perhaps, you've been walking more these days and enjoying the wonderful, well-kept green spaces Clayton has to offer. Undoubtedly, you've also seen construction cranes in downtown Clayton. We are pleased these projects are continuing: Clarendale, the senior living community at Hanley & Clayton; Forsyth Pointe, a multi-use office complex with an

entertainment venue and rooftop dining; and if approved, a new Marriott hotel on Forsyth will bring new life to a long vacant site. While development continues, our small businesses need our help. The City has relaxed outdoor dining guidelines to provide dining on sidewalks, in streets and in parking lots. LOCAL dining and shopping have never been more important. Please show your support!

Clayton is not immune from financial challenges and many lie ahead. We expect to see the current significant decline in sales tax revenue for at least the next year. Our staff has made expenditure reductions for this year and next, and fortunately, we do have strong reserves should we need them. Projects partly funded by grants or private investment will move forward, such as the Maryland repaving and bikelane implementation, or be delayed, like the Centene Commons year-round sports and activity facility (formerly the Ice Rink) in Shaw Park. The Center of Clayton renovation has been completed beautifully and is operating within St. Louis County safety guidelines.

You can be proud that last year, we launched the Clayton Equity Commission to advise the Board of Aldermen on opportunities to promote diversity. This dedicated and conscientious volunteer group is moving quickly toward recommendations. Recently, we announced the Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force to study and recommend any changes or additions to our public art, historic monuments and street names that would better reflect our sensitivity, community values and dedication to diversity. As a regional leader and County seat of government, our community needs to responsibly address important issues that face us locally and nationally.

We all share a unique and important time in history. It comes with hardships, but in Clayton we have so much to appreciate—our beautiful historic neighborhoods, our robust corporate community, our place as a dining destination for the region, and the many wonderful parks and amenities that allow us to maximize our use of outdoor spaces. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made to ensure everyone's safety. We are in this together, and here in Clayton, we have much to look forward to on the 'other side.'

Very sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Harris

HELP SUPPERT OUR CLAYTON SMALL BUSINESSES

