



## Last Decade Has Seen Financial Stability for the Town, Let's Keep It That Way

Over the last few weeks, your town government has had to make some of the hardest decisions we've ever faced.

Decisions about budgets, about programs, about services and about people. Decisions that go far beyond what we usually have to make. Hundreds of tough, hard decisions. And every one made deeply painful by the economic downturn that's played havoc with all of us, you and government alike.

It was extremely difficult two years ago when we told all town departments they wouldn't be getting the usual increases to their individual budgets. In fact, we told them they would have to make cuts to balance the overall budget. All their great plans for doing more would have to be put into the filing cabinet. You can imagine that the atmosphere around Town Hall was pretty tense for a while.

Then last year, when

we told them to make even deeper cuts, there was a sense of total disbelief. But the budget had to be balanced. The times demanded a lot of us. More than we ever imagined it would.

Now, looking back,

*We've built a good reputation for financial stability over the last decade, and we're going to keep it.*

those seem like the good 'ole days.

Decisions are harder this year than any of us have ever had to make. We're having to give up things—like our grand July 4 celebration—that we never dreamed we'd have to give up. But, the reality is that we have a lot less to spend this year, so we're going to spend a lot less. That's the way it has to be.

We're trying to show good leadership during this



difficult time by using what's called the *END Result Method—Essential, Necessary, Desirable*. Using this method of ranking, we are taking a fresh look at everything we do. If it's essential, it gets done. If it's necessary, it gets prioritized. If it's desirable, but doesn't fall within the scope of *Essential* or *Necessary*, then it gets stuffed into that huge "we'll see" file—a file that wasn't all that big in past years, but sure is now.

There are things that have to go, and things that have to wait. Nobody likes it, but we've built a good reputation for financial stability over the last decade, and we're going to keep it.

**CLAYTON  
TOWN  
SQUARE  
CONCERT  
★SERIES★**

**May 13  
June 24  
July 29  
August 19  
September 16**

**Nantucket  
Craig Woolard Band  
Band of Oz  
Hip Pocket Band  
The Embers**

**For more information visit [www.downtownclayton.org](http://www.downtownclayton.org) or call 553-1545.**

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*This newsletter is  
 printed on recycled  
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## Think Clayton: Think Parks & Rec



Work on the 32,000-sq.-ft. Community Center Project is complete and open to the public. The facility includes a gymnasium with a suspended walking track, classrooms, and Parks & Recreation offices.

New hours of operation are:

- Monday - 8am-9pm
- Tuesday - 8am-9pm
- Wednesday - 8am-9pm
- Thursday - 8am - 9pm
- Friday - 8am-6pm
- Saturday - 10am-2pm
- Sunday - Closed

Adult Open Gym (18 years and older only) Child care is not available.

- Monday - Thursday 8am-3:30pm & 5-9pm
- Tuesday - 8am-3:30pm & 7-9pm (Adult Free Play Volleyball)
- Friday - 8am-3:30pm & 5pm-6pm
- Saturday - 10am-2pm

Youth Open Gym (ages 12-17)

A parent permission form is required to be on file before a child can participate. Forms are available at the Community Center.

- Monday - Friday 3:30-5pm

### Parent/Child Open Gym

- Monday - Friday 5-7pm

Equipment is provided. The track is open when the center is open.

The excellent performance of Clayton Parks and Recreation is a key element in what makes Clayton "THE PREMIER COMMUNITY FOR ACTIVE FAMILIES."

We began developing our recreation system and parks more than thirty years ago with the acquisition of *Municipal Park*. Since that time, both the town and the park system have grown and upgraded dramatically with the addition of *Community Park*, *Legend Park*, and *All-Star Park*. The Recreation Department is responsible for three park sites containing five athletic fields, seven tennis courts, a basketball court, two sand volleyball courts, eight bocce courts, a bike trail—and in coordination with The Clayton Center, programs for fitness, education, and recreation. We sponsor adult athletic leagues, too, and coordinate efforts to provide outstanding youth sports programs.

Plans call for renovating the old police headquarters, which presently sits on a 1.18-acre site at the corner of S. Barbour and E. Second Streets. Two other buildings on the site, the old Fire Station and old Rescue building, have already been demolished to make way for the new construction, which is expected to begin this summer.



## Plans for Town's New Law Enforcement Center Unveiled

Final plans for the town's new "Law Enforcement Center" have been unveiled, showing an impressive 19,000-sq.ft. brick building with lots of glass and high quality metal trim made of zinc.

The energy-efficient design makes extensive use of natural light and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems.

"When I saw this, I was really pleased," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "I like this plan. It will serve Clayton well for a long time."

Councilman Bob Satterfield had one word for the plans: "Impressive."

Steve Schuster of design firm Clearscapes, PA, the new building's designer, said the structure, which includes extensive landscaping, should blend in nicely with other buildings in the area and add to the beauty of downtown. He said the Town Council's decision to move ahead

with construction as soon as possible means "the pricing will be very attractive," taking advantage of a good construction environment.

Town officials intend to seek competitive construction bids later in the spring, with construction beginning this summer. Schuster said the new building should take about a year to complete.

"I'm really excited about this," said Mayor Pro Tem Michael Grannis. "It can be a great asset to this community."

After years of planning, town officials decided last year to move ahead with the project after a report from Town Manager Steve Biggs warning that the town's highly regarded police force—which a few months ago became one of the few law enforcement agencies in the country to earn full accreditation—was "bursting at the seams" in their old 5,000-sq.ft building.

"For the last few years,

we've paid a lot of attention to our law enforcement personnel, and now we're at a point where we need to look at facilities," he told the Council.

The complex will be financed through a low-interest US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan.

Town officials have been working over the last few years to strengthen the police department, adding programs and capabilities as well as encouraging officers to obtain advanced training. As a result, the town has what Biggs described as "a first-rate police department."

Over the last couple of years, the department added a Forensics specialist, formed a *Community Action Team (CAT)*, added several new *Neighborhood Watch* programs, added a new *Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)* laser radar and scene mapping device,

initiated the new *Crime Stoppers* program and more officers earned their *Advanced Law Enforcement* certificates. As a result, the town is gaining a reputation for safety.

Schuster told the Council that "quality projects" like the complex and the recently opened Clayton Community Center "sets Clayton apart from other municipalities" in quality of growth.

Plans call for renovating the old police headquarters, which presently sits on a 1.18-acre site at the corner of S. Barbour and E. Second Streets. Two other buildings on the site, the old Fire Station and old Rescue building, have already been demolished to make way for the new construction. Another building, the historic *Blinson House*, will be preserved and moved from the site. The town is presently seeking a partner to acquire and relocate the house.

# Population Figures Help Determine State and Federal Money: Step Up and Be Counted



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Have you been counted?

Town officials are urging all residents who haven't yet been counted in the 2010 Census to get their filled-out census forms in the mail as soon as possible to help the town get as much federal funding as possible in coming years.

Though the response rate for Clayton residents has improved over the last few weeks, officials believe there are still large numbers here who have not yet been counted. Some, in fact,

may not have received a census form.

If you have yet to receive a Census form in the mail, please give the U.S. Census Bureau a call to request a form or simply give your answers over the telephone. Here is the number to call:

## Telephone Questionnaire Assistance

- **ENGLISH - 1-866-872-6868**
- **Chinese: 1-866-935-2010**
- **Korean: 1-866-955-2010**
- **Russian: 1-866-965-2010**
- **Spanish: 1-866-928-2010**
- **Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010**
- **TDD (Telephone Display Device for the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010**
- **Puerto Rico (in English): 1-866-939-2010**
- **Puerto Rico (in Spanish): 1-866-929-2010**

The deadline for returning census forms has already passed, and census workers have begun going door-to-door to meet personally with those who

haven't responded.

State and federal money to local municipalities is largely based on population figures, and changes after each 10-year census. Other important uses for census data includes:

- determining how many seats the state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- guiding officials on community planning, such as where to build new roads, schools and more.
- guiding the private sector on where to build new shopping centers, housing and other facilities.

"The town stands to lose at least \$400 in federal funding for each resident that goes uncounted," said Mayor Jody McLeod. "If you do the math, you begin to see the seriousness of the problem. We've done so well financially over the last decade, it would be a shame for something like this to set us back. That's why it's so important for every single resident to be counted."

## EXCITING UPDATE: Film Series Prices Have Changed

Ticket prices for the Capital Bank and Parrish, Pulley & Young Wealth Management, Inc. *Lazy Sundays Cinema At The Center* film series have changed since first reported in The Clayton Insider last month. Tickets to each movie in the series, which is presented by The Clayton Center and Ava Gardner Museum of Smithfield, are \$2.50 per person. A series pass, which includes admission to all five movies, is available for just \$10. Call 919-553-1737 for more information.

A vertical poster for the "Lazy Sundays Cinema At The Center" film series. At the top, it says "CAPITAL BANK AND PARRISH, PULLEY &amp; YOUNG WEALTH MANAGEMENT, INC." in small white text. Below that, "lazy sundays" is written in a large, stylized orange font, with "CINEMA AT THE CENTER" in white below it. The text "Summer 2010: Kids Courageous. Five Films Featuring Fearless Kids" is in yellow. A list of movies follows: "ET - JUNE 20", "Bend it Like Beckham - JUNE 27", "Spirited Away - JULY 11", "Whale Rider - JULY 18", and "Incredibles - JULY 25". At the bottom, it says "All films begin at 3 PM", "Admission \$2.50 (includes \$1 service fee)", and "Season Pass - all five movies \$10".