



WE'RE ON A ROLL, AND WE'RE NOT SLOWING DOWN (part 2)

Last month, we talked about three of the town's seven major priorities for the coming year—boosting the local economy, creating an alive downtown and guiding growth toward increased quality.

We came up with these priorities, and what we're going to do to tackle them, after meeting with town staff in extensive planning sessions earlier in the year.

Now, let's take a look at the final four:

EXPANDING LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES

We intend to continue upgrading town parks and adding new ones, but will put more attention this year to festivals, special events and development of the new Clayton Community Center. We also intend to study proposals to locate recreational facilities along the Neuse River to make use of the potential there. Expansion of adult athletic programs is on the agenda, along with an Off-leash Dog Park. Development of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through here and the Sam's Branch Greenway Project will continue. Plans for the future even include an amphitheater, probably near the river.

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION

More public art projects, like the mural at the Clayton Center and the mural in progress at the downtown Library, are in Clayton's future, along with more flowering and flowering shrubs in public

spaces and an upgrade of architectural and design standards. The town also intends to continue offering incentives to upgrade downtown buildings. But along with offering financial assistance, town officials also intend this year to begin stepping up enforcement if property owners refuse to go along with codes and standards, using the town's legal power to force compliance with beautification efforts.

MORE ATTENTION TO THE ARTS

In addition to adding more public art, the town intends to continue its grant funding of individual art projects in an effort to develop a reputation for Clayton as an arts community. Regular, monthly art exhibits at the Clayton Center will continue and effort will be made to add more arts events and festivals to the already growing arts schedule. We may also consider adding a hotel accommodation fee that could raise money for the arts.

CONTINUED FISCAL STRENGTH

We're going to continue the policies and practices that have led to Clayton's reputation as one of the strongest small towns in the country—and one of the most affordable and desirable for raising a family. Town staff will continue to be highly trained, and the infrastructure development that has helped to spur growth will continue. The town will conduct a formal study of its utility



Mayor Jody McLeod

rate structure—including possible incentives for saving energy—this year and continue a transition to automated meter reading. The town has absorbed some small rate increases from our wholesale power supplier recently without passing them on to you, but we won't be able to continue that practice for much longer if costs continue to rise.

Some of the important projects for the coming year include the new Law Enforcement Center downtown, infrastructure for the new Caterpillar Product Design Center, street and sidewalk improvements, upgrading All Star Park, development of the first phase of East Clayton Community Park, the Sam's Branch Greenway project, the Clayton High School Beautification Project and the construction of a downtown "centerpiece."

We realize that we're taking on quite a lot this year, but we're confident we can get it done.

Cinema At The Center Features Five Family Films in June and July-Great Fun for Everyone

Cool off with the kids this summer by taking in a movie on a hot Sunday afternoon. The Clayton Center and the Ava Gardner Museum of Smithfield have teamed up to present *Cinema At The Center*. The theme of the inaugural Summer 2010 series is *Kids Courageous. Five Films Featuring Fearless Kids*.

The series begins with the 1982 Steven Spielberg fantasy adventure *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial* (PG) on Sunday, June 20. It tells the story of Elliott, a lonely boy who befriends a friendly extraterrestrial, dubbed "E.T.", who is stranded on Earth. Elliott and his siblings help the extraterrestrial return home while attempting to keep it hidden from their mother and the government.

On June 27 the series presents *Bend It Like Beckham* (PG13), the 2002 comedy about bending the rules to reach your goal. *Bend It Like Beckham* explores the world

of women's soccer, and tells the timeless story of a young person with a dream that conflicts with the expectations of her family and her community.

Cinema at The Center continues on July 11 with a showing of the 2001 Academy Award winner for Best Animated Film *Spirited Away* (PG). This fantasy adventure is the tale of ten year-old Chihiro. In the middle of a move to the country, she and her family wind up in a mysterious tunnel that leads to the Land of Spirits, inhabited by gods and monsters and ruled by the greedy witch Yu-baba. Chihiro's parents are transformed into pigs, and to rescue them, she must surrender her name and serve in this world. Luckily she finds friends and allies, including the handsome but mysterious boy Haku, to help her. Chihiro must find her inner strength in order to win back her name and return home.

Whale Rider (PG13) is the

fourth film featured in the series on July 18. Set on the east coast of New Zealand, *Whale Rider* is a contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph as a young Maori girl fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize.

The film series closes on July 25 with *The Incredibles* (PG). This 2004 animated action adventure film follows a family of under-cover superheroes who, while trying to live a quiet suburban life, are forced into action to save the world.

All films begin at 3PM. Tickets to individual films are \$4 each, plus service fees. Season passes, which include admission to all five films for just \$20 per person, also are available.

Tickets are available through The Clayton Center Box Office located at 111 E. Second Street in downtown Clayton, by phone at 919-553-1737, or online at www.theclaytoncenter.com.

Town To Unveil Library Mural On June 5

Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library will hold an open house on June 5 in conjunction with Millstock Music & Arts Faire and unveil the Town's latest public art project – a mural celebrating Clayton's history created by local illustrator Jim Brown.

Work on the mural began in early February. The mural is the second piece of public art to be commissioned by the town in as many years. It is located in the corridor adjacent to the library's Reference Room. The corridor connects the library's primary collection with the History Room and the south wing.

The mural project was supported by the Town of Clayton, the Clayton Woman's Club, the Friends of Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library and Clayton Visual Arts.

Brown is a professional artist and art instructor at Johnston County Community College. He is best known for creating the Carolina Hurricanes mural at Duke Children's Hospital.

Town officials unveiled Clayton's first public art project, a mural by artist Dorothy Demboski of town scenes called "Clayton Patchwork," last year in January 2009. The 10-foot by 10-foot painting is featured at the second floor landing of the Clayton Center.



Local artist Jim Brown works on the second piece of art to be commissioned by the Town. The mural is located in a hallway at the library.