



Our Police Department Will Finally Get a New Law Enforcement Center



It's going to take a little more time, but soon our police force will have a building that's as good as they are.

By this time next year, work will probably have gotten started on our new Law Enforcement Center.

It's going to be a nice addition to the downtown area, which is looking better and better all the time. But, of course, the real value in the new complex isn't its looks—and it's going to look great, it's the space and facilities it provides for our police force, which is growing in both size and reputation.

Clayton has one of

the most highly regarded police departments in the state. I'm not sure everyone here is aware of that. A lot of us just know Clayton is safe, and we're confident that if something amiss does happen, we'll have a police officer there quickly to look after things. We pretty much take safety for granted.

That's what happens when a police force does a good job. Things just seem to take care of themselves. But, if you look behind the curtain, you'll see a group of hand-picked officers getting all sorts of advanced training, and led by some of the best managers in the law

enforcement field. As a result, the Department is in the final stages of CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation, which means they're operating at a high level of excellence in a large number of ways that are way too long to list here. The practical result is that index crime (property & violent) is on the decline here even though the population is going up.

They've done great with what they've got, but we know they need more room and better facilities.

Their professionalism is making the old building inadequate.

Former Chief Gary Ragland, who passed away a few weeks ago, helped get the police going in that direction a few years ago, and we're going to miss him. One of the ways we're going to honor him and his service to us is to continue building a police force that's second to none.

The new complex is part of that commitment. It's been on the drawing table for a long time, while folks at police headquarters on Second Street patiently squeezed walls, furniture and people together to make room for more and better. When Town Manager Steve Biggs says the department is "bursting at the seams," he isn't exaggerating. It feels like we've been keeping things together with bailing wire and duct tape for a long time.

It's going to take a little more time, but soon our police force will have a building that's as good as they are—and that will be good for all of us.

The Clayton Center's 2009-2010 Season Offers Variety of Music, Magic and Mirth

An eclectic mix of music, the down-home musings of one of today's hottest comediennes and some spectacular magic are on the schedule for The Clayton Center's 2009-10 performing arts season.

The seventh *Palladian Series* opens on Saturday, Oct. 17, with two shows by bluegrass icon Ricky Skaggs and his band Kentucky Thunder. Skaggs' show will feature songs from his 2009 GRAMMY award winning *Honoring The Fathers Of Bluegrass: Tribute To 1946 and 1947*, as well as those from the multitude of songs he has produced in his 38-year career. Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder will appear at 4 and 8 p.m. It is their first performance in Clayton since 2003.

The 2009-10 *Palladian Series* also brings back to Clayton audience favorite Etta May in her new solo show, *Dr. Etta (Family Specialist)*. Etta May delivers down-home Southern humor in a style all her own on Friday, Jan. 22.

The *Palladian Series* continues on Feb. 13 with a performance by the Canadian "popera" sensation *Destino Tenors*, followed by the fifth annual Blues Bash on Feb. 26. *Blues Bash V: Soul Mates* features The Ruthie Foster Quartet and blues guitarist Eric Bibb.

The season wraps up with two diverse musical shows. Jazz guitarist, band leader and radio host John Pizzarelli performs his brand of jazz peppered with pop and swing on March 26, while 2008 Americana Music Award's Emerging Artist of the Year, Mike Farris and the Roseland Rhythm Review, close out the season with a roof-raising, boogie stew of gospel and soul on April 10.

In addition to the *Palladian Series*, The Clayton Center will offer a special Sunday afternoon event on Nov. 15. *The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion* is a fun, family show filled with never-before-seen-illusion – original magical creations designed exclusively for these modern-day Houdinis.

Season tickets for the *Palladian Series*, which are \$125, are available for purchase. Individual tickets for performances range from \$15 to \$29 and go on sale Aug. 27.

Tickets may be purchased by phone at 919-553-1737, at The Clayton Center Box Office from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1 until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or online at www.theclaytoncenter.com.

Other popular artists presented in past seasons at The Clayton Center include Kathy Mattea, Johnny Winter, Jesse Cook, Jim Brickman, Doc Watson, Eileen Ivers, Riders In the Sky, the Harlem Gospel Choir and David Sedaris.



2009-2010 Clayton Center Season At A Glance

Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky
Thunder
Sat. Oct. 17 • 4pm & 8pm

Spencers: Theater of Illusion
Sun. Nov. 15 • 4pm

Dr. Etta (Family Specialist)
Fri. Jan. 22 • 8pm

Blues Bash V: Soul Mates
Featuring Eric Bibb and
Ruthie Foster
Fri. Feb. 26 • 8pm

Destino
Sat. Feb. 13 • 8pm

John Pizzarelli
Fri. Mar. 26 • 8pm

Mike Farris & the Roseland
Rhythm Review
Sat. Apr. 10 • 8pm