



The Rooks Report

many people, one community...putting Clayton First

December 2015

Volume III, Issue XI

Let's talk about Economic Development!

**"First Saturday Talk," December 5, 2015 at
South Clayton Recreation Center 10am—12pm.**

What's On Your Mind?

- Please share with us any stories or items that you would like to have put into this newsletter.
- We want your comments about what we are doing for you here in the district. Please provide us your positive feedback and we will post them in this newsletter (see our comments section on page 23).



Shana M. Rooks
Clayton County Commissioner—District 3

Dear Constituents:

As I near the end of my third year in office, I look back on the number of accomplishments we've made as a county since my arrival on the Board of Commissioners. My decision to seek office was availing myself to God's will on my life. Like many of you, I love my community, I purposefully purchased a home in Clayton and I wanted to see it prosper and excel. Those were always my prayers for our community. It just so happened that God tapped me on the shoulder and told me to go forward and surrender to public service

as your County Commissioner. I am so pleased that I listened and surrendered; what a difference it has been to my life and the community as a whole.

You all have been a blessing to me and I am blessed to have been able to serve you. I pray that you too find what it is you are led to do and do it with conviction and vigor. We all have a role to play in the development and direction of our county. As God continues to direct my path, I will continue to be a servant leader in Clayton County. During this holiday season, I pray God's blessings on you and your family.

In Service,

Shana M. Rooks, Esq.

In this issue:

Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway 2

Community Servants Day 4

Small Local Business Enterprise Opportunity 14

River's Edge Trail Ribbon Cutting 19



Thank you Community Outreach in Action, Inc. for partnering with me to give away 85 Thanksgiving Baskets!





Is Clayton County A “Sanctuary County?”

A Message from the Sheriff's Office

Many of our citizens are concerned about this matter and unfortunately, the information is inaccurate.

Clayton County and the Office of the Sheriff, work in full cooperation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to remove individuals who are in the country illegally. The term “sanctuary city or county” is not a self designation or legal

terminology that is used and quite frankly is inaccurate and misleading.

The Clayton County Sheriff's office is an active participant in ICEs' Safe Communities Program, which prioritizes efforts to identify and remove criminal aliens and others who pose a potential threat to public safety. Secure Communities along with the Sheriff's Office use an already-existing federal information-sharing partnership to identify and remove aliens who pose a threat to public safety. Once an individual is in our custody, we notify ICE in order to obtain a valid warrant to keep them detained. However, municipal funds are not allowed to be used to enforce federal immigration laws. Our agency will detain any individual with a valid warrant. An ICE detainer is simply a request to hold an individual, and unfortunately, without a valid warrant issued by the federal government, our policy does not allow us to detain them further. Our hope and expectation is that the warrant be provided by ICE and the individual be taken into their custody/jurisdiction for extradition.

Clayton County is not an enforcement free zone where illegal immigrants can hide from federal officials. It is our continued mission to uphold and enforce the law and keep Clayton County safe. Should you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact 678-479-5398.

Community Servants Day





Clayton County
Senior Services
Department
Changing the face of aging

J Charley Griswell Senior Center
2300 Highway 138 SE | Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3499 main | 770-477-3491 fax
Mondays 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Special Events

GRISWELL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE "DREAMING IN PARIS"

Send your friends a postcard from Paris, France! Experience a magical evening as the Griswell Center transports you to Paris. Enjoy a delicious meal, fantastic music and dance the night away. This is a semi-formal event.

Saturday, December 5th from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

HOLIDAY CHEERS

Come join us for a day of celebration and holiday cheers. This joyful event will feature light refreshments, interactive games and door prizes.

Tuesday, December 15th from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Education/Enrichment Classes

BASIC COMPUTER

Instructor: Staff

Mondays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Instructor: Stanley Coleman

Do you ever wonder how you can show all of your photos? This class will teach you how to make a digital film using your treasured photos.

Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

CERAMICS

Instructor: Gail Humphrey

Learn how to design, paint and personalize your own piece.

Mondays from 9:30 am - 11:30 am

QUILTING

Instructor: Staff

Mondays from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesdays - Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tuesdays - Fridays from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Fitness Classes

BASIC STEP AEROBICS

Instructor: Dione Carroll

Would you like to learn the basic step moves? Then this is the class for you! This interactive class will teach students how to safely use the platform steps.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 am - 10:00 am

BEGIN SWIM

Instructor: Jackie Fears

Learn how to overcome your fear of water and swim like a pro.

Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am - 10:00 am

AQUA SCULPTING

Instructor: Johnny Furlow

Experience building muscular strength and endurance in this fast paced class. Use resistance equipment such as tubing, hand buoys, and medicine balls for upper and lower body.

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

CARDIO FITNESS

Instructor: Gabriella Harden

Come and experience an aerobic exercise workout for total body fitness.

Mondays from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fridays from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

DANCERCISE

Instructor: Staff

Enjoy a full body workout while you dance. Exercise to oldies but goodies while learning the latest dances.

Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 10:45 am

LAND ARTHRITIS EXERCISE

Instructor: Staff

Increase your range of motion, strength and endurance in this class designed according to the Arthritis Association Foundation.

Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Trips

MALL OF GEORGIA

Get all your Christmas shopping done at Georgia's largest mall, the Mall of Georgia in Buford. Have a tour and receive coupons for shopping. Then, enjoy lunch on your own at the food court while you are there.

Wednesday, December 2nd from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

FANTASY IN LIGHTS: CALLAWAY GARDENS

Calloway Gardens Fantasy in Lights has a stunning light show known as the South's most fascinating light and sound show. Included is a southern-style buffet dinner for your enjoyment.

Wednesday, December 9th from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

CREEK CASINO: WETUMPKA, AL

Come to Creek Casino and see if you can win big money! Receive \$15.00 meal voucher while you are there. Lunch is on your own at the Casino.

Thursday, December 17th from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Dreaming in Paris

Annual Christmas Dance

Saturday, December 5, 2015

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

*J Charley Griswell
Senior Center*

Tickets \$12

*Call 770-477-3499 for
more information.*





Clayton County
Senior Services
Department
changing the face of aging

Frank Bailey Senior Center
6213 Riverdale Road | Riverdale, GA 30274
678-479-5505 main | 678-479-5522 fax
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursdays 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Special Events

CHRISTMAS DANCE – “WINTER FROST”

Come and enjoy this beautiful event and experience winter with Frank Bailey. It'll be a winter to remember.

Saturday, December 12th from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

KWANZAA

Join us as we highlight Kwanzaa

Monday, December 28th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fitness Classes

AQUA FITNESS

Instructor: Noreen Rogers

Enjoy a low impact fun workout in our heated pool.

Wednesdays from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

BEGINNERS LINE DANCE

Instructor: Joycelyn Benham

This is a class for beginners with repeated steps in which a group of people dance in one or more rows.

Thursdays from 10:00 am – 11:00 am

TAI CHI

Instructor: Harvey Robbins

Tai chi involves a series of movements performed in a slow, focused manner and accompanied by deep breathing.

Mondays -Thursdays from 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Arts/Educational Classes

COMPUTER KEYBOARDING

Instructor: Staff

Learn the basic steps for operating a computer.

Thursdays from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

COMPUTER WITH TONY

Instructor: Tony Antoine

Learn how to operate Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint, how to e-mail, use digital images and surf the Internet.

Check Center Calendar for schedule

Trips

CALLANWOLDE FINE ARTS CENTER

On this trip you'll enjoy seeing the seasonally decorated Fine Arts Center in Atlanta as you view the beautiful art work. Afterwards lunch will be at Panera Bread.

Thursday, December 3rd from 10:30 am – 5:00 pm

MALL OF GEORGIA & LANIER LIGHTS

We'll shop at the Mall of Georgia and then enjoy Christmas lights at Lake Lanier.

Tuesday, December 8th from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

NEW HOPE CHURCH

Join us on our annual visit to New Hope Church for a Christmas Play.

Friday, December 11th from 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Visit Us Online!

Have you been to our website yet?

- Members can register online for classes, trips, and special events
- See our calendar for upcoming events
- View the latest addition of our magazine Clayton Forever Young



Clayton County
Senior Services
Department

Changing the face of aging

www.ClaytonSeniors.com

Winter Frost

Christmas Dance

Saturday, December 12, 2015
6pm - 10pm
Frank Bailey Senior Center
\$12

Call 678-479-5505 for more information.

www.claytonseniors.com

www.facebook.com/claytonseniors

twitter.com/Claytonseniors



Clayton County
Senior Services
Department
changing the face of aging

Kinship Resource Center
849 Batle Creek Road | Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-473-5788 main | 770-477-3421 fax
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program

Classes for Adults

UNDER THE SEA

The theme is Sea Life! Kinship adults will create a Gel Wax Candle. Using a variety of sea shells, fish, sand, and gel wax.

Adults: Wednesday, December 16th
from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Classes for Youths/Teens

GONE HOG WILD

Kinship will provide ceramic piggy banks for the preschoolers to decorate and start them on a great life's journey on who to save money.

Preschoolers: Friday, December 11th
from 9:00 am – 12 noon

CRAFT STICK SNOWFLAKES

Come out and create decorations to make your home sparkle like winter snow!

Youth: Wednesday, December 16th
from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas crafts made edible. Let's make Christmas cones that look and taste good!

Teens: Wednesday, December 16th
from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Trips

SCLC W.O.M.E.N.S SENIOR LUNCHEON

Kinship caregivers attend an annual Christmas party hosted by SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc. It is an event with music, singing, dancing, door prizes, food and more.

Adults: Tuesday, December 8th
from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm





If You See Something, Say Something...

The ultimate goal of commercial code enforcement is to preserve and improve the physical, social and economic health of the businesses operating within unincorporated Clayton County, GA. The result will be an improved quality of life for residents, patrons and business owners.

The Objectives of Clayton County's Commercial Code Enforcement are:

- To enforce current State Law and local ordinances from the Official Code of Clayton County – Quality of Life Codes and the International Property Maintenance Codes (as adopted).
- Enforcement primarily focused in the following areas:
 - Business license inspections
 - Exterior landscape maintenance
 - Exterior structure appearance / safety & health issues
 - Improper trash / rubbish disposal
 - To maintain a tracking system of enforcement
- To work in collaboration with Community Development and Refuse Control

Code Enforcement is open Monday – Saturday 8am to 4pm and can be reached by phone at 678-610-4755 or email at code.enforcement@co.clayton.ga.us.



**Stay informed with Clayton County
Sheriff Department Updates**

Text charges may apply, check with your cell phone provider

Text "ccsoga" to 888777.

“PowerTOWN

Electricity is an important part of our lives. It's all around us, every day. It makes our lives more comfortable and our jobs easier. In fact, we sometimes take electricity for granted and forget it is a powerful force that deserves our respect, with the potential to cause serious injury and sometimes even death.



We want you to have all the information you need to safely live and work where electricity is present. Our electrical safety programs can help you learn more about how to stay safe around electricity.



PowerTOWN is an electrical safety program for students, youth groups, emergency personnel, contractors, adult groups and other organizations. PowerTown uses a model to demonstrate real-life scenarios involving electricity and explain how to stay safe in these situations.

PowerTOWN is free and can be arranged to come to your location (within the areas we serve). Presenters will bring everything they need to engage the group in an active demonstration of electrical safety. All you need to provide is an electrical outlet.

PowerTOWN may be scheduled at a date and time convenient for your group by calling 404-506-2893 or 404-506-7562. The program typically lasts 30–60 minutes, depending on questions.”

<http://www.georgiapower.com/in-your-community/electric-safety/safety-programs.cshtml>

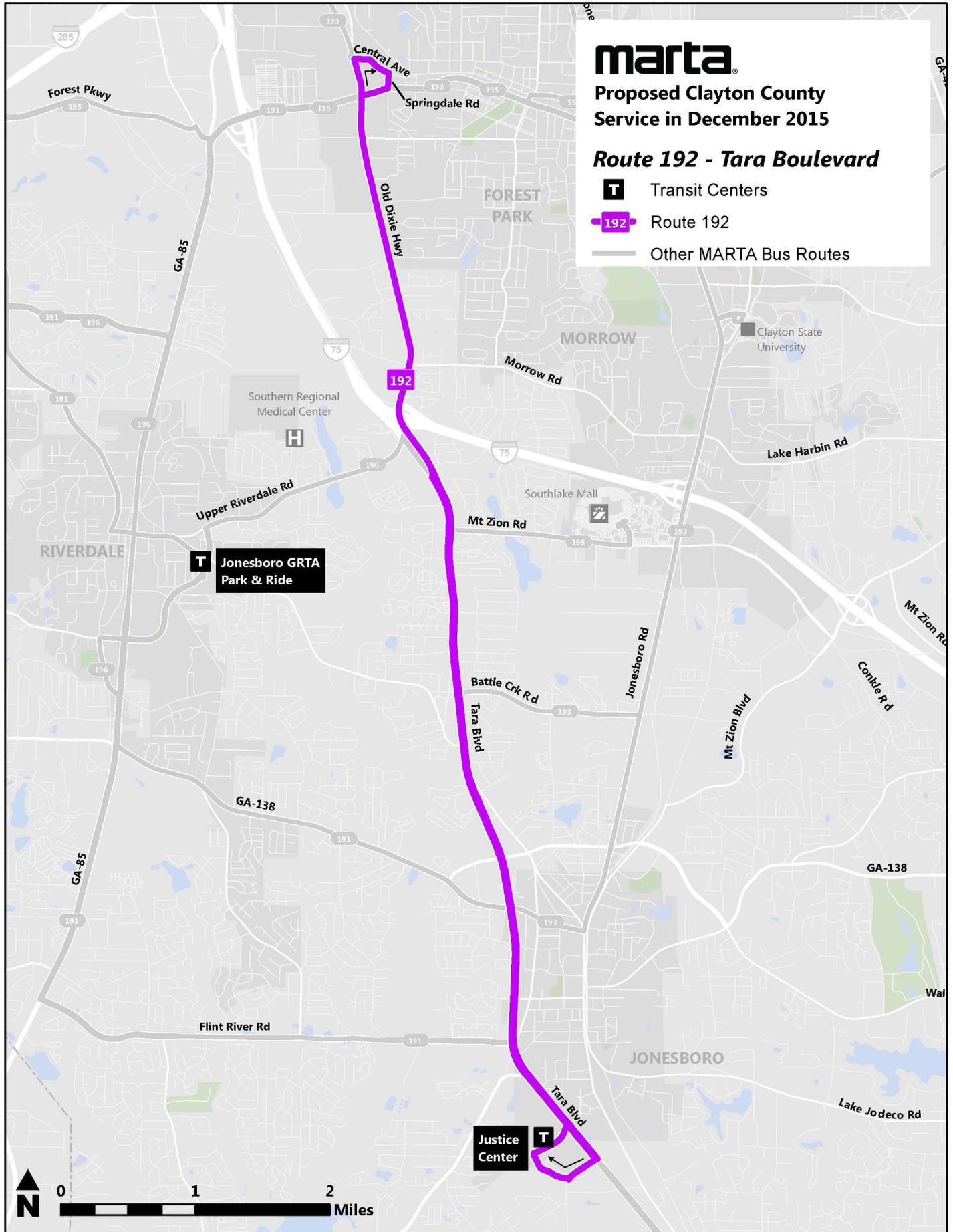
MARTA's Third Phase of Expansion into Clayton County

marta

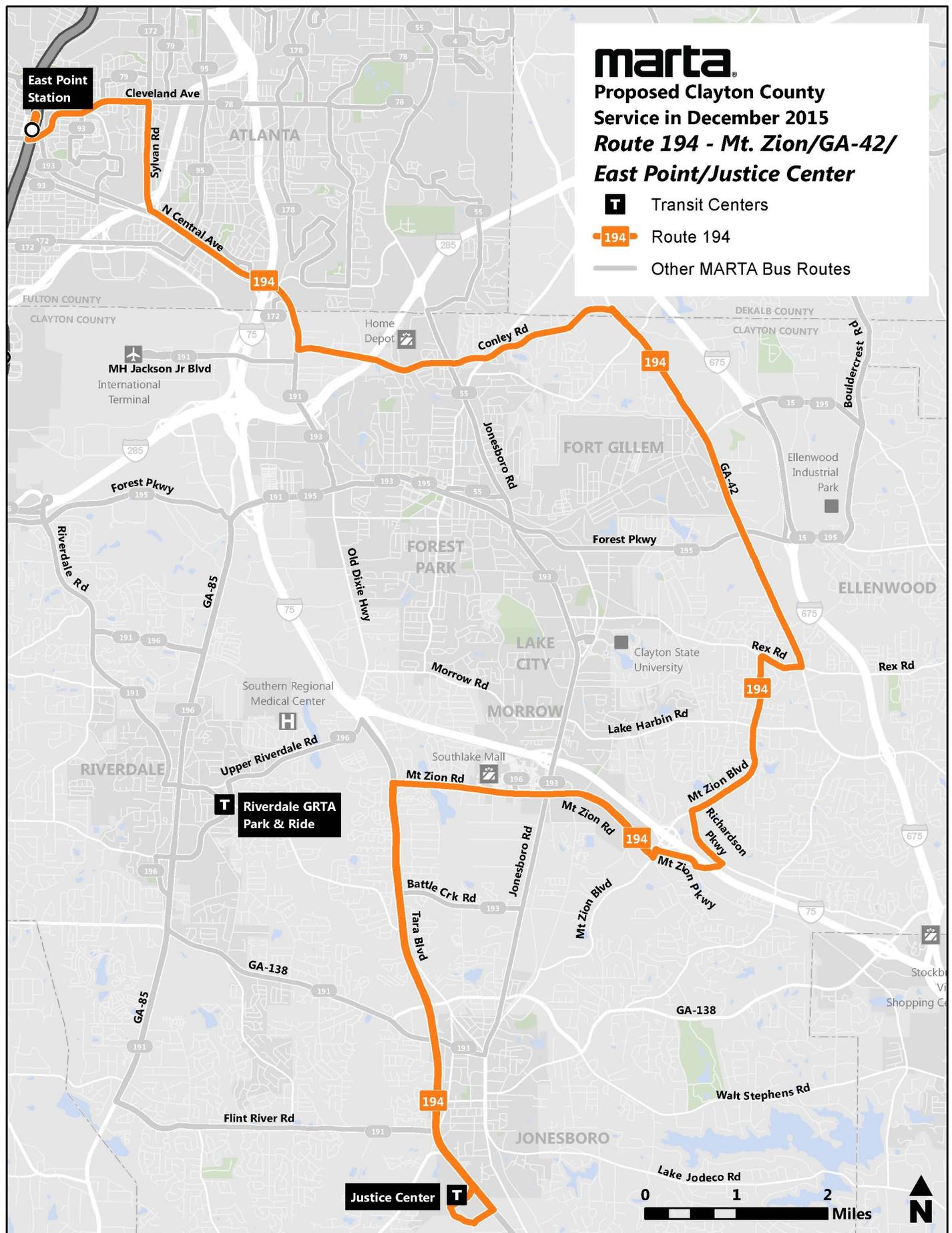
**Proposed Clayton County
Service in December 2015**

Route 192 - Tara Boulevard

- T** Transit Centers
- 192** Route 192
- Other MARTA Bus Routes



MARTA's Third Phase of Expansion into Clayton County





CCWA has conducted a successful Small Business Social Mixer held November 12th in partnership with Commissioner Rooks. There were over 60 guests in attendance including several members of CCWA Board of Directors, CCWA staff, vendors, small local businesses, Clayton County staff and members of Commissioner Rook's office were also present.

The last Small Business Workshop of the year was held on November 12th. Workshops will resume in the new year beginning January 14th at 9 a.m. at the CCWA Marie Barber Community Use Room, 1600 Battlecreek Road, Morrow, GA 30260. To register for workshops please visit www.ccwa.us or email ccwa_slbe_program@ccwa.us.

CCWA has announced an increase in Small Local Business Program revenue limits to allow for more small businesses to qualify for the program. The new criteria is as follows:

The three-year average annual gross receipts must not exceed:

Construction Firms	\$18,250,000
Professional Services Firms	\$5,500,000
Architectural Firms	\$3,750,000
Engineering Firms	\$7,500,000
Goods & Services Suppliers	Less than 250 employees



Community Development

Clayton County Community Development is now processing business license/occupational tax certificate renewals on-line. Please see below for information and instructions.

The Clayton County 2016 Occupational Tax Certificate renewal application and support documents are available in our office or you may visit <http://goo.gl/pq64lf> to download and complete the application.

The following are required for renewal:

- Completed application
- Notarized SAVE affidavit
- Notarized E-VERIFY affidavit
- Any applicable state, local and professional licenses

Application and supporting documents can be submitted online at: <http://weba.co.clayton.ga.us/BusinessLicenseRenewal>

Online submittal will expedite the renewal process.

Alternatively, documentation can be submitted via mail or in person to the address below:

Clayton County Community Development
Permits and License
121 South McDonough Street
Annex 2
Jonesboro, GA 30236

Please submit renewal license application by **February 15, 2016** to prevent delay in processing your application. After your renewal application is processed, an invoice will be mailed to the listed mailing address. Penalty and interest will be applied after **March 31, 2016**. Once your payment is processed the license will be mailed within seven (7) business days.

To contact a representative in our office please call: 770-473-3569



December 4, 2015

TR JINGLE BALL - TR Participants will dance and socialize from 7-9pm at the VIP Complex at Clayton County International Park. FREE Event.

December 11, 2015

Friday Night Block Party and Dance Showcase - In conjunction with the G.I.R.L.S. Mentoring Program the ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop dance class will provide a night full of dance for the parents and community. This event will be held from 6:30-8:30pm at the Jim Huie Recreation Center. This event is FREE.

December 11, 2015

YULE LOG CELEBRATION - Join us for an evening outdoors filled with holiday cheer. Enjoy music by the Morrow and Forest Park High School Orchestras, refreshments, face painting and ornament making. The follow a candlelit path through the woods to a bonfire where you will find storyteller Barry Mann painting pictures of holidays past. The evening will be complete with attending children searching a wooded hillside for the fables Yule Log. This event is FREE.

December 12, 2015

BRUNCH WITH SANTA - Interact with Santa and enjoy games, arts & crafts, and breakfast from Chickfila from 11am-2pm at Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center.

December 18, 2015

CROSS CULTURAL WINTER CELEBRATION - This program will increase awareness of how the holiday season is celebrated in various cultures, such as Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanza. Story teller, arts & crafts, games, and light refreshments will be provided. FREE event from 6:00 to 8:00pm at Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center.



POOL TEMPORARILY CLOSED IN DECEMBER

Steve Lundquist Aquatics Center Pool will be closed December 7, 2015- January 3, 2016

CLAYTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WINTER BREAK OPERATING HOURS

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY	11/25/15	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
THURSDAY	11/26/15	County Closed - Thanksgiving Day
FRIDAY	11/27/15	County Closed
SATURDAY	11/28/15	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

DECEMBER

THURSDAY	12/24/15	County Closed - Christmas Eve
FRIDAY	12/25/15	County Closed - Christmas Day
SATURDAY	12/26/15	9:00 am – 1:00pm

JANUARY

THURSDAY	12/31/15	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
FRIDAY	1/1/16	County Closed - New Year's Day
SATURDAY	1/2/16	9:00am - 1:00pm
MONDAY	1/18/16	County Closed - Martin Luther King Holiday



“We connect communities through people parks and programs”

FREE EVENT

Shuttle Service from 5711 Jonesboro Road,
Lake City, Georgia (former Ingles Supermarket)

Yule Log Celebration



Free Event!

December 11, 2015

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Join us for an evening of live music,
refreshments and good cheer as we
follow a candlelit path through the
woods to a bonfire for a live theatrical
performance and a search for
the fabled Yule Log.



www.claytonparks.com

Reynolds Nature Preserve
5665 Reynolds Road
Morrow, Georgia 30260
770-603-4188

River's Edge Walking Trail Ribbon Cutting





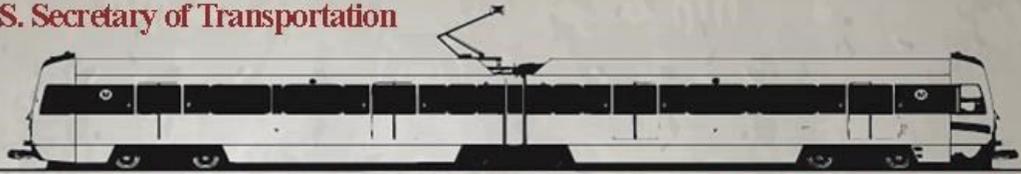
Clayton County Board of Commissioners

and the



Invited Guest: Mr. Anthony Foxx
U. S. Secretary of Transportation

2015



TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

EnVisioning the Future of Transit in Clayton County and the Metro Atlanta Region

Saturday, December 5th, 2015 10am - 4pm



We want to look back at the Montgomery Bus Boycott and how it helped Friends of Clayton Transit become successful in our efforts. What we learned from those brave pioneers and how we used their tactics and approach.



On December 12th, MARTA will add an additional 4 more routes to compliment our bus service in Clayton County. While a celebration is appropriate, this is also a good time to pay homage to Mrs. Rosa Parks and the movement she started by simply sitting down. This summit is designed to bring together the most renowned transportation advocates, developers, land use teams, and experts to share the vision for the dramatic possibilities and opportunities available to us.



Now that the buses are rolling in Clayton County, what do we look forward to next? High Speed Rail, Bus Rapid Transit? Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)?



With the Deepening of the Savannah Port, is it likely that the Commuter Rail that has been on the books for decades is needed now more than ever? Will that project receive a higher priority rating?



How do we build a progressive innovative team of transit advocates, supporters, developers, and transit officials to begin drafting blueprints and laying out potential plan for TOD projects?

Preview the Documentary Film
"Walking: The Long Road to Clayton Transit"



Admission Free — Reservations Required
For More Details: Visit Friends of Clayton Transit
(678) 480-0979

COMMEMORATING the 60th ANNIVERSARY of the MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Riverdale Town Centre — 7200 Church St.
Riverdale, Georgia 30274

Comments

Dear Commissioner Rooks

Thank you for the Thanksgiving Basket. I appreciate all the work you do on behalf of the county, in particular the 3rd district. A special thanks to Mr. VanDyke for his professionalism. Joyce

Thank you all for the items for Thanksgivings dinner, I sure appreciate it. Thank you again. Marlene

Thank you Shana and Steven! Blessings to you and yours! Chaplain Crystal



Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services is pleased to announce the hiring of the FIRST Community Treatment Nurse Practitioner to be hired by a County Fire Department in the Country!!!

We have just extended an offer of employment to Ms. Shamekia Tucker, RN, NP. Ms. Tucker holds BS in Nursing from South University in Savannah, which is one of the premier nursing programs in the state. Ms. Tucker also completed her Masters Degree from South University where she obtained her Nurse Practitioner Certification.

Ms. Tucker has a wealth of healthcare experience including management experience in several Metro Emergency Departments, as well as, Pediatric Trauma Experience from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Most exciting is Ms. Tucker is a resident of Clayton County and currently resides in Jonesboro. Ms. Tucker is finishing a 3 week contract job at a hospital in DC and then will return to start her career with CCFES.

Please join me in welcoming Shamekia and thank you for supporting this initiative and helping place Clayton County in the history books!!!!





Clayton County Government Contact Numbers

(Here are some of our most requested numbers or services)

Animal Control	770-477-3509	Police/South Precinct	770-347-0260
Better Business Bureau	404-766-0875	Refuse Control (handles certain debris and trash on streets, removes dead animals from County roads)	770-477-3548
Board of Commissioners	770-477-3208	Senior Services	770-603-4050
Code Enforcement	678-610-4755	Sheriff (Non-Emergency)	770-471-1122
Community Development	770-477-3569	So. Regional Medical Center	770-991-8000
DFACS	770-473-2300	Tag Office	770-477-3331
Economic Development	770-477-4450	Tax Assessor (Prop .Values)	770-477-3285
Emergency	911	Tax Commissioner (Tax Bills)	770-477-3311
Health Department	678-610-7199	Transportation & Development (Public Works, Road Department/Pot Holes/Traffic Engineering)	770-477-3674
Parks and Recreation	770-477-3766	Water Authority	770-960-5200
Planning and Zoning	770-477-3577		

Connect with us on



[Click Here To Follow Commissioner Rooks](#)



[Click Here To Follow Commissioner Rooks](#)

@commish_rooks

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

AS A RESIDENT OF CLAYTON COUNTY DISTRICT 3, YOU MAY BE FACED WITH CONCERNS OR ISSUES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDRESSED.

WE WORK WITH OUR CITIZENS TO RESOLVE CONCERNS INVOLVING COUNTY GOVERNMENT, EXPLAIN COUNTY PROGRAMS, EXPEDITE GOVERNMENT ACTION AND SERVE AS LIAISON BETWEEN OUR DEPARTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC.

HOURS OF OPERATION
8AM-5PM (M-F)

Questions/Concerns/Comments

Please contact :

Steven VanDyke - Constituent Aide

Phone: 770-473-5465

Email:

steven.vandyke@claytoncountyga.gov

Please contact us to be added or removed from our email list.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday evening of the month at 7pm .

112 Smith Street

Jonesboro, GA 30236

770) 477-3208

The Next First Saturday Talk

December 5, 2015

South Clayton Recreation Center

1837 McDonough Rd. , Hampton GA 30228

10:00 am—12:00 pm

Clayton County Government's Top Five Communication Resources

- Website** www.ClaytonCountyGa.gov
- CCTV-23** Clayton County Access Television Comcast Channel 23
- Mobile Community** Text the word "CLAYTON" to 22828 to receive monthly emails
- Facebook** [Facebook.com/ClaytonCountyGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/ClaytonCountyGeorgia) #claytoncountyga
- Twitter** [Twitter.com/ClaytonCountyGa](https://twitter.com/ClaytonCountyGa) #claytoncountyga

CONNECT
with Clayton County Government (770) 477-3208