



The Rooks Report

many people...one community

February 2014

Volume 11, Issue 1

Let's talk about it!

**"First Saturday Talk," March 22, 2014 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 17).



Shana M. Rooks,
Clayton County Commissioner—District 3

Hello District 3:

We've had an active year thus far. We are coming off of a horrendous snow storm where more than 35,000 Clayton residents lost power. (There are still several hundred people still without power.) We have been in conference with Georgia Power over the last couple of days to identify the problems and assist our constituents. The county has been "closed" for two days this week. This runs on the heels of yet another closure from two weeks ago. I am hopeful that the next time we face such a debilitating storm we won't suffer like we have this week.

Clayton County continues to improve our public transparency. We have held several SPLOST related meetings for public input on how to spend future tax payer dollars. (You'll find further information about the current SPLOST's in this newsletter.) On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, the BOC will vote on those projects to be added to the SPLOST referendum in May. The Board Meeting begins at 7:00PM. I hope to see you there.

Our next Saturday Meeting will be Saturday, March 22, 2014. All meetings this year will be held at the South Clayton Recreation Center.

In Service,

Shana M. Rooks, Esq.

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SPLOST Program Update

As a citizen of Clayton County, it is important for you to remain informed and truly understand how we put your pennies to work. Be sure to visit www.claytonsplost.com to stay updated and to read information about how your pennies have contributed to successful projects throughout the county.

SPLOST is an acronym for **S**pecial **P**urpose **L**ocal **O**ption **S**ales **T**ax. It is designed to allow voters to have a voice in projects and equipment purchases they would like to see funded within their county. If approved, it provides a one penny sales tax that can only be used for projects outlined on the ballot.

Unlike property tax, it is based on use and paid by all county residents and visitors who also benefit from the projects or equipment. The SPLOST is not a new tax, but the renewal of ongoing funding for long term capital improvements in Clayton County which helps reduce the amount of property tax used to fund equipment and capital improvements.

Things to Consider for Your SPLOST Program

- Clayton County voters approved a tax program that we refer to as the 2004 and 2009 SPLOST Program.
- A successful program is a combination of the overall operation and management of various projects AND collecting the tax dollars over the life of the program, which can be 5 or 6 years.
 - ◇ The 2004 SPLOST collections began January 1, 2004 and ended December 31, 2008. The estimated 2004 SPLOST collections were \$240,000,000. Since the qualified municipalities and the County did not have an agreement, the collection period was 5 years.
 - ◇ The 2009 SPLOST collections began January 1, 2009 and are projected to end once the estimated collections value is realized or on December 31, 2014. Clayton County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with all qualified municipalities allowing for six (6) years or 24 calendar quarters of collections. At the time of approval, the estimated 2009 SPLOST collections were \$305,000,000. However, due to the economic environment during the recession, there is an anticipated \$26 million shortfall in collections at this time.
- Although the County collects tax dollars over a 5 or 6 year time period, some projects are completed within that timeframe, while other projects will not be complete until years later.
- Due to recent economic challenges of all government entities, the ability to operate facilities and programs will require other funding sources to ensure a successful completion of the projects listed on the ballot.

Thanks for your pennies... WE DID IT!!!!



Below is a list of projects that your pennies paid for....

2004 SPLOST Program

Successes:

Parks & Recreation:

- Charley Griswell Senior Center
- Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center
- Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center
- Steve Lundquist Aquatics Center
- Jim Huie Recreation Center
- South Clayton Recreation Center
- New Playground Equipment for (9) Parks
- Field Improvements and Lighting



Transportation (visit www.claytonsplost.com for more details)

- Roadway Improvements/Widening's
- Intersection Improvements
- Sidewalk Additions
- Bridges/Stormwater/Drainage Improvements
- Resurfacing/Roadway Repairs
- Safety Improvements
 - Traffic Signals
 - Pavement Markings
 - Road Signs
 - Guardrail
 - Miscellaneous – Flashers
 - ⇒ Pedestrian/School Access Studies
 - ⇒ Railroad Crossing Improvements

2009 SPLOST Program

Successes

Juvenile Justice Center

Public Safety

- SW Police Precinct
- (20) Police Vehicles
- (11) Fire Vehicle

Library Improvements

- Forest Park Library
- Renovations/Improvements to existing Libraries – Computer Lab



To learn more, please make time to visit www.claytonsplost.com to watch the videos, view the calendar and also submit recommendations for ways we can prepare for a better tomorrow, in Clayton County.



What happens after I file my complaint/request? What do you do? How long does it take? Do you contact me afterwards?

The Clayton County Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit investigates every complaint received, in person, by telephone, email or by Code Enforcement Officers personally observing a Quality of Life Ordinance Violation. Generally, an investigation begins within 72 hours of receipt, not including Sundays or Holidays Observed pursuant to Clayton County Resolutions. The activity or alleged violation would need to be observed, confirmed or determined through subsequent inspections conducted by a Code Enforcement Official. Complaints are generally prioritized by receipt, however, complaints are also prioritized by significance in cases of health, safety and environment.

Research is conducted to identify ownership of the property, the name(s) of occupants and/or mortgage information. This research may include but is not limited to County, State and/or Utility records for the purpose of determining the party responsible for the upkeep of the property. The various adopted Quality of Life Ordinances and International Property Maintenance Codes are applied. If a violation exists, the property owner is contacted by personal service and by way of a certified letter mailed through the US Postal Service to inform the responsible person(s) and/or entities of the violation(s). Compliance solutions are reviewed and scheduled. Magistrate Court Summons may be issued and penalties assessed by a Magistrate Court Judge may include fines, restitution to satisfy liens, and/or jail time imposed.

The time to resolve a violation depends on the complexity of the situation. The property owner's competence, resources and level of cooperation are also time factors in achieving compliance. Such compliance can be best achieved through open communication between the Code Enforcement Unit and the person filing the complaint. Therefore, Code Enforcement may ask you to provide them with your contact information such as a telephone number or email address for the purpose of obtaining additional information at any stage of the investigation. Although Code Enforcement encourages complainants to provide their contact information, it is not required and if you choose to remain anonymous you may do so.

Stay informed with Clayton County Sheriff Department Updates

Text charges may apply, check with your cell phone provider

Text "ccsoga" to 888777.

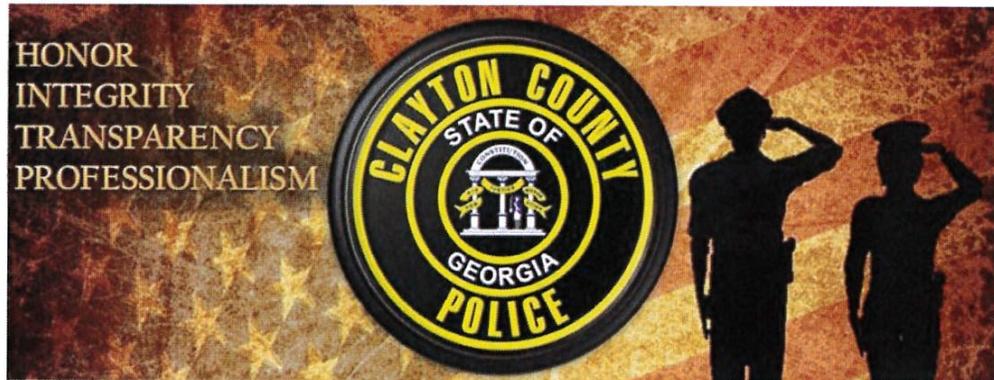


CLAYTON COUNTY POLICE
CRIME TIPS

- MAKE ANONYMOUS TIPS
- GET LAW ENFORCEMENT TEXTS & EMAIL ALERTS
- GET THE FREE APP FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE!

WWW.CLAYTONPOLICE.COM

CLAYTON COUNTY CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY



Clayton County Police Department is holding it's
19th Citizens Police Academy . Please come and
learn about your police department and county.

DATES: STARTING EVERY MONDAY FEBRUARY 24
THRU MAY 5, 2014

TIME: 6:30P.M.—8:30 P.M.

Where: 7911 N. McDonough St.

(Clayton County Police Headquarters Community Room)

For further info contact: Officer Charlene Watson-Fraser

(770) 472 - 8027 or Charlene.watson-fraser@co.clayton.ga.us



Neighborhood Safety Tips

Know Your Neighbors:

- Know their name(s)
- Where they live
- Who lives in the home
- Phone numbers/emergency contact
- Vehicles they drive
- If they have regular maintenance workers (example - lawn care services)

What to Look For – Suspicious People:

- Loitering/Unusual grouping
- Behaving strangely/Carrying household items
- Anyone with a weapon
- Going door to door/Going behind houses
- Selling items very cheap or from a vehicle
- Wearing season inappropriate or oversized clothing

What to Look For – Suspicious Vehicles:

- Slow moving
- Parked & occupied
- Abandoned
- Unattended & running
- Driving with lights off at night
- Being loaded with household items
- Parked with household items or weapons inside
- Removing parts from vehicle
- Forcibly entering a locked vehicle
- Unknown vehicle at a known resident's house

What to Listen For – Suspicious Sounds:

- Cries for help or screaming
- Gun fire
- House or vehicle alarms
- Breaking glass
- Dogs barking (unusual to their normal behavior)

Home Security:

- Solid core or metal exterior doors
- Wide angle viewer (peep hole) on all exterior doors
- Dead bolts that go into the door frame (not just the trim)
- Keep all windows and doors locked (upstairs too)
- House numbers visible from the street
- Do not hide a key – leave with a trusted person
- Keep shrubbery trimmed
- Motion detector lighting/Dusk to Dawn lighting
- Set timers on interior lights
- Shatter safe film on windows and glass doors
- Place dowels on sliding windows and doors
- Set your alarm system every time you leave
- Record serial numbers of all valuables
- Take picture of valuables that do not have serial numbers (example: jewelry)
- Keep valuables out of view from windows
- Keep windows clean (better chance of getting fingerprints if you are victimized)
- Keep doors locked at all times – even when you are home

Vehicle Security:

- Do not leave a key in your vehicle or hide a key outside
- Keep locked at all times
- Remove all valuables (purse, GPS, camera, Ipad, computer)
- Do not leave vehicle unattended when running – even if locked
- Close windows completely
- Keep vehicle registration papers and title in a safe place – NOT in vehicle
- Park inside garage if possible – if not park close to house

Remember:

- ✚ If you see something that looks suspicious to you, call **9-1-1** immediately.
- ✚ For non-emergency police service, call 770-477-3550.

Clayton County Police Crime Tips

- Make anonymous Tips.
- Get Law Enforcement Texts & Email Alerts.
- Get the FREE APP for your Smartphone!
- Go to www.claytonpolice.com to sign up.

Tips to Prevent and Thaw Frozen Pipes



If you see water running down a street, please contact CCWA immediately at 770.960.5200 to report the possible line break or leak.

Being prepared and informed may help you to avoid the messy and often expensive issue of frozen pipes. The following information and suggestions can help prevent water pipes in the home from freezing, and how to thaw them if they do freeze.

Know where the main water valve shut off is for your home. This valve is often found in a crawl space or basement on the wall near the front outside spigot or in homes on a slab near the hot water heater. If you have a pipe burst inside your home, immediately close this valve to shut off the water supply and help prevent further water damage.

Why Pipe Freezing is a Problem

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the "strength" of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of these water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.
- Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide

significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

During Cold Weather, Take Preventative Action

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

To Thaw Frozen Pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

Future Protection

- Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing.
- Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled.
- Add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.
- For more information, please contact a licensed plumber or building professional.

Source: The American Red Cross

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ✓ Homework help
- ✓ All sites follow an afterschool schedule of activities.
- ✓ Snacks will be provided while supplies last

Cost:

\$50.00 per child/week (resident)
\$60.00 per child/week (non-resident)

* Transportation is limited, contact individual sites for details.

* Homework help is designed to provide homework assistance, not completion.



11 Reasons to Join!

Teen Club

1. Your **creativity** is brought to life.
2. You have a **voice**.
3. You represent your **community**.
4. You build a **network** of **friends**.
5. **Help** plan & host events.
6. We encourage organized and free spirited **ideas**.
7. **Team** environment.
8. Become a **role model**.
9. **Create** your **future**.
10. **Activities** and **Special Events**.
11. It's **FREE!**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fallon Burgess
Jim Huie Recreation Center
9045 Tara Blvd.
Jonesboro, GA
678-479-5133

Jimmie Jones
Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center
3499 Rex Road
Rex, GA
770-472-8042

Wanda McDowell
Virginia Burton Gray Recreation
1475 East Fayetteville Road
Riverdale, GA
770-603-4001

Anthony Smith
South Clayton Recreation Center
1837 McDonough Rd
Hampton, Ga
770-347-0200



Dr. Seuss Night



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

Join us for a family event celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday in partnership with GA Pre-K. This event offers food, fun, entertainment and more!

February 28th | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Jim Huie Center, 9045 Tara Blvd,
Jonesboro, GA 30236.

678-479-5133

ClaytonParks.com





The Value of Small Business & Entrepreneurship in Clayton County

Prepared by Grant Wainscott, Director of Economic Development

The American Dream is different for everyone. For some, it's finally owning their own house. For others, it might be seeing their child be the first in the family to graduate college. But for a growing number of Americans, particularly in this challenging economy, owning and operating a small business is becoming their link to a better life.

As most of us know, small business is the lifeblood of our economy. More than 98% of all businesses in the U.S. are classified as small business by the Small Business Administration. However, that figure can be misleading; according to those same SBA definitions, many companies with 500 employees, or millions in annual revenue, are still categorized as small.

Looking at the data closer, according to the SBA, 73% of those defined "small businesses" are actually sole proprietorships, and many are home-based. It is this portion of the small business community - the sole-proprietors, the entrepreneurs with a few employees - that is the most vulnerable, and that most often needs guidance and protection.

Clayton County is blessed with more than 5,000 small businesses, adding millions to the economy every single day. With that large of a number of small businesses in our community, comes a responsibility to support and nurture them.

We do have a number of resources available to our small businesses. We have an active Chamber of Commerce with small business committees and networking opportunities. We are also very fortunate to have the regional office for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), located at Clayton State University. And just this week, the City of Riverdale celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Riverdale Centre for Innovation, a business and charter school incubator.

We like to consider ourselves an entrepreneur-friendly community, but we can be doing even more to help support this vital part of our economy. In concert with our Economic Development & Film Office, the county is embarking on a series of new initiatives that will highlight existing resources, and develop new avenues, for our small business community.

To begin with, later this summer, the county will be airing a series of original television programs, created in-house by our Economic Development Department, on Clayton County's government access television station CCTV23. Each of the four episodes will focus on a particular resource, partner, or program, available to aid our small business community. These programs will be available for download on our website as well, so everyone can have ready access to this valuable information.

The Value of Small Business & Entrepreneurship in Clayton County (cont.)

Secondly, as many of you might know, Clayton County is preparing for a very important upcoming vote. The 2015 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) is an opportunity to extend a 1-cent sales tax for much-needed physical infrastructure and government services to the residents and businesses in Clayton County. One of our priority projects is a small business incubator and economic development 1-stop shop.

This first class office tower will be constructed at the entrance to our greatest educational, cultural and business asset in the entire region - Clayton State University. For the first time in more than a decade, we will bring together the agencies, associations and support services that exist to help our business community. Micro loan programs, affordable office space, networking and mentorship opportunities, and the backing of the government that relies on the success of our small business community, will all add to the power and success of this endeavor.

Our dream of a collective incubator environment could finally be realized, as we work together to provide new services and constructive workspace that will nurture and encourage success. We want to be on the forefront of promoting and supporting the spirit of entrepreneurship in our region. There's no better time in our community's history to band together like this, and move forward with innovative and insightful efforts.

Together, we can make it happen.

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

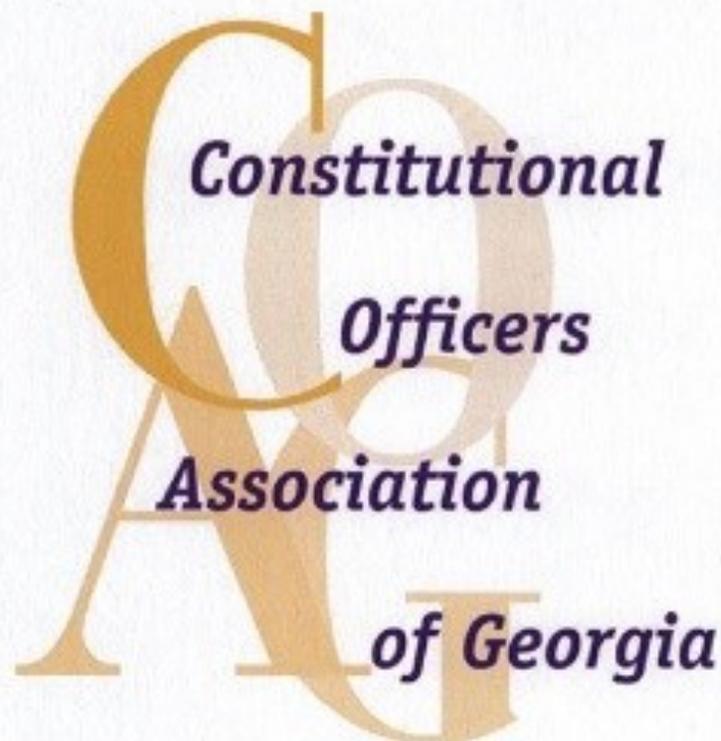
Scholarships Available:

Three scholarships: A \$1,500.00, a \$1,000.00 and a \$500.00 scholarship.

For more information and an application please [click here](#) or visit www.claytoncountyga.gov.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, INC.

2014 Scholarship





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	770-961-2130
Planning and Zoning	770-477-3577		

Connect with us on



[Click Here To Follow Commissioner Rooks](#)



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@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 Re-scheduled from January 4, 2014

South Clayton Recreation Center
1837 McDonough Rd. , Hampton GA 30228

Saturday, March 22, 2014

10:00 am—12:00 pm

Comments

Mrs Rooks,

My power was restored today around 5:30 pm. It was frustrating but I am understanding and thankful to Georgia Power and their efforts. More importantly I am sending this email because I am appreciative to you and your staff. I have heard from you more and you have taken more actions for my needs in the past 6 months than any other government official has in the previous 20 plus years I have been in Clayton County.

I am not one to call on officials unnecessarily but when I have needed them in the past they have mostly not come through. I just wanted you to know I appreciate your efforts and it will be remembered.

Sincerely,

Harold