



The Rooks Report

many people...one community

July 29, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 5

Let's talk about it!

"First Saturday Talk," August 3, 2013 at the 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 11).



Shana M. Rooks,
Clayton County Commissioner—District 3

On July 11, 2013, the Georgia Department of Transportation ("GDOT") held a public information open house for the proposed SR 920/McDonough Road widening project. Many of you participated in the process by either coming to share your concerns about the project in person or by sending your comments through the mail or via email. I have been in touch with Mr. Jeremy Busby, the project manager, about my concerns for the project and in support of your concerns about the project. He has advised me that 199 people attended the open house and GDOT received over 100 comments about the project; most against the widening project.

Mr. Busby has further advised me that in the near future GDOT intends to hold smaller meetings with communities about the project. I encourage you to attend or send a proxy of your position on the project whenever these small meetings are to be held. Please also notify me shana.rooks@claytoncountyga.gov when you have received notice of the smaller meetings.

Some of you have said your concerns don't matter. I know that they do. I am confident if GDOT fully understands that there is little to no support for this project, the project will be terminated. Please insist that your neighbor is engaged about what's going on as well and encourage them to also become vocal about the project.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." —Alice Walker

Yours In Service,

Shana M. Rooks, Esq.
Your Commissioner

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Meet Ramona Thurman—Clayton County’s Chief Financial Officer and District 3 Resident



Ms. Ramona Thurman is a native of Texas, a mother of two, grandmother of four; has resided in Clayton County since relocating to Georgia twelve years ago. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Public Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management in Atlanta, Ga. Ms. Thurman has over twenty years of experience in the areas of governmental accounting, budgeting and finance. Her most recent responsibilities include Budget Director and Interim Chief Financial Officer during her tenure with Clayton County Board of Education. She also served as Director of Budget for the Atlanta Public Schools System. Both appointments were involving two of the State’s largest school districts with budgets nearing three quarter of a billion dollars.

Ms. Ramona Thurman serves as the county’s first Chief Financial Officer (CFO). In her role as CFO, she provides leadership in the development and the continuous evaluation of short and long-term strategic objectives for the Finance Department, including providing analysis of budgets, financial trends, and forecasts to the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners regarding the financial future of Clayton County.

As CFO, Ms. Thurman is responsible for the Internal Audits and Finance Departments. The Finance Department includes accounting, budgets, accounts payable, accounts receivable, pension fund, grants, and treasury management units.

As a member of the executive management team, Ms. Thurman is responsible for the county's finances, budget development, internal controls, financial reporting, as well as evaluating and advising the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners of the impact of long range planning.

Ms. Thurman said her role as the financial head gives her the opportunity to help "ensure the financial integrity of the County’s resources by promoting sound financial decision making" for the county of which she has embraced as “home” for the last twelve years.

Stay Connected!

Channel 23 is available on Comcast



[Click here to hear a Message from Commissioner Rooks](#)

News & Information

- Congratulations to Major Kevin Roberts who was promoted from your Sector 3 Commander to Major. We welcome Captain Brian Danekes as our New Sector 3 Commander.



- August 21, 2013—National Senior Citizens Day. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan declared August 21st as National Senior Citizens Day. This day honors senior citizens, and recognizes the many contributions seniors make in their communities across the United States.



Featured HOA of the Month

Silverstone

Congratulations!

Your Quality of Life Is My Concern, County Ordinances To Help

“After we receive a complaint, we usually ask for voluntary compliance first. If this doesn't work we will issue a Citation.” Captain Brian Danekes, Sector 3 Precinct Commander – Clayton County Police Department



1) Noise issues are going to be especially important as people have their summer parties.

Code Enforcement Officers does not handle matters related to noise violations due to their “non-law enforcement” status. These violations can quickly escalate into criminal activity which may require the use of force. Any complaints concerning noise, please call 911.

Sec. 62-3.2. Prohibited noises.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary or unusual sound or noise which either disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of a reasonable person, and which is audible to such person from a distance of 50 feet or more from the point of origin of the sound or noise. A reasonable person is defined as a person of ordinary sensibilities with normal hearing ability.

Note: 62-3.3 goes further into describing specific noises such as yelling, loud speakers, etc.

2) Code Enforcement Ordinance: Height of grass/weeds as the summer gets going.

In accordance with Clayton County Ordinance 62-202(b) property owners/occupants are responsible for keeping all grass, brush and weeds below ten (10) inches. Why? Excessive growth of grass, brush and weeds can create habitats for rodents and can become a fire hazard.

3) Parking on the street.

Code Enforcement Officers do not handle matters related to Parking on the Street because this authority is delegated to sworn Police Officers and/or Deputy Sheriff's.

Sec. 94-57. Prohibited parking of vehicles during certain hours.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle of any nature or description on the right-of-way of any road, street, thoroughfare or other avenue of travel in the unincorporated areas of the county, where only two-laned traffic is allowed by virtue of the width of the roadbed, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sec. 94-61. Parking control signs.

Where parking, stopping or standing is regulated or prohibited by official signs erected by the department of transportation and development, at least one sign shall be erected in each block on each side of the street where parking is either prohibited or regulated.

Penalties are as follows:

Sec. 1-12. General penalty.

Whenever in this Code or in any ordinance of the county any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense, or whenever in such Code or ordinance the doing of an act is required or the failure to do an act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violation of any such provision of this Code or any ordinance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or six months imprisonment, or both, except as otherwise provided by general law. The fines imposed therefor may be collected by execution. However, in no event shall the maximum penalties and punishment exceed a fine of \$1,000.00 and an imprisonment in the county jail for six months for any single offense.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen's Police Academy, presented by the Clayton County Police Department, is designed to allow citizens the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of police responsibility. Through a class curriculum, the students will learn about police operations and community programs to include: patrol officers, detectives, special services and police administrators.



The curriculum is scheduled for classes to be held from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings, for a total of ten (10) weeks. There is no cost for these classes. The classroom lectures encourage class participation. Outside the classroom, this academy will allow the student the opportunity to ride along with a patrol officer during their shift. The students who successfully graduate from the academy will receive a certificate for their achievement, a working knowledge of police work and a chance to evaluate our efforts in this academy.

Applicants are required to complete a criminal background check prior to the start of the academy. This background check will be done by Clayton County Police Department at no cost to the student for the sole purpose of acceptance to this academy. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age or older, and not currently a high school student. **Applicants will not be considered who have felony convictions or recent misdemeanor convictions (in the last 5 years).**

This academy is an exciting opportunity to gain a better understanding of police work and a chance to meet the men and women of the Clayton County Police Department.

WHEN? September 5, 2013 thru November 14, 2013
Thursday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

WHERE? Clayton County Police Department
7911 N. McDonough St.
Jonesboro, GA 30236

WHY? The purpose of the Citizen Police Academy is to foster better communication between citizens and police through education and citizen feedback.

WHO?

1. Residents and Workers of Clayton County
2. At least 18 years of age
3. No Felony Convictions

HOW? Call or email the Community Affairs Unit to request an application:

Officer Watson-Fraser 770-472-8027
Sgt. Tracy Jakes 770-477-3632
community.affairs@co.clayton.ga.us

COST? FREE

Currently Enrolling!



Griswell Senior Center to Celebrate 7th Anniversary Kickoff with Quilting Display

To celebrate the J Charley Griswell Senior Center's 7-year anniversary, the Griswell Senior Center will be displaying the quilts that their members handmade throughout the year. Members of the center work together to make quilts for their family members and friends and also to showcase during this special occasion for the Griswell Center. The hallways will be lined with these beautiful creations leading you from the entrance of the building to the dining hall area.

Stop by the Griswell Senior Center, located at 2300 Highway 138 SE inside Clayton County International Park, the week of Monday, August 12th – Friday, August 16th between the hours of 8 am – 5 pm. Also, take a tour of the Griswell Senior Center to catch a glimpse of all that Clayton County offers for seniors. At the end of the week, the center will host their annual Oldies But Goodies dance to bring their anniversary to a close. For more information about this and other events, please contact the J Charley Griswell Senior Center at 770-477-3499.

The mission of the Senior Services Department is to enhance the quality of life for Clayton County's senior adult population by promoting healthy aging and relative caregiver programs. The focus is to enable seniors to maintain their independence in the community by addressing the human services and leisure activity needs. Check out our upcoming classes, trips, and special events in the latest issue of our quarterly senior magazine, Clayton Forever Young, available at all Senior Services locations as well as Parks and Recreation centers and your local library.



"Through dedication, we strive for Excellence"



MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

June 8th
Flat Shoals Park
"Here Comes the Boom"

July 13th
Rex Park
"Rise of the Guardians"

July 27th
Panhandle Park
"Escape from Planet Earth"

August 10th
International Park
"Jack the Giant Slayer"

September 14th
Gerald Matthews Soccer Complex
"Oz The Great and Powerful"

October 19th
at Fall Festival
"Hotel Transylvania"

Movie Details: www.claytonparks.com
770-477-3766



Clayton County Parks & Recreation District 3 August Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	COST
Football Jamboree	August 17	Panhandle Park	Free
Football Opening Day	August 24	Panhandle Park	Free



Congratulations

Mundy's Mill High School, Lovejoy High School and Riverdale High School Seniors!

Scholarship Opportunity

Do you have a child attending college in the fall and you need a little help with paying the tuition? Commissioner Rooks wants to help with \$2,000 in scholarship assistance. You have one of two opportunities to be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Commissioner Rooks' Community Service Scholarship

- Applicant must be attending college in the fall (proof of enrollment is mandatory).
- Applicant must have completed at least 40 hours of community service throughout the 2012-2013 academic year (documentation required).
- Applicant must have been involved in an extra-curricular activity while in school.
- Applicant must have a final GPA of 3.0.



Commissioner Rooks' Academic Scholarship

- Applicant must be attending college in the fall (proof of enrollment is mandatory).
- Applicant must have been involved in an extra-curricular activity while in school.
- Applicant must have a final GPA of 3.5.



How To Apply For The Scholarship?

Interested applicants must fill out an application to be considered for the scholarship. Commissioner Rooks will decide on the winners of the scholarship in both the Community Service and the Academic categories. To receive an application, please email Constituent Aide Steven VanDyke at steven.vandyke@claytoncountyga.gov, and request the application of choice. **The application deadline is August 1, 2013.**



***Note: Applicant and parent(s) must be a resident of Clayton County District 3 and have graduated from a District 3 High School.**



After Work Cool Down Music Series

Date: August 22, 2013

Time: 6pm-9pm

Address: The Amphitheater at the Riverdale Town Center
7200 Church Street
Riverdale, GA 30274

Cost: Free admission



Thursday night music series is designed to sooth your long work week into the weekend. The event will include food and performances by local talent that will keep the crowd entertained throughout the evening.

Performers: The Satin Finish Band

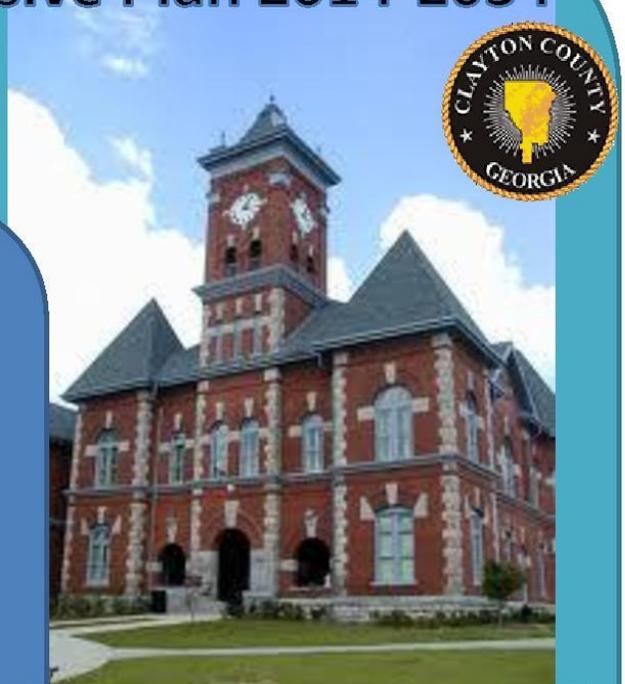
Clayton County Comprehensive Plan 2014-2034 Community Workshops many people...one community

Let your voice be heard! Help define the vision for Clayton County for the next 20 years.

Community Meeting # 1- Monday, August 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center located at 1475 East Fayetteville Road, Riverdale, GA 30274.

Community Meeting # 2- Monday, August 12, 2013 6:30 p.m. at the International Park , VIP Complex located at 2300 Highway 138 SE, Jonesboro, GA 30236.

Refreshments will be served! Bring a friend!



For more information, contact Michael Woodman at 404-684-7031 or mwoodman@tcfatl.com or Kc Krzic, Zoning Administrator, Clayton County Community Development at (770) 477-3569 or kc.krzic@co.clayton.ga.us

Check the project website: <http://claytoncompplan.wordpress.com>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 10AM-2PM

Mundy's Mill High School, 9652 Fayetteville Road (Hwy. 54), Jonesboro, GA



FREE SCREENINGS

- Vision
- Dental
- Sickle Cell
- Mental Health
- Clinical Breast Exams
- Prostate Cancer PSA Exams



STAY INFORMED

Speak with health care professionals about the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, PeachCare, prescription drug assistance and other programs for the uninsured.



FREE TESTING

- HIV/AIDS
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol Level
- And Many More!



GUEST SPEAKERS

Hear from health experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and speak directly with Atlanta VA Medical Center staff to learn more about special resources for veterans.

Bring Family and Friends for **FREE** Check-Ups and **FREE** Consultations with Local Health Care Professionals

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE

- AID Atlanta
- Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures
- DeKalb Medical Center
- Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta
- Southside Medical Center
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Emory Stroke Center
- American Cancer Society
- Prevent Blindness Georgia
- Grady Health System
- Great Expressions Dental
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Southern Regional Medical Center
- Radiotherapy Clinics of Georgia
- Clayton County Board of Health
- U.S. Veterans Administration
- Sisters by Choice
- WellStar and more!

For more information on free screenings, guest speakers and healthcare providers, please call (770) 210-5073 or visit DavidScott.house.gov  

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

WASHINGTON, D.C.
225 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202.225.2939

JONESBORO
173 North Main Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236
770.210.5073

SMYRNA
888 Concord Road, Suite 100, Smyrna, GA 30080
770.432.5405

"We heard your concerns...."

At our First Saturday Meeting with Commissioner Rooks in June, one of our neighbors alerted us to a hanging tree issue on Panhandle Road. After consulting with our experts, they've advised the best solution is to remove the tree. Thanks for alerting us about the concern. When we are all engaged and involved in the community and holding us all accountable, it is easier to get the results we desire.

We were told about safety concerns regarding our kids having to walk to the front of Pebble Ridge Subdivision to catch the school bus. We assisted Pebble Ridge in working with the Clayton County Board of Education with a new school bus pick-up location inside of their subdivision, where the children attend Kemp Elementary, Lovejoy Middle and Lovejoy High School.



Clayton County Government Contact Numbers

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

Animal Control	770-477-3509	Refuse Control (handles certain debris and trash on streets, removes dead animals from County roads)	770-477-3548
Better Business Bureau	404-766-0875	Senior Services	770-603-4050
Board of Commissioners	770-477-3208	Sheriff (Non-Emergency)	770-471-1122
Code Enforcement	678-610-4755	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		
Police/South Precinct	770-347-0260		

Mosquito Spraying For The Summer Months in Clayton County



We have already started spraying for mosquitos. We will be spraying Monday thru Friday 4:30pm to 9:00pm in all Districts every two weeks on a rotational District 1 and 2, District 3 and 4 basis. We will not spray when raining or temperatures are above 100°. Spraying will continue through the end of September.

Board Meetings Changing to Twice A Month



Starting July 2nd board meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesday evening of the month at 7pm .

112 Smith Street

Jonesboro, GA 30236

770) 477-3208

City of Lovejoy News and Announcements

Senior Breakfast, Every 2nd Saturday each month from 9am to 11:30am.

Lovejoy's senior breakfast is for persons over 55 years old only.

11622 Hastings Bridge Road, Lovejoy, GA 30250. (678) 479-8655

Lovejoy Saturday Summer Block Party Series at The Mayor's Park from 1pm—3pm

Bring your family for fun, food, games and a lot more on May 11, June 8, July 13 & August 10.

Comments

I was so glad to see code enforcement here today. She spent a long time here. I truly appreciate this. I am feeling better about my neighborhood already. If all would do their part, this would be a great community.

Thank Commissioner Rooks for her great efforts. Thank you..

Pat

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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.