



The Rooks Report

many people...one community

June 24, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 4

No First Saturday Meeting—Enjoy your 4th of July Weekend!

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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 14).



Shana M. Rooks,
Clayton County Commissioner—District 3

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

The American Revolution led to the legal separation of the 13 Colonies from Great Britain which occurred on July 2, 1776. As a result, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence from Great Britain. After the vote, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was ratified.

The second sentence of the Declaration of Independence is what is probably most familiar to most...the truth that we are all created equal by our Creator with unalienable rights (rights that cannot be taken from us) and we have the right to life, liberty and the right to pursue our

happiness.

On this “4th of July”, as we celebrate with food, family and fireworks, let us reflect on one simple fact: we are all created as equals and despite the hand that life might have dealt us, it is up to us to determine how we will shuffle and reshuffle the deck and play out our lives; there are limitless possibilities. Enjoy your holiday!!

Yours in Service,

Commissioner Rooks

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News & Information

- June 29, 2013—Show On The Road. 10am-2pm Southlake Mall, 1000 Southlake Circle, Morrow, GA 30260
- The Entire Month of July—Park and Recreation Month
- May 24—August 10, 2013—Clayton County Library System’s [Summer Reading Program](#).



Meet Arrelle Anderson—Our New County COO and District 3 Resident

Please join me in welcoming Arrelle D. Anderson to Clayton County Government. Ms. Anderson will serve as the Chief Operating Officer for the Board of Commissioners. She will oversee the management of each operational department in the county and provide the strategic insight to further advance Clayton County, as a whole.



Ms. Anderson has nearly 16 years of experience in sales, marketing and strategic management in the public and private sectors. Ms. Anderson empowers leaders to be able to manage change from an operational perspective. She has led operational and strategic initiatives for numerous teams in several District of Columbia government agencies in addition to the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), The Boston Globe Newspaper, Black Entertainment Television (BET), Sony Music, and the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Her recent success includes writing the strategic plan for the District of Columbia's mayor, Vincent Gray, to improve customer service and employee morale within all District government agencies.

Ms. Anderson earned her bachelor of arts in journalism from Howard University with a concentration in advertising, and a master of business administration in marketing/entrepreneurship from The University of Georgia. She also has earned a Certificate in Project Management from Georgetown University.

Ms. Anderson is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, but is proud to call Riverdale, Georgia (District 3) her home, as she fulfills her appointment as Chief Operating Officer.

A Special Word of Thanks



A tremendous thank you is being sent to Commissioner Shana M. Rooks for allowing the Pine Trace at Pebble Creek Subdivision to partner with her at the (June) First Saturday Meeting! As a member of the Board of Directors for the Pine Trace Subdivision, I was truly enlightened by the information panelist shared with the group! To have various leaders from the community (Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner, Sheriff Victor Hill, Chief Greg Porter, Jeff Metarko, *Director of Transportation and Development* and Captain Angelo Daniel, *Code Enforcement*) share an abundance of knowledge with attendees was very informative.

Not only did attendees see firsthand that the Leaders of Clayton County have a genuine concern for the citizens and pledge to change the negative perceptions of the County, their participation in the meeting and answering citizens' concerns was an excellent demonstration of their commitment. I left the meeting knowing that our Leaders are sincere in their assertions to move our county to a more prestigious level, and are diligent in promoting the great things happening in Clayton County! I look forward to attending Commissioner Rooks' future First Saturday Meetings.

Kindest Regards,

LaShonda R. Dillard



Featured HOA of the Month

Duck Pond

Congratulations!

Stay informed with Clayton County Sheriff Department Updates

Text charges may apply, check with your cell phone provider

Text "ccsoga" to 888777.



Your Questions Answered (from June 1st, “First Saturday Talk”)

- 1. How to get pot holes fixed?** Transportation & Development relies on constituents to notify its office of the location of the pot hole. T&D can be reached at (770) 477-3674.
- 2. Citizens often request Transportation & Development to install and/or add streetlights in their community. How are these projects funded?** Residents are responsible for buying the poles. The costs are less if there are overhead power lines already available. Residents are charged a monthly fee for the lighting. The monthly rate charged by Georgia Power/Coweta County/ and Central Georgia EMC is about \$35.00-\$38.00 per household per year.
- 3. How is the 25 Speed Limit law enforced in residential neighborhoods and/or getting speed limit signs placed in a subdivision?** Someone from Transportation & Development will investigate the speeding complaint within the subdivision by confirming if signs are in place. If there is no signage, T&D will place visible signage in the subdivision. However, T&D is not responsible for enforcing the law; that is handled by law enforcement.
- 4. Will the County place speed bumps in a community to eliminate speeding?** No we will not, there was a traffic ordinance for it, but it has since been rescinded.
- 5. Does the county have a garbage pick-up?** Sanitation pick-up is privatized and is the responsibility of the resident/homeowner. The County does have a landfill that residents can utilize to bring their own garbage. For location, rates and other information [click here](#).
- 6. Who is responsible for maintaining open spaces in subdivisions?** HOA’s and/or members of the subdivision are responsible for keeping these areas maintained.
- 7. Clayton County “Brand” is being tarnished by having “rooms for rent” signs posted. Is this a violation?** This is a violation when an individual “advertises” the room is for rent with signs in the front yard of the residence. It is not a violation to rent the rooms if the proper permits and licensing are received by Community Development.
- 8. Is it a violation to have a basketball goal in the street in front of a home?** It is a violation to have goals on streets; because it hinders the safety of children when they are in the street and unaware drivers are coming down the street. Goals attached to the principal residential structure or erected adjacent to and abutting the drive way of the principal residential structure shall be allowed in the front yard, but not within the right-of-way of a public street or sidewalk. No goal, including portable goals, shall be placed in a public street or right-of-way, nor will a goal, including a portable goal, be placed so that the public street or sidewalk is the court or playing surface for the basketball goal.



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 July 15, 2013.



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





Show on the Road

Meet with Clayton County Chairman Jeff Turner,
Elected Officials and
Representatives from all County Departments



Clayton County



SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2013

10am - 2pm

Southlake Mall—1000 Southlake Circle, Morrow, Georgia 30260
(Promotion Court— Lower Level Next to Helzberg Diamonds)

Just by showing up, you have the opportunity to better familiarize yourself with our operations along with updates on projects, new initiatives, services and outstanding issues. We exist to partner with the community to build the desired quality of life for Clayton County.

SPONSORED BY THE CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



County Looking to Add Job Tax Incentive to Tara Blvd

The Clayton County Office of Economic Development is hoping to add a major state incentive program to parts of the Tara Blvd 19/41 corridor by next year. According to Grant Wainscott, Director of the Office of Economic Development and the county's Film, Sports & Entertainment Office, an application is being prepared to request an Opportunity Zone (OZ) along major sections of the heavily trafficked commercial and residential corridor.

An Opportunity Zone is a state tax credit incentive for new jobs created in economically distressed or blighted areas of Georgia. New or existing companies that add new jobs in the zone are eligible for a \$3,500 per new job tax credit, taken against the business's Georgia income tax liability and payroll withholding tax.

By designating the 19/41 Tara Blvd area as an Opportunity Zone, our community will be able to:

- Provide stronger incentives to recruit potential commercial and industrial developers;
- Foster aggressive redevelopment and revitalization efforts;
- Ensure the long term economic and social stability of the corridor.

“With the defeat of the Transportation SPLOST last fall, it is even more imperative that we identify and implement creative solutions to proactively redevelop the more economically challenged portions of Clayton County like Tara Blvd,” said Wainscott. “This would be a great enhancement for the corridor. We need to leverage every possible incentive to recruit new investment to the area, and the state's Opportunity Zone program is a wonderful tool that can be used to attract new retail, office and commercial development, as well as industrial growth.”

The new incentive district would be the second Opportunity Zone in Clayton County. The first OZ was approved in 2011 for the Mountain View area in northern Clayton County, opposite the new international terminal at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. In addition to the Opportunity Zone, Clayton County has several other successful economic recruitment tools including Tax Allocation Districts TADs, design overlay districts and Livable Centers Initiatives (LCIs).

Clayton County Mobile Site Now Available



Have you visited the Clayton County Website from your smartphone lately?

We have formatted www.claytoncountyga.gov for smartphones.

Check it out.



How Residents Can Assist with the Code Enforcement Process

Some Home Owners Associations and Neighborhood Watch Programs play an active role in blight reduction. Their efforts have generated best practices that other associations can adopt such as:

- Gathering information on reliable contractors and realtors within your area . Many homeowners, especially the elderly, want to make repairs but don't know where to begin or are wary of fraud. While the County cannot recommend individual businesses, neighborhood groups are good sources for this information.
- Attending Magistrate Court Code Enforcement hearings. All hearings are open to the public and neighbors are welcome to observe or request an opportunity to testify. After the hearings, many homeowners become interested in making repairs in order to become compliant. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other homeowners about contractors that you would recommend based on past work that a contractor may have performed for you.
- Contacting homeowners before they are cited. Some neighborhood associations get 30% of their residents to bring their property into compliance just by contacting them. These groups explain how their property is affecting quality of life and educates homeowners of the possibility of up to \$1,000.00 in daily fines. This approach works extremely well when neighbors have taken the time to attend Magistrate Court to listen in on Code Enforcement Cases to learn how they are prosecuted and the penalties that are imposed.

Clayton County Parks & Recreation District 3 July Events

Black America Adult Softball Tournament	July 6-7 Saturday-Sunday 9am-6pm	Gerald Matthews Complex	Free
Zumba – Drop In Class	July 13, 4pm-5pm	South Clayton Recreation Center	\$7.00
USSSA World Series	July 10-13 Wednesday-Saturday 9am-6pm	Gerald Matthews Complex	\$5.00 per person
Zumba – Drop In Class	July 20 Zumba 3pm-4pm Aqua Zumba 4pm-5pm	South Clayton Recreation Center	\$7.00 per class Total: \$14.00
Movie Under the Stars (Brave)	July 27 (Dusk)	Panhandle Park	Free
Health Fair	July 27 10am – 4pm	South Clayton Recreation Center	Free



On Monday, June 3rd at Panhandle Park, the age division championships for the Clayton County Baseball League was held. This is an annual post-season tournament to crown the winners of each age group. Commissioner Rooks threw out the first pitch for the t-ball division which is ages 5 and 6. The Jonesboro Bombers, won the game in extra innings defeating the Panhandle Rangers.



Team catcher Adonis Pedro caught Commissioner Rooks' first pitch.

Coca-Cola Take it to the Park
 Help your favorite park win a \$100,000 recreation grant. **VOTE NOW**

SUPPORT Clayton County and VOTE!
Gerald Matthews Complex
 Hampton, Georgia

VOTE DAILY
 June 6 - July 15
coke.com/parks

+1 votes

CLICK

Get one vote for your favorite park by visiting www.coke.com/parks. You can click to vote once a day.

+5 votes

CHECK-IN

Get five votes for your favorite park per day by checking in at your park with Foursquare. If you don't have Foursquare yet, you'll need to download the app.

+10 votes

GET ACTIVE

Get ten votes per day by logging 20 minutes of activity with MapMyFitness. If you aren't already a MapMyFitness user, you'll need to sign up at www.mapmyfitness.com.



Spread the word and give back to the park you love!

"We Connect Communities through People, Parks, and Programs"

What Could Winning The Coca Cola Grant Do For District 3?

Commissioner Rooks' dream programs for the park is a dog park, and an expanded walking trail. Additional input from the community regarding your thoughts and ideas will be welcomed also. Please register, vote daily and tell your family and friends everywhere.

This is free money for our park, our community and our county!

Vision
 (vīzh'ən) *n.*
 1. An imagined idea or a goal toward which one aspires.

I ♥ MY PARK & RECREATION

**JULY IS PARK &
RECREATION MONTH**

Events

Guided Hike

Thursday, July 11th at 9:30am, join an experienced naturalist for a FREE guided hike on the trails of Reynolds Nature Preserve. Pre-registration is required. Call (770) 603-4188 for details.

Family Luaus

Join us for a pool party, activities & games, and arts & crafts! **Saturday, July 13th** at Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center (770) 472-8042 and **Saturday, July 20th** at Jim Huie Recreation Center (678) 479-5134. Admission is FREE!

Fishing Derby

Saturday, July 13th at Clayton County International Park 8:00am \$5 per person Please bring bait and equipment. For more information call (770) 603-4165.

Super Saturdays

FREE! No daily fees at all Recreation Centers **every Saturday in July** from 9:00am until 6:00pm.

Movies

Under the Stars

Saturday, July 13th "Rise of the Guardians" playing at Rex Park.
Saturday, July 27th "Escape from Planet Earth" playing at Panhandle Park. FREE events! Movies begin at dusk.

Health Fairs

Enjoy FREE activities regarding healthy living. Join us for sports clinics, arts and crafts, and MORE! **Saturday, July 27th** at South Clayton Recreation Center (770) 347-0200 and Virginia Gray Recreation Center (770) 603-4001.



National Recreation
and Park Association
www.nrpa.org/july



www.claytonparks.com
(770) 477-3766



Kinship Care Program Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

On June 6, 2013, Clayton County Senior Services Department, Kinship Care Program held its graduation celebration for eight (8) students graduating from High School and three (3) grandparents from college.

Since 2007, fifty four (54) students enrolled in the Kinship Care Program have graduated from high school and one from College. Azureblue Elizabeth White is the first Kinship participant to graduate from college. She graduated from Fort Valley State University on May 5, 2012. Angie Burda, the Kinship Care Coordinator states that if the families are involved in the program the graduation rate from high school is 100%.





The 2013 Kinship Care Graduates are:

Jyniqua Bentford is the granddaughter of Lillie Moseley. She is a graduate of Perry Learning Center. She plans to attend either Georgia State University or Georgia Piedmont Tech to pursue a degree in either Computer Engineering or Practical Nursing.

Jeremy Grubaugh is the grandson of Lynn Jackson. He is a graduate of the Charles Drew High School. He will attend Atlanta Area Tech to pursue a degree in the field of Nursing.

Sarah Jones is the daughter of Nadine Thompson. She is a graduate of Lovejoy High School. She has joined the United States Navy and will deploy in September. Sarah spent 3 years in Air Force Junior ROTC and will enter the armed forces as an E-3.

Eric Leigh is the son of Tanya and Thomas Hollington. He graduated 7th in his class, with honors, from the Charles Drew High School. He earned the Presidential Academic Award and Football & Track Awards. Eric will attend either Albany State University or Columbus State University to pursue a career in Mathematics.

Dominique Madison is the granddaughter of Ann Oden. She graduated in the top 10% of her class at Charles Drew High School. She received the Scholar Athlete Award for both Volleyball and Soccer. She will attend Columbus State University on an academic scholarship to pursue a degree in Political Science.

Jattir Moton is the great-grandson of Marian Tucker. He graduated from Hapeville Academic Charter School, where he attended on a football scholarship. He will attend either Kentucky Christian College or Gordon State University to pursue a degree in Business Communications.

Asia Poinsette is the granddaughter of Stan and Mary Davis. She is a graduate of Lovejoy High School where she received the Red Cord for completion of the 3 year Health Care curriculum. She will be attending Gordon State University where she will pursue a Nursing Degree with a minor in Forensic Science.

Janard Redmon is a graduate Mundy's Mill High School. He will be attending Gordon State University to pursue a degree in Healthcare, after which he plans to enlist in the United States Air Force.

Jodie Chambers is a graduate of Utica College. She earned a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration. She plans to work in the field of Health Care. She is raising 2 grandchildren.

Mary Davis is a graduate of Beulah Heights University. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Leadership Studies. She graduated Cum Laude and is continuing her education by earning a Master's Degree in Psychology. She is starting a non-profit organization to assist men who have been incarcerated. She is raising 1 grandchild.

Gretchen Ramsey is a graduate of St. Leo University. She earned a Bachelors' Degree in Sociology. She plans to work in a social services field. She is raising 2 grandchildren.



On June 11, 2013, Commissioner Rooks and the Board of Commissioners recognized Lovejoy High School for their distinguished honor.

Congratulations Lovejoy High School

Three Clayton County High Schools were ranked among the best in the country by U.S. News and World Report. One of the three was District 3's own Lovejoy High School. Congratulations to Principal Dr. Keith Colbert, Assistant Principals Rogena Ellison, John Everett, Dwayne Lawyer and Arlando Dawson.

We also congratulate Forest Park High School (District 2) and Jonesboro High School (District 4) on their equally impressive accomplishment.



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		



Community Empowerment Day & Back to School Bash

Community Empowerment Day & Back to School Bash

BY: AMAZING GRACE E.I.M.INC.

Community Resources Center

949 Pointe South Pkwy Jonesboro GA 30238

Date: July 27, 2013: Time 10am-4pm

Check out what will be offered:

- ❖ HEALTH SCREENINGS
- ❖ BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
- ❖ DIABETES SCREENINGS
- ❖ HEALTHY WATER DEMONSTRATION- EVA
- ❖ INSURANCE SEMINAR W/ INFORMATION ON WILLS, TRUSTS
- ❖ SAFE KIDS PROMO INFORMATION
- ❖ GAMES- ARTS & CRAFTS FOR KIDS WITH COLORING CONTEST FOR AGE GROUPS:
6+ UNDER, 7-10, 11-15

**FOOD * RAFFLES* CLOTHING* MUSIC
& GIFTS!**

MOON WALK! MOON WALK! FUN! FUN

CONTACT INFO:

MS. PORTIA: 404-556-0411

MS. PEGGIE: 770-330-0324

EVANGLIST MARTHA: 404-749-8058

CLOTHES & SHOES \$1.00

DRINKS, HAMBURGER/HOTDOGS, CHIPS 1 DOLLAR

A LOT OF FREE GIVEAWAYS

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.

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)



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.

Questions/Concerns/Comments

Please contact :

Steven VanDyke - Constituent Aide

Phone: 770-473-5465

Email:

steven.vandyke@claytoncountyga.gov

Comments

We wanted to take a moment and thank you for your assistance with the ambulance issue that we had. We were "impressed" with how quickly our call was returned and the speed in which you solved this problem. With all the negative press about our government officials, our dealings with your office was refreshing. Also, we appreciate the "Rooks Report". It's nice to know what's going on in the county.

Thanks again,

Wayne and Marlene

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