



Clermont Connection

April, May, June 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: James E. Nix
770-983-1248

COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Brady
678-616-4778
James "Sonny" Helton
770-983-1984
Albert Reeves
678-414-7437
Seth Weaver
770-503-5802
Mary Ellen Rogers
770-983-3140

Town Council Meeting Schedule

First Tuesday of each Month
7:00pm
Clermont Town Hall
Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Tuesday, June 7, 2011
Tuesday, July 5, 2011

TOWN STAFF

Town Clerk: Sandra Helton
Deputy Clerk: Amy Lomax
Maintenance Workers:
Tommy Rogers
Jason Greenway
Building Inspector:
Ronald Couch

Contact Information

Telephone:
770-983-7568
Fax:
770-983-7569
Email:
cityofclermont@bellsouth.net

Clermont Town Hall
122 Dean Street
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 257
Clermont, GA 30527

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30
Closed 2nd & 4th Wednesday

FROM THE MAYOR

We finally have a new sidewalk along a portion of Main Street. Hope that all of you who use this sidewalk feel more comfortable now that you don't have so many rough spots to navigate. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of those who live along this section of Main Street. I hope that the days you were unable to use your driveway is worth the trouble you endured. Now, we need to move on to making other improvements to our Town.

We constantly see newspaper articles and hear news stories about tight budget and money problems at the National, State, and County level. The same can be said for the Town of Clermont. We operate on a very tight budget and are now in the process of preparing our budget for the coming year. We know that we are going to face many challenges during the coming year, but we will strive to maintain our level of service and keep the Town looking attractive.

As citizens of Clermont what are some of the



things you would like to see done? While we may not be able to do much in the near term, we should be planning for the next several years in anticipation that the economy will improve, and we will be financially able to make many improvements around our Town. Send us your ideas or else you just see the results of your Town Council's ideas.

The Clermont Historical Society is moving forward with many new ideas. If you are interested in Clermont's history, then you need to get involved with this group. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

Clermont Days 2011

We are in the planning stages for this year's festival and are looking for volunteers to help with planning the event. The more help we have the better the festival will be! If you would like to participate and help with the planning, please call 678-616-4778.

This year's festival will be a two - day event on Friday and Saturday. We believe this will allow us to book better quality vendors to come display their arts and crafts.

If you know of any local musi-

cal groups or individuals who would like to show off their talent and entertain us, please have them get in touch with the committee so they can be included.

We would also like to invite all local vendors to come join us and display your art and craft skills and enjoy the camaraderie of the small town festival. It is an experience you won't forget!! The car show is still available for a non-profit group to raise funds for their organization. Please contact us as soon as

possible if you would like to use the Clermont Days car show as your fundraiser. First come, first serve!!

As in the past two years, we will again have the 5K run/1 mile fun walk, a cake walk, the parade, music, and conclude with the fireworks show!

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for supporting Clermont Days 2011!!! More information call 678-616-4778.

Not a Small Town but a Big Family

I'm a transplant to Clermont. Though born and raised in the south, I've only resided "Where the Beautiful Mountains Begin" for the last 11 years. Having been privileged to travel and live in multiple states and countries, I have the advantage of genuine comparison. I have lived in a city with a population of 12 million strong and also set up housekeeping in a city with a headcount of just under 6,000. Clermont is the smallest town I've ever lived in, and the longest place I've lived since childhood. Although an "outsider," Clermont has become home to me. The reason I proudly call it home is because it is NOT a small town, but more like a BIG FAMILY!

I really don't know much about small towns, but I know family. Growing up just 15 miles west-northwest of Atlanta and living in cities like Smyrna, Marietta, Mableton, and Austell, Georgia, I moved away from this great state to eventually live in New Orleans, Louisiana, in Florence, South Carolina, in the Research Triangle of Raleigh, North Carolina, and a short stay near Richmond, Virginia. Those cities round out my U.S. address book, but I also lived in Bandung, Indonesia (population 4 million), and Jakarta, Indonesia (estimated 12 mil-

lion, but probably more) stretching my perspective. A couple of months here and there in various other countries and states have also added to the experience of seeing how others do it.

Clermont is basically a big family. I come from a family of 5 children with aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family, as well as having 5 children of my own. My wife is also one of 5 and brings a whole new dimension of familial relationships and experiences that have broadened my knowledge. In every family you have those favorite aunts and the eccentric uncle (if you are wondering if you are the eccentric uncle, you probably are!) that add richness and character to your family tree. There is laughter as well as heated arguments that dot the calendar in a typical family, but you always know that your family "has your back!" Such is the case in Clermont. We have those favorite aunts and grandmas (like Mary Strickland at 99 years young) that brighten up your day when you see them walking down the sidewalks, and we have those real winners that just make you smile and wonder what they're thinking. I think the phrase, "Well, that's just how he is," originated in Clermont, GA! There are those that are dressed fashionably and those that live in coveralls, but they're all family.

One aspect that makes me say that Clermont is not a small town is that fact those who have lived here all their life do not hold that over the heads of us that have recently moved into the area. We are not treated as "outsiders" regardless of what part of the country we've moved here from. It is like accepting a new in-law, strange background, accent, warts and all! Clermont's history is replete with times of great victories and great tragedies, and if you get out even a little you'll hear about most of it, and it will become part of you as well.

We have a history of not backing down from a fight (front page on 'The Times' once!), but when it is all said and done, we tend to shake hands and agree to disagree. I've seen men that were on opposite ends of some political issue, who had voiced their grievances with emotion and conviction in a public forum, stand together on "Clermont Days" talking and laughing as if they were best of friends. You see, that's NOT a small town. That's family! I love being a part of the family of Clermont!

Alan Morris

"The reason I proudly call it home is because it is NOT a small town, but more like a BIG FAMILY!"

Garbage Service Reminders

Monday, May 30, 2011 - Memorial Day -No garbage pick-up. Garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Monday, July 4, 2011 – Independence Day -No garbage pick-up. Garbage will be picked up Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

The next issue of the Clermont Connection will be published mid-July. Anyone wishing to submit articles or recipes for consideration may do so by email or by dropping them off at the Town Hall. We reserve the right in all instances to edit for length and content.

The Town of Clermont would like to welcome a new business to Clermont. Cutsie Tootsie Designs is a business specializing in Embroidery and Retail Sales. Contact Shauna Jarrard for all your embroidery needs 678-316-3301.



Recipe Corner

Old Fashioned Macaroni and Cheese

2 cups elbow macaroni
2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
2 cups milk
2 eggs, lightly beaten
¼-lb. margarine
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
Cook macaroni according to package directions and drain. Put back in pot, add butter to macaroni. Add eggs and milk. Stir in grated cheese. Place in greased casserole and bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes, or until liquid is firm but not dry. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 6 to 8. This is easy to double for a larger group.

--Callie Cantrell



North Hall / Clermont Lions Club

The Clermont North Hall Lions Club had a very busy start to the year! We approved eight applications for eye services and eye glasses. As you may know, we have partnered with Lens Crafters at Lakeshore Mall thru Sight First to provide this service, receiving applications through the Department of Family Children Services for these needs.

In February, we worked at the Georgia Mountain Center (GMC) for several special events by taking up money for parking. We are employed by the GMC to collect a fee for parking and we split the proceeds. The money is used for community service projects.

Our February guest speaker was **Sheriff Steve Cronic** who discussed current events and programs going on in Hall County. He also in-

formed us that the Sheriff's Department has been recertified for the third time. This is a great honor for all of the citizens of Hall County and the entire Sheriff's Department! Congratulations to the Sheriff's Department!!

March's guest speakers were **Pete Black** with the **Georgia Forestry Commission** and **Victoria Jordan** from **Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation**. Mr. Black informed us of various services provided by the Forestry Service. He provided instruction on the prevention of forest fires and what we can do to protect our property if a fire should occur near our homes. For more information on the Forestry Service and their programs, please check out the Georgia Forestry Service website at <http://www.gatrees.org/>.

Ms. Jordan spoke about the new Georgia Lions Lighthouse

facility. Lions Clubs around the state helped raise special funds for this new facility and their projects. Georgia Lighthouse provides vision and hearing screenings, eye surgeries, eye glasses and digital hearing aids for those individuals who cannot afford such services. Please check out the new facility and the Foundation's various programs on their website at <http://www.lionslighthouse.org/>.

We applied to the Georgia Department of Transportation and have been approved for the adoption of Highway 129 from mile marker 24 to mile marker 25, which starts at Xtra, Storage through Al Cains. New signage has been erected to show the area that has been adopted, so please look for signs! This means that the Lions Club of Clermont/North Hall will be in charge of organizing beautifi-

cation projects and trash pickup for this area. One of our members, Lion Chuck Westfall, Postmaster of Clermont, has agreed to Chair the committee for this ongoing project. If you are interested in participating in any upcoming event, please give us a call!!

April is White Cane month. Lions across the area raise funds to help pay for needed eye surgeries and transplants and raises money for the various programs instituted by the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. This year, the NH/ Clermont Lions Club will be stationed at Kroger on Thompson Bridge Road from 9 am to 4 pm. Please come visit with us and help out any way you can! We look forward to seeing you!!!

As always, we appreciate any interest in our Club and would invite anyone interested in joining the North Hall/

Clermont Lions Club to come visit us at one of our meetings or any of the events listed above. We would love for you to join us as a guest or become a member of our institution. We look forward to seeing you there!

If anyone is interested in membership, participating in any of our ongoing projects, or in renting the Lions Club Building for special occasions, please call 678-616-4778 for more information.



**North Hall / Clermont
Lions Club
Chartered in 1983
200 Spring Street
Clermont, Ga. 30527
President John Brady
1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30
PM**

Helpful Gardening Tips

The Dirt on Good Soil- the most important component of every healthy garden:

Spring Fever has hit so remember when planting the flowerbeds or vegetables in the usual plot in the yard that good soil is the foundation that all plants need to thrive. The best soils produce the best plants, and your main job right now is to make certain that your soil is pliable, free of weeds, and high in organic matter.

Q: What's the difference between amendments and fertilizers?

A: It can be confusing with all the products available today. Soil amendments improve the texture and drainage of our sticky red clay that helps with drainage issues. They also enrich it with beneficial microbes that help break down nutrients for the plants.

Fertilizers add the nutrients that

plants such as vegetables need to grow. Take the guesswork out and have your soil tested first to determine what fertilizers your beds need. But don't just assume your garden needs fertilizer. It's too expensive to waste! Some garden vegetables such as snap beans and tomatoes will flower or make really pretty vines, but they won't develop fruit with excess nitrogen.

Some amendments such as cow manure do add small amounts of other nutrients that plants need, but some plants such as bedding plants and tomatoes need higher levels of things like phosphorous, calcium, or potassium than many soil amendments can provide.

Q: What should compost or soil amendments be made of?

A: "Organic matter" is a loose term and often causes a lot of confusion. Should I buy topsoil,

cow manure, or maybe Nature's Helper? And just what is compost, anyway?

The answer is- What the actual ingredients are that make up soil amendments and compost can vary so don't fret too much about it. It is important to make sure it has gone through the composting process though so that it is not still in the form of raw materials. Good compost has gone through a heat and broken down into rich organic matter. There are many ingredients and materials that make good compost- the important thing is that it should be a rich brown or black color and smell good. Don't be tempted by those 99 cent bags labeled as "top soil". They're made up of junk fillers that smell bad. If you need a lot, buy bulk compost. It's much less expensive.

In other words, it's worth the trouble to add the right stuff first in order to produce the best plants later.

Next time, I'll provide my "Tomato Tonic" recipe for keeping tomatoes happy in the garden. Mid to late April is prime time to set out tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash, etc.

**Kellie Bowen
Full Bloom Nursery
Clermont, Ga.
770-842-2345**



Community Volunteer Clean-up Day

May 14, 2011

10:30am - 12:30pm

Clay E. Gailey Park (Pavillion)



We are looking for community volunteers to come and participate in our clean up day. Come out and help beautify our community and keep it attractive and inviting .



****Refreshments and supplies will be provided.****



Cougar Chase 5K for K-5 and Fun Run

Saturday – May 14, 2011

A premier run to benefit the Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy.

Start/Finish located at Clermont Gym - 639 Main Street, Clermont GA 30527

Walkers are welcome. 5K starts at 9:00 AM,

Kids' Fun Run begins at 9:45 AM.

For additional information or registration form please contact Sandra Haynes - 770-983-3035 or

email Sandra.haynes@hallco.org

Registration available on www.active.com

Registration on race day opens at 8:30am

Registration fee - \$20.00

****All pre-registered participants will be guaranteed a shirt****

Proceeds will help provide Tennis facilities for Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy students. The facilities will also be available for community use.

TOWN
OF
CLERMONT

P.O. BOX 257
Clermont, Georgia 30527

We're on the web!
www.Clermontga.com