



# The Rooks Report

many people, one community...putting Clayton First

April 2014

Volume 11, Issue III

## Let's talk about it!

**"First Saturday Talk," May 3, 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 18).



Shana M. Rooks, Vice Chairman  
Clayton County Commissioner—District 3

## Happy Spring!!

We look forward to seeing you all this Saturday at the South Clayton Recreation Center for this Quarter's First Talks. We'll have a representative from The Clayton County Water Authority, our Chief Operating Officer, Arrelle Anderson and Clayton County Police personnel including Code Enforcement. We will start at 10AM and I promise not to keep you all day.

I invite you to ask any questions about your county government and to become better engaged in your community.

In Service,

Shana M. Rooks, Esq.

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## Transit Update

In January 2014, the BOC approved the contract to hire a vendor to conduct a feasibility study and begin assessing the groundwork to re-launch a transit system. Shortly after, the phase I task order was approved by the BOC and the project kick-off meeting was held in March. The vendor provided a detailed timeline and description of proposed tasks that will occur in three phases:

### **Phase I: Conceptual Transit Feasibility Study (completed by September 2014)**

- Outreach & Education (Public Meetings, Social Media, Web Presence)
- Transit Market Assessment
- Present Conceptual Feasibility Report

(In April 2014, we will begin hosting Public Information Meetings in the four commission district zones.)

### **\*Phase 2: Detailed Service, Capital, and Financial Plan (completed by March 2015)**

- Financial Planning & Budgeting
- Transit Management
- Operation Alternatives

### **\*Phase 3: Action Plan & Implementation (6-18 months; March 2015 – December 2016)**



**Arrelle Anderson**

**Chief Operating Officer**



## Clayton County Board of Health: Our Challenges

In Clayton County, juvenile delinquency, gangs, and teen pregnancy threaten the well-being and future of youth and their families. In 2003, juvenile crimes in Clayton County soared to significantly higher rates than in the 1990s. In 2007, nearly 30 percent of all arrests in Clayton County were juvenile arrests. Fiscal Year 2008 data indicates 35,528 Clayton County youth, ages 10-16, were at risk of entering the Juvenile Court system at that time.

Teen pregnancy rates in Clayton decreased dramatically between 1994 and 2002, but as gang involvement and delinquency increased, so did teenage pregnancy. Between 2002 and 2011, 5,864 babies in Clayton County were born to adolescent mothers, approximately 590 babies a year. Those rates were highest among African Americans.

At-risk youth are falling victim to the illusion of safety, protection, belonging, and purpose offered by delinquent peer groups. Seeking to stem the tide, the Clayton County Board of Health set out to implement an effective teen outreach program that holistically addresses the factors that lead to teen delinquency and early parenthood, such as lacking a sense of purpose, low self-esteem, and disengagement from the community.

We believe that affecting the attitudes and behaviors of young people will have a transformative effect on the overall health outcomes for our community.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, SMART Mapping System  
<sup>2</sup>Georgia Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

For more information about the Clayton County Board of Health please visit: [ClaytonCountyPublicHealth.org](http://ClaytonCountyPublicHealth.org)



Alpha Fowler Bryan, M.D.  
District Health Director,  
District 3-3





**HIDE**  
YOUR THINGS

**LOCK**  
YOUR CAR

**TAKE**  
YOUR KEYS



A reminder from the  
Clayton County  
Police Department

IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CALL 911

**SMART PHONE.  
DUMB CHOICE.**



**DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE**

A REMINDER FROM THE

CLAYTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



*Claytonpolice.com*



See Something? Know Something? Do Something!!!

CLAYTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# DRUG TIP LINE

## 770-473-3875

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



## Join the fun at Arts Clayton's 2014 Summer Kaleidoscope Art Camp & Young Teen Art Camp



2014 Themes

**Jungle Book - Kaleidoscope Camp**  
**Disco Fever - Young Teen Camp**

**June 2- 13, 2014**

**Rising 1-9 Graders**

**@ Jackson Elementary School of the Arts**

For Information or Registration  
770-473-5826 or [www.artsclayton.org](http://www.artsclayton.org)  
Space is Limited

**DID YOU  
KNOW**



Clayton County is one of Georgia's smallest counties in land size with an area of 146 square miles and has a population of 265,888 (2012 U.S. Census estimate). It is one of the most densely populated counties.

### 2012 U.S. Census Figures (Clayton County, GA)

Population: 265,888

Persons under 18 years of age: 28.5%

Female: 52.3%

White (Caucasian): 25.1%

Black (African American): 67%

Asian: 5.1%

Other Races: 2.8%

Persons who identify as Latino or Hispanic: 13.4%

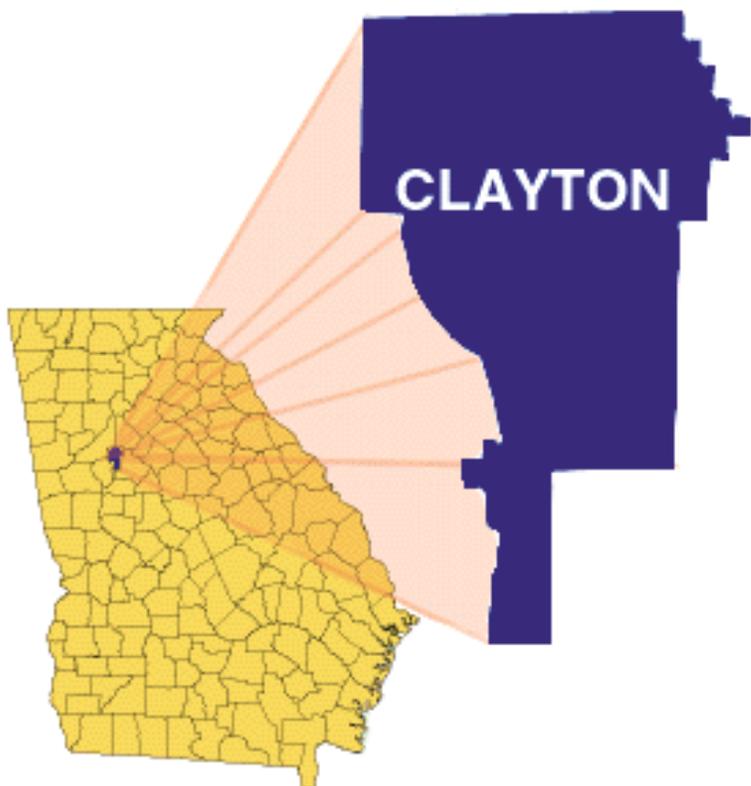
High school graduates: 82.1%

Persons with a bachelor's degree or higher: 17.8%

Homeownership rate: 59.1%

Person's living below the poverty level: 18.4%

Median household income: \$42,936





### Seniors Celebrate Mayfest 2014

In recognition of Older Americans Month in May, Clayton County Senior Services Department hosts an annual Mayfest celebration. During the event, seniors spend time connecting with local health care vendors offering services uniquely designed to meet their needs as well as participating in a fitness walk and dancing. Lunch is provided for all participants.

Mayfest 2014 is scheduled for Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 2 pm at Clayton County International Park in Jonesboro. This year, the Senior Services Department has teamed up with Kaiser Permanente, JenCare Neighborhood Medical Centers, and Coventry Health Care to bring an even bigger event for senior adults! Each year, hundreds of seniors from Clayton and other surrounding counties come together for an exciting day at the park. Come fellowship with your peers while enjoying class demonstrations, information from over 20 different health vendors, and a special visit from Kaiser's Doc Broc! Pre-registration is encouraged for the event. Open to members and non-members 55 and older. Lunch is included. Fitness Walk is scheduled for 9 am and will conclude prior to the stage activities beginning. You must pre-register for the Fitness Walk. There will be no on-site registration for the Walk. For more information, call 770-347-0120 or email us at [SeniorServices@co.clayton.ga.us](mailto:SeniorServices@co.clayton.ga.us). Find us online at [www.claytonseniors.com](http://www.claytonseniors.com).

"Through dedication, we strive for Excellence"



Clayton County Senior Services Department  
**MAYFEST 2014**

Friday, May 16, 2014 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. Martin's Pavilion  
inside  
Clayton County International Park



### T-Shirt Contest

Best Mayfest 2014 T-shirt  
design wins prize!

### Entertainment

### Vendor Booths

Booths open at 10am

### Fitness Walk

Starts at 9 am  
Must pre-register

For seniors 55 and older.  
No children allowed to event.

Rain or Shine



Proud Sponsor  
**KAISER PERMANENTE**



**MAYFEST 2014**  
CLAYTON COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES



## **Southlake Mall Begins Revitalization Under New Ownership**

*Prepared by Grant Wainscott, Director of Economic Development*

Not since its opening in 1976 has there been so much buzz in the community about our regional shopping hub in Morrow, Southlake Mall. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Los Angeles-based Vintage Real Estate purchased the core areas of the mall, more commonly known as the “in-line spaces,” from an asset management firm. City of Morrow and County officials have been working diligently to find new owners for the mall, and to find new users for the vacant commercial and retail spaces that surround the mall.

While each of the four anchor buildings is independently owned, Vintage plans to update the main areas of the mall, and redevelop the vacant JCPenney space into slightly smaller anchor retail sites. Both Macy’s and Sears currently own and operate their anchor spaces, and the City of Morrow owns the fourth anchor site, including a 30,000-sf state of the art convention center, the Morrow Center.

As reported in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, “Vintage Real Estate plans to spend millions of dollars to develop an adjacent building left empty by JCPenney in 2011, according to an emailed statement. The company will also work to add fashion retailers and popular restaurants to “bring in tenants currently missing” from the mall, the statement said. According to Chairman Fred Sands, “[they] have the capital and experience to transform it into a thriving and popular destination for the Atlanta metro area.”

Once the only regional shopping center on the Southside of Atlanta, Southlake has suffered recently from major competition sprouting up in nearly every neighboring county. When it opened in 1976, the original four anchor stores were Rich’s, Davison’s, JCPenney and Sears. Following the merger of Rich’s and Macy’s years later, the surviving store and brand was Macy’s, and the first anchor was vacated. In 2011, JCPenney announced it was closing its Southlake store, leaving a second anchor open.

City and County officials have tried to get previous mall owners to renovate and update the buildings for years. The only major renovation in nearly 40 years was in 1999, when new escalators were repositioned to either end of the interior corridor, and the food court was relocated and expanded.

The City of Morrow even went to the lengths of acquiring the former Macy’s/Rich’s vacant anchor, and built a major conference center inside it. At the same time, they worked to build a retail and entertainment district known as Olde Town Morrow. While Olde Town Morrow is not operating at the moment, City of Morrow leaders are currently working on a plan to re-use or possibly even re-open the development.

Despite this significant public sector investment, the mall continued to show signs of weakening. In February of 2013, the core of the mall, excluding the anchor spaces, went into foreclosure. The owners, General Growth Properties, had decided to shed the asset. While there was an air of anxiety about its future, city and county officials knew that this was a strategic move that could eventually bring new owners and new development resources to the table.

“Working with Vintage and their team throughout the due diligence and acquisition process has been an absolute pleasure,” said Grant Wainscott, Clayton County’s Director of Economic Development. “We’ve met with them several times over the course of the project, including at their headquarters in California, and we have the utmost confidence that Vintage is the right owner at the right time. Now, we need the entire Clayton County and Southside communities to support the mall as we work to bring it back to its peak attraction.”

The revitalization of Southlake Mall is just one of the many strategies being pursued by the county’s economic development office in an effort to rebuild the area’s retail sector. The Mt. Zion shopping corridor, HWYs 85 & 19/41, and the Jonesboro Road corridor running through Jonesboro, Morrow, Lake City and Forest Park, are all areas where county and city officials are working to attract quality new retail investment.

Most recently, the cities of Morrow, Lake City and Forest Park have partnered together to craft a Tri-Cities redevelopment plan along their major artery, Jonesboro Road. Incentive programs like Opportunity Zones (OZs) and Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) could help provide the resources and partnerships necessary to help shape the future of development. As always, we encourage you to shop local and support the retail businesses that call Clayton County home.



## **Gardening Opportunities Are Still Available**

Free plots are still available for the Lovejoy Community Garden located in the Gerald Matthews Complex. To reserve a plot, please call Steven VanDyke at 770-473-5465.

# PARKS AND RECREATION HAS GONE MOBILE

Scan with your QR Code Reader on your Smartphone or Tablet.





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## May 2014 Events

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**May 3, 2014**

**MOVIE UNDER THE STARS**— Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and snacks to our FREE Event at Rex Park. Movie will begin at dusk (9:00pm). Movie playing: “Despicable Me 2”

**May 10, 2014**

**YOUTH FISHING DERBY**—FREE Event from 8:00am until 12:00pm. Located at International Park “The Beach” (Upper Lake). All ages. Please bring bait and equipment. Prizes will be awarded for heaviest Catfish and heaviest Bass. For more information please call (770) 603-4165.

**May 10, 2014**

**MOTHERS DAY OFF**—This program will give children an opportunity to create a special gift for their mothers for Mothers Day. FREE event from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center.

**May 19, 2014**

**YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**—FREE event at Rum Creek Park starting at 6:00pm.

**May 24, 2014**

**BEACH OPENING DAY**—Clayton County International Park “The Beach” will open with live entertainment and a fireworks celebration beginning at dusk (around 9:00pm). The cost to enter the Beach is \$10.00 per person.



**Clayton County Water Authority  
is proud to announce  
our partnership with  
Commissioner Shana Rooks**

**CCWA agents will be onsite at Commissioner Rooks'  
*First Saturday Talk***

**to share helpful tips and tricks to assist in identifying  
leaks, which lead to higher water bills.**

**We will also share information regarding several new  
customer service initiatives aimed at improving the  
customer experience. We look to see you there!!**

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**South Clayton Recreation Center**

**1837 McDonough Rd.**

**Hampton, GA 30228**



**For more information, visit us on the web at  
[www.ccwa.us](http://www.ccwa.us) or dial 770.960.5200.**





**Rosalind K. Lett,**  
**Director of**  
**Library Services**

Our library is so much more than books. We have begun to integrate more technology into the library's offerings. We offer:

Hundreds of databases on any and every subject imaginable.

To help your kids with their homework and projects, check out Brainfuse, Learning Express, Tumblebookcloud and Sesame Street Books.

To assist your wife, mother, sister or daughter to be more knowledgeable when they go to the mechanic to have their car repaired, try Chilton's Auto Repair.

If you're going to the doctor or on a trip and need a good book to read, music to listen to or a movie to watch. Download music and movies from Freegal. You can download 3 songs a week (that you get to keep) and watch 3 movies with your library card (the most valuable card in your wallet).

Start Reading e-Book and listening to audiobooks – Electronic books and audio books can be downloaded on your Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or other mobile device.

Looking for a job? You can't lose with the Job and Career Accelerator or A to Z databases. Starting a new business and need to do your market research? A-Z databases are second to none in helping create client list and locate business profiles. If you need more one-on-one help we will have a Market Research Class (designed for a Chamber of Commerce FastTrac Session) coming soon.

Do you want to become bilingual? Try our Mango language and learn a new language with your family. The library offers FREE computer classes starting with Computer Basics and working up to Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher.

Coming soon to a Library near you!!

We will invest in electronic journals so that if you have a mobile device you can download magazines to read at your leisure. We're also planning to purchase more e-books that have multi-user capabilities.

We envision getting grant funding to purchase mobile devices for circulating to our patrons so that the library will be as close as the palm of your hand.

The future of the technology in the Library is bright, yet fear not, as we move to be more High Tech, we will also become more High Touch. Concierge level service is what you should expect and get from your Clayton County Library System. We are looking to strike a balance between print and digital so that we can continue to meet the needs of all of our Clayton County communities.



## **“FIZZ BOOM READ” 2014 SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Summertime is fun time for readers of all ages! Browse through our website for summer reading-related programs. “Fizz Boom Read ” this summer at your local library. To join in the fun of Summer Reading today, just find your local library. The theme this year is Science. Kids can explore the wonderful world of reading at their public libraries this summer when the Clayton County Public Library presents FIZZ BOOM READ, a free reading incentive program for children Preschool through Fifth Grade, at six library locations in Clayton County.

While FIZZ BOOM READ highlights the for-fun aspect of reading for kids, parents and teachers appreciate that children’s and teens participation in Summer Reading helps develop and expand reading skills, encourages lifelong learning habits, and fosters an appreciation of all the resources provided by public libraries in our local communities.



**Saturday, May 24**

**FIZZ, BOOM, READ! SUMMER READING KICK-OFF**

Let the summer reading begin! Kids, from infants to teens, can begin registering for the Summer Reading Program at any of our Clayton County Library locations. At registration, participants will receive a reading log, bookmark, and information sheet to keep track of his/her summer reading. Upon returning to the library with books that were read, recorded on the reading log, readers may select a prize to take home from our prize board. Readers are limited to one reading incentive prize per week.

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### **General Information About The Clayton County Library System**

- Offers public computers and free wireless Internet access at all branches.
- Offers free classes, events, performances, activities, and for all ages that are available at all branches throughout the year.
- Meeting rooms are available for certain types of public use.
- Provides voter registration forms and tax forms at all branches.
- Photocopy machines have the ability to scan documents in color or black/white and save them to a flash drive or an email address at no charge.





# LAW DAY 2014

Featuring **FREE** 10 minutes limited legal consultation with attorneys!

- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Bankruptcy Law
- Real Estate Law (Landlord/Tenant)
- Wills
- **EVERYONE** is invited! Come with your questions!

**Date:** Friday, May 2, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Harold R. Banke Justice Center

9151 Tara Boulevard

2nd Floor

Employee dining area by Chick-fil-A

Jonesboro, GA 30236

You're invited to The Meadows HOA 1<sup>st</sup> annual

# spring fling Community Yard Sale

Need to do a little Spring Cleaning and get rid of some clutter?

Are you looking for the perfect item for your home or office?

If so, come sell and shop at The Meadows Community Yard Sale!

The sale will be at The Meadows clubhouse located at

**10528 Barberry Dr. Hampton, GA 30228**

Tables are \$20.00. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

For more information call Nicole @ 678.789.7499

or email us at [themeadowshoa@outlook.com](mailto:themeadowshoa@outlook.com)

Set up will begin at 7 am.

**Vendors are also welcomed!**

*One man's trash is another man's treasure!!*

**Where:** The Meadows Clubhouse

**When:** May 17th, 2014

**Times:** 8 AM- 3 PM





## **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](mailto: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

### May 3, 2014

South Clayton Recreation Center

1837 McDonough Rd. , Hampton GA 30228

10:00 am—12:00 pm

## Comments

Commissioner Rooks,

Great job on the March newsletter. Lots of good and new information.

Thanks for all you are doing.

Frances

### Clayton County Government's Top Five Communication Resources

Website

[www.ClaytonCountyGa.gov](http://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