



The Rooks Report

2015 Year In Review

Commissioner Shana M. Rooks
Clayton County District 3

December 23, 2015

Happy Holidays Constituents:

I can hardly believe 2015 is nearly over and I've had the awesome responsibility of serving you as your Commissioner. This has been a tremendous year, yet again, of many triumphs. As many of you know now, I will not seek another term as Commissioner. God has led me to pursue a seat as Judge on the Clayton County Superior Court and I welcome the opportunity to continue serving this great county in that capacity. Thank you for your continued support.

Please enjoy this Year in Review of the accomplishments throughout our county. There is much to be proud. Here's a list of some of my most notable accomplishments:

- Get Fit Clayton launch at Gerald Matthews Athletic Complex. (February)
- MARTA Started Service In Clayton County (March, second phase started in August, third phase started in December)
- Hosted two HOA Bootcamps (May and June)
- H.O.P.E. for Homeowners Housing Summit (August)
- Voted to Save Southern Regional Hospital by finding a financing source (September)
- Spear-headed River's Edge Golf Course purchase to become River's Edge Walking Trails (September)
- Produced a Public Service Announcement for Childhood Cancer Month (September)
- Spear-headed Diabetes Awareness Education initiative for the county (November)
- Partnered with the Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) to host a Small Business Local Enterprise (SLBE) business mixer (November)
- Partnered with Community Outreach in Action, Inc. to feed 86 Clayton County families with Thanksgiving Baskets (November)
- Partnered with Community Outreach in Action, Inc. to feed 40 Clayton County

families with Thanksgiving Baskets and provided toys to 40 kids (December)

Yours in Service,

Shana M. Rooks, Esq.
Clayton County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner for District 3

Rooks announces bid for Clayton Superior Court judge

[Tammy Joyner](#) The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

12:42 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2015

Clayton County District 3 Commissioner Shana Rooks announced Friday she will not seek another term as commissioner but instead will run for county Superior Court Judge in May.

“It has been an honor and privilege to work as a commissioner, seeking to effect positive and meaningful change in Clayton County government. I have proudly and purposefully worked to restore pride, integrity, trust and hope in our county,” Rooks said in a statement announcing her decision. “For the past 13 months, however, my heart has been led to the idea of how I can even better serve the people of this county that I love. Through prayer and counsel, I firmly believe that God’s direction in my life is for me to continue my public serve as judge.”

Rooks was elected commissioner in 2012. During her tenure, she helped establish regular community meetings and outreach in her district, pushed for more transparency in government through televised commission meeting, helped restore public transportation to Clayton as well as supported efforts to save Southern Regional Medical Center.



Clayton County Commissioner Shana Rooks

Rooks is a graduate of Spelman College and a graduate of Tulane University School of Law. She was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in November 2000 and is admitted to practice in all Georgia state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to becoming a county commissioner, Rooks served as an associate magistrate court judge and a judge temporarily with the Clayton County Juvenile Court.

2015 Proclamation Recipients



Community Activism Judith Bradberry



Community Activism Joseph Ector



Community Activism Chris Gallagher



Recognized Community Outreach in Action, Inc.

Chairman Turner's 2015 Re-cap

Chairman Turner's Annual Toy Drive and Fundraiser was a Huge Success

Chairman Turner turned over toys and monetary donations in the amount of \$2,015 to the Ambassadors Behind CASA (ABCs) who distributed them to approximately 100 abused and neglected children of Clayton County for the holiday season.



Chairman Jeff Turner wins 2015-2016 Public Leadership Award

Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner was selected as the Safe America Foundation's 2015-16 *WorldSafe Public Leadership Award* recipient. Chairman Turner received the award in recognition of his leadership in helping economic development Atlanta's Southside and his work to enhance the safety and quality of life in the multi-county Southern Crescent.



Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner Received the 2015 Friend of Labor Award

The Georgia AFL-CIO federation honored Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner with the 2015 “Friend of Labor” award at the 44th Labor Awards Banquet in Atlanta, Georgia. Chairman Turner was one of three distinguished honorees and credits members of the union for their efforts in assisting to bring the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) to Clayton County.



Show on the Road/ Showcase Clayton Expo

Chairman Jeff Turner in Collaboration with the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Government Show on the Road and Showcase Clayton Business and Community Expo to highlight the county’s departments and local businesses.



State of the County Address Presented on March 26, 2015

Chairman Turner Presented the 2015 State of the County Address to celebrate the accomplishments of the previous year, understand the challenges that the county faces, and get the inside scoop on investments being made in the county. Items included Highlights and Achievements of 2014, Economic Development, MARTA, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Projects and Future Opportunities. The next State of the County Address will be presented in March 2016.

 A promotional poster for the State of the County Address. The background is dark red with white and gold text. It features a small portrait of Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner. The text includes:

Presented by Chairman
Jeffrey E. Turner
Clayton County
Board of Commissioners

**STATE OF THE
COUNTY ADDRESS**

Thursday, March 26, 2015
7:45am - 9:30am

Clayton State University (Student Activities Center)
2000 Clayton State Boulevard, Morrow, Georgia 30236
To Register: (678) 610-4021 or ClaytonChamber.org

 On the right side of the poster, there is a vertical strip of four small images: a man speaking at a podium, a group of people standing together, a man in a blue shirt, and a group of people in safety vests.



CCTV Year-in-Review

Clayton County Access Television (CCTV) airs on Comcast Channel 23 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

CCTV is now on Periscope! Follow us @ClaytonTV23 to view LIVE Streams all over Clayton County.

Clayton County Access Television (CCTV) collaborated with the Clayton County Police Department to record a National PSA to bring light to Homelessness. Watch all videos at www.ClaytonTV23.com

CCTV utilized two interns from Clayton State University who brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to include videography and marketing components.

CCTV covered approximately 100 events, released 72 videos, and increased overall viewership by adding 5,000 new members to their database.

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners named Michael Register as the new Chief of Police for Clayton County. Chief Register has stated that his top three priorities are continuing to build a stronger partnership with the community, hire and retain officers who will serve the community and represent the department well, and be prepared for response to critical incidents should they occur. Chief Register has directed that all personnel adhere to the following Tenets of Conduct:



1. Treat each other and the community with respect.
2. Think of a problem as just an opportunity to find a solution.
3. Be a positive representative of the department, the community, and the law enforcement profession, both on and off duty.
4. Service the community as you would want a family member to be serviced.

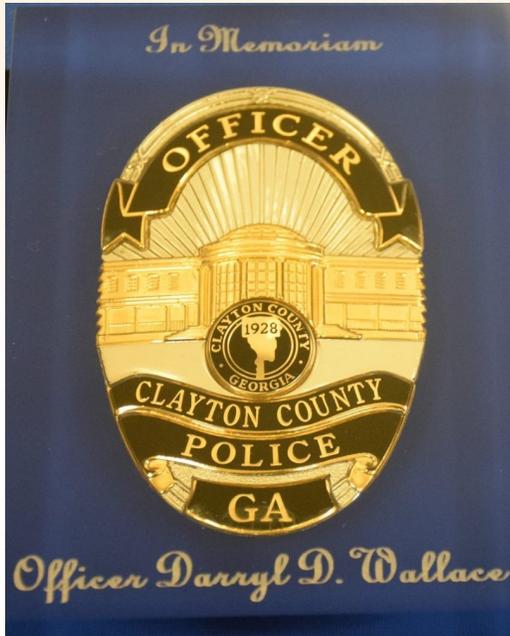


The Code Enforcement Unit is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens of Clayton County, and also assist other county departments in ensuring that all residential and commercial codes and standards are maintained in order to keep Clayton County a great place to live, visit and do business in. complaints fielded by the CCPD Code Enforcement Unit increased over 80% from 2014. This increase in complaints was attributed to the growth of the county during this past year, and the partnership we have with the community in working together to address code enforcement violations.

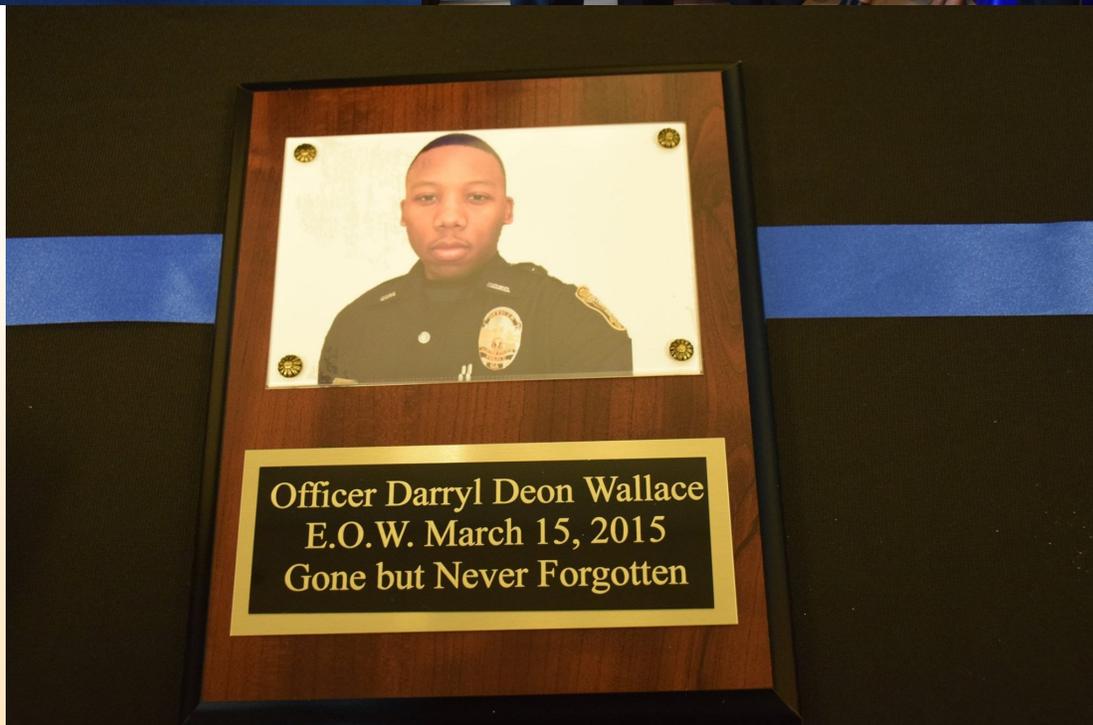
| | <u>District 3</u> | <u>County Wide</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Residential Cases Opened | 3,356 | 10,912 |
| Residential Cases Closed | 2,682 | 9,532 |
| Commercial Cases Opened | 66 | 650 |
| Commercial Cases Closed | 53 | 484 |
| Citations issued | 102 | 650 |

- The Police Department conducted two Police Recruit classes in 2015, and also held two Citizen Police Academies. The Citizen Police Academy is a 13 week course that allows citizens of the county to gain knowledge and a better understanding of police operations, and also assist in building a stronger partnership within the community. The Police Academy also conducts numerous professional development courses during the year for CCPD personnel such as Diversity Training, Supervision Training and Ethics Training.
- Clayton County Animal Control Unit had enforcement contact with over 4,122 animals and was able to find loving homes for more than 2,571 animals. The unit reduced its euthanasia rate by over 52% from 2014. The Animal Control Unit also received several operational additions to include the hiring of a full-time Veterinarian for the facility, a civilian supervisor, and new protocols to enhance the health and welfare of the animals such as mandatory immunizations.
- The community affairs unit participated in approximately 845 programs across the community. The unit implemented an electronic Child ID Fingerprint Initiative which allows officers to provide parents with computer generated files stored on a disk that includes their child's fingerprints, photographs, height, and weight information. The unit also added 6 additional Neighborhood Watch Programs to the 19 programs that already exist within District 3.

- This year Clayton County Police Department 265,800 calls for service which is a 14.2% increase from 2014. The department also generated approximately 83,775 incident reports which is an increase of 10.1% from 2014.
- The property and evidence unit took in 417 firearms, and the Records and Permits unit had 1112,228 data entries this year.
- Clayton County is below the state average for fatality accidents. This is attributed to the focused efforts of the CCPD Traffic Unit and the various Sectors.



On March 15, 2015, Officer Darryl Wallace, a 26 year old police officer lost his life while on duty serving the constituents of District 3.



HUMAN RESOURCES-A YEAR IN REVIEW

EMPLOYMENT

The Employment Division had another productive year. HR is going green with the implementation of the final phase of the On-line Application Project (OAP). Certified applications are now forwarded to departments electronically. No more paper applications and no more copies! Additionally, four (4) computer stations were installed at 120 Smith Street to provide access to the on-line application system for applicants that may have limited computer access. Over 35,000 on-line applications were processed during the past 12 months. That's a lot of saved paper! HR and IT will continue to monitor the OAP and make improvements to the system.

In 2015, the Employment Division processed more than 500 new employees, processed nearly 4,000 personnel actions forms, conducted 580 typing tests, and responded to 70 open records requests.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Benefits Division continues to work hard to provide a comprehensive benefit package to employees. During the 2015 Open Enrollment period, the on-line enrollment and eligibility system was used and once again, this provided a smooth enrollment process. This division also monitors and recommends changes to the County's insurance plans to ensure compliance with the Healthcare Reform requirements. We are pleased to announce the County is in full compliance.

Workers Comp claims are also monitored by this division. This year workers comp claims have been reduced by 7%. With the assistance of Risk Management, "safety first" is stressed to all County employees.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Development Division has been extremely busy this year providing training to employees, supervisors and managers. In 2015, 150 training classes were offered with over 4,000 participants. Triennial Training was offered to all employees. This is a refresher course conducted every three years covering a number of topics such as sexual harassment prevention, cultural diversity, and FMLA to name a few. It's important that employees understand their rights and responsibilities. By working together, we can maintain a great work environment for all employees.

Human Resources appreciates its partnership with all County offices and departments and looks forward to working together in 2016.



Semi-Annual Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Department Semi-annual meeting was held on December 18, 2015. The objective during the meeting was to do an annual review of the department and celebrated the year's accomplishments. As part of the meeting the department has several awards that are provided. The following employees were recognized at the meeting for their outstanding accomplishments:

Sequellia Logan – Excellent Service Award

Brandon Henderson – Starfish Award

Wanda McDowell – Excelling to New Heights

Janet Aldridge – Excelling to New Heights

Samantha Brewer – Employee of the Year

Georgia Parks & Recreation Department Awards

State Award: Marketing Award, Amy Keeney

State Awards: Summer Games Life Guard Competition – Third Place , Life Guard Staff

District Award: Program Award “Get Fit Clayton” - Troy Stubbs

District Award: Distinguished Professional Award – Koboi Simpson

District 3 Parks & Recreation Events

Bonanza Mini Park will receive renovations to include: New Basketball Courts, Lighting and fencing

Soccer Field Renovations have been completed. Total renovations: \$989,000 (picture provided)



Parks & Recreation Awards



Sequellia Logan—Excellent Service Award Recipient

-Excellent Service Award
This employee provides excellent services and goes above and beyond.



Brandon Henderson—Starfish Award Recipient

Starfish Award -
The individual that receives this award wants to truly make a difference and does.

Excelling to New Heights Award -
The individual that receives this award goes above and beyond the call of duty and excels far beyond expectations.



Wanda McDowell—Excelling to New Heights Recipient



Janet Aldridge— Excelling to New Heights Recipient



Samantha Brewer— Employee of the Year Recipient

- Employee of the Year
This employee is an outstanding employee and voted on by previous Employee of the Year Recipients.





Summer Food Program



Worlds Largest Swim Lesson



GPRC Summer Games

District 3 Parks & Recreation Events



Dr. Seuss Reading Event



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

FALL FESTIVAL





South Clayton Recreation Center Job Fair



River's Edge Walking Trail Ribbon Cutting



Get Fit Clayton Ribbon Cutting

Transportation and Development Department accomplishments for 2015 in Commission District 3

COMPLETED

Panhandle Road Turn Lane @ Eddie White Academy

The installation of two left turn lanes on Panhandle Road for the two driveway entrances of the Eddie White Academy. The \$488,317 project removed left turning vehicles from the through lane, allowing for improved traffic flow and safety on Panhandle Road.

Before:



After:



COMPLETED

Pointe South Parkway Sidewalk

New Sidewalk installation completed in 2015 on Pointe South Parkway near SR85. Approximately 300 feet of sidewalk connected the existing sidewalk on Pointe South Parkway to SR85 at a cost of \$282,240.

Before:



After:



COMPLETED:

Resurfacing

During 2015, approximately 5.26 miles of street resurfacing was completed on 28 streets at an approximate cost of \$674,819.83.

Liberty Lane Before:



Liberty Lane After:



Future Project

Panhandle Road Sidewalk

New sidewalk installation to begin in 2016. Sidewalk will be installed on both sides of Panhandle Road from Tara Road to McDonough Road. The total length of sidewalk is 3.5 miles at a cost of \$778,584.

Before:**Future Project****Mundy's Mill Culvert Extension**

Extension of existing culvert on Mundy's Mill Road near Mundy's Mill High School will begin in 2016. The \$302,697 extension will provide an improved roadside safety zone.

Before:



UGA Clayton County Extension aims to meet the needs of the community through education and collaboration. Housing continues to be an issue in our county and is a priority for the Housing and Consumer Economics Department.

Clayton County was identified, “the hardest hit zip code in the country (Haas Institute).” Of our homeowners, 76% are “underwater” or have negative equity in their residences. While the statistics are staggering, supportive programming is available. Unfortunately, many Clayton County residents were unaware of assistance options. UGA Clayton County Extension in partnership with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Clayton County Board of Commissioners, U.S. Treasury Department and Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership sought to counter this lack of awareness through a series educational housing events called H.O.P.E for Homeowners. The events provided Clayton County constituents with on-site housing counseling, available housing assistance programs, and solution oriented discussion among residents and community stakeholders. The event was well received and over 268 constituents were able to receive on-site solutions to underwater, unemployment and delinquency mortgage issues they were experiencing.

In 2016 Clayton County Extension will continue to partner with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and bring 3 Home Preservation workshops to the County where constituents with Wells Fargo Mortgages can receive assistance if they are experiencing delinquency, foreclosure or loss of employment.





Accomplishments

- **CCFES EMS Academy: Instructed & Graduated 40 AEMT and Paramedic Students /January & July 2015**
- **CCFES Command Staff 2nd Annual Day at the State Capital/ February 23**
- **Drone 1's maiden voyage "Future of Risk Management & Mitigation"/ March 9, 2015**
- **Arrival of New Medical Transport Units / March 13th**
- **Ground Breaking & start of construction/New Multipurpose Training Facility/ April 21**
- **CCFES' EMS Program is awarded the Silver Recognition Award /April 27**
- **1st CCFES Combat Challenge Boot Camp for all Clayton County Employees/ June-August 2015**
- **1st Community Paramedicine Unit hits the streets to visit patients in their homes/ August 3, 2015**
- **Unveiling of new Fire Apparatus /August 24th**
- **State of the Department Address for all CCFES employees/September 2**
- **CCFES' Lt. Ryan Morrison wins "Ronnie Thames - Silent Hero Award"/ September 11**
- **Clayton County Severe Weather Task Force Plan and Prepare Meeting/ November 9**
- **Ribbon cutting for opening of New Multipurpose Training Facility/November 17**
- **Three Firefighter Recruit Classes Hired /March, August & December 2015**
- **CCFES hires 1st Nurse Community Treatment Nurse Practitioners/ December 1**
- **1st Public Safety Coordination meeting hosted/ December 2**
- **Clayton County Emergency Management: Continuity of Government Drill, Mental Health and Wellness class for 911 Dispatchers and Public Safety Leadership Coordination Seminar.**

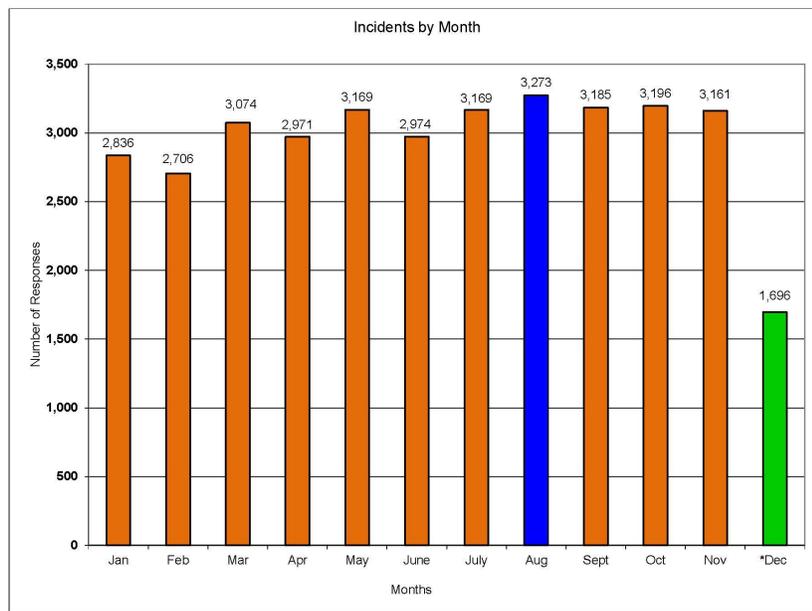
• **Public Affairs**

- ◇ **Events Attended: 235**
- ◇ **Fire Safety Presentations: 60**
- ◇ **Citizens Contacted: 120,000**
 - * **Youth = 90,000**
 - * **Adults = 30,000**

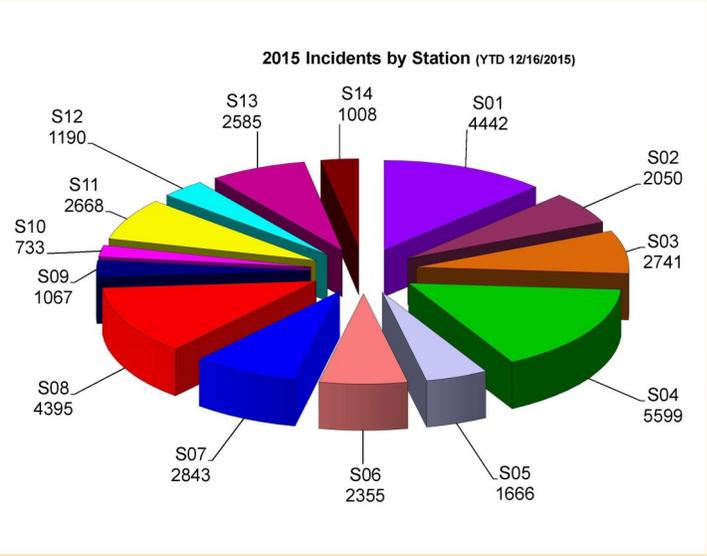
See Attachments:

Incidents by Month (YTD Call Volume = 35,410 as of December 16, 2015)

Incidents by Station



*YTD Call Volume = 35,410 as of December 16, 2015







Clayton County Corrections Department Correctional Institute (Prison) Division and Refuse Control Division

Not unlike previous years, the Clayton County Corrections Department was very busy during 2015. The Department is comprised of two divisions; Clayton County Correctional Institute (Prison) and Refuse Control.

Mission Statement

To provide an inmate labor force for Clayton County to help control the costs of government, while providing a safe and humane environment for inmates, staff and the community.

The statistical data referenced below is for the time period of January 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

Clayton County Correctional Institute (Prison Division)

The Clayton County Prison has generated the following revenues for the County so far in 2015:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Inmate Housing Subsidies: | \$1,521,580.00 |
| Inmate Disciplinary Fee Revenue: | \$2,770.31 |
| Inmate Telephone Sales Revenue: | \$38,973.02 |
| Inmate Commissary Sales Revenue: | \$6,120.07 |
| Staff Meal Sales Revenue: | \$132.00 |
| Staff Haircut Revenue: | \$12.00 |
| Water Authority Labor Contract: | \$67,110.00 |
| City of Morrow Labor Contract: | <u>\$10,380.00</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUES: | \$1,647,077.40 |

The Clayton County Prison has a housing capacity of 242 inmates. For 2015 the Prison has maintained less than a 1.8% vacancy rate, has had no major incidents including escapes this year, and has also seen a 23% decrease in use of force incidents within the prison.

Refuse Control Division

The Clayton County Corrections Department Refuse Control Division is responsible for the cleaning of county buildings, the removal of litter from grounds and roads in Clayton County, graffiti removal, force clean abatement, and grass cutting using inmate labor and court ordered community service workers.

Refuse Control performs inspections and completes pick-up tickets for citizens. These services results in additional revenue for the County. Most of these services are provided using inmate labor from the Clayton County Correctional Institute. By using inmate labor essentially cutting out labor costs the effect of the fees taken in is greatly magnified.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY REFUSE CONTROL

- Refuse Control cleans, cuts, and maintains over 725 miles of county roads, including cleaning and cutting state roads that are located in the county. The State pays a fee of approximately \$156,000 per year to the County for this service.
- Refuse Control picks up dead animals on county and state right of ways.
- Refuse Control also picks up dead pets belonging to the citizens of Clayton County for a flat fee of \$20.00.
- Refuse Control is designated as a State of Georgia Community Service Agency with community service hours recorded and reported to over 25 probation companies.
- Refuse Control is also responsible cleaning up the Code Enforcement Abatements. This happens when someone is evicted from a residence or a vacant property needs to be maintained.
- Refuse Control picks up trash dumped alongside the roadways of the county and state right of ways.
- Refuse Control cleans all county and state roads.
- Refuse Control picks up illegally dumped tires on the county right of ways.
- Refuse Control coordinates with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and with the Clayton County Prison on pauper burials. This service provides a burial service for Clayton County residents that would not be able to afford a burial for loved ones.
- As a service to all of unincorporated Clayton County citizens, Refuse Control picks up items that private sanitation companies do not pick up. After unwanted items are placed on the curb on the County right of way residents place an order for pick-up by calling 770-477-3548. A County Refuse Control inspector will respond to the address normally within 24 hours to assess the debris. There is no charge for the estimate; however, if the residents choose to use the service there is a minimum fee of \$20.00 and the charge goes up from there depending on the amount of debris at the curb. Typically, \$20.00 is a pick-up truck sized load.
- Picks up of euthanized animals from Animal Control several times a week.
- Refuse Control cleans and maintains janitorial services for 55 County locations including the County's Justice Center, Juvenile Building, Historic Courthouse, Annexes, and the Police Department.
- Refuse Control handles the upkeep and lawn maintenance for all County buildings.

- Refuse Control delivers the mail to the Justice Center, Juvenile Building, Historic Courthouse, Annexes and all other County buildings.
- Refuse Control picks up of shredded paper from Finance and Human Resources weekly.
- Refuse Control picks up trash at all County buildings not on the dumpster route.
- Refuse Control picks up toys from Empty Stocking Fund for DFACS every year.
- Refuse Control picks up school supplies and helps distribute supplies to local school teachers before school season.
- Refuse Control helps the Elections Department with delivering voting machines during election season
- Refuse Control replaces seats in Extension Service vans several times a year.

For the time period of January 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, the Refuse Control Division has recorded the following activity:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Debris Estimates Provided: | 2,911 |
| Debris Pick Ups: | 2,558 |
| Amount of Money Collected From Debris Pick Ups: | \$85,680.00 |
| Roads Areas Cleaned: | 1,332 |
| Roadway Areas Cut: | 2,484 |
| Dead Animals Removed for Roads: | 740 |
| Pauper Burials: | 17 |
| Number of Tires Picked Up: | 899 |
| Number of Dumpings Picked Up off County Roads: | 498 |
| Department Moves and/or Taken to Surplus: | 136 |
| County Office Carpets Cleaned: | 31 |
| County Office Floors Waxed and Buffed: | 40 |
| Number of Community Service Workers Processed: | 6,963 |
| Number of Hours Worked by Community Service Workers: | 54,924 |
| Amount of Money County Saved by Using Community Service Workers: | \$494,316 |
| Force Cleans Completed: | 164 |

The dedicated staff of the Corrections Department strives to continue with providing our residents with the highest level of customer service and looks forward to a safe and successful 2016.



CLAYTON COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT 2015 IN REVIEW



Clayton County
Senior Services
 Department
Changing the face of aging

- For the first time, *Clayton County Meals on Wheels* Program partnered with the Jonesboro Chick-fil-a on Tara Blvd for our annual March for Meals Initiative and received 10% of the proceeds taken in for the day for the campaign.
- Received \$10,000 worth of scholarships to three 2015 HS Kinship Graduates through the *Classie Mae Turner Scholarship Fund* by Chairman Turner.
- In July, *Meals on Wheels* was the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from We Are Clayton Magazine's Annual Tea honoring Outstanding Women of Clayton County.
- We were awarded *580 state vouchers for the annual DHS/ARC Farmer's Market* in the amount of twenty-five dollars each for seniors in the county. The program was later presented with two paid registration slots to the national Farmer's Market Conference for successful utilizing all of the vouchers.
- All Aging staff directly managing senior meals received their national *ServSafe Certifications*.
- The *Aging Program* set a record for the *2015 Holiday Campaign* by providing Clayton County seniors with 235 food baskets complete with a choice of a turkey, hen, or rotisserie chicken along with side dishes. This was achieved through on-going partnerships with the Clayton County Sheriff's Office, Fire and Emergency Services, Parks and Recreation, We Are Clayton Magazine, Community Outreach, East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the "Friends of Clayton Meals on Wheels".
- Provided over 250 kids of the Kinship Care Program with toys and other gifts for the *Kinship Angel Tree Christmas Program*.
- Served over 200 kids through *Back 2 School* give away programs
- Expanded *Kinship's Food Nutrition Program* with a partnership with Clayton County Extension Services
- Created a partnership with *Clayton State Nursing School* to provide health educational presentations to members covering Prostate Cancer, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Diabetes and Obesity, and more.
- Celebrated "*National Senior Center Month*" in September at all Senior Services facilities, including a *Falls Prevention* program with presentations by Grady Memorial Hospital, Center for the Visually Impaired, Clayton State University, Ideal Therapy, & Walgreens, TriCare Therapy Services.
- Partnered with *Love Bug Foundation* to provide free pet food for members needing assistance.
- Through partnership with the *Diabetes Association of Atlanta*, we presented *Soar into Wellness* workshop that provided information on nutrition, heart health, healthy food substitutions, exercise, and stress management tools.
- Relocated the Senior Adult Program to Frank Bailey Senior Center as part of the *Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Senior Adult Centers Without Walls Restructuring Program*. Our program will serve as ARC's pilot program throughout the state.
- Generated over *\$4,000 in sponsorships* for Mayfest 2015 event that entertained and fed 1100 seniors.





Clayton County's Government's Director of Information Technology, Brett W. Lavender (left), and Assistant Director of Information Technology, Jason Brookins (right), received the Local Government Chief Information Officer (LGCIO) certificate during a ceremony held in Savannah. The LGCIO program is a joint certificate program between Georgia GMIS and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. It is cosponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.



LGCIO Class of 2015

The LGCIO Program recipients represent a diverse segment of Georgia local governments and have demonstrated a commitment to continuing technical and leadership education. Recipients take their training back to their respective communities and use the knowledge gained in a variety of best practice applications. The LGCIO certificate is a significant accomplishment and is widely acknowledged as the gold standard among local government information technology training programs.



Clayton County Government's Assistant IT Director Jason Brookins (fourth from the right) was installed as the President of Georgia chapter of GMIS (Government Management Information Sciences) International, the largest professional organization for public sector IT (Information Technology) leaders in the United States.

The installation ceremony for the newly-elected board took place during the spring GMIS Conference, held in St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The bi-annual conference was attended by more than 100 public sector IT leaders and technology vendors.

In addition to Brookins, other GMIS officers for 2015-2016 are: Eugene Rudy, Executive Director, City of St. Mary's; Ben Brengman, second vice president, City of Garden City; Aaron Kotsyu, third vice president, Lowndes County Board of Commissioners; Cam Mathis, fourth vice president, City of Savannah; Clark Rainer, treasurer, Secretary of State's office; and Karen Knight, Director of Corporate Sponsorship, City of Douglasville.

GMIS boasts over 500 member organizations across the United States and international sister organizations in six countries.

Brookins has worked in Clayton County Government's IT Department for 19 years, serving as the Assistant IT Director for the past three years.



Also at the spring conference, Clayton County's IT Director, Brett W. Lavender, was awarded the 2015 Georgia GMIS Outstanding Professional of the Year award. This award is given each year to a technology professional whose contributions and performance resulted in an exceptional level of operational excellence. Mr. Lavender

became the first director of the newly formed Department of Information Technology in January 2007; combining the Technical Services division of the Police Department, Computer Center and Archives & Records. Since that time, Mr. Lavender has been responsible for unifying a department of 58 employees, consolidating services and support activities and setting a vision and mission of where Clayton County should be heading technologically. One highlight from his incredible career at Clayton County is that since 2008, he has collaborated with County leadership to prioritize and obtain over \$58,000,000 in technology project funding through two SPLOST initiatives, ranging from communications and network upgrades to complete software replacement for every major function within the Clayton County Government.

Additionally during the conference, the IT Network Infrastructure and Operations Division Manager, Justin Schear, successfully completed the Certified Wireless Technology Specialist course and certification exam. The Wireless Technology Specialist Certification is a rigorous four day course that culminates in a 90 minute, 60 question exam requiring a 70% or better to pass. Schear completed the exam tied for the highest score. The Certified Wireless Technology Specialist (CWTS) is aimed at enterprise wireless LAN support professionals and project managers who understand enterprise 802.11 wireless network terminology and basic functionality, radio frequency (RF) behavior, wireless network installation, and hardware configuration. The CWTS is a lifetime certification, so no recertification exams or continuing education credits are required.

The Georgia Chapter of the Government Management Information Sciences is continually blazing new frontiers to better serve the public and governmental agencies through sharing of knowledge in the field of Information Technology.

The purpose of GMIS is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and techniques; to foster enhancement in hardware, software and communication developments as they relate to government activities. Not to be confused with other user groups, GMIS focuses solely on sharing situations related to government information processing.

Elections and Registration



Since January 1, 2015, the Elections and Registration Department has conducted three elections successfully. We had the opportunity to have our first open house in conjunction with the first National Voter Registration Day. The open house was held for our constituents, high/middle schoolers and the employees of Clayton County to educate them on the preparation of an election, the election process and the end result of an election. We were able to hire one full time and four part time staff members. For 2016 election information, refer to the county website under the Elections and Registration Department.



For more information, contact:
Suzanne Brown, Public Information Officer
Office: 770.960.6972
Cell: 404.219.6881
sbrown@ccwa.us

For Release December 22, 2015

Media Release

CCWA Earns Top Industry Awards at Fall Conference

Authority recognized for outstanding water and wastewater maintenance systems and plant safety

Morrow, Georgia - - Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) staff earned several industry awards for outstanding operations during the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Fall Conference last month.

During GAWP's Fall Conference held November 17-18 in Athens, CCWA received the 2015 Distribution System Gold Award; the 2015 Collection System Platinum Award and the 2015 Water Environment Federation (WEF) Safety Award for its Northeast Water Reclamation Facility.

"These awards are an honor for our employees and our company as a whole. They are confirmation from our peers that Clayton County Water Authority continues to be an industry leader," added CCWA General Manager P. Michael Thomas.

Water distribution system programs focus on maintenance of the water lines that deliver potable water from CCWA's system to homes and businesses. CCWA maintains approximately 1,500 miles of water lines throughout Clayton County. CCWA previously won Distribution System of the Year in 2005, 2007 and 2013. In 2014, GAWP changed the award so that utilities earning a quantitative inspection score of 95 or higher now earn a Gold Award. CCWA earned a 100.4 for this year's Gold Award.

Wastewater collection (or conveyance) system programs focus on maintenance of the sewer lines that collect sewage from homes and businesses and safely transport it through a network of pipes to the treatment plants. CCWA maintains approximately 1,300 miles of sewer lines throughout Clayton County. To earn a Collection System Platinum Award, utilities must earn a quantitative inspection score of 95 or higher for five consecutive years. CCWA scored 98.39 this year, earning it a Platinum Award. Prior to the creation of GAWP's Gold and Platinum Awards, CCWA's Wastewater Collection System was named Collection System of the Year for Large Systems in 2005, 2007 and 2010.

CCWA's Northeast Water Reclamation Facility earned the Georgia Chapter of the Water Environment Federation (GWEF) George W. Burke Safety Award for a Municipal Wastewater Treatment facility. To earn this award, the facility undergoes a grueling 12 page inspection by industry peers who scrutinize safety records, safety programs, emergency plans and training.

CCWA Board of Directors Chairman John Chafin says these awards reflect the caliber of employees that work at the authority and set Clayton County apart from other utilities in Georgia.

“As a board, we could not be more proud of CCWA employees and their accomplishments,” he adds. “It is our job to make sure they have the tools they need to be successful in their jobs, but it is our employees and the extra effort they put into their jobs every day that make CCWA a leader in the water industry.”

Prior to the Fall Conference, a GAWP committee of industry peers visited each eligible system and spent four- six hours inspecting every aspect of the distribution system, collection system and plant safety. GAWP is a not-for-profit Association founded in 1932 with membership of over 4,000 water and wastewater treatment plant operators and managers, municipal and industrial officials and environmental managers, civil engineers, environmental engineers, scientists, manufacturers and their representatives, contractors, elected officials and others concerned with Georgia's water resources.

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Tax Assessors Year In Review

- The Tax Assessors office had another challenging year. Earlier in the year 94,092 valuation notices were mailed to commercial, personal and residential property owners.
- The Tax Assessors office received the fourth highest property appeals in the amount 6,185 since the housing bubble of 2007. Appraisers and support staff have continued to work effectively, efficiently and swiftly to process the appeals. As of December 21, 2015 less than 10% of appeals filed, remain unsettled.
- For the first time since 2008, the county's digest experienced some significant growth. The residential market showed signs of recovery which resulted in a 10% increase from last year's digest figures. Staff appraiser have conducted more 14,000 site visits capturing various improvements and updating property records.

We know 2016 promises to bring new challenges and opportunity to improve on the success of 2015.

I still have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep...



First Saturday Talks 2016

The 2016 schedule of meetings are:

March 5, 2016

June 4, 2016

August 6, 2016

December 3, 2016

Each meeting will be held at:

South Clayton Recreation Center

1837 McDonough Rd. , Hampton GA 30228

10:00 am—12:00 pm