

# Clayton Living

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CLAYTON



*The Fox family was awarded the Fall/Halloween VIP in 2020. Above picture, shown left to right is City Manager Amanda Zimmerlin, Clayton Mayor Mike Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Fox and Director of Development Jack Kuntz*

## VIP Winners Announced

Although Clayton City Council meetings have gone virtual due to the governor's orders amidst the pandemic, that doesn't mean the seasonal VIP awards were thrown by the wayside during 2020. Although recognized differently with this age of social distancing and mask wearing, Mayor Stevens and City Manager Amanda Zimmerlin paid visits to the award winners at their respective homes throughout 2020. The Fall/Halloween VIP winners were the Fox family on Maynard Avenue. The Fox's beat out three other properties which were nominated during the Fall and Halloween season for festive Halloween decorations

Kelley Green and Rebecca Fultz were the Holiday VIP winners for the third year in a row for their home

on Westbrook Road. Their house, which joined four other properties who were nominated by the public, continues to be a highlight for families searching for holiday decorations and lights during the holiday season. Congratulations to all the winners and other properties who were nominated!

City Council loves recognizing our residents who have beautiful yards and thoughtful landscaping, especially after the cold and snowy winter season, and to that end, the city will once again be accepting Spring VIP nominations through the end of May. Residents can nominate neighbors or themselves for beautifully landscaped spring gardens and yards. Nominations can be submitted by either calling the office, 937-836-3500 or emailing Jack Kuntz at [Jkuntz@clayton.oh.us](mailto:Jkuntz@clayton.oh.us).

# Warmest Greetings Everyone!

I say that today, as I'm looking out my window at 3 inches of snow and a cold 19-degree winter day, the spring months are almost here along with warmer weather and beautiful spring flowers! The landscape is pretty and picturesque in both the winter and spring, so do your best to appreciate our changes of seasons, the many activities available during these months of the year and a hot cup of soup or a warm fire in the fireplace. Celebrate this time of the year because the hot, sticky summer will be here before we know it.

One of the biggest things noticed by residents every year is road improvements throughout the city; Clayton has been very busy with such projects over the past four years. The Clayton Service Department isn't slowing down this year as our street and curb projects will continue to march forward in 2021. Much of Westbrook Rd. will see new curbs installed in anticipation of the 2022 resurfacing project. Old Salem Rd. and a handful of residential streets will be repaved in 2021, in addition to receiving new catch basins and concrete curbs and gutter work. Finally, the biggest project of the year, in partnership with Ohio Department of Transportation, SR 49 will be completely repaved in the city, from Westbrook Rd. to Southway. Please see our website for specific streets on the schedule. These infrastructure repairs and improvements are investments in our city's future. The safety of every one of you remain our highest priority.



Within weeks, our Clayton Police Officers will be adding a new piece of equipment to their uniform, body cameras. We, and the officers, are excited for this technology. It will add clarity to many situations that can often times get chaotic quickly. Safety and transparency are greatly increased with the use of cameras. Also, I want to 'Thank' and 'Congratulate' our firefighters and paramedics on their first year of collaboration with the fire departments from the cities of Englewood and Union. This formal partnership has been outstanding for all three communities. Training hours are up. Response times and coverage are better. And savings over the next 5+ year will be great. 'Thanks' to the men and women of all three departments.

2021 will be another active year for Clayton. Our city staff works hard every day to make smart decisions, keep us safe, promote growth, and remain excellent stewards and guardians of our tax money. I am so proud to be a small part of this group of professionals. We are in good hands!

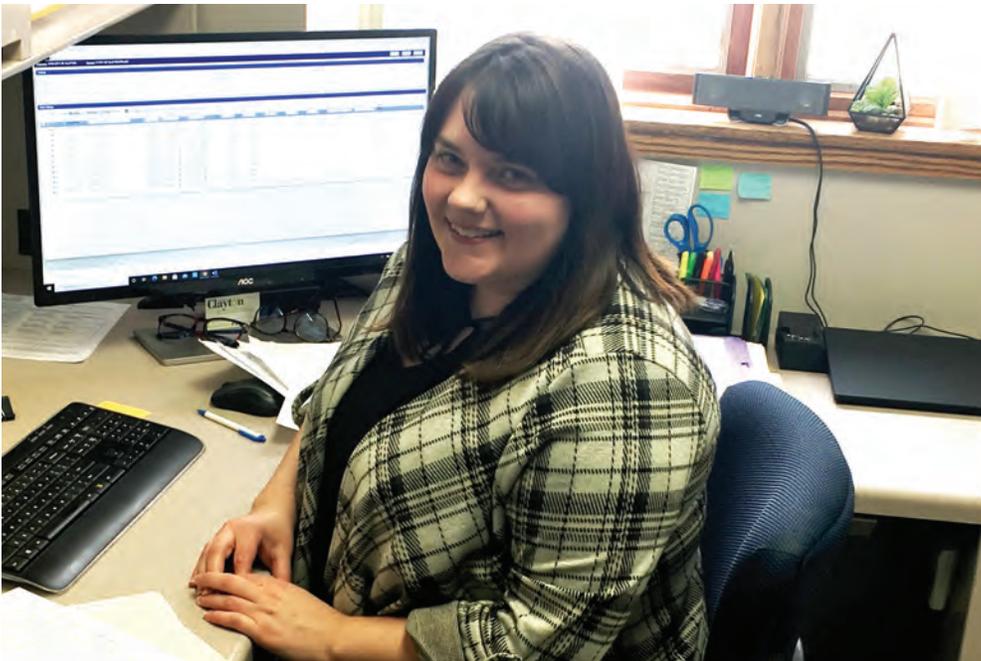
Stay safe, stay warm, and be kind to each other.

Best Regards,  
Mike Stevens, Mayor  
(937) 603-5211  
mstevens@clayton.oh.us



# Clayton Welcomes New Assistant to the Finance Director

Candice Fast has quickly acclimated herself to the Clayton administrative offices in her new role as Assistant to the Finance Director. Candice graduated from Urbana University in 2017 with her bachelor's degree in human services after starting her professional career as a paralegal for a local attorney. Prior to coming to Clayton, Candice also worked as the office manager for an EMR consulting firm in Fairborn. In addition to proving to be a great addition to the Clayton family, in her off-time Candice enjoys interior design, photography and crafting. Since moving to the Northmont community five years ago, Candice who has a daughter attending Northmont middle school as well as a one year old daughter, also finds time to hike, go to concerts and having game nights with family and friends. Welcome aboard Candice!



## Spring Ahead Means Checking Clocks and Detectors

When you move your clocks forward this spring, remember it's always a good time to change the batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors as well. This year, the Clayton Fire Department, through a partnership with the Red Cross, is proud to be able to provide free smoke detectors to Clayton residents. The Fire Department can also assist in the installation of the detectors, within reason. If you're interested in assistance in installation, please go to our website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/FormCenter/Fire-Department-4/Smoke-Detector-Installation-95>. Complete the request form and the Fire Department will contact you to schedule a time to come to your home to assist. If you have any questions regarding the free smoke detectors or need help with the request form, please call 937-836-3500 and ask for the Fire Department.

## COVID-19 Resources and Updates

Clayton continues responding proactively to weekly and monthly orders from state and local public health officials ensuring our residents and business owners/operators are as informed as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward, be sure to check out the city's website and social media pages for updates on all of our normally scheduled events. These digital platforms continue to be great resources for anyone interested in the latest news, information, and announcements. Residents can learn more about all these updates on the city's COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/520/COVID-19> or on the city's Facebook, LinkedIn, Next Door or Twitter pages.



## Sweep Clayton Clean Events

The City of Clayton offers a few different events during the calendar year which are free to the public and assists in removing clutter from both inside and outside residents' properties. Sweep Clayton Clean is held twice a year, in the spring and fall months at the former volunteer fire station at 200 Woolery Lane. Residents can bring and dump material they want to dispose of totally free of charge, except liquids, paints, freon, tires or hazardous materials. Refrigerators may be dropped off if the freon has been drained. Dumpsters are available from 8am - 12noon or until they are full. Residents can also bring brush and tree branches to be chipped for free. This year the events will be held on May 22nd and October 16th. Clayton also offers a free document shredding event every summer. Items that may be shredded include paper records, tapes, credit cards, cd's and microfilm. Shredding will be performed by All Shred Services offsite. Please limit the material to 4-boxes/bags per resident. Absolutely no businesses or home business documents will be accepted. This year the event will be on July 17th from 9-11am at the Clayton Government Center located at 6996 Taywood Rd.

# Clayton's Proactive Code Enforcement Program Seeing Results

Spring is a good time to walk around your property to ensure it's free of any property maintenance violations. Clayton's Code Enforcement Officer conducts exterior inspections of every neighborhood throughout the year and works with residents to let them know if there is a violation and what needs to be completed to bring the property into compliance. Things such as junk and debris, unlicensed and inoperable vehicles and high grass are common issues with properties. Clayton offers free "Sweep Clayton Clean" events in May and October which residents can use to dispose of brush, yard waste, junk and debris free of charge. Keeping your home free of peeling paint, clogged gutters and detached downspouts also protects the structural integrity and will limit more costly repairs down the road.

The benefit of having a proactive code enforcement program is not only to establish the aesthetic appeal for which Clayton is known, but it also ensures stable and improving property values throughout our community. Last year, Clayton's code enforcement program had a compliance rate of almost 90% over the almost 700 property maintenance violations issued to property owners across Clayton. If you have questions regarding code enforcement or want to report a concern, please call Darryl Swafford at 836-3500.

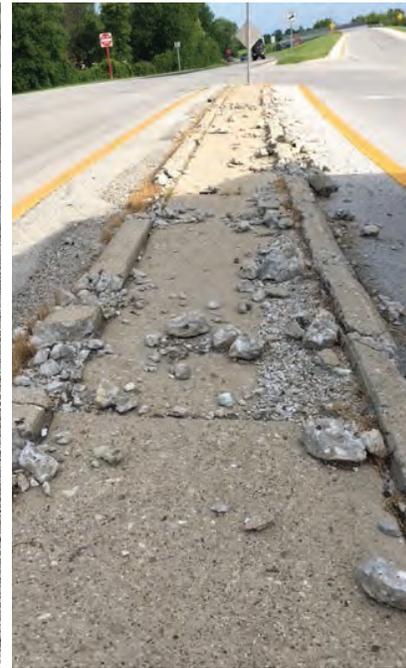


# Service Department Continues Making Improvements Throughout the City

Over the last several years, Clayton has aggressively worked to upgrade the City's roads and infrastructure, making the City safer and more aesthetically pleasing. These projects include resurfacing 90% of the residential roads, replacing crumbling curbs and gutters throughout the City and resurfacing several main corridors including Hoke, Wenger, Garber and parts of Westbrook.

Late in 2019, Clayton finished the first of three safety projects on Salem Avenue. The City was awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation to re-align the northbound and southbound turn lanes at the Salem Avenue and Hoke Road intersection. This project assisted drivers in seeing oncoming traffic when making left turns at the intersection. The project also included signal upgrades with advanced detection, and curb and catch basin improvements. In the summer of 2021, Clayton will begin working on the second safety project at the Salem Avenue and Union Road intersection. This project, which was also awarded safety grant funds from the state, will extend the southbound turn lane on Union Road in front of Casey's General Store and add crosswalks for future development potential. The project will also include signal upgrades including new mast arms. Finally, the last safety project is scheduled to begin in 2022 at the Salem Avenue and Westbrook Road intersection. This grant awarded project will also include signal upgrades with mast arms, advanced warning devices and the removal of the concrete island on Westbrook Road at the Salem Avenue intersection.

In 2020, the City finished a complete curb and catch basin replacement project on Salem Avenue. This project replaced over 17,000 feet of median curb along with the island flat work and all of the catch basins. During the course of the project, the city re-aligned and extended an additional turn lane at Union Road as well as another one lane at Westbrook. The left turn lane at Southway Road



was also extended. Extending these lanes assists in holding additional vehicles and reducing the chance of rear end accidents. Several of the median crossovers along Salem Avenue were also eliminated because they were too close to intersections or created unsafe conditions. The curb replacement and safety improvement along Salem Avenue were in anticipation of the state's resurfacing project on Salem Avenue this year.

Beginning in the spring of 2021, Clayton staff will work with the state on the resurfacing of Salem Avenue from Westbrook Road to Southway Road. Completing all of the safety grant projects by 2022 paired with the paving and curb work on Salem Avenue, the City will soon complete the four year safety improvement project which will not only make the SR 49 corridor much safer for Clayton residents, but also more appealing to future businesses.

The service department isn't just concentrating their efforts on Salem Ave. this year. Additionally, in 2021, the city will continue its residential curb replacement and paving projects, which will include Old Salem, Willow Creek, Artistic, and Caldero. There will also be curb replacement on Westbrook between Afton and Garber in preparation of the 2022 resurfacing of Westbrook from Salem to Cheri Lynne, which is being funded primarily via another grant, this time through MVRPC's STP Resurfacing Program.

# Planning & Zoning Corner

## Planning & Zoning by the Numbers (Comparison of 2020 to 2019):

- Zoning Certificates up 39%
- Zoning Fees up 24%
- Planning Commission applications down 60%
  - Though applications are down, one of the 2020 submittals included a 33-acre rezoning for a mixed-use project
- Board of Zoning Appeals applications down 25% from 12 to 9
  - 2020 brought 1 appeal concerning short term rentals, 5 less conditional use requests, but one 1 more variance

## Zoning Code Update:

- Staff continues to work through a thorough review of the DRAFT Zoning Code Update to make sure that it better aligns with the *PLAN Clayton* document
- Planning Commission review will likely occur in March 2021
- Final City Council approval will likely occur in the April-May 2021 timeframe

## PLAN Clayton Implementation Update:

- City Council passed a Resolution on November 5, 2020 formalizing the creation of the *PLAN Clayton* Implementation Committee (PCIC)
  - PCIC includes two members of City Council, a Planning Commission member, a Real Estate Professional, and 1 resident per City Ward
- First PCIC meeting was held on January 12, 2021 and are tasked with 2 primary objectives
  - Develop a list of feasible projects for 2021
  - Develop a 5-year Implementation Plan for 2022-2026 around the 4 main *PLAN Clayton* goals/objectives:
    - PCIC formed 4 Subcommittees to work outside of the PCIC meetings to develop a list of feasible projects for 2021 and for the 5-Year Implementation Plan
      - Walkable Neighborhoods (Derek Muncy & Mindy Craddick)
      - Central Cores (Councilman Bachman & Kim Williams)
      - Connected Parks (Dan Foley & Seth Powless)
      - Great Streets & Infrastructure (Mayor Stevens & Seth Dorman)



## Citizen Updates:

- Residents of Clayton can now apply for Zoning Certificates online at the Citizen Portal: <https://claytonoh.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/claytonoh>
- Residents of Clayton can now pay for Zoning Certificate fees online at Bill Pay:

[https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal/\(S\(ofgml0nc2td4ong5kuwofgvb\)\)/2/Site.aspx?G=12d439c5-730b-4ba3-b4f7-c056c17b08a7](https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal/(S(ofgml0nc2td4ong5kuwofgvb))/2/Site.aspx?G=12d439c5-730b-4ba3-b4f7-c056c17b08a7)

- Residents can find information about a few common Zoning Certificate requests in the new Zoning Bulletins that are published on the City Website: <https://www.clayton.oh.us/368/PlanningZoning-Application-Documents>

## REMINDER: Springtime Means Fire Hydrant Flushing

The Fire Department will conduct their annual hydrant flushing program the beginning of April and it will run through June. Clayton has over 830 fire hydrants that will be inspected and tested during this process. During hydrant flushing, the water in your home may have a rusty appearance. The discoloration doesn't affect the safety of the water. If you notice discoloration, run cold water for several minutes to clear the lines. The water should run clear in a few minutes. Toilets should also be flushed once or twice. If pressure or volume

seems low at faucet locations, check your faucet screens for trapped particles. If you see the Fire Department working on a hydrant, please drive carefully and provide the same courtesies you would any other road construction crew.

If you have any questions or concerns about the fire hydrant flushing process, please call the Fire Department at 937-836-3500.





## Meadowbrook at Clayton

Although Meadowbrook at Clayton had to amend operations last year to comply with COVID regulations, the golf course had a record-breaking year. With over 19,000 rounds played, this is the most rounds played since the City of Clayton took over golf operations in 2015.

Unfortunately, with physical distancing regulations in place to keep everyone safe, the event facility did not hold many events in 2020. However, during the downtime, new elements have been added to the facility including the installation of new touchless public entry/exit doors, faucets, and lights to assist in keeping staff and patrons safe.

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, City Council passed 2021 Golf Rates for Meadowbrook. All season pass rates remained stationary as did the cart fees. One major change to the fee schedule is the addition of a resident rate for Greens Fees through a Fair Share Policy. This new policy is intended to recognize the contribution residents of Clayton make to the financing and operation of Meadowbrook at Clayton through property and income taxes.

To view the 2021 Meadowbrook at Clayton Golf rates, visit [www.meadowbrookatclayton.com](http://www.meadowbrookatclayton.com). Season passes are now on sale at the Pro Shop and online! Pro Shop: 937-836-6353

## TRASH BILLING

As you are probably aware, Republic Services provides residential trash and recycle service for the City of Clayton. City ordinances requires all occupied residential units within the city limits to have trash service with the contracted trash hauler, regardless if you dispose of your trash by another means. Trash service is not billed with your water/sewer service, it is a separate utility service and billed by Republic Services on a quarterly basis. If you have not received a bill for trash services from Republic Services, please contact them immediately by calling 937-268-8595.

### Upcoming Due Dates for trash service (paid to Republic Services)

- April 30, 2021
- July 30, 2021
- October 30, 2021

Looking for the bi-weekly recycling calendar? Go to <http://clayton.oh.us/514/Recycle-Schedule> or request one be mailed to you by calling 937-836-3500.

## Tax Season During COVID

Last year during the unprecedented times of COVID, the income tax filing date was delayed until the middle of July by the federal government. At this time, the deadline to file your 2020 income tax with the IRS, the state and your local government continues to be April 15th. If something changes regarding the filing deadline Clayton will update the city's website and social media accounts to reflect the new information.

Below is some information to assist residents this year while you fill out your respective tax returns:

- City of Clayton continues to contract with CCA to collect municipal taxes. Due to COVID safety precautions, CCA will be unable to offer in-person taxpayer assistance at this time. In order to supplement this service, CCA has been allowing taxpayers to mail in their tax documents (W-2s, 1099s, Federal Schedules, etc.) to CCA, and a CCA

staff member will complete the return for them. Documents can also be dropped off at Clayton offices and will be forwarded to CCA.

- Applicable return documents can also be found online with CCA. Below is a list of links to assist you while you complete or request assistance from CCA to complete your tax returns this year.
  - CCA eFile for applicable returns can be found at the following link: <https://efile.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/>.
  - Printable and interactive forms can be found at the following link: <http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/?p=taxforms>.
  - Filing addresses can be found here: <http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/?p=wheretofile>
  - Taxpayer Assistance Form: <http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/?p=taxforms>
  - CCA Assistance Form: [http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/taxforms/Y2021/tp\\_assistanceform.pdf](http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/taxforms/Y2021/tp_assistanceform.pdf)



## Development Department's Annual Report Available

The Clayton Development Department, who is responsible for economic & community development, planning & zoning and code enforcement, has published an annual report since 2016 detailing all of the accomplishments, various projects worked on and future goals of the department. If you are interested in reviewing this comprehensive report, please visit the City's website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/434/Annual-Reports>.

Communication is one of the most important aspects of a growing and thriving community. Clayton releases quarterly newsletters. Two, spring & fall, are mailed to each residents and the summer edition is released online. Sign-up to receive the electronic editions sent directly to your inbox by visiting the 'Notify Me' section on the City's website then sign-up and select the 'newsletter' category.



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