

# Clayton Living

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CLAYTON



## Clayton Voters to Decide on Five Proposed Charter Amendments This November

On November 4, 2025, voters in the City of Clayton will consider five proposed amendments to the City Charter, each aimed at modernizing, clarifying, or aligning local governance with state law. These updates were recommended by the Clayton Charter Review Commission and approved by City Council for placement on the ballot.

**Below is a brief summary of each proposed change:**

### 1. Mayor and Vice Mayor – Section 3.04

Removes the Mayor's designation as the primary contact for Economic and Community Development. This change reflects Clayton's Council-Manager form of government, where the City Manager, not the Mayor, handles administrative and economic development duties.

### 2. Salaries of Elected Officials – Section 3.08

Eliminates language allowing mid-term salary adjustments for elected officials. This amendment ensures compliance with Ohio law, which prohibits changes to an official's salary during their term in office.

### 3. Residency Requirements – Sections 5.02 & 11.03

Removes outdated residency requirements for the City Manager and certain employees. The change aligns the Charter with Ohio Revised Code, which prohibits requiring employees to live in a specific city as a condition of employment—except for emergency personnel under specific conditions.

### 4. Ward Boundaries and Candidate Eligibility – Sections 3.03 & 9.01

Prevents disqualification of candidates due to ward redistricting. The amendment allows residents moved into a new ward through redistricting to remain eligible to run for Council in that ward, avoiding unintended disqualifications caused by timing.

### 5. Public Notices and Bidding Procedures – Sections 4.031, 4.032, 4.04 & 8.02

Replaces newspaper publication requirements with online postings. This update reflects modern communication practices, allowing public notices and bid solicitations to be posted on the City's website and social media, reducing costs while maintaining transparency. The City of Clayton spent \$5,248 on advertising costs in 2024.

**Why These Changes Matter**  
**The Charter Review Commission emphasized that these updates are designed to:**

- Bring the Charter into compliance with state law
- Reflect modern governance practices
- Improve transparency and accessibility
- Reduce unnecessary costs

Each amendment will appear as a separate or grouped ballot issue. More details, including sample language and voting information, will be available on the City of Clayton's website as Election Day approaches.



## Gas Aggregation on the November 4th Ballot

On November 4th, Clayton voters will decide whether to join the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) Natural Gas Aggregation Program.

This program would work much like the electric aggregation approved by voters in 2022. By pooling together, communities can negotiate better pricing for natural gas, while residents still keep the choice to opt out if they prefer.

### How “Opt-Out” Aggregation Works

- **Automatic Enrollment:** All eligible residents are automatically enrolled unless they choose to opt out.
- **Public Process:** If approved by voters, the City must develop a plan of operation and management and hold at least two public hearings for residents to provide feedback.
- **Notification:** Before enrollment, every household will receive information explaining the program's rates, terms, and conditions, along with details on how to opt out.

### Things to Know About Government Aggregation

- No individual contracts are required—enrollment happens automatically.
  - Those who do not opt out will remain in the program unless they actively choose another supplier.
  - Residents who wish to remain with their local utility will need to opt out of the aggregation program.
- Currently, 18 other Miami Valley communities participate in the MVCC natural gas program.

For more information and to read MVCC's press release, visit: [clayton.oh.us/582/12386/Utility-Aggregation](https://www.clayton.oh.us/582/12386/Utility-Aggregation)



# Greeting Neighbors!

Fall 2025 is here, and the usual activities are well underway! School has started, festival season, Friday night football, campfires, and cooler weather. The leaves will be changing colors soon, and the daylight will become shorter. For many, this time of year is our favorite.

You've likely noticed changes in Clayton's leadership. City Manager Amanda Zimmerlin has accepted the CM position in Battle Creek, Michigan. Amanda has done an outstanding job of managing the day-to-day business of the city as well as focusing on our strategic plan. She will surely be missed, but this is a great opportunity to advance her career and personal goals. Battle Creek is getting a seasoned professional who will make an immediate and positive impact. We wish Amanda the very best. Thank you for the great work! Assistant City Manager, Elaine Wittman, will assume Amanda's duties in the interim. Be assured, we are in very capable hands!

Also, our Law Director, Martina Dillon, has decided to step down from her role with the city. For over 20 years, Martina has advised us on legal issues, provided our legislation, represented the city's interests in complex issues such as development and the ever-changing government landscape, and has been a solid participant in the management of our city. We wish her the very best as she enters the next chapter. Thank you for the great work! Joyce Deitering will serve as Law Director in the interim.



We will have a new Mayor in 2026! I want to take this time to say 'Thank You' to the residents of Clayton for the opportunity to serve our community. It has been an honor to work with our Council, our professional and very effective staff, and of course, the residents of Clayton. I am proud of the progress we have made over the previous 8 years, and I am very confident in our city's future. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and experience.

It is an exciting time to live in Clayton. As we continue to mature as a city, I hope each one of you will take the time to get to know your government, your representatives, and your neighbors. As a lifelong resident, I still believe there is no better place to live.

Thank You All for your support and engagement.

Mike Stevens, Mayor  
(937) 603-5211  
[mstevens@clayton.oh.us](mailto:mstevens@clayton.oh.us)

## Income Tax Changes in 2026

In November 2024, residents approved a new income tax levy. The updated income tax structure will take effect on January 1, 2026. The new tax rate will be 2.5%, and residents will receive 100% credit for taxes paid to other municipalities.

If you work in a city with a tax rate of 2.5% or higher, you will not owe any additional taxes to Clayton. However, if you work in a city with a lower rate, you will be responsible for paying the difference to Clayton. The State of Ohio's mandate requiring estimated payments for residents who

owe more than \$200 remains in place for 2025 and every year thereafter.

The increase in income tax is dedicated entirely to funding Clayton's Police and Fire services. If your employer is currently making a courtesy withholding under the current tax structure, and you do not owe any additional tax to Clayton, they may discontinue that withholding beginning with your first paycheck in 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Clayton at (937) 836-3500. ☀️



## Grant Awarded for Snow Operations Improvements

The City of Clayton is proud to announce it has been awarded \$75,000 through the Ohio EPA's H2Ohio Rivers Chloride Reduction Grant Program. This program is part of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, designed to help communities reduce salt use during winter operations while protecting Ohio's waterways.

Clayton will use the grant to install a new brine maker for its snow and ice operations. Currently, the City does not pre-treat roads. With this upgraded equipment, Clayton will be able to produce its own brine solution, which will reduce the overall amount of salt needed, improve efficiency, and minimize environmental impacts. Using brine allows for better control over how much material is applied to the roadways, resulting in safer streets during winter weather while lowering costs for the community.

In addition to reducing salt usage, the new system will provide a more precise and consistent mixture, decrease the risk of environmental contamination, and extend the life of local infrastructure. The equipment's user-friendly design will also allow a wider range of employees to operate it effectively, further improving service delivery during snow events.

Clayton is one of 32 communities across Ohio to receive funding in this latest round of grants. The Ohio EPA awarded the funds from a settlement related to salt runoff contamination, continuing its efforts to reduce chloride levels in rivers and streams.

The City of Clayton remains committed to investing in innovative solutions that improve service, reduce costs, and protect the environment for our residents. ☀️

## Bella Sorella Opens Its Doors in Clayton

On September 12, 2025, Bella Sorella celebrated the grand opening of their brick-and-mortar restaurant at 1405 Esther Price Way in Clayton. What started as a food truck in 2013 has grown into a full-service, family-friendly restaurant, bringing a new dining experience to the community.

Bella Sorella offers a menu full of delicious pizzas, fresh salads, sides, and desserts, perfect for a casual meal with family or friends.

Owners Elizabeth and Gail, along with their dedicated staff, have poured their hearts into making Bella

Sorella a place where the community can gather, enjoy great food, and make memories. Their journey from a food truck to a brick-and-mortar establishment is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and love for serving the community.

The City of Clayton is excited to welcome Bella Sorella as a new culinary destination and looks forward to seeing the restaurant thrive. Stop by to experience the flavors and hospitality that have made Bella Sorella a beloved name for over a decade! ☀️

## Road Project Update

The City of Clayton is moving forward with several major roadway improvement projects that will enhance safety, traffic flow, and pedestrian access throughout the community.

### Main Street Improvements

Phase 1 of the Main Street project will upgrade sidewalks, curbs, sewer, and lighting between Meijer and Heathcliff Road, and will also include an updated traffic signal at Garber Road. Construction is expected to begin in spring/summer 2026, with 90% of the project costs (up to \$2 million) funded through the State of Ohio Safety Grant.

Phase 2 will continue these improvements from Heathcliff to Old Salem Roads, along with a signal upgrade at Heathcliff. Engineering for this phase is scheduled to begin in 2026, with construction anticipated in 2029.

Planning is also underway for Phase 3, which will likely extend

improvements from Old Salem Road to Dog Leg/Westbrook Roads. This phase is not expected to begin construction until after 2035.

### Hoke Road Improvements

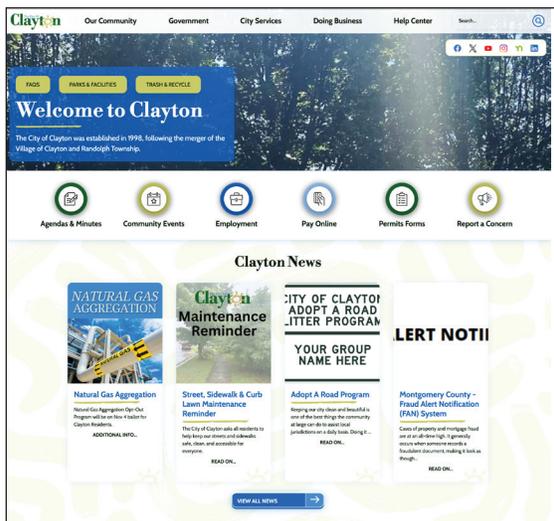
The City is currently acquiring right-of-way for Phase 1 of the Hoke Road project, which will include a new roundabout at Hoke and Wenger Roads, the addition of a walking path to the west, a sidewalk to the east, a center turn lane, decorative lighting, new curbs, water, and sewer. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2026. This phase of the project is being funded 79% by a grant, significantly reducing the City's share of construction costs. Two additional phases are planned to extend these improvements to National Road.

The City is excited to move forward with these long-term infrastructure projects, which will improve roadway safety and connectivity for residents, businesses, and visitors. ☀️

# City of Clayton Launches Redesigned Website

In June, the City of Clayton launched a newly redesigned website with a fresh new look. The updated site is designed to be more user-friendly and will continue to evolve as additional improvements are made to enhance functionality and accessibility.

Residents are encouraged to visit [www.clayton.oh.us](http://www.clayton.oh.us) to find up-to-date information on City services, events, news, and resources.



# Community Events 2025

We were excited to bring back a full lineup of programming in 2025 after a hiatus in 2024, and we are so grateful to all the residents who joined us throughout the year!

From the Easter Egg Hunt and Sweep Clayton Clean, to Shredding Day, Parks & Rec Month Fitness Classes, Movie in the Park, the Labor Day Festival & Fireworks, and the Fire, Police & Service Open House—your participation made each event a success.

And the year isn't over yet! We still have two more events planned for 2025, and we hope to see you there.

## Costumes and Carvings

**October 26th from  
2:00-4:00 pm**

**Meadowbrook at Clayton,  
6001 Salem Avenue**

All kids, grade K-8 are invited to this annual fall event. Pumpkin carving contest for all ages. Pumpkins and carving tools will be provided. Come dressed in your costumes for the costume contest following pumpkin carving. Goodie bags will be handed out at the end of the event.



## Breakfast with Santa

**December 13th 9:00-11:00 am  
Meadowbrook at Clayton,  
6001 Salem Avenue**

Clayton's Breakfast with Santa is back this year! Only 200 tickets are being sold, and tickets go on sale on November 18th. Tickets must be purchased at the Clayton Government Center, at 6996 Taywood Road. No advanced sales prior to November 18th and no holding of tickets. Seating is assigned, so if you would like to sit with friends and family, please inform staff when purchasing your tickets. Since seating is limited, we do not guarantee groups will be seated together, but we will try our best.

Stay tuned to our website and social media outlets for information on events scheduled for 2026. ☀️



# Welcoming New Staff to the City of Clayton



## **OFFICER DANIEL BISHOP**

Born and raised locally, Dan has been married for seven years and enjoys spending time at home with his wife and their dog, riding motorcycles, and traveling whenever he can.

Dan began his law enforcement career in 2006 after earning a degree in Political Science (Criminal Justice) from Wright State University and completing the Sinclair Police Academy. Over the past 19 years, he has served the City of Clayton, the Village of Gratis, and the Village of Lewisburg.

Dan is excited to be back in Clayton and looks forward to serving the community with pride.



## **OFFICER DOROTHY STRINGER**

Raised in Union, Ohio, Dorothy graduated from Edison State Police Academy in

2019 as part of the academy's first class with the most female graduates.

With five years of law enforcement experience in Lewisburg and West Alexandria, Dorothy joined Clayton on July 3, 2025. She is passionate about community relations, mental health, and drug interdiction, and enjoys spending her free time with family, going to concerts, swimming, and putting together puzzles.

Dorothy is honored to serve the citizens of Clayton and be part of the Police Department team.



## **BATTALION CHIEF ERIC HENRY**

Battalion Chief Eric Henry joined the Clayton Fire Department on March 31, 2025. Eric

brings over 20 years of fire service experience and has served with Tipp City EMS, Moraine Fire Department, and Clearcreek Fire District, where he was promoted to Lieutenant and twice earned the Dr. Scott Swope EMS Excellence Award.

An EMS instructor and mentor at Edison Community College, Eric is passionate about training the next generation of first responders.

Outside of work, he enjoys traveling with his wife, Vicky, and their three children, detailing his car, working out, and reading.

We are excited to have Battalion Chief Henry leading and serving the Clayton community!



## **EVENT MANAGER CASSY BABCOCK**

Cassy joined Meadowbrook at Clayton this summer and brings a Bachelor's in

Business Administration from The Ohio State University, along with extensive experience in private and community events. She is passionate about creating memorable experiences and making every client feel cared for from start to finish.

Outside of work, Cassy enjoys time with her husband, Jonathan, and their children, Jeremy and Lucy, game nights with friends, tending to her houseplants, and volunteering in the community. We are excited to have her energy and creativity helping make every event at Meadowbrook unforgettable! 🌞

## **Congratulations to Kenneth Phelps**

Maintenance Worker III Kenneth "Kenny" Phelps graduated from the Center for Local Government's Leadership Academy in September. The Leadership Academy consists of six-day-long classes over a six-month period and is taught by a mix



of local government practitioners and subject matter specialists. Classes are designed to focus on practical, applicable skills, such as effective communications,

leadership styles, human resources, finance, and management techniques. Congrats Kenny! 🌞

## **Honoring Joe Bachman for 50 Years of Dedicated Service**

At the August 21st Council Meeting, the City of Clayton proudly recognized Joe Bachman for an incredible milestone—50 years of service to Randolph Township and the City of Clayton.

Joe began his career in public service on August 19, 1975, when he joined Randolph Township as a Volunteer Firefighter. From that first day, he demonstrated the courage, selflessness, and commitment that would define his decades of service. In addition to his role as a firefighter, Joe also served as a Dispatcher, stepping into multiple roles to meet the needs of the community.

Today, Joe continues his legacy of service with the City of Clayton as the caretaker of the Janice Ward Community Center, where he helps preserve a vital gathering space for residents.

Joe's steadfast dedication, tireless work ethic, and unwavering love for his community are truly unmatched. On behalf of Mayor Mike Stevens, City Council, and City staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to Joe Bachman on this remarkable 50-year achievement. 🌞



# Fall Leaf Pickup Program Returns

It's that time of year again when the leaves begin to fall, and yards transition from the bright colors of summer to beautiful hues of autumn. To help residents remove fallen leaves, Clayton will continue offering two scheduled pickups starting in October through the end of November. Crews will also make additional tours through neighborhoods during the leaf pickup program and one time afterwards to ensure all the leaves taken out to the road during the program are removed prior to the snow removal season.

To assist in making the leaf collection process run as smoothly as possible, residents are asked to remember the following tips:

- Place only leaves in the leaf piles. Other forms of yard waste such as rocks, pieces of cement, tree branches, twigs, flowers, walnuts, and grass clippings slow the collection process and damage City equipment.
- Have leaves in place on the Sunday preceding the scheduled week of your zone collection.
- If there are leaves left after the pickup, it is because crews could not reach them with the equipment. Residents will need to move them closer to the street and they'll be picked up on the next pass.
- Residents may place leaves and yard waste at the curb in standard plastic bags for normal trash pickup at any time.

If you have any questions please contact the Service Department at (937) 836-3500.

Please check website and social media for regular updates regarding leaf pick-up. ☀️



Leaf piles should be placed as close to the curb as possible (without obstructing traffic). City vehicles will not leave the paved area. If we can't reach the leaves we can't pick them up.



Leaves should not be piled behind parked vehicles, near storm drains, or around telephone poles, sign posts, or mailboxes.



Property owners without curbs may pile their leaves as close to the street as possible, but should never place leaves in the street.

# 2025 LEAF PICK-UP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Schedule is flexible and may vary depending on weather and timing of leaf drop however the service department will stop leaf pickup by Dec. 1st

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Pass 1	<b>Wk. of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Oct. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Oct. 27<sup>th</sup></b>
Pass 2	<b>Wk. of Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Nov. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wk. of Nov. 24<sup>th</sup></b>

## LEAF COLLECTION ZONES:

City crews will make every attempt to follow the pickup schedule but the weather may cause changes.

Afton-Zone 3  
 Allison-Zone 1  
 Amy-Zone 1  
 Annellese-Zone 2  
 Artistic-Zone 2  
 Ashbrook-Zone 1  
 Baldwin Hills-Zone 4  
 Barnes-Zone 2  
 Baronsmere-Zone 3  
 Barrington-Zone 1  
 Bethany-Zone 3  
 Blue Teal-Zone 2  
 Bolzano-Zone 2  
 Borges-Zone 2  
 Boston-Zone 3  
 Brushwood-Zone 3  
 Burkwood-Zone 2  
 Caldero-Zone 3  
 Cedar Bluff-Zone 3  
 Cheri Lynn-Zone 1  
 Cheryl-Zone 1  
 Cilantro-Zone 2  
 Circle-Zone 1  
 Clinton-Zone 2  
 Colemere-Zone 3  
 Colleen-Zone 2  
 Coralberry-Zone 2  
 Coriander-Zone 2

Frankfort-Zone 2  
 Freeport-Zone 3  
 Galaxie-Zone 3  
 Garber -Zone 1  
 Country View-Zone 2  
 Countrydale-Zone 3  
 County Line-Zone 2  
 Crestway-Zone 2  
 Crownwood-Zone 3  
 Damson-Zone 2  
 Dawnwood-Zone 2  
 Debbie-Zone 1  
 Delray-Zone 2  
 Denver-Zone 4  
 Deville-Zone 3  
 Diamond Mill-Zone 2  
 Dill-Zone 2  
 Dog Leg-Zone 1  
 Dolores-Zone 2  
 Dominican-Zone 2  
 Dorchester-Zone 2  
 Dorshire-Zone 3  
 Elin-Zone 2  
 Ellis-Zone 2  
 Elmway-Zone 1  
 Eiru-Zone 2  
 Enesco-Zone 4  
 Esther Price-Zone 2  
 Fairlawn-Zone 4  
 Falls-Zone 2  
 Fallgold-Zone 2  
 Fallwood-Zone 4  
 Fig Tree-Zone 4  
 Flagler-Zone 2  
 Flaute-Zone 2  
 Flower-Zone 1  
 Fontella-Zone 2  
 Foursome-Zone 4  
 Fox Rd-Zone 2

Kevton-Zone 3  
 Kilgar-Zone 2  
 Kimmel-Zone 2  
 N. Kinsey-Zone 2  
 (across from Artistic)  
 Kinsey-Zone 4  
 (South of Old Salem)  
 Laurel Fork-Zone 3  
 Lavon-Zone 3  
 Layne Hills-Zone 4  
 Lemppo-Zone 2  
 Linchmere-Zone 3  
 Lindy-Zone 1  
 Lockwood-Zone 2  
 Main St-Zone 1  
 (Hillgrove- Westbrook)  
 Main St-Zone 2  
 (Sweet Potato to Union)  
 Marjoram-Zone 2  
 Marlbank-Zone 4  
 Marylawn-Zone 1  
 Maynard-Zone 2  
 McKenna-Zone 2  
 Meiring-Zone 2  
 Melody-Zone 1  
 Michelle Place-Zone 4  
 Mill-Zone 2  
 Mintwood-Zone 2  
 Molunat - Zone 2  
 Morrow-Zone 3  
 Mount Royal-Zone 2  
 Murray-Zone 2  
 National-Zone 2  
 Noranda-Zone 3  
 Northfield-Zone 3  
 Northland-Zone 1  
 Oakfield-Zone 1  
 Obispee-Zone 1

Old Mill-Zone 2  
 Old Salem-Zone 2  
 (48 to Garber)  
 Old Salem-Zone 4  
 (Garber to 49)  
 Oren-Zone 3  
 Pacemont-Zone 2  
 Packerham-Zone 4  
 Park Vista-Zone 4  
 Parsley-Zone 2  
 Pebble Brook-Zone 4  
 Pepperton-Zone 2  
 Phillipsburg-Union-Zone 2  
 Pineland Trail-Zone 2  
 Pleasant Plain-Zone 2  
 Ponderosa-Zone 3  
 Portrait-Zone 3  
 Priscilla-Zone 1  
 Prospect-Zone 1  
 Pugliese Place-Zone 2  
 Putnam-Zone 2  
 Rahway-Zone 2  
 Ramsey-Zone 3  
 Ranch Hill-Zone 3  
 Rangeview-Zone 3  
 Raspberry-Zone 2  
 Rathburn-Zone 4  
 Redwood - Zone 2  
 Reeves-Zone 3  
 Remington-Zone 1  
 Rhinehart-Zone 2  
 River Ridge-Zone 1  
 River Road-Zone 2  
 Riverbend-Zone 1  
 Riverdelta-Zone 1  
 Robert Ulrich-Zone 3  
 Roblar Hills-Zone 4  
 Romaine-Zone 1

Takisa-Zone 1  
 Talmadge-Zone 2  
 Tammy-Zone 1  
 Taywood-Zone 4  
 Templehurst-Zone 4  
 Thelma-Zone 1  
 Thundering Herd-Zone 2  
 Trailway-Zone 1  
 Tributary-Zone 1  
 Turin-Zone 2  
 Tuxford-Zone 2  
 Tymill-Zone 3  
 Union-Zone 2  
 Valley Brook-Zone 4  
 Viewmont-Zone 3  
 Vinewood-Zone 2  
 Vintage-Zone 2  
 Vinway-Zone 1  
 Virginia Springs-Zone 2  
 Volk-Zone 1  
 Warrior-Zone 2  
 Wastler-Zone 2  
 Water-Zone 2  
 Wenger-Zone 2  
 Wenger Meadows-Z.2  
 Westbrook-Zone 1  
 West Wenger-Zone 2  
 Wetzel Farm-Zone 2  
 Whisp. Meadow-Zone 3  
 Whitaker-Zone 3  
 Willowcreek-Zone 3  
 Wood Duck-Zone 2  
 Woodacre-Zone 4  
 Woolery-Zone 1





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## City of Clayton Public Meetings

### City Council

1st and 3rd Thursday of Every Month, 7:30 PM

### Board of Zoning Appeals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 PM

### Planning Commission

4th Monday of Every Month, 7:00 PM

Clayton City Council hold regularly scheduled meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month, starting at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. During the summer months, (June, July, and August) Council will meet only once each month. The first Thursday in June, and the second Thursday in July and August. To learn more about upcoming agendas, please visit the city’s website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/175/City-Council>.

To learn more about upcoming agendas, please visit the city’s website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/171/Government>. ☀️

Communication is one of the most important aspects of a growing and thriving community. Clayton releases triannual newsletters. Two, spring & fall, are mailed to each residents and the summer edition is released online. Sign up to receive the online summer newsletter by visiting [clayton.oh.us](http://clayton.oh.us) and selecting ‘Notify Me’.



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