

Clayton LIVING

MEMORIAL DAY TORNADOES & RECOVERY

Clayton residents and business owners will never forget the 2019 Memorial Day as it will forever be known for the 15 confirmed tornadoes which touched down across the Miami Valley. Included with those 15 was an EF4 rated tornado, with winds reaching up to 170 mph, which ripped down Westbrook Road, leaving unbelievable structural and tree damage to homes and businesses along its path. Most of the damage concentrated in Clayton in the residential neighborhoods located along Westbrook Rd., between Crestway Dr. and Freeport Dr., along the most southern portion of Salem Ave. and in Meadowbrook at Clayton. Homes

and businesses were without power and water across the city and region for days. However, from this unbelievable natural disaster sprung an overabundance of community relief support and neighborly assistance throughout the region demonstrating once again why Clayton and the Northmont community is such a wonderful place to call home. Approximately 130 people contacted the city to help residents in their recovery effort. **Thank you Northmont!**



A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Clayton continues to evolve and grow. I find it fascinating to witness the dynamics of our processes and our people, working together, to make our city the very best it can be. Our Government Center is a whirl of activity every day. Adding the efforts and actions of our citizens and the day-to-day work becomes magical. I have limited space here, but be confident, there are many, many activities going on behind the scenes. A few examples:

- As our PLAN Clayton roadmap highlighted, Clayton residents place a high priority on our park system. Our Parks Advisory Commission unveiled plans for 2019 including upgrades to restrooms, new disc golf baskets, a list of events, landscaping, and other amenities. For the first time, we have budgeted money to be use specifically for improvement to our parks. Watch for exciting changes this summer and fall!
- Our road and pavement program continues in 2019. Curbs and streets are being redone, ADA compliant ramps at our crosswalks, crack-seal to maintain asphalt, early-bird pricing on road salt, street sweepers, and ditch maintenance are just a few of the items on our Service Department's agenda.
- Meadowbrook at Clayton continues to add events, golf outings, and community functions. The course has never been in better shape, in spite of a set back due to the tornadoes. Weddings, parties, graduations, civic organizations, fundraisers...all categories are growing nicely. Meadowbrook attracts thousands of people to our city.



I would be remiss if I did not mention the excellent work, genuine concern, and efforts during the aftermath of the tornadoes. I'm proud of our staff, council, and residents in the days immediately following the tornadoes. These groups came together as a community to aid in the cleanup. Employees worked hard, long hours. Council members were on site and on the phones. And groups of citizens, some organized and some not, doing everything possible to help our neighbors. The homes can be repaired and the trees will regrow. And we are very blessed no one was killed or seriously injured in our city.

Mike Stevens, Mayor
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• • • • • NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS • • • • •



The EF4 tornado which touched down in Clayton on Memorial Day along the city's southern border damaged approximately 106 homes, almost 20 of those being considered seriously damaged or complete losses. In addition to the structural damage, thousands of trees were uprooted or shredded, power lines destroyed, and streets unpassable. Emergency service personnel responded immediately after the tornado touched down in Clayton. Residents and volunteer groups from throughout the community hit the grounds the very next morning.

From the first day of recovery to the present, groups of residents, faith-based organizations, sports teams, neighboring jurisdictions and others were out in full force providing assistance and support however it was needed. Groups of people flooded neighborhoods to cut brush and drag it out to the street, help with debris clean up and donated water, food and other essential supplies to those who lost so much in the devastation. Water distribution sites were set up and staffed by volunteers at the Salem Church of God and Clayton Government Center. Northmont F.I.S.H. and Salem Church of God also played significant roles by being a donation location, receiving and handing out supplies to all of those in need. 131 residents and volunteers signed up with the city to lend a helping hand and were matched with residents who reached out for help. Larger groups which aided throughout the city were: Valley Interior Systems, A1 Concrete, Ritter Plumbing and Pipeline Co., Plain City, Preble County Engineers Office, Champaign County, Ohio Department of Transportation, Wal-Mart, David Snook and Crew, Mike Hurd and New Life Church.

Communities are only as strong as the residents who call it home. Over the past month, Clayton and the Northmont region proved once again why so many people choose all Clayton home. While city staff has continued to work overtime during the work week and on the weekends to clean up the neighborhoods directly impacted by the tornado, people across the community provided helping hands daily to total strangers, some who have lost more than can be described. Through both the physical and emotional trauma inflicted by the tornado, the resolve demonstrated by this community was stronger and will be a long-term testament to the greatness of our region. Thank you to everyone who have assisted and continue to provide a helping hand.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congrats to Lou and Vontilla Durko for being selected as the 2019 Spring VIP winner. Their home on Park Vista Rd. has been nominated several times over the last few years and is always bursting with spring time flowers and colors! Congratulations to the Durko family!

Staff is now accepting nominations for the Summer VIP. Please consider nominating a neighbor, family member or even yourself to be recognized for contributing to the beautiful aesthetic appeal of Clayton. Nominations for the Summer VIP will be accepted until August 31st.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS BATTERY BACKUPS

The Memorial Day tornadoes caused a loss of power that directly affected traffic signals in several intersections throughout the city. Traffic signals play an important safety function for everyone in the community during normal working days, and even more so during local emergencies. Traffic confusion and lack of familiarity with intersections due to unexpected detours often cause unsafe situations if traffic signals aren't operating correctly, especially during night time hours. Traffic signals being down also result in emergency resources, such as police officers or other staff members, being used to direct traffic instead of assisting in other aspects of an emergency response.



Clayton has been installing battery backups on traffic signals at intersections as they were damaged or replaced over the past several years. However, there were several intersections continuing to operate without battery backups, including those areas without power due to the Memorial Day storms. Due to the recent storms, by the beginning of July, the remaining nine intersections will have battery backups installed. This \$60,000 capital improvement project will provide all the traffic signaled intersections in the city with backup power for 24-36 hours in the event of a power outage as well as the ability to use generators to recharge those batteries in case of a large-scale event such as the recent tornadoes.



MEADOWBROOK BOUNCING BACK

Situated at the northeast corner of Salem Avenue and Westbrook Road, Meadowbrook at Clayton was smack in the middle of the crosshairs of the EF4 Memorial Day tornado. When observing the damage, the following morning, the golf course long known for its challenging fairways lined heavily with rows of mature trees, was almost unrecognizable. Entire groves of trees were thrown across the course and laid throughout the areas of play. Hundreds of trees were ripped from the ground or sliced halfway to the top. Luckily, the event facility received minor damage, with one small tree falling on it and some shingle and siding damage, however with no power or water it was closed for a week and a half. As with the rest of the community, Meadowbrook at Clayton received an amazing amount of support from the local community.

While city personnel were busy responding to the community at large, ensuring city streets were cleared off, traffic signals becoming operational and brush and debris began to be removed from properties, Meadowbrook at Clayton had volunteers working diligently to help get the public amenity back open for business. Over the first few weeks of clean up, Meadowbrook had 72 volunteers assisting with various projects, concentrating heavily on the brush cleanup throughout the course. Meadowbrook held two cleanup days, but there has been a consistent presence of volunteers throughout the last month. Most of the volunteers are the people who regularly use the golf course, such as the Northmont golf teams, and representatives from Yankee Trace and Cassel Hills golf courses.

Throughout the entire process, only one event was cancelled at the event facility and the golf course was able to reschedule all the golf outings except one. The back nine was amazingly reopened for play within two weeks of the storms, at special storm recovery rates, and the entire 18-hole course is scheduled to be ready for play by the beginning of July. Although the course will now play a bit differently with many of the mature trees no longer getting in the way of the errant slice, Meadowbrook at Clayton will be open and in full swing for the remainder of the year, starting in July.

PARKS RECEIVING A FACELIFT

Over the last two years, the Clayton Service Department, along with the Parks Advisory Commission, have worked together to clean out a lot of dead trees and overgrowth within the three Clayton parks as well as making small incremental steps improving the overall quality of the park system. Complimenting these efforts was the PLAN Clayton process which has placed a long-term emphasis on park improvements because of resident participation dictating their desire to be able to enjoy our parks more than ever. To this end, the PLAN Clayton Implementation Plan laid out 28 separate action points to improve the Clayton park system over the short and long term. At the end of 2018, staff selected 16 separate projects from those action points which they believed to be implementable over the next 12-18 months. City Council subsequently approved \$75,000 in the annual Capital Improvement Project budget for park improvements in 2019.

Over the first half the year, staff worked internally and with the Parks Advisory Commission on various plans and projects which could be completed this year. Staff also submitted multiple grant applications to county organizations to assist in the long-term investment within the Clayton park system. At the end of June, staff and the Parks Advisory Commission presented their recommendations to City Council. Included with these recommendations were:

- Replacing and adding a new swing set at Northview Park.
- Remodeling the restroom facilities at Westbrook Park and installing all ADA compliant equipment.
- Replacing all the disc golf baskets with new equipment at Westbrook Park.
- Installing new horse shoe pits at the former basketball court at Hardscrabble Park.
- Adding new picnic tables and grills at Hardscrabble Park.
- Replacing all the trashcans in the parks in addition to adding additional trashcans.
- Installing 20 animal waste receptacles throughout the three parks.
- Adding new benches in all the parks, including along the walking path at Northview Park.
- Adding new bike racks in all the parks.
- Creating new landscaping and signage plans for the parks, which will also be part of a larger scale, city wide initiative. The primary focus of these plans will be to see new signage and landscaping at the parks over the next couple of years and then transitioning to city wide plans, creating a harmonious and consistent brand for the entire Clayton community.

Staff believes almost all these projects can be completed by this fall. Staff will also be working on developing plans on new parking options at all the parks over the next several years, giving Clayton the ability to begin new programming in the parks for all our residents. This is the first step of a long-term strategy to make the improved Clayton park system another highlight in an already strong community.



FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUAL TRAINING KEEPS CLAYTON SAFE

The old saying, "practice makes perfect" carries a lot of weight for the Clayton Fire Department as the department attends continual training exercises throughout the year ensuring the safety of the community. Demonstrating this commitment, the fire department holds an average of over 400 classes totaling 3,000 plus hours of training every year. As part of their training, all fire department employees are required to annually demonstrate competency of basic skills including cardiac rhythm interpretation, ground ladder, driving, fire pumps, hose stretches, gas monitor operations, hazardous material operations, airway maintenance, forcible entry, live fire attack, auto extrication, air pack, medical equipment and stroke recognition.

Complimenting the daily commitment of ensuring staff is ready for any type of emergency, the Clayton Fire Department continues to be the Machine Rescue Team for northern Montgomery County. Included with this tremendous responsibility is weekly training and carrying special equipment to ensure all staff members are able perform at the highest level for this special rescue discipline.

One consistent threat to emergency personnel's health and safety within the entire fire safety industry is injuries related to lifting, loading and unloading patients from medic units. The Clayton Fire Department has dedicated the past several years to decreasing these types of injuries. The fire department trains in proper lifting techniques, acquired equipment to assist in lifting and recently purchased a power load system which actually loads and unloads patients from the medic unit. City of Clayton received \$50,967 in grants from the Ohio Bureau of Worker Compensation and the Mathile Family Foundation to assist with the purchase of this equipment which greatly reduces the risk of injuries to our firefighters and EMT personnel and keeps our personnel healthy and ready to serve the community. Thanks to these grants the fire department can provide a safer working environment for our staff.

Below is a list of other training categories the Clayton fire department work on throughout each calendar year:

- Trauma
- Fire tactics
- Incident command
- Search and rescue
- Commercial building pre-planning and familiarization
- Ropes and rigging
- Medical operations
- Rescue task force which is special training for active shooter incidents
- Mass casualty triage
- Fire inspector updates



GOVERNMENT ACADEMY SIGN UP NOW OPEN!

Clayton residents are now able to sign up for the 2nd annual Government Academy. All residents are eligible to sign up for this free class and it will remain open for the first 20 residents to do so. The academy is a six-week course, starting on Sept. 11th, every Wednesday from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm. As part of this year's class, each department will incorporate what they were responsible for during the city's emergency response to the Memorial Day tornadoes. This interactive class is extremely informative to every resident who attends. We only ask if you do sign up, please be able to commit to attending every session. To sign up, please contact Jack Kuntz at 937-836-3500 or jkuntz@clayton.oh.us.



NEW ZONING CODE WILL MAKE DEVELOPMENT EASIER

After working on the update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, otherwise known as PLAN Clayton, for 18 months, staff has been working on a complete overhaul of the city's Zoning Ordinance since the beginning of 2019. The zoning code, although updated frequently over the years in response to changing trends and legal rulings, is a remnant of the days when the majority of Clayton was a township. The code, in its present form, prevents much of the development types Clayton residents and business operators identified as desirable for the future of Clayton during the PLAN Clayton process. The new code will continue to protect the agricultural and rural areas of the city and build upon the small-town charm so many identified as important for the future of Clayton.

City Council awarded the project to Calfee Zoning late in 2018 and staff, along with a steering committee made up of city residents and regional planning professionals, have been working since the beginning of the year to blend the goals from PLAN Clayton into the new Zoning Ordinance. The new code will also make development much easier along the commercial corridors in Clayton, place an emphasis on parks and green spaces in new residential areas and assist in redevelopment and infill projects throughout Clayton. Staff hopes to have a draft of the document before Council by the end of 2019.



Starting their fifth season in June the Northmont Community Market is once again bringing great local flavor to the community at large, every Sunday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The Market

is a great opportunity for small and local mobile businesses to come out to a centralized location and sell their various goods to the Northmont community. It's also a chance for residents to get great deals on locally made products. The vendor list includes 30+ businesses offering items such as freshly grown produce, homemade crafts, clothing, baked goods, flowers, jewelry, soap and much more. For more information visit the market's facebook page or their website at www.northmontmarket.com

NEW LOCATION - Randolph Plaza on Main St., near LaFiesta & License Branch



CHANGES TO TRASH BILLING

Last Quarterly billing made to the City of Clayton

All residents will receive in the mail at the end of June/beginning of July, the last quarterly trash bill payable to the City of Clayton. Starting with the fourth quarter, October 1, 2019, Republic Services will assume responsibility of billing residents for their trash service. To prepare for this change we ask the following:

- All balances owed to the City of Clayton, must be paid in full by October 1, 2019.
- All credit balances will be refunded.
- Any ACH in place with the City of Clayton after this quarter's payment on July 15, 2019, will be null and void.
- Cease all scheduled trash payments that have been established with your personal online banking to the City of Clayton.

In the next couple of months, residents will receive a letter with information regarding trash payments to Republic

TRASH SERVICE DELAYS

Due to holidays occurring during the normal work week, sometimes there are delays in trash service. Below is a list of the delays residents can expect for the remainder of 2019.

4th of July (Thursday)

Service delayed by one day for residents whose normal service day is Thursday and Friday.

Labor Day – September 2nd

Service delayed by one day for all residents.

Thanksgiving – November 28th

Service delayed one day for residents whose normal service day is Thursday and Friday.

Christmas Day – December 25th

Service delayed one day for residents whose normal service day is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Residents who have service on Monday, December 23rd and Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, will receive normal service.

New Year's Day – January 1st

Service delayed one day for residents whose normal service day is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Residents who have service on Monday, December 30th and Tuesday, December 31st, New Year's Eve, will receive normal service.

CLAYTON WELCOMES LINDSEY DERVALI

After receiving over a hundred applications and interviewing several highly qualified candidates to replace the newly retired Nancy Bertling, Lindsey Dervali accepted the offer to become Clayton's newest Administrative Assistant earlier this spring. Lindsey's responsibilities include welcoming the community at the front desk at the Government Center, assisting in answering the phones, is the administrative assistant for the Clayton Police Department and assists in the overall day to day operations of the administrative office.

Lindsey, who graduated from Milton Union High School and attended Sinclair Community College before becoming a state licensed nurse's assistant, comes to Clayton after spending 9 years at Cypress Pointe Health Campus in Englewood in various leadership roles. Lindsey, her husband and two sons enjoy spending their down time outdoors with family, including hiking and camping. Please join Clayton staff in welcoming Lindsey to the Clayton community! **Welcome Lindsey!**



COPS IN THE COMMUNITY

Clayton police officers continue to demonstrate their dedication to the community by going over and beyond in their daily interactions with city residents. In addition to their daily proactive patrols throughout the city, Clayton officers are always looking for additional ways to build new relationships. Over the last several years, Clayton has partnered with JD's Old Fashioned Frozen Custard to bring awareness to bicycle safety and children. This year alone, JD's provided approximately 25-coupons to hand out for a free cone when officers observe a child riding a bicycle with a helmet on. This program not only helps bring awareness to bicycle safety, it also gives officers the opportunity to build positive relationships with Claytons' youngest generation of residents.



Clayton Police also offer city residents a Vacation Watch Program to take advantage of whenever they're out of town. This service is free to all residents. Residents only need to fill out a form, available at the Clayton Government Office or the City's website, detailing the address and how long they'll be out of town. Officers will check the residence for open doors and any damage to the residence. This program provides an invaluable service to the public while also providing an opportunity for the officers to continue their proactive presence in the neighborhood communities. For additional questions regarding this program, please call the Clayton Government Center at (937) 836-3500.

ROAD PROJECTS ROLL ON



The 2019 Clayton curb, gutter and street project is under way! The concrete work has begun on Skylark, Rathburn, Cheri Lynne, and Garber. Once those four streets have had the curb replacement completed, (anticipated Mid-July) paving will begin. Other roads on the 2019 paving program include Wenger, Hoke, Wetzel Farm, and the north end of Mintwood.

Other projects for 2019 will include a safety project at Salem and Hoke to align the turn lanes on Salem and upgrade the traffic light and curb. In addition, the crack seal program will continue in the Honeybrook Plat for 2019.

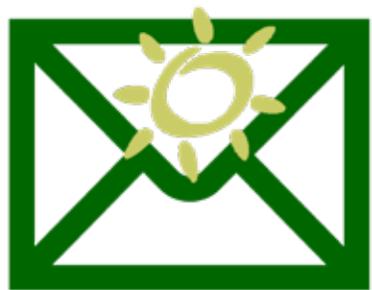
If you have any questions, please contact the Clayton Service Department at (937) 836-3500.



CLAYTON COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clayton continues to offer free community events for everyone throughout the year. There are several free family events coming up at the end of summer/early fall for the entire Northmont community. Below is a quick summary of all the free upcoming family events.

- The second annual **Movie in the Park**, sponsored by the Clayton Parks Commission, will be Friday, August 23rd at dusk. The event takes place on the driving range at Meadowbrook at Clayton, 6001 Salem Ave. Come out and enjoy the free showing of *Smallfoot*. Free popcorn and water will be provided by the Parks Commission.
- The fourth annual **Labor Day Festival and Fireworks** will be Sunday, September 1st, at 7:00 pm at Meadowbrook at Clayton, 6001 Salem Ave. The Festival includes bounce houses, face painting and refreshments. Fireworks will start at 9:00 pm.
- The annual **Fire, Police & Service Department's Open House** is Tuesday, October 1st at 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Clayton Government Offices, 6996 Taywood Rd. Come out and see all the different vehicles and equipment used by our various emergency response departments. Games and refreshments are also provided free of charge for everyone in the community.
- The third annual **Costumes and Carvings for Kids** is being held at Meadowbrook at Clayton, 6001 Salem Ave., on Sunday, October 27th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Come dressed up in your favorite holiday costume and carve a free pumpkin. Pumpkins and carving equipment provided for free. Pumpkin and costume contests for grades Pre-K- 8th grade will occur at the end of the event and every child will receive a goodie bag. Refreshments are also provided free of charge.



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Sign-up on City's Website
www.clayton.oh.us

NEXT EDITION

Communication is one of the most important aspects of a growing and thriving community. Look for the next edition of 'Clayton Living' in the mail this fall! 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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