



Clayton LIVING

CLAYTON'S POLICE SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Every year, the Clayton police department partners with Meijer to provide holiday joy to Clayton families in need. Police officers pay for the ability to grow their beards during the months of November, December and January and the money raised from this is paired with gift cards donated by Meijer for selected Clayton families. Clayton police department coordinates with Northmont F.I.S.H to select the Clayton families. Officers use the funds and gift cards to purchase all the holiday fixings for a holiday dinner and breakfast for each family as well as presents for all the children. To round out the program, officers take the children from the selected families shopping so the youngsters can purchase presents for

their parents and loved ones. Community volunteers donate their time to wrap the presents and everything is brought to the families' homes by the officers while the children are away, so as not to ruin the surprise of presents from Santa on Christmas morning. This year the Clayton police department are sponsoring 10-children through this program. So next time you see an officer with a beard in November through January, you'll know they have something more in common with Mr. Claus than just the scruffy face, they're also working hard to help bring holiday cheer to families in Clayton.



THE CITY OF CLAYTON REQUESTS YOUR SUPPORT!

Attention Clayton Residents! Over the next few months, you may be asked to sign an initiative petition that may lower your income tax. Sounds great! Who would not want to lower their taxes? No brainer. Right?

Well it is just not that clear cut. Before signing any petition, we urge you to consider all the facts and what those tax dollars mean to your community.

The Clayton Concerned Citizens PAC would like to repeal a portion of the 2015 Income Tax Ordinance which limits the amount of income tax credit a wage-earning resident can claim when they pay income tax outside the City of Clayton. You may ask what does that really mean and how does it affect me? The simple answer is this: if you pay income taxes to a community where you work, the City of Clayton gives you credit for 50% of the tax amount you pay to your work community. For example, if they have an income tax rate equal to or greater than Clayton's 1.5 % income tax rate, you owe Clayton a maximum of three-quarters of one percent (.75%) of income tax. If you don't work in a jurisdiction that collects income tax, this doesn't affect you at all, you already pay 1.5% income tax to Clayton. The intent of the ordinance is for all Clayton residents, not including retirees, to financially support where they live and not just where they work. Clayton collects approximately one million dollars per year from this tax source.

The tax credit reduction was specifically enacted to provide funding for the many lane miles of deteriorated local roads within Clayton. In the last four years, over eight million-three-hundred thousand dollars (\$8,300,000) of road related improvements and equipment purchases have occurred. Six-million dollars (\$6,000,000) of debt was incurred by the City to jumpstart the much-needed improvements. The City will pay on that debt for eleven more years and the remaining yearly revenue will continue to provide road maintenance and improvements for the years to come. If this funding source goes away, the debt payment will still need to be made. Cuts to other public services will have to be considered to ensure our debt liabilities are met moving forward. The cost to maintain our roads only increases every year and with over 212 lane miles of roadway to maintain, it is a never-ending task. (The 2019 cost to resurface one lane -mile of roadway was approximately \$86,000.)

If you would like more information on where your tax dollars are spent, we would encourage you to attend your city council meetings or feel free to call the city manager with any specific questions. It is our job to serve you, but we cannot do it without your financial support. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Your Clayton Elected Officials,

Mayor Mike Stevens, Vice Mayor Tim Gorman, Councilmembers Brendan Bachman, Kenny Henning, Tina Kelly, Dennis Lieberman, and Greg Merkle



CLAYTON'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT ALL TIME HIGH



While Clayton has been ranked the safest and best community to raise a family over the last several years, it's also known as one of the best communities within Montgomery County for its community outreach programming. The outreach efforts start each year with helping the city's residents with its annual spring cleaning and decluttering projects. The annual free document shredding event was offered in June, sandwiched between the twice annual Sweep Clayton Clean Events in May and October. The Parks Advisory Commission also left a strong imprint on the community in 2019, first with the installation of 30-new trashcans, 20-new animal waste receptacles and brand-new disc golf equipment, all being installed in the parks this past fall. It followed those projects with finalizing the spring installation of two new swing sets at Northview Park, new picnic tables and grills at Hardscrabble and new park benches and bike racks throughout all three Clayton parks. Staff is also planning on partnering with Dayton Disc Golf on a family fun day in the spring at Westbrook Park, to show off the new course and teach anyone who wants to learn how to play disc golf. Clayton also continued to highlight all the hard work of our residents throughout the year with the Spring, Summer, Fall/Halloween & Holiday VIP awards which were announced and recognized at City Council meetings.

Meadowbrook at Clayton, in addition to hosting the Taste of Northmont and Winter Market, also demonstrated why it's fast becoming known as the best community asset in the county region, by once again hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt, showing the movie "Smallfoot" to over 200 people at the annual Movie in the Park event, holding the annual Labor Day Festival and Fireworks, handing out goodies and prizes at the annual Costumes and Carvings and welcoming the community and jolly old St. Nick at Breakfast with Santa.

Finally, Clayton staff opened the government campus in October for the annual Fire, Police and Service Open House while the fire department raised over \$7,000 for the Pink Ribbon Girls and cancer support throughout the Northmont region. Clayton realizes our city is only as strong as our community at large and believes bringing our residents together for a vast array of events throughout the year is a great way to continue building upon the true sense of community we have in Clayton. Clayton is excited to continue planning and working on even more events for the community at large in 2020!



WINTER MARKET

INDOOR MEADOWBROOK | N O O N - 4 P M
AT CLAYTON | 4th Sunday of the Month
6001 Salem Ave | December - March
December 22nd | January 26th | February 23rd | March 22nd

LOCAL ARTISANS & PRODUCERS | INDOOR GOLF SIMULATORS
| FOOD & DRINKS | WATCH THE GAME | KIDS ACTIVITIES

Join the Northmont Community Market for their first Winter Market at Meadowbrook at Clayton. We invite everyone to shop with local artisans and producers while kids are entertained with activities such as kids fitness classes, crafts, scavenger hunts and more all provided by the City of Clayton Parks Commission! The rest of the family may watch the game and enjoy a drink in The Grill while others can keep a fresh golf game with Meadowbrook's new indoor Golf Simulators.

More information at www.northmontmarket.com or email northmontmarket@gmail.com

Sponsored by



NEW LADDER TRUCK MAKES CLAYTON SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT



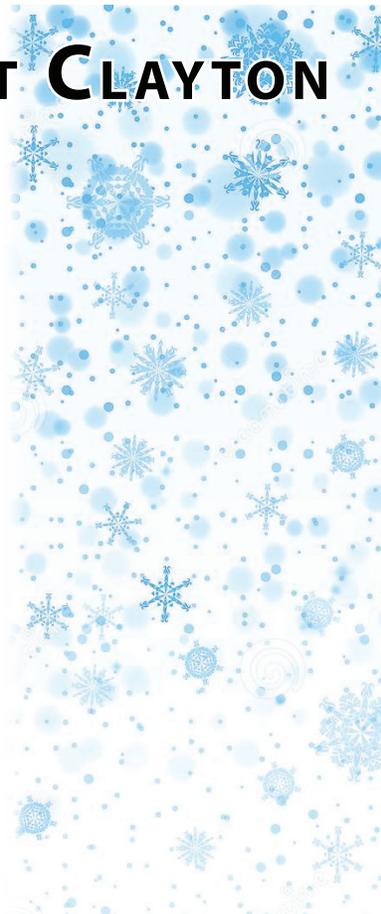
In 2017 the Clayton fire department developed a plan to improve the city's effectiveness and efficiency in emergency response times by designing and purchasing a ladder truck which could respond and mitigate all possible hazards within the community. Some of the calls the Clayton fire department typically respond to include emergency medic calls, fire alarms, structure fires, electrical hazards, hazardous material spills/leaks, water problems, service related, auto accidents, specialized rescues and a wide assortment of other types of incidents. The large array of calls normally requires communities to have two or three different types of vehicles with specific equipment to respond to the assortment of possible calls.

But now, having the ability to handle all these incidents with one vehicle reduces response times, reduces the number of vehicles needed in the case of an incident, while also reducing the long-term capital improvement funding by eliminating the need for multiple replacement vehicles. The fire department took delivery of the city's new ladder truck in October and the new vehicle will be in service for emergency responses by the end of 2019.

WINTER FUN AT MEADOWBROOK AT CLAYTON

Meadowbrook at Clayton will be busy playing host to a variety of fun activities during the blustery, winter months. Starting on December 22nd, the Northmont Community Market will introduce their first ever Winter Market for the community at large. In addition to offering Northmont and the surrounding region great samples of local artisan and craft vendors on the fourth Sundays between December and March, the Clayton Parks Advisory Commission will also have free and exciting kids' activities every market day. Children will be partaking in fun holiday crafts in December, local company Corks and Crafts will host the January event, followed by kids fit training and scavenger hunts in February and March. Family members will also be able to hang out in The Grill or shoot a round of golf in Meadowbrook's indoor golf simulators. The Winter Market is open every fourth Sunday from noon-4 pm.

Meadowbrook will also be playing host Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce 3rd annual Taste of Northmont, being held on Thursday, January 16th. Tickets are now available at the Clayton Government Center and partnering local businesses throughout Northmont. Admission gets you all you can eat from over a dozen local restaurants and caterers. Warped Wing and Heidelberg will also be there offering local craft beer and wine selections. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Get your tickets now because the event sold out last year! If you're a local restaurant or food vendor interested in participating, contact Cathy Hutton at the Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce at (937) 836-2550.



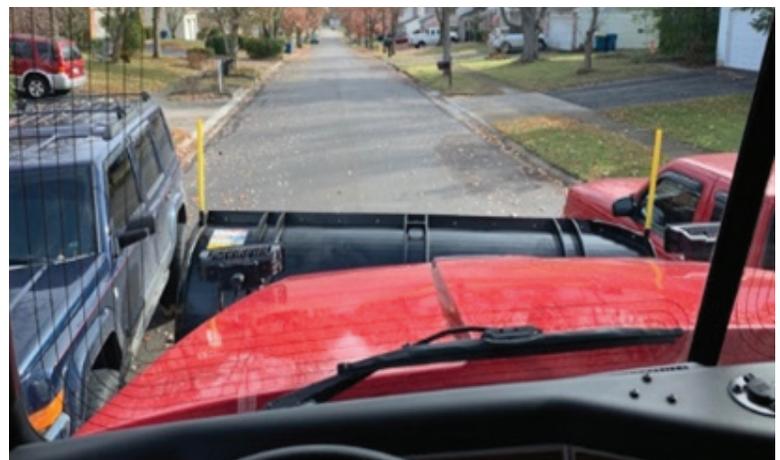
SERVICE DEPARTMENT USES HARD WORK AND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE STREETS SAFER DURING WINTER EVENTS

In the event of winter storms and inclement weather, the Clayton service department plows over 220-lane miles of roadway with only nine full time employees. Below is a list of some of the initiatives implemented over the last few years to make Clayton one of the leading departments in the region for snow and ice removal, while maintaining one of the smallest crews.

- The ODOT Road and Weather Information System provides an on-call meteorologist, 24-hours a day during winter events who forecast snow and ice start times down to the minute. Prior to a winter event, the Clayton Management Team develops a schedule based on the forecasted information to schedule crews accordingly.
- All trucks are prepared and loaded with material prior to the event. The first material is the traditional salt, while the second is the less familiar mixture of salt brine and an agricultural product consisting of beet product and natural calcium. This liquid is mixed at an 80/20 blend and is applied at the spinner at the rear of the trucks to help the salt stay on the road and assist in the melting process.
- RWIS weather sensors are installed in various locations throughout the county and provide valuable information including surface temperature, road conditions, and sub-surface temperatures. This information when combined with in-cab surface temperature gauges, allows our drivers to apply the right material at the right time. In addition to the hard work and technology used by the service department, residents can also assist in making sure the streets are cleaned as quickly as possible.

Below are some helpful tips which will greatly assist our team.

- Passing snow plows is very dangerous because plows must clear centerlines of commercial corridors first and this does not allow drivers to make safe passes. Tailgating plow drivers is also dangerous because of the plow's frequent stops. Remember the slogan, *"Don't Crowd the Plow."*
- Rural parts of the city have other challenges such as wind-blown roads which are difficult to treat. These areas cannot be salted because drifting snow only causes the ice to build deeper.
- A reminder to residents that the Snow Ordinance permits vehicles to be towed from public streets, at the owner's expense, after a 3 inch or greater snow accumulation. As a rule of thumb, vehicles may return to parking on the street approx. 48-hours after the snow fall has ended. If vehicles must be parked on the street with less than 3" of snow, please try to stagger on street parking if possible. When two cars are parked across from each other on a street, as shown in the photos, it becomes difficult to maneuver a 10-foot plow between.
- If you live in a cul-de-sac, please have patience because fire hydrants, parked cars and driveways leave few places to stack snow. These are very large trucks which do not have the mobility to maneuver like the small pick-up truck's contractors use.
- Please do not shovel snow into the street or push plowed snow back into the street even when clearing driveway. This causes slick spots in the roadway and could cause an accident. If you stack the snow on the right side of the end of your driveway, as you are facing the road, the driver will plow it away from your drive.



THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT LEAF COLLECTION SEASON

Thank you to all the residents who brought their leaves out for collection throughout the months of October, November and December. We also want to say thank you to everyone who made sure the piles remained free of sticks, rocks and other debris and were placed in the appropriate locations making pickup much easier throughout the city. We had a great season, picking up over 200 loads of leaves, and the extra help from the community is greatly appreciated. The Service department extended the leaf pickup to include one final pickup in early December to try to take advantage of the final leaves dropping after the snow and wind storms we had at the end of November. After the final pickup of the season, the Service department was busy immediately transitioning the fleet into winter mode for inclement weather.



CLAYTON WELCOMES HOME GROWN NEW OFFICER DESKINS



Officer Matt Deskins is Clayton's newest police officer, joining the city in the beginning of November. Deskins grew up in the Northmont community, eventually graduating from Northmont High School before continuing his education at Tiffin University. Prior to coming to Clayton, he worked in the Englewood's street department. The entire City of Clayton is excited to welcome Officer Deskins as Clayton's newest police officer!

FALL/HALLOWEEN VIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Fall/Halloween VIP always brings out creative and fun decorations during the autumn season throughout the city. This year, staff received almost a dozen nominations for the fall time award. City Council recognized the winner, the Baker Family, at their December 5th meeting. Congratulations to the Bakers and everyone who was nominated for this year's Fall/Halloween VIP award.

Staff is now accepting nominations for the Holiday VIP. Please consider nominating a neighbor, family member or even yourself to be recognized for contributing to the beautiful aesthetic and seasonal appeal of Clayton. Nominations for the Holiday VIP will be accepted until December 31st by Jack Kuntz at jkuntz@clayton.oh.us or (937) 836-3500.



LOCAL BUSINESSES MAKING CONNECTIONS

City of Clayton once again held two Business Meet and Greets in 2019 for the local business community. This networking opportunity provides a great format for local businesses to come together, in an informal setting, and network, discuss business and make new and future partnerships within Clayton. Developing partnerships with one another creates cost savings and additional opportunities to grow each business's presence within the local region. Clayton staff met with approximately 30-businesses through these events in 2019 and staff was also able to address any issues as well as assist in future retention and expansion efforts. These events are truly win-wins for all involved because they create a pro-business environment essential in keeping and attracting high quality industries to the City of Clayton.Services.

NORTHMONT SCHOOLS HONORING LOCAL MILITARY MEMBERS

The Northmont Schools are honoring Northmont grads who have served or are serving in the military by having their names placed on a 'Wall of Honor' in the high school. If you know anyone who should be included with this project, please visit Northmont's website or sign up at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNaUtxYqPhSq2GfFmtT-Ag-sEG7y8I9sLr6roUhF9RwZ01wA/viewform>

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT PINK RIBBON GIRLS



The Clayton and Englewood fire departments continue working together towards a common mission of cancer support within the Northmont community, and recently raised and donated \$7,300 to the Pink Ribbon Girls. Over the past six years nearly \$50,000 has been raised by the fire departments assisting the PRG and ensuring "no one travels this road alone". The Clayton fire department also donated a former medic unit to the organization earlier this year, which now travels with the group to their respective fundraising events across the region, transporting their respective equipment and merchandise.

The money raised by the fire departments stays in the Northmont community and provide direct services to women with breast cancer and gynecological cancer. The services provided are healthy meals, housecleaning, rides to treatments and peer support. Chief Garver mentioned he would like to thank the Clayton and Northmont community for helping support the PRG as well as the following partners: Uptown Hair Salon, Company 7, Englewood Kroger, Eco socks in West Carrolton, and Earl Harlamert. These organizations and individuals donate their time and resources annually to the successful campaigns, raising necessary funds to assist in helping females and their families with cancer during the worst time of their lives. Thank you Clayton, Englewood and the entire Northmont community for your continued support.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holiday season upon us, seasonal decorations abound throughout the Clayton community. Twinkling lights and glowing characters are great fun for everyone to see, however these decorations can also present fire safety issues when not used or setup correctly. Below are some helpful tips to ensure your decorations are not only enjoyable, but safe as well:

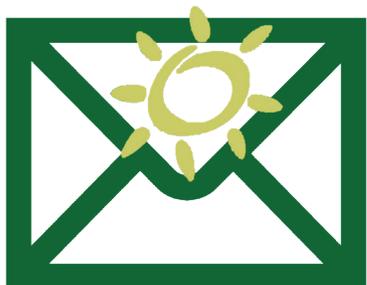
1. Inspect all lights and accompanying cords for damage prior to use. 25% of tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
2. Never overload a circuit; spread out lights and decorations across multiple circuits.
3. Turn off all lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed. Using timers for your lights/decorations ensuring they're turned off at a predetermined time is a good alternative.
4. Use a ground-fault-circuit interrupter (GFCI), which is a special type of wall outlet installed in areas where water and electricity could potentially mix, causing a dangerous reaction. The GFCI will automatically shut off if the current becomes unbalanced.
5. Keep your live tree hydrated. A live tree without water, even for just 2-3 days, is enough to dry the tree out, making the tree more susceptible to catching fire.
6. Only use extension cords which are heavy duty quality, and which are grounded for safety.
7. Don't run extension cords under rugs or in areas where they pose a tripping hazard.
8. Two out of every five house fires involving holiday decorations are started by candles. Consider using flameless, battery operated candles instead. If this isn't an option, remember, never use candles around other flammable materials and objects and please make sure all candles are properly extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed.

SEEKING HOLIDAY VIP NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who really gets into the holiday season? This award recognizes property owners who are going above and beyond making their properties jolly for the holidays. Residents are encouraged to nominate theirs, a neighbor's or a friend's property. Winners will receive a plaque and be recognized at a City Council meeting. To nominate a property please contact Jack Kuntz, Director of Development at (937) 836-3500 or jkuntz@clayton.oh.us



2018 Holiday Winner



NOTIFY ME

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 spring! 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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