



## The Clarkston Streetscape Preliminary Concepts are completed

The construction of the Clarkston Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancement Project is planned to occur on various sections of E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Market Street and Norman Road in 2017. The preliminary enhancements concepts are completed and include roadway resurfacing, sidewalks, street lighting and furnishings, landscape planting, banners and gateway monuments and railroad crossing improvements. These preliminary concepts are posted on the project website at [www.VisualizeClarkston.com](http://www.VisualizeClarkston.com).

The concepts were developed over the course of 4 months through hands on participation by a 20 member Streetscape Committee comprised of Clarkston residents, city staff and the AMEC consulting team. In late September, the city engaged the larger community in the review of the concepts starting with a City Council project briefing on September 30th. The city and consultants also conducted the first of many meetings with property owners and business that will be impacted by the construction and enhancements. And on October 9th, the city hosted a Public Information Meeting at the Clarkston Community Center to present the project process, schedule, concepts and receive public comments. Another Public Information Meeting will occur in early 2015 to provide a project update. More information about the Clarkston Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancement Project is available at [www.VisualizeClarkston.com](http://www.VisualizeClarkston.com).



## Public Meeting Kicks Off LCI Study

On September 9th, the City hosted a public meeting to kick off its latest LCI planning study. The meeting was hosted at the Clarkston Community

Center and consisted of an overview presentation by the consultant team hired by the City to prepare the study. The presentation provided background information on the project and also provided some insight on the individual components of the study, including the assessment of existing conditions, market analysis, transportation infrastructure analysis, public involvement and planning recommendations. Meeting attendees had the opportunity to participate in a Visual Preference Survey, in which they identified images of various land use types and development styles that represented the most-or-least preferred vision for what they feel the City should look like in the future.

"I am very excited about our LCI study and the opportunity it's providing our citizens to offer their input on what they feel our community should look like," said Mayor Ted Terry. "The LCI, along with our Streetscape enhancement project, will be the co-catalysts to Clarkston's renaissance. It's all very, very exciting," he said.

LCI, which stands for Livable Centers Initiative, is a grant-based community enhancement program sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Clarkston, which has been an LCI community since 2004 when the City's original LCI plan was developed, was awarded a \$100,000 grant by ARC to update the original plan. The September 9th meeting was the first of three scheduled public engagement events associated with the study. The next scheduled event is an outdoor meet & greet on **Saturday October 25th** on Market Street in front of the Clarkston Plaza shopping center. The event will run from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**.

For more information on the study, please visit the Clarkston LCI website, [www.clarkstonlci.wordpress.com](http://www.clarkstonlci.wordpress.com).

Congratulations to the  
**City of Clarkston,**  
your commitment to a diverse  
and livable city is inspiring.

---

WE ARE PROUD TO BE PART OF YOUR GROWTH.

---



**SAFE**built<sup>✓</sup><sup>®</sup>

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHERE YOU NEED US

[www.SAFEbuilt.com](http://www.SAFEbuilt.com)



## Hollywood Comes to Clarkston

Lights, Camera, Action! Hollywood, the movie capital of the world, has recently paid a visit to the City of Clarkston. “Resurrection,” an ABC Studios TV series, shot multiple scenes for the upcoming second season, over a period of days, at the Clarkston Community Center and outside locations on College Avenue.

The series is an American fantasy drama that follows the residents of Arcadia, Missouri, whose lives are upended when their loved ones return from the dead, unaged since their deaths.

Georgia has become a mecca for more movie and tv productions in recent years. In August, Governor Deal announced that “Georgia-lensed feature films and television productions generated an economic

impact of \$5.1 billion during Fiscal Year 2014.”

The production crew for “Resurrection” worked with the Clarkston Staff and citizens to provide advance notifications of filming to minimize any impact on traffic and to make the process as smooth as possible. We are excited to be a part of the Hollywood glitter.

The Mayor and Clarkston City Council have envisioned several goals for the streetscape project to include; turning nondescript roads into successful streets that create a sense of place; creating a foundation and catalyst for civic and economic revitalization in the downtown area; create an attractive environment and positive tone to encourage business and consumer

investment in the downtown area and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

The city has appointed a 20 member Streetscape Committee comprised of Clarkston residents and will be holding several public information open houses to solicit public input about the project design elements. The outreach program will involve intense coordination with local residents and business partners including a web site specifically dedicated for the project. The public outreach will also include bilingual translation. Anyone interested in following the progress of the project and providing input, is encouraged to visit the project website: [VisualizeClarkston.com](http://VisualizeClarkston.com)

## COURT CORNER: Procedures for Handling a Ticket

Once you receive a citation, you must either appear in court on your scheduled court date and at the scheduled time or you may pay the fine for your citation prior to your court date if it’s not a mandatory appearance. If you do not pay the fine for your citation, nor appear in court then you are in violation of GA Code 40-13-62 Bench Warrant (Failure to Appear). The Bench Warrant is issued by the judge on the day that you fail to appear. Your citation is also sent in to the Department of Driver Services as a Failure to Appear and

your Driver’s License will be suspended. Your citation will also incur a Bench Warrant Fee. To satisfy this Bench Warrant and have your suspension withdrawn, you must pay your fine amount and any and all fees associated with the bench warrant to the court. If your license are suspended, there may be a fee imposed by the Department of Driver Services for reinstatement of your license.

The court is under no legal obligation to provide the driver with notice of their

failure to appear in court, nor is the court under any legal obligation to provide drivers with a “grace-period” prior to submitting notice to DDS.

If you are not sure of your court date and time, or if you should have any other questions for the court, you may contact our office at (404) 292-9465, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. We are closed on the weekends and most major holidays.

City of Clarkston Connection is a publication of KDA Communications. Subject matter published is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher of this newsletter. Professional advice should be obtained before making any decision in which a professional is readily available. Advertisers assume responsibility for the content of the ads placed in this publication. Material published may not be reproduced without the written permission of KDA Communications. The information and advertisements contained in this Newsletter are provided for City of Clarkston as a courtesy only. No representations are made as to information presented, the quality of the goods or services advertised, or the veracity of the statements relating to the goods and services. The printing of opinions, information or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the Neighborhood of such opinions, information, goods or services.



Contact us today for more information!  
678.905.4842 • [sales@kda-communications.com](mailto:sales@kda-communications.com)  
[www.kda-communications.com](http://www.kda-communications.com)

## City of Clarkston's Quality of Life Program

The Quality of Life Officer is responsible for enforcing the laws related to building, zoning, environmental, and housing codes. While there are some who will purposely violate these codes, the majority of those in violation do so unknowingly. Thus, much of the Quality of Life Officer's duties relate to education.

While this Quality of Life Unit is often referred to as "Code Enforcement" that term does not accurately describe the motive or function of the unit. The term "Code Compliance" better describes the program's agenda as obtaining voluntary compliance as the goal. The use of enforcement measures, such as citations to court, are only required when all other reasonable efforts have failed to gain the desired results or the violation is serious, requiring immediate action.

**What is being done to improve the likelihood of voluntary code compliance?**

**Open line of Communication:** We strive to maintain open channels of communication with the citizens served, the administration and, through the administration, with members of the Council. Our goal is to create and foster a cooperative partnership with the residents and business owners in our community.

**Citizen Involvement:** Every citizen of Clarkston is encouraged to make a positive contribution to their neighborhoods by partnering with the Quality of Life Unit. A partner is one who will make a commitment to notify Quality of Life either by leaving an anonymous complaint through a phone message or emailing the officers giving a specific address of possible violators. In addition, partners of the Quality of Life Unit are citizens who will make every effort to keep informed about the legislative actions that lead to revisions in the codes and who will make certain their properties remain in compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances.

**Improving Codes and Ordinances:** Codes and ordinances must be revised from time to time in an effort to proactively meet the ever changing needs of the community. The members of Council and the administration are the source of such action. Code Compliance is only as effective as the ordinances allow them to be.

We attempt to balance day-to-day functions between reactive Compliance (complaint based) and Proactive Compliance. Quality of Life Officers encourage citizens to report possible violations. In the same way that a neighborhood crime watch reduces crime in one's neighborhood, citizen involvement in notifying the Quality of Life Officer will have a positive impact in your neighborhood and improve the quality of life for every citizen.

Please contact the Quality of Life Officer, Steve Davis with any questions concerns you may have regarding the Quality of Life in your neighborhood. Cell: 404-557-8956, Office: 404-296-6489x416, e-mail: [sdavis@clarkstonpd.com](mailto:sdavis@clarkstonpd.com).



## City of Clarkston Street Sign Replacement Program

The City of Clarkston has just over five hundred roads and street signs within the city limits. Most of the current signs have been in place for several years and, with new Department of Transportation Hi-Dense & Hi-Intensity laws, the current signs are non-conforming. In January 2014, Public Works completed a city-wide inventory of all roads and street signs. A grand total of five-hundred, thirty-five signs were identified. The cost to replace all the city's signs would be \$17,500.00. Clarkston Public Works joined forces with the DeKalb County Roads and Street Department to begin this project. The Program entails providing signs for the County roads that are within the City limits, with City staff providing the labor to replace the signs. The old signs were returned to the County for recycling. This Project took place in August 2014 with the County providing over seventy signs and posts at a cost-saving to the City of \$4,061.00. The Public Works department has proposed \$13,537.00 in the 2015 Fiscal Year budget for replacement of the remainder of the City signs.



Who's In YOUR...  
**Bathroom?**

M. Cary & *Daughters*

Plumbing Contractors

404-370-0999

[MCaryAndDaughters.com](http://MCaryAndDaughters.com)

## Your Tax Dollars, You Decide

By Mayor Ted Terry

Last month the City of Clarkston passed a resolution, outlining a participatory budgeting process, designed to put the power and purse back into the hands of the people, through four resident committees on public safety, welcoming, education, and public art. The simple yet crucial belief in our democratic republic is that the ordinary citizen has the power to voice their path forward, in their community.

It might shock you to hear, but not many people attend Clarkston Council meetings, which really is no different than most other cities around Georgia. Maybe folks think we are doing a great job? Maybe the new livestream of council meetings is prompting the ordinary concerned citizen to kick back on the sofa, pop open a beer or pour a glass of wine and marvel at the miracle of democracy in action, or in other cases, cock their head to side and wonder what the heck are they talking about? I used to fall into the latter category, by the way.

You might be thinking, well that is why we elect you and councilmembers, we trust you, just don't use our tax dollars to go on ski trips! Others might say there is tomfoolery going on, and that what they are talking about is verbal jujitsu, politician speak, and it is not to be trusted. Such is the tug and war that has elicited great debates online and in the Thrifftown parking lot. But you see these debates are actually a good thing because they prove the process is working — albeit slowly most times. However, what the council voted on last month is meant to change the dialogue between government and citizen.

Participatory budgeting is a rather new theory in government that encourages citizen engagement, by giving more discretion in how a portion of their tax dollars are spent. “PB” as it is sloganed in short form, has the power to bring you into the conversation arena on the future of your city

Theodore Roosevelt delivered his “Man in the Arena” speech over 100 years ago to a room of French academics at the Sorbonne. He said, “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, ... ; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Our government and city is strengthened by strong men and women who quite likely have innovative ideas for the future, and that will help transform a place like Clarkston. The details of Clarkston's version of “PB” have not all been worked out yet, but the general idea is that \$20,000 from the 2015 City Budget will be directed in \$5,000 allotments to the four resident committees. These resident committees will work with individual councilmembers to develop project proposals to implement in Clarkston with the help of the residents.

This money uses your tax dollars, you should decide how it gets spent. But just like in voting and in life, showing up is the first step. This important step to owning your democracy will help make Clarkston a world-class city. Please consider joining one of the four resident committees today. If you are interested please email me at [ted@cityofclarkston.com](mailto:ted@cityofclarkston.com).



## Clarkston Partners with Habitat for Humanity

The DeKalb County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity (Habitat DeKalb) has joined forces with the City of Clarkston to lend a helping hand to disabled Veterans and their families this fall season through a program entitled A Brush with Kindness (ABWK). The event, which took place in Clarkston on September 11th, was the kick-off of Habitat DeKalb's new Veterans Build Program. The day consisted of volunteers working in and around the homes of eligible Veterans of the US Armed Forces and their families. Work performed minor construction repairs, painting, cutting grass and pulling weeds and kudzu. The program is funded by a grant from the Federal National Mortgage Association (also known as Fannie Mae) and consisted of an application/selection process. This year, two applicants were selected to receive assistance through the program.

“We are so excited to participate with local Veterans, Fannie Mae, the City of Clarkston and community volunteers for our inaugural A Brush with Kindness event,” said Habitat DeKalb Executive

Director Bob Boyd. “We are extremely grateful to Fannie Mae for their contribution that will go toward repairing the homes of two deserving local Veterans and their families. We feel this is a great way to honor all of the brave servicemen and servicewomen throughout the world who sacrifice their lives so that we may enjoy our freedom,” he said.

Volunteers from Fannie Mae, Habitat for Humanity International and City of Clarkston Staff lent their time and talents to help make the event a resounding success. Participating Clarkston Staff included Police Chief Chriss Hudson, Deputy Court Clerk Deborah Samuels, City Clerk Tracy Ashby and staff from the Public Works Department. “This was an opportunity to give meaningful help to Clarkston Veteran families and it was a great way to dedicate a remembrance to September 11th,” said City Clerk Ashby, who herself is an Army Veteran.

DeKalb Habitat offers a variety of programs that are focused on meeting the need for decent, livable and affordable housing for everyone. For more information on programs offered by Habitat DeKalb, call their main office at (770) 270-6813 or visit [www.dekalbhhabitat.org](http://www.dekalbhhabitat.org).

## Waste and Recycling Procedures

On September 2, 2014, the Clarkston City Council voted to a Waste and Recycling Procedures

To beautify and improve the Quality of Life of the City of Clarkston, the following Rules and Regulations govern:

**Waste:** Refuse picked up on Mondays, except for Holidays, (refer to the Clarkston web page for Holiday schedule.)

No refuse should be placed at the street for pickup until 5:00 PM on the Sunday prior to the Monday pickup and trash bins should be moved back from the street by 7:00 PM Monday evening. (City Ordinance Article 5, Sec. 19-73)

**Recycling:** Recycled material picked up day on Monday, except for Holidays. Refer to the yellow lid on your recycle container for materials accepted.

**Yard Waste:** Yard waste will be picked up with along with other waste and must be at the curb before **7:00AM on Monday.**

- Grass clippings and leaves must be in bags or placed loose in a separate container labeled "Yard Waste." Individual limbs cannot be greater than 4 ft. long and 4 inches in diameter. Limbs must be bundled and tied with rope or string. Bundles may not exceed 40 lbs.
- **Items not bundled and loose will not be picked up by Waste Management** thus may require a pick-up by the Public Works Department. (A fee is charged for this service.)
- A weekly limit of (6) six bags, bundles or combination of the two in addition to trash bin and recycle bin for a **maximum of eight items per household.**

**NOT ACCEPTABLE:** tree trunks, stumps, limbs greater than 4 inches in diameter, whole trees, logs, dirt, and rocks.

**Bulky Waste:** Items such as sofas, chairs, mattresses, washers, dryers, and other household goods will be accepted on your service day (Monday).

Please contact City Hall prior to your pick up day to schedule bulky waste service.

However, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and other items containing Freon are not acceptable. You may contact Newell Recycling of Gwinnett, (770) 446-6883, to recycle these items. Construction materials will not be picked up by Waste Management or the City.



**Compliance:** The purpose of these rules governing waste and recycling is to meet our service responsibility to provide the best in health, safety, protection of property values and Quality of Life of all who reside in or visit the City of Clarkston.

In order to insure that we are meeting your expectations, the City will conduct a weekly trash/refuse survey to insure the quality of service provided by Waste Management and to note any situations which may require a pickup by Public Works personnel.

*\*\*Special Notice - Handicapped Residents may qualify for pickup at their door. Contact City Hall for details.*

*As always, please feel free to call City Hall (404-296-6489) with any questions on this or any other concern you may have.*

Or call,

**Steve Davis, Quality of Life Officer,**  
Office: (404) 296-6489 X416  
Cell: (404) 557-8956  
Email: [sdavis@clarkstonpd.com](mailto:sdavis@clarkstonpd.com)  
or

**Rodney Beck, Public Works Director,**  
Office: (404) 296-6489 X426  
Cell: (404) 886-0068,  
Email: [rbeck@cityofclarkston.com](mailto:rbeck@cityofclarkston.com)



## clarkston LCI Public Meeting Notice

**Revitalization? Redevelopment? Improved Transportation?** A plan for all of these and more is being assembled with the input of community members like you. The City of Clarkston Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) will help shape the future of the neighborhoods and business community surrounding Market Street, N. Indian Creek Drive, E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, and Church Street. We need your input to be sure that it reflects the aspirations of residents, business owners, community organizations, property owners, students, and youth. **Please join us and bring your friends and neighbors!**

Learn more at  
[clarkstonlci.wordpress.com](http://clarkstonlci.wordpress.com)



sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission and the City of Clarkston

**Saturday, October 25, 2014 10:00am to 2:00pm**

Public Meeting #2 / Outdoor Event  
**Market Street**

*Enjoy food and entertainment while you learn about the draft plans for community improvements and more!*

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015 6:30 to 8:30pm**

Public Meeting #3 / Draft Plan

**Clarkston Community Center**

*View the exciting final plans, learn about how they will be funded, and help decide priorities for implementation.*

For additional information contact:

Contente Terry (404) 808-9916

[cterry@contenteconsulting.com](mailto:cterry@contenteconsulting.com)

## City Adopts New Sign Ordinance

On September 2, 2014, the Clarkston City Council voted to adopt a new sign ordinance. This was the culmination of a 7-month effort led by City Staff, which included a steering committee that was assembled specifically for the project.

The City's sign ordinance came under fire this past fall when multiple applicants were granted variances to allow for signs that exceeded size limits as provided within the ordinances. "Whenever you have a regular, consistent number of variance requests coming forward, it is a strong indication that there is something within our codes that is not working at an optimal manner, which necessitates making changes to codes," says Planning and Development Manager Jason Gaines. "With this in mind, we took on this

project with the intended result of a new ordinance that balances Clarkston's desire to move forward economically by attracting new businesses and investment with the desire of our citizens to maintain the City's quaint character and to be aesthetically pleasing."

Highlights of the new ordinance include refined, clarified definitions of terms, streamlined chapters/sections, and new rules for determining the overall size and illumination of signs in the City. The ordinance also requires all existing signs to be registered with the City by December 2, 2014.

To view the new sign ordinance regulations, go online and visit [http://www.clarkstonga.gov/images/F4\\_3\\_Clarkston\\_Sign\\_Ord\\_2014\\_08\\_22.pdf](http://www.clarkstonga.gov/images/F4_3_Clarkston_Sign_Ord_2014_08_22.pdf). For more information on registration of existing signs, or to apply for a new sign, please contact Jason Gaines via email at [jgaines@cityofclarkston.com](mailto:jgaines@cityofclarkston.com).

## Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween's greatest hazards aren't vampires and villains, but falls, costume



Metro Atlanta Chapter

mishaps and traffic accidents. The American Red Cross offers these following tips to make your Halloween a safe one:

- Look for flame-resistant costumes.
- Plan the Trick-or-Treat route and make sure adults know where children are going. A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children on the route.

- Make sure the Trick-or-Treaters have a flashlight. Add reflective tape to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags. Have everyone wear light-colored clothing to be seen.
- Visit only the homes that have a porch light on. Accept treats at the door – never go inside.
- Use face paint instead of masks.
- Walk only on the sidewalks. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic. Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner. Don't cut across yards or use alleys. Don't cross between parked cars.
- Be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.

follow these safety steps:

- Sweep leaves from the sidewalks and steps.
- Keep the front porch light on.
- Clear the porch or front yard of obstacles that a child could trip over.
- Restrain any household pets.
- Use a glow stick instead of a candle in the jack-o-lantern to avoid a fire hazard.

Keep your witches and goblins safe. First Aid at your fingertips - download the free American Red Cross First Aid App. You can find all of the Red Cross apps in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching for American Red Cross or by going to [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps).

**KEEP THE LIGHT ON** If you are welcoming trick-or-treaters at your home,

# CONSIGNMENT

**Make Money.  
Save Money.  
Shop Smart.**



404-296-0285



404-634-6995



404-377-1944



404-634-6995

Four Stores. Fashions & Furnishings. [fkconsign.com](http://fkconsign.com)

**ECO-FRIENDLY, PERSONALIZED**

## *HOME RENOVATIONS*

♦ ADDITIONS ♦ BASEMENTS ♦ BATHROOMS ♦ EXTERIORS ♦ GARAGES ♦ KITCHENS



Tom Colquitt  
Green building specialist  
Green House Renovation Atlanta, LLC  
[greenhouserenovation.com](http://greenhouserenovation.com)

**CALL  
770-527-7148**