

City to Receive Technical Assistance for Downtown Façade Improvements

Over the last several years, Clarkston has been an active participant in programs offered by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Since 2012, the City has received multiple grants through ARC with a total value of more than \$200,000.00. The two primary sources of these grant awards are the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program and the Last Mile Connectivity program. This past January, the City was notified that it had been selected to participate in yet another ARC program. Clarkston will receive technical assistance from ARC staff and interns through its Community Choices program. Specifically, the team from ARC will develop a façade improvement program for the downtown area.

“Clarkston’s application for Community Choices was attractive mainly because it carries out an action item from their LCI study and promotes investment in an existing town center,” said Stephen Causby of ARC. “The project and deliverable will be informed by regional and national best practices research, stakeholder interviews and resources on sustainable funding for such programs,” he said.

The project will begin in May and will last approximately three months.



For more information, please contact Jason Gaines at (404) 296-6489 or jgaines@cityofclarkston.com. For more information on the Community Choices program, visit <http://www.atlantaregional.com/local-government/implementation-assistance>.

LCI Study Recommendations Unveiled at Public Meeting

Clarkston’s latest LCI plan recommendations were presented to the public for the first time at the third and final public meeting for the project, held on February 10th at the Clarkston Community Center. The presentation covered various topics all focused on action items that ultimately will implement the LCI plan. Topics included downtown revitalization, transportation (with a focus on transit and bicycle/pedestrian needs), housing and economic development. Preparation of the plan involved a mix of strategies dictated by Clarkston’s current market conditions and feedback gathered from the public throughout the project duration, which dates back to August 2014.



City Council voted to adopt the LCI plan at their April 7th regular meeting (PENDING). Adoption of the plan by City Council makes all project recommendations listed within it eligible for implementa-

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Continued From Cover

tion funds through the Atlanta Regional Commission. Funding is typically available on an annual basis.

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 February 10th meeting was the last of three scheduled public engagement events associated with the project.

To view the plan document in its entirety, please visit <http://www.clarkstonga.gov/index.php/business/lci-draft-plan>, or visit the Clarkston LCI website, www.clarkstonlci.wordpress.com.

Public Works Employee Marcus Seaton Sees Bright Future



Public Works employee Marcus Seaton is not known as a big talker, but his actions speak loudly. Marcus is on his second stint as an employee in the Clarkston Public Works Department where he serves as a Crew Leader/CDL Driver, but he has much more on his plate and in his plans. Along with being a husband and father to wife Christine, 17 year old daughter Cristy and 8 year old

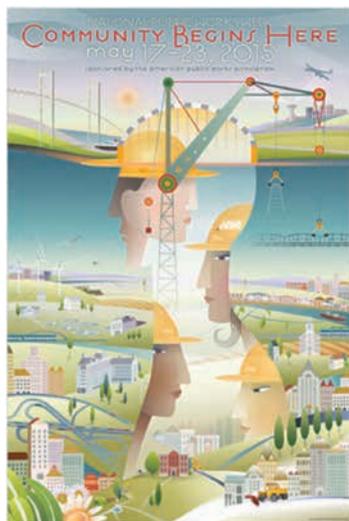
son Andre, Marcus also attends Gwinnett Technical College where he is pursuing an Associate's Degree in Accounting. He has big plans for his future and credits working for the City of Clarkston with helping him achieve his goals.

Marcus originally began working for Clarkston in 2003. He left Clarkston to work for the DeKalb County Sanitation Department in 2007. Although no longer working in the city, he continued to

keep in touch with his former work buddies. "I left Clarkston because DeKalb had a much better retirement plan and I was hoping for a better work environment, states Marcus. My buddies kept telling me about the changes happening in Clarkston and encouraged me to come back. I decided to apply when a position came open and I am very glad that I did."

Marcus started his second stint with Clarkston in April, 2013. Marcus admits that it was a hard decision to leave DeKalb but glad that the gamble paid off. "Once I made the decision to return to Clarkston I was able to see the changes for myself. It's a totally different atmosphere than before, very positive. I get a lot of support from my co-workers, Director and all the folks at City Hall. I am grateful to have a job that also supports my academic efforts. I was glad to the City Council make improvements to the pension plan. That was very important to me and my family."

Marcus sees a bright future for himself in Clarkston. "I plan on taking advantage of the city's tuition reimbursement program this year and hope to receive my Associates degree by December 2015. If the city continues to grow, maybe I can get a job in the Accounting department one day." No one doubts that Marcus's actions will continue to speak louder than his words.



2015 National Public Works Week

May 17 – 23, 2015

"Community Begins Here"

There would be no community without the quality of life public works provides. There would be no community to police and protect, no public to lead or represent. Public works allows the world as we know it to be. This year's theme "Community Begins Here" speaks to the essential nature of Public Works services in support of everyday quality of life.

National Public Works Week is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works.

Clarkston Public Work are active members of the American Public Works Association and Georgia Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Provided by American Public Works Association

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Clarkston Police - Craigslist Safety Zone Program

The City of Clarkston Police Department has implemented “Craigslist Safety Zone” which is a program geared toward making transactions arranged online safer. The Police Department is offering use of its Department parking lot and the Court Services Lobby to conduct transactions arranged from sites such as “Craigslist.” Clarkston residents can feel safe conducting business in a well-lit parking lot or in the lobby with an officer present. The Office hours are 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday-Friday for use of the Court Services Lobby. Also, upon request, police officers can check the serial number or VIN number of the item being sold to see if they are stolen, prior to completion of the transaction.

The following are a few safety tips when using online sites:

Craigslist best practices

These tips for avoiding scams and frauds are directly from Craigslist.org.

- Deal locally so you can meet the people in person.
- Never wire funds via Western Union, Money Gram or any other wire service.
- Know that fake cashier’s checks and money orders are common. Banks will cash them and then hold you responsible for the money.
- Craigslist provides no “buyer protection” or “seller certification.”
- Never give out your financial information.

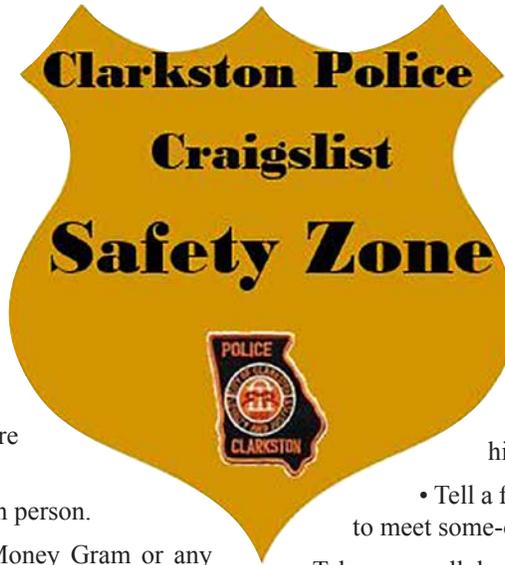
- Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services.
- Only a scammer will “guarantee” your transaction.
- Never rent housing without seeing it first; never purchase expensive items sight-unseen.

- Never submit to a credit check or background check for a job or house listed on Craigslist until you have met the interviewer or landlord in person.

Craigslist - Tips for Staying Safe

And these are the tips from the site for staying safe during Craigslist merchandise sales.

- Insist on a public meeting place like a cafe.
- Do not meet in a secluded place, or invite strangers into your home.
- Be especially careful when buying/selling high-value items.
- Tell a friend or family member where you’re going to meet some-one you contacted through Craigslist.
- Take your cellphone along with you.
- Consider having a friend accompany you during Craigslist purchases.
- Trust your instincts.



Officers Recognized

On March 3, 2015 Sgt. Brian Kern and Officer Chicco Shea were recognized at the City Council Meeting for their outstanding and professional investigation

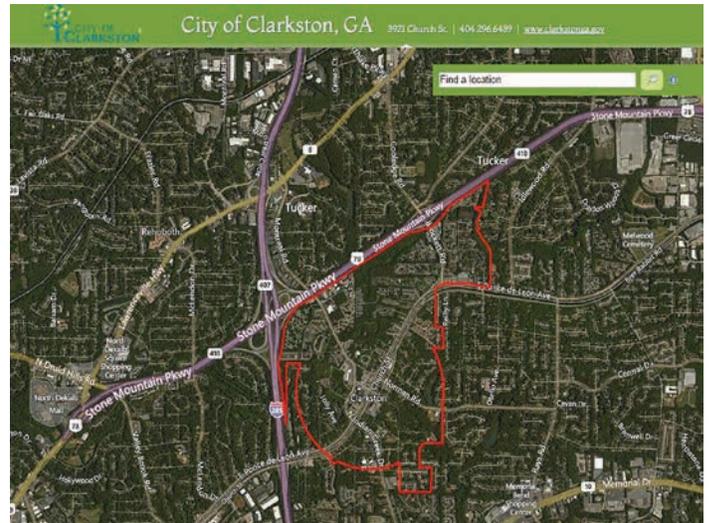
of a Domestic Violence call, which resulted in a successful prosecution without the necessity of a trial. This case is now being utilized as a case study for law enforcement training in the State of Georgia.

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CommunityView Software Makes Map Making Easy

Have you ever wondered about the owner of a particular property in Clarkston? Have you ever wondered how a property was zoned? How about size/acreage? Did you know that the City of Clarkston has a Web-based mapping tool that makes the aforementioned information (plus more) available to anyone with access to the Internet?

The City subscribes to the CommunityView Web-based mapping service, produced by Digital Map Products, Inc., of Irvine, California. CommunityView is linked directly to the City website and places a wealth of information within easy reach. In addition to zoning information, the service includes property record information provided by the DeKalb County Tax Assessor's Office, plus aerial photography and basemap data provided by Microsoft's Bing suite of services. Users can access pre-made maps, referred to as single-topic maps, plus create and print their own maps. There is no fee associated with using CommunityView. All that



is required is internet access. The service is compatible with most Web browsers, including Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox.

To check out CommunityView, visit http://maps.digitalmapcentral.com/production/VECommunityView/cities/clarkston_GA/index.aspx.

Clarkston Becomes First City to Join the Georgia Native Plant Society

Clarkston, GA - The City of Clarkston is pleased to announce its affiliation with the Georgia Native Plant Society. This makes the City the first municipality ever to join the organization.

Clarkston's Mayor Ted Terry was pleased to hear that the City had been approved for membership. "Clarkston and the State of Georgia boasts some of the most beautiful native plant species in the western hemisphere. Our City is proud to join with the Georgia Native Plant Society, as its first municipal government member. We look forward to working with GNPS in cultivating respect, appreciation and conservation for our native plant species in the Clarkston community."

About the Georgia Native Plant Society

The Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the stewardship and conservation of Georgia's native plants and their habitats. They are actively involved in the rescue of native plants.

About Friendship Forest Nature Preserve

Friendship Forest Nature Preserve is an approximately 15-acre plot located at 4380

E Ponce de Leon Ave. It is a former county recreation park that was deeded to the City of Clarkston in 1981.

The City has an ongoing effort to actively manage the site in order to encourage the establishment of native forest and floodplain habitat. The intent is to return the area to a preserve where native Georgia plants and wildlife can live and thrive. Friendship Forest has been a place where local school groups and youth organizations have worked to expand the nature trails and create signage for the forest with the intent of teaching them a love and respect for nature.

The forest and its trails are intended as a quiet space that allows our residents exposure to a diverse natural plant and wildlife habitat. "Friends of Friendship Forest" is a Facebook group that anyone interested in the preserve can join.

Georgia Native Plant Society Membership will give the City and Friendship Forest access to rescued native plants.

One of the major advantages of belonging to the society is that they actively rescue native plants that are in the direct path of urban development and which would otherwise be destroyed. Since reintroducing native plants

to the forest is a major goal, this will work out well for the plants and the forest.

According to Councilman Warren Hadlock who devotes a lot of his time and efforts to Friendship Forest.

"One thing we had in mind as a benefit of our membership is not simply the right to participate with other members in plant rescues, but the planting of those rescued native plants in Friendship Forest. We now have an ongoing and free supply of native plants which are critical to a healthy ecosystem, providing food for insects, and thus for birds."

Hadlock stated that, "Members of GNPS who have toured FF with me found very few native species anywhere during their visits." "We hope to improve upon that with the addition of rescued plants. As we participate in rescues and other activities of the GNPS, we continue to "grow" our reputation as a City committed to a healthy planet."

Contact:

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City of Clarkston

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kbarker@cityofclarkston.com

Families, Apartment Owner, and Not-for-Profits Partner for Early Learning Program in Clarkston

In the fall of 2014, residents of the Clarkston Oaks Apartment and residents in the surrounding area, participated in an early learning community trust process, facilitated by CDF Action, to discuss issues related to children from infant to age eight, and to generate ideas for projects to support early learning. Creating informal, language rich play and learning programs that could be located in an apartment complexes, was one of the ideas discussed. “We would like an early learning program in our apartment complex, where our children can speak both English and Arabic, and we can work with a teacher to help prepare our children for school,” one parent commented.

Meanwhile, R. James Properties, Inc., the Management Company, for the Clarkston Oaks Apartment, was making improvements to their facilities. Their Project Manager, Kelly James, made the observation that there could be space in the units that could be designated for educa-

tional programs. Kelly wanted to connect with Not-for-profits who were interested and having heard about CDF Action’s organizational efforts, Kelly immediately contacted Roberta Malavenda. Thru a cooperative effort, the R. James Properties, Inc. renovated an unused space to create the “Clarkston READY School.”

Scottdale Child Development and Family Resource Center, a nationally accredited early learning center, agreed to operate the program and CDF Action worked with Early Learning Property Management and the United Way of Greater Atlanta, to secure program funding. Clarkston Oaks residents met frequently to discuss their ideas and helped to recruit families and children to participate in the program. The Clarkston Oaks READY School opened March 30th.

The READY School engages families and helps prepare their children with the skills needed to enter Pre-K. The lead teacher is multi-lingual

and coordinates the program that is free to the participants. The Clarkston READY School serves between 12-15 four year old children in the year before Pre-Kindergarten. Children are divided into two groups, either attending Monday/Wednesday, or Tuesday/Thursday from 9am-12pm. Fridays are reserved for parent and child activities and program planning.

Clarkston Oaks residents who participate in the Early Learning Community Trust are being trained as parent aides. A READY School family advisory committee is being formed to continue to provide input and assist with the programs development. The READY School concept is based on a program developed in Norcross, Georgia, founded by Latino parents who live in an apartment complex, and funded by United Way.

The READY School will hold an Open House later in spring. For more information: CDF Action, 404-736-6602; www.cdfaction.org

Clarkston Community
Neighborhood Fund

5K Festival

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www.clarkston5kfestival.org

APRIL 25
7am to 3pm

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QR Code to Website

For more information contact us at:

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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

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Brainstorm
April 13th 6:30pm - 8pm

PROPOSALS
May 11th 6:30pm - 8pm

VOTE
June 8th 6:30pm - 8pm

The City of Clarkston has budgeted \$10,000 to be used for a community budgeting initiative that gives ordinary residents a say in how their tax dollars are spent. Join us for this exciting exercise in citizen democracy!

AT THE CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CENTER

CITY OF CLARKSTON
where possibilities grow



Community Partnership Wellness Screenings

Emory Healthcare in partnership with the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church is launching a community wellness screening program to improve the health of our communities. On Saturday, May 2, Emory nurses, registered dietitians, social workers and public health students will provide wellness screenings for the congregations and local community members of Clarkston. The FREE screenings will be provided for adults ranging from 16 years of age and up. Wellness screenings include:



- Blood Pressure
- Height/ Weight/ Body Mass Index
- Cholesterol
- Blood Glucose
- Nutrition Consultation
- General Health Education
- Smoking Cessation Information



All residents of Clarkston are encouraged to attend. Let your friends and other family members know about this exciting new endeavor!

Reservations are recommended, however walk-ins are very welcomed. To register, please call HealthConnections at 404-778-7777 or visit online at emoryhealthcare.org/events (search wellness screening).

Where and When:

Saturday, May 2, 2015 • 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Clarkston Woman's Club
3913 Church Street • Clarkston, Georgia 30021

emoryhealthcare.org

Questions? Contact ehcimprovehealth@gmail.com



When: Saturday, May 2, 2015
Where: Clarkston UMC
3919 Church Street
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Time: 8 am – 2 pm

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50 Gas	\$700.00	50 gas	\$825.00	50 gas	\$875.00	50 gas	\$1025.00
40 Electric	\$700.00			40 electric	\$875.00		
50 Electric	\$700.00			50 electric	\$875.00		
Rheem Power Vent. 6 yr.		Rheem Power Vent. 12 yr.		GreenleePlumbingAtlanta.com			
40 gas	\$1650.00	40 gas	\$1900.00				
50 gas	\$1750.00	50 gas	\$2000.00				

Prices in chart are for installation in garage, drive up basement, or ground floor. Add 35.00 to water heater price if your heater is located in basement, downstairs or upstairs. Add 75.00 for crawlspaces and attics. add \$150.00 to price if you need a new (PRV) Pressure reducing valve installed.

