



Message from the Mayor, Beverly H. Burks



As we step into February, we take the time to honor and reflect on the rich legacies of Black History Month. This is a time to celebrate the achievements, resilience, and contributions of Black leaders, innovators, and changemakers who have shaped our communities and our nation.

Clarkston is a city built on diversity, inclusion, and the spirit of progress. This month, let us celebrate the past and present trailblazers who have paved the way for opportunity, equality, and innovation. Whether through business, education, entrepreneurship, leadership, or community service, their impact continues to inspire future generations.

I encourage everyone to participate in local events, learn more about the remarkable stories of those who came before us, and support the changemakers of today. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and build a brighter future.

Sincerely,
Mayor Beverly H. Burks



City of Clarkston Unveils \$100,000 Grant Opportunity to Support Nonprofit Organizations Making a Difference

Earlier this year, the City of Clarkston proudly launched the Clarkston C.A.R.E.S. (Community Assistance, Resources, Empowerment, and Support) Grant Program, a new initiative supporting nonprofit organizations that make a meaningful impact in our community. The program opened for applications on January 8, 2025, and offers up to \$10,000 per awardee to fund projects promoting education, employment, social adjustment, and health and wellness.

The inaugural application period closed on February 10, and a ranking and review committee of non-city employees is now evaluating submissions based on established criteria. We will notify awardees beginning February 25, marking the first of many opportunities for local organizations to launch impactful programs. A second grant cycle is planned for later this year, continuing the city's commitment to supporting community-driven initiatives.

Through two grant cycles annually, the Clarkston C.A.R.E.S. Grant Program will provide ongoing opportunities for local nonprofits to address pressing needs and drive positive change across Clarkston.

Interim City Manager Tammi Saddler Jones shared her enthusiasm for the program's potential.

"Clarkston has always been a city where diversity thrives, and our strength lies in the collective efforts of our community. The Clarkston C.A.R.E.S. Grant is an important step in reinforcing this vision by investing in organizations deeply embedded in our community and sharing our commitment to growth, sustainability, and resilience. We can't wait to see the creative and impactful initiatives this funding will help bring to life."

Mayor Beverly H. Burks also highlighted the program's impact.

"The Clarkston C.A.R.E.S. Grant exemplifies the spirit of partnership and innovation that makes Clarkston such a special place. By providing funding to organizations on the frontlines of addressing critical needs, we are not just supporting our residents today but also laying the foundation for a brighter, stronger future. This program is about more than financial support; it's about fostering hope, building capacity, and ensuring that Clarkston remains a place

where possibilities grow for everyone.”

The City of Clarkston is committed to empowering residents, supporting local organizations, and fostering a thriving community where possibilities grow for all.

Clarkston Selected to Develop City Agriculture Plan with \$75,000 Grant

Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Regional Commission to Support Local Food Access and Urban Agriculture



The City of Clarkston has been selected to develop the region’s next City Agriculture Plan. Joining East Point, Alpharetta, Jonesboro, and Austell in creating a roadmap for strengthening local food systems, this milestone, led by Food Well Alliance and the Atlanta Regional Commission, marks Clarkston as the first city in DeKalb County to embark on this initiative.

A City Agriculture Plan outlines policies and programs that help communities increase access to locally grown food over the next 3 to 5 years. Residents’ input shapes these plans, which are backed by a \$75,000 implementation grant from the Food Well Alliance.

Community engagement is key to crafting a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of Clarkston residents. There are several opportunities to get involved from February through May 2025:

- **Community Survey (Feb–May 2025):** Available online and in person at local hubs and events. The first 100 respondents will receive \$10.
- **Community Conversations (March–April 2025):** Open discussions hosted across Clarkston with community co-facilitators. The first 50 participants will receive \$25.
- **Local Events:** Food Well Alliance will be at various gatherings, including the Friends of Refugees Spring Festival and the Refuge Coffee Spring Market.

Clarkston residents who live, work, or grow in the city are encouraged to participate and help shape the future of local food access. For more details or to invite Food Well Alliance to a local event, contact Emma Hugonnet, Policy and Community Engagement Manager, at emma@foodwellalliance.org.

Clarkston High School Career Day: City Staff Inspire the Next Generation of Leaders



The City of Clarkston attended Clarkston High School's Career Day earlier this month. There, staff had the opportunity to discuss careers in government and public service with students from all grade levels. Economic Development Coordinator Jacob Bouie, Communications Director Retonjah Burdette, and Detective Aram Saleh represented the City, sharing their experiences and offering advice on how young people can get involved in their community.



In addition to showcasing public service careers, the event featured work and educational opportunities, allowing students to explore internships, volunteer roles, and various career pathways.

“It’s inspiring to see the next generation eager to learn about public service,” said Bouie. “Opportunities like this help students realize how they can contribute to shaping the future of their city.”

By fostering civic engagement at an early age, the City of Clarkston encourages students to take an active role in their community, inspiring them to consider careers that will help make a lasting impact.



Smile! You're in Clarkston: A New Mural by Teresa Abboud



The City of Clarkston's dedication to community, creativity, and sustainability is on full display with its latest beautification project, "Smile! You're in Clarkston." This colorful new mural, created by artist Teresa Abboud, transforms the pavers outside City Hall into a welcoming expression of joy and belonging. Located beside the electric vehicle charging stations, the artwork invites residents and visitors to feel at home and highlights the city's commitment to a greener future.

The project is further enhanced by thoughtfully placed benches donated by Ismaili CIVIC and the Camp Middle School Bench Project, providing spaces for people to gather, rest, and connect.

For Abboud, the mural is more than just a piece of public art. It is a reflection of the warmth and energy she sees in Clarkston.

"I wanted people to feel at home. It is colorful and happy. Just like how you decorate your home, you decorate your city. Clarkston is not just a place to pass through but a place to belong."

Originally from Lebanon, Abboud brings over two decades of artistic expertise to her work. As a DeKalb County resident, her first project in Clarkston was at Refuge Coffee, where she was immediately drawn to the city's reputation as a global village.

Her work consistently explores themes of unity, acceptance, and community, aiming to break cultural barriers and foster friendships. "Look at how much we are all alike," she says. "Once we move past fear, we can truly connect."

Beyond her murals, Abboud has a background in children's book illustration and animation. She passionately uses art to tell stories that resonate across cultures. Beyond the canvas, Abboud is the founder of Teresa Afternoon and also serves as a mentor for StartME, an entrepreneurship program that empowers local microbusinesses with guidance, funding, and resources.

For more on Teresa Abboud's work, visit her online:

Website: www.teresaafternoon.com

Instagram: [@teresaafternoon](https://www.instagram.com/teresaafternoon)

Facebook: [Teresa Afternoon](https://www.facebook.com/TeresaAfternoon)

LinkedIn: [Teresa Abboud](https://www.linkedin.com/in/teresaa)

Watch the Time Lapse Video!

Living Walls

TED TERRY
COMMISSIONER
Super District 6

Steve
Bradshaw
Commissioner | DeKalb County | District 4

CITY OF
CLARKSTON
where possibilities grow

CALL FOR ARTISTS



Call for Artists: Living Walls Partners with DeKalb County and Clarkston to Bring Public Art to Life

DeKalb County Super District 6 and District 4, in partnership with the City of Clarkston and Living Walls, are seeking artists to bring bold and vibrant murals to life. Two outdoor murals will be commissioned at the intersection of N Indian Creek Drive and E Ponce de Leon Avenue, where two underpass walls face

each other.

This is an opportunity to make a lasting impact on a diverse and dynamic community. The selected artist or artist team will create a design that reflects Clarkston's rich cultural identity through public art.

Submission deadline is February 24, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Late submissions will not be considered.

Artists must have experience designing and painting large-scale artwork. The selected artist or artist team will collaborate with the local community to develop a digital design that will be presented as a mockup to stakeholders and residents.

Apply now to be part of this transformative project!

[Submit Your Application Here!](#)

Clarkston Police Department Fully Staffed: A New Era of Safety and Service



For the first time in years, the Clarkston Police Department has reached full staffing, a milestone that promises to enhance public safety, reduce response times, and strengthen community engagement. With 21 sworn officers now serving the city, the department is poised to operate at full strength and ensure the highest level of service and protection for Clarkston residents.

“This is a tremendous achievement for our department and our community,” said Assistant Chief Xavier Todd. “Being fully staffed means we have the personnel necessary to provide efficient and proactive policing while allowing our officers to focus on building stronger relationships with residents.”

The journey to full staffing was not without its challenges. In mid-2023, the department faced a significant officer shortage, leading to increased workloads and longer response times. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, city leadership, including the Mayor and Council, approved a salary increase from \$46,000 to \$60,000 to remain competitive with surrounding agencies.

Police Chief Christine Hudson emphasized the importance of this decision in attracting new talent. “The salary adjustment was a game-changer. It allowed us to recruit highly qualified officers who may have otherwise chosen larger departments. We also enhanced our recruitment efforts through social media, job fairs, and community outreach, which made a significant impact on getting results.”

With a full complement of officers, the department can prioritize focus on proactive crime prevention, community engagement, and specialized training.

[Read the Full Story!](#)

January Business of the Month: Brockett Pub

A Neighborhood Staple Celebrates 18 Years of Business

Contributor: Jacob Bouie, Economic Development Coordinator



In the heart of Clarkston, where diverse cultures and a vibrant local economy flourish, one business has stood as a symbol of resilience, community, and growth.

Brockett Pub, owned by John and Christina Gange, opened its doors in 2006 and has since transformed into a beloved neighborhood institution. This month, the City of Clarkston proudly highlights Brockett Pub as part of its Business Spotlight series, celebrating its rich history, community impact, and inspiring journey.

[Read the Full Story!](#)



NOMINATE A LOCAL BUSINESS

Help us recognize businesses making a positive impact in our community!

Help us celebrate outstanding local businesses! The Clarkston Business of the Month recognizes businesses within the city that stand out for their contributions, services, and generosity. Know a business that deserves the spotlight? Nominate them [here](#).

For more details, contact Jacob Bouie, Economic Development Coordinator, at Jbouie@cityofclarkston.com.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating outstanding dedication and excellence in the City of Clarkston!

Employee of the Month: Detective Aram Saleh Brings

Heart, Experience, and Hope to Clarkston

Detective Aram Saleh's journey to the Clarkston Police Department is one of resilience, dedication, and a deep understanding of the community he now serves. In 1999, his family moved from Iraq to the United States, settling in Clarkston before relocating to Gwinnett County and later Kansas City. His path eventually led him back to Georgia, where he pursued a career in law enforcement. He served in DeKalb County and Doraville before returning to Clarkston, the city that first welcomed his family to the United States.

Detective Saleh was drawn to the Clarkston Police Department because of its diversity and the opportunity to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the city's many newcomers. With years of experience in narcotics investigations, he has played a key role in reducing crime, using his expertise to remove dangerous substances and suspects from the streets. But beyond enforcement, he is committed to building trust. He understands the fear and hesitation that some in the community feel toward police, particularly those from refugee backgrounds. That is why he makes it a priority to engage directly with residents, offering a listening ear, sharing his contact information, and ensuring that people know they can seek help without fear.

Looking ahead, Detective Saleh is passionate about mentorship and hopes to develop programs that provide Clarkston's youth with positive role models and opportunities for personal growth. He believes that giving young people an alternative to crime can change lives through internships, activities, or access to guidance.

Detective Saleh remains humble, crediting his colleagues' teamwork and dedication when asked about being named Employee of the Month. For him, the real reward comes from knowing he has made a difference in someone's life, whether by solving a case, offering assistance, or simply putting a smile on a resident's face.

He advises those looking to make a difference to break the cycle of fear, doubt, and hesitation. He encourages others to change the story, not just for themselves but also for those who come after them.

The City of Clarkston is proud to have Detective Saleh on our team, ensuring that safety, trust, and community go hand in hand.



IGNITING Employee Wellness in Clarkston

The City of Clarkston is sparking a new commitment to employee well-being with the launch of the Clarkston I.G.N.I.T.E. Wellness Committee. This exciting initiative, powered by the Georgia Municipal Association Life and Health Insurance Fund's Health Wellness Grant, is designed to ignite positive change in the lives of our dedicated team members.

IGNITE is more than a name; it's a commitment:

- I – Inspire wellness and positivity
- G – Guide staff toward healthier choices
- N – Nurture emotional and physical well-being
- I – Improve personal growth and mental health
- T – Transform the workplace culture
- E – Empower employees to thrive

"Wellness isn't just about physical health; it's about creating a workplace where employees feel supported, valued, and motivated to be their best," said Retonjah Burdette, Chair of the I.G.N.I.T.E. Wellness Committee. "Through this initiative, we're building a culture that encourages healthier habits and fosters a stronger, more connected workforce."

To kick off the year, I.G.N.I.T.E. launched Wellness Wednesdays, featuring lunch and learn sessions, group fitness, and healthy eating workshops.

Employees are also engaging in two wellness challenges:

- **90-Day Weight Loss Challenge** – "Pounds for Progress" (in partnership with Ethne Clinic)
- **Steps Challenge** – "Walk It Off Wednesday," an employee-led group walk

Meet the I.G.N.I.T.E. Wellness Team

- **Dwight Baker** – HR Director/Wellness Champion
- **Retonjah Burdette** – Chair
- **Keisha Dixon** – Vice Chair
- **John English** – Events Coordinator
- **Michael Duncan** – Programming
- **Jacob Bouie** – Outreach Coordinator
- **Yolanda McGee** – Recording Secretary
- **Craig Earle** – Member
- **Shennetha Smith** – Member

I.G.N.I.T.E. is just getting started, and the committee looks forward to expanding programs that support a happier, healthier workforce.

For more information or to get involved, contact rburdette@cityofclarkston.com.





Explore current job openings and career opportunities in the City of Clarkston!

Join our team and explore fulfilling career opportunities with the City of Clarkston! We're looking for dedicated individuals to help us serve and uplift our community. Check out our current job openings [here](#) and see where your skills can shine!

Positions Available:

- Public Works Director
- Finance Director
- Recreation and Aquatics Program Coordinator
- Court Clerk

- Parks Maintenance Worker
- Accountant

For additional information, contact **Dr. Dwight L. Baker**, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, at dbaker@cityofclarkston.com.

Better Roads Ahead: Clarkston Street Paving Timeline



The City of Clarkston is moving forward with a street resurfacing project to improve road conditions throughout the community. Please review the schedule below to see when work will take place in your area.

What to Expect:

- Resurfacing work will be completed in a single day unless otherwise noted.
- Temporary road closures and detours may occur.
- Residents and businesses are encouraged to plan accordingly.

Scheduled Resurfacing Dates:

Street Name	From	To	Start Date	Finish Date
Tribble Street	Clark Street	Dead End	February 24	February 24
Lincoln Street	Smith Street	Clark Street	February 24	February 24

Clark Street	Smith Street	Dead End	February 25	February 25
Lester Street	Clark Street	Smith Street	February 26	February 26
Smith Street	Lincoln Street	Montreal Street	February 26	February 26
Sams Road	Montreal Road	Hill Street	February 27	February 27
West Hill Two	Hill Street	Sams Road	February 28	February 28
West Hill One	North Indian Creek	West Hill Street	March 3	March 3
Casa Woods Lane Two	Casa Drive	Cul-de-sac	March 4	March 4
Casa Woods Lane One	Casa Drive	Cul-de-sac	March 4	March 4
Casa Drive	Mell Avenue	Bridge	March 5	March 6
Jolly Avenue North	East Ponce de Leon Avenue	Mell Avenue	March 7	March 11
Orchard Street	Jolly Avenue	Pecan Street	March 12	March 12
Pecan Street	East Ponce de Leon Avenue	Jolly Avenue	March 13	March 14
Lovejoy Street	Rowland Street	Church Street	March 17	March 17
Jolly Avenue South	Rowland Street	City Limits	March 17	March 17
Maclaren Drive	Market Street	Dead End	March 18	March 19
Cleavemark Drive	Norman Road	Dead End	March 20	March 21
Clydedale Drive	Crandford Drive	Cleavemark Drive	March 24	March 25
Crandford Drive	Rogers Street	Cleavemark Drive	March 26	March 26

For updates and additional information, please visit www.clarkstonga.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to enhance Clarkston's roadways.

Clarkston Recycling Guide

The City of Clarkston partners with Latham Home Sanitation to provide

residents with reliable recycling services. Proper recycling helps reduce waste, protect the environment, and ensure recyclable materials are processed correctly. This guide outlines what can and cannot be recycled to help keep our community clean and sustainable.



Clarkston Recycling Guide

Recycling Right: A Step-by-Step Guide on What Goes In and What Stays Out

PAPER

- ✓ Newspapers, magazines, office paper, junk mail, paperboard (cereal boxes)
- ✗ NO wax-coated, laminated, tissue paper, napkins, or shredded paper (unless in a paper bag)

How to prep: Remove tape, staples, and plastic windows. Keep dry.



PLASTICS

- ✓ Bottles and containers labeled #1 & #2 (water bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles)
- ✗ NO plastic bags, Styrofoam, clamshell packaging, black plastic

How to prep: Rinse thoroughly and remove lids and labels if possible. Do not crush bottles.



METALS

- ✓ Aluminum cans (soda, beer), steel/tin cans (soup, beans, pet food)
- ✗ NO scrap metal, wires, coat hangers, aerosol cans, batteries

How to prep: Rinse cans and remove labels if possible.



CARDBOARD

- ✓ Corrugated boxes, non-glossy paperboard (shoe boxes, cereal boxes)
- ✗ NO greasy pizza boxes, wax-coated or glossy-finished cardboard

How to prep: Flatten boxes and keep them dry and food-free.



www.clarkstonga.gov/public-works/sanitation

Waste Collection Holiday Schedule



2025 Holiday Schedule

***Service will be delayed by one day if a holiday falls on a Monday.

JAN 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 

MAY 26 MEMORIAL DAY 
(** One-Day Delay)

JUL 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 

SEPT 1 LABOR DAY 
(** One-Day Delay)

NOV 27 THANKSGIVING DAY 

DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 

***Please note that the above holidays do not affect the current recycling schedule.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay connected and discover upcoming events in the City of Clarkston!

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: (City Hall Annex) 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

City Council Work Session

Date: February 25, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

City Council Meeting

Date: March 4, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Downtown Development Authority Meeting

Date: March 10, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Planning and Zoning Meeting

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Community Development and Civic Innovation SAC Meeting

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: (City Hall Annex) 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: (City Hall Annex) 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

City Council Work Session

Date: March 25, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Public Safety and Legal Committee Meeting

Date: March 26, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston Woman's Club) 3913 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Volunteer Waterway Clean-Up

Date: March 29, 2025

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: (Friendship Forest Wildlife Sanctuary) 4380 E. Ponce de Leon Ave
Clarkston, GA 30021

Help preserve our local ecosystem and keep our waterways clean by volunteering with Rivers Alive for the annual Waterway Clean-Up. Sign up today to make a difference. Refreshments and donuts will be provided for all volunteers. Email Wheeler@co-infra-services.com for more information.

City Council Meeting

Date: April 1, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Downtown Development Authority Meeting

Date: April 14, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Planning and Zoning Meeting

Date: April 15, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Community Development and Civic Innovation SAC Meeting

Date: April 16, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: (City Hall Annex) 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Date: April 17, 2025

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: (City Hall Annex) 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Spring Day - Office Closure

Date: April 18, 2025

City of Clarkston administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, April 18, in observance of Spring Day. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, April 21.

Earth Day – Tree Sapling Give Away

Date: April 22, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: (Public Works Complex) 2620 Montreal Creek Ct. Clarkston, Georgia 30021

Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Clarkston Public Works by planting a greener future! Stop by our Tree Sapling Giveaway and take home a free sapling to help beautify our community and support sustainability. Let's grow together and make Clarkston even greener!

Public Safety and Legal Committee Meeting

Date: April 23, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston Woman's Club) 3913 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

City Council Work Session

Date: April 29, 2025

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: (Clarkston City Hall) 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

Please remember that event dates may change. For the latest updates, be sure to check our city website and social media channels.

If you can't join us in person for Council Meetings, we've made it easy for you to stay engaged! Subscribe to [@CityofClarkston on YouTube](#) to watch council meetings and work sessions live from anywhere.

You can find meeting agendas and important updates [here](#), connecting you with the decisions and events shaping our community.



CONTACT US

Non-emergency numbers for residents to know!

Clarkston Police (Non-Emergency):

404-292-9465

For non-urgent police assistance and community inquiries.

City Hall Annex (Administration):

404-296-6489 (*Press 5 for a direct connection*)

Administrative support and general inquiries.

City Hall (Municipal Court Services):

404-292-9465

For municipal court-related questions and services.

Public Works:

404-296-6489 (Ext. 416)

Handles maintenance requests, city infrastructure, and public space services.

Police Records:

404-292-9465 (Ext. 423)

Access police reports and records.

Court Records:

404-292-9465 (Ext. 420)

Request court documents and record information.

Communications Department:

404-834-2211

For media inquiries, public information, and community updates.

Economic Development:

470-292-9569

Resources for business support, development, and economic initiatives.

Planning and Zoning:

404-296-6489

For zoning regulations, permits, and land use inquiries.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion:

404-754-6960

Contact for initiatives, support, and information on diversity and inclusion efforts.

For all life-threatening situations and urgent emergencies, dial 911 immediately. This number connects you directly to emergency services, including police, fire, and medical assistance, and should only be used in cases where immediate response is needed.



nextdoor

City of Clarkston | 1055 Rowland Street | Clarkston, GA 30021 US

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