



Clarkdale's
"SMALL TALK"
of the Town



January 2013 Volume 38

Having just said goodbye to 2012, this edition is dedicated to revisiting highlights of a busy, productive year, with signs of exciting things ahead!

* 2012 was the Centennial of Clarkdale's founding and events were held throughout the year by the Town, the Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum, and other organizations including a celebration of AZ and Clarkdale's Co-Centennials on February 14th, the Painting of the "C", a Grande Fiesta in Town Park, our signature Centennial Event on the 4th of July, A Centennial tree planted in Town Park, the development and dedication of Centennial Plaza in front of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse. Clarkdale residents and businesses from the present and the past have commemorated their Clarkdale history through the purchase of Legacy Bricks in Centennial Plaza. The bricks hold a prominent position in front of the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse and are still for sale through the Clarkdale Town Hall. The finale celebration was the dedication of two Centennial Time Capsules; one unearthed in 2057 (commemorating the Centennial of Clarkdale's incorporation) and another in the year 2112 (commemorating Clarkdale's Bicentennial).

* The Sustainable Clarkdale Initiative saw many successes, starting with the adoption of the 2012 Clarkdale General Plan, which stated a theme of "Instilling a Culture of Sustainability in Clarkdale" and was supported by Clarkdale voters in March, 2012 with 63% approval. Homeowners showed their support for sustainability by helping the Town meet the AZ Solar Challenge; by the end of 2012, over 6% of owner-occupied homes had either solar power or solar hot water heating installed. We also kicked off a year-long effort to develop a Sustainable Economic Development Plan. With support from APS, the citizen-driven Focused Future II Economic Development Plan will serve as a foundation for moving Clarkdale forward in years to come.

* Another signature Sustainable Clarkdale project, the Verde River @ Clarkdale, saw significant support and progress in 2012 as the Town entered into an agreement with AZ State Parks to jointly manage approximately 70 acres of river front property surrounding the Tuzigoot Bridge. The TuziRAP (Tuzigoot River Access Point) will provide an anchor location for public access along the 2.2 miles of Verde River located in Clarkdale. The AZ Game and Fish Department awarded a \$40,500 grant to Clarkdale for handicap accessible improvements at the TuziRAP, and American Rivers, a national non-profit organization, is facilitating an additional grant through the Altria Corporation for trails and boat launch facilities on the Verde River @ Clarkdale. In December 2012, the Town Council accepted a \$420,496 grant from the Walton Family Foundation, with approximately half that sum dedicated to the Verde River @ Clarkdale project. The Town also started discussions with Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold in an effort to negotiate additional public access on the Verde River, including a site upstream from Clarkdale near the former Tapco Power Plant. Public input throughout 2013 will be crucial for this project as master plans are developed for multiple access sites and funding/fee structure discussions get underway.

* The other half of the Walton Family Foundation Grant will allow the Town to pursue the development of a Water Resource Management Program. Working with the Water Resource Research Center and Lacher Hydrological Consulting, the team will explore the Town's long-range water supply and demands for water and will use a series of water expert meetings to determine possible approaches to creating water policy that achieves a sustainable water supply for our community. (Continued on Page 2)

2012 Clarkdale Highlights (continued from Page 1)

* 2012 provided measured signs of a slowly improving economy in Clarkdale, resulting in an ability to focus on some capital improvement projects that had been delayed during the past 4 years of recession. Grant funds allowed for the installation of sidewalks and solar powered street lights on Broadway from the Patio Park Subdivision to 3rd North Street, as well as energy efficiency upgrades for the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, Clark Memorial Library and Clarkdale Police Department. And for the first time in 4 years, the Town was able to put funds back into the Street Improvement fund, allowing for an aggressive crack sealing project across the Town with additional street surfacing projects to be completed in Spring, 2013.

* We were able to complete the installation of an important new water main on Broadway, and secured the award of a loan with \$800,000 of forgivable principal through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority for the Twin 5's Water Main Replacement project. In addition, with new access to utilities recently installed along the 89A Corridor, we expect property owners in that area to bring forward several development proposals in 2013.

* From two grants already secured via Safe Routes to School, in 2013 improvements to bicycle routes in Town will be implemented. The first route will focus on the Clarkdale Parkway Corridor between 11th St. and 89A; the second will focus on Main St. between 16th St. and 11th St. In addition to providing safe routes, the Town and the Clarkdale-Jerome School will explore opportunities to reinstate a School Resource Officer program at the School after losing the State's grant funding for the position last year.

* We expect 2013 to be a big transition year for downtown Clarkdale! The Town will spearhead an effort to have the historic downtown area designated as an "Entertainment District". The opening of the private Copper Art Museum is slated in the first half of 2013, and we expect to see the first wine tasting room on Main Street by mid-2013. Communications between the Town and the property owners in the downtown area began taking shape in early 2012, and we expect to see continued improvements as those relationships continue to flourish. In addition, the Town has received grant funding for improvements to the Broadway-Main Intersection, and hope to construct a newly designed intersection that will maximize exposure for the historic business district.

* Early in 2012, business and community leaders came together in an effort to raise money to replace and expand the flags on Main Street. The result is a total of 36 flags that now fly proudly in Clarkdale for holidays and special occasions. A committed group of volunteers, The Clarkdale Flag Corps, put up and take down the flags on these important days.

* Clarkdale's Culture ~ the Art in Public Places, Exploring Clarkdale, and Clarkdale Stories programs added great value to the arts/cultural offerings in Clarkdale throughout the year, and our Concerts in the Park were voted #1 again in 2012 as the area's best free entertainment (via the Verde Independent)! The Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum developed new and expanded exhibits this year, and continue to improve on their most successful annual events...The Living Legacy and the Historic Home & Building Tour. And the Clarkdale-Jerome Lions Club continues in their role as a supportive partner in many Clarkdale events throughout the year, and Made-in-Clarkdale celebrated its 26th year as a premier art show in Clarkdale!

Best wishes in 2013!

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