

TALK OF THE TOWN

FEBRUARY 2008

Mayor's Corner

By Doug Von Gausig

Opportunities and Challenges

There always seems to be a balance between opportunities and challenges. When we have the opportunity to move to a better job, we are challenged by learning new skills and changing our lifestyle. When the State needs a new highway to improve transportation opportunities, it must meet the challenges of paying for it, securing rights of way, and seeking input and approval from the communities affected. Clarkdale is no different. For each opportunity to improve our Town, we have associated challenges.

In the coming years, our rapid growth coupled with new regulatory requirements and increasing pressure for more and better services will create new opportunities as well as challenges. The opportunities are great. They include better roads, a wastewater system that will allow us to serve new businesses better, a reclaimed water distribution system, which will let us use much less groundwater than we now use, new

Town facilities to serve our citizens better, and expansion of parks and police services, just to name a few. The top challenge for most of these, of course, is paying for them.

Funding methods and vehicles are different for each project. Some projects, like our new wastewater treatment plant, are eligible for special low interest loans from State agencies like the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority ("WIFA"). Any loans that the Town receives must be paid back through a combination of revenue sources. Some projects are eligible for grants from State, Federal or other sources. Grant projects usually require the Town to pay a certain portion of the project cost, and the granting agency matches a certain percentage of the total. The most common, Historic Preservation and Parks grants, are 50/50 matching grants. Some grants provide an even higher funding amount. The downtown enhancement project that we completed a few years ago was paid for in part by a "TEA-21" (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) grant from the Federal Highway

(Continued on page 2)

2008 Dances Featuring *Sentimental Journey*



February 16 and March 22

7 - 10p.m., \$5.00 Admission
Clarkdale Clubhouse Auditorium

Refreshments available for purchase.

Sponsored by the
Heritage Conservancy Board.

House Numbers

The Clarkdale Police Department Explorers volunteered to distribute flyers notifying residents and, when asked, to assist them with installation.



Pictured are Clarkdale resident Joan Goodrich, and Police Explorer Lt. Richard Smith next to the house numbers supplied by the Community Development Department to residents who have an alley behind their home.

During an Emergency, this will make finding the proper address more timely.

(Continued from page 1)

Administration and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The Town paid approximately 10% of those project costs, and ADOT funded about 90%. The Community Development Block Grant that will fund street improvements in Patio Park this spring is a 100% grant project!

Some projects, like the purchase of our water company are financed by bonds, which are essentially loans funded by the sale of tax-free bonds to investors. Some bonded loans (like the water company bonds) are repaid with money collected from the customers; some are repaid by all citizens through their taxes. Smaller projects are sometimes funded from our general fund without borrowing any money. In fact, the Town Council approved a special 1% sales tax on construction related materials several years ago, and the money generated from that tax is used specifically to fund portions of one-time, capital improvement projects. Each year the Town Council and our staff determine the capital improvement projects they think will be necessary in the next 5 years, and for each project a funding mechanism is identified. That way we can work toward securing the money in time for the project.

The recently adopted impact fees will help us pay for certain future capital expenses, like parks, town facilities, water and wastewater improvements and police needs. These fees will offset some of the costs of the new projects, but not all. Regardless of the project or how we finance it some of the responsibility always rests with the citizens of Clarkdale. We pay for our Town's improvements with our water bills, wastewater bills, sales taxes, gas taxes, property taxes, and license and permit fees. It is one of the Town Council's and our staff's most important responsibilities to see that every possible financing vehicle available has been considered, and the best method will always be the one that gets the job done right without impacting our pocketbooks any more than is absolutely necessary.

In the next few years we will be building a new wastewater facility, developing and installing a new distribution system for our reclaimed water, and improving some park lands and Town facilities. As we consider each of these, the Town Council will be asking these questions: Is the project necessary? Is this the right time to build it? Is this the best and most economical way to accomplish it? How can we finance the project so that our citizens' lives are impacted the least?

For every opportunity to improve our Town, there are associated challenges. With your help and guidance, I'm confident that we will be able to take advantage of the opportunities and meet the challenges!

Patio Park Neighborhood Street Improvements

The Patio Park neighborhood was built in 1914 to house the families of the Mexican smelter workers and lies at the northern portion of the town limits, .9 miles from Clarkdale's downtown square. Today, Patio Park is one of the Clarkdale neighborhoods listed in the Clarkdale Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Town of Clarkdale has been awarded funding from the Arizona Department of Housing in the form of a Community Development Block Grant totaling \$381,808.00. This grant is to be used for streets, curbs and sidewalk improvements in the Patio Park neighborhood.

A flat ribbon style concrete banding will be used along the edges of some of the streets. The banding will be the same elevation as the street surface, 18" in width, and will help maximize the life of the road as well as delineating its edges.

The raised curb and sidewalk portion of the project will be installed along Broadway at Fiesta and Siesta streets. This curb and sidewalk will provide for safe pedestrian movement and establish a tie-in point for future sidewalks linking the communities within Town.

The project design phase is scheduled for January, the bidding process in February, and construction is expected to begin in March or April.

The Public Works Department will administer and manage the project along with the Town's contracted engineering firm, Willdan, who will perform inspections and prepare documents as required. Prior to the beginning of construction a proposed project schedule will be available, and the Town will hold a public meeting to answer any questions or address any concerns residents may have.

Verde Valley Senior Center



The Senior Center provides wholesome meals, social activities and convenient transportation. If you qualify, the meals are free. If you do not have transportation, they provide bus service or in-home delivery. Activities include exercise, bingo, games, veterans and grief groups, cards, crafts and music.

Please call 634-5450 for details about the services.



Urban Wildlife

Many people moving into Arizona and to the Clarkdale area are unaware of Arizona's wildlife and the up close and personal relationship we have

with them. Clarkdale is a desert town and we, as the human species, need to work at living with the **natural citizens** of Clarkdale, the wildlife. We have to remember we moved into their environment - they are not moving into ours.

Our animal neighbors are javelina, mountain lions, foxes, skunks, coyotes, rattle snakes, scorpions and various other critters. The best way to understand the animals of the area is to educate yourself by going to the library. Clarkdale has a wonderful library available to you, or if you have access to a computer you can go to any search engine and type in general phrases to find some helpful links. You may also go to the Arizona Game and Fish web site for information. That website address is http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/w_c/UrbanDoNotFeed.pdf. You may also contact them by phone at **1-800-352-0700**.

Wildlife encounters around your home can be exciting and fun to watch, but keep in mind the wildlife may be a cause for concern. Many of us feed the quail and birds and this in turn may attract natural predators, such as foxes and coyotes. If you have wildlife frequently visiting your home, ask yourself **"What is the attractant?"**



Even without a specific attractant, these animals may just naturally come into your yard. It could very well be that they have used the area for hunting and continue to look for food in the area after development occurs. Most of the animals are territorial and will continue to roam in their territory.



Remember, wild animals are only looking to fulfill their basic needs, **food and water**, and will respond if we provide their needs. They can not change their behavior. Only we can change ours. Usually if you have birdseed, pet food and a water dish, garbage or non-native plants such as fruit trees these may be attracting them. Make sure you watch your small animals outside; wild animals may consider them a meal. In 2006 the Arizona Legislature passed a "no feeding wildlife" law, making it illegal to feed wildlife except birds and tree squirrels.

If you find unwanted wildlife in your home or on your property the best thing to do is provide an **escape route** for the animal. Most will leave on their own by leaving a gate or door open and then leaving them alone. Do not block their escape route; it may cause the animal to become agitated and dangerous.

Javelina are herd animals with herd sizes averaging 8 to 9 animals. Their territory size varies with the productivity of the habitat, but averages about 750 acres.

They are opportunistic feeders, eating flowers, fruits, nuts, berries and cactus. Prickly pear cactus is their main staple. They can be very aggressive if cornered or fear their young are in danger.

You can make loud noise, spray them with a garden hose or call a wildlife control business to capture and relocate some types of animals for a fee.

Please keep in mind that, although the Clarkdale Fire Department can help with rattlesnake removal, the Clarkdale Police Department and Clarkdale Animal Control do not have the authority to capture and relocate wildlife. Wildlife control businesses have permission with Arizona Game and Fish to provide this service.

By the Clarkdale Police Department



Arsenic Removal for Water System

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality issued the Certificate of Approval to Operate the new Arsenic Removal Facility (pictured at left) at the Town's 89A Reservoir on November 13, 2007. New arsenic regulations required the Town to meet a reduced limit of 10 µg/l (micrograms per liter) by December 31, 2007. Prior to that, the limit for arsenic in drinking water was 50 µg/l.

The facility is designed to remove arsenic to a level well below the 10 µg/l maximum contaminant level recently

enacted by the U.S.E.P.A. and was funded by the developers of the Mountain Gate subdivision. The backwash from the system is presently held in a holding tank and hauled to the Town's wastewater plant. Ultimately the backwash will be pumped via lift station and new sewer line to the Town's wastewater system and treated at the wastewater treatment plant.

Arsenic removal was a part of the bond program approved when the private water system was purchased. Approximately \$8 per month of each customer's water bill goes toward operation and maintenance of arsenic removal facilities. Cottonwood and Clarkdale staff were trained in the operation of the facilities by the manufacturer.

By the Water Utility Department

Water Reclamation Plant Construction

The Town Council received an update on the design of the new Broadway Water Reclamation Facility on November 27th. The new facility will be located adjacent to the old wastewater treatment plant off of South Broadway and will replace the old treatment process that produces Class B reclaimed water. The new plant will produce up to 600,000 GPD (gallons per day) of Class A reclaimed water. The old plant is rated to treat a maximum of 250,000 GPD (pictured at bottom right).

The new Water Reclamation Plant will be a state of the art facility, allowing us the flexibility to water parks and other public areas with the effluent, and, most importantly, to recharge our effluent back to our aquifers.

As required by State regulations, the new plant will also incorporate features for odor and noise control so that neighboring properties are not negatively impacted by the new facility.

A truck washing station will be located at the new plant, allowing the Town to wash our vehicles with reclaimed water. There will also be a construction water filling station so that contractors can purchase effluent for construction projects and dust control.

The Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost for the new facility is \$13,651,539 which includes offsite improvements to the sewer collection and reclaimed water distribution systems. Developer contributions from Mountain Gate and The Highlands will pay for approximately \$4,500,000 of the total cost. A Water Infrastructure Finance Authority loan for the balance of the project will assist the Town in funding the new facility. The Town Council is currently considering a combination of revenue sources for the repayment of the loan.

The plant design is presently at 75% complete and is anticipated to be ready for bidding in early 2008 with a construction period of approximately one year

By the Water Utility Department



Winter Safety Tips

According to the National Fire Protection Association (More information at [ww.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)):

- Heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,000 U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 deaths in 2005.
- In 2005 an estimated 15,600 home fires started by candles, resulting in 150 deaths.
- Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires in the United States.

The Clarkdale Fire District offers the following winter **safety tips**:

- Keep matches and lighters hidden and out of children's reach. Teach children not to play with them.
- Place fire extinguishers near the kitchen, garage, laundry room and fireplace.
- Make sure all exits from rooms are clear and that there is nothing blocking them.
- Create and practice a family escape plan.
- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.

Space Heaters:

- Use an outlet with sufficient capacity.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Turn them off when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Never use an extension cord.



Candles:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Use sturdy non-flammable holders.

Fireplaces/Woodstoves:

- Use a sturdy screen to prevent flying sparks.
 - Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.
 - Use only dry seasoned wood (to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires).
 - Do not use a flammable liquid to start the fire.
 - Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.
 - Have your fireplace cleaned and serviced annually.
- By the Clarkdale Fire District

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.
~Sherry Anderson

Our Community Volunteers

Our citizens are involved in our community through various organizations in the course of their

busy lives. Volunteers have identified areas of interest, the willingness to try something new, and have initiated local opportunities to become involved. The Town of Clarkdale appreciates all of our volunteers that give of their time and expertise to the community. Their level of personal involvement continues to make Clarkdale a great place to call home! Clarkdale volunteers may serve on the Council's advisory boards and commissions making recommendations on how the Town Council will govern our community. Other volunteers pick up trash along our streets and highways, lock park restrooms in the evenings, assist at Town events, provide time to answer phones, and staff the reception desk providing coverage during meetings.

During April, the Town of Clarkdale celebrates our Town's volunteers with an appreciation event such as a picnic or appreciation dinner. The ***Town's Volunteer Appreciation Event is the Thank You*** expression from the Town Council and staff for our volunteers' efforts. Some may never realize the full extent of their impact on the Town, but it all started because our volunteers came to the crossroads and told themselves they wanted and needed to be involved in community.

The Town of Clarkdale has openings in two Council advisory boards. This is an opportunity for you to serve the Town and help create the future of Clarkdale.

The **Library Advisory Board** is an advisory Board that makes recommendations to the Town Council. The Board normally meets once a month on the first Thursday at 9:00 AM. The Library Advisory Board also sets up the annual December Book Sale and the Fourth of July Ice Cream Social. This term ends September 30, 2009.



The **Design Review Board** has two openings and both terms have an expiration date of September 30, 2008. Design Review meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The board reviews the exterior of proposed new buildings, proposed alteration, and major development or redevelopments to assure they are compatible with the surrounding environment.

For questions please contact Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk, at 639-2400, waltg@clarkdale.az.us. Applicants must reside within the Clarkdale Town Limits. Applications are available at Clarkdale Town Hall, 890 Main Street or may be downloaded from the town's website at http://www.clarkdale.az.us/forms_and_documents/boardcomm2004.pdf.

2008 Local Elections

There will be a Primary Election on March 11, 2008, and the General Election, if needed, will be held on May 20, 2008. Ballots must be *received* by 7 p.m. on the day of the election. Any candidate who receives a majority of all the ballots cast in the Primary election shall be declared to be elected. These elections will be all mail ballot. There will be no polling places. The Yavapai County Election Department will be conducting the election for the Town and will send a ballot by first class mail to every registered voter in the Town of Clarkdale on February 18th.

The mayor's seat is available for the 2008 election. Doug Von Gausig filed the required nomination papers by the deadline date and will be listed on the ballot for mayor.

Two council seats are available for the 2008 election. Patricia Williams and Richard Dehnert have filed the required nomination papers by the deadline date and will be listed on the ballot for councilmember.

Write-In candidates are not required to file nomination petitions. However, ALL other candidate nomination election forms must be filed with the write-in candidate by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2008 with the Town Clerk.

If a voter knows that he or she will be out of Town during the election period, the voter may contact the Yavapai County Voter Registration Office at 928-771-3248 to request that the ballot be sent to a different address.



Voter Registration

Letters were mailed to every registered voter with information regarding upcoming elections, the permanent early voter list, and "cleaning-up" the rolls prior to the election. If you have not yet received this letter you may not be registered, or the Yavapai County Voter Registration may have an incorrect mailing address for you. Please contact them

directly at 771-3248, and ask for the Voter Registration Office. Voter registration forms are available at the Yavapai County building in Cottonwood, Clark Memorial Library, and Clarkdale Town Hall.

The last day to register to vote for the March 11, 2008 primary election is February 11, 2008 and the last day to register to vote for the May 20th general election (if needed) is April 21, 2008.

If this is your first time registering to vote in Arizona, or you have moved from another county in Arizona, your voter registration form must also include proof of citizenship or the form will be rejected. If you have an Arizona driver license or non-operating identification issued after October 1, 1996, write the number in box 13 on the front of the Arizona Voter Registration Form. This will serve as proof of citizenship and no additional documents are needed. If not, you must attach proof of citizenship to the form. Only one acceptable form of proof is needed to register to vote. Do not send originals! To avoid any problems with being registered in time for the election, we encourage everyone who is not registered to vote to register early.

For additional information, please contact Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk at 639-2400.



Going Green

The average 25 watt compact fluorescent will save the equivalent of 100 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. That's as much as a car driving 93 miles assuming the car gets 23.9 miles per gallon.

Recycling—Recycling aluminum cans cuts the energy to produce a new can by 95%.

Recycling reduces landfill gas generated by decaying matter such as newsprint and reduces the energy needed to manufacture new products.

A four person family that recycles all its newsprint, aluminum cans, steel, plastic and glass could cut its greenhouse-gas emissions from solid waste by 41% to 2,384 pounds from 4,072 pounds per year.

Submitted by Council Member Jerry Wiley with information taken from the Wall Street Journal.

**CLARK
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY
New Books**

Library Hours
Mon & Wed 11:00 - 4:00
Tues 1:00 - 6:00
Thur, Fri. & Sat 1:00-4:00
Closed Sunday

February

7th Heaven	James Patterson
Before Green Gables	Budge Wilson
Dakota	Martha Grimes
Firefly Lane	Kristin Hannah
First Patient	Michael Palmer
Honor Thyself	Danielle Steel
L.A. Outlaws	T. Jefferson Parker
Marching Toward Hell	Michael Scheuer
Prepared for Rage	Dana Stabenow
Remember Me?	Sophie Kinsella
Stranger in Paradise	Robert B. Parker
Strangers in Death	Nora Roberts
Why Mars and Venus Collide	John Gray

www.yavapailibrary.org/clark.htm
Online Library Catalog

**Verde Canyon
Railroad**

800-320-0718
www.verdecanyonrr.com



Eagle Watch in the Canyon

January - March. See magnificent Bald and Golden Eagles!

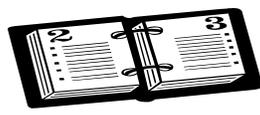
- Witness the powerful eagle as he snatches a fish in his talons
- One-half of all North American bird species migrate to the Verde Canyon
- In late February, resident bald eagles, “Black” and “Decker,” have one or two eaglets
- Eagle Watch” is at its full peak from January through March

Chocolate Lovers’ Festival

February 14-18. Combine your love of the outdoors with the romance of chocolate. Enjoy friendship, courtship and family on a sweet ride

Spring in Bloom

Wildflowers and cactus are in full bloom as a patchwork of color blankets the hillsides Enjoy tunnels, trestles and other unexpected treats. With the towering red rocks, and vivid arrays of color, photographic opportunities are endless!



Town Calendar

AUD - Auditorium, Clark Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth St.
 CD - Community Dev. Conference Room, 39 N. Ninth
 CJSL - Clarkdale-Jerome School Library
 CML - Clark Memorial Library, 39 N. Ninth St.
 FD - Fire Department, 895 First South Street
 ML - Men’s Lounge, Clark Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth St.
 FIN - Finance Conference Room, 890 Main Street
 YC - Yavapai College, M137

Feb 4 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, FIN
 Feb 7 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Feb 12 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Feb 13 Design Review, 6:30, ML
 Feb 14 Fire District Board meeting, 7 pm, FD
 Feb 16 Dance, *Sentimental Journey*, 7 pm, AUD
 Feb 18 Town offices closed, *President’s Day*
 Feb 20 Heritage Conservancy, 4:00 pm, CML
 Feb 26 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
 Feb 28 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML

Mar 3 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, FIN
 Mar 6 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Mar 11 **Primary Election Day (Mail in ballots)**
 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Mar 12 Design Review Board, 6:30 pm, ML
 Mar 13 Fire District Board meeting, 7 pm, FD
 Mar 19 Heritage Conservancy, 4:00 pm, CML
 Mar 22 Dance, *Sentimental Journey*, 7 pm, AUD
 Mar 25 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
 Mar 26 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
 Mar 27 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML

Apr 3 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Apr 7 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, FIN
 Apr 8 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Apr 9 Design Review Board, 6:30 pm, ML
 Apr 10 Fire District Board meeting, 7 pm, FD
 Apr 16 Heritage Conservancy, 4:00 pm, CML
 Apr 22 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
 Apr 23 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
 Apr 24 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

The Board of Directors for the Clarkdale Fire District meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Fire Department, 895 First South Street, Clarkdale.

Important Numbers:

Fire Department, non-emergency: 639-4591
Police Dept., non-emergency: 649-7700, 634-2921
Clark Memorial Library: 639-2480
Municipal Court: 649-7730
Cemetery Manager & Public Works: 639-2550
Community Development: 639-2500
All other business: Town Hall: 639-2400
Fax: 639-2409, TTY: 1-800-367-8939



Town of Clarkdale
Post Office Box 308
Clarkdale, AZ 86324-0308

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86324-0308

POSTAL PATRON
CLARKDALE, AZ 86324

Town Email: townhall@clarkdale.az.us
Town of Clarkdale website: www.clarkdale.az.us

Clarkdale Municipal Water Utility Billing and Payment Changes

The Town of Clarkdale will soon take over the billing and payment collection for the Clarkdale Municipal Water Utility. Since the municipal purchase of the water utility, the Town of Clarkdale has contracted with the City of Cottonwood to provide billing and collection service, along with operations and maintenance of the system. Plans are to take over meter reading and water billing as early as **March 17, 2008**.

The Town of Clarkdale is undergoing a software conversion that will allow us to begin meter reading and payment collection. This new software will also allow us to combine all Clarkdale utility services into **one monthly billing**. These services will include water, sewer, and trash service, and customers of one or more of these services will receive a full page billing detail with a payment voucher and return envelope.



Customers will still be able to make payments in person at the Town of Clarkdale, 890 Main Street in Clarkdale, or by mail to P.O. Box 308 Clarkdale, AZ 86324. Town staff is also working on adding **online payments** and the ability to accept **credit and debit cards** over the counter and online. Another option that is currently being considered is automatic debit. This process would allow your bank to automatically make payments on your behalf each month.

If there are any suggestions, questions, or comments, please contact the Clarkdale Utility Billing Office at 639-2450.

Highway 89A Project Update

S.J. Louis Construction of Phoenix will begin construction on the improvements in February 2008 and the project will take approximately one year.

Check for more information on ADOT projects at www.dot.state.az.us/Highways/EEG/Index.asp and roundabouts at www.arizonaroundabout.com.

The town will be providing current information about the project on the Town's web site; www.clarkdale.az.us also check with Town Hall's front desk for ADOT's newsletter, due out shortly.

What is a Modern Roundabout?

A Modern Roundabout is a new form of intersection control that provides safe and efficient traffic flow. It operates with yield control at the entry points, and gives priority to vehicles within the Roundabout.

Why build a Roundabout instead of a Traffic Signal?

Roundabouts move traffic safely and efficiently through an intersection because of:

- Slower speeds
- Fewer conflict points
- Easy decision making

For the latest information on Town events, meetings and services go to:
www.clarkdale.az.us

