

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor's Corner

By Doug Von Gausig

Our Changing Community

Lately we are reminded that our little town is changing, and fast! We have seen an overheated real estate market make building here more attractive to developers. Major developments – at least by our standards - like Mountain Gate and the Highlands have shown us that the Verde Valley is not immune to the growth that has been a fact of life in Maricopa and Pima Counties for decades. At the same time, ADOT has been busy planning changes to our transportation corridors to accommodate this changing population. Growth has even demanded additions to our Town's staff and our community buildings. Over the last three years, Clarkdale has purchased our water utility and constructed a new wastewater disposal system.

Roundabouts entered our daily lives, and our Fire Department became a self-governing District. Even the weather is changing, as we enter the eighth year of a severe draught.

As adaptable as we like to think we are, most of us truly hate changes in our lives. Psychologists tell us that our acceptance of change is tied closely to how much personal control we feel we have over it. We love changes brought by a new home or a better job, or the new baby in our family, but we complain

bitterly about the torn up street in front of our house, or that our favorite fishing spot on the river is taken by a "newcomer."

(Continued on page 2)



Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

11:00 a.m

Saturday, December 1

Clarkdale Main Street Park

SANTA CLAUS is coming to Clarkdale! Come spread your holiday spirit with Clarkdale Parks and Recreation as they celebrate this holiday season. Children of all ages can visit Santa and have their photo taken with the guest of honor, drink hot chocolate with cookies, and create an ornament to hang on the Town Christmas Tree – all for FREE!

This is all provided by the Town of Clarkdale as their gift to you!!! All activities will be at the Gazebo in the Clarkdale Main Street Park. For more information call Dawn Norman, 643-9591.

Dorothy Benatz Trail

The first phase of making an old pathway into a trail has been completed. The trail, located on the abandoned railroad track in Lower Clarkdale, can be accessed at three points: Third North Street, Main Street, or the wastewater treatment plant road. This trail has been named in memory of long time resident, Dorothy Benatz, who was known for her daily morning walks along this path to the Tuzigoot Bridge.

Dorothy moved to Clarkdale in 1938. She worked for Clarkdale Schools in the administrative office from 1938 until 1959, at which time she switched professions and began working in the Clarkdale Town Clerk's office. She served as Town Clerk for a period of ten years, until 1979, when she ran for Mayor and won the seat. Dorothy served as Clarkdale's Mayor from 1980 until 1988.

A dedication ceremony will be held in her honor. The date is still to be determined. For more information please contact Dawn Norman, Parks and Recreation, 634-9591.



Oddly, if we have lived here more than about 5 years, we like to point our fingers at “newcomers” and say “They’re the problem!” The truth, of course, is that we are all “the problem.” We all came here from somewhere else. Some were lucky enough to be born here or to have lived in the Verde Valley when it was truly a tiny, seemingly unchanging, place. This valley is just too wonderful a place not to attract newcomers, and this isn’t going to stop soon. As the world around us changes, and as other places become more crowded, our valley will always be one of the best places in the world to live.

We can meet the challenges of growth and change in a number of ways. We can become upset at every sign of change, but that can’t be good for us (or our families, who have to listen to us!). We can ignore the changes and hope they go away. We all know how well that works. Or we can acknowledge the fact that change is inevitable and try to make it as painless and positive as possible. We can’t “just say no!” That’s not practical and often not even legal in Arizona.

Along with the growth and the change come increasing expenses. More population means more fire trucks, more police cars, more municipal buildings, more wells and more school rooms. Then we need more people to drive the trucks and teach in the rooms. These extra costs are paid by all of us, not just by the new residents. Our taxes go up, our utility bills climb, and we’re asked to help pay for additional wastewater capacity. Clarkdale is at the forefront of making growth pay as much of its way as is legal in Arizona. Our impact fees are among the highest allowed, but they don’t pay the whole cost. You and I have to make up the difference.

We need to concentrate on sustaining the quality of life we value . . .

Why don’t we just refuse to pay the price? What would happen if we just said, “I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore!”? Well, that’s a possibility. We could just decide that we’re paying no more, and adopt a “if we don’t build it, they won’t come” philosophy. All indications, though, are that they’ll come anyway, and if we are unprepared, we’ll all pay a bigger price. If we don’t work hard to accommodate change and growth, we’ll have unbearable traffic, poor police protection, longer waits for the ambulance when we most need it, and crowded classrooms. Our municipal services will degrade and our wastewater facilities will become insufficient. Instead of our lives and our surroundings improving, we will see them deteriorate and fail. None of us really wants that.

As our town changes we have to remember what we love about Clarkdale and the Verde Valley. We need to concentrate on sustaining the quality of life we value, and as new folks join our town we need to help them embrace our way of life. Remember, almost all of us were newcomers once, too.

Have you ever visited www.clarkdale.az.us?

This is the address of the Town of Clarkdale’s official website, created to provide our residents with information on all facets of the town government.

Visit our website - read the history of Clarkdale, visit the Community Events page or check on the current dates and times of the Council, Board and Commission meetings.

NEW function under “Town Meetings”

Staff reports for the Town Council meetings have been attached. By clicking on the agenda item you are able to read the staff report along with any additional documentation that has been provided to the Council. A search function is also available for each document as a tool to find a particular item of interest.

The Home Page of the website has links to information on the following topics:

- **Mayor and Council**
- **Town/Zoning Codes**
- **Election Information**
- **Forms & Contacts**
- **Projects & Notices**
- **Clarkdale's History**
- **Neighborhood News**
- **Town Meetings**
- **Departments**
- **Newsletters**
- **Volunteering**
- **General Plan**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Employment**



Please email your comments about the website to Margie Hardie at townhall.clarkdale.az.us

Clarkdale Fire District is Now Providing Advanced Life Support Care

The primary goal of the citizens committee which led the effort to form a fire district was **to improve the level of fire and emergency medical services for residents.** Some of the objectives outlined to achieve this goal were:

- To have a paramedic for each shift.
- To hire a full-time Fire Chief and an administrative staff person.
- To purchase the necessary firefighting and EMS equipment to adequately meet the needs of the community.

Since the District formation, we have worked diligently to meet these objectives. Before the end of this fiscal year the District anticipates hiring its third Paramedic. With this addition, the Department will have two members per shift, including a paramedic. Prior to the formation, there was only one person per shift who could only provide *basic* life support services. With the addition of paramedics, we can now provide *advanced* life support care, as well as improved firefighting capabilities.

Besides staffing levels, adequate equipment and vehicles are necessary to provide effective emergency services. We have not purchased any new vehicles, however we have added the necessary emergency medical and firefighting equipment to allow us to provide an improved level of service. Through these efforts we will continue to improve vital emergency services to the community at the most cost-effective manner possible.

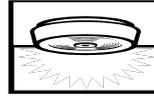
“... we can now provide advanced life support care, as well as improved firefighting capabilities.”

By Chief Don Eberle

Contact Chief Eberle at 639-4591 or email DEberle@clarkdalefd.org with questions or comments regarding the Clarkdale Fire District.

Services Provided by the Clarkdale Fire District

The Clarkdale Fire District offers the following services:



Smoke Detector Checks

Smoke detectors should be checked once a month and batteries replaced annually. Call us if you need assistance, we will check them for free.



Defensible Space Plans

The Clarkdale Fire District is committed to fire prevention. For this reason, we offer free assistance with developing a defensible space plan for your home or business.



Home Fire Safety Inspections

We welcome the opportunity to conduct a free safety inspection and offer suggestions how to make your home a safer place.



Blood Pressure Checks

Stop by Station #21 at 895 First North Street and we will check your blood pressure for free. To make sure we are available call ahead, 639-4591.



CPR and First Aid Classes

We have instructors certified to teach Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. According to the American Heart Association, effective bystander CPR provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double a victim's chance of survival! Classes are normally offered monthly, however we will make special accommodations for groups. Please contact us for the class schedule and to register. Class fee: \$35.00



Speakers and station tours available for groups.

Call for more information.

639-4591

The Clarkdale Fire District offers CPR and First Aid classes on a monthly basis. Please call the District at 639-4591 to sign-up!

Verde Canyon Railroad

Holiday Parties Available

November - December

Santa Clause Express

December 1-23

Eagle Watch in the Canyon

December through March

Chocolate Lovers Festival

February 14-18

800-320-0718

www.verdecanyonrr.co



Property Maintenance Update

Nearly a year ago the Town Council enacted the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code in order to have a maintenance program for existing buildings. The Code was tailored to fit the problems encountered in Clarkdale.

The Community Development Department divided the Town into sections for inspection purposes. We sent the residents of each section a letter telling them that we would be in their neighborhood looking for **rubbish, inoperable vehicles, and missing house numbers**, which are the three most common complaints. This gives everyone a chance to make corrections before we come through. We are currently in Upper Town, which will be followed by Lower Town.

One requirement that has been confusing is the posting of address numbers. Code requires that buildings have minimum four inch high, contrasting house numbers on the front that can be easily read. The same numbers must also be on the rear of the building if it has an alley. This allows the police, town maintenance crew, and fire department to locate an address from the front or the rear in the event of an emergency.

The Clarkdale Police Explorers are distributing flyers containing installation instructions to every building in Clarkdale. The Town is offering free numbers for the rear of the property. The Explorers will install the numbers if the resident is unable to do so.

Many residents have already cleaned up their property by removing rubbish, covering or getting rid of inoperable vehicles and posting address numbers. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this effort. You have made the Town safer and cleaner, while still retaining the charm and quaintness that makes us want to live here.

If you have maintenance questions or problems, please call the Community Development at 649-3538, or stop in and see us in the lower level of the library building at 39 North Ninth Street.

By Mike Baker, Building Official

2008 Town Elections



There will be a Primary Election on March 11, 2008 and the General Election, if needed, will be held on May 20, 2008.

Any candidate who receives a majority of all the ballots cast in the Primary election shall be declared to be elected. The elected council members do not take office until June, and they select a Vice Mayor from among themselves.

The Mayor's seat is available for the 2008 election. Two councilmember seats will also be available for this election. All three seats are four year terms. Candidate packets are available at Town Hall.

To become an official candidate, persons must file their paperwork no later than December 12, 2007.

Town elections in 2008 will be all "Vote by Mail" elections, which means there will be NO polling places. The Yavapai County Election Department will be conducting the election for the Town and will mail every qualified elector registered within the boundaries of the Town of Clarkdale a ballot the week of February 18th.

To ensure delivery of a ballot and avoid any problems with being registered in time for the election, we encourage everyone who is not registered, to register early. The last day to register to vote in the Primary election is February 11, 2008.

Election materials cannot be forwarded.

You will need to re-register if you have changed your name, your residential address, or you wish to change your party affiliation. Registration forms are available at Town Hall and Yavapai County Offices. You may contact Yavapai County Voter Registration at 639-5807 if you have any questions or to determine if your information is current. For more information regarding voter registration, to register on-line, or print a registration form, go to the Secretary of State website: <http://www.azsos.gov/election/VoterRegistration.htm>.

For additional information, please contact Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk at 634-9591.

Neighborhood Program!!

The Community Development Department is in the beginning stages of creating a *Neighborhood Program*. The program goal is to encourage partnerships between the Town of Clarkdale, residents, religious institutions, police department, developers, schools, and businesses to strengthen and revitalize Clarkdale neighborhoods and build strong community relationships.

The *Neighborhood Program* encourages neighborhoods to create neighborhood associations. A Neighborhood Association is a group of residents who meet regularly to accomplish goals in their neighborhood. The association may include homeowners, renters, apartment residents, business owners, school, church officials, and others.

Neighborhood Associations help identify challenges and problems in the neighborhood, support improvement efforts, provide volunteers for community projects, and find and get resources to make the neighborhood a better place to live.

The Neighborhood Association will set goals for their group and, depending on what those goals are, will meet twice a year, once a quarter, or every month to accomplish those goals.

With your help this program will be a success because The Town of Clarkdale has the best neighborhoods in the entire Verde Valley!

If you're interested in learning more or becoming a Neighborhood Association Captain for the neighborhood association in your area, please contact the Community Development Department, 649-3538.

Town staff will be visiting your neighborhood soon to review the *Neighborhood Program* possibilities!



New Year's Eve Family Party



Bring in the New Year

**with the First Annual Dropping of the Ball
on December 31st at 10:00 p.m. & Midnight!**

Forget the babysitter! Pack up the kids, come celebrate and ring in the New Year at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse! Clarkdale Parks and Recreation will host a fun-filled, family-oriented, non-alcoholic, New Year's Eve event.

This New Year's Eve party will feature entertainment for all ages, music, food, and the first annual dropping of the lighted ball! The dropping of the ball will take place in front of the Men's Lounge and is free to the public. There will be two droppings of the ball: 10:00 p.m. and midnight.

There is an admission charge to attend the New Year's Eve Party. Tickets are limited and will be available to purchase at Town Hall beginning December 1st while supplies last. For more information please contact Dawn Norman, Parks and Recreation, at 634-9591.

Made in Clarkdale

Gala Opening

Friday, December 7, 2007

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium

This is the 21st annual
Made in Clarkdale (MIC)
celebration of the arts.

Exhibition Dates:

December 7 - 16th

Saturdays & Sundays - 9 am - 5 pm

Monday through Friday- 9 am to 4 pm

All MIC events are free
and open to the public.

Annual Neighborhood Events

Clarkdale Police Department is getting ready to serve up hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soft drinks for the residents of Clarkdale during the “Annual Neighborhood Events”. For those of you that have not had the opportunity to attend one of these events, your local police department, for your dining pleasure, will set up tables and chairs, provide and cook the food for you.

This is your opportunity to meet and get to know the Patrol Officer assigned to your neighborhood as well as the other patrol officers, Chief of Police and administrative staff. Because your input is vital to the Police Department, we take this opportunity to hear all issues that concern you and your neighborhood.

We all have busy and hectic lives and we may not always have the chance to talk to or meet our neighbors. This is a wonderful way not only to chat with old friends but to possibly make some new ones. Neighbors watching out for neighbors can help us keep Clarkdale the wonderful community it has become.



2007/2008 Neighborhood Event Schedule

(All events start at 1 pm and end at 3 pm.)

Mountain Gate	November 10, 2007
Mingus View Estates	December 15, 2007
Lower Clarkdale	January 12, 2008
Patio Park	January 26, 2008
Bent River/Palisades	February 16, 2008
Blackhills/Haskell Springs	March 15, 2008
Upper Clarkdale	April 12, 2008
Mingus Shadows	May 3, 2008
Foothills Terrace	May 24, 2008
Lampliter	June 7, 2008
Centerville	June 21, 2008

Watch for a flyer with location information.

USED-BOOK SALE

December 7-16, 2007

Ladies Lounge, Clark Memorial Clubhouse
Enter through the Made-In-Clarkdale Art Show

Travel Advisory Closure

Sunset Point Rest Area (I-17 Exit 252) November 5, 2007—early 2009

The Sunset Point Rest Area on Interstate 17 at Exit 252 is closed for major renovations until early 2009.

Travelers are advised to seek restroom and other services at the following exits:

- I-17 northbound - Exit 244 (Coldwater Canyon Road)
- I-17 southbound or from Highway 69 at the I-17 interchange - Exit 262 (Cordes Junction/interchange with Highway 69)

Contact ADOT,
480-294-1074,
for more
information.



Highway 89A Project Update

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) continues to make progress towards the start of construction on the improvements to Highway 89A between Cement Plant Road and Black Hills Drive. Project bids have been submitted and the construction contract is expected to be awarded to the low bidder by mid-November. With that in mind, ADOT expects construction to begin on 89A in February 2008. The total construction time for the project is approximately one year.

The 89A improvement project consists of widening the two-lane highway to four lanes and constructing five new roundabouts. The roundabouts will be located at the intersections of 89A and Black Hills Drive, Scenic Drive, Lincoln/Lisa Street, Centerville Road, and Cement Plant Road/Clarkdale Parkway.

For further information about [roundabouts](#) please refer to the following website: <http://www.azdot.gov/ccpartnerships/Roundabouts/Index.asp>. For questions or further information on the project, please contact the Prescott District Office of ADOT 928-777-5861.

CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

NEW BOOKS/DVDs

December

Antony and Cleopatra	Coleen McCullough
Assassin	Stephen Coonts
Death Song	Michael McGarrity
Shadow Music	Julie Garwood
Shooters	W.E.B. Griffin
6 Sacred Stones	Matthew Reilly
Sizzle and Burn	Jayne Ann Krentz
T is for Trespass	Sue Grafton
Venetian Betrayal	Steve Berry

DVDs

Pirates of the Caribbean—At the World's End
 Bourne Ultimatum
 High School Musical
 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

January

Appeal	John Grisham
Blasphemy	Douglas Preston
Day of Reckoning	Patrick Buchanan
Duma Key	Stephen King
Harmonic Wealth	James Ray
Light of the Moon	Luanne Rice
Memo to the President Elect	Madeleine Albright
Plum Lucky	Janet Evanovich
Rhett Butler's People	Donald McCaig
Secret Between Us	Barbara Delinsky

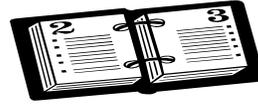
DVDs

Golden Door
 3-10 to Yuma
 Assassination of Jesse James

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

Jean Stevens, after years of service to the Town, decided not to apply for another term on the Library Advisory Board this year. Her devotion and experience will be missed, and her commitment is acknowledged and cherished. Jean continues to mend books for the library.

Thank you Jean Stevens!!



Town Calendar

ML - Men's Lounge, Clark Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth St.
 AUD - Auditorium, Clark Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth St.
 CML - Clark Memorial Library, 39 N. Ninth St.
 TH - Town Hall, Conference Room, 890 Main Street
 YC - Yavapai College, M137
 CJSL - Clarkdale-Jerome School Library
 CD - Community Development Conference Room, 39 N. Ninth

Dec 1 ***Christmas in the Park***, 11 am, Town Park
 Dec 3 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
 Dec 7 ***Made in Clarkdale Art Show***, 6 pm, AUD
Library Book Sale, 6 pm, AUD
 Dec 11 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Dec 12 Design Review Board, 6 pm, ML
 Dec 13 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Dec 19 Heritage Conservancy, 4 pm, CML
 Dec 25 Town offices closed - ***Christmas Holiday***
 Dec 26 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
 Dec 26 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
 Jan 1 Town offices closed - ***New Years Holiday***
 Jan 7 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
 Jan 8 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Jan 9 Design Review Board, 6 pm, ML
 Jan 10 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Jan 16 Heritage Conservancy, 4 pm, CML
 Jan 19 Dance, ***Sentimental Journey***, 7-10 pm AUD
 Jan 21 Town offices closed - ***M. L. K. Holiday***
 Jan 22 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
 Jan 23 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
 Jan 24 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
 Feb 5 Presidential Preference Election
 Feb 4 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
 Feb 12 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
 Feb 13 Design Review, 6, ML
 Feb 14 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
 Feb 16 Dance, ***Sentimental Journey***, 7-10 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 27 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
 Feb 28 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

Important Numbers:

Fire Department, non-emergency: 639-4591
Police Dept., non-emergency: 634-7240 or 634-2921
Clark Memorial Library: 634-9760
Municipal Court: 634-1691
Cemetery Manager, Public Works and
Community Development: 649-3538
All other business: Town Hall: 634-9591
Fax: 634-0407, TTY: 1-800-367-8939



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
CLARKDALE, AZ
86324-0308

POSTAL PATRON
CLARKDALE, AZ 86324

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

Town Hall Complex and Facilities Master Plan

As was noted in the Mayor's Corner, change is all around us, and the Town continues to try to stay ahead of the services and infrastructure that our growing community requires. During the Council's Annual Strategic Planning Session held last November, one of the items of priority was to update our Facilities Master Plan with a vision to retain municipal services in the downtown area. In addition to taking a long-term look at our community facilities needs through the Facilities Planning process, we've also had to take some short-term steps to solve some immediate space and infrastructure needs.

If you've taken a trip to the Town Hall Complex lately, you've probably noticed the new modular office building that was installed between the Police Department/Court and the Library. This building now provides office space for the Public Works and Utilities Departments and will likely remain in place for several years until we can provide a permanent solution for our office space needs. Please note that your trash and sewer utility bills will still be paid in the Finance Department, as our billing processes are handled through that department.

You may also have noticed trenching and piping work in the Town Hall Complex. That work is part of a project to upgrade the Town's phone and computer systems. If you've been disconnected during a call to Town Hall in the last few years, you'll be happy to know that this project is aimed at upgrading an extremely antiquated system. The trenching and piping is complete now, and we anticipate our new phone and computer systems to be up and running in December.

As part of our long-term Facilities Master Planning, we've just completed a land survey of all the Town facilities and property, and will use that document to plot out potential locations for new facilities. Another part of

that process includes undertaking a needs assessment that makes projections about the number of staff and size of community facilities that will be required as the Town continues to grow. This planning will be completed with the idea that we want to keep our Town's primary government services in the historic Downtown Area

Finally, and again as a component of the Master Plan, a subcommittee will be using the land survey that has been produced to begin forming a landscaping plan for the Town Hall Complex. Although the design will likely incorporate some small grass areas, the emphasis will be on the use of native vegetation to enhance the beauty of our public spaces and demonstrate the importance of low-water use vegetation.

For questions, or to provide comments, on our Facilities Planning processes, please contact Public Works Director Steven Burroughs at 634-9591, or email steven_burroughs@clarkdale.az.us

2008 Dances Featuring *Sentimental Journey*



January 19, February 16, and March 22

7 - 10p.m., \$5.00 Admission.

Clarkdale Clubhouse Auditorium

Refreshments available for purchase.

Sponsored by the
Heritage Conservancy Board.