

TALK OF THE TOWN

FEBRUARY 2009

Mayor's Corner

By Doug Von Gausig

Adjusting to a New Economic Reality

By now most of us have heard about our Town's financial challenges, but it's important to understand that Clarkdale is not alone in facing tougher times. In fact, every municipality in Arizona and across the nation is coping with the same economic downturn. Our counties and our states share the same boat with us. Most experts believe these difficult times will last a long time – probably several years, and I agree with them. The question we must now ask ourselves is not “how do we get past this rough spot”, but instead “how can we adjust to this new economic reality?”

Our town gets its income (revenue) from several sources, including some of the property taxes you pay each year, part of the sales taxes generated in Clarkdale, Arizona State “revenue sharing” (a small percentage of State income tax collected), some from gas taxes, and other sources. We also have a couple of “enterprise” funds, such as the water, wastewater, and cemetery funds. Every one of these income streams is being negatively impacted by the recent changes in the economy. At the same time, expenses have not declined, and in some cases have increased. This means the same thing to your town as it would to your family – a “budget crunch.” We've all seen tight times before, but this time

(Continued on page 2)

Verde Valley Theatre Presents

Feb. 27 - Mar. 15, 2009

PASSPORT to BROADWAY

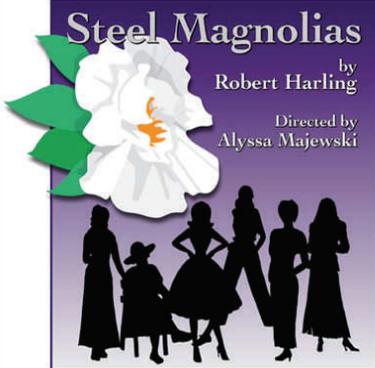
A Musical Revue
adapted and directed by Donna Oliver
Tour the world through the memorable music from Broadway

April 27 - May 10, 2009

Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

Directed by Alyssa Majewski



The funny, touching story of six southern women who meet regularly in a small town beauty shop.

Information: (928) 649 - 0626

2009 Verde Valley Relay for Life

Mingus Union High School, Friday, April 24th, 2009

Clarkdale hopes to be well-represented in the 2009 Relay For Life, an American Cancer Society Fundraiser. Your support for the many teams and fundraisers is greatly appreciated. Start your own team or join one of these Clarkdale-based teams:

1. Clarkdale Cancer Kickers (Marcy Elmer, Captain)
2. Lights and Sirens for Life (Clarkdale Fire and Verde Valley Ambulance)
3. Clarkdale Cancer Rammers (Clarkdale/Jerome School)

Register at vvrelay.com. Every little bit makes a difference.

Town of Clarkdale New Office Hours

Effective January 2, 2009, Town of Clarkdale offices will be **open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. & closed on Fridays.**

Business hours have changed due to our continued efforts to reduce expenses. Even with these scheduling changes, our commitment to providing quality community services remains our most important priority.

there's a difference. This time the factors causing the downturn are fundamental changes in how our country and our economy operate, and our economic system will need years to stabilize, reorganize, and begin to grow again.

Clarkdale, like all cities and towns, will continue to be hit with revenue reductions in the next several years. The State of Arizona is facing a \$1 billion-plus shortfall, and those lost revenues will need to be made up somehow. Already the State has found creative new ways to decrease their contributions to municipalities. They have even tried assessing each city with a bill designed to help balance their budget. These tactics will continue – as I said, the money has to come from somewhere. Sales tax collections are also way off, especially those related to construction activity, as are building permit fees. The bottom line is that we will need to learn to live with considerably less in the future than we have been collecting.

All this means we need to become more creative about how our Town will deliver the services that we all expect and deserve. We, as a Town, will have to decide which of the things our Town does we value most, which we could reduce, and which we may want to cut out entirely. We'll need to consider novel ways to pay for the services we want. We'll have to think about more volunteerism, maybe some "subscription" services, special improvement districts may be in the cards, public-private partnerships could play a role, and there are many, many other possibilities we will need to entertain.

The Town Council and our staff need your help coming up with creative solutions and making decisions about the future of our community. When you think of something that might help, let us know! Tell me or one of the other council people, or call Town Hall and tell them how you feel and what things you think are too important to be cut. The best way to have some input will be to participate in the General Plan update, which is going on now. Visit the Town's web site to learn more about that process and to see how you can contribute. A large part of the new General Plan will deal with how we pay for our Town and its development, and each "module" of the plan will also consider how to fund that activity.

Remember, we're not looking for stopgap measures; we're looking for permanent solutions. The United States is at the end of one economic era and we are beginning a new one, and we will all need to help our town adjust to the new economic reality!

Dances Featuring *Sentimental Journey*

Clarkdale Clubhouse Auditorium

Feb. 21 & Mar. 21, 2009

7-10 p.m.

\$5.00 Admission



Refreshments available for purchase.

Sponsored by the Town's Heritage Conservancy Board and the Clarkdale Heritage Museum.

Special Events

Thanks to the hard work of many, and the support of our community and sponsors, Clarkdale has been able to limit the budgeted dollar amount need to conduct our special events. Unlike other cities and towns that budget tens of thousands of dollars to put on events in their communities, Clarkdale's combined budget amount (excluding staff time) to put on 4th of July, Halloween, Greet the Season with Santa and New Year's Eve is \$3,000. It would easily cost us 4-5 times that amount to support these events were it not for the support of donors.

This year, the Yavapai-Apache Nation's donation fully funded the Greet the Season with Santa (including our holiday lighting) and the New Year's Eve Celebration will be fully funded with donations. We are aware that these celebrations are a particularly important element to enhancing the quality of life in our community, and, with the current economic downturn, we know that our low-cost and free community events provide valuable entertainment options to residents.

With this in mind, we will continue to look for additional sources to fund our other events, and hope to be able to continue to hold our community events up as a model for how to achieve great public service at very little cost. If you would like to make a donation for an event, or volunteer to help with an event, please contact Parks and Recreation Coordinator Dawn Norman at 639-2490 or dawn.norman@clarkdale.az.gov.

Economic Strategy in Challenging Times

By: Gayle Mabery, Town Manager

All across the country, communities are facing difficult choices in the face of the sagging economy and falling local government revenues. Clarkdale is no exception. With revenues coming in much lower than anticipated, the Town is looking at some creative and necessary ways to balance the FY 2008-09 Budget.

The Town of Clarkdale started making permanent adjustments to our anticipated spending when our local revenues started to weaken back in October of 2007. Though we'd had significant growth leading up to that time, it was obvious then that the tide was beginning to shift. With that in mind, we began implementing a wide variety of cost cutting measures, including holding a number of budgeted staff positions vacant, and maintaining vacancies where possible when attrition occurred. Using that process, we've reduced our staffing levels by 9 positions (15% of the full-time staff) in the past 13 months and expect to see some further attrition in the months ahead. The Town currently has 48 full-time employees, and 4 part-time employees.

Back in the spring of 2008, when we started the budget process for the current Fiscal Year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009), the economy was showing additional signs of distress. Working with conservative revenue projections, we adopted a bare bones budget that cut spending for all capital projects, limited operating budgets to base budget amounts, added no new programs, and did not include merit or COLA adjustments for Town staff. An important issue that the Town Council was also able to honor was the decision to forego any increases in the Town's property tax rate or the local sales tax rate for this year. We understood when the budget was adopted in July, 2008 that if the economy worsened and revenues further declined, we would have to make additional budget cuts in mid-year.

No one was predicting the significance and swiftness of the economic downslide that began in September. The good news for Clarkdale at the close of the first quarter (September 30th) was that,

although revenues were down about 8%, we were holding our spending down by about 9% through additional line item and operational cuts, so we weren't operating in the red. The bad news is that we expect to see significant declines in the amount of revenues that we receive from the State for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. Our projections are that we will have a \$150,000 shortfall by June 30, 2009, and the Town Council and staff know that additional action has to be implemented as soon as possible in order to address the shortfall for this year.

To address the shortfalls projected for the remainder of this Fiscal Year, we'll be taking the following steps, in addition to those already implemented:

- Supplement budgeted expenses with grant, donation and other outside funding where possible;
- Cancel approved chip seal projects for this Fiscal Year;
- Reduce staff compensation by 10% through reductions in the work week from 40-hours to 36-hours, or through reductions in base salaries by 10%;
- Adjust hours at the Town offices from 5 days a week to four days per week to primarily reflect the reduction of staff work hours. We will also see some savings in overhead expenses from having the facilities closed for an additional day per week, but those are minimal in comparison to the reduced staff hours. New office hours will be Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., and Town offices will be closed on Fridays.

As noted in the Mayor's Corner on the front page of this newsletter, even more important than our actions to balance the budget this Fiscal Year will be the methods that we use to adjust to the new economic realities that we are facing in the long term. As we focus on the budget for FY 2009-10 and beyond, we'll be looking at creative ideas and solutions as we enter this new economic era.

Welcome New Board and Commission Members

The Town's current Board and Commission members are: (new terms are noted by *)

Board of Adjustment

Lee Daniels – Chair *

Larry Connors – Vice Chair

Karen Daniels -

(No relationship to Chair)*

Robyn Prud'homme Bauer

Jack Van Wye *

Design Review Board

Charlie Scully – Chair

Marsha Foutz – Vice Chair

Michelle Haymen *

Elaine Sakelarios *

Josh Stackhouse *

Library Advisory Board

John Stevenson – Chair

Mary Sue Hill – Vice Chair *

Winnie Bohall

Chris Calderon

Margaret Krznarich

Roberta Peterson *

Elise Rotchford *

Heritage Conservancy Board

Drake Meinke – Chair

Gerald Wombacher – Vice Chair *

Isabel Erickson *

Linda McDonough

Jess Valdez *

Parks and Recreation

Commission

Lynda Zanolli – Chair

Maya Radoccia – Vice Chair

Bethany Bezdek *

Alice Burroughs

Krysta Dehnert *

Planning Commission

Dave Puzas – Chair

Jorge Olguin – Vice Chair

Amy Bayless *

Bill Regner

Sarah Voit Vinson *

We wish to thank all the citizens who applied for boards and commissions. Board and commission members give their time, expertise and determination to make Clarkdale the best place to live.

Spirit of Clarkdale 2009 Awards

The Town of Clarkdale is now accepting nominations for 2009 Spirit of Clarkdale Awards. This Program enables the Council to recognize Clarkdale home and business owners, organizations, neighborhoods, and individuals, for their exceptional contributions to the Town.

Award categories are:

- Property Beautification
- Historical Preservation
- Neighborhood Projects
- Community Volunteerism
- Green/Conservation Efforts

Please submit nominations to Clarkdale Townhall by May 14, 2009. Nomination forms and category descriptions are at Townhall and on the Town Website at www.clarkdale.az.us under forms – Office of the Town Clerk

To serve on the Spirit of Clarkdale Awards Committee or for more information, please contact Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk at walt.good@clarkdale.az.gov or at Town Hall, 928-639-2400.

Awards will be presented at the Town of Clarkdale July 4th (2009) event in the Clarkdale park.

New Regulations for Inoperable or Unlicensed Vehicles

Effective April 22, 2009, Town Code Section 9-4(S) states that no motor vehicle that is inoperable or unlicensed shall be parked, kept, or stored on any premises unless completely enclosed by a six foot (6') solid or masonry fence. No fence shall be erected without an approved permit. No more than two (2) vehicles shall be allowed in the fenced area and they shall not be visible from adjoining public or private property.

Exceptions to this section are any business lawfully existing within the Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts, and that there shall be no limit to the number of vehicles or their condition as long as they are completely enclosed in an approved structure. Inoperable or unlicensed boats, trailers, and non motorized camper vehicles are also required to comply with this section.



Code Enforcement Schedule

The Community Development Code Enforcement team is finishing inspections of upper Clarkdale and will start the Centerville area early in 2009. Inspectors will be looking for rubbish, missing house numbers, and inoperable, unlicensed vehicles. House numbers are required on the front and on the rear of the building or property if a public way, such as an alley, abuts the lot. For the rear only - free house numbers and installation help are available from the Community Development Department, 639-2500.

Get Your Lawn/Garden Ready for Spring!

As February ends we begin to feel spring fever when we realize the first day of March is finally here. It's time once again to get outside and start spring-cleaning our landscape, and anticipate the wonderful colors and fragrances that will soon appear. Here are a few reminders to get you started on your outdoor "to do" list...



1. If you have a lawn, rake away all the thatch that has accumulated since the fall. Thatch is that tangle of dried up dead grass and weeds that intertwines with the live grass. Thatch can prevent nutrients and water reaching the roots of your lawn. Wherever possible, find organic solutions to lawn and soil problems, and turn to chemicals only as a last resort.

2. Take a walk around your landscape and examine trees, bushes, and shrubs for any limbs or branches that have been broken or damaged over the winter. Cut back overgrown bushes and shrubs.

3. Clean up debris. This includes limbs, leaves, trash and anything else that accumulated over the winter months.

4. Remove as many weeds as possible before they have the opportunity to flower and then seed. As the new spring growth begins to appear, lift the leaves and examine the underside where aphids will congregate. You can find some excellent information at

Frequently Asked Questions: Private Street Maintenance

The Town receives calls from residents who question why their streets are not maintained by the Town. We still have a number of streets in Clarkdale that have never been officially dedicated as public right-of-way. The simple way to identify whether a street is public or private is that black and white street signs designate private streets and green and white street signs signify public streets.

The streets that are questioned most often include Old Jerome Highway (from Hwy 89A to the Foothills Terrace Subdivision), the upper section of Blackhills Drive (west of Yavapai College), Mescal Spur (including the streets within the Mescal Spur lot split area), Valley View road (west of the Valley View Cemetery), Sam Court and the streets in the Haskell Springs area.

There are still a few residents who remember receiving street maintenance many years ago and wonder why we no longer provide that service. State law prohibits Towns from using public funds to improve private roads. The Public Works Department still clears debris from a few wash crossings on private (undedicated) streets in order to maintain a path for emergency service vehicle access for the neighborhood, but they do not

provide general maintenance on private streets.

The Town has worked with neighborhood groups in the past who were interested in improving their streets. The Town Code requires that private streets be brought up to our current public street standards before the Town can accept them for public dedication. Unfortunately, the cost to bring the streets to this standard is often prohibitive for the neighbors.

In one instance, the neighbors in the Bent River Road area collected enough money to significantly improve Bent River Road (with chip seal), but not enough to bring

the road up to the Town standard. The excess money that was collected from the neighbors was put into a fund with the Town, and is used to perform light maintenance on the road. When that fund runs out, the Town will no longer be able to perform that maintenance.

The Community Development Department and Public Works Department are in the early stages of developing some proposals for council consideration that would provide greater flexibility for working with citizens on street dedication.

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/gh-aphid.html>, a web site put up by the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.

Now is a great time to get out there and get started on your landscape spring cleaning – ENJOY!!!



Bryan Valenzuela belays back down to the ground.



Rebecca Watson and Bianca Caballer work together to cross the Ricketty Bridge.



Officer Tommy Nester and Jon Kramer take on the challenge of crossing the Ricketty Bridge.



Jon Kramer gets in some pushups during morning PT.

Police Explorer Annual Summer Academy



Clarkdale Police Department hosts 4th Annual Police Explorer Academy

Learning first hand what it is like to attend a police academy, members of the Clarkdale and Cottonwood Police Departments' Explorer programs recently completed a week long police style academy. The days were long, up to thirteen hours as well as both physically and mentally demanding. The Explorer program is for

as: basic criminal investigations, DUI laws and enforcement, traffic laws, self defense, report writing, traffic stops, crime scene investigations and others topics. The

Working about thirty feet off the ground and strapped in on a belay line, each member completed a series of physically demanding and difficult challenges.

They wrapped up their week by participating in a variety of scenarios, designed to simulate the types of calls that police officers handle on a daily basis. Working in two person teams the Explorers performed traffic stops, building searches, as well as handled disturbance and domestic violence calls, putting their training and skills to the test.

The academy is conducted at no cost to the Explorers due to the support they receive during the year from the community through direct donations and fundraising efforts.



Qualified phlebotomist Officer Nicole Florisi draws blood from Officer Matt Watson during a DUI class.



Sgt. Chris Wylie conducts a class on range safety.

Explorers also traveled to Northern Arizona University to participate in the Outdoor Challenge Course. Facilitators lead group exercises in team building and goal setting, challenging the members to work outside of their comfort zone. They finished the day long trip by working on the high ropes challenge course.

youth who are interested in learning about law enforcement and runs year round.

Officers from the Clarkdale and Cottonwood Police Departments lent their years of training and experience to the program by teaching subjects such



Verde Canyon Railroad

1-800-320-0718

www.verdecanyonrr.com



Events Schedule

Eagle Watch In the Canyon: December - March

Chocolate Lovers Festival: February 11-16

Spring in Bloom - March through May

Eaglet Arrival - Month of March

Lucky Leprechaun Express - March 14-16

Easter Bunny Express - April 12

CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NEW LIBRARY HOURS
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Saturday
12:30 - 4:30
Closed Friday and Sunday

NEW BOOKS — February

A Darker Place	Jack Higgins
Lethal Legacy	Linda Fairstein
Night and Day	Robert Parker
Promises in Death	J.D. Robb
Second Opinion	Michael Palmer



Volunteers needed to:

- Transport requested books to and from the Cottonwood Library weekly.
- Put children's books in order monthly.
- Make a newspaper article scrapbook.
- Recycle your Sunday Arizona Republic to us.

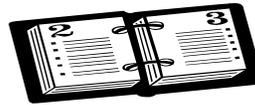
Clarkdale Heritage Museum

900 1st North Street, Clarkdale, Arizona

**Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday, 10 - 1 p.m.**



Monthly displays:
January: Nanitas (Grandmother's Club)
February: Exodus (Native American)
634-1198
clarkdaleheritage@gmail.com



Town Calendar

AUD - Auditorium, Clark Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth St.
CD - Community Dev. Conference Room, 39 N. Ninth
CML - Clark Memorial Library, 39 N. Ninth St.
FD - Fire District, 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 5 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
Feb 10 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
Feb 11 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
Feb 11 Design Review, 6:00, CML
Feb 16 **President's Day—Town offices closed**
Feb 18 Heritage Conservancy, 4:30 pm, CML
Feb 21 **Heritage Dance, 7 pm, AUD**
Feb 24 Special Council, 3 pm, ML
Feb 25 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
Feb 26 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
Feb 27 **Verde Valley Theatre Gala 6 pm AUD**
Passport to Broadway
- Mar 5 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
Mar 10 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
Mar 11 Design Review Board, 6:00 pm, CML
Mar 11 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
Mar 18 Heritage Conservancy, 4:30 pm, CML
Mar 21 **Heritage Dance, 7 pm, AUD**
Mar 24 Special Council, 3 pm, ML
Mar 25 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
Mar 26 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
- Apr 2 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
Apr 8 Design Review Board, 6:00 pm, CML
Apr 8 Parks & Recreation, 5:30 pm, ML
Apr 14 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
Apr 15 Heritage Conservancy, 4:30 pm, CML
Apr 28 Special Council, 3 pm, ML
Apr 22 Board of Adjustment, 6 pm, ML
Apr 23 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
Apr 24 **Verde Valley Theatre Gala 6 pm AUD**
Steel Magnolias

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

**Trash and recycling carts must
be placed at least 5 feet away
from utility meter boxes.**

Telephone Numbers:

Water, Sewer & Trash Billing: 639-2450
Water & Sewer Problems: 639-2520
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
Parks and Recreation 639-2495
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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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CLARKDALE, AZ
86324-0308

POSTAL PATRON
CLARKDALE, AZ 86324

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

Property Watch Program

Due to economic challenges, foreclosures and the sluggishness of the housing market, there are vacant houses in nearly every neighborhood in Clarkdale. In order to address this problem, the Community Development, Police, Utilities, and Fire Departments are joining forces to form a Property Watch Program that will list and track unoccupied residences in the Town. The lists will be confidential and be distributed to the participating departments for their use only.

If a property has newspapers piled up on the drive, an abundance of weeds, and that look of being abandoned, it could be a target for thieves and vandals. By monitoring the vacant

houses, we will be able to note any exterior maintenance issues and ask the owners to make the necessary corrections.

Sometimes it is difficult to contact the owners, or determine who they are because of the lag time from when the property is sold to when the County publishes the new owners. When this happens there is not much that can be done to have the violations corrected.

We are asking neighbors of vacant houses to report any signs of suspicious activity to the Police. To report the existence of a vacant house in your neighborhood, call Vicki in the Community Development Department at 639-2500. Please have the address of the property or a description of the location.

Clarkdale Fire District

The newly elected Clarkdale Fire District Board Members are:
Seth Murphy
Jim Elmer
Bill Snyder
Dave Ahern
Ron Ballatore

Fred Hayman, an outgoing member, was presented with a plaque expressing appreciation for his service since the formation of the District.

District meetings are held at the Fire Station on third Thursdays at 7 pm and are always open to the public.

Scam Warning

By Clarkdale Police Department

With the economy getting worse, scams and con artists could be on the rise. Be aware of your surroundings and always keep in mind that if it looks too good to be true, then it probably is.

Computers provide new ways to scam people. Don't get comfortable with telemarketers knowing your name, address and cell phone number. Be especially suspicious if they put themselves in a position of representing the Town.

The Town of Clarkdale and Town departments do not use phone or door to door solicitations. If

someone is claiming to be an employee of the Town, ask to see their identification.

The Town has a Peddlers Code requiring all door to door salesmen to obtain a Peddler's Permit from the Police Department. This permit must be with them while working, so ask to see it. Don't let anyone in your house you are not sure of or don't know.

Please call Dispatch at 634-2921 to let the Police Department know if you get a solicitation call or someone selling something at your door that sounds suspicious so we can check up on them.