

# TALK OF THE TOWN

April 17-23 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Clarkdale volunteers do everything from serving as council members to working in the library, to passing out flyers, to responding in an emergency.

**Thank you Volunteers -  
we couldn't do it without you!**

## FIRE HAZARD ALERT

We are anticipating **HIGH FIRE DANGER** conditions this spring and summer due to all the rain that we have had this past winter. The dry grass and weeds will allow a fire to start easier and travel faster to the heavier fuels, such as brush and trees, creating an even greater threat to our homes and businesses.

## FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Remove **weeds** and **dry grass** at least 30 feet around your buildings.
- **Alleys** and **utility easements** are the responsibility of property owners.
- Prevent weeds and debris from accumulating beneath **decks**, **elevated porches** and **mobile homes**.
- Mow **lawns** regularly
- Prune **trees** and **shrubs** and maintain branches 10 feet from buildings.
- Remove leaves and other debris from **rain gutters** and **roofs**.
- Clear grass and brush at least 10 feet from **propane tanks**.
- Advise **children** of the danger of playing with matches and lighters.
- Make sure charcoal **briquettes** are completely out before putting in trash.
- **Vacant lots** may require "fuel breaks" - contact the Fire Department.
- Store **fire wood** at least 10 feet from the house.
- Get a **Burn Permit** to burn weeds from Town Hall, 634-9591.

## TOWN OF CLARKDALE'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Boys and girls decorate your bike,  
your wagon and yourself and enter the  
Children's Parade !!



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN THE PARK

6:00 a.m. **Liberty Run**, 10K, register by 6/20  
at Town Hall



7:00 a.m. **Pancake Breakfast**, held by the  
Clarkdale Police & Fire Departments

10:00 a.m. **Parade Begins!** Sign-up at 9:15 a.m. on  
July 4th at the Clarkdale-Jerome School or  
check in advance for a registration form at  
[www.clarkdale.az.us/events.html](http://www.clarkdale.az.us/events.html) or at  
Town Hall. Remember to gather at the  
gazebo in the park afterwards to see if you  
won a prize.

Prizes:

- Chamber's Choice
- Best decorated pet
- Best decorated bicycle
- Most original
- Most patriotic group
- Best decorated wagon
- Red, White and Bluest



10:30 a.m. **Ice Cream Social**, held by the  
Clarkdale Library Board  
**Cottonwood Community Band**  
**Children's Games and Activities**



**Volunteers are needed for the July 4th events.**

## Fire District

The Clerk of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors has notified the Clarkdale Fire District Organizing Board that the required number of petition signatures were not obtained to form the Clarkdale Fire District. Failure to obtain the required signatures prevents the Board of Supervisors from authorizing formation of the Fire District.

The Town recognizes that the ability of the Town's Fire Department to provide quality fire and emergency medical services is a critical issue for our community, and the Town's support of the formation of the Fire District was in direct response to



addressing the funding challenges connected with providing quality services.

The Fire Chief and Town Manager will be developing proposals to take to the Town Council during this year's budget process. Those proposals will address some of the current shortfalls in the Fire Department's resources.

Volunteers with the Fire District Organizing Board are currently reviewing alternatives to undertake a new effort to form the District.

## Proposed Sewer fee increase for 2005-06

In March 2004, town staff prepared a comprehensive wastewater fee study that included the following:

- The amount of revenues needed to support the design and construction of necessary upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment facility
- Wastewater rates and fees based on the projected revenue requirements
- A proposed wastewater fee schedule for the next 10 years.

This study is the basis for the proposed sewer user fees for fiscal year 2005-06.

| <b>Proposed Sewer Rate Changes:</b>                    | <b><u>Actual 2004-05</u></b> | <b><u>Proposed 2005-06</u></b> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Residential  | \$19.80                      | \$20.47                        |
| Commercial/Industrial/Institutional<br>(per 1000 gal.) | \$ 1.90                      | \$ 1.90                        |

**The public can give input on this proposed increase at a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at 6 p.m. in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse. The proposed fees would go into effect July 1, 2005.**

## SWIMMING POOL

7 Days a week

Open Swim Noon to 5 p.m.

Family/Lap Swim 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Swimming Lessons

June 13 to June 24 & July 11 to July 22  
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Register at Town Hall beginning June 1  
Children ages 5-15 \$25.00 per child

*Ask us about water aerobics*

### Pool Passes Available at Town Hall

Children, 20 visits, \$17(85 cents a visit)

Children, 40 visits, \$30 (75 cents a visit)

Adult, 20 visits, \$30 (\$1.50 a visit)

Adult, 40 visits, \$50 (\$ 1.25 a visit)

Family pass, unlimited visits, \$75

The pool may be heated this summer!  
Anyone wanting to donate towards a heater can contact Town Hall.

The pool is located behind the Clark Memorial Clubhouse on Ninth St. The pool is wheelchair accessible. Call Town Hall, 634-9591, for more information.

## Clarkdale POOL Opening!

*Saturday, May 28*

*10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Free Swimming, Games & Great food*

Brought to you by the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce & the Town of Clarkdale with lots of help from businesses and friends.





**Community Development  
Director  
Steven L. Brown**

I was born in Phoenix, Arizona. I received my undergraduate degree in

Urban Design from the College of Architecture at Arizona State University. I attended graduate school at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, studying Regional Planning.

My first professional position, in 1985 was as the Town Planner for the Town of Montague Massachusetts. Other positions I have held include: Assistant Planning Director for the City of Keene, New Hampshire; Planner for the City of Casa Grande; Planning Director for the Town of Cave Creek, Arizona; Tribal Planner for Yavapai-Prescot Indian Tribe; Long Range Planner in City of Prescott and I have worked for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz in a planning position. I spent approximately five years with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (DWR), working in the Phoenix Active Management Area, managing a water conservation grant program. I accepted a position with the Town of Clarkdale in August 2002, and have enjoyed my tenure with the Town very much.

I have studied and performed for five years with an African drumming ensemble and have had the pleasure of performing with various Blues artists in the past 10 years.

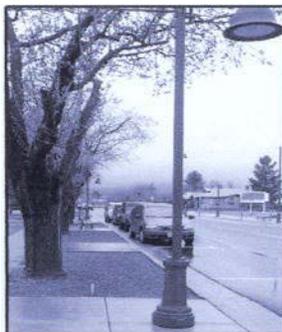
I recently built a home in the Patio Park section of Clarkdale, where I reside with my wife, and our two female canines, Bob and Earl. We love to travel to the little visited Mexican fishing villages on the coast of the Sea of Cortez, where I intend to retire some day with my wife, dogs, drums and sailboat.

**Downtown Enhancement Project Celebration**

A ribbon-cutting and Downtown Block Party will be held to celebrate the completion of the Downtown Revitalization Project! Main Street (and parts of some cross streets) has new lighting, landscaping, wider side walks, benches and bicycle racks.

**Main Street  
April 30<sup>th</sup>  
4 - 10 p.m.**

Tree grate and bench donor plaques are available.



**Free  
Concerts  
in the  
Clarkdale Park**



**Major Lingo**

"International Rock/Roll"  
Saturday, May 7th 6-8 p.m.

**Mike Reeves Band**

"Variety Classic Rock and Roll"  
Saturday, May 28th 6-8 p.m.

**Janice Paul Combo**

"Straight Ahead Jazz"  
Saturday, June 11th 6-8 p.m.

**Midlife Crisis**

Saturday, June 18th 6-8 p.m.

**Johnny Lingo Trio**

"Folk, Pop, Blues"  
Saturday, July 23rd 6-8 p.m.

**Vicky Pratt Keating Blue Apples**

"Celtic Music"  
Saturday, September 10th 6-8 p.m.

**Sentimental Journey**

"Big Bands",  
Saturday, September 17th, 6-8 p.m.  
Sponsored by  
Clarkdale/Jerome Lions

**Jaun Way y de Vatos Azul**

"Latino Blues"  
Saturday, September 24th, 6-8 p.m.

**Obsidian Blues**

"Jammin Blues and Rock and Roll"  
October 1, 6-8 p.m.

Bring your family, friends, chairs and dinner for an evening of entertainment.

A 50/50 raffle will be held. Proceeds to benefit Parks and Recreation, making events like these possible.

No alcohol allowed in the Park

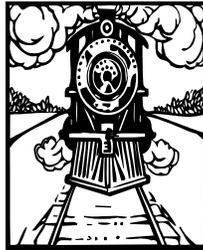
**Sponsors still needed.**



## Council Agenda Information

The information that is given to the Council about the items on the agenda for a Council meeting may be viewed at Town Hall and the Library beginning the Friday afternoon prior to a Tuesday 6:00 p.m. meeting. Town Hall is open 8:30 - 4:30. The library hours are Friday 1:00 to 4:00, Monday 11:00 to 4:00 and Tuesday 1:00 to 6:00.

## Verde Canyon Railroad



The Town Council proclaimed March 30, 2005 as Verde Canyon railroad Day. On this day the Railroad celebrated their One Millionth customer. The Railroad was established in Clarkdale on November 15, 1990.

### *April - Canyon In Full Bloom*

All Month Bald eagle and eaglet watching  
All Month Hillside in bloom

### *May - Throw Momma On the Train*

May 5 Cinco de Mayo Celebration  
May 8 Throw Momma on the Train  
(Mother's Day)  
May 13 1st Grape Train Escape  
(wine-tasting)  
May 28 1st Sat. Night Starlight Tour

### *June - Throw Papa On the Train*

June 3 Grape Train Escape  
(wine-tasting)  
June 19 Throw Papa on the Train  
(Father's Day)  
June 25 Saturday Night Starlight Tour

### *July - Starlight and Fireworks*

July 4 Firecracker Express  
July 8 & 22 Grape Train Escapes  
(wine-tasting)  
July 2 & 30 Saturday Night Starlight Tours

## Town Manager Gayle Mabery

Born in Cottonwood and raised in Clarkdale, Gayle Mabery is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Town Manager in the Town of Clarkdale since the adoption of the Council-Manager form of government in Clarkdale in 1981. She has served the Town Council and the citizens of Clarkdale as Town Manager since 1998.

"I attended Northern Arizona University and earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1992. It was through the NAU Business College that I had the opportunity to complete an internship with the Town of Clarkdale during my second year of college. The internship provided me with my first exposure to municipal government, and, finding the experience immensely rewarding, I returned to work for the Town the next summer as well. Shortly after I graduated from NAU, I was offered the Town Clerk's position in Clarkdale, which I accepted in May, 1992.

During my tenure with Clarkdale, I was extremely fortunate to have been mentored by both of Clarkdale's former Town Managers, each of whom demonstrated faith in my abilities to move forward in our organization and provided me with challenging opportunities in the positions that I held. In 1998, I was appointed for a brief term as Interim Town Manager, and, in March that year was appointed to the Town Manager's position.



I am a full member of the International City/County Management Association and a board member of the Arizona City/County Management Association. Through those associations, I am fortunate to have developed a network of colleagues and information that have proven invaluable in my position as Town Manager. I am also a graduate of the University of Arizona's Southwest Leadership Program, and I enjoy representing the Town of Clarkdale in a variety of settings in our region and at the State level." For a more complete biography, visit the Town's website at [www.clarkdale.az.us](http://www.clarkdale.az.us).



### Wanted: Assistants in Disaster

The Clarkdale Police Department is developing a list of individuals to assist in an emergency or natural disaster. Any and all skills are needed, from emergency medical, communications, contractors, laborers, administration, etc. If you could help, contact Officer Nester (Emergency Management Director) at the Clarkdale Police Department to be added to the list of Assistants in Disaster (AIDs).

#### AID Information Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Would you need help in an evacuation?

The Clarkdale Police Department needs to know if you have any disability that would cause concern during an evacuation for an emergency or natural disaster. If you are not able to freely leave your residence without assistance because of a disability during an emergency, or if you know of someone that meets these parameters that is unable to contact the police department on their own, please contact Officer Nester at the Clarkdale Police Department to be added to a confidential list of citizens that require special assistance

Officer Nester (Emergency Management Director) can be reached at 634-7240 or by e-mail at [cdpd@clarkdale.az.us](mailto:cdpd@clarkdale.az.us). If you prefer, please cut off the attached information sheet and mail it to the Clarkdale Police Department ATTN: Officer Nester P. O. Box 308 Clarkdale, AZ 86324.

#### Special Needs Information Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nearest Relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nearest Relative Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor/Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Disability: \_\_\_\_\_ Medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistance Needed: (wheel chair, bed ridden, etc., if known)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Town of Clarkdale

### BUS TRIPS!



#### Dinner Shows

“Dinner” shows are at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Phoenix. Lunch is a buffet with a salad bar.

*Sound of Music* - Sat., June 18  
*Nonsense* - Sat., August 20

Cost: \$40 per person, includes show, lunch, transportation, tax, gratuity

#### Baseball Games

AZ Diamondbacks vs Dodgers  
Sun., May 29 \$26.00  
AZ Diamondbacks vs Braves  
Sun., July 24 \$28.00  
AZ Diamondbacks vs Rockies  
Sat., Sept .17 \$28.00

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. All bus trip reservations will be taken at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Payment is required at the time of reservation.

Tickets are non-refundable. However, if there is a waiting list, we will attempt to sell your ticket for you. If you are unable to come to Town Hall to register during these hours, please call or email Coleen ([coleeng@clarkdale.az.us](mailto:coleeng@clarkdale.az.us), 634-9591) to make special arrangements.

Children are welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Transportation is by air-conditioned yellow school bus.



On Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, over 100 people enjoyed the official dedication of the refurbished Gazebo. The event was kicked off with the special flag that was donated by Mold In Graphics flying while the VFW Post 7400 held their flag ceremony. The community band played some of the "old" favorites. The refurbishment of the Gazebo could not have been accomplished without all those who gave to the cause. The following is a list of contributors who gave not only financially but part of their heart as well.

## Gazebo Donations

### Individuals & Families

Paul Albert  
 Albu/Goldstein  
 Joseph & Adele Altieri  
 Linda Anderson-McDonough  
 Anonymous Donors  
 Elizabeth-Rose Augusto  
 Charlottemarie Baragar  
 Janet Baser  
 Robert Beltz  
 George L. Benatz Sr. Family  
 Michael Bluff  
 Jean Bright  
 Pep Bright  
 Jerry Butterbrodt  
 Donna & Ken Chesler  
 David and Sandy Conlin  
 Gina Covell  
 Rebecca Cranmer  
 J. & D. Dalton  
 Ruth Deneen  
 Thomas & Danice Dunning  
 Jeanette P. Durgain  
 David Ellison  
 Willie Fuller  
 Joan Goodrich  
 Shirley Goodrich  
 Paul Green  
 Donald Greenwood  
 Pat Harris  
 Gary Hellems  
 Maury & Karen Herman  
 Ernie & MaryBeth Hill  
 Thomas G. Hoatson  
 Thora Hodge  
 Richard & Ruth Hoffman  
 Bill Hopkins  
 Harold Johnson  
 Alfred L. Johnson  
 Alice Keith  
 Richard & Joan Kenney  
 Mr. & Mrs. George F. Kiser, Sr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kovv

Ree Kramer  
 Reed & Stacy Kramer  
 Greg & Carmen Kremer  
 In memory of Will Lademan  
 Mary Liggitt  
 Terry and Martha Lysell  
 Scott, Gayle, Bailey & Morgan  
 Mabery  
 Jack Mayes  
 Robert & Joan Middleton  
 John Minnick  
 David Mumy  
 Barbara Crawford Myers  
 Madison Myers  
 Donna Neuleib  
 Robert & Emma Ochoa  
 Joyce & Jim Parsons  
 Rosa Peretto  
 Don & Norma Pinson  
 Louis Principali  
 Henri & Robyn Prud'homme  
 In memory of Emma Rakay  
 In memory of Sam Rakay  
 Susan Rakay  
 Dewey & Laura Reieron  
 Velma Lewis Rezzonico -  
 In Memory of Blanche Lewis  
 Merton Richards/  
 Corbin Vandemoer  
 Evelyn & Bill Roberts (Pesterfield)  
 Cecil Rogers  
 Florence Schauffler  
 Wayne & Marylyn Schumacher  
 Schweitzer Family Trust  
 Jack & Shirley Seitz  
 Tommy Sherman family  
 Angie (Zanetta) Sherwood  
 Robert L. Shultz, Jr.  
 Mrs. George Siler  
 Della Smith  
 Bill Snyder  
 Jeff Steed & Edgar Ball  
 Richard & Jacqueline Stephens  
 Huguette Swain  
 Louise Taback

Phil & Candy Temmer  
 Emilia Torrez  
 In loving memory of Gene Tutt  
 Dick & Jeanette Volk  
 Kenneth & Patricia Watson  
 Bruce & Marsha Weber  
 Bill & Joan Weeks  
 Gerald and Dorothy Weleba  
 R. Kay Wilcox  
 Col. & Mrs. Henry M. Wilson (Ret.)  
 Jerry Wombacher  
 David Woodring  
 James Woodring  
 Jean Young

### Businesses & Organizations

Alcora Marble  
 Bananas! Gifts Inc.  
 Bent River Machine  
 K. Cannon Real Estate -  
 Katie Cannon  
 Clarkdale Antique Emporium -  
 Maria Montiel  
 Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce  
 Clarkdale-Jerome Lions Club  
 Clarkdale-Verde Kiwanis  
 Cottonwood Sears  
 Cottonwood Water Works  
 Joe Zunick's Hideaway  
 Mai Thai on Main  
 Mold In Graphics  
 Olsen's Grain  
 Phelps Dodge  
 Salt River Materials Group -  
 Phoenix Cement  
 Verde Canyon Railroad, LC  
 Verde Valley Compugraphics  
 Waste Management Inc.  
 Yavapai-Apache Nation

Donors are listed on a  
 plaque near the gazebo.

Thank you everyone!

## Library

By Charlotte Hawken,  
Library Manager

### UPCOMING BOOKS

#### May

1776  
4th of July  
Alibi  
Behind the Lines  
Blinding Light  
Blood From a Stone  
Broken Prey  
Closers  
Hot Kid  
Inside the Wire  
Italian Secretary  
Marker  
One Sunday Morning  
Person or Persons Unknown  
Rage  
Zorro

David McCullough  
James Patterson  
Joseph Kanon  
Andrew Carroll  
Paul Theroux  
Donna Leon  
John Sandford  
Michael Connelly  
Elmore Leonard  
Erik Saar  
Caleb Carr  
Robin Cook  
Amy Ephron  
Anthea Fraser  
Jonathan Kellerman  
Isabel Allende

#### June

Act of War  
Always Time to Die  
Cross Bones  
Dance of Death  
Devil's Corner  
Fire Sale  
High Plains Tango  
Killing Time  
Lie by Moonlight  
Marriage Most Scandalous  
Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana  
One Shot  
Shadows  
Specimen Days  
Traveler  
Velocity  
Wonder Spot

Dale Brown  
Elizabeth Lowell  
Kathy Reichs  
Douglas Preston  
Lisa Scottoline  
Sara Paretsky  
Robert James Waller  
Linda Howard  
Amanda Quick  
Joanna Lindsay  
Umberto Eco  
Lee Child  
Edna Buchanan  
Michael Cunningham  
John Twelve Hawks  
Dean Koontz  
Melissa Bank



#### July

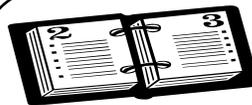
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince J.K Rowling

Online catalog:

[www.yavapailibrary.org/clark.htm](http://www.yavapailibrary.org/clark.htm)

### Library Hours

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



## 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 Street  
TH - Town Hall, Conference Room, 890 Main Street  
LB - Library Basement, 39 N. Ninth Street

- Apr 30 **Downtown Ribbon Cutting**, 4-10 p.m. 
- May 3 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
- May 5 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
- May 9 Parks & Recreation, 1 pm, TH
- May 10 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
- May 16 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
- May 18 Heritage Conservancy, 5:15 pm, CML
- May 24 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
- May 28 **Pool Opening**, 10 am, Free swim
- May 30 Town offices closed, **Memorial Day** 
- June 2 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
- June 7 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
- June 13 Parks & Recreation, 1 pm, TH
- June 14 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
- June 15 Heritage Conservancy, 5:15 pm, CML
- June 18 Bus trip, **Sound of Music**, 9 am, TH 
- June 20 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
- June 28 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
- July 4 Town Hall Closed, **Independence Day**  
**Old Fashioned 4th of July - Uptown Park**  
**6 am Liberty Run**  
**7 am Pancake Breakfast**  
**10 am Children's Parade**  
**10:30 am Ice Cream Social**   
**Cottonwood Community Band**
- July 7 Library Advisory Board, 9 am, CML
- July 11 Parks & Recreation, 1 pm, TH
- July 12 Regular Council, 6 pm, ML
- July 18 Planning Commission, 6 pm, ML
- July 20 Heritage Conservancy, 5:15 pm, CML
- July 26 Special Council, 6 pm, ML
- Aug 2 **National Night Out**

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

## KIOSKS

The Town has installed the first of two neighborhood **kiosks** (message centers) at the intersection of Sky Drive and Old Jerome Highway. Next time you're walking in that area, stop by and see what's new!

## Important Numbers:

Fire Department, non-emergency: 639-4591  
Police Dept., non-emergency: 634-7240 or 634-2921  
Cemetery Manager: 634-9591  
Clark Memorial Library: 634-9760  
Municipal Court: 634-1691  
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](mailto:townhall@clarkdale.az.us)

Town of Clarkdale Website: [www.clarkdale.az.us](http://www.clarkdale.az.us)

## “Quality of Life” Codes and Ordinances

Mayor’s Corner by Mayor Doug Von Gausig

Over the next few months the planning staff, Planning Commission and Town Council will be reviewing what I call our “quality of life” codes and ordinances. These govern issues such as clean air, dark night skies, noise, dust control, water conservation, landscaping, protection of steep slopes, utilities concealment, signage, sustainability and other aspects of the modern world that impact our daily quality of life. While it’s true today that our town is blessed with excellent quality of life, the impacts of growth on our community will continue to mount. I believe that the time to get these codes and ordinances in place and written correctly is before they become crucial, not after it’s too late.

Clarkdale’s current codes already address many of these issues. However, only recently have we been faced with the large developments and rapidly growing populations that will bring new challenges to our way of life. With this in mind, the Town Council, during its Strategic Planning Sessions, identified the future quality of life of our citizens to be one of our most pressing responsibilities. We decided that if we are to guide our town to a vital, prosperous and sustainable future, these “rules to live by” must be carefully considered. Municipal planners are well aware that the most prosperous and “liveable” towns are those that take the best care of their environments. In our sessions, we talked about which towns we enjoyed visiting and which had the most community pride and spirit. These are the towns that have taken great care to see that their communities are safe, clean, and vibrant. We decided that Clarkdale could and should be one of those towns, and that the time to start down that road is now.

How will we do this? The first steps will be to review

the codes and ordinances that we currently have in place. Some of these may already provide the necessary protections, some will need only a bit of tweaking, and some will need to be written or revised totally. Such an intensive study and revision of town codes will be a time consuming and expensive proposition. We had to consider how we were going to do this without swamping our Planning Commission and stressing our budget. It looks like the best way to get this done correctly and in a timely fashion is to let the pros go to work on it. We have had our planning staff begin the review and will probably have our town engineers, with their vast experience in municipal planning issues, research and polish the items that most need their professional touch. We’ll pay the cost of the study and implementation using some of the one-time fees generated by development, mostly in the form of building permit fees.

We will also be looking at a set of charges that cities and towns can assess new development to help offset the costs of the growth they bring and to help us guide our growth in appropriate directions. These are usually called “impact fees.” Impact fees are one of a growing community’s best and most effective planning strategies. They help place the cost of new growth on those that bring that growth, and they can be used to help meet the town’s planning goals.

If you are interested in sound quality-of-life planning and effective growth management, I urge you to keep informed about town issues in the coming months. Read the agendas of the Planning Commission and the Town Council, and come to the meetings that will address these issues. There is a lot of work to be done and, with your help, we’ll get it done right and soon, before it’s too late!