

## Happy 2020 Census Year, Clarkston is Counting on You!

By Terry Sanders

*Complete the 2020 Census anytime, anywhere!*

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

### 2020 Census Guide

**What is the Census:** Census counting of everyone in the United States is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation via postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau, to complete a short census questionnaire, either, online, by phone, or by mail. The 2020 Census will mark the first time that the census can be completed online.

**Why This Count is Conducted:** The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

**Your response matters:** The census data collected can shape many different aspects of your community.

- *Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding---for health clinics, fire departments, schools, even roads and highways---will flow into states and communities each year.*
- *The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.*
- *It's mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.*

**Your privacy matters:** Every US Census employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics.

**By law, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. That's protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code.**

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

### TO COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS CLARKSTON RESIDENTS SHOULD:

- **COMPLETE** the 2020 Census before or by April 1, 2020
- **KEEP** the US Census Invitation (Postcard) with your Census ID needed to complete the survey
- **COUNT EVERYONE** living in your home, including children 5 years old and younger
- **TELL and REMIND EVERYONE** of the importance of completing the 2020 Census
- **CELEBRATE COMPLETION!**

### How Census Data Impacts Your Community:

Did you know that U.S. Census Bureau data helps communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments? A new school to ease overcrowded classrooms. A new road to ease overcrowded commutes. There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The census data collected helps to determine how billions of dollars in federal funding will be given to states and communities each year after the census has been conducted.

**Important Date:** By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

*Continued on page 3*



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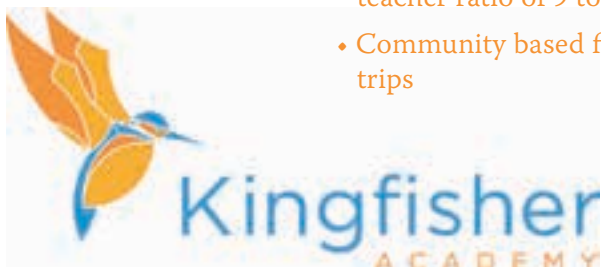
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## 2020 Census Guide *(Continued)*

**Overall Timeline:** Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way:

- **January 2020:** The Census Bureau begins counting the population in remote Alaska.
- **Mid-March 2020:** U.S. Census Bureau will mail postcards to every household in the United States about completing a brief census survey. April 1, 2020, Census Day, is the deadline for households to complete the survey online, by mail or telephone.
- **March 23, 2020:** Census website will go live. If you have not completed the census online by April 8, you will receive a reminder letter with a paper survey. Census staff may follow up for in person interviews in May-July 2020.
- **April 1, 2020:** Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation (via mailed postcards) to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

- **April 2020:** Census takers begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.
- **May 2020:** The Census Bureau begins visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted.
- **December 2020:** The Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.
- **March 31, 2021:** By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

**Census Day 2020:** April 1, 2020 is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1. Census Day will be celebrated with events across the country.



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## City of Clarkston's 2020 Census Plans, Actions and Goals

With the year of the 2020 Census upon us, the City of Clarkston will in 2020, implement new initiatives, sponsor more census-centric events and continue its 2019 tried and true efforts to increase awareness and participation up to and beyond the national 2020 Census day, April 1, 2020.

To date the City of Clarkston---in efforts to increase awareness of the 2020 Census and to up the number of participants among Clarkston residents---has done the following in 2019:

- Created, communicated, adopted and launched a 2020 Census awareness campaign
- On July 22, 2019, the City of Clarkston formed and officially created a 2020 Census Complete Count Committee
  - Clarkston's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has 40+ members representing Clarkston's diversity and engagement
  - Held monthly City of Clarkston 2020 Complete Count Committee Meetings from July to November
- Among the first cities to join DeKalb County's 2020 Complete Count Committee
  - Clarkston the city, was selected as a National Night Out destination for Commissioner Larry Johnson's 2020 Census caravan
  - City representative serves on DeKalb County's 2020 Census Media Subcommittee
- Conducted 30+ community based and Community Partners' 2020 Census Briefings---with business owners, property managers, faith based and education leaders, etc---to enable 2020 Census information and documents distribution via their networks and affiliations
- Facilitated the formation of other 2020 Complete Count Committees to address counting children 5 years of age and younger, college students 2020 Census participation and to reach known difficult and challenging to engage communities and populations
- Held the very first-ever-known 2020 Census "Prep(arations) Rally!" as a community-based event
- Created Clarkston's customized 2020 Census participation invitation/postcard, that will be distributed ahead of receiving the official invitation/postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau
- Frequently, posted and published 2020 Census messaging on the City's social media platforms, in printed and online newsletters, incorporated messaging into Community Partners' events and activities
- Produced episodes of the City's radio shows, Clarkston Speaks and Conversations With Council, dedicated to inform, engage and educate listeners about the 2020 Census





## Clarkston City Council Passed City's FY 2020 Budget

After holding two public hearings---the first on November 26th at council's Work Session and again on December 3rd before council's regular meeting---during which proposed budget presentations by City Manager Robin Gomez were conducted to council and the public, Clarkston City Council unanimously approved the City's 2020 Budget in the amount of \$13,164,759, on December 3, 2019.

The 2020 Budget has a decrease in both the Expenditures and Revenue funds when compared to the 2019 budgeted amount of \$15,043,207. With the 2020 General Fund Operating Budget having a slight increase in 2020 of \$376,390 and totaling \$6,758,858; 2019 total was \$6,382,468.

Highlights from the City's FY 2020 Budget included detailed department-by-department expenditures increases and/or decreases:

**Administration Department:** FY 2020 expenditures of \$1,170,048, \$95,058 less than FY 2019, \$1,265,106, mainly due to one-time retiring employee payouts in 2019, offset by increases in salary, health insurance and retirement contributions in 2020. Administration expenses are 17.3% of the total General fund Budget.

**Police Department:** FY 20 expenditures of \$2,085,699, a 3.4% increase over FY 2019, mainly attributable to a 3% salary increase; and represent 30.9% of the City's total General Fund budget.

**Municipal Courts:** Represent 7.7% of the City's General Fund Budget, expenditures for these courts were budgeted at \$518,368, a decrease of 12.9% from FY 2019's \$595,193; result of declining court fines and forfeitures revenue, retirement of one employee and the elimination of a full-time position.

**Public Works Department:** FY 2020 operating budget is \$1,148,667 a decrease of \$9,432 from the 2019 budget of \$1,158,099; FY 20 budget represents 17% of the General Fund Budget.

**Planning and Development Department:** FY 20 budget of \$478,764 encompass 7.1% of the City's General Fund Budget, an increase of \$149,330, from the \$338,275 allocated in 2019. The increase is afforded for \$100,000 worth of Professional Services commissioned to conduct a Zoning Code Review, \$5,000 GIS software upgrade/installation, and \$25,344 total increase for personnel salaries and benefits.

**Other line items in the City's 2020 FY Budget include:** Community Action Projects totaling \$196,500, General Fund appropriations for Debt Services Payments---State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) loan with budgeted payment of \$186,795, Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), to be used as a gap loan until property taxes are collected in the fourth quarter of 2020, estimated interest Budget, Capital Lease with annual payments of \$48,200 for the next five years, in anticipation for purchasing a Bucket Truck (\$86,000) and a Trash Truck (\$135,000), for the City's Public Works Department---totaling \$840,412, an increase from 2019's \$764,284.

**FY 2020 Budget also include funding sources:** \$1,800,000 from SPLOST (Special Purposes Local Option Sales Taxes), to be used in making payments for a \$5,150,000 SPLOST Bond issued in 2018 and for the FY 2020 issuance of another SPLOST Bond (\$3,000,000) to complete SPLOST projects throughout Clarkston. SPLOST Fund budgeted expenditures total of \$3,761,307 include bond principal payment of \$750,000 and both bonds interest payments of



\$204,693. The City plans to repay these bonds from SPLOST Funds received over the next six years, which is the life-cycle of SPLOST funding.

**Storm Water Utility Fund:** FY 2020 revenue of \$303,020 will continue to address stormwater maintenance issues and work on three major projects estimated to cost \$255,000. Stormwater per unit fees will remain the same at \$63.96 for the year, billed with annual property tax bill.

**Sanitation Enterprise Fund:** FY 20 revenue of \$217,900 with proposed expenditures of \$197,608 that will likely include a contract change further lowering over-all City expenditures through a potential elimination of recycling. Fees will be billed (similar to sanitation, on the annual property tax bill) at \$213.21 per unit.

**Grants Funds:** The City expects to receive the following grants: \$666,347 from the FHWA/ARC for Clarkston's Streetscape projects, \$90,000 from GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) local maintenance and improvement grant and \$4,000 for ballistic vest reimbursement from the US Department of Justice.

# Indian Creek Elementary Builds Toward the Future

After the conclusion of a Groundbreaking Ceremony, Principal Stephanie Brown-Bryant, escorted DeKalb County School District and Board representatives out to the construction site to officially break ground for the new Indian Creek Elementary School. As they tossed the dirt from the symbolic shovels, the vision of what is to come and that has been described as a “state of the art” new school--was not lost by those in attendance.

When completed the new Indian Creek Elementary will feature a building that will house 1,200 students with a total capacity of 1,600. The new building will retain the current address, but will have so much more for students. There will be a new and improved playground, courtyard, and gymnasium

DeKalb County School District has stated that the new Indian Creek will be the largest elementary school, in square footage---151,000---and capacity. The estimated total cost of the new school is \$43 million and projected to open in 2021 during the 2020-2021 school year.

Indian Creek Elementary opened its doors in 1961; and like other schools in the district, it is experiencing overcrowding and has outdated construction constraints and conditions. The old Indian Creek building will be torn down and replaced with playgrounds that will provide mixed usage.



# Career Day at Indian Creek Elementary School

In further efforts to inform and equip Indian Creek students about career paths and opportunities that they can pursue, the school held its annual Career Day.

The City of Clarkston participated in the annual Career Day to educate students on City provided services, that include, waste management, public safety, zoning, communications and administrative. Other participants were representatives from Delta Airlines, US Military Armed Services, DeKalb County Fire & Rescue, and the federal Justice Department.

Grade-by-grade, 1st-5th, students entered the school’s cafeteria to view career vendors’ displays, ask questions, learn more about careers in public and private sectors and to get some vendors supplied swag/giveaways.



# Mayor Terry Spoke at Stone Mountain Rotary Club Meeting

Clarkston’s Mayor Ted Terry accepted an invitation to speak at the Stone Mountain Rotary Club monthly luncheon and meeting held at the Village German Restaurant & Bakery. During his presentation, Mayor Terry touted the City’s SPLOST, DOT and grant funded construction projects underway in Clarkston. He also detailed the housing options that will be provided after the tiny homes, cottage homes subdivisions and luxury townhomes developments are completed in 2020-2021.





# IRC Delivered Informative Refugees and Immigrations Briefing

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Executive Director, J.D. McCrary, presented refugees and immigration facts and figures--per federal policies, processes and procedures--during an informal briefing held in Clarkston.

"If and when we get back to being a welcoming country, there won't be as many service providers available that understand the system," said McCrary.

**What is IRC:** It is one of four refugee agencies servicing the Clarkston and the Atlanta Metro area. In 2016, now considered the most recent heightened intake time period in Georgia with 3,000 refugees resettled. The other refugee service agencies are New American Pathways, Lutheran Services of Georgia, now known as In Spiritus, and Catholic Charities. The World Relief agency has shut down operations due to the decrease of refugees coming to the US and Atlanta Metro area.

Refugee resettlement numbers have dropped significantly in the past year to an estimated total closer to 1,000 refugees resettled in the state of Georgia.

In that IRC is the largest of the refugee service providers, it processed half, 500, of those that came into Georgia.

**Defining refugees/asylees/undocumented:** A refugee is defined as someone who has had to flee their native born country and crossed an international border into a first country of refuge--for example someone from Somalia who is fleeing persecution could cross the desert to enter Kenya.

In stating that there are clearly defined distinctions between refugees--fleeing due to cause(s) beyond their control, asylum seekers--fleeing by choice, to make their arrival onto US soil, then retroactively declares the need for asylum; and then there are the "undocumented"--those seeking to enter the US illegally. McCrary hopes that the decision-makers will not nor continue to erroneously group or compare all of these persons into one big catch all title of refugees.

While this country is going through and experiencing a reduction in refugees admission due to policies of the current federal admin-

istration, globally, refugee populations are continuing to grow. There are more refugees now since World War II. It is estimated that there are in excess, more than 26,000,000 throughout the world. And if adding those who have fled not only their country, but their homes, those who were denied citizenship even within their home country and those who have fled one part of their home country for another--also known as IDPs (Internally Displaced People)--that global refugee total is 70,000,000 plus.

**Detention camps:** The country that has the most of the 5,000,000 refugees from Syria who have fled due to the Syrian conflict, is Turkey. With refugee volume consideration, it has been determined that often times the first site of refuge might not be the best for a "durable solution" stated McCrary. In the first country of refuge, refugees are subject to be housed in camps for extended periods of time until, ideally, they can return to their homes. Far more frequently, refugees' homelands are no longer experiencing 1-2 year long civil wars, that are now 10, 20 or 30 year wars--as evidenced in Syria, Burma with ethnic cleansing, and Somalia; all believed to be protracted on-going situations.

The average stay in a refugee camp, a year ago, was eight years; now it is in excess of a decade. It is no longer true to think of refugee camps a temporary. In reality refugee camps are now cities with infrastructures, but are also causing hardships to the refugees in them that do not have the rights and/or abilities needed to rebuild their lives because they are living in these camps. Adults are not allowed to work and children are not permitted to go to schools. Therefore, full integration into social and societal institutions is not achieved. And a lot of people are languishing in these camps because they do not have the proper documents--i.e., birth certificates, high school diplomas, etc.--to prove who they are.

IRC, while not necessarily considered to be the primary service provider in these camps, does provide some specific services, i.e., health and wellness, adult education, youth and children services, and other social services.





**Resettlement:** To begin the journey of resettling as a refugee, after fleeing their country, be they in refugee camps or not, they must first register with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission of Refugees). Of the 26,000,000 refugees less than 1% actually find a third country of resettlement, even after going through an extensive, multiple years, vetting process---i.e., are put through every national security and law enforcement database, examined to ensure that they do not have any communicable diseases, must tell their stories multiple times and it must match theirs and their families every time it is told, biometrics---i.e., fingerprints, rectal scans and bloodwork, DNA, etc.,---are done to prove who you are, claim to be. After passing all of these stringent requirements and more, qualified refugees are then placed into a pool and the UN and the countries that might accept refugees work together to process those seeking resettlement.

“Let me dispel a common misnomer---refugees do not get to decide nor determine which country they go to for resettlement,” said McCrary. “You, as a refugee, are not necessarily involved in that process at that point. It is kind of like a lottery. It is not possible to navigate this system by falsifying who you are.”

Another dispelled misnomer by McCrary is the belief that terrorists are coming into the US as refugees, that he said is simply “not true”. He went on to state that if you were a terrorist seeking to come to America, it would be easier to swim to the US than going through the refugee system, that has no guarantee of entrance into a preferred country.

Other resettlement countries include Austria, Sweden, and Japan that takes in one family annually, with the US being the traditional largest program in terms of actual refugees admitted. However, when defined by actual percentage of the US population, the country falls in the middle of resettlements. In the last couple of years the US has lost the title of being a resettlement leader.

In 2018, the country that took in the most refugees for resettlement was Canada.

After a country’s government satisfies its vetting requirements and processes, positive proof of refugee identity is done and an invitation has been extended from a resettlement country, specifically the US Atlanta Metro area, is when IRC gets involved. Reasons why refugees might come to the Atlanta Metro area could include: having relatives here, language is spoken by servicing agency, might be in need of some specialized medical attention---i.e., health care specialist, have a special needs child, etc.

Local IRC after receiving, in a two weeks time frame, notice from their national agency that a family is coming, must then secure housing, often times in an apartment complex, coordinate airport pick up, coordinate children being registered for school, entire family applies for social security cards, schedule doctor appointments to proceed with immunizations, and to address any health issues. IRC also enrolls adults into English as Second Languages (ESL) classes, start working with an employment specialist after refugee receives their social security card and employment authorization documents can legally, as a refugee, seek employment. Employment authorization documents are not inclusive of a green card; which can only be applied for after a year of arrival in the US and citizenship can be applied for, but is not required to stay in the US, after an additional four years of living in the US.

**Funding:** The federal government supports refugees for the first year via funding from two federal issued grants.

One of these grants, called the R&P (Reception & Placement) Program, come from the US Department of State---that also provides program oversight and compliance, and in cooperation with US Homeland Security, that does all of the overseas vetting of refugees seeking to enter the United States---is a direct IRC resettling partner. In this program every family member is allocated \$1,175, which IRC use to secure housing and to pay for administrative counseling and case management services. This program funding is designed to support refugees for the first 30-60-90 days.

After stretching funds if possible to the maximum of ninety days, R&P Program participants are then transferred from the State Department grant to the Health & Human Services grant funding with IRC bridging that transfer. Health & Human Services, specifically the Office of Refugee Resettlement has a program entitled Match Grant. The associated Match Grant dollar amount---which varies and is determined by the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s assessment of needs for refugees---is split between direct assistance and administration, and has a time period for support of four to five months, until refugees can support themselves, solely.

IRC, as a recipient of the Match Grant, must also raise matching funds that are intended to enable its continued support for refugees and families that are yet to become self-sufficient. Matching funds are documented to prove IRC’s compliance and allocations to families and individuals to whom they serve. This equals a ratio of 2-1; for every \$2 dollars that IRC receives from the Office of Refugee Resettlement it is expected to raise an additional \$1.

McCrary stated that it has been proven that refugees are not burdens on the systems---economically---they pay back everything that has been provided.

**At issue:** Each year the number of refugees admitted into the US is set, on October 1st, by the White House via what is called a “Presidential Determination”, thus the numeric fluctuation. In the last year of the Obama administration it was 110,000. This year, the third year of the Trump administration, that number is 18,000. As of October 26, 2019 the resettlement program still had not started (or resumed) which is causing the longest delay in the forty year history of the program. The federal Resettlement Program was signed into law in March 17, 1980 by Jimmy Carter.

Noting that for the first time, this year’s Presidential Determination was accompanied by an Executive Order ( #13888 issued on September 26, 2019), stating that this federal immigration policy is now dependent upon local municipalities, cities or counties as well as state governments, per governors for all fifty states, has to provide a letter of support or no refugees will be welcomed into cities, counties or states.

The Trump Administration gave the State Department ninety days to initiate this show-of-support process; the end of ninety days falls on Christmas Day. Governor Kemp had until December 25, 2019 to respond as to whether or not Georgia supports welcoming refugees into the state. It was acknowledged that this process is a lot of extra work for the State Department that is already managing a complex program.

Due to this being a new process, there is ambiguity surrounding its implementation and execution.

“That (Executive Order) is very concerning, because we don’t know quite where we stand on this subject. Here in Atlanta, the City of Atlanta, the City of Clarkston, DeKalb County, local officials like Michael Thurman, and Mayor Ted Terry have all been very supportive of diversity, immigration and refugees throughout their entire careers,” said McCrary. “But our (IRC) concern is with the State of Georgia, and what Governor Brian Kemp will say. He ran as an anti-immigrate governor, he never mentions refugees, which is a subset of overall immigration.

We are hoping, because we just don’t know, that this (procedure) will just be a bureaucratic approval process. And due to the anti-refugee climate in this country, we are not doing a full scale advocacy campaign,” said McCrary. “This may very well play itself out publicly due to possible AJC (Atlanta Journal Constitution) and local television stations coverage.”

### A Positive Painting Partnership

**Contributors: Shannon Willow, Artist and Rose Arnold, Program Director, Positive Growth, Inc.**



Positive Growth's residential youths partnered with local artist and eco-activist Shannon Willow to design and paint a large scale UNITY mural on the corner of Market Street and Indian Creek Drive in Clarkston.

“Over several work sessions with these young men, our theme became mammals and insects with inclusive traits and exhibitions, working and co-existing together, naturally. Using images of bees and a lion as a focus, we wanted to use the word UNITY to tie it all together. In this mural the letters in the word UNITY are used to divide the composition into a grid that allows a comprehensive exploration of the design and usage of colors,” said Willow. “Raising awareness of our deep connection to nature and to one another--when we work together--makes life that much sweeter.”

Willow and the Positive Growth housed young men, ages 12-18, began the process of painting the mural on October 14th and worked on it that entire week. They would also like to thank the mural's funding sponsors: Alternate ROOTS, a non-profit at work in the Southeast region addressing environmental and social justice issues and the City of Clarkston for providing funds to make this UNITY mural possible.

In efforts to get public mural painting participation, Willow and the youths also invited Clarkston communities and the public at-large to join them to support and contribute as hands-on creators of this Clarkston UNITY Mural.

Now that the mural is complete, the public is encouraged to stop by and view this positive and collaboratively created artwork up close and in-person.

### Ethne Health Clinic Settles Into New Clarkston Location

After one year of operations, Ethne Health--by growing its steady patient base and by offering health care services that meet the needs of those treated--simply outgrew its former location on Indian Creek Drive, thus making relocation inevitable.

Since opening its doors on October 26, 2019, at its new location, 4122 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 5, Ethne Health Clinic, has experienced even more growth with an increase in the number of patients treated. This uptick is attributed to having established a community-based health care approach, a heightened awareness of the clinic's presence in Clarkston, services and offerings, more exam rooms, more walk in slots during operating hours and more availability and access via scheduled appointments.

The new location amenities also include six (6) larger exam rooms, a spacious waiting room, an additional procedure room, a more sizeable laboratory and a dedicated family room for counseling sessions.

Setting a goal to raise \$100,000 will ensure Ethne's next growth phase. After reaching this goal, it is anticipated that Ethne will increase clinical hours, keep patient costs affordable, employ more full time staff and develop language interpretation through the usage of professionally trained local medical interpreters who speak the major languages of Ethne's patients.



## Mayor Ted Terry Showed Off Undisclosed Talent

Dancing to a country western “smash up” that included the cross-over billboard hit “Old Town Road”, Mayor Ted Terry and his professional dance partner Christian Taylor with Dance 411 troupe, showed off their well-rehearsed and competitive routine. Combining traditional and free-form dance moves, the “Dancing with the DeKalb Stars” contestants wowed the audience in the Porter Sanford Performing Arts Center.

The dance competition featured nine teams, comprised of a professional dancer and a notable member of DeKalb’s legal, public safety, business or civic community. C. David Moody, founder of CD Moody Construction, and partner Brentney J. with MAD, LLC, took home the 1st Place contest winning trophy after their retro 1980’s throwback performance.

Although Mayor Terry did not win the trophy, he certainly won over the hearts and minds of those in attendance with his fancy foot work.



## CDF Action Selected as Leadership DeKalb 2020 Class Community Project

After receiving a request from Leadership DeKalb to provide referrals and recommendations of non-profits in Clarkston from the City of Clarkston, CDF Action parent organization for the Children Early Learning Network (CELN) and the Tell Me A Story! Festival, was selected from numerous non-profits throughout DeKalb County to be a Community Project for members of the Leadership DeKalb Class of 2020.

“Thank you City of Clarkston for the introduction and connection to Leadership DeKalb Community Project. CDF Action WAS selected! I am delighted, because I have been wanting to reconnect with Leadership DeKalb for a while. The City of Clarkston has provided the ‘nudge’ and the ‘incentive’ to make that happen,” stated Roberta Malavenda, Executive Director, CDF Action.

Leadership DeKalb annually offers non-profits organizations opportunities to work closely with its classes and program participants deemed to be Community Service Projects.

Through the Community Service Projects (CSP) program, project teams specifically from the 2020 Class of Leadership DeKalb, are assigned to help non-profit organizations identify for implementation, marketing strategies, key messaging and branding, membership strategy, growth strategy development, operational effectiveness, business planning, organizational design, use of resources, and environmental scanning (i.e., trend/pattern analysis and opportunity/threat assessment. Does not refer to sustainability.), in efforts to create and/or improve, enhance the existing aforementioned deliverables.



# Recognitions



(L-R) Clarkston City Manager, Robin Gomez, (Former) City Councilman Mario Williams, FDHA Community Engagement Director, Beverly Burks and newly elected City Councilwoman, Debra Johnson attended FDHA's 8th Annual Healthcare Champions Awards Ceremony where Williams took home the Lew Horne Social Justice Champion Award.

## Councilman Mario Williams Honored With FDHA's Social Justice Champion Award

The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority (FDHA) awarded former Clarkston City Councilman and attorney, Mario Williams with the Lew Horne Social Justice Champion Award during the organization's 8th Annual Healthcare Champions Awards Ceremony.

Williams was recognized for his commitment to advocating for responsible policies and legislation to improve the lives of underserved populations. The award was presented to Williams by Beverly Burks, Director of Community Engagement, on behalf of FDHA's Board of Trustees.

For over 75 years, The FDHA, owners of the Grady Health System, has dedicated efforts to meet the needs of the indigent and medically underserved citizens of Fulton and DeKalb counties. Through education, advocacy and collaborative partnerships, FDHA promotes improved community outcomes.

FDHA's mission is to eliminate health disparities in our community by serving as a resource for individuals and families seeking information and access to quality health services, and by assisting public health professionals in overcoming barriers that may prevent them from providing needed care.



(Center) Robin Gomez, Clarkston City Manager joined other invited guests at FDHA's 8th Annual Healthcare Champions Awards Ceremony.



Ryan Cameron, radio personality, public address announcer for the Atlanta Hawks, game day announcer for the Atlanta Falcons and proud "Grady Baby", served as Master of Ceremony for the event.

## City Bids Farewell to Outgoing Council Members

To acknowledge their in-service contributions to improving Clarkston's residents quality of life, fiscal stewardship, city growth and development, former council members Andrea Cervone and Mario Williams received appreciation awards during City Council's last 2019 Council Meeting held on December 3, 2019.

Both Cervone and Williams stated their continued support, engagement and participation in advancing Clarkston's present and future-state growth, potential and progression.



## City's Market Street Streetscape Project Nets a GPTQ Preconstruction Design Award

Congratulations to the City of Clarkston's construction design firm, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood), for receiving the 2019 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Preconstruction Design Award for the City's Market Street Streetscape Project Renderings. The City's project nomination was submitted by Christopher Jung, Senior Engineer at Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) and City of Clarkston's Infrastructure Engineer, Larry Kaiser, Collaborative Infrastructure Services.

The 2019 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Preconstruction Design Awards recognize projects that demonstrate transportation planning and expertise, as well as a commitment to GPTQ's goals.

"...(Clarkston) City leaders were determined to design and construct an infrastructure project that would represent a true milestone and first step for economic growth and prosperity in a community that had not experienced an infrastructure project that exceeded \$100,000 in over 50 years. With that challenge, the city thoughtfully developed a game plan to change the face of the city for generations to come. The engineering and planning challenge facing the city was the desire to incorporate context sensitive design elements, let alone typical streetscape elements, into a project that afforded minimal opportunity for enhancements due to existing built infrastructure, utility constraints and RR right-of-way that encompassed the entire street footprint for a distance of 1.2 miles..."

## Clarkston Police Personnel Receive Multiple Awards for Exceptional Performances of Duties

Contributor: Harry Hess, Assistant Police Chief, City of Clarkston

For executing onsite due diligence and lifesaving actions at a crime scene, and for deploying effective investigative skills and abilities that lead to the quick apprehension of a shooting suspect, Clarkston Police Officers Alberta Fountain and Terri Brand, Sergeants Dustin Bulcher, Darien Haygood, Curly Sparks and Garfield Trumble along with Detectives William Miller and Joel Priest received Commendation Awards.



And the Investigative Award was also given to Sergeant Garfield Trumble, Detectives William Miller and Joel Priest for their ethical, professional and knowledgeable hard work that resulted in arrests in resolving multiple homicide cases.



## Get Engaged! Attend City of Clarkston Meetings

### PLANNING & ZONING MEETINGS

The next Planning and Zoning Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, starting at 7:00pm.

Clarkston City Hall, 3921 Church St,  
Clarkston, GA 30021

### WORK SESSIONS

Council Work Sessions are held on the last Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:00PM, at Clarkston City Hall, 3921 Church St, Clarkston, GA 30021

### CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Clarkston City Council Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:00PM, at Clarkston City Hall, 3921 Church St, Clarkston, GA 30021

For future meeting dates, visit the City of Clarkston website: [cityofclarkston.com](http://cityofclarkston.com)



## Clarkston is Counting on You!

### CLARKSTON 2020 COMPLETE COUNT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Last Monday of the Month, 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
Clarkston Woman's (Women's) Club  
3913 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

(Location is subject to change from regular venue given above.)

2020:

- Monday, January 27, 2020
- Monday, February 24, 2020
- Monday, March 30, 2020
- Monday, April 27, 2020
- Monday, May 25, 2020
- Monday, June 29, 2020



## 2020 PRE-WORK SESSION MONTHLY MIXERS SCHEDULE

Clarkston City Hall  
(3921 Church St, Clarkston, GA 30021)

6:00PM – 7:00PM

(Last Tuesday of the Month)  
(Dates are subject to change accordingly)

- Tuesday, February 25, 2020
- Tuesday, March 31, 2020
- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Tuesday, May 26, 2020
- Tuesday, June 30, 2020
- Tuesday, July 28, 2020



## CENTER FOR PAN ASIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES (CPACS)

Free/Low Cost Mammograms  
Appointments are available twice a month  
Contact: CPACS COSMO Health Center,  
770.446.0929

The Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) offers

### FREE/LOW-COST SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS

Appointments are available twice a month.

Contact the CPACS COSMO Health Center at 770-446-0929 to schedule today!

Logos for partners: JUVENILE DIABETES, AVON, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CPACS



## 2020 Clarkston Culture Fest Planning Meetings

6:30PM

Clarkston Woman's (Women's) Club,  
3913 Church Street, Clarkston, 30021

2020 Meetings Schedule:

- January 9, 2020
- February 13, 2020
- March 12, 2020
- April 9, 2020

## PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS DISPOSAL

Dispose of unused, expired and unwanted prescription drugs in Rx drop boxes in Clarkston!

**HOW to DISPOSE of Your MEDICATIONS** DeKalb County

**EVERY SINGLE DAY:**

- Over 1,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for missing prescription opioids, etc.
- More than 40 people die from overdoses involving opioids, etc.

**MISUSE**  
of a prescription drug means to use it in a way other than how it was prescribed.

**ABUSE**  
includes chronic or repeated misuse and/or taking the medication to experience a high.

**2/3** of those who misused prescription pain relievers report they got them from family and friends, including their family medicine cabinets, etc., etc.

**CAN'T GET TO A DROP BOX? FOLLOW THESE STEPS:**

1. Many locations have drop boxes where unused & unwanted prescriptions can be disposed (including hotels, libraries and schools).
2. Police departments, pharmacies, college campuses.
3. Mix drugs with a substance such as dirt, cat litter or coffee grounds.
4. Place the mixture into a rigid container with a lid.
5. Seal the sealed container in your household trash.
6. Scratch out all personal information from the prescription container's label before recycling or throwing it away.

For more information, visit [www.gadhs.org](http://www.gadhs.org)

**Prescription Drug Disposal Drop Box Locations in DeKalb County (By City)**

<b>Atlanta</b> Southwest Police Department 3401 Buford Highway NE Atlanta, GA 30329 Phone: 404-522-2200	<b>Dunwoody</b> Dunwoody Police Department 4800 Dunwoody Corporate Blvd Dunwoody, GA 30346 Phone: 478-852-4300
<b>Chamblee</b> Chamblee Police Department 3000 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd Chamblee, GA 30341 Phone: 770-962-0000	<b>Georgia State University</b> Northwest College Student Center, Main Entrance Lobby 1000 Mitchell Blvd University, GA 30308 Phone: 770-487-1100
<b>Clarkston</b> Clarkston Police Department 4017 North Street Clarkston, GA 30021 Phone: 404-601-4000	<b>Lithonia</b> Kaiser Permanente Memorial Medical Center Pharmacy 6700 North Decatur Rd Lithonia, GA 30058 Phone: 770-482-0700
<b>Decatur</b> Decatur Police Department 200 West Brady Street Decatur, GA 30030 Phone: 404-251-4000	<b>Stone Mountain</b> Stone Mountain Park Stone Mountain, GA 30087 Phone: 404-525-7400
<b>Georgia State University</b> DeKalb Campus 100 Building for Fine Arts 400 North Decatur Rd Decatur, GA 30030 Phone: 478-451-2000	<b>Tucker</b> Kaiser Permanente Memorial Medical Center Pharmacy 10000 North Decatur Rd Tucker, GA 30084 Phone: 770-486-0200
<b>Doraville</b> Doraville Police Department 2100 North Decatur Rd Doraville, GA 30095 Phone: 770-482-0000	<b>For more information go to:</b> <a href="http://www.gadhs.org/ToxBack">www.gadhs.org/ToxBack</a>



**CPACS, Center for Pan Asian Community Services,**

Invites refugees between the ages of 15-24 and who has lived in the United States for five (5) years or less, to join their mentoring program.



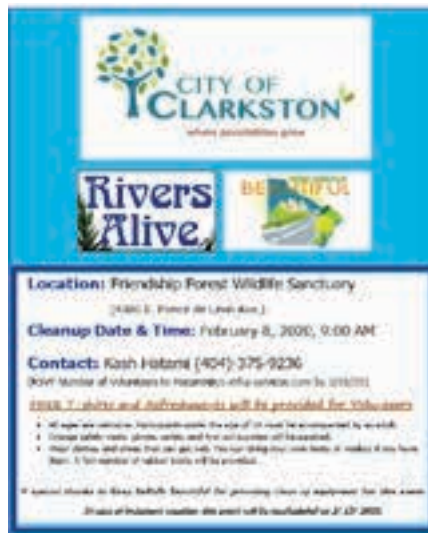
**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES SURVEY = \$25**



**2020 CENSUS NOW HIRING**



**CITY OF CLARKSTON POLICE WANT YOU TO PROTECT & SERVE!**



**Clarkston Community Center Offerings**

Enrich your life through learning by attending classes at the Clarkston Community Center, 3701 College Avenue, Clarkston, 30021

**Citizenship Classes**

The Literacy Action volunteers teach the information you need to pass your citizenship test.

When: Monday and Thursdays from 9:30 to Noon

**Computer Classes**

Do you need some quick and easy computer skills? We teach basic computer software skills, including Word, Excel, email, and virus protection.

To learn more or sign up, contact Justine at 404-508-1050

**Vietnamese Games (Seniors)**

Join us for a fun time playing traditional games

When: Every Tuesday from 9:00 to noon

**Tabala Martial Arts**

Tabala martial arts is offered for children and provides a natural holistic approach to life. Classes are on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00am. Contact: ezlearningsystems@gmail.com or phone 404-386-7769 to sign up for this fun class.

**Food Pantry**

Feeding our community members who are in need.

Where: Clarkston United Methodist Church, 3919 Church Street, Clarkston

When: Alternating Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30.



**Clarkston Early Learning Task Force**

Accepting Applications for qualified residents to serve on the Clarkston Early Learning Task Force

Please complete the Application: by January 31, 2020

For more information and/or to receive the Application by mail or email, contact Tracy Ashby, tashby@cityofclarkston.com

2950 Pangborn Rd. & 2966 Pangborn Rd.  
 Decatur, Georgia 30033  
 5 BR • 4.5 BA • ~ 1/2-acre lot • 3700 SF  
 Incredible Owner's Suite • 2-car garage  
 Open Floor Plan • Chef's Kitchen  
 Stepless entrance w/ full suite on main

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**Springbrook Park!**  
*only 2 homes left*



**Stunning Inside and Out!**

**Designer upgrades *without* builder upcharges!**

Enjoy a park-like back yard with privacy fence AND a gate ...  
 right into Springbrook Park and Community Garden.

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