The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community

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Note the Dates:

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Monday Ladies Night at the Claiborne Village Hall
5PM

April 4 – Movie Night
6:45 PM - Cartoons
7: 00 PM - Movie

April 11 – Soup and Movie Night
6:30 PM - Soup
7: 00 PM - Movie

April 21 (Saturday)
Association General Meeting
9 A.M. at the Hall
All are welcome

April Birthdays

10 – Martha Hamlyn
12 – Joshua Mills
23 – Linda Harper
30 – Terry Babb

Claiborne Association Annual Spring Potluck ..... Downsized

Our association bylaws require that we have a business meeting three times each year. Remember them? They are the famously short and sweet bits that happen just before we eat at the summer picnic and at the holiday potluck. It's been our custom to also have a Welcome Spring potluck as our third meeting. However, the work on our annex (so nearly done!) means our potluck space is severely clogged. So, here's our solution:

- **Coffee & Donut Meeting**
- **Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m.**

No fuss, no muss: all you have to do is come. We promise not to slow down your Saturday too much!

At this meeting, Claiborne Association (CA) members will vote on whether or not to change the association bylaws as they relate to membership. The proposed change was introduced at the December 2017 Potluck and General Meeting and is posted at the Village Hall for review.

Currently, Article II Membership, Section 3 allows for "Honorary and Associate Membership" for friends of Claiborne who reside outside of the community. Membership is granted by a vote of approval by the general membership. These members are then listed on the membership rolls and receive CA communications, but are not charged dues, nor do they have a vote.

The proposed change replaces "Honorary and Associate Membership" with "Friends of Claiborne Membership." This is still for people who reside outside of the community who want to become CA members. Membership is attained by simply requesting membership and paying annual dues. Friends of Claiborne members will be listed on the membership rolls and will receive CA communications but will not have a vote.

The Tree…

How an Old Car and Its Owner Became a Legend – *by Jim Richardson*

This long and involved story is about a beautiful tree, that until recently, stood in the front yard of the Claiborne Hall. To be more specific, it is a story about a very tall cedar tree that had a slight lean, for as long as I can remember, and lived there for almost eighty years. It is also a story about a car and its owner.

It begins with a walk in the late afternoon about three weeks ago, after several days of heavy rain and high winds. As Martha and I approached the Hall, she noticed the tree leaning towards the building more than it ever had. After further study, we determined that, if it fell on its own, it might take out the portico over the front door, the graceful entrance that Will Murdoch built. More high winds were due the next day.

Inside the Hall we found our board president, Rob Todd, busy painting newly-installed trim. Minutes later, Mary Gregorio came by to collect her mail. Discussion ensued. The first plan was to wait until morning and schedule a professional tree company to come and take it down. In the meantime, we would place flags and work horses along the sidewalk and parking spaces to warn people of the impending danger. All this seemed reasonable. Rob called Jake Flory to ask his neighbor, Jess Murphy, our resident professional landscaper, if it would be possible for his crew to do the work. Jake arrived in a flash in his ancient Mercedes station wagon dubbed "The Orange Cheeto". In only a few minutes Jake had come up with his own plan. Swept up in Jake's energy and convinced by his insistence that everything would be OK, Rob and I agreed to help. I didn't realize until later that "The Cheeto" would play an important part in his plan.

Jake rounded up several lengths of heavy rope, and one line light enough to fasten a heavy weight on its end, in order to throw it over a branch about 20 feet off the ground. After more than a few tries, he successfully passed the line over the branch and used this line as a "messenger" to run one of his heavier ropes through the opening. An extension ladder was placed against the tree so that he could fasten a knot around the trunk. After positioning the car perpendicular to the street and about 60 feet away, he attached the end of this long rope to a heavy bridle, which passed through both fully-opened backseat windows. This set-up, according to Jake, would prevent the tree, once cut, from falling on the building.

By now, it was getting dark. Rob went home for his chain saw, and Jake began cutting a wedge out of the tree, the scene illuminated only by the Hall's porch light. He carefully located his cuts in the exact direction that he wanted the tree to fall. Too far to the left, and it would take out Will's portico; too far to the right, and it would demolish my lovely sign for the Hall. As he worked, I noticed that our wives were gathered on the street a safe distance away. I'm sure that was a sign that they were fully confident in our expertise.

Get involved, stay informed

It is an exciting time in the restoration of the Village Hall/Resiliency Center. Express your ideas and learn what is being planned. Everyone is welcome when the Association Board meets; usually on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. **Association Board minutes are available at www.claibornemd.org/claiboard.php.**

Guest Editors Needed

The Clarion needs guest editors for 2018. If you are interested, please contact Pat Flory at patflory@gmail.com or 443-472-6800.

As soon as the cuts were made around the base of the tree, and when we heard some promising cracking noises, Jake ran to the car and quickly put her in drive. As he gunned the engine, the tires screeched and laid rubber on the pavement. Then slowly, slowly, the cedar gave in to our wishes and fell exactly where she was meant to - half-way between the portico and the sign. There was some cheering. that's when the wives left their vigil, shaking their heads in disbelief. (I was wrong; it turns out that they weren't confident after all!)

So, the next time you see Jake's car, remember, it's not just an old Mercedes station wagon, it's now a proud "Forester"!

P.S. – The tree will be taken to a “sawyer” to be milled and used for future building projects.

Oh, the Claiborne Fire

On Saturday, March 31st a fire was set at the Claiborne Landing in the outermost cluster of pilings at the old ferry slip. Five fire trucks, two fire department boats, and one fire chief truck responded. The fire was limited to that one spot and was taken care of in short order.