



The Claiborne Clarion



Published monthly by Claiborne residents for Claiborne residents
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The purpose of this newsletter is to acquaint and inform Claiborne residents.

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

March is the month for Michaels:

Michael Kabler March 13th
Michael Haddaway March 29th

Happy Birthday guys!

TOWN CLEAN-UP TIME AGAIN

If you want to be part of the next town clean-up project come to the Post Office at 9 AM on Saturday, March 31st.

THERE'S BEEN A BARN RAISIN'

You've all been asking so I asked Cathy Stinchcomb and she said "It's just a barn, not a McMansion"!

RETURN OF THE OSPREY

Nancy Clark has predicted that on March 19th the Osprey will return to its nest out on the pilings. Let's see how close she is to the date.

Knowing Nancy, that osprey can't be anything but right on time.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

From the tip of my Irish toes to the top of my Irish noggin' I wish all a happy St Patrick's Day. Don't let the name Reisert fool you. My parentage is Hayes and Brennan. Could you get much more Irish than that?

Okay, maybe Jerry Devine will take the winning ribbon in that category. Lest we forget the Guinness family down the lane. (Had to go to the 'frig to check my spelling).

PIG BITES LOCAL WOMAN!

And I saw the tooth marks! While on vacation last month, Martha Hamlyn was bitten on the right forearm by a local pig. It seems he had eyes for Martha, just didn't know how to express himself. -SWINE!

THE FIRST HARBINGERS OF SPRING

Our thanks to Sally Cockey for bringing two beautiful, fully blooming daffodils to the Post Office on Valentines Day! They were the first to appear so far this year.

Sally, you brightened the day for everyone who stopped to get their mail that day and for several days to follow!

Our sponsor for this month's Clarion is Jim Richardson. Thanks so much.

OUR LIBRARY

There are lots of great books to choose from at the post office/library. How lucky are we to have this at our disposal?

April Birthdays are coming. Do you know anyone that will be celebrating? You can email me with birthday info (for any month) at anytime. Claiborne@goeaston.net

Would you like to participate in a Town Wide Yard Sale in the Spring? Let me know. 410-745-6987

CLAIBORNE FIREFIGHTER HONORED

On February 10th a banquet was held at the Miles River Yacht Club. Nick Frock, who was "Fire Fighter of the Year '06" was honored for this achievement by the St Michaels Fire Department.

Nick has also served as a Trustee and was recently elevated to the rank of Fire Boat Captain for the St Michaels Fire Department.

Recently a 28' Metal Craft, a fire and rescue boat that was made in Canada was purchased by the Department and "Our Nick" will be its Captain.

Congratulation Captain Frock, Claiborne is proud of you and your achievements!

ICE BOATING

Isn't it nice that winter finally arrived - in February? The ice sailors were out in full force on the cove for days enjoying a brisk sail-about. There were 25 folks skating and drinking adult beverages at this the second annual "Fire on the Ice" event.

They even got their picture on the front page of the Star Democrat. This senior citizen was invited to the Friday evening ice party but declined stating "It's too cold and I'm too old".

IMPORTANT LETTER FOR ALL CLAIBORNE RESIDENTS:

Dear Patrons of the Claiborne Post Office:

In 1982, soon after we bought what was then Claiborne's general store, we took on the operation of the Claiborne Post Office. The U.S. Postal Service immediately began procedures to close our post office permanently. Only after strong vocal support from Claiborne residents, some national publicity and help from two members of Congress, were we allowed to

become a Contract Station, a designation meaning that we operate like a small post

office, but we, personally, are not postal employees and receive no postal benefits.

Seven years later, we asked for and were granted a small increase in our rate of compensation. We have been operating under that contract for 17 years. After we pay a fair wage to our part-time employee and pay our utility expenses, we don't make enough profit to make it worth our while to continue. We recently asked the U. S. Postal Service to re-negotiate our contract, asking for a raise based on cost of living increases. Their response was a clear refusal to consider any increase, and hinted that any insistence on our part would be met with the permanent closing of the office. Our feeling is that, after 25 years, we are no longer willing to operate the post office as a community service.

It is our hope that the Claiborne Post Office can remain open. We see it as not only a convenient and secure place for residents to send and receive mail, but also as Claiborne's only community center where people can see their neighbors on a regular basis, keep in touch with one another and share information. Most importantly, it is our feeling that our village would not be as cohesive a community as it is without its post office.

What we don't know is whether you, as residents, feel as we do. We'll be planning a community meeting sometime in the next month to hear your reactions, discuss our options and hear any ideas you may have for the future of the Claiborne Post Office.

Jim and Martha



Welcome Spring on the 21st and don't forget to Spring forward on the 11th.