

The Claiborne Clarion

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The purpose of this newsletter is to acquaint and inform Claiborne residents.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 9th Jane Nigra
May 14th Me
May 24th Betsy Desjardins
May 26th Carrie Gould-Kabler

ORCHIDS

Did you know that we have an orchid aficionado right here in Claiborne? Alice Sewell has about 30 different plants that she cares for. She invited me in to see them and I must say, they are just beautiful. She says it's not difficult to maintain them, you just have to have the right lighting. Yeah, right! If you have any questions about the care and feeding of orchids, Alice is the one to ask.

ROADWAY CLEANUP

On Saturday morning, May 19th Carrie Gould-Kabler and her merry band of pickers will gather at the Post Office around 9 AM and hit the streets in search of roadside trash.

SAGA OF THE INDIGENOUS ARBORETUM Part II

Last month you read about the curious tree growing here in town. The following is an update from Becky Otter:

I was wrong about the new tree. The leaves of the paw-paw hang down. The leaves of this tree are the same color and size, but stand out from the twig.

Captain Tim Frock knows a good bit about what grows on the Eastern Shore and I asked him to look at the tree. Captain Frock shook his head and suggested I take a sample to Adkins Arboretum. So, Paul and I took a trip to Tuckahoe State Park. The naturalist there crushed the leaves and stem sample we showed him and promptly said, "Magnolia". OH? He walked us to a yellow poplar, broke a stem and crushed the leaves. They smelled the same! Yellow poplar, sometimes called "Tulip Poplars" for their charming yellow and orange tulip-like flowers are also in the Magnolia family. Now, besides waiting to see if/when it will ever flower, it's off to the library to learn more.

PS Turkey droppings really mess up your shoes.

VILLAGE-WIDE YARD SALE

Looks like Saturday the 19th is going to be a pretty busy day in town. Co-hosts, Linda Harper and Marie Deck have advised me that's the date for our Village-Wide Yard Sale and the time is 8 AM to 1 PM. If you haven't already contacted Linda or Marie please do so ASAP. We'll be placing an ad in the Friday edition of the Star Democrat. So, dig out all that "stuff" you've been going to donate and join the fun.

PROM TIME

St Michael's senior class held it's prom on Saturday evening, April 28th. Several of the young ladies and gentlemen that attended were from Claiborne.

POST OFFICE MEETING OPTIONS

On Wednesday, April 18th approximately 42 residents gathered in the Osprey meeting room at Maple Hall to learn more about the future of the Post Office here in town. Martha Hamlyn, postmistress, conducted the meeting.

Martha emphasized that we do not want to "show our hand" until a thoughtful decision has been reached. The USPS has said they will not increase the stipend of \$14,000 that has been granted for the past 23 years to keep the post office operating. Martha also indicated that if the post office is moved from its present location that may also force it's closing. Any talk of moving the Post Office from it's current location would prove risky and more than likely trigger the USPS to close down the Claiborne operation. This is something we want to avoid at all costs.

Martha did an excellent job of fielding questions from the audience about what they wanted regarding the continuance of postal service here in Claiborne.

The sale of stamps is a major factor in determining the continuance of local service. The more money that is generated the better our chances of staying open. (Perhaps we can encourage our employers to purchase their postage from the Claiborne Post Office.)

After much discussion the following options are being considered:

1. Keep the post office where it is and build a wall between the postal area and Jim Richardson's sign business. (Jeff Desjardins has offered his skills as a builder to construct the wall).

2. Local volunteers (a list of 5 interested parties who will work 1/2 a day once a week will serve as staff to fill the 20 hours that Martha currently works so that she can pursue other endeavors.

3. Move the post office location (A RISKY MOVE) to the existing vacant Methodist Church on Claiborne Road and include a community center area for all residents to enjoy. (A meeting with the local representative from the church, John Moore, was held Friday, April 20th. Jim and Martha, Dan Higgins and Barbara Reisert spoke with Reverend Moore and proposed the above idea and were met with an overwhelming "yes" from Reverend Moore. He would like to see the church used by the community. It will remain a church and the former kitchen and gathering area can be re-worked to accommodate meeting space for the residents. A restroom would need to be added and Reverend Moore has some ideas about making that work.

4. A donation of \$2 per week from each postal patron (we currently have 75 boxes) could be used to pay wages and maintenance expenses involved.

5. Mary Ann Yost indicated that she is interested in opening a bakery, general store and tea room in the house she owns on Claiborne Road and the Post Office could be included in the plan. (ANOTHER RISKY MOVE)
A survey of all residents is forth-coming.

I saw Thelma Prickitt out riding around on the golf cart with Wade. She's looking good and we hope she'll stay away from any and all hospitals!

Once again, Adine Kelly is sponsoring the Clarion. - Thanks again, Adine!

Q & A

Q Is there a leash law? If there is one, is it just in town?

A There is a leash law for dogs and cats county wide. All dogs and cats off of their property must be on a leash or under immediate supervision of the owner or custodian.