
Message from the Mayor



I'm so thankful for the signs of Spring; especially this Spring as we gradually begin to see a return to "normalcy." Our community truly stepped up to do the right thing in prioritizing safety first, supporting local businesses and residents, and adapting to the numerous changes we have endured throughout this pandemic. I look forward to the return of a vibrant and prosperous Clemson as we continue to move forward.

In the midst of the pandemic, our City still had really good things occurring. These first months of 2021 have been filled with challenges but are also defined by the recognition of many fine organizations and individuals.

- In **January**, we honored the DW Daniel High School Football team for their 2020 State Championship, and we recognized Dr. Swann and his team for their diligent work regarding the distribution of COVID information and the establishment of a community testing site.
- **February** brought Black History Month and we celebrated by honoring five Current Community Members and four Historical Community Members. The contributions that these individuals have made are immeasurable and appreciated. February also brought the "State of Clemson" Chamber event. It was conducted virtually this year and provided updates on accomplishments within each City Department and information on collaborative efforts with Clemson University.
- In **March**, we acknowledged Women's History Month Honorees by issuing proclamations at the beginning of our meetings for several key women in the community. The "Clemson 8," a group of veterans who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II, were also honored with a proclamation and through a remembrance walk.
- In **April**, we acknowledged Donate Life Month, which "helps to encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation." We issued a proclamation for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and shared the City's plan for the events to raise awareness in our community. Our Victims Services Coordinator, Debra Shockley, and the rest of the police department do a tremendous job every day to get more information about resources available to victims and survivors, and we appreciate their tireless efforts.
- Finally, in consideration of his retirement, we recognized **Jeff Stone** for his 29 years of service with our City. We announced a "Jeff Stone Day" on April 5th, a fitting honor for someone that has given so much time, energy, and commitment to keeping our community safe over the years. We are thankful for his service and grateful that he plans to stay in the area.

Vaccines are being distributed, testing is accessible, and positive case numbers are down. As we continue to move towards a return to "normal," it is important to remember that positive things are still happening even as we wait. Our Community continues to work diligently towards the future with initiatives such as Clemson Next, a revised Vision and Values Statement, expansion of Littlejohn Community Center, cleaning up local parks, breaking ground on the Green Crescent Trail, installing new CAT bus shelters, and the completion of Cochran Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion – just to name a few!

I hope you will continue to reach out with your questions and concerns – and especially your ideas. As always, I am available via calls, texts, emails, or over a cup of coffee. I will continue to use social media as a means to distribute information but not as a conduit for conversation. Let's Talk!