



After the fire: Families overwhelmed by Clinton community's generosity

By Katherine R. Dougan

Eight days after losing everything, eight families are making new homes for themselves, thanks to the generosity of the Clinton community.

A predawn fire on November 18 at the Hunter Oaks apartment complex in Clinton sent the families into near-freezing temperatures to escape the blaze. After the Clinton Fire Department put out the flames, the twenty-seven residents, from toddlers to adults, were left homeless.

The Red Cross and 4 C's, other local groups and the apartment complex manager responded immediately, and the families moved into empty units. They had a home, but nothing else. A day or so after the fire, three families came into 4 C's to begin refurbishing their homes. When Laurie Law-



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An early morning fire at the Hunter Oaks apartment complex impacted twenty-seven individuals from eight families.

son of the 4 C's asked the family what they needed, the mother responded: "Well, I just need everything."

The community responded to the need, bringing lots of clothing. Then donations of furniture, beds, mattresses and a couch, came in, and the items were divvied up among the families. Money was also donated and distributed to the families.

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Fire, water, City services top topics at Board meeting

By Katherine R. Dougan

Fire, firearms, emergency calls and the Continental tire plant water well topped discussion at the Board of Aldermen's meeting on November 20.

Chief Blackledge reported that emergency calls are higher than last year, with 2,470 calls from January to November 2018. There have been 215 fire and fire-related calls (arcing) this year, with the most recent a fire at Hunter Oaks apartment complex early Sunday morning, November 18. Eight families lost

everything in the blaze, which "had all four engines out there, battling this fire," Blackledge said. There were no injuries.

The highest number of emergency calls were for medic alert and fire alarms.

"A lot of people wear medical alert pendants and might accidentally set it off," Blackledge said, saying that the 256 emergency service calls were largely either from elderly residents setting off their medic alerts without realizing it until emergency services arrive at their home. The majority of service calls are for people who have fallen and can't get

up without assistance.

At Fire House No. 3, located on Northside Drive near Lovett Elementary School, the concrete is badly cracked and damaged and needs to be replaced. (See page 9.) The concrete was poured and the station constructed in 1988. The old engine weighed about 36,000. The new engine weighs about 75,000. "The concrete is starting to crack and cause problems; it's a mess out there. Should you pass a resolution tonight, it will need to run in the local paper...for four

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