

The Clinton Courier

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"Good news you can use"

Art in the Park offers showcase of community art talents, family fun

By Sherry Lucas

Art in the Park, March 25 at Lions Club Park in Olde Towne Clinton, blooms with creative action in an interactive, family-friendly art showcase that's become a highlight of spring.

"Our goal is to educate those who attend, and inspire them to increase their knowledge of arts and the artists right here in our community," says Jackie Massey, Main Street Clinton assistant.

Art in the Park, a free event that welcomes all, opens at 10 a.m., with artists on hand until 1 p.m., and music from Paul Heindl and Hinds Community College (HCC) bands starting around 12:30 p.m. and continuing into the afternoon.

"Art in the Park has quickly become one of our staff favorites," says Main Street Clinton Director Tara Lytal. "We love the laidback vibe and the opportunity to expose both children and adults to one-on-one interaction with local artists who are showcasing their mediums." The addition of music from HCC bands is just one more event enticement.

A partnership of Main Street Clinton and the Arts Council of Clinton, Art in the Park is now in its third year and has secured a sponsor for the first time.

"We were thrilled that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi has come in as the event's first sponsor," Lytal says. "They have been supportive of our Main Street events over the years, and we believe this family-oriented event is a great fit for both organizations. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them to bring great events to the Clinton community."

At this event, Arts Council of Clinton members set up art and craft stations on picnic tables under the pavilion near the park's entrance, and work with community volunteers to teach kids to design and craft their own creations to take home.

At least two hundred children came through Art in the Park last year,



A family enjoys visiting with a local artist at the 2022 Art in the Park. This year's event is set for March 25. *Susan Rodriguez*



says the Rev. Robert Blanton, Arts Council of Clinton president. He estimates attendance doubled in the event's second year. "We had more artists, too, in the second year," with many people returning and more folks checking it out for the first time.

He remembers well the enthusiasm and smiles of the younger set when creativity cuts loose—"Kids realizing they can do something, and then when their parents are picking them up, they're showing off what they've done. They're so proud of it."

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Farm animals to be allowed in some of Clinton's residential areas

By Randy Bell

Clinton leaders agreed that people living on larger residential lots should be allowed to keep at least one farm animal. The question to be decided: how big should those lots have to be?

Over the course of several months, the Board of Aldermen had kicked around several numbers ranging from three acres to twenty—before approving a zoning ordinance amendment to make it five acres at their March 7 meeting.

Effective next month, Clintonians living in areas zoned Residential Estate with at least five acres can have a horse, cow, goat, pig, sheep, other farm

animal or chickens for each three acres which can be set aside for the animal. There will be a limit of ten chickens, regardless of the lot size. And anyone hoping to raise chickens will be disappointed—roosters are not permitted.

If more than two chickens are on any lot, they must be kept at least 150 feet from any adjoining property line or a street right-of-way.

Also, any fences or structures associated with the animals may be no closer than 150 feet from an adjoining property line or street right-of-way. The Board agreed that the amended ordinance would not supersede any existing or future

subdivision

cove- nants. The original proposal called for a minimum lot size of three acres, but the Board agreed that was too small.

Alderwoman-at-Large Ricki Garrett tried unsuccessfully to convince her colleagues to boost it to ten acres, saying she didn't think people move into a city with the idea that they'll have a pig next door.

"I'm concerned that five [acres] is still too small, in particular in these platted subdivisions," Garrett said. "But I feel better about

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