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# Message from the Mayor

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In true South Carolina fashion, it will likely be hot for several more months, but “summer break” is already coming to a close. The quiet, lazy days of summer will soon give way to the vibrant days of Fall. It was a busy but rewarding summer for our family, and I hope you and yours were able to spend time together and make some wonderful memories.

As we prepare to send our children back to school as a community, we are also preparing to welcome back our college student population. Clemson will again be brimming with the excitement of a new school year and a new football season.

I want to continue my practice of highlighting a few of the many good things that are happening in our City.

- 1. Fiscal Stability:** We received a clean audit and implemented a minimum fund balance requirement to make sure we are positioned to address future unforeseen situations.
- 2. City Rebranding:** The City is in the process of developing branding strategies to project our unique identity and heighten our sense of civic pride. Be on the lookout for the opportunity to provide your input to help reimagine the City of Clemson’s identity.
- 3. Green Space:** The City received a grant from the SC Conservation Bank to acquire the approximately four acres at the corner of Berkeley and Issaqueena in order to retain it as green space.
- 4. Arts and Culture:** The Clemson Area African American Museum completed the second successful Sunday Concert Series this past spring and is preparing for an eventful Fall. Likewise, The Arts Center had a busy spring and summer participating in Artisphere and Camp Clemson and has a full slate of family fun planned for the next few months. Also, public art will be installed on more bus shelters in the coming months!
- 5. Transportation:** We have partnered with Clemson University, the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study and several neighboring counties to initiate a Regional traffic study. This is the first step in seeking funding to help improve our transportation system.
- 6. Youth Sports:** Our joint Recreation department works tirelessly to provide sports of all kinds and at all levels to our youth. It’s always great to watch the kids of our community as they learn and grow in and through sports. It is especially fantastic when we get to celebrate big wins. To that end, Congratulations are in order once again to the Central/Clemson 13U Baseball team for a repeat World Series Championship! (And thank you to all of the “grown ups” that pour into these young men!)

There is so much activity and so much “good” going on in our community. If you see something amazing you want to share, please shoot me an email. I’d love to hear from you and perhaps even include your news in our next Community Connection.

With all of the positive going on, it is also important to acknowledge that there is always more work to be done. As we begin the “campaign season” that will end in the November election of three City Council members, please take the time to get to know the people who are offering to work for you. Every candidate, whether you agree with all that they stand for or not, is willing to dedicate a good amount of their time and energy in service to you. I call on everyone in our community to be respectful and appreciative of their willingness to serve.

As always, I want to hear from you! I use social media as a way to distribute information but never as a catalyst for conversation. Call me. If I see you out in the community, stop me. I am happy to sit down over a cup of coffee. Let’s Talk!

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*Go Tigers!!*

*Mayor Robert Halfacre*