

## C'ville: Restroom repairs moved ahead one year

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Renovations to two Clarenceville High restrooms have become a top priority as school administrators spill out how newly approved tax dollars will be spent in the upcoming school year.

Originally the restroom repairs were slated to be done in 2000-2001. But talks with students about the condition of the restrooms led administrators to move repairs ahead one year.

"They're (restrooms) old and dreary," said Clarenceville Public Schools superintendent Tom Tattan. "We need to clean them up."

While moving ahead on the restrooms, the resurfacing of the Betsford Elementary parking lot has been pushed back a year. The restroom repairs, pegged at \$50,000, will replace the \$60,000 set aside for the resurfacing, according to recommendations made by Tattan.

The Clarenceville Board of Education has approved 15 projects totaling more than \$1 million that are slated to be done in the next two years with money from a special sinking fund tax approved by residents in June. The tax generates about \$650,000 each year. The district expects to collect this year's tax by mid-September.

The district has now begun the process of putting together specifications and getting bids for the eight projects on the 1999-2000 "to do" list. They are:

■ About \$100,000 to create a

new bus loop behind Grandview Elementary.

■ About \$30,000 for security lighting at school buildings. "We want to use current poles and electrical service to contain our costs," Tattan said.

■ About \$35,000 for roof repairs at Clarenceville high and middle schools. Repairs should be made in late summer or early fall, Tattan said.

■ About \$50,000 for repairs to two restrooms in the main lobby of Clarenceville High. Work may be done over the Christmas holidays, Tattan said. After work is done, the district will have a better idea on how much it will cost to fix other school restrooms, Tattan said.

■ About \$150,000 to replace and improve the high school boiler/heating system. The district expects to install the same type of high efficiency recently put in Clarenceville Middle School, Tattan said.

■ About \$20,000 to add fiber optic cable for telephone and network technology. Eventually, all four school buildings will be connected by fiber cable in a project now being pushed by Oakland schools, Tattan said.

■ About \$12,000 to replace the front entry doors at Clarenceville Middle School. The doors, already ordered, should be installed within 10 weeks, Tattan said.

■ About \$125,000 to complete the replacement of the middle school windows.

The replacement of high school windows is slated to begin in the 2000-2001 school year.

## Volunteer from page A1

a step back and see what I have. It's easy to lose sight of what you have. I can appreciate all the gifts in my life."

Clinard, 24, has a bachelor of science degree in business management from Erskine College in South Carolina. In fact, Uzbekistan isn't actually new for Clinard. One of his economics professors went there and taught economics. So a lot of what the professor taught when he returned to Erskine was "based on the Uzbekistan economy," Clinard said.

Teaching also won't be new for Clinard. He has been a substitute teacher in the Farmington schools, been a coach for various teams and worked as a teaching assistant at Erskine.

"I expect to get out of this what I put in. My goal - I definitely want to come back as someone who is more appreciative of what I have."

"I also think that by being in a different country, I can better understand America," Clinard continued.

In order to take the challenge offered by the Peace Corps, Clinard was able to get a leave of absence from his workplace.

"I was excited on one level and disappointed on the other," said Clinard's boss, Mark Fisher. "I didn't want to lose him."

So Fisher collected his thoughts. "The function of our business is that most people we work with are volunteers. We promote volunteerism. I thought, 'What is it that we will all be able to learn from Dave's experience?' We'll learn how to promote volunteerism."

Fisher also decided that Clinard's experience will allow his company to demonstrate its commitment to volunteerism.

"I finally decided that if we can't practice what we preach, that's not too good. So we hope it will inspire others to volunteer," Fisher added.

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Dave Clinard  
—Peace Corps volunteer

Clinard has endured a year-long application process, including gathering references, undergoing physical, dental and optical exams, and filling out questionnaires to join the Peace Corps.

In addition, he is - and with some apprehension - awaiting the day just before he leaves when he will endure a series of shots to ensure his health while abroad.

Uzbekistan is, indeed, one of those nations where English is not the primary language, which prompted Clinard to study Russian - the closest to the country's native language, Uzbek.

When he arrives in Uzbekistan, he will stay with a family for three months. The family doesn't speak a lick of English. At the end of the three months, he will be tested on his language skills.

"If you pass, then you start your service," Clinard said. "They want to make sure you still want it."

Clinard doesn't fool himself. He knows people are wondering why a young man with a good job would want to take a pause and give up two years of his life in a country few Americans would include on their travel itinerary.

First of all, he didn't get a choice of where

he would be placed. But he's excited, nonetheless, to discover a brand new place, new people and new culture.

Secondly, he believes friends and family are supportive. "They are a bit confused on why. But I think they believe I'm doing the right thing."

While Clinard makes his living from promoting non-profit and volunteer organizations, he also wants inspire others to volunteer.

That's why he has asked the Farmington Observer to participate in that inspiration by publishing accounts of his volunteer experience. He will send us his accounts by e-mail. We will also provide him with disposable cameras to capture the images he sees. And if all works as planned, a world few of us know about in central Asia will be exposed to us.

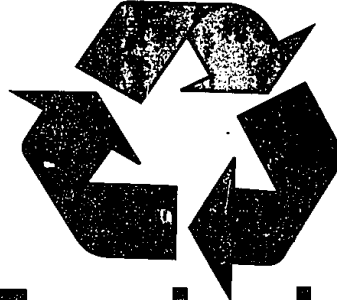
"I want to write of my experiences, especially the concept of volunteerism. I want to use it to inspire people," Clinard said.

### CLARIFICATION

A story in the Aug. 1 issue of the Farmington Observer regarding the bike helmet ordinance should have said Councilwoman Vicki Barnett voted for the enactment of the law, which

passed in a 6-1 vote with Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio dissenting. Barnett and Oliverio voted "no" when the bike helmet ordinance was introduced.

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