



## Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce

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Dear Cleveland Area Residents:

Have you ever wished that the Cleveland Community had more parks, playgrounds, and recreational opportunities like Clayton, Garner, or Raleigh? As more homes and neighborhoods grow around us daily, have you ever wondered why we aren't setting aside open space in our community for playgrounds, walking/bike trails, space for family picnics where our children can safely run and play, and more athletic fields for both youth and adults?

For several months a group of community leaders has been meeting with County Commissioners and State Legislators seeking a way to answer those questions. Johnston County is rather unique since our county government does not have a parks and recreation division. Incorporated towns around us such as Clayton and Smithfield build their parks and athletic fields with a portion of their town taxes. Since the Cleveland Community is unincorporated, there is no available source of funding for acquiring land and building parks in our community.

### **GOOD NEWS! THERE IS A SOLUTION!**

County and State legislation can be written which will allow the Cleveland Community to form a "Parks and Recreation Tax District" for the explicit purpose of acquiring open space and building and maintaining community parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields. If the community supports this initiative, our County Commissioners will ask our State Legislators to introduce a bill in the 2018 General Assembly that will outline the governance structure for the new district and authorize a public referendum that may be held in November 2018, at which time community residents will be given an opportunity to vote on the formation of the new tax district.

### **PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED BROCHURE FOR ANSWERS TO MANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS AND SEE A MASTER PLAN FOR A PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY PARK.**

#### **County leaders are interested in your opinion.**

Two informational meetings are planned for you to learn more about this effort and to provide your thoughts and opinions to our county leaders:

**Thursday, January 18, 2018 – 7pm to 9pm**

**Cleveland Fire Department, 9039 Cleveland Road, Clayton, NC**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018 – 9am to 11am**

**C3 Church, 8246 Cleveland Road, Clayton, NC**

You can also provide your comments on the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce web site.

[www.greaterclevelandchamber.com](http://www.greaterclevelandchamber.com)