

Just like clockwork

Cliffside Day events

■ The 10th Annual Cliffside Day is Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Cliffside Masonic Lodge No. 460. Supporters of the event are Cliffside Baptist Church, Temple Baptist Church and Cliffside Fire Department.

Activities for this year's event include a craft sale, live music, car show, cornhole and horse-shoe tournaments, games for kids and various vendors.

Breakfast will be served from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. and a barbecue lunch will be served starting at 11 a.m.

For more information on the event, call Nigel Hawkins, 828-657-5005; Wayne Millis, 828-245-7606; Herman Jones, 828-657-5959; or Dale Price, 828-657-4133.

■ On Friday night, the Cliffside Historical Society will hold its gathering at 6:30 at the Cliffside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

The society will hold social time as well as take care of brief business. Cliffside's Ben Humphries will be honored this year during the event.

For more information on it, e-mail Reno Bailey at rbailey@carolina.rr.com.



Clock repairman Jim VanOrsdel, right, receives assistance from Cliffside resident James Harris, middle, in removing the hands from one of the Cliffside Clock's faces.

By **ALLISON FLYNN**
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CLIFFSIDE — Raleigh's tick-tock was restored last year, and now it's time for a face lift.

Cliffside's town clock, affectionately named Raleigh after Cliffside founder Raleigh Rutherford Haynes, had its internal mechanisms repaired last year. Funding for the project was through Rutherford County Commissioners and donations to the Cliffside

Historical Society.

Now, the society is again raising money to pay for the cleaning and painting of the tower and to replace the glass in each of the clock's four faces.

There was almost enough money left in the fund from last year's fundraising efforts to pay for the glass faces, said Cliffside Historical Society Treasurer Reno Bailey, but then the society decided to do the cleaning and painting as well.

Community volunteers and workers from Albemarle Glass worked last week to remove the clock's faces. Each of the four faces are made up of five pieces of glass; once removed, the pieces will be used as a template for the new faces.

"Each one is slightly different, so they'll have to be precise," Bailey said.

The faces will be replaced with new milkglass, which

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Dean Bernakes, left, of Albemarle Glass speaks with Jim VanOrsdel as he prepares the glass sections to be removed from the Cliffside Clock.

Clock

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Bailey said is difficult to find. The Clock Shop Owner Jim VanOrsdel, who repaired the clock's internal mechanism last year, knew that the Albemarle Glass Company had replaced the glass in the clock at the Union County Courthouse and had some.

"The original faces had milk-glass and some time when the clock was at the Memorial Building I think it was switched for frosted - probably because of cost," Bailey said.

"It will take them two to three weeks to make the new faces, and then we'll go through the process again," Bailey said.

The process was to carefully remove the faces from the inside.

First, the clock's hands had to be removed. The numerals remained after the glass was removed but will also be primed and repainted.

Raleigh will also go green during this most recent renovation. Duke Energy evaluated the sensors used to turn on and off the lights inside the clock's faces and provided the society with a dawn to dusk apparatus.

"Each face has six bulbs and Duke has given us 60 watt CFL bulbs, which should cut the power bill down a lot," Bailey said.

Because the clock is located on county owned property, Bailey said the society has approached Rutherford County Commissioners to get permission to clean and paint the clock. Commissioners are expected to give the clock property to the historical society at the November meeting. At that time, the society will be responsible for maintaining not only the clock but the property as well.

"We will continue to fund raise for continued maintenance," Bailey said.

Custom built for Cliffside, the tower stands about 40 feet and the four faces of the clock



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Along with the hands certain parts such as the Dial Motion Work Gearing for the hands seen here were carefully removed.

Want To Help?

Donations to the clock fund — which are tax deductible — can be mailed to the Cliffside Historical Society, 10612 Round Rock Road, Charlotte, NC 28277.

are each 5 feet in diameter.

The clock first stood in the R.R. Haynes Memorial Building and was moved in 1978 to the former Haynes homeplace when parts of the old Cliffside Mills village were demolished.

The clock still serves as the town's timekeeper, Bailey said, having kept a watch over the community for so many years.

"Think of how little is left of Cliffside," Bailey said. "This is something we can preserve."



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Along with the removal of the clock faces, the tower received pressure washing to prepare for repairs and fresh paint.