



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2010

Volume 3, Number 2

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Community Calendar

- **Saturday, October 9**
24th Annual Court Square Street Fair & BBQ Cook-off
- Ol' Lightnin' Rods Car Show
Clinton City Market
- Craft Demonstration Day
Sampson County Museum
- **Sunday, October 10**
Local Greenwing Event
Clinton Recreation
- **Mon. to Fri., October 11-15**
Annual Fall Cleanup Week
- **Saturday, October 16**
Cultural Arts Festival
Clinton Recreation & Sampson County 4-H
- **Sunday, October 24 & 31**
College St. Ghost Tours
Sampson Arts Council
- **Saturday, October 30**
Halloween in the Park
Clinton Police & Recreation
- **Thu. to Sat., November 11-13**
Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
Sampson Arts Council
- **Saturday, December 11**
Christmas in Clinton Parade
Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce

Special Insert

Fall Cleanup Week
Greenwing Event

www.cityofclintonnc.us

October Perfect for Enjoying Outdoor Community Events

Some of the most pleasant weather in Southeastern North Carolina occurs in October. The first full month of fall bears witness to colorful changing leaves, comfortable temperatures, and the carnival-like atmosphere prompted by harvest time. There may be no better time to enjoy the outdoors and take advantage of several community events than during October. First, the 24th Annual Court Square Street Fair & BBQ Cook-off will take place in Downtown Clinton on Saturday, October 9 from 10 am until 3 pm. The Courthouse Square will be filled with vendors, entertainers, rides for kids, and the smell of BBQ. The barbecue cook-off, sponsored by Smithfield Foods and Williamson Gas Co., promises to be competitive and full of flavor. Other events at the Street Fair include an antique and classic car show and craft demonstrations. The Ol' Lightnin' Rods Antique Car Club will sponsor the car show at the Clinton City Market. Car show participants take great pride in exhibiting their prized antiques and classic muscle cars. The Sampson County History Museum Craft Demonstration Day will provide street fair-goers with the opportunity to view exhibits that will teach and remind us of days gone by. Craft demonstrations will be from 10 am until 4 pm and will



include corn grinding, hit and miss engines, handmade jewelry, bluegrass and gospel singing, antique tractors, and Native American beadwork. There also will be old fashion crafts and games for children. On Sunday, October 10, Clinton Recreation will host a local Greenwing (Ducks Unlimited) event as part of their recent "Take Me Fishing Grant" award. For \$20, a child will receive a rod & reel, tackle, bait, t-shirt, a year's subscription to the Greenwing Puddler, food, and drinks. Scholarships and registration forms are available through

Clinton Recreation. The children will receive instruction on fishing and other outdoor activities such as archery. The following Saturday, October 16, Sampson County 4-H will be sponsoring The Cultural Arts Festival at Royal Lane Park. The free event will highlight the diversity of Sampson County through music, arts, education, and food. The fun begins at 11:30 am and lasts until 4:30 pm.

Of course, October would not be complete without the thrills and scares of Halloween. The Arts Council is continuing its popular walking tours with haunting stories of the old homes along College Street on October 24 and 31. This year Halloween on the Square will be Halloween in the Park. The Clinton Police and Recreation Departments will host the event on Saturday, October 30, at Royal Lane Park. The event will feature fun, food, games, costume contests for people and pets, and rides for the whole family as well as a haunted trail for the brave of heart. Activities begin at 6:00 pm and end at 10:00 pm.



City Doubles-up on Grants to Improve Water System Planning

The city has received two \$40,000 grants from the North Carolina Rural Center to perform studies that will aid in planning and improving the city's water system. The first grant will be used to develop a hydraulic model for the entire water system. This study will identify deficiencies in the system and generate a report of necessary repairs for capital improvements. "The model will also show us the best way to adjust the water system to minimize the impact of water line breaks," says Public Works Director Chris Doherty. "It will be a very thorough study of our system." The second study is a water audit and leak detection study. A water audit involves evaluating water and sewer billing and water production and maintenance records to find areas where the system is losing water and causing unnecessary costs. The study will also look at pressures in the system to identify areas that need improvements to increase water velocity. "Pinpointing leaks to ensure our water system is sealed, safe, and cost effective will be a major benefit of the water audit," says Doherty.



Important Numbers

Emergency.....911
City Hall.....592-1961
Water & Sewer Billing.....299-4909
Code Enforcement.....299-4904
Sanitation.....299-4905
Streets.....299-4905
After-hours Emergency...592-1151

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at City Hall. Those interested in speaking at meetings should contact the City Clerk at (910) 592-1961.

Missed the City Council Meeting? Watch it on TV!

You can watch City Council meetings every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on GOAC-15. StarVision broadcasts the meetings throughout the month on cable channel 15.

Need More Information?

Visit our website 24-7 for more information about Clinton, community events, and what the City is doing for you.

What do You Think?

We'd like to know what you think about the newsletter and how we can improve it...

Call or email us at:

910-592-1961

spurvis@cityofclintonnc.us

Downtown Phase III Project Gets Boost with Grant Funding

City Council approved the final design for the Downtown Phase III Revitalization project at the September meeting. Bids for the project will be received until October 14. City staff expects the project to be complete by late spring. The \$1.5 million project will include new sidewalks and streetscaping along Vance, Connessee, and College Streets as well as redesigned parking and greenspace at the old jail site and College St. parking lot. The project will be funded in part by a USDA grant of \$455,000. "The USDA grant makes the project a lot more affordable," says City Manager John Connet. "This is going to be a great project, and it will help promote downtown, especially with a design that adds more greenspace and incorporates public gathering areas." The focus of the Phase III design will be at the top of the hill on College Street. Plans call for greenspace and a gathering area centered on the Sampson Arts Council's "Milling Around" glass wall project. The glass wall, designed by Heidi Lippman, features a millstone theme that represents the history, diversity, and synergy of the community. The Arts Council formed a committee and partnered with city staff to bring the project together.



Artist Heidi Lippman's conceptual drawing of the gathering area around the glass wall on College Street.

The wall will be funded through donations and grants. To date the Arts Council has already received a sizeable private commitment and a \$25,000 grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. Former Arts Council Director Lisa Turlington is still involved with the project and helped secure the NC Arts grant. She says, "I am really proud of how this project has developed. The NC Arts Council was very impressed with our application and commented that our project is a model of what they would like to see other communities attempt. I am thrilled with the proposed design and think it celebrates our past, present, and future in a beautiful and original way." Arts Council Interim Director Megan Scronce says the Arts Council is excited about continuing this project and the state grant is a great start. "Receiving this money

means we are one step closer to seeing a public art piece installed in Sampson County," says Scronce. "Support for the arts in Sampson County continues to grow and we look forward to seeing this project come to fruition. Promoting all arts is our number one focus, and we hope seeing a public art installation every day as you drive through town will inspire people." The Arts Council is also seeking a \$69,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to complete the project.

Grant to Help Develop Pedestrian Walkway Plan

In its attempt to become a safer, more pedestrian friendly community, the city made several contacts with the NC Department of Transportation that will prove beneficial to Clinton residents. First, the city applied for and received a \$22,000 grant from NCDOT for pedestrian walkway planning. The pedestrian planning grant is to improve the city's pedestrian transportation network and become a more "walkable" community with safer and more improved ways for citizens to move to and from work, school, shopping areas, and home. Planning Director Jeff Vreugdenhil says the city will incorporate the pedestrian plan into its overall land development and transportation plans to ensure each is compatible and shares common goals. "It is important that any new development or redevelopment be planned with pedestrian facilities in mind," adds Senior Planner Mary Rose. The plan will assist City Council in identifying areas where future pedestrian projects will be of the most benefit to citizens. Second, city staff initiated a meeting with NCDOT staff in August to discuss the Hwy 24 project and its impact on Clinton. Discussions included adding sidewalks along Sunset Avenue. City staff presented a cost-sharing plan to City Council at their September meeting, which they unanimously approved. With the city agreeing to provide 20 percent of the sidewalk construction cost, NCDOT now plans to install sidewalks along both sides of Sunset Avenue from Sampson Community College and Forest Drive to the US 421 overpass.