



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Community Calendar

- **Saturday, April 18**
Relay for Life
Royal Lane Park
- **Mon. to Fri., April 20-24**
Annual Spring Cleanup Week
- **Thursday, April 23**
Sen. Faircloth's Walking Tour
Sampson Arts Council
- **Saturday, April 25**
Cowboy Crush
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Saturday, May 16**
Annual Paul Robinson
Baseball Tournament
Royal Lane Park
- **Saturday, May 16**
Coasters, Marvelettes, & Platters
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Saturday, May 23**
Lawrence Riddles & Friends
Gospel Fest '09
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Monday, June 22 to Aug. 14**
Clinton Recreation Summer Camp
Royal Lane Park
- **Mon. to Fri., June 22-26**
English Soccer Camp
Sampson County Soccer Club
Royal Lane Soccer Complex

Special Insert

Spring Cleanup Week

Connecting with Council



When Steve Stefanovich and his wife Julie moved to Clinton in 1982, the local business owner did not imagine he would one day be representing District 1. "General Motors presented me with several opportunities, one of which was with Albert Thornton here in Clinton," Mr. Stefanovich begins his story. "Julie and I came down and really liked the community. We were especially impressed with Royal Lane Park and the city's commitment to recreation." In 2001, Mr. Stefanovich decided to run for City Council hoping to bring new energy and business ideas to the city. He believes in fair government and enjoys seeing people come together to blend ideas to make Clinton what it needs to be for all citizens. He is pleased with the strides the city has taken to become more efficient and effective such as instituting a new, more transparent purchasing process and developing a specific mission statement and goals. "Where do we want to be tomorrow?" is the question Mr. Stefanovich likes to ask. He believes

it is the city's responsibility "to look 10, 15, 20 years out" in order to make the best decisions now for future generations. He says, "When my grandchildren ask, 'Grandpa, what did you do on City Council?' I want to be able to tell them I helped to make Clinton a better place for you."

Clinton Police Department Receives National Accreditation

In March, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) chose to recognize the Clinton Police Department for observing the 112 standards from the *Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies* accreditation manual. The standards address life, health and safety issues, critical legal issues, and conditions that reduce risk. The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Program is to improve the delivery of public safety services and recognize professional excellence. CALEA focuses on six primary goals:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.



By meeting these goals, Chief Mike Brim points out two major benefits of the program, "First, we receive more support and confidence from government officials, who are more confident in our ability to operate efficiently and meet community needs. Second, recognized agencies are better able to defend themselves against allegations of misconduct and lawsuits because recognition demonstrates our commitment to professionalism." "This is a significant step for Clinton," says City Manager John Connet, "CALEA recognition demonstrates the City's commitment to protecting its citizens and doing so in a fair and professional manner."

Downtown Phase III to Add Parking Spaces and Greenspace

Downtown will continue to take on a new look this summer with the city's Downtown Revitalization Phase III. Phase III will encompass the old jail site and extend down Vance Street to Beaman Street. Work will also be done along Connessee Street and College Street entering downtown. Improvements will include repaving streets, expanding sidewalks, moving utilities underground, and streetscaping. The highlight of Phase III will be the old jail property. The city plans to use this property to expand downtown parking and add greenspace. The parking lot will add twenty-four additional spaces for downtown and the park will include a walkway with benches and a space for public art. The City Council approved the plans at their February meeting and the city expects to break ground in late spring.



Plans for the old jail site include parking and a park with public art.



Important Numbers

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

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 what we could do to improve it...

Call or email us at:

910-592-1961

spurvis@cityofclintonnc.us

Rebuilding a Community with the Sampson Community Center

The Sampson Community Center is quickly becoming the jewel of District 5. Over the past two years, the city has been using funds from a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant to help refurbish the Sampson Community Center. The "Sampson Community Improvement Project" has included refurbishing the restrooms inside the Sampson Community Center, a complete renovation of the Sampson Community baseball field, and most recently, the construction of a patio garden and new landscaping at the gym entrance. The Recreation Department plans to install a grill, tables, and benches in time for the summer, and a final phase will include a picnic shelter with a grill and walking trail. The renaissance of the Sampson Center is not simply the result of the city's investment. "The best part about this project," comments Recreation Director Judi Nicholson "is the community involvement that has resulted from the center's renovations." The District 5 Committee initiated several cleanup days for the neighborhood while Members Credit Union sponsored a fundraiser to help repaint the entryways at the Sampson Center and place a tree in the patio garden. The credit union also provided four computers for the center. The Sampson Alumni Association joined the efforts by helping remove the old, fire-damaged library building to create additional parking. More important than what has happened on the outside of the Sampson Center is what is happening inside. From inside the community center one can find the true reason for a renewed community spirit. Tim



Tim Boykin and Tilah Worthy help kids with their homework during the after school program.

Boykin, the center's program coordinator, and his assistant Tilah Worthy work tirelessly to provide neighborhood children with a safe place to learn and play. The after school program provides tutoring and help with homework while the summer camp gives children the opportunity to participate in various activities through the hot summer months, including trips to places like Kings Dominion. Each year, Tim and Tilah head the local Toys for Tots Toy Drive and initiate "community days" to provide school supplies for children in need. When asked about Tim Boykin, Judi Nicholson replied with one word – dedicated. "Our philosophy as a department is we are here to provide opportunities for children first. Tim has taken this philosophy and lived it at the Sampson Center," says Ms. Nicholson.

To prove his dedication and resourcefulness, she tells the story of when Tim first started at the Sampson Center. To keep the profanity down on the basketball court during men's games, he demanded 25 cents for every expletive and put it in a jar. He raised \$77 the first year and used the money to start a concession stand at the center. He uses the revenues from the snacks and drinks to help maintain the gym and provide children with sports equipment when they cannot afford it. When asked why he is so dedicated to the community he replies, "I love being a mentor to the children, being a listening ear for people, and being able to influence this community in a positive way."

Employee Spotlight

At the February City Council meeting, Mayor Lew Starling and Chief Mike Brim awarded Officer Ali O'Neill the 2008 Clinton Officer of the Year. Officer O'Neill's fellow officers nominated him saying, "Ali can be counted on to always put the citizens first." He demonstrated his commitment this past year when he took it upon himself during his own time to paint over graffiti, which vandals had left on the old Sampson High School. Officer O'Neill also volunteers for outreach programs for area youth, building a bridge between the police and Clinton citizens.

