



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2009

Volume 1, Number 2

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- Fall Clean Up Success
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Community Calendar

- **Monday, January 12**
Baseball & Softball Registration
Clinton Recreation & Parks
- **Saturday, January 24**
Life is So Good
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Saturday, February 14**
Livingston Taylor
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Tuesday, February 17**
District 2 Meeting
Beaman Street Fire Station
- **Thursday, February 19**
District 1 Meeting
Beaman Street Fire Station
- **Thursday, February 26**
District 5 Meeting
Sampson Center
- **Thursday, March 5**
District 4 Meeting
Bellamy Center
- **Saturday, March 7**
A Night at the Beach
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Thursday, March 12**
District 3 Meeting
City Hall Auditorium
- **Thursday, March 12**
Youth Industrial Council
Career Fair
Agri-Exposition Center
- **Thursday, March 19**
United States Air Force Quintet
Clinton High-Prestage Auditorium
- **Saturday, March 21**
NC Dance Theatre
American Masterpieces
Agri-Exposition Center

Connecting with Council



Maxine Harris is the current Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Clinton, representing District 5 for the past decade. A Sampson County native, Ms. Harris has called Clinton home since she was two years old. Ms. Harris has always been dedicated to public service. After receiving her degree from NC A&T University, she returned home wanting to make a difference. She was integral in the integration of Sampson County Social Services during her career as a social worker. Committed to the idea “when you know better, you can do better,” Ms. Harris turned her attention to education, becoming a school counselor and later, an assistant principal. She applies that same philosophy to her role as a City Councilmember. Ms. Harris believes “there are a lot of great ideas out there” that the City needs to hear. “We exist for citizens,” comments Ms. Harris, “the City needs to be ‘user friendly’ and citizens need to feel comfortable with their city government and city employees.” Ms. Harris points to the annual district meetings held by the City as great opportunities to listen to and learn from citizens. She encourages all Clinton residents to participate in their city government and attend their district meetings to share their ideas.

City Sets Dates for Annual District Meetings

Do you have a great idea for the City? What are your expectations of city services? City officials want to know what you think. “The annual district meetings provide a great opportunity for citizens, who do not typically come to monthly council meetings, to express their concerns and provide us with feedback,” says City Manager John Connet. “We are looking for ways to build partnerships and address citizen concerns,” adds Connet. This is also an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to their council representative. Council members encourage citizens to come and offer ideas and express concerns. Councilman Steve Stefanovich says, “Our goal is to open the lines of communication between citizens and City Hall. These district meetings are just one tool to accomplish this goal.” Of particular note is the District 5 meeting on February 26. The City recently purchased property on Barden Street across from the Sampson Center. The City is seeking input from the neighborhood for the best way to develop the property to meet the area’s needs. The district meetings will be held in February and March at locations convenient to each district. If you have questions about which district you live in, visit the Mayor and City Council page on the City website, or call City Hall at 910-592-1961.

District Meeting Schedule

District 1	Feb. 19 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 2	Feb. 17 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 3	Mar. 12 7:00 pm	City Hall Auditorium
District 4	Mar. 5 7:00 pm	Bellamy Center
District 5	Feb. 26 7:00 pm	Sampson Center

Fall Clean Up Helps Keep Clinton Beautiful

From October 13th to 17th, Clinton Public Works employees worked diligently to pickup yard debris, tires, metal scraps, and other debris not normally collected. The result was 83 tons of extra materials including 3.24 tons of old tires and 4.62 tons of scrap metal for recycling. “We put in a lot of time and effort during Fall Clean Up,” says Streets and Sanitation Manager Tony Steffen, “I think this is a great program to help keep our city beautiful.” Currently, the City only collects solid waste materials, but Mr. Steffen hopes to further the program by safely collecting materials such as paints and household chemicals in the future. The City will schedule a second clean up week during the spring.



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

Clinton Recognized by North Carolina Main Street Center



The committee recognized how well the City worked with private owners to help restore an important piece of our downtown." The award application tells the story of Kaleel's City Grill, a popular downtown venue that burned in June 2005. In August 2005, the City hired a structural engineer to stabilize and save the front exterior wall. As a key property on the courthouse square that had been "the place" for lunch downtown, the City realized it needed to take action. City Council approved the purchase of the building in 2006 with the hopes that by repairing the building it would once again become a downtown mainstay. Mr. Carr purchased the building in November of 2007 and immediately began reconstructing the building. After consultation with the City, and realizing the long history of the Kaleel's property as a restaurant, Mr. Carr continued his reconstruction with a restaurant in mind. In January 2008, Mr. Carr leased the property to Ronald and Nathan Gooden who opened the Clinton City Grill in May of 2008. "We are very proud of this award," comments Mayor Lew Starling, "It shows the commitment of the City to maintaining our downtown, and it exemplifies how well our community works together."

The North Carolina Main Street Center works to help communities stimulate economic development with a comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization. Each year the Main Street Center presents awards to recognize accomplishments in downtown revitalization. This year, the Main Street Center will present the award for "Best Public-Private Partnership in Downtown Revitalization" to the City of Clinton and local contractor W.F. Carr for their efforts in the Clinton City Grill project. "The Main Street awards are very competitive," says Mary Rose, the senior planner for the Clinton-Sampson County Planning Department and the City's Main Street Coordinator. She adds, "Each year the Center selects only a few winners from across the state, and there are always a lot of well-deserving projects. I think the selection



City Council Establishes Mission and Sets Goals

At the December City Council meeting, Council formally adopted a mission statement and goals to establish the City's priorities for the 2009-2010 budget year. Upon the Council's formal adoption Mayor Starling remarked, "We worked hard to find a common direction. I think we're well on our way." The mission and goals emphasize the Council's commitment to keeping Clinton beautiful and safe while continuing to improve and maintain infrastructure. Some of the goals include creating a citywide beautification program, providing opportunities for high-risk youth, creating a comprehensive water and wastewater plan, and developing a master

"Our mission is to be a city rich in tradition and beauty with clean, safe neighborhoods, sound infrastructure, and opportunities for future generations."

transportation plan that includes streets and roads as well as alternatives such as bike paths and greenways. "These goals provide us with clear direction and will allow us to set priorities and allocate resources to the most significant projects," says City Manager John Connet. A complete list of the Council's goals can be found on the City's website by clicking "Vision, Mission, & Goals" on the Mayor and City Council page.



Mayor Starling discusses some of the issues facing Clinton while Council members Becton and Stefanovich look on during the Council's annual budget work sessions.