



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010

Volume 2, Number 4

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Community Calendar

- **Fri. to Sun., Apr. 2 to Apr. 11**
"Never Too Late"
Sampson Community Theater
- **Wednesday, April 14**
Putting the "Magic" in Your Organization, Part II
Chamber of Commerce & SCC Small Business Center
- **Saturday, April 17**
Walking for Walker Relay for Life
Clinton Recreation
- **Thursday, April 22**
Jazz in the City
Clinton High School
- **Saturday, April 24**
Small House Soiree
Sampson County Arts Council
- **Wednesday, May 5**
Putting the "Magic" in Your Organization, Part III
Chamber of Commerce & SCC Small Business Center
- **Saturday, May 8**
Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition & Spring Soccer Tournament
Royal Lane Park/Soccer Complex
- **Sat. to Sun., May 15-16**
Stingerz Softball Tournament
Royal Lane Park
- **Fri. to Sat., May 21-22**
Paul Robinson Tournament
Royal Lane Park
- **Fri. to Sat., June 4-5**
Sampson County Relay for Life
Clinton High School Track
- **Sat. to Sun., June 5-6**
Stingerz Softball Tournament
Royal Lane Park
- **Monday, June 21**
Recreation Summer Camp Opens
Royal Lane Park

Special Insert

Spring Cleanup Week

www.cityofclintonnc.us

Connecting with Council



As a young girl, Jean Turlington's father always marveled at the number of people in downtown Clinton as they passed through on weekend trips from their home in Lenoir County to visit her grandmother in Robeson County. The number of people led Ms. Turlington's father to move to Clinton and open a hatchery in 1938. She has called Clinton home ever since. Ms. Turlington joined City Council in 2000 when she replaced her late husband, Thomas Turlington. Since that time, she has been reelected twice to represent District 4. She enjoys her time as a councilmember watching the city progress. She believes the City Council's role is to listen and be accessible in order to address issues before they become problems. Ms. Turlington says about her service on City Council, "I enjoy being a part of City Council. We work very well together because we all have a common goal. We all want to improve our community and to continue to make Clinton a great place to live."

City Examining Potential Water Plant and Well Expansion

The City is exploring the possibility of expanding its current water production capacity. "Our current system can produce up to 2.87 million gallons a day," says Public Works & Utilities Director Chris Doherty, "and we have an average daily demand for 1.9 million gallons." While an extra million gallons a day may sound like a lot, it does not leave much room for growth, especially industrial or commercial growth. Another fact to consider is the water demands of the Smithfield Foods plant. The plant has its own wells, but it relies on the city for backup water supplies. "We have an agreement to provide up to a million gallons a day to Smithfield

"Sufficient water supply is essential for economic development."

Foods if needed, but that will put a tremendous strain on our system if we have to provide water for more than a couple of days," says Doherty. He also points out that in such a situation, the city would not have any excess water production capacity. City Manager John Connet adds, "We need to have more water production capacity to

adequately provide for the city's existing households and businesses as well as attract new industry. Sufficient water supply is essential for economic development." To address this issue, city staff has been exploring the possibility of expanding the water production plant and creating new wells. The city is considering a proposal that would nearly double its water production capacity. "Expanding our water production would create adequate water supply, not only for our current residents and businesses, but for potential growth over the next twenty years," says Connet. An exact cost for the project is still being determined, but the city may be eligible to receive up to 45 percent of the cost in grant funding from the US Department of Agriculture. An initial phase of the plant expansion has already been addressed with the construction of a second clearwell. Last June, the city received \$458,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to complete the clearwell addition.

See It, Click It, the City Will Fix It

Did you recently drive over a pothole, see a streetlight out, or notice an overgrown lot? If so, you should take advantage of a tool on the city's website to communicate with City Hall. The tool is an interactive website called SeeClickFix.com. The site allows users to report issues and make comments about problems they see. When they report an issue, it is marked on a Google Map with a flag. Others can click on the flag to make additional comments or simply click that they want it fixed as well. Citizens have the option to post or follow the issues by submitting their email address, but there is no requirement to submit any personal information, including an email address, to report an issue or make comments. City staff has set the site to communicate the problem to the appropriate department, which can then acknowledge the issue and correct the problem. So next time you *see* something you would like the city to address, visit www.cityofclintonnc.us, *click* "report an issue" and tell us what to *fix*.





Important Numbers

Emergency.....911
City Hall.....592-1961
Water & Sewer Billing.....299-4909
Code Enforcement.....299-4904
Sanitation & Streets.....299-4905
After-hours Emergency...592-1151
NIT Tip Line.....590-3009

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

Your Neighborhood Improvement Team

The Clinton Police Department formed the Neighborhood Improvement Team in April 2009. The purpose of the team is to increase drug enforcement while supporting the uniform patrol operations and to investigate other issues affecting quality of life in our community. NIT members are highly skilled problem solvers and use non-traditional police methods to address citizens' concerns. The NIT officers first hit the streets in June 2009 after completing a month long training in investigative techniques and strategies. Team members, who include a team leader and three investigators, supplemented their training with additional courses at the North Carolina Justice Academy and the Coastal Plain Law Enforcement Training Center. Citizens can distinguish a NIT officer from other officers by the utility uniform they wear to help make them visible. Police Captain Jay Tilley, who was instrumental in forming the team, says of the NIT, "The formation of the Neighborhood



In only six months, the Neighborhood Improvement Team removed over 1,000 grams of illegal drugs and 16 illegal guns from the streets and out of our neighborhoods.

Improvement Team has been an invaluable tool for the Clinton Police Department. The Department now has the flexibility to work on issues and complaints that were difficult to address in the past because of the uniform officers' volume of calls for service." Neighborhood Improvement Team officers focus on illegal drug and gun enforcement and habitual felons while also investigating such issues as noise complaints, public nuisances, and city ordinance infractions that affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods. In the first six months of the team's existence, they made nearly one hundred felony arrests, 134 misdemeanor arrests, and issued 49 traffic citations. The Neighborhood Improvement Team's efforts removed 1,000 grams of marijuana, 18 grams of cocaine, 3 grams of heroin, 30 grams of meth, and 16 illegal guns from the streets and out of our neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Improvement Team's anonymous tip line for citizen concerns is 910-590-3009.

City Receives State Grant to Reduce Flood Loss

A severe repetitive loss property is a residential property that has experienced recurring flood damage in the past ten years where the cumulative amount of the insurance claims exceeds the market value of the property. In Clinton, there was one such property located on Jasper Street. City planning staff worked with the property owner and the NC Division of Emergency Management to receive a FEMA grant to acquire the property to prevent future financial losses. The city was the only grant recipient in the state. The grant of \$118,000 will allow the city to purchase the property at market value and hold the flood plain property in a conservation trust for 100 years. "We have only one repetitive loss property in the city. Purchasing this property allows the city to improve its rating under the Community Rating System for flood damage prevention," says Planning Director Jeff Vreugdenhil. The Community Rating System is an incentive program encouraging floodplain management beyond the minimum national standards. As a result, property owners receive a discount on flood insurance premium rates to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the city's actions.

Employee Spotlight

At the February City Council meeting, Mayor Lew Starling and Chief Mike Brim awarded Senior Officer Darryl Grady the 2009 Clinton Officer of the Year. Officer Grady has been with the Clinton Police since 1995. His fellow officers call him the "walking encyclopedia of the criminal element" and he readily shares his knowledge with other officers. Officer Grady was the lead officer in structuring the Neighborhood Improvement Team and he has played a critical role in the department's new evidence management system. Upon recognizing Grady as this year's award recipient, Chief Mike Brim stated, "Darryl Grady is most deserving of the award as our 2009 Officer of the Year."

