



# Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2011

Volume 3, Number 4

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## Community Calendar

- **Saturday, April 2**  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Saturday, April 16**  
Walking for Walker Event  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Mon. to Fri., April 25-29**  
Spring Cleanup Week  
*City of Clinton*
- **Saturday, April 30**  
Pitch, Hit, and Run Competition  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Fri. to Sun., May 13-15, 20-22**  
*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*  
*Sampson Community Theater*
- **Thursday, May 19**  
Live After Five Concert Series  
*Sampson Arts & City of Clinton*
- **Saturday, May 21**  
Black River Canoe & Kayak Trip  
*Clinton Recreation & FSCW*
- **Fri. to Sat., June 3-4**  
Sampson County Relay for Life  
*Clinton High School Track*
- **Thursday, June 16**  
Live After Five Concert Series  
*Sampson Arts & City of Clinton*
- **Saturday, June 18**  
Black River Canoe & Kayak Trip  
*Clinton Recreation & FSCW*

## Special Insert

[Spring Cleanup Week](#)

## Visit Sampson County & "Cultivate Your Spirit"

There is a new kid on the block – more specifically a new office in the Expo Center named the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCCVB). The SCCVB is a public authority with the purpose of promoting the development of travel and tourism related activities in Sampson County. A local 3 percent room tax supports the SCCVB. Persons who pay for a room or lodging accommodations within Sampson County pay this tax. The Sampson County Convention and Visitor's Bureau five goals are:

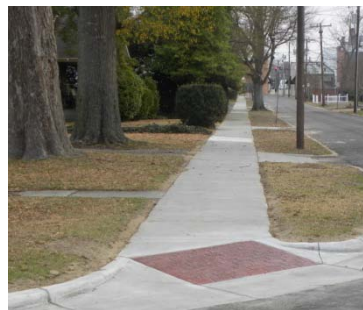
1. Increase visitor awareness.
2. Increase visitor inquiries.
3. Increase Sampson's market share and visitations.
4. Increase state and local tax revenues.
5. Increase the number of jobs supported by tourism.



With a promotional tagline of "cultivate your spirit", the SCCVB Board of Directors announced the launch of two very important pieces of their marketing and strategic plan earlier this year. First, SCCVB printed a colorful 27-page Sampson County Visitors Guide and distributed it to various locations throughout the County and to all of North Carolina's Welcome Centers located at the State's borders. Second, the SCCVB launched its new website, [www.visitsampsonnc.com](http://www.visitsampsonnc.com), to showcase where to stay, eat, and shop as well as things to do in Sampson County. For more information, please contact Vickie Crane, Tourism Coordinator, at (910) 592-2557, [vickiec@visitsampsonnc.com](mailto:vickiec@visitsampsonnc.com), or stop by the SCCVB office at the Expo Center, 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton.

## City Staff Working to Make Clinton Pedestrian Friendly

You may have noticed some new sidewalks over the past few weeks as you drove around town. Hopefully you will be able to say the same as you *walk* around town in the not so distant future. In mid February, Sycamore Street received a much-needed improvement to its deteriorating sidewalks. Clinton Public Works replaced



approximately 500 feet of sidewalk with new ADA compliant sidewalk. The City also made sidewalk improvements at the Wellness Center as part of a joint project with Sampson Regional Medical Center. Other smaller sidewalk projects include work along Lisbon, Finch, Johnson, and Chesnut Streets.

*Left: Sycamore Street Before*  
*Right: Sycamore Street After*

As the public works department continues to construct and replace sidewalks, the planning department has begun using a NC Department of Transportation grant to plan future pedestrian ways for the city. A community Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee met for their kick-off meeting on Thursday, February 17. The committee will work with city planners, a consultant, and NCDOT to create a pedestrian plan that will focus on pedestrian safety and connectivity throughout the city. The plan will assist decision-makers in identifying the most needed projects, programs, and policies to improve the "walkability" of our community. A citizen survey is available online at the committee's website, [www.clintonwalks.org](http://www.clintonwalks.org). Survey responses will help guide the development of the pedestrian plan. For more information about the pedestrian plan, please contact Mary Rose, Interim Planning Director, at (910) 299-4904 or [mmr@cityofclintonnc.us](mailto:mmr@cityofclintonnc.us).



### 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

[survis@cityofclintonnc.us](mailto:survis@cityofclintonnc.us)

## Public Works: Working for You

The Clinton Public Works Department has been extremely active over the past few months, working hard to keep Clinton beautiful. The winter witnessed two uncharacteristic snowfalls that the department handled exceptionally well to keep the roadways safe. With the winter season gone, the department is diverting its attention to roadway projects intended to improve our community image and promote safety. An area receiving much attention as it relates to safety is street lighting. During the month of February, over half of the city streetlights were surveyed during the evening hours to report outages to the local power company. Streetlights not only illuminate neighborhoods, but also roadways to make them safer for travel. Public Works crews reported over 250 fixtures for repair as of March, and the department is focusing on developing a comprehensive maintenance program. Our local Progress Energy representative has been exceptionally responsive to the reports and has generally had the lights repaired within a few days. As spring approaches, crews will be edging and mowing along city streets as well as making pavement repairs.

## Police Tips for Businesses

As the weather warms up and more people are out and about, the Clinton Police Department would like to offer the following tips for businesses to help protect their property:

1. Leave all registers empty.
2. Leave the empty register open in plain view.
3. Leave some lights on inside the business.
4. Block rear doors with bars or deadbolts at night.
5. Place alarm and camera signs in the windows.
6. Leave the front windows unobstructed so officers can see into the business.
7. Leave a radio or TV on so there will be the illusion of someone inside.
8. Install outside motion sensor lights for after hours.
9. Provide the 911 center with a list of key holders for the business for afterhours.
10. Change your routine by leaving the business at different times.



## Employee Spotlight

At the March City Council Meeting, Police Chief Mike Brim presented Detective Alpha Clowney as the 2010 Police Officer of the Year. Detective Clowney has been with the police department since 2006, beginning her career as a patrol officer and then serving as a member of the traffic enforcement team. She later transferred to the detective division. Fellow officers nominated Detective Clowney for her outstanding performance stating, "She can be counted on to always offer assistance." Chief Brim said, "Alpha is fair, cheerful and maintains an optimistic outlook when faced with difficult situations. She has proven herself to be an asset to the Department."



In January, Fire Chief Todd Solice promoted Firefighter & Training Coordinator Brett Hairr to Fire Lieutenant with the Clinton Fire Department. Lieutenant Hairr came to the department as a part-time firefighter in 2008 and became a fulltime firefighter in March 2009. Lieutenant Hairr has over 11 years of combined service and experience with Salemburg and Clement Fire Departments. His certifications include Firefighter I & II, Hazmat, Driver Operator Pumps, Aerial Operator, Emergency Vehicle Driver, Fire Instructor, Fire Officer I & II, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Technical Rescuer.