



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2013

Volume 5, Number 4

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Community Calendar

- **Sunday, April 7**
Student Art Show Reception
Sampson Community College
- **Mon. to Fri., April 15-19**
Spring Cleanup Week
City of Clinton
- **Fri. to Sun., Apr. 5-7, 12-14**
Lost on the Fourth of July
Sampson Community Theater
- **Friday, April 26**
Drive In to Drive Out Drugs
City of Clinton & Sampson County
- **Friday, April 26**
John Brown Tour of Jazz
Sampson Arts Council
- **Thursday, May 16**
North Tower
Alive After Five Concert Series
Sampson Arts & City of Clinton
- **Fri. to Sat., May 31 to June 1**
Sampson County Relay for Life
Clinton High School Track
- **Friday, June 14**
SAC Golf Tournament
Sampson Arts Council
- **Thursday, June 20**
Spare Change
Alive After Five Concert Series
Sampson Arts & City of Clinton
- **Thu. to Sun., Jun. 20-23, 27-30**
The Wizard of Oz
Sampson Community Theater

Special Inserts

Spring Cleanup Week

Recycle Art Contest

www.cityofclintonnc.us

Expanded Sampson Farmers' Market Opens May 1 by Audrey Whetten, Planner

A volunteer committee has been hard at work this winter partnering with the Farmers Co-op to expand and strengthen the farmers market in Downtown Clinton at Clinton City Market. The committee and the Co-op are working diligently to provide a wide variety of items to meet the needs of the community and hope the community will come explore what the market has to offer. This year, to supplement the fresh and organically grown produce offered the market will also include craft items and other select items, such as baked goods, honey, eggs, and plants. The Sampson Farmers' Market is a venue for local individuals to sell their handmade and homegrown goods



directly to consumers, to educate consumers about local farming and seasonal eating, and to encourage businesses to use and promote the use of locally grown ingredients and locally made products. The goal for the market is to bring the "best of the county to the heart of the city" by showcasing homegrown produce and hand crafted products. "When someone spends money locally, the money is continuously re-circulated and re-invested within the county," emphasized Janna Bass, executive director of the Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce. "Together, we can make a difference and we can be a part of the movement to support one another and 'buy local first.'" Those visiting the Sampson Farmers' Market will be able to enjoy special Saturday activities and events. There will be fitness classes, craft demonstrations, story time, cooking demonstrations and more held on the grassy area behind the City Market. Organizers hope the expanded offerings will draw citizens from throughout Clinton and Sampson County. The Sampson Farmers' Market will be open on **Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm, beginning May 1**. The season will run through October. If you have questions or you are interested in being a vendor or activity host, please contact Audrey Whetten at 910-299-4904 or awhetten@cityofclintonnc.us.

Downtown Events For Good Cause & Good Fun by Mary Rose, Planning Director

The Clinton Main Street Program is partnering with the Sampson County Meth Task Force to bring the 2nd Annual "Drive In to Drive Out Drugs" event to Downtown Clinton. The drive-in will be Friday, April 26 from 5:30 to 8 pm on the Courthouse Square and extending to the City Market. All proceeds from the event will benefit Sampson County youth through the Task Force's drug awareness and prevention programs. This year's event will include business and emergency service vehicles as well as classic automobiles and motorcycles. For more information, please call 910-299-4904 or visit www.methdeath.org. Also returning to Downtown for its third year is the Alive After Five Summer Concert Series. This year's concert series will be better than ever, as five bands are scheduled to bring great music and fun to Downtown Clinton every third Thursday all summer long.

alive after five
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Presented by the Sampson Arts Council, City of Clinton & County of Sampson

 North Tower Thursday, May 16 5:45	 Spare Change Thursday, June 20 5:45	 The Voltage Brothers Thursday, July 18 5:45
 Steve Owens and Summertime Thursday, August 15 5:45	 The Fantastic Shakers Thursday, September 19 5:45	

Downtown Clinton, N.C. • www.aliveafterfiveclintonnc.com

The dance and show band North Tower will kick things off in May followed by the versatile, high-energy band Spare Change in June. July features "America's Number One Show Band", The Voltage Brothers. Steve Owens and Summertime will bring their award winning beach music to town in August and The Fantastic Shakers will close out the summer in style in September.



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 or Online!

You can watch City Council meetings every Thursday at 7:00 pm on StarVision GOAC-15. City Council meetings are also available on the City's You Tube channel, [Clintonnc1](#).

Need More Information?

Visit our website 24-7, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter 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

Nuisance Vehicle Blitz to Start April 1st

by John Connet, City Manager

Beginning April 1, 2013, the Clinton Police Department will begin driving through neighborhoods in search of vehicles that pose a potential health or safety hazard. Mayor Lew Starling stated, "I have recently received a number of complaints regarding nuisance vehicles in our neighborhoods and in some instances these vehicles are being used for criminal activity." The City Council has authorized the Clinton Police Department to seek out these vehicles and ask their owners to bring them into compliance with City requirements. If the owner fails to bring the vehicles into compliance, the City will have the vehicle removed from the property. A motor vehicle can be declared a health or safety hazard or nuisance vehicle if it:

- becomes a breeding ground or harbor for mosquitoes, rats, or other insects or pests;
- becomes a point of heavy growth of weeds more than eight inches high;
- becomes a point of collection of pools or ponds of water;
- becomes a point of concentration of combustible items such as gasoline, oil or other flammable materials;
- has an area of confinement with no release opening from inside;
- is blocked or jacked in an unsafe manner;
- becomes a point of collection for garbage or food waste;
- has jagged or sharp edges of metal glass or other hard material;
- does not display a current license plate; or
- cannot be self-propelled or moved in the manner in which it was intended to move.

Curbside Recycling Underway

by Jeff Vreugdenhil, Public Works & Utilities Director

Curbside recycling officially began March 16 with the first week of bi-weekly collection. Although residents received their blue rollout carts barely a week earlier, the first week of collections totaled more than 11 tons. The city's goal for the first year is to exceed the state average of 225 pounds of recyclables per household, or about 15 tons every two weeks. If the first week is any indication of what to expect, we feel we can exceed that goal. Participation was good and we expect it to increase once residents get used to their containers and the bi-weekly collection. The recycling program collected an average of 194 tons annually while offering four convenience sites. The city expects to double that amount with curbside collection and the convenience site at John Street. The city hopes one day to have the highest per household collection rate in the state.

Employee Spotlight

by Jay Tilley, Police Chief & Adon Snyder, Fire Chief

At the February City Council Meeting, the Clinton Police Department recognized Officer Brandon Rohrs as its 2012 Officer of the Year. Although Rohrs has only been with the department for a little over a year, he has been instrumental in developing programs to educate the public and help reduce crime. He created the department's first crime prevention pamphlet and currently is working on a program to reduce vehicle break-ins. Officer Rohrs has also received five commendations during his tenure in Clinton. The city is proud of Officer Rohrs, and Police Captain Donald Edwards says, "Brandon Rohrs is a model of the values of this agency and law enforcement."



The Clinton Fire Department's 2012 Fire Fighter of the Year recipient is Engineer Robby Owen. He has been a firefighter with Clinton since February 2008 and received a promotion to the position of engineer in 2011. Engineer Owen has achieved a high level of performance in a short period. In addition, he shares his knowledge and experience with other firefighters throughout Sampson County as a fire instructor with Sampson Community College. This award represents accomplishments in line with his devotion to duty, service to the public, and bringing positive acclaim to the fire department.