



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2010

Volume 3, Number 1

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Community Calendar

- **Thursday July 1 - 30**
Football & Volleyball Registration
Clinton Recreation
- **Sunday, July 4**
Fireworks Celebration
Clinton Recreation & SOLIS
- **Thu. to Sun., July 8-11, 15-18**
Annie
Sampson Community Theater
- **Mon. to Thu., July 19-22**
Summer Art Camp
Sampson Arts Council
- **Mon. to Thu., August 9-12**
Recreation Football Camp
Clinton Recreation
- **Wednesday, August 25**
First Day of Classes
Clinton City Schools & Sampson County Schools
- **Saturday, August 28**
Family Fun Day
Sampson Arts Council
- **Saturday, September 11**
Youth Soccer Season Begins
Sampson County Soccer Club
- **Sat. to Sun., September 11-12**
Coharie Cultural Pow-Wow
Coharie Intra-Tribal Council
- **Monday, September 28**
Youth Football Season Begins
Clinton Recreation

Special Insert

July 4th Celebration

www.cityofclintonnc.us

Meet the Mayor



One would be hard-pressed to find a person who has more care and concern for the City of Clinton than does Mayor Lew Starling. Born and raised in Clinton, Mayor Starling is well aware of the city's strong community spirit, and he has personally witnessed the willingness of neighbors to lend a helping hand. These qualities drew Starling back to Clinton after earning his bachelor's degree from Campbell University and his law degree from Wake Forest University. He decided to run for mayor because he wanted to build upon the accomplishments of former mayors and city councils. The Mayor believes it is his and City Council's responsibility to develop solutions and policies for the long-term benefit of the city. He says, "We want our children to want to come back to Clinton because they have opportunities to succeed. We are striving to create opportunities by improving our infrastructure and attracting new businesses and industries." While the Mayor is always ready to highlight Clinton's successes, he believes its challenges need to receive focus as well. "We want to make sure the city is always moving forward," says Mayor Starling, "We have seen a lot of changes and experienced challenges, but our community spirit is as strong as ever and that will always keep Clinton prosperous."

Grant Helps City Move Forward with Downtown Revitalization

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded Clinton a \$450,000 grant to help promote economic development. The grant is part of a \$1.5 million financing package with USDA that the City is using to move forward with its Downtown Revitalization Phase III project. The City originally put the project to bid a year ago but City Council voted to delay the project due to the struggling economy. Delaying the project proved a wise decision. After delaying the project, the City acquired the College Street parking lot and city staff began revising the project's design to incorporate the new property. The new design for the parking lot calls for landscaping around the parking area and a small park at the top of the hill near the College Street and Main Street intersection. "The Phase III project will be great for Downtown Clinton," says Senior Planner Mary Rose, who expects the mix of new greenspace and redesigned parking to attract pedestrians and new businesses to the downtown district. Overall, the revitalization project will encompass the old jail site and extend down Vance Street to Beaman Street. It also will include Connessee Street and College Street entering downtown. The basic design includes widening of sidewalks, relocation of utility lines underground, and streetscaping to improve the appearance of downtown and make it more pedestrian friendly. The City expects to receive bids for the project in July and begin construction in September with a completion target date of April 2011.

City and Community College Partner to Begin Housing Program

On April 20, residents gathered along Lee Street to watch workers lower a house constructed by Sampson Community College students onto support beams over its future foundation. The house, located at 115 W. Lee Street, is the first house of a partnership and program the City and Sampson Community College hope will be a success and provide the residents of Clinton with affordable housing options. City Manager John Connet describes the Clinton Affordable Homeownership Program as a self-sustaining program. "As we sell one house, we plan to purchase another vacant lot with those proceeds in order to place another house from the community college," says Connet, "The ultimate goal is to continue providing safe, affordable homes for low to moderate- income families." The house is 1,200 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths. The appraised value of the house is \$85,000. Beginning July 1, applications will be available at City Hall for all who are interested in purchasing the house. For more information about the house or the Clinton Affordable Homeownership Program, please contact the City Manager's office at 592-1961 or jconnet@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

spurvis@cityofclintonnc.us

www.cityofclintonnc.us

July 4th Fireworks and Celebration



When thinking of July 4, we often find the perfect reason to fire up the grill, spend time with family and friends, and end the day with a fireworks show that will bring a smile to everyone's face. We invite you to come and enjoy a fun filled day at Royal Lane Park on Sunday, July 4, for a day full of activities and entertainment for all ages. The pool will open for extended hours from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., a horseshoe tournament will begin at Picnic Area 1, and DJ Joey Warren will start playing music. At 5:00 p.m., the Woodmen of the World Flag Presentation, Veteran Recognition Ceremony, and placing of the wreath at the Wall of Honor and Remembrance will take place outside the recreation office. Featured band Hip Pocket will begin playing at 6:00 p.m. to keep the fun going into the evening. A fabulous fireworks display beginning at 9:30 p.m., will cap off our Independence Day Celebration.

City Partners with FSCW to Provide Community Paddle Program

Do you want to get outdoors this summer and experience fun for the whole family? Then take advantage of the Community Paddle Program. Clinton Recreation and Parks is partnering with Friends of Sampson County Waterways to provide community paddle trips along the scenic Black and South Rivers. FSCW seeks to provide public education and build awareness about the importance of water and waterways. The Community Paddle Program offers individuals and families the opportunity to paddle our local waterways and enjoy the great outdoors. FSCW volunteers will provide participants with all the necessary equipment needed to paddle as well as instruction and education. Trips are available throughout the year. Current fees are \$15 per person and \$30 per family. Clinton Recreation will be announcing dates for upcoming community paddle trips in July. For more information about the Community Paddle Program contact us at (910) 299-4906, visit www.cityofclintonnc.us/recreation.html, or follow Clinton NC Recreation on Facebook.



Kayaking the Black River, Sampson County

Employee Spotlight

In April, the Clinton Police Department promoted Timmy King to the rank of Lieutenant. A police officer since 1983, Lt. King has served the citizens of Clinton since 1985. He has been a sergeant since 1993. The Police Department conducted a challenging assessment center, which included several strong candidates, to select the new lieutenant. "We are excited to have Timmy King in this position," says Chief Mike Brim, "He is a community oriented officer and has developed a lot of respect over the years from residents and fellow officers." Lt. King's responsibilities now include operations oversight of the patrol division and school resource officers.



The Clinton Fire Department also conducted an assessment center this past spring to find its next Deputy Fire Chief. After a competitive process, Fire Chief Todd Solice selected Jamie Beasley to be the new Deputy Chief in March. Beasley is a Clinton native who began his fire career in 1999 with New Hanover County, where he worked his way to the position of lieutenant. He was also a part-time firefighter with the Clinton Fire Department from 2000 to 2007. Chief Solice describes Beasley as hardworking and passionate about what he does. "He is bringing a lot of great ideas to our department that will help us better serve our citizens," says Solice, "We are fortunate to have him return home to be a part of the Clinton Fire Department."

