



# Clinton Connection

## Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2012

Volume 5, Number 1

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### Community Calendar

- **Wednesday, July 4**  
Fireworks Celebration  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Mon. to Thu., July 16-19**  
Summer Art Camp  
*Sampson Arts Council*
- **Thursday, July 19**  
Alive After Five Concert Series  
*Sampson Arts Council, City of Clinton, & Sampson County*
- **Saturday, July 21**  
Seven Springs Paddle Trip  
*Clinton Recreation & FSCW*
- **Friday, July 27**  
Fall Soccer Registration Closes  
*Clinton Recreation, Sampson County Recreation, & SC Soccer Club*
- **Mon. to Thu., July 30-Aug. 2**  
Summer Art Camp  
*Sampson Arts Council*
- **Fri. to Sun., Aug. 3-4**  
*The Elves and the Shoemaker*  
*Sampson Arts Council*
- **Thursday, August 16**  
Alive After Five Concert Series  
*Sampson Arts Council, City of Clinton, & Sampson County*
- **Friday, August 17**  
Football Registration Closes  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Saturday, August 18**  
Black River Paddle Trip  
*Clinton Recreation & FSCW*
- **Fri. to Sun., Aug. 24-Sep. 2**  
*The Carol Burnett Show*  
*Sampson Community Theater*
- **Thursday, September 6**  
Alive After Five Concert Series  
*Sampson Arts Council, City of Clinton, & Sampson County*
- **Saturday, September 15**  
Great Coharie Paddle Trip  
*Clinton Recreation & FSCW*

## Creating a Vision for Downtown *by Audrey Whetten, Planner*



On June 7, the Clinton Planning Department hosted a downtown visioning forum with the assistance of the North Carolina Main Street program. Thirty-two residents and business owners attended the forum to help make it a success. For two hours, groups discussed the economic drivers, strengths, and weaknesses of the community and downtown. The result was the first step in developing a true vision and master plan for Downtown Clinton. The vision statement will be unveiled at the City Council meeting on July 3. As part of the next step in the process, the North Carolina Main Street Center will conduct a five-day Resource Team visit to Clinton July 9-13. The team will research and evaluate issues and opportunities for downtown, and will recommend strategies for increasing economic vitality in Clinton's central business district. The Resource Team will be comprised of individuals with considerable knowledge and experience in organization, economic restructuring, design, and promotion of downtown districts. They will spend time meeting with a cross section

of community members, organizing group interviews, touring the downtown area, and conducting independent research. On Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 pm, the team will present their findings in a meeting at the Clinton City Hall Auditorium. The public is encouraged to attend. Planning Director Mary Rose is encouraging all who are interested to participate in the process. "We want input and participation from native residents to newcomers and from all the different cultural communities within Clinton. We are reaching out to all these groups with the hope of finding out what all citizens are interested in seeing happen within downtown Clinton," said Rose.

## The Tale of "Milling Around" *by John Connet, City Manager*

A long time ago, 2002 to be exact, in the great kingdom of Clinton, the ruling lords and ladies decreed that the kingdom must be made beautiful in order that it may yield new merchants and bring prosperity. The lords and ladies directed the kingdom's schemers, or city planners, to embark on a great crusade to transform the heart of the kingdom into a thriving center of government, commerce, and culture. The schemers assembled an army of craftsmen to guide them on their great crusade. These craftsmen included medieval mathematicians (engineers), landscapers, and master builders. The great central bank of USDA provided financing for the crusades as kingdom treasury ministers provided financial management. There were many who dedicated their resources to ensure the success of the great Clinton army during these great crusades. The crusades lasted more than a decade and included three specific campaigns- Phases I, II, and III. The campaigns would not have been successful had it not been for the help of the neighboring kingdom of Sampson and the Turlington clan. The Lords of Sampson (County Commissioners) provided generous financial assistance for the obliteration of the Tower of Clinton, our former county jail. The Turlington clan generously agreed to allow the kingdom to obtain the wonderful green in the heart of the kingdom. On May 17, 2012, the lords and ladies of Clinton declared victory and held a great celebration to thank the merchants and citizens of the kingdom for their support and patience. They dedicated a beautiful glass wall symbolizing the kingdom's heritage, hard work, and innovation. Although they declared victory, the lords and ladies decreed that all areas of the kingdom must prosper and they will be ever on guard for the next great crusade.



Above: College St. Parking lot 2010

Below: Public Art dedication 2012



(This story has been adapted from Mr. Connet's remarks at the public art dedication on May 17. You can view the entire dedication on the City's You Tube channel, [Clintonnc1.](#))



### 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](http://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](mailto:spurvis@cityofclintonnc.us)

## City Extends CDBG Projects to Eliza Lane by Shawn Purvis, Assistant City Manager

In 2008, the City began installing water and sewer lines and renovating homes along Russell Street with an \$850,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). As the project drew to a successful completion in 2010, the city received funding for two more CDBG projects along Pugh Road, adjacent to Russell Street. Those two projects combined to install water and sewer along Pugh Road, renovate four homes, and rebuild two homes. Both those projects ended in the spring of 2012. Now, with yet another CDBG grant in hand for \$573,000, the City plans to improve the neighborhood along Eliza Lane. The total project is \$791,000 and includes new water and sewer lines in the neighborhood, fire hydrants, and paving Eliza Lane, Abron Street, and Jerome Street, which are all currently dirt roads. The city has received nearly \$2 million for all four projects to improve the two neighborhoods. More than 30 households have received improvements in the form of water and sewer upgrades or installation, fire hydrant installation, street paving, home renovations, or home construction. Mayor Lew Starling says the CDBG program is certainly worthwhile. "We have been able to help improve the quality of life for several neighborhoods in our community. We hope to continue receiving CDBG funds so we can continue making Clinton a better place to live."

### CDBG Re-cap

#### Russell St.

- \$950,000 (\$850,000 grant)
- 1,860 linear ft. of water lines
- 1,840 linear ft. of sewer lines
- 6 home renovations
- 2 new homes

#### Russell St. Phase II and Pugh Rd.

- \$536,000 (\$520,000 grant)
- 1,590 linear ft. of water lines
- 720 linear ft. of sewer lines
- 4 home renovations
- 2 new homes

#### Eliza Ln., Abron St., & Jerome St.

- \$791,000 (\$573,000 grant)
- 2,070 linear ft. of water lines
- 1,570 linear ft. of sewer lines
- 0.4 miles streets paved

## Employee Spotlight by Judi Nicholson, Recreation Director & Shawn Purvis, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Henry Bell began working for the City of Clinton July 1, 1969, a full year before the city officially formed the Clinton Recreation Department from the founding recreation commission. On Thursday, June 7, the Clinton Recreation and Parks Department honored him at a retirement luncheon. Mr. Bell served the citizens of Clinton for over 42 years as a member of the parks maintenance crew. He was primarily responsible for maintaining Fisher Drive Park, the city's first park. Mr. Bell's dedication to his job and strong work ethic will be missed and he will be difficult to replace. "We are so grateful to Mr. Bell for his many years of service," said Recreation Director Judi Nicholson, "He is the perfect example for young people today to look to as a role model. His cheerful attitude and smile are missed as much as the work he did for the department, and we wish him the best in his retirement."



City Clerk Elaine Hunt is already a certified Master Municipal Clerk and holds a master's degree. Now she has added another accomplishment to her résumé. Ms. Hunt completed the UNC School of Government Municipal and County Administration program in April. This comprehensive course is for city and county officials whose responsibilities require an understanding of local government functions beyond individual areas of specialization. Students attend classes for a week each month from September through April. More than 50 School of Government faculty members and guest instructors teach on subjects including local government law, organization and management, finance and budgeting, public employment law, planning and regulation of development, and municipal and county services. The program provides participants with knowledge about the legal framework and administrative requirements of North Carolina city and county government and the interrelation among different government activities and departments. Ms. Hunt says she is thankful for the experience and looks forward to applying her new knowledge.