



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2011

Volume 3, Number 3

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Community Calendar

- **Monday, January 3**
Youth Basketball & Volleyball Games Begin
Clinton Recreation
- **Thu. to Sun., Jan. 7-9, 14-16**
Rent
Sampson Community Theater
- **Monday, January 10**
Youth Baseball & Softball Registration Opens
Clinton Recreation
- **Saturday, February 26**
Youth Soccer Games Begin
Sampson County Soccer Club
- **Monday, January 17**
Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet
Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce
- **Thu. & Fri., January 27-28**
Mystery Dinner Theater
Sampson Arts Council
- **Thursday, February 10**
District 1 Meeting
Beaman St. Fire Station
- **Thursday, March 3**
District 4 Meeting
Bellamy Recreation Center
- **Tuesday, March 8**
District 2 Meeting
Beaman St. Fire Station
- **Thursday, March 10**
District 5 Meeting
Sampson Community Center
- **Tuesday, March 15**
District 3 Meeting
City Hall Auditorium

City Sets Dates for Annual District Meetings

The City has set the schedule for its annual district meetings. The meetings are intended to open the lines of communication between citizens and City Hall. "The district meetings provide a great opportunity for citizens who do not typically come to monthly council meetings to express their concerns and provide us with feedback," says Mayor Lew Starling. The Mayor, district councilmember, and city staff will be present at each meeting to review accomplishments, answer questions, address concerns, and receive feedback from residents. The Mayor and City Council encourage citizens to come and offer ideas and express concerns. The district meetings will be held in February and March at locations convenient to each district. Last year's meetings witnessed the best turnout to date and the city hopes even more citizens will choose to participate this year. If you have questions about your district, visit the Mayor and City Council page on the city website, or call City Hall at 910-592-1961.

District Meeting Schedule

District 1	Feb. 10 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 2	Mar. 8 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 3	Mar. 15 7:00 pm	City Hall Auditorium
District 4	Mar. 3 7:00 pm	Bellamy Center
District 5	Mar. 10 7:00 pm	Sampson Center

The Show Must Go On

The City of Clinton and Sampson Community Theater have partnered to fund an \$118,000 project to upgrade the electrical wiring and stage lighting in the Community Theater. The Sampson Community Theater leases the theater building from the City, which purchased the theater building in 1982. According to City Manager John Connet, "The existing wiring was installed when the building was constructed originally as a movie theater. There have been numerous changes through the years. We determined that if we were going to continue to use the theater, the electrical wiring and stage lighting needed to be upgraded." The City's portion of the project included upgrading the basic electrical system in the building and ensuring the building is compliant with all codes. This was accomplished by replacing the electrical wiring and installing new emergency lighting. City Councilman Steve Stefanovich stated, "The Mayor and City Council want to ensure the building is safe for our citizens. We knew something had to be done to improve the electrical system in the theater, so it became one of our top priorities for 2010."



Sampson Community Theater, 115 Fayetteville Street

Using a generous donation, the Sampson Community Theater installed new stage lighting. The new lighting is located on a self-supporting truss system that will enhance the theatrical experience for attendees and protect the structural integrity of the building. The new lighting system can be controlled remotely from the back of the theater balcony, which will allow the removal of the lighting platform on the front of the balcony. The removal of the platform will in turn allow patrons to enjoy balcony seating with an unobstructed view of the show. Theater board member Jeff Warren commented, "We are extremely excited about our new lighting system. This project will take our performances to the next level."

The theater is located in Downtown Clinton. Sampson Community Theater expects the theater to reopen on January 7, 2011, in time for the production of Tony Award winning *Rent*. For more information or tickets, please contact the theater box office at 592-8653.



Important Numbers

Emergency.....911
City Hall.....299-4900
Water & Sewer Billing.....299-4909
Code Enforcement.....299-4904
Sanitation.....299-4905
Streets.....299-4905
After-hours Emergency...592-1151

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

Work Zone Ahead, Pardon Our Mess



The new billing & collections entrance off John Street.

If you have visited City Hall recently you certainly noticed the expansion and renovation project. The purpose of the project is to improve handicap accessibility for our citizens, provide greater security for our vital records, and improve the overall efficiency of the building. City Manager John Connet stated, "We are doing a small addition, but we will be dramatically improving our ability to serve our customers. We cannot wait until the end of January to show our citizens the new and improved City Hall." The expansion project includes the construction of a new utility collections area with improved access in the middle of the building and an expanded conference room/training room adjacent to the auditorium. City Hall customers have always had to park on the side of the building and walk around to the front of the building. Citizens who could not use the stairs had to enter through the back door and walk down the narrow hall to the collections area. The new expansion will allow all citizens to enter City Hall from John Street through a new handicap accessible entrance. Our payment window will be within a few steps of the door and accessible to everyone. The new conference/training room will provide greater flexibility for citizens and staff who use the auditorium. The room will also function as the City's Emergency Operations Center. Renovations include creating handicap accessible restrooms in the original portion of City Hall, constructed in 1958. In addition, a former police locker room will now be a secure area for vital records and computer equipment. The former utility collections area will now be office space, allowing the Administration and Finance Departments to consolidate into City Hall. The relocation of personnel from the City Hall Annex will allow for improved customer service and accessibility in the Planning Department, which will be able to locate all services on the first floor.

Russell Street CDBG Project Wrap-up

This winter will witness the completion of the Russell Street CDBG project. The \$950,000 project, which was funded with an \$850,000 grant from the State, upgraded the water system along Russell St. for better service and fire protection and provided sewer to the neighborhood. In addition, the grant helped renovate eight houses and construct two new homes for displaced residents. The final sewer connections are expected to be completed by mid-January. "This has been a great project," commented Mayor Lew Starling. "We have done a lot to help improve the neighborhood and hope to do more projects like this one." The City is awaiting word from the State about another CDBG grant that would allow the City to upgrade water service and extend sewer services down adjacent Pugh Road.



New CDBG homes constructed on Williams Street

Employee Spotlight

For the past 31 years, Betty Brewer has been an integral part of the city's finance department. Ms. Brewer began her career with the City of Clinton in 1979. Since that time, she has served as payroll technician, utility billing supervisor, and, since 1998, finance officer. As Finance Director, she maintained financial stability and helped the city improve its already excellent credit ratings. The city is losing a valuable asset in Ms. Brewer. Mayor Starling remarked of Ms. Brewer's retirement, "I knew that I could always count on Betty Brewer to tell me the truth about the financial condition of the City. Her leadership and experience will be truly missed by the entire organization."

