



# Clinton Connection

## Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2012

Volume 4, Number 3

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### Community Calendar

- **Monday, January 9**  
Youth Baseball & Softball  
Registration Opens  
*Clinton Recreation*
- **Monday, January 16**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet  
*Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce*
- **Tuesday, January 17**  
Bus Trip: Rembrandt Exhibit at  
NC Museum of Art  
*SCC Foundation*
- **Thu. to Sat., January 26-28**  
Mystery Dinner Theater  
*Sampson Arts Council*
- **Thursday, February 9**  
District 1 Meeting  
*Beaman St. Fire Station*
- **Fri. to Sun., Feb. 17-19, 24-26**  
Come Blow Your Horn  
*Sampson Community Theater*
- **Tuesday, February 28**  
District 4 Meeting  
*Bellamy Recreation Center*
- **Thursday, March 8**  
District 5 Meeting  
*Sampson Community Center*
- **Saturday, March 10**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Super Sprint Triathlon  
*Clinton Recreation & FS Series*
- **Tuesday, March 13**  
District 2 Meeting  
*Beaman St. Fire Station*
- **Thursday, March 15**  
District 3 Meeting  
*City Hall Auditorium*

## Clinton 2.0 *by Shawn Purvis, Assistant City Manager*

A quick Google search of Clinton, NC returns the city's website, a Wikipedia entry, and a few other relevant returns. Now city officials hope you will also look to social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube for information. Currently, the city's primary methods of relaying information to the public are its website, the local papers, or its Connect CTY phone system. While these methods provide information, only the Connect CTY service can provide it in a timely fashion. "Our goal is to get as much information to as many people as



quickly as possible," says City Manager John Connet. "Using social media is an excellent way for us to accomplish this goal. We have the phone service but not everyone subscribes to it. The internet is the fastest way to connect to our residents and anyone else who wants to know what is going on." The City has been using Facebook since October to post photos and updates about the downtown revitalization as well as information about

construction, severe weather, and events. In addition to posts on Facebook, to get the word out the city manager also uses Twitter, where you can follow him @jconnet. The City also has a You Tube channel and Flickr account. On the city's You Tube channel, Clintonnc1, you can find City Council meetings and public service announcements, while Flickr has photos of events and city projects. You can find links to all the City's social media sites as well as Connect CTY and RSS feeds for the news section on the City of Clinton homepage.

In addition to providing information faster and easier through social media, the City also is planning a redesign of its website. First, however, we want your feedback. Visit the city's homepage at [www.cityofclintonnc.us](http://www.cityofclintonnc.us) and click on the survey button. We are seeking input about what you want to see on the city's website and how we can make it easier to find it. Look for the city's new web design in 2012!



## Encouraging Healthy Activity *by Judi Nicholson, Recreation & Parks Director*

It's no secret that the Clinton Recreation and Parks Department encourages physical activity to stay healthy. The department provides several programs year-round to help residents and visitors stay active. It has even introduced some new fitness classes at the Bellamy Center. One of the easiest ways to stay active and healthy is simply walking. The city provides several walking paths and trails open to all including a quarter-mile track, a half-mile fitness trail, a quarter-mile nature trail at Royal Lane Park, and a quarter-mile walking path at Sampson Community Park. These paths and trails have proven popular, and the city has begun new initiatives to provide more areas for safe walking, jogging, and even biking. In January, construction will begin on a new half-mile walking path at Newkirk Park on Ferrell Street. This will be a paved path connecting to existing sidewalks for convenient and safe access. Recreation staff also is part of a committee headed by the Planning



The quarter-mile nature trail is located at Royal Lane Park.

Department that is putting the finishing touches on a citywide pedestrian plan. The plan includes sidewalks, trails, and greenways that will improve the connectivity of the city. To build upon the pedestrian plan, the city intends to apply for a NCDOT grant to develop a bicycle plan. The Recreation Department is already applying for a Regional Trails Program grant to fund improvements on the nature and fitness trails at Royal Lane Park. If awarded, this grant will allow the city to improve the surface of the fitness trail to make it accessible for foot traffic, bikes, and skates. The grant also will provide for surface and grade improvements to the nature trail, which will make it better for walkers and runners.

For those who want to be even more active and like a challenge, the city will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sampson County Super Sprint Triathlon. This FS Series event is set for Saturday, March 10. Participants came from as far as Montana last year to participate. The triathlon includes a 250-yard swim, 7-mile bike ride, and 2-mile run. Registration begins January 1. The Recreation Department will hold several training session throughout the winter. Follow us on Facebook or visit our offices for more information. If you would like to be part of the planning committee or one of the workout groups, please contact Casey Stevens at the NC Cooperative Extension Office at 910-592-7161 or Judi Nicholson at the Clinton Recreation Department, 910-299-4906. The kick off meeting will be Thursday, January 5 at 3:30 pm at the Center for Health + Wellness. To register online, visit [www.fsseries.com](http://www.fsseries.com).



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

## City Sets Dates for Annual District Meetings *by Elaine Hunt, City Clerk*

The City has set the schedule for its annual district meetings. The intent of the meetings is 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 in February and March at locations convenient to each district. "We look forward to these meetings each year," says City Manager John Connet. "We have seen increased participation the past two years and expect a good turnout again 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

<b>District 1</b>	<b>Feb. 9 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Beaman St. Fire Station</b>
<b>District 2</b>	<b>Mar. 13 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Beaman St. Fire Station</b>
<b>District 3</b>	<b>Mar. 15 7:00 pm</b>	<b>City Hall Auditorium</b>
<b>District 4</b>	<b>Feb. 28 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Bellamy Center</b>
<b>District 5</b>	<b>Mar. 8 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Sampson Center</b>

## Fire Department Receives Grant *by Josh Coombs, Lieutenant-Fire Training Coordinator*

South River Electric Membership Corporation awarded the Clinton Fire Department a \$5,000 grant in December. South River EMC provides Operation Roundup Grants to its members and organizations that serve its members. This is the second year in a row the department has received such a grant. Last year, the Clinton Fire Department used the grant funds for public education programs and materials, particularly for children. This year the grant will provide funding for rapid intervention equipment. Firefighters use the equipment to save people and firefighters that become lost or trapped within a structure during a fire.

## Employee Spotlight *by Shawn Purvis, Assistant City Manager*

If you have visited the Clinton-Sampson Planning Department in the past seven months, you probably noticed some reorganization and new faces. In April 2011, Mary Rose accepted a promotion to Planning and Development Director. Mary began her career in the Clinton Planning Department as an office assistant nearly 17 years ago. During her time in the department, she has held the positions of Development Specialist, Planner, and, most recently, Senior Planner. Mary holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Campbell University and she has completed the UNC School of Government's Municipal Administration course. When asked about Mary's appointment, City Manager John Connet stated, "I have worked with Mary over the last eight and half years and she has been an excellent member of our staff. She has had success in various positions in the Planning Department, and I know she will be successful in managing the day-to-day activities of the department. She truly understands that working in local government means making your community a better place to live and work. Mary is committed to helping the city and county develop a long-range vision that will help our community grow and prosper."

