

Dedicated employee retires

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The first thing she's going to do when she retires is clean her house.

Doris Bumgarner, who has spent 25 years as a public servant for Claremont and Maiden, will be retiring Sept. 28.

After a three-year stint at Claremont as the city manager and a 21 year stay in the town of Maiden, Bumgarner decided it was time for her to sell her house



BUMGARNER

in Maiden and join her three grandchildren and two children for Sunday barbecue lunches.

"Your body will tell you when it's time to retire," Bumgarner said. "This has been such a great opportunity for me."

Although she won't be able to see new watertower become completely operational as a manager, she will be able to use the water as a citizen, purchasing a house in Claremont. The only snag is that she still has a house in downtown Maiden as well and has to clean it up for resale before completely becoming a Claremont citizen.

After starting her public service career in Maiden, working under longtime Town Clerk Irene Campbell, who helped Bumgarner learn the ropes as she started in the parttime post in the town. In fact, Maiden and Claremont can thank the service of Bumgarner to Campbell.

"I got into local government because I was working part time when my daughter was starting school," Bumgarner recalled. "(Campbell) taught me so much and I just got interested in it and I stayed."

Bumgarner went from that part-time position to town clerk, then took the interim manager position and eventually became manager. It's the people that keep her going.

"I really like getting to know the different personalities. I'm a people person," she said. "I like to think I'm helping people."

The one thing she said would make her breathe a little bit easier, though, will be the rail spur — the project running railroad lines to the new Poppelmann factory in the Claremont International Business Park.

She took the role of interim manager in Claremont on April 12, 2004 and was officially offered the position on Nov. 1, 2004.

She will be leaving her hometown of Maiden to live in Claremont.

"Hopefully in spring we'll be living here full time," she said. "This is a wonderful place and the people are friendly and the council are all good people.... It's like it's a small town and they want to keep that small town family atmosphere."