

Mayor looks to the future



Written by Jordan-Ashley Baker (O-N-E Staff Writer)

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Claremont Mayor Dave Morrow hasn't been in office long, but he said he has high hopes for the city's future.

Before taking office as mayor, Morrow served six years as a city council member. During his time on council, Morrow said he saw Claremont accomplish many things.

Morrow said the rail spur line built to serve Poppelmann Plastics is one of Claremont's accomplishments. The line is 97 percent finished and should be completed in February, Morrow said.

Citizen involvement increased through events, such as Claremont Day and the annual Christmas parade, he said.

Youth programs encouraged younger citizens to get involved. The City Youth Council educates young people who are interested in government, he said.

Claremont also dedicated a veteran's memorial in City Park on Veteran's Day.

Morrow said he wants to attract new businesses to the city in the future.

Environmental awareness is also an important part of Claremont's future goals, Morrow said.

"Everybody's going green," Morrow said.

Eighty percent of Claremont citizens recycle in some manner, but Morrow said he wants to continue educating citizens about recycling.

Morrow said sectioned recycle bins placed throughout the city are a great way to encourage residents to recycle.

"We want to raise citizens' awareness about what to recycle," Morrow said.

The economic downturn has effected Claremont residents, Morrow said.

"Citizens are more cognizant of spending and resources," he said.

Just as Claremont residents are more aware of their spending, Claremont's government also spends carefully.

"Claremont has been operating in the black for many years," Morrow said.

Morrow said he has ideas about how to improve Claremont in the future.

He said he wants to work with Hickory to expand water and sewer infrastructure. Working with neighboring communities is important for the growth of Catawba County, Morrow said.

Creating greenways and walkways throughout the city is another future goal, Morrow said.

Claremont has grown in the past 10 years, and Morrow said he wants that growth to continue.

"Claremont has been ahead of the curve to see down the road for continued growth," Morrow said.

That foresight can be attributed to strong local government and informed citizens, he said.

Claremont has been blessed with good government officials who will help make a difference in the community, Morrow said.

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