

# Clinton to focus on retail planning

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By Daniel J. Lauer

Staff Writer

The City of Clinton will host a community workshop Thursday and Friday to gather input on retail development in the city. The program, Hometown 2030: Focus on Retail, is being planned by Upstate Forever, which serves 10 counties in the Upstate region.

"This is a chance to invite all the community members and citizens from the greater Clinton area to really talk about strategies and desires for retail and commercial development," said city manager Josh Kay. "We will talk about recruitment, development, incubation, the whole nine yards."

Kay said that the focus will not only be on how to recruit new retail and commercial businesses, but also how to support and retain existing businesses.

"How do we help the folks who are already here and have made an investment in our community?" Kay asked. "Our economic base lies

in our existing businesses."

Kay said that this planning process builds upon the Clinton Challenge 007 and Clinton Focus 2013 plans, looking further into the future towards 2030. He said the plan will help city staff further the community.

"We initially approached three communities and chose to focus on Clinton," said Ned Barrett, program manager at Upstate Forever. "We saw Clinton as a really ripe opportunity to conduct this type of visioning workshop."

Barrett said that he is very impressed with Kay, assistant city manager Frank Stovall and city council and how they "are energetic in planning for the future growth that we will surely see in the next 20 years."

A session is planned for Thursday evening at 120 Musgrove from 7:30 until 9. Friday's session, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m., will be held at Broad Street Methodist Church. Anyone wishing to participate in

either session is asked to contact Dianne Wyatt to RSVP before Thursday evening by calling 864-833-7505.

"There are some real serious issues at stake here," said Barrett. "I think the direction that the City of Clinton is going is a good one."