

Chairman Bruce's Newsletter

7/17/07

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing 4th of July holiday. I would like to thank the sponsors of the excellent fireworks shows in both McCaysville and on Blue Ridge Lake. I think most felt that the displays this year were exceptional.

Over the last several weeks I have had the opportunity to speak at both the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs in Blue Ridge. I thank them for their hospitality and for the chance to talk and discuss, even if briefly, some of the events going on in our community and in county government. Each of these groups do great work for our community and I encourage any of you out there looking for a chance to participate in effective community projects to consider joining either one of these fine groups. You and your community will both benefit.

I would like to welcome Shannon Guinn as our new full time county electrical inspector. Shannon is a Fannin County native who comes to us exceptionally qualified as a residential and commercial electrician. His personality will greatly assist our county in our efforts to work with electricians and contractors and help reduce their level of liability by providing thorough inspections and assistance in interpreting electrical code. Our plan is for electrical inspections to continue to become more and more streamlined and efficient while providing the highest level of service possible.

In the past, builders would telephone our contracted electrical inspectors directly to set up an inspection. Going forward, builders will need to contact the inspection office in the courthouse to set up an inspection.

Speaking of our former part-time electrical inspectors, I would like to thank Leonard Parris & Doyle Stanley for their years of service and dedication in their roles as electrical inspectors. They certainly helped get the county off the ground in this vital service and their hard work is definitely appreciated.

Just a quick update on our county roads: paving on Jones Rd in Epworth and on Mercury Lane off of Curtis Switch has been completed. We are waiting on the final piece of state contract paperwork for the road in the Holly Hills area. This paving work will be completed just as quickly as possible after receiving this document. Some of the roads that will soon be scheduled for paving include

Laurel Crossing and Lake Cove Circle. These roads were included on a list approved by the previous Board of Commissioners and we plan to complete this approved list before moving on to new unscheduled projects.

I want to briefly mention that the Board of Commissioners plans on rolling back the county portion of the millage rate from 5.969 to 5.16 mills. Most home owners will see no increase in their tax bills and, in fact, many should see a reduction. Your Commissioners are committed to using tax dollars prudently and conservatively. We strive to always remember how county services and operations are funded and to make the most and best use of every dollar.

Remember to visit www.fannincountyga.org for additional county government information.

God Bless,
Howie Bruce, Chairman
Fannin County Board of Commissioners