

Chairman Bruce's Newsletter

August 22, 2007

As school begins again for another year in the tri-state area, I am always impressed with the way our local teachers go about readying themselves and their classrooms for the new year. They are always able to generate the enthusiasm needed to go about instructing and inspiring our youth. Our teachers do excellent jobs teaching even though they face an ever increasing obstacle course or paperwork, red tape and regulations.

My wife teaches Senior English at Fannin High and absolutely loves working with her students. She rarely complains about the constant stream of duties she has other than teaching. If she and the other teachers did not like teaching and helping educate our young, they wouldn't do it. It isn't a job where one can show up and punch a clock and earn a paycheck. The obstacles they face require that they are committed to the education of our future leaders.

I wish the best to Mark Henson, the new School Superintendent in Fannin County, to Jeff Wilbanks, the new Fannin High Principal, and to the many other administrators and teachers taking on new responsibilities. My best also to Darren Danner and all of the staff at Copper Basin High.

One of the bigger issues that continue to face us in Fannin County is our littering problem. The litter that seems ever present on our roads detracts from the natural beauty and attractiveness of our community. I ask you all to be aware of your own garbage and trash as you transport it to the garbage disposal convenience centers in Fannin. Make sure it is secure in your truck as you transport it and be especially aware of the loose cups and papers that may be in your truck bed. As most of you know, it does not stay there long and ends up as yet another eyesore on the side of the road.

The Sheriff and I have started a small program to help address the problem. On almost a daily basis, an officer is taking a couple of detainees from our local jail out to pick up trash along our county roads. The officer will also be able to review and cite for littering when proper evidence is available. This is a steady effort that will not solve the problem on its own, but it will be another tool to help clean up our roadways.

Marie Woody, our Land Development Director, has been able to secure a \$5,000 grant to help go toward the disposal of junk tires. We plan on having a couple of days in September where we will set up collection sites for citizens to bring us the old tires they may have stored on their property. Many folks mention these old junk tires as a particularly difficult litter problem.

On a final note, be sure to remember the Labor Day Barbecue held in downtown Blue Ridge. The proceeds raised through this inter-denominational effort go to assist the needy in our community. Come out, have some BBQ and help out a great cause.

God Bless and remember to visit www.fannincountyga.org for additional information.

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Howell (Howie) Bruce, Jr.
Chairman
Fannin County Board of Commissioners
www.fannincountyga.org