

Chairman Bruce's Newsletter

10-3-2007

I am happy to report that the county's effort to help reduce and eliminate litter and trash in our area is gaining momentum. The tire collection days in September were a huge success. On two different weekends and each day working just 4 hours, county citizens brought in 5,500 old tires to be disposed of courtesy of a grant obtained by Land Development Department Head Marie Woody. Think about that. That is FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED tires that were lying around in the back of people's houses, out in the woods, on vacant lots and in ditches that are now properly disposed of. This by no means eliminates the junk tire problem and we hope to be able to hold such free collection days again next year.

In our last Commissioners' meeting, we approved Roger Pulliam as a county enforcement officer. He has been working on our litter problem along county roads by taking detainees from our jail out to help clean littered areas and unclog culverts when possible. With his appointment as an enforcement officer, he will now be able to investigate litter and dumping reports with the authority to issue citations when proof or evidence of responsibility is found. Sheriff Ensley and I have already received several compliments about this new effort and we hope for continued positive results in the future. Watch the Sentinel for a more specific press release about this soon.

The county governmental agencies are by no means the only people involved with the effort to make our community even cleaner. This last weekend saw many local volunteer and civic groups working with the annual River's Alive effort. This event helps to clean up our beautiful waterways and always does a fantastic job of helping preserve their appeal to locals and visitors alike.

My thanks go to all of these groups. Fannin County plans to continue to grow this effort as we go forward. We are in the process of joining several other of Governor Sonny Perdue's "Clean and Beautiful" efforts, so keep your eyes open for additional ways you can help.

I would like to take a brief second to congratulate Keith Jones and Hirsch Bressler, the co-chairs for the Georgia Literary Festival held this last weekend in downtown Blue Ridge. They and the many others who worked with them on this massive project did a remarkable job with the planning, organization and vision needed to make this event a reality. I have also heard of communication from state library and literary festival officials saying this is one of, if not the best, festivals they have ever had. It truly was an honor for Blue Ridge and Fannin County to host this unique event and showcase our community in a different way. My thanks again to Keith, Hirsch, and the many others who played a role in this event.

Lastly, I want to mention a community event our Recreation Department will be holding on Saturday, October 13th. We are hosting what I hope will be a regular event in the coming months. At the Fannin County Park, we will be showing the animated movie, "Happy Feet", free of charge to all those who wish to attend. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs for what I am calling the first of our "Films on the Field". We will have concessions there, but feel free to bring

your own. The movie will start around dark and there will be a few activities for those children who can't sit through a whole ninety minutes! So parents, children, teens, grandparents and grandchildren, mark your calendars for this opportunity for community fellowship.

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Howell (Howie) Bruce, Jr.

Chairman

Fannin County Board of Commissioners

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