

February 2009 Newsletter

Greetings residents of District Two,

**As I am sure you have read in the newspapers, the Board of Commissioners has implemented a hiring and spending freeze. This will be in effect until June 30, 2009. The board has not received all the final reports for our 2010 budget. We should receive them sometime around April or May. We are presently taking steps to help offset the expected \$5.5 million dollar shortfall in this year's budget. One of our largest expenses is personnel and public safety. We will meet with our department heads regarding reducing their budget by 10-20%. I am only one board member, but my suggestion would be to furlough some employees to a 32 to 35 hour a week. This may allow us to keep more people employed. This will be a long process and we will be going through the difficult task of balancing the budget. By law, our budget must be balanced.

District Two News

**Mr. Lanier Sims who has served on our Zoning Board of Appeals will be moving to our Planning Commission as our newest board member. Dr. Nick Hathorn will now serve as our representative on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Our planned Denny Dobbs Park has run into a financially difficult situation. We now only have \$1.4 million dollars to finish the park, and our contractor's bids have come in at a significantly higher amount than what we had anticipated. We are now left with leaving out much of the equipment that would ordinarily draw our residents to the park. We are trying different approaches, but we are running out of ideas. I feel that we must go forward with the building of this park. We have too many people depending on us to see this through. I will keep you informed as we move along with the process.

A note of interest:

**Covington's City Council has approved a zoning that will allow a private school in Covington. The school's enrollment will be K-12 and hopefully it will be started in the fall of this year. It plans to locate on thirty (30) acres of land on Highway 278 East.

**As a Valentine's gift to valued shoppers, IKEA Department Store in Atlanta (Buckhead area) has announced free breakfast for its shoppers for four (4) days starting on Friday the 13th. This is a good way to get familiar with this high quality retailer.

Wishing you a great February...

Commissioner Simmons