

September 2009

Many thanks to those of you who attended the August Fireside Chat on Understanding Your Tax Bill. I also want to thank Tommy Knight, Barbara Dingler, and Charles Berry for presenting valuable information and answering all of our questions. For those of you who were unable to attend, I have a short DVD that explains the Property Tax in terms we can all understand. Please contact me and I will make the DVD available to you.


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Springfield Baptist Church will be hosting a Revival beginning on September 27 at their property on Sockwell and Crowell Roads. Please check their website at www.SBCLIVE.org for more info.

Neighborhoods Project Kickoff to be held Tuesday, September 22 at 7pm in Fairview Estates.

Almon/Crowell Road Overlay Project Meeting Thursday, October 15 at 7pm at the Almon Community Center.

NSP Update:

Fairview Estates has been identified as the priority project in Newton County for the receipt of NSP funds. A non-profit partner, IECDG, has been selected to work with the Newton County Planning Department in administering this project. Friday, September 18, marked the first of many meetings with representatives from the Fairview Estates neighborhood. The BOC is most appreciative of the perspectives and concerns raised by the residents. It is our intention to work closely with the residents during the planning and implementation of this project. One important component of the planning phase is public comment related to the Environmental Assessment. The public comment phase is now open through September 27. A copy of the environmental assessment is available at the following link:  [NSP Environmental Assessment](#)

Anyone who has questions or comments, please contact Scott Sirotkin at (678) 625-1657.

This Environmental Assessment shows a conceptual plan of the proposed passive park and describes the scope of the complete project in Fairview Estates. The next meeting with residents from Fairview Estates will take place at 7pm on October 1 at The Oaks Course, 11240 Brown Bridge Road. As the project progresses additional meetings will be scheduled with surrounding neighborhoods impacted by the project. Stay tuned for further updates.

Almon/Crowell Road Overlay Project:

Residents from the Almon Community and Crowell Road have been meeting for over 6 months to define the character of future development within this district. The project began in February with assistance from the Environmental Design Studio students from UGA. The priority recommendation from the students at their final presentation was to develop an overlay to the existing zoning.

The purpose of this overlay is to create an Almon Community District that will:

A. Promote the economic, cultural, educational, and general welfare of the public by fostering sustainable growth within the Almon/Crowell Road areas of Newton County.

B. Preserve Newton County's natural ambiance and historic nature by avoiding the emergence and expansion of long, linear, commercial strips and by blending new developments into the area without compromising the unique character.

C. Encourage compatibility of forms, scale, massing and materials such that new structures will conform to community features and standards and thereby more closely reflect the nature of the community.

The initial draft of the overlay was presented September 17, 2009. Based on comments from the participants, revisions will be made and the next meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 at the Almon Community Center at 7pm.