

My Perspective – May 2009

Greetings Residents of District Two,

May is here and we have to update you on several topics...

At the April 17th meeting the Board of Commissioners covered the budget shortfall of over \$8 million dollars. We requested Chairman Morgan and staff to meet with the other elected officials in the county to see if they could assess their budget for additional cuts. When this happens we will know how much more the county needs to reduce in order to balance the budget. This is a grueling process and we have scheduled seven public work sessions to help us accomplish this task.

After a very informative report from Water Resource Director Karl Kelley, we instructed him to submit a letter to Governor Sonny Perdue requesting that Newton County be removed from the drought listing. This will provide residents more options, such as, washing their vehicles and watering their lawns, flowers and gardens on odd and even days.

The Wal-Mart Super Store has submitted an artist rendering of their proposed store on Salem Road and Brown Bridge Road. Both I and Planning Director Marian Eisenberg were very impressed with this “corporate theme store” concept. It is far more attractive than the average Wal-Mart and I think the residents will be very pleased. Wal-Mart representatives have told us they hope to break ground in the spring of 2010 and have their grand opening by 2011.

Update on Roads:

1. The final right-of-ways and utility equipment lines on the corner of Spring Road & Salem Road, and Smith Store Road & Salem Road are moving along and the traffic lights will be coming in the near future.
2. The CVS Drug Store on Hwy. 20 & Brown Bridge Road is completing road work and store assembly rapidly and they hope to be completed by summer.
3. The traffic light work on Hwy. 20 & Hwy 212/Brown Bridge Road has stopped for a short period of time until all the underground utilities are removed. When this is completed they will begin the construction and alignment for the traffic light signal...HOORAY!!
4. We have asked the Kroger on Brown Bridge Road to re-align part of their back parking lot so as to give more site distance on Brown Bridge to their out-going customers. We think this will prevent accidents, but this is totally voluntary on their behalf, and they have told us that they will give this request consideration.

Lastly, I, along with other concerned citizens, will be sponsoring a FREE Job Resources Seminar that will be held on Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Newton County Historic Courthouse, (on the Square) 1124 Clark Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom. We want ALL residents over 16 years old to come out and learn these tips and receive resources to find jobs.

The unemployment rate in Newton County is at 10%. This is one of the highest in nation. Please tell everyone about this seminar. We will be covering Interviewing Skills, Personal Presentation, Career Goal Setting, Where & How to Look for a Job and Resume Creation. We hope to give residents the tools they need to find a job and be better prepared to SUCCEED in their job search.

We will keep you updated about the progress next month.

Wishing you a safe summer,

Commissioner Simmons