

Wow! What a start to 2008.

We have had four murders, multiple robberies and several serious accidents during January. We are becoming more aware of the crime and violence of the times. Several times a week, our newspapers are featuring front page stories about these events.

Because I am very worried about this situation, I installed several "Anonymous Tip" signs around my district. Other commissioners are now asking for the same signs (even some outside Newton County). I have some news regarding the opening of the Wal-Mart on Salem Rd and Browns Bridge Rd. The process is moving slowly but they hope to be open by mid to late Fall. Walgreens Pharmacy is also building on the same lot at the site of the abandoned Playschool. When everything is completed this should be a very active corner.

We are still in the process of accepting bids for Denny Dobbs Park at Oakhill and Hwy 212. It will serve a multitude of citizens from every age group and I am very excited about this project. I want all of my constituents to know that I work on every concern, every problem and every question brought before me even though it sometimes may take several days to research and get back to you with an answer. Please be patient as there are over 16,000 people in this district, some of whom want their answer yesterday. I look forward to serving you and to the many challenges ahead.

Commissioner Earnest L. Simmons