

PRESS RELEASE.....Feb. 13, 2019

**Fannin Spring Clean-up / Aska Road
Saturday, April 6, 9am**

Let's stem the tide of litter in this beautiful mountain county!

To help Fannin County become a safer, healthier and even better place to live, work and play, a series of community events to clean up litter in Fannin County is in the works.

The first clean-up is scheduled for April 6 on Aska Road; an abandoned tire clean-up will be held later in the spring. Tentative dates for future litter clean-ups are July 13 and October 15.

Besides looking trashy, littering / dumping is illegal, encourages more littering / dumping, reflects badly on our community, decreases property values, reduces economic growth, encourages crime, is a highway safety issue, harms natural resources and costs huge amounts of taxpayer money for clean-up and enforcement.

Please join us, the Fannin Litterbusters, to combat this blight:

- **DATE:** Saturday, April 6, 9am; meet at Public Works building, 229 Aska Road.
- **CLEAN-UP LOCATION:** Aska Road, which is one of the most beautiful but unfortunately one of the most littered roads in the county.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Responsible adults are urged to demonstrate their civic and patriotic pride by volunteering for these clean-up efforts. Volunteers are also encouraged to consider participation in Fannin County's Adopt-a-Road program http://www.fannincountyga.com/faq_category/adopt-a-road/
- **SAFETY:** Due to safety issues when working close to roadways, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to participate. For the clean-up event, volunteers are encouraged to have drinking water, safety vests and work gloves. Bags will be provided.
- **PARTNERS:** Fannin County Government, City of Blue Ridge, North Georgia Resource Management Authority, Fannin County Chamber of Commerce, Advanced Disposal Services, local businesses / organizations, residents, and other concerned parties.
- **QUESTIONS?** Contact Marie Woody, Chief Officer of Fannin County Land Development, 706-258-5170.

- SIGN UP: fannin.litterbusters@gmail.com

Let's all pitch in to clean up Fannin County!

.....

BACKGROUND:

According to Keep America Beautiful ("Litter in America Factsheet," January 2010), those under 30 are more likely to litter than those over 30. Communities can reduce their litter rate by

- demonstrating a preference for a litter-free community through on-going efforts to keep litter cleaned up
- setting a standard of caring for the community through improving and beautifying public areas
- stressing individual responsibility for keeping the community clean through messages that emphasize social disapproval of littering

REMINDER:

It is illegal under Georgia statute and Fannin County ordinance to litter or dump garbage.

Fannin County has a stringent solid waste ordinance, which applies to littering, dumping, and hauling waste; violators are subject to fines of \$410 to \$1000 and possible jail time. [Fannin County Solid Waste Ordinance, Chapter 58 of the Fannin County Code of Ordinances]

Anyone hauling a load in Fannin County must secure and cover the load; if not in compliance, the load will be refused at the disposal site.

Citizens witnessing anyone littering, dumping or hauling an unsecured load can report it to Fannin County Land Development at 706-258-5170. For a citation to be issued to the violator, witnesses must provide their name / address / phone number and be willing to appear in court as a witness.

Witnesses are asked to provide as much information as possible, such as name of company if commercial, vehicle tag number, location of the incident, and pictures if available.

Georgia littering statutes state that it is unlawful for anyone to deposit litter or to allow littering on any public or private property or waters in the state. Violators are subject to fines up to \$1000 and jail sentences up to 12 months. The driver of the vehicle involved is responsible for any trash that escapes the vehicle. [O.C.G.A. §16-7-42, §16-7-43, §40-6-249]

.....###.....

PRESS CONTACT:

Jean Oakley

steve.jean.oakley@gmail.com

360-941-7211 (Jean's cell)