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Troup Commissioners set to bash trash at Saturday's Great American Cleanup

(April 15, 2010) The Troup County Board of Commissioners plans to hit the littered trail Saturday morning in an effort to bring home the Troup Trash Bash Challenge award for the second year in a row.

One of several honors bestowed at the Great American Cleanup sponsored by Keep Troup Beautiful, the Trash Bash torch goes to the local government that picks up the most trash. Troup Commissioners won last year's inaugural Challenge and hope to repeat.

Commissioners Ken Smith, Buck Davis and Richard English will pick up litter Saturday morning along Bartley Road, Whittaker Road and at the Troup County Soccer Complex, respectively.

"We have lots of dirty places in the county," said Smith, who plans to bag trash in his neighborhood. "If we all take care of where we live, that would help. So on Saturday, I'll pick up a mile along Bartley Road and pledge to do it on a regular basis."

Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe, Commissioner Morris Jones and County Manager Mike Dobbs, all of whom will be attending family functions Saturday, picked up trash on Wednesday, doing their part to advance their team's efforts.



Troup County Manager Mike Dobbs, left, joins Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe, right, and Commissioner Morris Jones, second from right, in collecting roadside trash prior to Saturday's Great American Cleanup. Wolfe's 5-year-old grandson, Hayden, helps the men spot trash along a county roadside, doing his part to boost his granddad's team to victory in the Troup County Trash Bash.

“We want to bring home the torch again, but more than that, we hope that citizens throughout Troup County are realizing how important it is to rid our neighborhoods of roadside litter,” Wolfe said. “It’s more than a beautification issue. This is about the local economy and whether communities thrive or fail.”

Keep Troup Beautiful Executive Director Doris Jefferson looks forward to a good turn-out Saturday, noting that more people have pre-registered for the annual Cleanup than ever before. The timing is crucial as recent litter surveys reveal the problem of roadside trash here has escalated over the past year.

“There are really some tough areas, like on West Point Road and Hogansville Road,” said Jefferson, noting that bottles, cups, fast food wrappers, paper bags and other unsightly waste are eyesores in various spots throughout the unincorporated county, LaGrange, West Point and Hogansville.

Even though last year’s Great American Cleanup was the most successful in the history of the event, roadsides didn’t stay tidy for long.

“Even with a lot of work and effort, we’ve really not improved and we’ve got to figure out a way to solve this problem,” Wolfe said.

Groups and individuals can do their part on Saturday by picking up litter and hauling filled bags to the nearest Troup County convenience center or to the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber plaza where a trailer will be parked to accept bagged litter. Groups not able to haul bags on Saturday are encouraged to let Keep Troup Beautiful know the roadside location of their bagged trash by noon and Troup County personnel will retrieve the bags and haul them to dump sites.

Troup County and City of LaGrange both will hold “tire amnesty” days on Saturday, allowing individuals to dispose of tires at no charge at the Troup County Correctional Institute and the former location of the Main Street Fire Department. The tire amnesty is not open to businesses, but individuals may dispose of up to 10 tires, according to Troup County Correctional Institute Warden Dexter Wells.

Keep Troup Beautiful will collect various electronics for recycling, “everything except televisions,” said Jefferson, noting that operable TVs may be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Used tennis shoes will be collected by Hollis Hand students for use in a recycling program that makes athletic surfaces from sneakers.

Registration and closing celebrations for Saturday’s Cleanup will be at the Chamber Plaza in LaGrange and Calvin Hipp Park in Hogansville. Closing celebrations begin at approximately 11:30 with door prizes distributed and awards presented for various contests, including a competition among local high schools performing beautification projects. West Point conducts their Great American Cleanup on Friday with sign-up and closing ceremonies at Givorn’s parking lot.

For more, call Keep Troup Beautiful at 706-884-9922 or email djefferson@asginfo.net.