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Commission chairman and local mayors talk trash over lunch

(April 1, 2009) They “talked trash” but no food was flung when the Troup County Board of Commissioners chairman and local mayors met for lunch to discuss their participation in the Great American Cleanup set for Saturday, April 18.

Sponsored by Keep Troup Beautiful each spring, the annual cleanup gives Troup County citizens opportunity to take part in cleaning up their community. The group needs all the help they can get, local leaders agree, pointing to roadside litter as a nuisance.



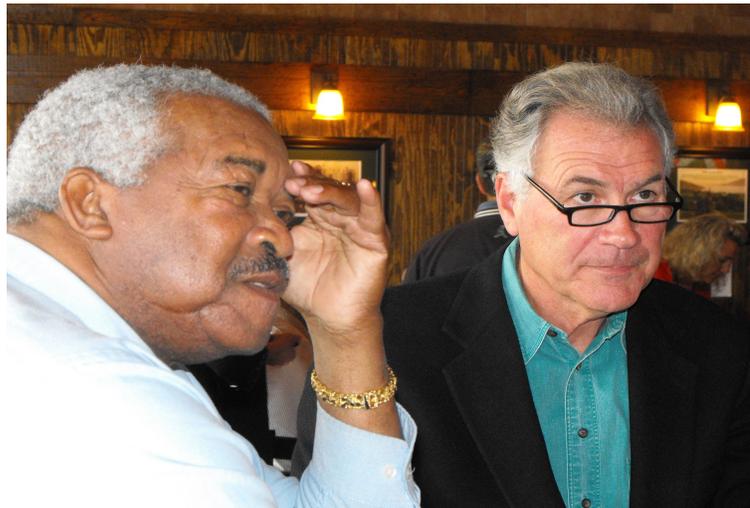
Elected officials meet for lunch to discuss the Troup Trash Bash Challenge. From left: LaGrange Mayor Jeff Lukken, Troup Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe, West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV, Valley Times-News Reporter Trey Wood, and Troup County Manager Mike Dobbs.

“We’re better than this,” Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe says of litter along both rural roadsides and city streets.

Local mayors Jeff Lukken of LaGrange, Drew Ferguson IV of West Point and Jimmy Jackson of Hogansville recently joined Wolfe for lunch at Irish Bred Pub & Restaurant in downtown West Point to discuss the issue and develop strategies for tackling trash.

“This is really about a mindset,” said Lukken. “We have to get everyone in Troup County to change their mindset.”

The new mindset? Says Chairman Wolfe: “Throwing trash in a public place is not acceptable in Troup County.”



Hogansville Mayor Jimmy Jackson and Troup Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe discuss rules for the Troup Trash Bash.

Local leaders agree that all citizens must adopt this mindset and step up to help conquer the problem of roadside litter which, according to Ferguson, deflates community morale and projects a negative image to visitors and prospective businesses.

Employees and officials from all three cities and Troup County have participated in the Great American Cleanup in the past but this is the first time the four governments have joined forces to help promote the spring cleaning project.

The mayors and commission chairman plan to put their mindset where their mouth is by strapping on work gloves to join employees and community residents in sacking trash at the Great American Cleanup.

The winning city or county gains bragging rights for a year. The loser treats the other three elected leaders and their wives to dinner.