



Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County, GA

My fellow citizens,

It is my continuing honor to serve as your Sole Commissioner. I would like to share some great news with you and highlight several recent successes within our community.

1. THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES FEE ON YOUR NEXT TAX BILL.

After successfully negotiating a significant reduction in interest, court costs and legal fees, coupled with a high rate of collection, we project to have collected enough from the public health facilities and service fee over the past two tax cycles to meet our obligations to Erlanger. As a result, what was a three-year plan to repay that debt will be satisfied in two years. Therefore, there will be no third year of the public health facilities fee. Thank you for your sacrifice in helping Walker County close this chapter in our history. Our children and grandchildren will reap the benefits of our accepting the challenge to keep our county's fiscal house in order.

2. WE ARE PAVING SEVERAL ROADS THIS YEAR.

As a direct result of you passing the 2017 TSPLOST, we are paving the following roads this Spring: Peavine Road, East Long Hollow, Ringgold Road, Five Points Road and Five Points Spur, Osburn Road and Osburn Court, South Dicks Creek Road, South Burnt Mill Road, Dry Valley Road, West Schmitt Road, Glass Mill Road and Jones Road. Thank you for supporting TSPLOST. We will announce the next list of roads for paving later this year.

3. PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR WALKER COUNTY BEAUTIFUL.

Last year, we all celebrated the launch of our award-winning *Walker Rocks*. This platform promotes our beautiful Walker County as a destination for tourists. This year, we are continuing our efforts to highlight the beauty of our county. To that end, we intend to focus on existing policies aimed at keeping our roads clean. We have also revised our codes to allow us to address long-standing burned out and abandoned houses. We all benefit from a clean and vibrant community. Therefore, if you have a neighbor who needs assistance keeping their property clean, please contact us at the Commissioner's office, and we will put you in contact with volunteer groups in your community that can help.

4. IRONMAN HAS MADE AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Walker County and Ironman have enjoyed a healthy and mutually beneficial partnership during the past five years. As a result of that success, we are pleased to announce we were able to negotiate a new and very advantageous agreement with this world renowned, prestigious organization. Along with maintaining already established reimbursements for Emergency Services and local organizations, Ironman has agreed to provide a \$160,000 grant over the course of five years to Walker County. This community grant will help install 40 new fire hydrants in needed locations, providing additional coverage for first responders to handle emergency situations and potentially improve ISO ratings and homeowner insurance rates for local residents.

5. SIGN UP FOR THE SIREN GPS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.

We were proud to announce a new emergency awareness tool earlier this year. This system will allow us to notify residents of an emergency event faster than the old alert system. If you have not already done so, please download the Siren GPS app for your smart telephone so that you can receive weather alerts and community notifications. *The old alert system is no longer in use.* If you do not have a smartphone, contact the Commissioner's office at (706) 638-1437 and ask for Tina and we will assist you with signing up for notifications to your landline telephone.

Again, thank you for your help in making our shared home beautiful and prosperous.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Whitfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County, Georgia