

\*Litter

(Continued from page 1.) mayors and the justice courts to have these people who’ve got outstanding fines, are unemployed or no longer have a job, assign them to pick up trash off the highway. With that they can clear their fines up with either the county or a municipality. A municipality’s judge can assign people to this work program, especially if their driver’s license has been suspended, that way you can clear up your fine and go back and get your driver’s license.

“They can help us get our roads clean,” March said. After one conversation with the sheriff of Lee County, March said other areas are dealing with the trash issue just as hard.

An article in the *Lee County Courier* reported that the Lee County Sheriff’s Department picked up 14 tons of trash in one month.

The Lee County Sheriff Jim Johnson reported in the article that his department is entering into a contract “with MDOT where we will pick up on state highways and they will reimburse us per bag of trash and per mile on our vehicles so we will recoup some of that expense.”

“When people are visiting or traveling through it’s the cleanliness of our roads that make that first impression,” Johnson said. “It really perturbs me when people don’t care anymore for their community then to throw trash out.”

March cited a Mississippi Code that would enforce the use of a work program for court fine and job dodgers.

According to Mississippi Code 99-19-20 alternatives are available for defendants that fail to pay court issued fines includ-



Litter and debris flank all sides of the major thoroughfares around Lexington and Holmes County. Local civic and service organizations, like Lexington Rotary Club and Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, are currently in discussions to combat the expanding problem.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

ing “work on public property for public benefit under the direction of the sheriff for a specific number of hours...”

March is seeking to heavily implement this alternative as one method to de-clutter the county.

“We’re having the same problem (as Lee County) ever since (Mississippi) Department of Public Safety pulled those inmates back,” said March, “we’ve been catching it with all that trash out there on the highway.

“We’ve been getting so many complaints from people out of state, coming through, seeing all of this.”

March said that garbage collec-

tion may also be a factor with garbage trucks not properly securing tailgates.

“Some of it, is that you have people who’ll just throw their garbage bag out there,” said March, “and the wind just blows it everywhere.

“I talked with them people that run them garbage trucks,” said March, “‘Y’all make sure you let them things down man.’”

People can personally call their police department or justice court and request to be put on the work program to pay off fines or for unemployment.

“A lot of folks are unemployed and can’t pay their fines,” March added.

“Also, throwing a cup in the

is this: If you can’t cash flow it, you shouldn’t do it.

All of my kids went to public schools, and they are good, moral people and strong Christians. In the process, they learned how to interact with people of all faiths, no faith, and how to display their faith and beliefs adequately in their personal lives and in the marketplace.

The truth is, you’ll find great things and bad things in any school, private or public, Christian or not. And no matter where your kids go to school, as parents, you still have to teach them about the world — the good and the bad, the right and the wrong. Life can’t be lived inside a protective bubble.

Dave

\* Dave Ramsey is America’s trusted voice on money and

back of your pick-up truck, it’s going to fly right out. People need to be mindful of it. We need to better,” March said. The proposed work program would be reimbursed through the Mississippi Department of Transportation on a per bag of trash/per mile on county vehicle basis. Similar to the contract Lee County has entered with MDOT.

Why can’t the inmates pick up trash?

“The State of Mississippi, that is, the department of corrections, pulled back the contract, they no longer contract with the counties of sheriff departments to use inmate labor picking up trash on the roads,” said March. “They no longer want to pay the \$20 for that inmate staying in the county jail to go out and pick up trash on the highway. They stopped that program under Marshall Fisher.”

March said there are over 220 inmates currently housed in the county jail, “inmates can request to get on this program but the department of corrections has to approve it. (MDOC) is saying they can no longer afford to pay them the \$20.”

The number of inmates over 200, March explained, the county gets paid \$20 per inmate. “I told them this doesn’t make sense, your paying me \$20 already. So let me use the ones you paying. I don’t know where they got the concept, when Chris Epps (former MDOC commissioner) got in trouble, they were trying to show that they were doing something, but they killed having a good program.”

Inmate labor on trash pick-up would have continued to potentially save the state money, according to March, also giving

business, and CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 11 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations and digital outlets. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

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the inmates a sense of contribution back to society.

Labor force within the Holmes County Sheriff’s Department has also been an issue for March. At eight dollars an hour, the sheriff’s department struggles to maintain its own work force. MDOC was appointed a new commissioner on March 3 by Governor Phil Bryant, Pelicia Hall who recently conducted a jail shake-down at the Holmes-Humphreys County Regional Correctional Facility. March said he briefly met with her.

“I tried to get with her, meet and talk about our problem, see I don’t have a enough staff really and it’s hard to get the staff you need at eight dollars an hour,” said March, “People say-

ing, ‘Hey look I can go to the chicken factory, they’re paying nine dollars, I can go to Wal-Mart, they’re paying nine dollars.’”

March said Hall responded that MDOC couldn’t afford it, but did bring over 100 law enforcement officers during the jail shake down including paying their overtime.

Other local organizations have taken notice also of the trash issues in the county.

The Lexington Rotary Club is currently in the process of developing one of its community service projects as trash pick up. The club is also partnering with the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce for its clean-up initiative later in the spring.



Dudley Farmer  
Alderman At Large

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The Town of Pickens, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Development Authority for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$450,000.00. The State of Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$23 million that will be made available to cities and counties on a competitive basis to undertake eligible community development activities. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

1. To benefit low- and moderate-income persons and households;
2. To meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of economic development and public facilities. The Town of Pickens’s proposed project consists of Street Improvements. The public hearing will be held May 2, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the Pickens Town Hall and will provide more specific details regarding the activities, program requirements, and the rating system. The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

Happy Easter

If Mississippi taxed the sale of Carbon Credits  
Just like we do the sale of Easter Bunnies,  
The state of Mississippi could balance its budget!  
Our citizens could earn \$300,000,000 in new revenue.

If you don’t believe in Global Warming,  
or understand Carbon Credits, okay.  
(last duck season converted lots of non believers)  
MSU Cares: natural resources, forestry, carbon credits

I doubt the folks who sell Easter Bunnies believe in them. I doubt the folks who buy Easter Bunnies believe in them either, but Easter Bunnies sure do sell!

Please ask our Governor, your representative and state senator for Carbon Credit legislation in a special session. Let’s fill Mississippi’s Easter basket with golden eggs.

Daniel Norfleet Hathorn, Jr.  
Tchula, Mississippi

MAKE LEXINGTON THE BEST IT CAN BE!

Join ROBIN MCCRORY with  
her Vision for Lexington  
AND

VOTE to return her to the  
Office of Mayor, City of Lexington  
TUESDAY, MAY 2 AT CITY HALL



ROBIN MCCRORY believes:

- We must address our crumbling streets, water, and sewer facilities.
- We must make our City attractive to business and bring jobs to our citizens.
- We must make our City one that is a magnet to young people and make it a place they want to call home.
- We must make sure our City is financially strong and uses its resources wisely.
- Most importantly, we must ensure that our citizens feel safe in their homes and on our streets.

VOTE ROBIN MCCRORY MAYOR