

Jefferson County Precinct 2 “Adopt a County Road” Program

Jefferson County Precinct 2 Commissioner Brent Weaver is concerned about the litter building up along the county roads and has spearheaded a program to get it under control. Commissioner Brent Weaver wants to bring awareness to the citizens of Jefferson County and Precinct 2 and give them information they need to help deter or even eliminate illegal dumping in their communities. Mowing season is here and many times our county precinct mowers which operate along the county roadways are delayed by trash that has been dumped on the side of the roadway. Jefferson County has received citizen complaints and observation by County employees that debris has been disposed of on the County Road Right-of-way and/or Ditch area adjacent along our County roads in the rural areas. Illegal dumping is a big problem in Jefferson County especially along our County roads in the rural areas such as Hildebrandt, Humble Camp, Labelle, and several other roads. With increasing and growing population out in our rural areas many residents complain about the illegal dumping and we report it to Law Enforcement and Jefferson County Environmental Control.

Illegally dumped waste ranges from a bag of trash somebody throws in a county ditch or along the county roadway to hundreds of dumped tires, refrigerators, stoves, sofas and everything in between. But, big or small, illegal dumping creates health risks, lowers property values, blocks drainage and is a burden to the taxpayers for precinct crews to clean up. Another concern is the trash and debris that is dumped along our county roadway gets into the ditches and stops our drainage flow of water during rainfall, interrupts mowing of right of way areas, and could cause flooding to nearby neighborhoods or homes and even roadways resulting in a traffic hazard.

The adopt-a-road program will help to maintain the cleanliness of our county roadways and to decrease the cost of litter pickup by allowing volunteer groups to assist with the litter pick up and allow our mowers along the county right of way areas to keep mowing without a delay in the mowing season because of having to stop and pick up litter prior to mowing. The program is modeled after the statewide Adopt-a-Highway and other county program that has been operating in Texas since 1985. Such programs have spread out across the country, saving taxpayers' dollars while keeping litter off the highways while providing an opportunity to volunteer.

While the Texas Adopt-a-Highway program focuses on state maintained highways, the intent of the Jefferson County Adopt-a-County Road program is to keep the county maintained roads free of debris. We will support and recognize groups and volunteers who are willing to help pick up litter on our county roads to keep Jefferson County right of ways clear of litter and debris. Groups that adopt a county road can be an individual, family, community organization, business or non-profit organization such as churches or schools. They may adopt a 2-mile stretch of a county road. In order to participate, interested parties must first apply to the program via the commissioner of their precinct. The adopters agree to pick up litter 3 times per year on their chosen stretch of road, and the Adopt-a-County Road program provides volunteers with safety vests, litter bags, traffic control signs and safety information. Additionally, the adopting organization or group will be recognized in their efforts via signs posted on each end of their adopted road.

This program will help keep things more organized and also coordinates efforts with county road maintenance and mowing. Precinct 2 has approximately 97 miles of county roadway. There are a total of about 345 miles of county roads in Jefferson County.

Community members interested in learning more can find information on the Jefferson County Commissioner Brent Weaver Precinct 2 website or contact the Precinct 2 Commissioners Office at 727-2173.