



KEEP JEFFERSON BEAUTIFUL

KeepJeffersonBeautiful@gmail.com

304-728-0430

P.O. Box 268 • Charles Town, WV 25414

September 2016

Dear Keep Jefferson Beautiful Supporters,

Greetings to all members, friends and supporters of Keep Jefferson Beautiful (KJB)! Next year we will celebrate our twentieth anniversary and while our ranks are somewhat diminished, our passion for a cleaner county is strong and vibrant as ever. As we do each year at this time with our annual newsletter, today we ask that any individual, church, civic organization, or neighborhood group will to adopt a stretch of road, or a 'spot' along a road, step forward and let Keep Jefferson Beautiful help you get started. Just call Billy Madert at 304-707-7123 or John DeGurse at 304-876-6368 for assistance.

We are sorry to report that Curtis Sharp, one of the last two charter members of KJB has left Jefferson County moving north to be closer to family. Curtis will be sorely missed! He played a major role in the daily affairs of KJB for almost twenty years and much of that time with the active help of his wife Peggy who in 1989, along with Polly Hockensmith, started the first efforts to establish a viable Adopt-A-Highway program in Jefferson County. We wish both Curtis and Peggy all the best!

Keep Jefferson Beautiful has a new president. Earlier this year, Billy Madert, Director of the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority (JCSWA) agreed to lead KJB into the future. A graduate of Shepherd University in Environmental Studies, comes to KJB with all the right credentials and enthusiasm for what lies ahead in the management of litter control and solid waste issues which affect every county resident and visitor.

On September 17, 2015, the Solid Waste Authority and KJB made a joint presentation to the County Commission seeking its support for our efforts to expand the Adopt-A-Highway/Spot programs in our county. At that meeting, we proposed a new and ambitious approach to recruitment. In the past, KJB has held itself out to the public as an agency which upon request could/would facilitate highway an spot adoptions. The new approach is to actively seek adoptions from four separate communities: Business, Civic, Religious, and Homeowner's Associations. The commission responded favorably and passed a unanimous resolution fully endorsing and supporting our joint project. You can expect to hear more about our 'direct solicitation' approach in coming months.

And if you are interested in helping to recruit new road adoptions we could use your help! Please reach us by phone, mail, email and even facebook!

The Solid Waste Authority and KJB have for some time hoped to see more assistance in cleaning roads and spots from individuals assigned by county magistrates to perform 'community service for nonviolent infraction of the law. Working with the Jefferson County Sheriff, KJB and the Solid Waste Authority requested and received a grant of \$1165 which will cover the cost of bags, gloves, and other supplies for use by those assigned to road cleanup. The Sheriff will provide the required supervision as part of its routine law enforcement duties. To assist the Sheriff KJB and the JCSWA are now surveying the county for badly littered roads and spots. If you know of a badly littered area you can report by phone, or online at www.jcswa.com/contact-form/reportlitter

As we have for over twenty years, KJB has a booth at the 2016 Jefferson County Fair. The Fair provides us an opportunity to meet and talk with county residents who may be persuaded to adopt a road or spot. The turnout of fair goers seemed about normal and we had several visitors to our booth who took applications with a promise to consider signing up. Thanks to all of you who stopped by the booth to say hello; we appreciate your support.

Last but certainly not least, we come to KJB finances and the 'bottom line'. AS we have reported before, KJB needs something a little over \$500 annually to function as a viable civic organization. Our major expenses are for our fair booth (\$275), post office box rental, (\$75), postage stamps (\$75) and some printing expenses (\$50). Of course, there are always a few unexpected expenses along the way. At the present time, KJB has a bank balance of less than \$50. Our basic annual membership fee is \$25 and we earnestly request that any of you who are able to support our mission for a cleaner county, please do what you can. We are grateful for whatever we receive and we thank you.

Best wishes to all!!! Remember the WV statewide cleanup is scheduled to two weeks, the week before and the week after Saturday September 24th. Please remember to report your clean up to the Department of Environmental Protection in Charleston to be recognized for your hard work.

Sincerely,

John DeGurse, Hank Walter, Billy Madert, and George Anderson