



JIM CARNs
COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 5

THE CARNs CHRONICLE

ISSUE 7

Grease Control Will Have a Mascot Thanks to the Children of Jefferson County

I am proud to sponsor this very important community awareness program designed for the youngest residents of Jefferson County. This program is designed to give the children of Jefferson County an important role in our environmental efforts. Our great county is home to over 600,000 people living in 49 different cities and towns encompassing 1,124 square miles in beautiful central Alabama. I am dedicated to maintaining and protecting these valuable resources.



Jefferson County Environmental Services Department invites all elementary students to help design a mascot or spokesperson for this exciting new program. The mascot will help spread the message to school-aged children and reach out to the community at special events to educate and share exciting news about our environment. The mascot should be the type of character interested in protecting our creeks and streams,

controlling air pollution, making smart use of landfills, fighting grease in the sewer system, and an overall friend to the environment.



Jefferson County maintains over 2700 miles of sewer lines throughout the area. When sewer lines are blocked, wastewater backs up until it overflows into storm drains, creeks, and buildings. These overflows violate the Clean Water Act and render the county subject to fines and other legal action. Investigations by ESD have shown that grease is the leading cause of dry weather Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) in the county. Many of these dry weather SSOs have been determined to be caused by fats, oils, and grease from food service facilities.

When grease is disposed directly into the sewer system it cools and solidifies. Over a period of time the

solids restrict flow through the pipe and, in some cases, block a sewer line.

In 2005 approximately 60% of SSOs were caused by grease from food service facilities. In response the Jefferson County Commission has implemented the Grease Control Program (GCP). This program is one of many steps taken by Jefferson County to eliminate SSOs and comply with the Clean Water Act .

I hope this contest will provide an opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to take an active role in protecting and preserving the beauty of our County. This is a great way to educate the next generation about taking responsibly for the environment.



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