

Public meeting held on airport expansion

Approximately 50 people attended a public meeting held April 27 to hear or express concerns regarding an application for expansion of operations at Apple Valley Airport by Mike and Jennie Applebee. The Applebees were represented by Matt Newman of LDC Design

Group and did not attend the meeting.

The Applebees had applied for expansion last year, but did not complete the process. With the new application, it starts over, and the public meeting is a required first step. Concerns raised at the meeting will have to be addressed within their application. The proposal will be evaluated based on its impact to existing land uses in the area.

According to David Bratton, co-chair of Neighbors Against Apple Valley Expansion (NAAVE), many issues were brought up during the approximately two hour meeting. "It was contentious at times, but everyone tried to remember that Matt wasn't the one expanding the airport, he was just hired to get a completed application," Bratton said.

Citizens raised the same issues that came up at the initial public meeting last summer: Traffic impact, noise impact, numerous safety concerns, proximity to a school and to the linear trail, and flood plain impact, among others.

Bratton pointed out that beginning helicopter students spend the first six hours of their training doing low-level flying and hovering. It is the noise of low level helicopter flights and hovering that concerns many neighbors. Bratton questioned how teaching at Banks Christian Academy would be affected by constantly hovering helicopters.



No traffic impact or noise level studies have been conducted yet. Newman indicated that an acoustical study will be done in the future.

The new expansion proposal does not call for as many activities as the old one. The Applebees are seeking approval for flightseeing and flight instruction. They want to keep 10 helicopters on the site, as well as fixed-wing aircraft. Bratton said that Newman was not sure what expected activity levels would be. The proposal does estimate three flight students per day and calls for conducting flightseeing tours seven days a week starting at 10 a.m.

At this time, Applebee is not seeking to provide mechanical and fueling services or to pave the runway. His application also will not include any new buildings.

Newman hopes to have the application completed within the next 30 days. Washington County then has 30 days to rule on its completeness. Once the application is complete, the county has 60 days to decide.

Kindergarten Round Up May 10

Kindergarten Round Up for the Banks School District will be held Wednesday, May 10, from 4 to 6:00 p.m. Registration will be on a drop-in basis at Banks Elementary School, 42350 NW Trellis Way.

New Kindergartners must be five years old by September 1, 2006.

In addition to bringing the child being enrolled, parents and/or guardians need to bring copies of the child's birth certificate and immunization records. Emergency contact information will also be needed.

The Kindergarten staff looks forward to meeting parents and new Kindergartners.

County to remove illegal road signs

Signs are sprouting like weeds along Washington County roads and, like weeds, they're being pulled up by the roots. The political, real estate, work at home, and garage sale signs have started disappearing as Washington County crews begin their periodic sweep of illegal signs.

"Signs placed illegally along the road generate safety issues and many citizen complaints, so several times a year we concentrate on rounding them up." Land Use and Transportation operations manager Dave Schamp said. "Naturally the problem peaks just prior to elections but we don't discriminate - politics, real estate, internet access - we take them all."

Beside being a visual blight

on the landscape, illegally placed signs block driver visibility and pedestrian access. They also compete with traffic control signs for driver attention.

Signs should never be placed in the right-of-way, which generally includes the roadway, ditches, shoulders and sidewalks; basically all the area between the utility poles on both sides of the road. Signs must also not be placed on traffic signposts, power poles or signal cabinets.

Most of the signs are removed by community service workers who, under the supervision of county employees, cruise the main roads favored by sign owners. The confiscated materials are recycled or

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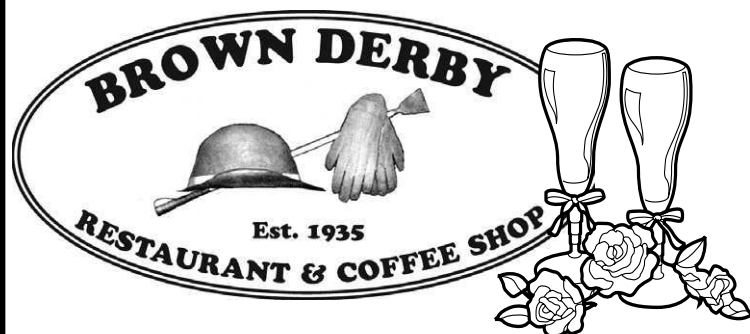
Banks Fire District #13

Abbreviations: EMS, Emergency Medical Service; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident

MARCH 2006

- Mar 2 - MVA Hwy 47 @ Nowakowski, Move-up to Dist. 2
- Mar 3 - EMS assist - sick person, Auto alarm
- Mar 4 - EMS assist - sick person
- Mar 5 - EMS assist - psychiatric
- Mar 6 - EMS assist (2) burn & trauma
- Mar 8 - Wires down, vehicle fire & chimney fire
- Mar 9 - MVA (3) Hwy 47
- Mar 10 - MVA (3) Hwy 47 & Hwy 6
- Mar 11 - MVA Hwy 47
- Mar 13 - EMS assist (2) - fall & overdose
- Mar 14 - EMS assist (2) - headache & breathing, mutual aid - F. Grove
- Mar 16 - EMS assist - allergic
- Mar 19 - EMS assist - cardiac, water problem, auto alarm
- Mar 21 - EMS assist - fall
- Mar 23 - Auto alarm
- Mar 29 - EMS assist - mental/emotional
- Mar 31 - EMS assist (2) - sick & diabetic, MVA Hwy 6/47, move-up Dist. 2

Treat Mom to Champagne Brunch Sunday May 14th



Champagne Brunch 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Dinner 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

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