

Letter to the Herald-Sun Editor:

September 2, 2009

Dear Editor:

Thank you for reporting about the community effort to keep Bradshaw Quarry open. While Orange County Voice would love to take credit, the credit belongs to the the Western Bingham and Cheeks Communities which include over 20 neighborhood groups, five heritage families, two fire departments and the Cane Creek Baptist Church. These groups worked together to agree on service compromises that would allow the county to leave the convenience center open and remain budget neutral.

For clarification - your readers should know that the savings from closing Bradshaw Quarry is a minor part of the county's estimated \$120,000 savings. The solid waste staff provided us with a savings estimate of \$21,000 in 2009, and \$35,000 in later years for Bradshaw Quarry. We believe that the county can achieve most of the \$21,000 in savings if they cut service to 2 or 3 days a week. Of course, the commissioners must first direct the staff to do so.

As the county plans to close the convenience center, they are proposing to extend rural recycling -- a service that is irrelevant for residents who don't have trash pickup. Private haulers do not serve the area. Plus, it's easier for a resident to haul trash and recycling to a convenience center than drag a clumsy cart down a driveway that's several hundred feet or longer.

Everyone appreciates the fiscal challenges facing the county and wants to do their fair share. That's why they proposed compromises above and beyond the other centers which are being cut to 4 days a week. Bradshaw Quarry users are asking for 2-3 days a week of service and have agreed to give up all center services except trash and basic recycling.

It's a simple request and will serve this remote community for years while the county sorts through franchising for its unincorporated areas. Closing Bradshaw Quarry places a disproportionate burden on a community who would have to incur \$300-\$500 a year in addition costs. It's not officially a "tax" but it might as well be.

So - please recognize the many community groups, heritage families and public servants who are standing together to say "Please Keep Bradshaw Quarry Open"

Thank you,
Bonnie Hauser for
Orange County Voice

***Community Coalition to keep Bradshaw Quarry Open
(Residents of Bingham and Cheeks Township)***

Apple Mill Neighbors
Bradford Ridge Subdivision
Buckhorn/ELG Neighbors
Cane Creek Baptist Church
Carolina Concerned Citizens
Cascade Forest Homeowners Association
Collins Creek Neighbors
Covered Bridge Neighbors
Dimmocks Mill Neighbors
Frog Level Community (Arthur Minnis/Dodson's)
Harry's Market at White Cross
Heritage Families & Farms
 Sykes Family Farms
 Holmes Family & Farms
 Kirby Family
 Kirk Family Farm
 Stanford Farm
Hunters Woods Neighbors
Lloydtown/Morrow Mill Loop
Maple View Farm and Agricultural Education Center
Mebane Oaks Road Neighbors
Mt Mitchell Road Homeowners
Neighbors in the Trails
Orange County Voice
Orange Grove Fire Department
Silas Lane Homeowners
South Orange Grove Road Neighbors
Sugar Ridge Neighbors
Orange Grove Neighbors
Rigmor House
Teer Road Neighbors
Thunder Mountain Neighbors
Western Park Lane Neighbors
White Cross Volunteer Fire Department
.. and many others