

## **Art Kell speaks out about County Prisoner Work Program**

My vision when running for Sheriff and being Sheriff is to re-instill people's confidence in the Office of the County Sheriff. For years the Sheriffs have allowed politics and economics to place their position as an insignificant and inferior law enforcement body. My vision is to try very hard to change that view of the people and the Sheriffs themselves, into understanding the constitutional obligation a county Sheriff has been given!

Our constitution dictates that a sheriff protects those he has sworn to defend by the very constitution we pledge our allegiance to. "I will protect and defend the constitution!" That means I not only enforce laws but also protect those who entrusted me to be Sheriff their rights under our constitution.

I have decided to initiate a county prisoner work program. The concept I want to implement is: first to reduce inmate cost to YOU the people of Grady County. This is by allowing county prisoners (NON-VIOLENT) to work off their fines in such a way to reduce their stay in confinement (\$30.00 a day it cost you) by working and reducing time in confinement. This will allow them to be released earlier and return to society and in turn become contributing participants in society. This will eliminate the additional costs YOU the tax payer have to pay to supplement their families while they are being incarcerated.

Example: If an individual sentenced to 30 days in jail for public drunk or unpaid tickets it will cost the county \$900 just for that incarceration time. My program will allow them to work off that sentence 3 days for each day they work. This saves the county \$120 and also lets the individual return to working and contributing to society in a minimum time.

Granted not all of these individuals will contribute once release, but possibly by being exposed to the public by wearing jail clothing and working in front of a starring community, it will instill in some of them a desire never to be placed in this position again! I believe if just a few are motivated by this work program method, it will benefit all of us.

Remember these individuals working in the program are non-violent and most of the time are first time offenders for minor offenses! The deputies assigned to over-see this work program will not be an additional expense, either, to YOU the tax payer. I will allocate these details to my reserve deputies thus continuing a cost reduction program beneficial to all of us; allowing full time deputies to continue in the patrolling duties in the county.

Some no doubt will not like the work program saying it's degrading to these individuals; but consider that it can also be seen as a motivational tool for these individuals to regain dignity. Also it's an 'old' style illustration for those contemplating lawlessness deeds of the consequences to disobedience to authority. 'A pictures worth a thousand words!'

I have taken this opportunity to inform you of my ideas and vision I have in accomplishing this on-going vision to be the trusted Sheriff of this county. YOU are my employer and I work for YOU!