

# Don's...continued from Page 1A

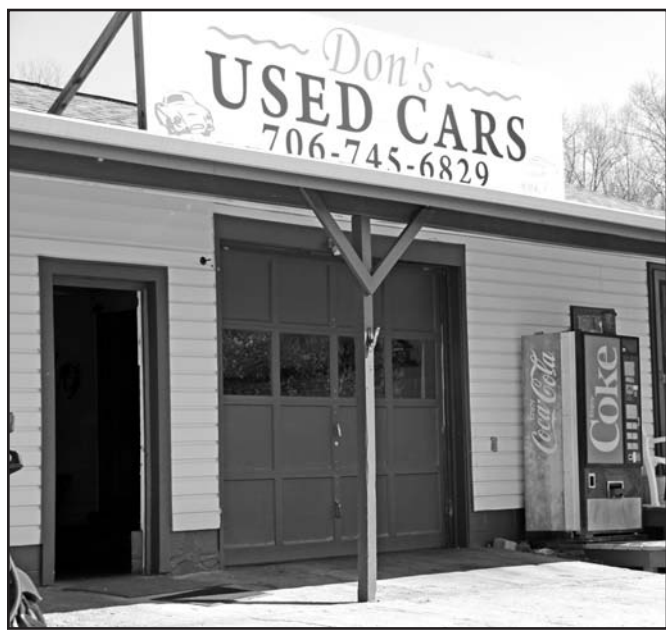
businesses.

And even though Murphy misses seeing his loyal car wash customers – many of whom had grown accustomed to having their cars picked up at their homes or work, cleaned, then dropped back off – he said that no longer having to wash cars from sunup to sundown was a welcome change.

Murphy started Don's Car Care in the early 1980s, when he began washing cars outside his home. He had his car wash building, the one he still sells cars out of today at 1070 Murphy Highway, built back in 1984, though he sold it in 1986 for a great price.

In 1987, he decided to buy the building back, and in 1990 Murphy applied for his license to buy and sell used cars.

Between 1990 and 2005, he ran car auctions twice a week, one in Ellijay and one in Blue Ridge, all the while washing cars six days a week.



Don Murphy had his building built in 1984, and he offered a car wash for \$3 starting out, with a wash and wax costing \$12.

After 2005, Murphy decided to focus on the car washes and individual used

car sales, though the individual sales ended up taking a back seat due to such high demand

from the car washing side of the business.

Which is why Don's Used Cars and Car Care recently became just Don's Used Cars.

"We'd like to thank our loyal customers for their patronage for all the years – the public has been good to us," said Georgia Murphy, Don's wife, who has worked

for many years right alongside her husband in the family-run business.

Currently, Don's Used Cars is managed by Don Murphy and his son-in-law, David Dyer, who started with the Murphys in the '80s, when he'd help wash cars in the evenings after school.

Dyer's high school sweetheart was Don and

Georgia Murphy's daughter, Donna, and the couple married after she finished college. They have three sons, Austin, Preston and Trenton.

Also a tremendous asset to the business from the very beginning has been Don and Georgia's niece, Sleana Cook, who left Don's Used Cars last year to pursue a different career path.

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transplants, of which over 5,590 reside in Georgia.

"The need for organ, eye and tissue donation grows daily, as a new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes. The critical donor shortage remains a public health crisis, as an average of 22 people die daily due to the lack of available organs."

With the proclamation, Commissioner Paris encouraged "all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry."

Also in the meeting, the commissioner approved an agreement between the county and Jeff Burks for computer consulting services at a cost of \$4,767 per month, effective Jan. 1, 2016, through Jan. 1, 2017.

"This is an increase of \$1,100 from the previous contract, but we are getting an additional tech person on site for two days per week because workload is continuing to increase," said Commissioner Paris.

The commissioner also approved a contract with Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau, a professional architecture firm, "for the plans and design of a new roof for the Civic Center in the amount of \$10,700."

"There has to be a completed design on this for the new roof in order for it to be put out to bid, and that will be done in the very near future," said Commissioner Paris, citing all the rainy weather since the turn of the New Year causing leaks to the roofs of many buildings around

the county.

After the end of new business, Commissioner Paris went into his Commissioner's Comments portion of the meeting, where he addressed litter around the county.

"I've had several calls this last two weeks on litter," said the commissioner. "I don't think we've got any more litter than we've had, but we always start to get those calls this time of year. One problem we do have, though, that is exacerbating it a little bit – this time of year the grass starts to turn green, and all those bags and sacks that were mixed in among the dead brush start to stand out like crazy."

"The green grass starts to push them to the surface a little more, so they're really visible and we've had a lot of calls about it. Not only the sheriff's department has a crew that works with us some, but we have a Colwell Detention crew that works full-time, just about, picking up trash. But two things have happened."

"Number one is, they had a guard that left, and so we're down one crew from what we usually have for the county. We have six crews from there, but we're down one crew. That's really the one that did the trash pickup."

Also, all the rain during the first part of the year has caused damage to roads, bridges and culverts around the county, "so it's taken all of our employees and all of our extra guys going out and doing that, all of the detainees are out doing that," meaning that litter has taken a backseat to repairs, according to Commissioner

Paris, though that shouldn't be for long.

The commissioner said that litter has been one of the most frustrating things for him because of how senseless it is.

"We have a group called the North Georgia Resource Management Authority that we're a member of, a four-county authority that helps with the 'Keep Our Mountains Beautiful' program," said Commissioner Paris. "They have been, for the last 10 years, going into the school systems, educating the kids about litter."

"We thought that was the first thing to do, is try to get the kids educated so when they got older, maybe they would understand that that wasn't the thing to do. But it seems like the more we work and the more we educate and the more we do – we've got a phone hotline – it just doesn't seem to help at all, and I am really frustrated over it."

"On that one crew, we're spending \$45,000 just on them picking up. Then we have other crews that do it part-time, so we're probably spending close to \$100,000 all around in a year's time. I try to look at work that we do that I consider unnecessary, and I compare it to playgrounds. A playground is going to cost us about \$50,000. So every time we have to waste money doing something else, to me that's one less playground or one less ballfield we can work on, or one less anything that we can do, and it's just a waste."

Commissioner Paris said that if anyone has a solution to the litter problem that they'd like to propose, he and the county are open to suggestions.

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