If I were mayor, I would use my position to improve my hometown that I love so dearly. While Blue Ridge is a wonderful city to live in, there are certain improvements that could be made to solve traffic issues. There are also some ways by which to bring more revenue into the city by adding more family-oriented restaurants. With a few extra attractions, Blue Ridge would have even more to offer to both local citizens and tourists. (Thesis)

First, I believe that Blue Ridge needs a parking deck located downtown. During the fall and summer months, many people visit Blue Ridge from the Atlanta and Florida areas. While tourism boosts the economy, the additional traffic can be frustrating for local citizens. A solution to this problem would be to build a parking deck, which could be located behind the Tru Fitness Gym or in the former parking lot of Temple Baptist Church. To increase revenue for the city, visitors could be charged a fee of $1.00 per hour or a flat $10.00 rate for the day. The money could be used to maintain the parking deck and to improve road conditions in town.

Another idea that I have for improving Blue Ridge is to build more chain family-oriented restaurants. We have many fast food restaurants such as McDonalds, Wendy’s, Subway, and Dairy Queen that stay busy throughout the day. However, the city needs more chain restaurants with affordable menus. Some restaurants that Fannin County residents might enjoy include: Cracker Barrel, IHOP Ryan’s and Longhorn. We could expand our businesses and model ourselves after Ellijay, GA where they have a variety of restaurants to choose from.

Blue Ridge is a beautiful city that has small-town charm. With an ever-growing need for jobs, it is crucial that we add new businesses to employ our citizens and offer varieties of food choices for families. We could also benefit from the revenue earned from a much-needed parking deck downtown. Change is key for improving and evolving to meet the needs of our ever-growing city.