

# Guillebeau Road residents advised of closing

(continued from page 1)

in so many ways for a period that spanned over 40 years.

Norman presented Powell with a commemorative road sign on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the people of Lincoln County.

In an emotional response, Powell said, "Ya'll really fooled me. "The reason I got into agriculture was through a county agent. Growing up, we were very poor, and he took an interest in me. It was through 4-H that I was able to go to college, and I just hope I've given some of that back."

"I don't think we are doing enough to recognize this man for all that he has done for Lincoln County," Norman said.

Details for the formal dedication will be announced at a later date.

As an informational item, Lincoln County Public Works Director Roby Seymour informed commissioners that letters have to be sent to each and every resident on Guillebeau Road, Wells Creek Drive, and Lake Circle stating the county's intention to close Guille-

beau Road to replace a culvert on January 28, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The closing should allow residents and school buses time to exit the area before the culvert replacement begins.

The Lincoln County School Superintendent and the Office of Emergency Services Director have also been informed of the closing.

In the event of an emergency, gravel trucks will be on standby to fill in the gap to provide emergency access. A message board announcing the road closing is also currently in place to ensure that all those utilizing the road have been made aware.

Jackson held the first reading of the Timber Harvesting Ordinance which regulates harvesting operations which occur in the unincorporated portions of Lincoln County.

Seymour explained that the state law has changed on timber harvesting operations and the county is obligated to change its ordinance to comply with state law.

The second reading of the ordinance and approval will be held at the next scheduled meeting of the commissioners and can be viewed

on the county's website.

In other business commissioners made the following appointments: County Clerk Sherry McKellar; County Attorney Ben Jackson, and Vice-Chairman H. Cooper Cliatt.

Department head appointments were made and include Operation of Emergency Services Director Casey Broom, Recreation Director LeTrellis Glaze, Finance Director Ernie Doss, Public Works Director Roby Seymour, Leisure Services Director Nancy Blount, and IT Director Austin Dockery.

Norman informed the board that current Library Director Shirley Dawkins is retiring effective January 31, and asked the board to approve the appointment of Kerrie Parton as the new director. The motion was approved.

Committee appointments were made and include: Finance, Chairman Commissioner Larry Collins and Vice Chairman Cooper Cliatt; Recreation, Chairman Commissioner Brian Henderson and Vice Chairman Commissioner Stan Tankersley; Public Works, Chairman Commissioner Cooper Cliatt and Vice Chairman Commissioner

Brian Henderson; and General Government, Chairman Commissioner Stan Tankersley and Vice Chairman Commissioner Larry Collins. The chairman serves as an ex-officio member of each committee.

Commissioners accepted two grant requests, one in the amount of \$20,650, which was received by the Lincoln County Elections Director Lilvender Bolton from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. The grant funds will go towards reimbursement of expenses incurred in the runoff election including temporary staffing of poll workers, personal protective equipment for poll workers, rent, etc.

The second was the Local Government Risk Management Services Firefighter Cancer Awareness Grant in the amount of \$5,000 which was received by OES Director Casey Broom. The funds will be used reimburse the county for the purchase a washer extractor for the Lincoln County Fire Department. The front load washer has a 22-pound capacity and can handle up to four pieces of turnout gear.

Seymour made a request and received approval for the purchase of a message board from Peachtree Equipment in the amount of \$18,200, which would be covered by T-SPLIST funds.

Peachtree Equipment supplied the message board which is currently being used on Guillebeau Road. The board will be used for other scheduled closings, emergency situations, and local events.

Commissioners approved the purchase of two new basketball goals, complete with post padding, in the amount of \$5,905 from BSN Sports. The cost will be covered by designated SPLIST funds from the recreation department. Plans are currently in the works to move the basketball courts which are located next to the splash pad at the Jessie Gunby Aquatics Center, to one of the existing tennis courts.

Commissioners reviewed departmental reports and approved the following:

- The addition of Lovelace Road and Metasville Road to the 2021 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant List.
- Budget amendments to E-911, Family Connection, General Fund, Solid Waste and Water to compensate for a change in the county's Workers Compensation rate.
- Membership with the CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon, Inc.
- A new committee consisting of Cliatt, Henderson, Doss, Seymour, and Docker to study the network infrastructure needs of the county and report back to commissioners.

Board appointments were made to the Development Authority and include Steven Dawkins representing District 2; Bobby Parker for District 3; Talmadge Reed III for District 4; and Johnny Spratlin to at-large for the Board of Commissioners.

Appointed to serve on the Library Board were Jackie Cliatt for District 3 and Pat Crane for District 4.

Jim Mattison was re-appointed to serve on the Planning Commission Board.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 11

## Fourteenth fatality reported by DPH as cases rise to 396

Lincoln County had its fourteenth reported COVID-19 fatality according to the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) website as of Monday, January 18.

The report shows the individuals were a 76-year-old male and a 79-year old female both with pre-existing conditions.

The Lincoln County Health Department was unable to confirm the fatalities as of press time.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County increased to 396 with fourteen reported fatalities as of the 3 p.m. posting by the Georgia Department of Public Health on Monday, January 18.

Neighboring Wilkes County lists 544 cases and eight deaths, McDuffie County reports 1258 cases and 25 deaths, Columbia lists 8794 cases and 102 deaths, and Richmond County reports 15,419 cases and 254 deaths.

Also reported as of 3 p.m. Monday, 684,763 Georgians had tested positive for COVID-19. Of those patients, 46,741 were hospitalized, and 11,095 deaths have been reported.



The newest member of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners serving District 4 Stanton Tankersley (left) was administered the official oath of office by Judge of the Probate Court Lee Moss during the swearing-in ceremony held at the courthouse on Thursday, January 14.

## Moss presides over swearing-in

The Lincoln County government's 2021 inaugural service saw the induction of five returning public servants and one new commissioner at a dignified ceremony held at the Lincoln County courthouse last Thursday, January 14.

Chief Probate and Magistrate Judge Lee D. Moss presided over the ceremony, which swore in Leverta H. Elam as Magistrate Judge;

Amanda A. Doss as Superior Court Clerk of Court; Paul C. Reviere as Sheriff; H. Cooper Cliatt as District 4 Commissioner; Stanton Tankersley as District 3 Commissioner; Walker T. Norman as Chairman of the County Commissioners.

Coroner Timothy Quarles and Tax Commissioner Brenda Danner-McGahee were unable to attend due to prior engagements.



Chairman Walker Norman



Magistrate Judge Leverta Elam



Commissioner District 3 H. Cooper Cliatt



Sheriff Paul C. Reviere



Superior Court Clerk Amanda Doss



Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light (right) and LCFP volunteer Jim Stopper load Light's truck with food from the pantry in addition to food supplied from the district to assist a family in need on Wednesday, January 13.

## Mobile food distribution to be held at recreation complex on Jan. 28

A mobile food distribution is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Curry Colvin Recreation Complex located on Rowland York Road. The distribution will be held on a first come, first served basis, and is

the result of a partnership between the Lincoln County Food Pantry (LCFP), Lincoln County School Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light, and the Lincoln County Recreation Department.

"We are excited to partner with

Superintendent Dr. Samuel Light and Recreation Director LeTrellis Glaze and Assistant Director Lisa Willingham as we strive to feed lives together," LCFP President Naomi Cobb said.

Cobb is also reaching out to the community to fill a need that the pantry is currently facing for additional volunteers for home delivery. "Our current volunteers are stretched thin as the demand increases," she said. "We want to continue to provide this service to our elderly and shut-ins, but we have to have volunteers in place who are willing to donate some time, even if it is just one-hour, to provide this service to those in need in our community."

Potential volunteers can rest assured that strict protocols have been put in place to keep these deliveries "contactless." Volunteers drop meal boxes and other items at a resident's front door or porch. At no time will the volunteer enter a home. Items are to be dropped off and the driver will return to their vehicle.

"At no time will the volunteer come in contact with the recipient of the box," Cobb pointed out. "It would be up to the resident to plan with a neighbor or family member to bring the items inside after the delivery."

LCFP volunteers are essential to the success of the program and must be protected at all times.

Anyone interested in volunteering or if you are aware of a family in need, call Cobb at 706-990-0472.

The LCFP will be open every two weeks at its Firetower Road location from 10 a.m.-noon for the next three months. The next distribution is scheduled for February 11.

Those who would like to make a monetary contribution to the Lincoln County Food Bank can mail them to P.O. Box 473, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

## Reese, Mattison sworn in

(continued from page 1)

"we're in good shape there," she said.

Likewise, the bank account reads at \$2.9 million and the fund equity balance for the end of the period is at \$2.23 million, Bufford said.

SPLIST collections were "high" this month at \$69,767.30, with \$820,475.91 available for future bond and interest payments.

After executive session, Celina Davis and Dazmond Ferguson were approved as substitute teachers.

Randy Smith and Carolee Hobbins were also hired as part-time musical theater teachers.

As a part of public participation, former board member Denise Freeman spoke regarding several issues.

"We have people who are working in our school system who have made allegations of unfair treatment — as to how they're talked to, treated, etc., and so on — the second thing is a human rights violation and labor law violation," Freeman said.

"The other issue is COVID-19," she continued. "As you all know COVID-19 is hitting Lincoln Coun-

ty extremely hard. Parents and the citizens are concerned with the lack of compassion and the common courtesy of opening the schools and then shutting them down two days after, which could have been avoided.

"They feel like you're not taking the lives of employees, custodians, teachers, or our students seriously," she added.

Freeman voiced several concerns regarding school closure and the necessity of it, however her discourse took place before Dr. Light presented his scheduled updates on COVID, along with his suggestion to extend school closures.

Last, Chairman Jason LeRoy gave a hearty welcome to Kyle Reese who was sworn in as representative for District One in a small ceremony held before the meeting. Reese was sworn in alongside Mattison, who took the oath of office for a returning term.

"I want to welcome our newest board member Kyle Reese for District One and I want to thank Jim Mattison for his continued service in District Two," LeRoy said.



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