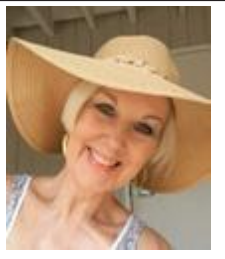


Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Why Lincolnton?

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Why do you live here in Lincolnton? Is it because your family is here, maybe parents, grandparents?

Do you live here because you inherited a house or land?

Do you live here because your job is here?

If you could move, would you? Dwaine told me several years ago, that folks move to a place for mainly two things; safety and health care. People want to feel safe in their homes and on their property, and if they have an emergency, they want a doctor or hospital nearby.

We are blessed here in Lincolnton, Georgia. We are a safe community and we are very close to health facilities.

People also want good schools for their children, places to purchase groceries, access to mail service and the internet.

Well, Lincolnton does have room for improvement, but we are getting there.

There is a show on HGTV about a small town in Mississippi. The town was nothing special, no beach or mountains or anything. A young couple decided to refurbish some of the small bungalow homes in the area and the price attracted retired folks.

The mayor worked tirelessly to create homespun activities in the town to attract families and soon there were cute little shops popping up on Main Street. The town developed a community atmosphere. Folks living there took more pride in their property. They cleaned up

the clutter and repaired and painted fences, etc. That encouraged more folks to take an interest and become very proud of their little town. Good neighbors attracting more good neighbors.

Here in Lincolnton, as in other areas, we have faced some real hardships this past year, but let's hope that our hindsight is 2020. Let's look to the future and especially for the short term, this coming spring, for a new beginning. For those of you who take the time to place a wreath on your door, please know that I notice and I appreciate it, others do, too.

For those of you who paint your front door a different color, I notice and I appreciate your effort to put a fresh face on your home, and others do, too.

For those of you who put trash in the trash can at Hardees and other places, especially along the highways and the lake, I notice and am appreciative, because you all are my Lincolnton family. Others appreciate it, too.

You are making our home a more pleasant place to live. As I walk in the afternoons, I am going to take a bag with me to pick up any errant trash along the way. I am planning a flag or flower for the front door and I hope it will bring a smile to someone passing my way.

We have a wonderful town here called Lincolnton, and we do not need HGTV to give us a makeover...we can all just do our part to keep our beautiful town beautiful.

This weeks tips from the BBB

The COVID-19 pandemic has people shopping online and ordering from Amazon. Naturally, scammers are finding ways to cash in. Better Business Bureau is receiving reports that con artists are posing as Amazon employees, calling people, and claiming to need information about their account or that something is wrong with an order.

BBB warns you to be on the lookout for suspicious calls and emails because in some cases, it looks like the call is coming from BBB or other official organizations. Spoofing phone numbers is extremely easy to accomplish with today's technology.

Consumers describe answering a phone call to hear a recorded message claiming to be from Amazon stating there is a problem with your Amazon account. The messages range from a fraudulent charge on your Prime account to a lost or damaged package to an unfulfilled order for an iPhone. But no matter what the recording is, these scammers have the same goal: getting your personal information. The con artists will either outright ask for credit card and account login details. Or, they will request remote access to your computer under the guise of "helping" to solve the issue.

The Federal Trade Commission published examples of these scam calls on their website at FTC.gov.

How to Spot this Scam:

- Be skeptical of email and unsolicited calls. Some departments at Amazon will call customers, but Amazon will never ask you to disclose or verify sensitive personal information or offer you a refund you do not expect. Amazon will never ask you to make a payment outside of their website and will never ask you for remote access to your device.

- Ignore unsolicited messages that ask for personal information. Amazon will also never send you an unsolicited message that asks

you to provide sensitive personal information, such as your tax ID, bank account number or credit card information.

- Ignore calls for immediate action. Scammers try to get you to act before you think by creating a sense of urgency. Don't fall for it.

- Beware of requests to pay via wire transfer, prepaid debit card or CashApp (such as Venmo, MoneyPak, iTunes or similar cards). These are almost always a sign of fraud.

- Report it to Amazon. Any customer that receives a questionable email or call from a person impersonating an Amazon employee report them to Amazon customer service. Amazon investigates these complaints and will take action, if warranted.

These calls usually say you can conveniently press 1 to speak with someone or they provide a number to call. Don't do either. It's a scam. They're trying to steal your personal information, like your account password or your credit card number.

If you get an unexpected call or message about a problem with any of your accounts, hang up.

- Do not press 1 to speak with customer support
- Do not call a phone number they gave you
- Do not give out your personal information
- Do not press any button claiming that they will remove your number from their list.

If you think there may actually be a problem with one of your accounts, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real.

For More Information, read BBB's tips on phishing scams and tips for online shopping safely. Learn how to identify whether a call or message is really from Amazon. If you've gotten a phony call or been the victim of another scam, make others aware by filing a report on BBB Scam Tracker.



Consumers get answers from Ga. Department of Agriculture

Consumer Q's is a weekly question-and-answer column by Arty Schronce at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Please share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with him by phone, mail or email.

Q: When should I seed my lawn?

A: It depends on what kind of grass you are trying to grow. The best time to sow tall fescue is from mid-September to the end of October. The second best time is February and March (the earlier the better). Bermuda and centipede can be sown from early April to mid-August. Centipede seed has a hard seed coat and may not germinate for several weeks. Apply water daily to centipede until germination is complete.

Q: Are there any requirements for selling eggs from a yard flock?

A: It depends on how the eggs are featured for sale. If the eggs are distributed to retail and wholesale outlets you must comply with the Georgia Egg Law and supporting regulations, similar to other egg producers operating in the state. If the eggs are sold to consumers on your farm some regulations may not apply for example, transportation requirements. We will mail you a copy of the Georgia Egg Law and supporting regulations.

Q: Are dairy farms and their cattle inspected by the state and if so on what schedule?

A: According to our state veterinarian the Georgia Department of Agriculture requires a tuberculosis test on the dairy cattle every six years and a brucellosis ring test every 90 days on milking herds. There is no inspection on animals with regards to body condition, feeding schedules, etc. Dairymen that do not take care of their animals will not be able to maintain the business.

Q: I want to sell pre-packaged food, from my home, via the internet. Do I still have to be inspected by the Department of Agriculture?

A: Yes. It is a regulatory require-

Georgia Power reminds customers to follow tips to avoid common scams

With a recent increase in reports regarding scams and fraud by criminals posing as Georgia Power employees, the company is reminding customers to be aware and follow simple tips to avoid being a target.

Georgia Power urges customers to be cautious when contacted by an unverified person claiming to be a Georgia Power representative. Customers should beware of deceptive caller-ID displays, official-sounding automated calls and in-person calls demanding immediate payment over the phone to avoid disconnection.

The company will never ask a customer to provide a credit card or pre-paid debit card number over the phone or request customers to pay using alternate methods like BitCoin. Additionally, the company will never send employees into the field to collect payment in person or ask a customer to pay anywhere other than an Authorized Payment Location (APL).

Additional Scam Awareness & Safety Guidance

Georgia Power also provides the following guidance to customers:

- If an account becomes past due, Georgia Power will contact the customer via a pre-recorded message to the primary account telephone number or by letter requesting that the customer call to discuss the account.
- If a customer receives a suspicious call from someone claiming to be from Georgia Power and demand-

ment of the Department that we must inspect the conditions under which food items are being stored. An inspection from our office of consumer protection would determine whether or not proper procedures are being followed.

Q: Do I have to have a permit to sell goats at a state operated flea market?

A: Yes, you will need a poultry dealer's license which will allow you to sell poultry and/or livestock in Georgia. Please contact our general field office and they will send you the necessary paperwork.

Q: What is the best way to catch a mouse inside a house?

A: Use traps, not poison baits, inside houses. Poison baits are more dangerous. Also, poisoned rats and mice will die and stink in walls and attics. Use plenty of traps in a room. Put them along the wall, in cupboards and drawers, and in other places where mice might run. Make it so a mouse won't travel more than five or ten feet to find a trap. A well-fed mouse may live for weeks in one corner of a room. Mice like to run along a wall. Set traps with the bait treadle across his path at a right angle to the wall. Don't set the trap parallel to the wall and force mice to go around or over the trap to reach the bait. Make it easy for them. Snap traps are the cheapest, so use plenty. Sticky traps are as good as snap traps and easier to use. Make sure to keep pets and children away from the traps.

Q: What type of bait should be used in a mouse trap and how will I know if I have gotten them all?

A: Mice like peanut butter, bacon, or anything tasty with a strong odor. It's hard to say. Leave the traps in place for a few weeks.

If you have questions about agriculture, horticulture, food safety or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce (arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov) or visit the department's website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

UGA extension

Landscaping chores for Spring

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service

You may have heard of spring cleaning for your home, but did you know spring cleaning for your landscape is just as important? There are several chores you can complete now that will improve the productivity and appearance of your gardens as we head into the warmer seasons.

February is a great time of year to consider pruning of roses and other shrubs. It's important in roses that pruning is completed prior to budbreak in the spring. The removal of old flowers and dead growth on rose bushes causes greater amounts of larger, more attractive flowers in the new season. Major pruning of roses should be done before new growth begins in the spring, and general grooming of your plants can be done anytime throughout the growing season.

General grooming includes removing dead or damaged stems. Before you make any pruning cuts, be sure to identify the type of roses you are working with. Climbing roses bloom on old wood, therefore, should not be bloomed before they flower. On the flip side, large and rapidly growing varieties like hybrid teas and grandiflora roses need to be pruned heavily. Leave four to six of the best canes and prune to 24-30 inches from the ground.

Knockout roses should be pruned down two feet below the desired height for the growing season, and if they are too unruly, knockouts can be cut back to 1-2 feet in height.

This time of year is also great for renewal pruning of shrubs. Renewal pruning should be done when shrubs outgrow their space or when they become too open and sparse in growth towards their base.

Pruning shrubs such as evergreens, holly, cleyera, ligustrums, and azaleas back to 6-12 inches above the ground encourages new growth and a better appearance to the plant. Renewal pruning should

be completed before spring growth begins in late February or early March. As the shoots of the plant reach 6-12 inches long, cut the terminal bud found at their tips. This terminal bud at the tip of the shoot produces the hormone auxin, which prevents growth of the lateral buds and results in sprawling, sparse plants. Tipping the terminal bud increases growth of the lateral buds on the shoot and encourages full growth.

A final chore to consider this time of year is summer weed control of things like crabgrass and goose grass through pre-emergence herbicides. When soil temperatures at a 4 inch depth start to reach around 55 degrees, weeds will start to germinate - typically the first or second week of March.

When applying herbicides, be sure to read and follow the directions on the label for better weed control and decreased risk of harm to turf or the environment. Limit herbicide use to areas it is needed and avoid placing it on hard surfaces or in garden beds. Use an active ingredient such as pendimethalin, prodiamine, dithiopyr, benefin plus trifluralin, and benefin plus oryzalin. Many of these ingredients can be found in multiple brand-name products. Be sure to get a product that is designed to kill the weeds you need control of.

One last thing to remember - do not apply any weed and feed products at this time if they contain any nitrogen. Additional nitrogen will encourage new growth of grasses, and we are still at risk of killing that new growth with any cold snaps. Fertilizers and herbicides that do not contain nitrogen are safe to use during this period as they do not encourage new growth in the same manner.

If you have questions about pruning or pre-emergent herbicides, please let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

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