



Ribbon cutting held for Back Paddle Brewing

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Back Paddle Brewing by the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce on Friday, April 9. Joining the McCloud family in celebrating the opening of Lincoln County's first brewery were (l-r) Chamber Chairman Maggie Shaw, Lincoln County Development Authority Director John Stone, owner and founder Kyle McCloud, his oldest son, Aidan, wife Emily, youngest son, Finnegan, Greg Dukes, Lincoln County Historical Society Vice President Julie Ilhardt, and Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners Walker Norman. Not pictured was Kyle's mother, Jen.

The life-long dream of McCloud, Back Paddle Brewing offers farm-to-table food, while supporting local veteran farmers, and produces small batch beer. McCloud is a former culinary apprentice from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend Indiana. He studied culinary arts at Ivey Tech Community College; and is a Navy veteran. Back Paddle Brewing is located on the corner of Bethany Church Road and Highway 378.

Council approves new patrol car

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system upgrades, filter consoles, upgrade gas chlorinators, filter four backwash valve, chemical sample pump, upgrade lab equipment, Elberton Road waterline extension, and other miscellaneous plant upgrades.

According to Green, the city would have to pass a resolution which would allow Mayor Henry Brown to request the additional funding from GEFA. Part of the application process would involve the city supplying GEFA with its latest audit to ensure that its rates are adequate.

Council voted to approve the resolution and accepted the bid from Brooks Brothers for phase two of the project.

Mayor Brown addressed a complaint by residents concerning a neighbor's property which arrived at City Hall unsigned.

"What I need, as Mayor, is for those making the complaint to come forward and either speak to me or a councilman directly about the issues so it can be resolved. We cannot act on a complaint un-

less we know who the complainants are," Brown said.

Councilman Alana Burke spoke up and stated that she had taken it upon herself to speak with several of the residents in the area. It is her understanding that they see the home as a nuisance and would like to see it addressed.

City Attorney Barry Fleming's recommendation was to allow the Chief of Police to draft and deliver a letter to the homeowner regarding the nuisance ordinance giving the homeowner an opportunity to resolve the issue. If the issue remains unresolved, a citation could then be issued, and the homeowner would have to appear before the judge. Fleming also advised the council that the city has the option of taking care of the issue and billing the homeowner.

Council agreed to allow Police Chief Brandon Lively to begin the process.

In other business the council voted to approve a request by Lively to purchase a 2021 Dodge Charger four-door sedan from Thomson Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Ram Fiat at a cost of \$30,183. The request also included an additional cost of \$9,989, from West Warning Equipment Sales and Service to equip and detail the car for service.

Lively's departmental report showed that the department answered 368 calls for service in March. The calls included 15 incident reports, 54 miscellaneous, five accident reports, along with 27 citations, and 48 warnings.

The reported also stated that Lively and Sergeant Justin Ashmore attended the Georgia Office of Highway Safety meeting in Stapleton, Georgia, recently, which allowed them to receive mandatory state training hours, while assisting with safety road checks.

Fire Chief Matt Goldman asked for council's approval on a spending request to replace one of two air packs that are over 20-years old at a cost of \$6,400. Goldman's plan is to purchase one now and the second later this year. Goldman informed council that the life span of the air packs is 10-15 years. Council voted to approve the first purchase.

Goldman's departmental report showed that Engine 21 is currently at R&W for repairs to its cable linkage and braking system. The department answered two calls during the month of March.

Moving on to other reports, the council reviewed the monthly planning and zoning report by Building and Code Enforcement Officer Larry Goolsby which showed eight building permits were issued and one variance application totaling \$630.50. Goolsby performed 16 inspections on building permits; perform one plat approval; met with the planning and zoning board and held five meetings with property owners/contractors during the month of March.

Goolsby requested the council's approval for a variance request by Scott and Frankie Brown on property located on Peryman Avenue and a request by Hani Mussad to continue using the R-1 conditional use permit on property located on Peachtree Street. Council approved both requests.

Wastewater Treatment Supervisor Ben Allgood's monthly report showed that the approximate influent for Lincoln County was 646,000 gallons, while the influent for the city was approximately 10.5 million gallons. Treated effluent that was discharged was a little over 11 million gallons. Routine facility, equipment, and grounds maintenance was performed, along with the line repairs, and the clearing of clogged sewer mains. Sampling data has also been completed and recorded.

The report also indicated that the department lost no time due to accidents or incidents.

Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Jodi Lee's report showed that 12.5 million gallons of water were treated, with 11.2 million gallons sent to distribution during the month of March. Rainfall for the month was recorded at 4.38 inches.

The next regular meeting of the Lincolnton City Council will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at City Hall.

Tankersleys will be guest speakers at Chamber forum April 22, 7 p.m.

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce is hosting its third "getting to know your local business community" forum on Thursday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

April's spotlight will feature Brian and Becky Tankersley, owners of Double Branches Farm and Produce Market. The couple will share their journey on starting the farm, their plans for 2021, and beyond.

Those wishing to listen in and pose questions to the featured speakers are asked to contact the Chamber through its website, lincolngachamber.org, or by email at info@lincolngachamber.org. A call-in number and PIN will be provided for access to the forum. Only those who have registered by

Wednesday, April 21, will have access.

"The Chamber is opening this forum to everyone in the community who is interested in listening and learning about our local businesses and non-profits. We have moved onto a zoom meeting platform, which is a bit more interactive, and we are recording the forum for later view" Chamber Chairman Maggie Shaw said.

"During the zoom forum, participants can join in the discussion or just listen. We would love for residents to connect with us and get to know a bit more about Double Branches Farm and Produce Market," she added.

The "getting to know your local

business community," teleconference/zoom forum is intended to spotlight local Chamber trade professionals and non-profits. It provides a focused introduction and insight into local business structure and gives the community an opportunity to learn first-hand what is readily available in Lincolnton.

Questions can be posted on zoom once the session begins or may also be emailed to info@lincolngachamber.org referencing the company to be spotlighted up to 24 hours before the forum begins.

Chamber businesses interested in participating in the next teleconference can contact the Chamber at the email address above and a representative will be in contact.

Residents 65 and older can apply for CSRA EOA cooling assistance

The Lincoln County Community Partnership has teamed up with the CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA) to begin the application process for the CSRA EOA Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The program will offer financial assistance with home cooling costs to target households of those who are 65 years and older or medically homebound.

Due to the continued impact of COVID-19 and the mandate to exercise social distancing, neither office will be serving clients face-to-face until further notice. In an effort to continue serving the community with limited staff the CSRA EOA will operate as follows. Residents 65 years and older or medically homebound must submit a request for assistance at www.csraeo.org. All other qualifying households may apply using the same method as above beginning May 3, 2021.

To apply, applicants must complete an online assessment. If it is determined that the household qualifies to apply during the priority period, applicants will receive instructions on how to submit the following documents:

- Picture ID for verification of U.S. citizenship.
- Social Security card for all household members.
- Proof of income in consecutive order for the past 30 days for all household members.
- Most recent electric bill
- Most recent gas bill (required for data).

Applicants will be required to submit current documents as instructed. CSRA EOA is unable to pull documents from previous files.

Payment assistance schedule for all fuel types include: Income Level I - benefit amount \$400; Income Level II - benefit amount \$350, and Vulnerable Population which are households with adults age 60 or over - benefit amount \$400.

Income eligibility requires for Level I household size are as follows: one-person, \$16,265; two-person, \$21,270; three-person, \$26,275; four-person, \$31,280; five-person, \$36,285; six-person, \$41,290; seven-person, \$46,295; eight-person, \$51,300; nine-person, \$56,305; ten-person, \$61,310; eleven-person, \$66,315; twelve-person, \$71,320; thirteen-person, \$76,325; fourteen-person, \$81,330; fifteen-person, \$86,335; sixteen-person, \$91,340.

\$49,736; and 16-person, \$50,675.

Income eligibility requires for Level II household size are as follows: one-person, \$16,266 - \$25,025; two-person, \$21,271 - \$32,725; three-person, \$26,276 - \$40,425; four-person, \$31,281 - \$48,125; five-person, \$36,286 - \$55,825; six-person, \$41,291 - \$63,525; seven-person, \$46,296 - \$64,969; eight-person, \$43,168 - \$66,413; nine-person, \$44,107 - \$67,856; ten-person, \$45,045 - \$69,300; eleven-person, \$45,983 - \$70,744; twelve-person, \$46,922 - \$72,188; thirteen-person, \$47,860 - \$73,631; fourteen-person, \$48,799 - \$75,075; fifteen-person, \$49,737 - \$76,519; and sixteen-person, \$50,676 - \$77,963.

Income eligibility requires for Vulnerable Population household size are as follows: one-person, \$25,025; two-person, \$32,725; three-person, \$40,425; four-person, \$48,125; five-person, \$55,825; six-person, \$63,525; seven-person, \$64,969; eight-person, \$66,413; nine-person, \$67,856; ten-person, \$69,300; eleven-person, \$70,744; twelve-person, \$72,188; thirteen-person, \$73,631; fourteen-person, \$75,075; fifteen-person, \$76,519; and sixteen-person, \$77,963.

Commissioners renew Eagleview contract

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Eagleview would provide the same three-inch pictometry of property within the city limits as they did in 2019, but would shoot the county using six-inch pictometry instead of the nine-inch used in 2019. The quality of the resolution using the six-inch pictometry would provide the county's tax assessor's office with enhanced zoom capabilities of properties county-wide and on Q-Public. If approved, Eagleview will begin shooting in January or February of 2022. Commissioners approved the request unanimously.

In other business, Commissioners approved a resolution regarding the 2021 jury selection for Superior Court.

Authorized Lincoln County Office of Emergency Services Director Casey Broom to apply for an EMS Trauma Care Related Equipment Grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission. Broom stated that if awarded the amount per ambulance would be \$787.93. Commissioners also agreed to allow Norman to accept the funds totaling \$2363.79

Approved the low bid of \$14,610 from Trinity Lawn and Landscape to sod and run irrigation to the front and side yard of the courthouse.

Accepted the Georgia Department of Transportation Quit Claim Deed for approximately 1.794 acres located on the corner of Double Branches Road and Augusta Hwy.

Commissioner's voted to authorize the chairman to sign Amendment No. 3, in the amount of \$33,000, on the Montego Point water project. Seymour stated that this will add a water line on Indian Road, prepare plans and specifications for the installation of a solenoid control valve on Highway 378, and includes electrical as well as SCADA design and plans.

Commissioner reviewed departmental reports including the Office of Emergency Services which included calls answered for the month of March, at 127 transports, 33 EMS NPU's, and 13 fires, with an average response time of 9.4 minutes.

Norman informed commissioners that he and Broom would be pick-

ing up the county's new ambulance over the weekend and after inspection, it should be in use by the end of next week.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department report showed that Little League baseball games began on April 12; a drive-through mobile food distribution will be held at the recreation complex on Thursday, April 22, the splash pad at the Jesse Gundy Aquatic Center and Eddie Fletcher Park are now open; Pop Warner held its registration and presented trophies on April 3; and a small business expo is scheduled for May 1.

Lincoln County Finance Director Ernie Doss reported that the General Fund revenues are at 88.52 percent and expenses are at 72.92 percent. Discussions are currently underway with department heads on the FY22 budget.

The Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement Office report showed that four new single family home permits were issued; two manufactured home move out permits; 14 alterations/renovation/

addition permits; seven accessory permits; 12 electrical; six HVAC; four plumbing; two roofing; and three well service/temp pole/irrigation permits were all issued totaling \$7,289. for the month of March.

The Public Works Water Report for the month of March showed a total of \$77,123.62 collected, which covers water, sewer, and available customer setup and tap fees.

The department installed five service connections and repaired four leaks on the system; performed continued maintenance on hydrants, valves, and meters; performed locates for utilities; and performed maintenance on the Savannah Bay and Pointe Shores water systems.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Norman called Technology and Media Specialist Director Austin Dockery and Emily Kent to the podium to recognize and congratulate them both on their recent engagement.

The next regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 13.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday at Bell's Food Market

The Lincoln County Community Partnership (LCCP) has teamed up with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office to host a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, on Saturday, April 24, at Bell's Food Market.

"Anything we can do to make a difference is important. It is better to make a difference than to make a case. We are happy to partner with LCCP to provide a safe disposal site for unused or expired prescription medications," Sheriff Paul Reviere said.

Residents should know that any unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Liquids, needles, or sharps cannot be accepted, only pills or patches will be taken. The drop-off site is located at 110 N. Peachtree Street.

DPH reports on COVID-19 cases; register for vaccine at ecphd.com

Lincoln County had its twenty-fourth reported COVID-19 fatality according to the Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) website as of Monday, April 12.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln County increased to 506 with twenty-four reported fatalities as of the 3 p.m. posting by the Georgia Department of Public Health on Monday..

Neighboring Wilkes County lists 666 cases and twenty deaths, McDuffie County reports 1634 cases and 41 deaths, Columbia lists 10,851 cases and 159 deaths, and Richmond County reports 19,436 cases and 397 deaths.

Also reported as of 3 p.m. Monday, 862,720 Georgians had tested positive for COVID-19. Of those patients, 59,779 were hospitalized, and 17,017 deaths have been reported.

To register for the vaccine in Lincoln County, go online to ecphd.com [East Central Public Health District] to register. After going through a questionnaire process, you can choose your county or put in a radius from your location. You can then choose your time and place for a vaccine appointment.

The online system gives people the opportunity to see where appointments are available around them so they can choose their preferred travel options. It also provides for email or text confirmations and reminders. There is no waiting for a callback - pre-screening, date and time are all handled online.

Anyone not meeting the eligibility criteria right now, it will not allow them to make an appointment.

For those without internet access or who are just no computer-savvy, call 706-721-5800.

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