

## This weeks tips from the BBB

Employment scams are on the rise in the turbulent job market created by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new Better Business Bureau® (BBB®) study finds. BBB warns job seekers to verify employment offers to avoid illegal jobs, identity theft and fake checks to which millions are exposed annually.

The in-depth investigative study - Job Scams: BBB study finds job scams increased during pandemic, warns job seekers to verify employment offers to avoid illegal jobs, identity theft and fake checks - details the many forms employment fraud takes and the scams that often result. Read the full study at [BBB.org/jobscams](http://BBB.org/jobscams).

Job scams have been a problem for years. In 2020, BBB estimated 14 million victims with \$2 billion in direct

losses related to job scams. Last year, the 2020 BBB Employment Scams Report by BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust found job scams to be the riskiest of all the scams they tracked in 2018 and 2019. However, BBB's study finds that the problem worsened in 2020. Losses reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) about employment scams were up 27% between 2018 and 2020.

BBB Institute's 2020 report on job scams found that this fraud most commonly victimized people ages 25-34, with women filing 67% of complaints about this fraud. The median financial loss reported by these victims was \$1,000; in addition, they often reported loss of their time, as 32% were never paid for the work they did for an "employer"

that turned out to be fraudulent.

Identity theft is a common outcome of job scams, as scammers often steal job seekers' personal information to open bank accounts to further their fraud. BBB found 34% of victims provided their driver's license number and 25% provided their Social Security number.

Fake checks also frequently accompany job scams, and they continue to grow. This new BBB study finds that 36% of job scam complaints to BBB involved a fake check, with fake check complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) increasing by 65% between 2015 and 2020. In the two years since BBB issued an investigative study on fake check fraud, losses absorbed by banks themselves due to fake checks went up 40% to reach \$1.3 billion. Common fraudulent job offers involving fake checks include mystery shopping or secret shopper jobs, car wrap jobs, nanny or caregiver jobs, and small business jobs such as photography or painting houses.

One woman who lost her job during the pandemic was recruited through a job search website for a job as a remote assistant for a large company. The "employer" deposited a check for \$2,400 into her bank account to purchase equipment from a third-party vendor, then asked her to buy \$2,400 in Home Depot gift cards and text them the numbers on the back. She heard nothing further from the "employer," but her bank informed her that the check deposited to her account was fraudulent. She not only lost the funds she spent on the gift cards but had another \$2,400 stolen from her bank account.

Employment scam victims frequently become unwitting accomplices in other fraud, used as money mules, to mail fake checks, or to participate in reshipping scams, which represent 65% of the scam job offers reported to BBB Scam Tracker.

Scammers "hire" victims from job boards, Facebook or Craigslist, offering to pay them as much as \$2,500 to receive and then send on packages. These fraudsters often use stolen credit card numbers to order laptops, cellphones and high-end goods and have them sent to reshipping victims, instructing them to repack the goods and providing shipping labels to send the packages to a new address, often in Russia. The accomplices who were hired for this fraudulent type of work are never paid, and their identities may be used to open bank accounts.

The FTC has taken action against job scammers, including a fake job placement company the agency sued in 2019. Associated scams such as reshipping schemes and money mule schemes have been a focus for state and federal law enforcement; in December 2020, the Department of Justice announced the results of a worldwide effort to deal with money mules, resulting in action taken against 2,300 people.

Tips to avoid job scams:

- Research the job offer. Call or go directly to the actual company's website for contact information to verify the job posting. Check on businesses offering jobs at BBB.org.
- Do an internet search with the name of the employer and the word "scam" to see if there are reports involving job scams.
- Examine the email address of those offering jobs to see if it matches the protocols used by an actual company. Be alert to Gmail business email addresses.
- Consider creating a separate email address when posting a resume on job boards or applying for jobs. This can help detect "offers" from scam employers you did not contact.
- Consider setting up a second bank account simply to handle pay for jobs where you have never met the employer in person.
- If you're paying for the promise of a job, it's most likely a scam.
- Be very wary of mystery shopping or secret shopper positions.
- Work-from-home jobs that involve receiving and reshipping packages are likely scams.
- Beware of jobs that involve receiving and forwarding money.
- Don't fall for a fake check scam. BBB is not aware of any legitimate job offers that send checks to applicants and ask them to send money to a third party.
- Be cautious in providing personal information such as your full address, birthdate and financial information in your resume or to unverified recruiters and online applications.
- Be wary of vague job descriptions.
- Even if you do the work, it still may be a scam.
- Do not respond to calls, text messages or emails from unknown numbers or suspicious addresses.
- Do not click any links in a text message from a number you do not recognize. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren't hacked.
- It is important that victims of job scams report them to:
  - Better Business Bureau - BBB.org or BBB.org/scamtracker.
  - Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov) or call 877-FTC-Help.
  - Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) - [ic3.gov/complaint](http://ic3.gov/complaint).

## Legals continued

Coppell, TX 75019  
1-888-480-2432

Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

**Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper as agent and Attorney in Fact for James H. Edmunds, Jr. and Denise J. Edmunds**

Aldridge Pite, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

1006-3220A  
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1006-3220A  
9 9 4tp

**In the Superior Court of Lincoln County, Georgia**

In re the Name Change of: S. Elaine S. Pittman, petitioner

Civil Action Case Number: 21CV0100

**Notice of Petition to Change Name of Adult**  
Sylvia Elaine Sasser Pittman filed a petition in the Lincoln County Superior Court on September 2, 2021, to change the name from Sylvia Elaine Sasser Pittman to Elaine Sasser Pittman.

Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed. 9 23 4tp

### Notice

Georgia, Lincoln County Probate Court  
The petition of NAOMI R. COBB for a year's support from the estate of JOE LOUIS COBB, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any, on or before SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, why said petition should not be granted.

Objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Lee D. Moss, Probate Judge  
By: Debbie Pruett, Clerk  
P.O. Box 205  
Lincolnton, GA 30817  
706-359-5528  
9 2 4tc

**STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LINCOLN  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated March 24, 2009, from James A. Megee, deceased to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, recorded on April 6, 2009 in Deed Book 195 at Page 373 Lincoln County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES 1 TRUST by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated March 24, 2009, in the amount of \$240,000.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Lincoln County, Georgia, on October 5, 2021 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 1867th GMD OF LINCOLN COUNTY, GEORGIA AND FRONTING ON THE EAST SIDE OF LEWIS FAMILY ROAD, AND CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY MATTISON AND ASSOCIATES INC RLS, DATED JULY 22, 2002, AND RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET A, SLIDE 104, PANEL B, LINCOLN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DEED RECORDS. SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE OFFICIAL RECORD THEREOF IS INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SAID TRACT. SAID TRACT IS BOUND-ED NOW OR FORMERLY AS FOLLOWS: NORTH BY LANDS OF BRUNER; EAST BY LANDS OF HAMRICK; SOUTH BY

LEWIS FAMILY ROAD; AND WEST BY LANDS OF BRUNER. The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is James A. Megee, deceased. The property, being commonly known as 1245 Lewis Family Road, Lincolnton, GA, 30817 in Lincoln County, will be sold as the property of James A. Megee, deceased, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Compu-Link Corporation, d/b/a Clink, 2900 Esperanza Crossing, Austin, TX 78758, 512-691-1699. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Albertelli Law Attorney for BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES 1 TRUST as Attorney in Fact for James A. Megee, deceased 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 960 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 By: Cory P. Sims For the Firm THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 21-003911 A-4734190 09/09/2021, 09/16/2021, 09/23/2021, 09/30/2021  
9 9 4tp

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ELBERTON HIGHWAY WATER LINE EXTENSION for the CITY OF LINCOLN, GEORGIA**  
Sealed proposals will be received by City of Lincoln, Georgia at the City Hall, 125 North Peachtree Street, Lincolnton, Georgia 30817 until 3:00 P.M. local time, Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. No submitted bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of sixty days.  
All Bidders must have a State of Georgia Utility Contractor License and must employ a state "Utility Manager" certificate holder who will have oversight of all the work.  
The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment and labor for the construction of:  
Water system improvements to include approximately 7,200 linear feet of 6-inch water line, 15 fire hydrants, 2 valves, 16 new service connections and appurtenances. Time allotted for installation is 120 consecutive calendar days.  
Proposals for the complete work in one general contract shall be made on the proposal form provided and shall contain prices in words and figures for the work bid on.  
The project may be funded with a State Revolving Fund loan. All SRF and American Iron and Steel Special Conditions requirements apply.  
All proposals shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond drawn in favor of City of Lincoln, Georgia, in the amount of at least 10% of the lump sum bid for the complete work; such Bid Bond representing that the Bidder, if awarded the contract, will promptly enter into a contract and furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond as provided by law and approved by the Attorney for City of Lincoln, Georgia. Each bond shall be equal to 100% of the contract amount. The Bid Bond shall be forfeited to City of Lincoln, Georgia as liquidated damages if the Bidder fails to execute the contract and provide Performance and Payment Bonds within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract.  
Drawings and Specifications are open to public inspection at the office of the City of Lincoln, Georgia; at the office of Turnipseed Engineers in Augusta and Atlanta, Georgia.  
Copies of the plans and specifications may be obtained from Turnipseed Engineers, 4210 Columbia Road, Building 3, Augusta, Georgia 30907, upon receipt of \$200.00.  
Digital copies of the documents are not available.  
Upon receipt of all documents in undamaged condition within thirty days after the date of opening of bids, one-half of the deposit will be refunded.  
The difference between the deposit and the amount refunded represents the cost of reproduction. No refund will be made for documents received after thirty (30) days or in damaged condition.  
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities.  
CITY OF LINCOLN, GEORGIA  
By:  
Henry Brown, Mayor



## Golden Harvest, LCFP deliver blessings to students

The Lincoln County Food Pantry received a delivery from Golden Harvest Food Bank on Wednesday, September 8. The partnership between Golden Harvest's Backpack Program, LCFP and the Lincoln County School Board continues with LCSD employee Tom Goldman transporting backpacks to LCES, as well as, Blessing Bags to LCMs & LCHs from the food pantry.

## Elections Board's first public hearing is Sept. 21

The Lincoln County Board of Elections will conduct two public hearings for the purpose of soliciting input from the voters and through discussion establish a plan to make changes to the voting process for all future elections in Lincoln County which includes all primaries, runoffs, special and general elections.

The hearings will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, and Tuesday, September 28, at The Lincoln Center located at 160 May Avenue.

The Elections Board is considering the following to help make all voting in the county easier and more accessible to all voters, eliminate errors, and build more confidence in the county's voting process. Below are the actions to be considered:

1. Establish a centralized voting center where all voters who prefer to vote in person either during the "early voting period" or on election day. Having all voting at one location will reduce the administrative func-

tions, logistical support, personnel requirements (pole workers), and costs of conducting an election. Instead of having voting at seven separate sites all voting would be conducted at one location.

2. Along with conducting each election held in the county at one location, the storing and transporting voting equipment support items to seven different locations would be eliminated by storing the support equipment in proximity to the actual voting area.

3. Having one voting center for the entire county, "voting by mail" would not change much from the present procedure. When the voter completes the absentee ballot, they will still have the option to drop the completed ballot in the United States Postal Service mailbox. If they elect to take the ballot to the Elections Office at 160 May Avenue, Lincolnton, they can still drop the ballot in the Elections Office drop box or give the ballot to the

Elections Office, Director, or the Administrative Assistant.

4. Under the current Georgia Election Code, the two Saturday voting days will be much easier to manage by having only one voting location.


**Sit & Sew resumes**

The American Legion Post 194 has resumed hosting sewing classes called, "Sit & Sew." The class meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information contact Linda Buesching/Instructor at (706) 359-1572. Sewing stations are appropriately spaced. And masks are optional.

The focus at this time are Christmas gifts for veterans in V.A. nursery homes.

All levels of sewing are welcome. The cost is a "donation" to the American Legion toward its Veterans Outreach Program. For more information, Linda Buesching/Instructor, (706) 359-1572, [lindabuesching@yahoo.com](mailto:lindabuesching@yahoo.com).



Lincoln County Board of Elections & Voter Registration  
160 May Avenue  
Post Office Box 1419  
Lincolnton, Georgia 30817  
(706) 359 - 6126 phone (706) 359 - 7396 fax

Lilvender Bolton - Executive Director  
Tywinthia Harris-Office Clerk

James Allen Chairperson  
Gregory Zellars  
Brenda Leopard  
Jhandi Matthews  
Cathy Smith-Mason

**NOTICE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING**

Pursuant to Georgia State Election Board Rule Chapter 183-1-12, notice is hereby given that logic and accuracy testing and preparation of voting equipment to be used in the November 02, 2021 an Official Special Election will take place in the Office of Lincoln County Board of Elections and Registration (160 May Avenue, Lincolnton, Georgia 30817) on Thursday September 30, 2021 testing shall begin at 10:00 pm, allowing the 1<sup>st</sup> hour of the process for questions and answers pertaining the such testing, testing shall continue each day until complete.

**NOTICE OF COMPUTATION & CANVASSING OF ELECTION RETURNS**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-492, notice is hereby given that the computation and canvassing of the returns of votes cast in the November 02, 2021 Official Special Election will take place in the Office of Lincoln County Board of Elections and Registration (160 May Avenue, Lincolnton, Georgia 30817) on Tuesday, November 02, 2021 computation of results will begin after the hour of 7:00 pm.

**This 13th Day of September 2021**

Lilvender Bolton  
**Executive Director**