

Laronda F. Eason and Henry Howard, Jr., Receives the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute's Certificate of Recognition at the Georgia Municipal Association's 2026 Annual Convention in Savannah

By Georgia Municipal Association

SAVANNAH, Ga., -- Laronda F. Eason, Councilwoman received the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Certificate of Recognition at the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual Convention on June 28.

Henry Howard, Jr., Councilman received the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Certificate of Recognition at the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual Convention on June 28.

The Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides a nationally recognized series of training opportunities for city officials.

"This accomplishment reflects a strong commitment to excellence in public service," said GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson. "Through continued investment in professional development, Henry Howard, Jr., demonstrates leadership that benefits not only

the residents of Fort Valley but also advances the strength and effectiveness of local governments throughout Georgia. This achievement sets a meaningful example for city officials across our state."

The Certificate of Recognition requires 42 hours of training, including at least 18 hours from the required list and the Newly Elected Officials Institute and the Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute. The training program consists of more than 80 courses.

"We are proud of our partnership with GMA to provide exceptional, practical and relevant instruction to Georgia's more than 3,500 municipal officials," said UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government Director Rob Gordon. "The institute remains committed to being the trusted resource that city officials across Georgia turn to for the highest quality leadership and professional development training that makes a difference in the lives of the people they represent."

For more information, visit www.gacities.com.



Photo Contributed

Several Fort Valley Council members recently helped move the City of Fort Valley forward. They completed their training hour requirements for the Certificate of Recognition through the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute. Congratulations to Councilman Henry Howard, Councilwoman Laronda Eason, and Councilman Keytrick Jones.

Let's Get Ready for Summer Splash Pads Open

Contributed

The Peach County Parks & Recreation Department is officially kicking off summer by opening the Splash Pads at both North and South Peach Parks during Memorial Day Weekend! So Grab the kids and the sunscreen and enjoy the sun.

Open Dates: Saturday, May 23, 2026, through September 7, 2026.

Open Daily except on Wednesdays for maintenance.

After August 2nd the Splash Pads will ONLY be open on the weekends.

Need more info? Call: 478.825.3334 or Visit: rec.peachcounty.gov

Attention Parents!
Are you new to Peach County? Now is the time to register your kids for School. Don't wait! School begins August 4, 2026.

By PCSS

Are you new to Peach County?

Now is the time to register your kids for school.

Don't wait! The first day of school is August 4, 2026.

You can begin registration online at

www.peachschools.org/o/pcs/page/enrollment or come by the Peach County Board of Education 900 Campus Drive Fort Valley, GA 31030 Monday-Thursday 7:30-12:00 and 1:00- 4:30 478-825-5933 Ext. 1047



Sweet Valley Summer Fruit Saturdays

By SweetValley Farm Harvest Barn

This July, we're helping make sure Peach County kids have fresh, sweet fruit in their hands all summer long.

Every Saturday morning, parents can bring their children to Sweet Valley Farm - The Harvest Barn to pick up a FREE Summer Fruit Snack Sack.

Sweet peaches. Juicy apples. Happy kids. Full hearts. Saturdays in July through July

30th 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon One Snack Sack per child, while supplies last. Sponsors are welcome! Help us keep fresh fruit flowing for Peach County children this summer. Sweet Valley Farm - The Harvest Barn 1146 Camp John Hope Rd Fort Valley, GA Fresh fruit. Happy kids. Stronger families.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

CONTINUED FROM 1A



Photo by Zoe Hammond

Revolutionary War Veteran William Wiggins and his family's grave site.

Wiggins served in the Continental Line of the Revolutionary War. After serving, he was given a land grant for the area that would later become Fort Valley.

Jimmy Yancey, commander of Post 76 Legion in Fort Valley, said that the Fourth of July is a time to honor those who served, and what better way to serve a Revolutionary War veteran than on America's 250th birthday.

John Marshall, a descendant of Wiggins, said he was proud to be part of the ceremony.

"It makes me proud. It's a jump-start on what we have today," Marshall said. "If that had gone south, we might not have been here to be doing all of this."

Marshall, who is originally from Fort Valley, reminisced about a time when he was young and took Wiggins' original headstone home in a wagon.

"When I was in the seventh-grade, we were playing in that cemetery and saw that headstone—all the rest of everything had been ploughed up—and we put it on the wagon and took it home," Marshall said. "I had no

idea it was somebody related to me. Until I came out here one day and it was back out here. Whoever had gotten it and researched it put it back out here, cause I had no idea. It's an adventure."

The grave site was previously not maintained; however, the Fort Valley Masonic Lodge has provided a fence around the graves. Rooks Funeral Home had cleaned up the gravestones and provided headstones for Wiggins' wife and daughter-in-law, which had previously been unmarked.

It's time to Stuff the Bus once again!

By PCSS

Since launching this initiative in 2022, we have remained committed to ensuring that Peach County students and teachers have the supplies and resources they need to begin the school year successfully. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have supported more than 300 students and teachers each year.

This year, the Peach County Board of Education will generously provide a school bus that will be parked at the Peach County Health Department from Monday, June 29, through Friday, July 10, 2026. We will be accepting school supply donations from community members, partners, and sponsors Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We invite you to stop by, donate, and take a photo with the bus as we work together to support local students and educators.

In addition, students and families are invited to attend our Back-to-School Bash on Friday,

STUFF THE BUS

We're asking community sponsors and partners to generously donate school supplies, helping us fill the bus with essential items that can directly benefit local classrooms.

The bus will be parked at Peach County Health Department 503 Bluebird Boulevard, Fort Valley, Georgia

Drop-Off Event

- ✔ June 29 - July 10
- ✔ Monday - Friday Only
- ✔ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Pick-Up Event

- ✔ July 10
- ✔ Friday
- ✔ 3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

July 10, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. During this event, students can receive required immunizations (Form 3231), as well as hearing, vision, and dental screenings (Form 3300) at no cost to help prepare for the upcoming school year.

Please see the attached flyer for additional details.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our Platinum Sponsors: The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Delta Pi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gam-

ma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, and Blue Bird Corporation. We also gratefully acknowledge our Silver Sponsors: Georgia Institute of Technology, Peach State Health Plan, SunMark Community Bank, Amerigroup, and Peach Concerned Citizens. Your support helps make this event possible and directly impacts the success of students and teachers throughout our community.



The City of Fort Valley is accepting applications to fill four (4) vacancies on the Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board. In order to achieve staggered terms, the initial appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission Board shall be one (1) member for one (1) year, three (3) members for two (2) years. Interested individuals should fill out an application and present a brief biography/resume.

The purpose of the Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board is to provide for the protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of areas having special historical, cultural, or aesthetic interest or value and which contribute to a sense of place and historical purpose to the citizens. The preservation of this heritage is of basic and vital importance for the development and maintenance of the community's history, culture, vacation-travel industry, historical and architectural tourism and for the protection of property values because of their association with history.

Board Members must meet the following two requirements:

1. Own property in the City of Fort Valley
2. Have been a resident of the City of Fort Valley for a minimum of ten (10) years at the time of their appointment

Interested individuals must demonstrate:

- Special Interest
- Special Training
- Knowledge in real estate, law, history, or architecture.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Diane Brown, City Clerk in the Mayor's Office via email at dbrown@fortvalleyga.org.

All applications must be submitted no later than Friday, July 10, 2026, by 5 p.m. to:

Fort Valley City Hall
204 W. Church Street
Fort Valley, Ga. 31030

For any questions or more details contact Lemario Brown, Interim City Administrator via email at lemario.brown@fortvalleyga.org or by telephone at (478)825-8261.

Police Beat

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
of an arrest or citation report is not evidence of a crime. All persons named in the reports are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Some minor violations that do not threaten public safety are not included.

The information below is provided by local law enforcement agencies, who are solely responsible for the accuracy of the information. These reports are published for information purposes only. Publication of an arrest or citation report is not evidence of a crime. All persons named in the reports are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Some minor violations that do not threaten public safety are not included.

Byron Arrests/Citations

Bryant, Robert Andre, 24, Macon, GA: Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer, Defective Tires, Failure To Maintain Lane, Driving While License Suspended, Possession Of Open Alcohol Container, Possession And Use Of Drug Related Objects, Failure To Maintain Lane, Reckless Driving, Aggressive Driving, Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Leaving Wrecked Vehicle On Street, Failure To Report Accident, Fail To Rpt Striking Fixed Object, Improper Parking, Passing In No Passing Zone, Brake Light/Turn Signal Violation, Too Fast For Conditions/Prima Facie Speed, Loitering Or Prowling, Seat Belt Violation, Window Tint Violation, DUI - Driving Under The Influence Of Drugs, Driver Must Apply For A New License Within 60 Days Of A Change Of Name Or Change Of Address, Failure To Exercise Due Care, Too Fast For Conditions/Prima Facie Speed

Coley, James Reginald, 53, Warner Robins, GA: Burglary 2nd Degree, Entering Automobile Or Other Motor Vehicle With Intent To Commit Theft Or Felony, Failure To Appear - Felony

Grimsley, Timothy David, 18, Fort Valley, GA: Illegal Possession Of Controlled Substance, Possession Of Drug Related Object

Harden, Markelia Andrea, 42, Macon, GA: Failure To Maintain Insurance, Driving While License Suspended, Marijuana-Possess Less Than 1 Oz., Driving Across Private Property To Avoid An Intersection

Hinson, Joey Dalton, 60, Bonaire, GA: Driving Across Private Property To Avoid An Intersection, No Insurance, Knowingly Driving With, Suspended/Canceled Registration, Driving With Suspended License, Possession Of Drug Related Object, Apprehension Of A Wanted Person

Shivers, Devontae Jamaricus, 26, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Trice, Latrez Lamar, 41, Fort Valley, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Walker, Rayshon Deon, 37, Warner Robins, GA: Failure To Appear

Williams, Pamela Denise, 39, Fort Valley, GA: Probation Violation

Williamson, Curtis Lavern, 66, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

Fort Valley Arrests/Citations

Dennis, Brian Jerome, 32, Kathleen, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Misdemeanor

McWilliams, Nathaniel, 24, Byronville, GA: Criminal Trespass

Richard, Terrance Jamaal, 21, Fort Valley, GA: Theft By Taking - Misdemeanor

Peach County Sheriff's Office

Arrests/Citations

Boatwright, Joshua, 22, Byron, GA: Cruelty To Animals, Disorderly Conduct

Bogan, Tykiyla Tyreesha, 28, Fort Valley, GA: Trafficking In Cocaine, Illegal Drugs, Marijuana, Or Methamphetamine

Bousum, Geoffrey George, 51, Durango, CO: Hold For Security Transport Services

Canty, Chynetria Nicole, 30, Decatur, GA: Theft By Receiving Stolen Property-Felony, Knowingly Driving Motor Vehicle On Suspended, Canceled, Or Revoked Registration

Driver, Randy Lane, 37, Fort Valley, GA: Battery - Family Violence (1st Offense) Misd

Fletcher, Lakrisha Marie, 38, Fort Lauderdale, FL: Hold For Transport Services

Harris, Shander, 43, Amarillo, TX: Hold For Security Transport Services

Johnson, Tabitha Nicole, 46, Vienna, GA: Obstructing Or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers

Orban, Shannon Danielle, 45, Byron, GA: Probation Violation (When Probation Terms Are Altered) - Felony

Sanchez, Ashley Lucile, 38, Guyton, GA: Probation Violation

Shelley, Lisa Renee, 41, Perry, GA: Criminal Trespass Family Violence

Wiley, Johnny Roberto, 44, Cobb, GA: Willful Obstruction Of Law Enforcement Officers - Misdemeanor, Driving While License Suspended, Window, Windshield, Or Wiper Violation, Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude A Police Officer

GSP Perry Arrests

Knight, Jarvis Latroy, 22, Macon, GA: Failure To Appear - Misdemeanor

Martinez Caraballo, Maria, 32, Chicago, IL: Speeding In Excess Of Maximum Limits (State Speed And Zone Limits), Reckless Driving, Failure To Exercise Due Care

Warner Robins Police Dept

Arrests

Barrett, Kelvin William, 53, Byron, GA: Loitering, Public Indecency/Indecent Exposure

GA Dept Of Motor Vehicle Safety

Arrests

Hernandez-Isidoro, Javier, 29: No Local Charges

Peach County Community CALENDAR

email: news@theleadertribune.com



CITY OF FORT VALLEY PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 860 8181 1333
Passcode: 047129

WORK SESSION MEETING
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 836 2552 9060
Passcode: 113571

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 825 1845 2123
Passcode: 875012

The Battle of Byron Festival Board of Directors Meeting

The Battle of Byron Festival Board of Directors meet every Third Thursday of the Month at the Old Byron Train Depot at 6:30 P.M.

2026-2027 FORT VALLEY HEAD START RECRUITMENT

700 Spruce St, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (478)825-8584.
Ages 3 - 5. Required Documentation: Proof of birth, Social Security Card, Immunization 3231, Medicaid/Insurance card, Proof of income, Well child check, Dental exam, GA public health 3300 (if applicable), www.mgcaa.org

American Legion Meetings

Veterans, consider joining the American Legion Frederick Withoft Post 76 in Peach County, GA. We are an organization of Veterans supporting Veterans and the local community.

Regular Post Meetings are held on the Third Thursday of Every Month, Social Hour with American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Guests at 1700 (5:00pm) followed by the Meeting Start at 1800 (6:00pm) at 1212 Peach Parkway, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

We can be reached at our Facebook Page (American Legion Post 76 - Peach County GA) or via e-mail (legionpost76pcga@gmail.com). All Veterans and Spouses are encouraged to participate.

ATTENTION: Veterans

Veterans who would like to get together for brotherhood, please meet for dinner at Mi Ranchito at 311-A Vineville St. Fort Valley, GA on 12 August 2023 at 6:30 p.m./1830. Please RSVP to Ernest Cooling by emailing ecooling79@gmail.com. If further information is needed, please call me at (478) 955-8850.

Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority - Board Meeting

The Fort Valley Downtown Development Authority meets 1st Tuesday every month at 6pm, located at Troutman House Conference Room, 201 Oakland Heights Parkway, Fort

Valley, GA 31030. Visit our website for more information: <http://fortvalleymainstreet.org>

Peach County Board of Commissioners Work Sessions

The Peach County Board of Commissioners holds Work Sessions* on the first Tuesday of each month at 5pm in Commission Chambers located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley.

Regular Meetings* are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in Commission Chambers located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley.

The Board also conducts Public Hearings to consider zoning requests at 6:30pm during regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

*Scheduling may differ due to holidays and unforeseen circumstances. Prior notice will be given. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.peachcounty.net/board-of-commissioners.cfm>

Fort Valley Utility Commission

500 Anthoine St, Fort Valley. The Commission doors are open to customers from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

Public Work Session Meeting first Monday of every month at 4 p.m.

Regular Meeting every second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley

The Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays every month, noon at Kay Center in Fort Valley. Kiwanis is a civic group focused on helping children, and community service. Each week, members and guests enjoy lunch and a guest speaker who addresses a topic of local, state and sometimes even global interest. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and join one of America's oldest service organizations. See the Kiwanis Club of Fort Valley Facebook page for more information. (FVN)

Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA. Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org.

Peach Public Libraries Board Of Trustees REGULAR MEETING

THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT VALLEY, GA

Peach Public Libraries Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 5:15pm in the Meeting Room at Thomas Public Library, Fort Valley, unless otherwise specified.

Peach County Historical Society Meeting

Meets 4th Tuesday each month at 6:00pm. If anyone has school annuals of the past the Historical Society would like to have them. Donations welcome. Contact: Lrgiles77@gmail.com

Fort Valley Historic Preservation

The Fort Valley Historic Preservation Commission Board meeting is held on the second

Mondays of the month at 6pm, located at the Troutman House 201 Oakland Heights Pkwy, Fort Valley, Ga 31030.

Peach County Retired Educators Association

The Peach County Retired Educators Association will meet on the first Monday of each month at 2pm. The meeting will be held at Trinity Baptist Church 507 State University Drive. For further info, please contact Dr. Quintin Green (478)951-1911.

Byron AL-ANON Family Group

Byron Al-Anon meets on Monday mornings at 11 a.m. in the Old Byron School, next to the Byron Municipal Complex. Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Debbie Harrelson 478-714-9393.

Compassionate Friends Middle GA Chapter

We are a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping bereaved parents by providing highly personal comfort, hope and support to every family experiencing the death of a child, a brother, sister or a grandchild and helping others to better assist the grieving family. We need not walk alone.

Byron meeting: 4th Thursday of every month. 7-9pm. Byron Baptist Church 100 W White Rd, Byron, Ga 21008.

Macon meeting location for TCF: Rock Springs Church, 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA.

Please contact Chapter Leaders for more information: Karla Chidester - 478-954-4592, or Teresa Tompkins - 478-319-3526, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org.

Byron Lions Club

The club meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, the first Thursday of the month at Uncorked Event Center (behind Georgia Bobs) at 6:00PM, and the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM at Denny's. Anyone interested in participating is heartily invited to join us. For more information, please contact Lion Marlene Humphry at 478-918-3666, email at mhumphry@cox.net

Byron Rotary Club Meets every Wednesday at 8:00am at Denny's.

Byron DDA/CVB

The 1st Mondays of each month at 5:00 p.m., at Denny's. The CVB meetings are usually held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Byron Welcome Center at 5:00p.m.

Byron Tax Office

Opened Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm. Closed 12-1:00pm at the Byron Municipal Complex. All official regular meetings are in the Council Chamber at the Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Byron, GA.



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Check out passes for free entry to museums, state parks, and more.

Have fun and save money while visiting great places around Georgia!

Ask your librarian about Experience Passes or visit georgialibraries.org/passes

PEACH PUBLIC LIBRARIES www.peachpubliclibraries.org

THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY FORT VALLEY (478) 825-1640

BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY BYRON (478) 956-2200

GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

INSTITUTE Museum and Library SERVICES



These programs and other Georgia Public Library Service programs are partially assisted with funds from the Library Services and Technology Act through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Fairy Ring in Turf



By Jeff Cook
Extension Agent

I have been seeing more of this problem in turf and now in perennial peanut so I thought I would write about it. This disease got its name because it was discovered by someone who believes in fairies. Maybe they sprinkle their magical mushroom dust in a circle and cause these fungi to grow.

Fairy ring is a disease of turf that can be caused by more than 20 species of basidiomycetes. That is the scientific term for one of the divisions of higher fungi. Let's just say that these fungi form mushrooms. All of these fungi are decomposers which means they feed on organic matter. What we end up seeing in lawns is not actually a disease but the result of the fungi feeding on other materials. I typically see the damage in areas that were heavily wooded and cleared or after a tree in the landscape dies. I have even seen it arise from the spot where building materials (lumber) were buried.

Fairy Ring can affect all of

our warm season turfgrass but seems to be worst on centipede and Saint Augustine. Symptoms can be seen as a ring, arc, or other odd shape of dead or dying grass in a given area. Over time the dead spot will move outward or expand. As this expansion happens the grass usually recovers behind the advancing fungus. If you allow your grass to go uncut and we have ample rainfall you can sometimes see the actual mushrooms at the edge of the symptomatic spots.

What is actually happening is the enzymes secreted by the fungus to feed on organic matter are actually toxic to our grass causing varying levels of death. In some fairy ring I find grass that looks deficient in something. In other rings I find bare dirt. It really depends on multiple factors as to how bad it will be.

Fungicides are available to treat, but these can be expensive and control is not always guaranteed. The best thing to do is give those areas a little more attention and care to mask the problem. Core aeration along with irrigation can also help dilute the toxins and improve the growing conditions for the grass. If the rings are not too bad a little extra nitrogen can help mask the appearance.

If you have any questions or comments about this or other agriculture related topics contact me at 478-862-5496, 478-825-6466 or mackiv@uga.edu

GTLN Columnist Publishes Second Trivia Book

Contributed

Jack Bagley, editor and feature columnist for three of the Georgia Trust for Local News newspapers in Manchester, has published his second trivia book based on his award-winning trivia column.

Now ... *You Know!* features items taken from columns published in the newspapers during the period of 2023-2025. The book joins the first trivia collection, *Did You Know ...?*, which was published in 2022.

The book is available at Am-

azon.com in paperback, hardcover, and e-book editions.

Bagley's weekly column, also titled "Did You Know ...?" has won awards from the Georgia Press Association in 2025 and 2026. The column is carried in several of the Georgia Trust's newspapers.

Bagley has also written two science fiction novels, *Apprentice Cruise* and *The Things We Leave Behind*, which are also available at the Amazon.com website.

Keeping Health and Fitness Simple



By Wade Yoder
LT Columnist

We probably all know that our purchasing confusion tends to fatten someone else's pockets and empty ours, health and fitness is no different, in that confusion of what we need to do to stay or to get in shape often gets us to spend money for results we want with a solution someone else offers. This is what oftentimes drives sales in health, fitness, as well as the medical industry.

Two of the most important things in a graduating senior's life (before launching into life on their own) are avoiding financial and health pitfalls. With health and financial security being such an important factor in a person doing well in life, -why is it not a requirement for

all graduating seniors to take at least a short certification course in finance and health?

Gym memberships, home exercise equipment and nutritional supplementation can be a great gap filler, but one of the fallacies of the fitness industry's marketing ploys (for the potential consumer) is to give a person the feeling that they have to have what they offer to reach their health and fitness goals. The problem with this is that it provides too many excuses for a person that feels they cannot afford these solutions. Since when did eating less, eating healthy, burning stored energy/body fat, and staying active become something we think we HAVE TO pay someone else for? Activity, hydration, recovery and a balanced diet along with calorie control are the basic needs for health and fitness lifestyle, and this isn't an expensive to do list.

Why is it that we have more fat burners, nutritional products, and advanced medicine then in the history of this country, but we're fatter and unhealthier with more death from chronic disease than before? Could it be that we have become addicted to treating

symptoms instead of showing our body we give a hoot about what it's trying to do for us naturally and applying the lifestyle changes it so desperately wants us to make?

Our body does not ask for much, but it craves: clean air, water, balanced diet, sunshine, activity, rest, social connection and wants us to slow down on the food intake when we're less active and increase it when we are active. Most of what any health, fitness or pharmaceutical business tries to provide for is a shortage or imbalance of the above. It is no different than a car that runs low in oil, uneven tire pressure, not enough engine coolant, stopped up air filter, using bad fuel, or simply letting it set still for too long.

Much like our vehicle: the peak performance, life of the engine and life of the power train depends largely on how we use it and what we give it to consume.

Challenge in the new year: learn why we need clean air, water, balanced diet, sunshine, activity, rest, and learn why we need to slow down on food intake when we're less active and an increase when we are.

When we learn why we need the above, we also learn what happens if we don't. This makes these healthy habits become much more important to us.

Inexpensive fitness tips:

1. If you cannot afford nutritional supplementation to bridge the nutritional gap in what you're getting through food, get a wide variety of colors in your diet.

2. If you cannot afford a gym membership or home exercise equipment, learn some body weight exercises that activate a lot of muscles into working together to create the movement, this helps make you more physically functional as well as stimulating an increase in cardiopulmonary activity.

3. Drink the cheapest drink with the highest value WATER!

When we really understand not only what our body needs, but why it needs it, a prescription for health starts to formulate and we can apply a lifestyle change that works like a designer medicine for not only what went wrong but also to increase our body's capabilities to prevent illness, disease and premature aging!

The Declaration's 250-Year Legacy

By Kyle Wingfield, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

Mexico memorializes a church bell's call to arms. France honors the storming of a notorious political prison. India marks the day its sovereignty took effect. South Korea, its liberation when Japan's surrender brought World War II to an end.

As America celebrates our Independence Day for the 250th time, it is worth recalling why our national holiday falls on the day it does.

Why the Fourth of July, and not the 16th of December – the date of the Boston Tea Party? Following the short-lived Stamp Act and preceding the Intolerable Acts, it was a key moment in the colonists' transformation from aggrieved Englishmen to revolutionary Americans.

Why the Fourth of July, and not the 19th of April – the date of the Battles of Lexington and Concord? These ensued from the midnight ride of Paul Revere and featured the first hostilities of the Revolutionary War, including the legendary "shot heard round the world."

Why the Fourth of July, and not the 19th of October – the date of Cornwallis' surrender

at Yorktown? Or the Third of September – the date when the British and Americans signed the Treaty of Paris nearly two years later?

After years of war against the great power of that era, our national holiday doesn't mark a military victory. As part of an experiment in self-governance that yielded the most ingenious Constitution yet devised, it does not commemorate the creation of our new nation's government.

The Fourth is about a declaration, because the Fourth is about the Declaration.

The Declaration of Independence was the most revolutionary act of our revolutionary generation. Not because the document's signers risked everything by doing so, though they did. Not because it opened a new epoch, though it did. But rather, because it sparked a change in human thought, behavior and expectations that continues to unfold 250 years later.

The Constitution is our national instruction manual. In Lincoln's greatest speeches we find the renewal of our national vows. "I Have a Dream" is the voice of our national con-

science.

The Declaration informed them all, because it explains our national ideal in its earliest, purest and most radical form.

The truths it lays out – that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights – were far from self-evident then, and have yet to reach global acceptance today.

The rights it specifies – Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness – remain the subject of debate even now.

The purpose and origin it ascribes to the just powers of government – to secure these rights, with the consent of the governed – ran counter to an Age of Absolutism which had held sway over Europe for nearly two centuries. As did its remedy when a Government becomes destructive of these ends: to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government.

Alongside these radical ideas, the Declaration offers an inherently conservative caution: Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes. Then it submits to a candid world more than two dozen grievances that

merit dissolution from Britain, recalls the repeated Petitions for Redress that were answered only by repeated injury, and asks the Supreme Judge of the world to weigh its signers' intentions.

For Americans, everything is there: the ideals, the political theory, the appeal to evidence, the supplication to a higher power.

The Declaration is not sufficient for the governance of a free people, but it is indispensable to the governance of our people.

We may disagree about constitutional rights and the separation of powers, about the balance struck between the federal government and the states, about the line between any level of government and civil society. The Founders engaged in these very debates.

But in those arguments – and in all the rancor that marks our present age, like many moments of our history since the Fourth – let us return always to the Declaration: our declaration of who we are and when we began to be.

We Need The Spirit of '76 In '26

Charlie Harper
Columnist

The lead up to our Bicentennial summer was more than a year in the making, with almost everyone participating. My main present for Christmas 1975 was a Tyco train set. "The Spirit of '76" engine was in a beautiful red white and blue scheme.

Mrs. Darden had our first grade class anxiously expecting a huge July 4th party. Stores seemed to be competing on who could have the most bunting in a stars and stripes motif. Patriotism wasn't questioned, and it didn't need to be encouraged. It just was who we were, and we were proud to show it.

Nostalgia has a way of converting past struggles into "the good old days". When this period of history is studied, it was on merit a less than happy chapter.

In the years immediately prior to our Bicentennial, we had our President resign in disgrace. We had just withdrawn from Vietnam in what was the first real loss of an American military campaign. We wouldn't for another decade or more even begin to recognize and honor those who served appropriately.

We had just suffered our first oil embargo. Inflation was out

of control. We discovered that we could import goods much cheaper from overseas and had begun to hollow out our manufacturing base of the Northeast and Midwest.

The patriotism was real. So was the anxiety.

We were entertained by sitcoms like Happy Days. A generation later we skipped forward in time to focus on this period with that '70's Show.

The plots in both focused on the teenagers. The historical tethers were demonstrated by the concerns of the parents.

Red Forman, the viewers focused on the kids just wanting to be kids, was the out of touch scold too rooted in the past. To those who remember the concerns of the 1970's, he was a haunting reminder of what was then very much the present.

Every parent worries about the changes happening and how their kids will adapt and survive in a world they struggle to understand. In Red's world of the 1970's, factories were closing. Jobs were becoming more and more scarce. The skills he and his peers had were not easily transferrable to the newer jobs being created – with many being geographically distant. Pay-

checks were getting smaller as groceries and gas cost more and more.

Despite all of the well-earned stress and angst over the prospects of where America was and what our future as Americans would be, we celebrated. We were genuinely happy.

What changed?

Some of the easy answers start with the problems already mentioned. To be able to buy goods cheaper, we outsourced a lot of our jobs. Economists will tell you we're better off doing this. Trade only happens when both sides are better off. But there are tradeoffs.

It's difficult to move directly from high school into a job that can support a family. We've gutted most technical programs in our public schools and at the same time gutted standards for the basics. Even our best colleges are now offering remedial classes.

The outsourcing didn't stop there. We collectively outsource almost everything now, but have quit participating and inspecting what we're consuming.

In the '70's, civic participation was still somewhat of an expectation. In the area where I grew up, parents were almost always

a member of a Kiwanis, Rotary, or Optimist Club. Church attendance and participation on boards and committees was real.

The overwhelming majority of my friends' parents were involved in the PTA. At one point we had five local newspapers in a county of 100,000 people to inform us of the things we didn't have time to attend to in person.

These things, too, we have outsourced. We are worse off for it.

We tell ourselves we're just too busy. We often tell ourselves lots of things to justify doing what is easiest.

With our decline in civic involvement has come an alarming decrease in civic literacy. Too many of us and our peers don't know anything about our local elected officials, what our city, county, and school budgets look like, nor how the funding that comes from local, state, or federal dollars originate nor are spent.

We no longer wear red white and blue, but red or blue. Our civic involvement was outsourced with a white flag of surrender.

The Leader Tribune

A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News

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OUR GOALS

The Leader Tribune is published proudly for the citizens of Fort Valley, Byron & the surrounding area and its goal is to produce quality, profitable, community oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. All letters printed in The Leader Tribune will appear with the writer's name and hometown – we do not publish anonymous letters. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject letters for reasons of grammar, punctuation, taste and brevity. Letter writers are asked to submit no more than two letters per person per month. We cannot guarantee that a letter will be printed on a specific date. The Leader Tribune prefers that letters be typed. Letters to the editor are published in the order they are received as space permits. There are three ways to submit a letter to the editor
E-mail it to news@theleadertribune.com, mail it to The Leader Tribune at 109 Anderson Ave, Fort Valley, GA 31030, or drop it off at 109 Anderson Ave in Fort Valley – Monday through Friday.

OUR POLICIES

Signed letters to the editor welcomed. Please include address and phone number. Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error. We cannot be responsible for return of pictures or material unless stamped, return addressed envelope is included.

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450 Silent Years from Malachi to Matthew



By Billy Powell
Parables to Ponder
LT Columnist

The time span between the last Old Testament book of Malachi (circa 400 B.C.) and the first New Testament book of Mathew (circa 70 A.D.) spans more than four centuries. This interval is called the "Inter-Testament" period. More specifically, from the time the prophet Malachi predicted the coming of Elijah (forerunner of Jewish Messiah) until the appearance of John the Baptist (personification of Elijah) was approximately 450 years. Since God did not speak to mankind (via scripture) during these 450 years, they are called the "Silent Years." Although God was silent during this interval, He was active in orchestrating world history--as prophesied by Daniel: (1) God revealed to Daniel in a dream that the Babylonian empire would fall to the Meds and Persians. And it did in 538 B.C.

-- Soon thereafter, King Cyrus of Persia, allowed the Jews in Babylonian captivity to return home and rebuild their nation: Zerubbabel oversaw construction of a new temple in 515 B.C. and Nehemiah spearheaded the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls in 444 B.C. (2) Next it was revealed to Daniel that the Persian Empire would fall to the Greeks, which it did in 331 B.C.--when Alexander the Great conquered the known world. (3) Finally, the Grecian empire, it was told Daniel, would fall to Rome and it did in 63 B.C. During the silent years, the Jewish people suffered through centuries of subjugation by foreign powers and longed for the promised Messiah. Yet, all the while (during the silent years), God was planning to unveil the most momentous event in world history: "For in the fullness of time, God sent his son."

In Jesus' day, the 39 books of the Old Testament were accepted as scripture; however, during the 450 silent years (prior to Jesus), 18 additional sacred books were written. Collectively, they are called the Apocrypha--meaning "deuterocanonical" or secondary scripture. These books are Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Baruch, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Letter of Jeremiah (Baruch, chapter 6), Ester additions (107 verse

expansion), Prayer of Azariah and Song of Three Jews (Daniel 3:24-90), Susannah (Daniel 13), Bel and the Dragon (Daniel 14), Maccabees 1-2, the Prayer of Manasseh, Esdras (Ezra) 1 & 2, Maccabees 3-4, and Psalm 151. Twelve of these books (first 12 listed) were deemed inspirational by the Roman Catholic Church and are placed in its Bible between the Old and New Testaments. Protestants rejected the Apocrypha as divine scripture. So did the Jewish people.

To sum it up, God spoke to the Hebrew people from the time of Abraham in 2000 B.C. until the last Jewish prophet, Malachi, around 400 B.C.--His dialogues and interactions recorded in the 39 books of the Old Testament. After Malachi came the 450 silent years. Then, between 50 and 100 A.D., the 27 books of New Testament were written. Therefore, since the first century A.D., God hasn't spoken to mankind (via the scriptures); however, according to Hebrews 1:1-2, the advent of Christ brought a new channel of communication between God and man, namely: "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."

Georgia's Job Tax Credits Program: Big Money, No Oversight

By KCHARLIE HAYSLET

At the end of my recent post on Georgia's Job Tax Credit program, I asked readers to stay tuned, that there was more to come. The story was one that spawned a multitude of loose ends that I had to leave on the cutting room floor. This piece is about one of those loose ends, albeit a very big one: the simple question of who, if anyone, is making sure this thing works.

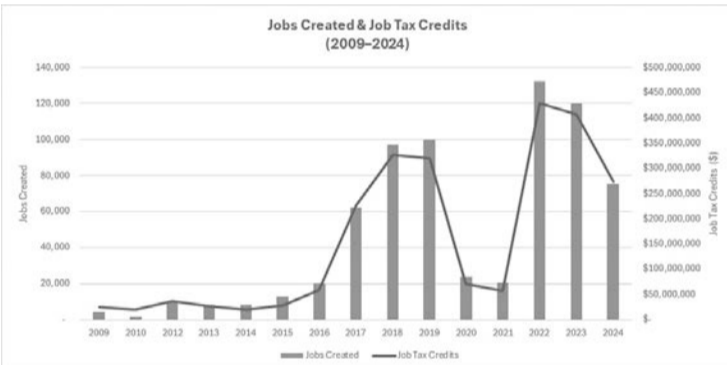
So I asked. And the first clear answer I got came from the person who manages the program at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The entire reply, verbatim: "There is no oversight process."

Before we get into the oversight void, it's worth noting just how big the Job Tax Credit (JTC) program has become. I now have JTC reports from 2009 forward (except for one missing year, 2011). In 2009, businesses claimed about \$24.4 million in job tax credits for the creation of 4,409 jobs. From there through 2016, the annual total bounced around — up one year, down the next — and landed at \$53.4 million for 20,017.

Then it exploded. In 2017, JTC claims jumped to \$225.7 million and kept climbing, with a brief COVID-era pause in 2020 and 2021. In the first batch of reports the Department of Revenue (DOR) sent me earlier this year, the program peaked at \$929.6 million in 2023. The revised, "corrected" reports they sent me a few weeks later knocked those numbers a good bit, but they still show a staggering increase in the past few years.

You'll see that arc in the column chart I've included below — jobs and dollars, side by side, from 2009 through 2024, based on reports provided by DOR — but the basic story is simple: a program that quietly handed out a few dozen million dollars a year at the beginning of this period is now shaving something close to a half-billion dollars off Georgia companies' tax bills every year, all in the name of "job creation."

Maybe I'm naïve, but I figured that somewhere along the way, as the program ballooned from tens of millions to several hundred million, it might have occurred to somebody to build a proper set of brakes and gauges. I would have been wrong.



As it turns out, though, I'm not the only one to ask that question. A 2006 performance audit by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts of corporate income tax credits, including the Job Tax Credit, concluded that the Department of Revenue "cannot ensure that the credits have been accurately and consistently earned and used" because it relies heavily on taxpayer self-certifications, has limited documentation requirements, and audits only a small fraction of credits.

Three years later, a 2009 follow-up review by the same office found that "no steps have been taken to begin collecting data for evaluating the costs and benefits" of corporate tax credits, despite the 2006 recommendation that Georgia start doing just that. In that follow-up, the auditor noted that the state had forgone roughly \$644 million in corporate tax credits from 1999 through 2007 — without building the data systems needed to assess whether those tax expenditures were paying off.

The 2009 report did give DOR some credit for procedural improvements: an audit procedures manual for corporate tax credits, checklists for documentation, some training for auditors, and plans for an Integrated Tax System that would consolidate tax-credit administration. But on the big questions — collecting program-level data, requiring supporting documentation up front, and building a quality-assurance process for approvals and denials — the verdict was blunt: "Not Implemented." DOR continued to argue that requiring documentation when businesses claim credits was not its job and that any decision to collect and analyze tax-credit data was a "policy decision for the General Assembly's consideration."

Fast-forward to 2022, and the Department of Audits and Accounts is still worrying aloud about whether the JTC program actually works. A tax-in-

centive evaluation of JTC found that the state does not collect the data it would need to know whether the credit is truly producing net new jobs and better outcomes in the counties it is supposed to help, and that credits have been granted without clear evidence of cost-effectiveness.

Instead of tightening oversight and finally building the data needed to answer those questions, the Department of Revenue has gone in a very different direction: it has made the program less transparent than ever.

For roughly 35 years, DOR produced JTC reports showing, by county and by credit type, the number of jobs claimed and the amount of credit used. As I reported in my last post, that changed recently, after I asked for the latest JTC reports and submitted a handful of questions about seemingly odd JTC claims. DOR discovered "errors" in its data and then replaced 129 pages of detailed, county-specific entries with four 10-line statewide summary tables. The new reports aggregate every single JTC claim into statewide totals and strip out all county- and credit-level detail.

In the course of that exchange, I sent Amy Bushyeager, the DOR attorney who oversees the agency's public information office, several questions, including this one: Other than routine tax audits, does DOR perform any oversight of the JTC program or JTC claims? Anything to ensure that the jobs being claimed have actually been created and maintained as required under the law?

I've received no answer. For a department that now insists it cannot let the public see even county-level JTC statistics, that silence speaks volumes — especially in combination with DCA's "no oversight" acknowledgement.

Bottom line: Georgia now probably has the least transparent job-tax-credit program in



CHURCH & LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

email: news@theleadertribune.com

71ST ANNUAL MEN'S DAY
Usher's Temple CME Church, 411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030.
Usher's Temple CME Church will celebrate our 71st Annual Men's Day Celebration on **Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 2pm.** This year's theme is Courageous Men of Faith: Facing Challenges & Overcoming Adversities. 1 Corinthians 16:13. The Guest Preacher is Pastor Akiva Lewis, The Associate Pastor of the Springhill Community Church of the Living God in Byron, GA. Please join us at 411 Railroad St, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

USHER'S TEMPLE CME CHURCH
411 Railroad Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030. 478-825-5106.
Join us each Sunday morning with Pastor Tawanna B. Harris and members at 9:30am for Sunday School followed at 11:00am with holy worship service. You may join us virtually via Facebook Live and Youtube. Bible study is each Wednesday in person at 12:00 and virtually at 7:00pm via Zoom.

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION AT ST. PETER A.M.E. CHURCH ANNEX
Food Pantry Distribution at St. Peter A.M.E. Church Annex, 502 State University Drive, Fort Valley, GA.
Fourth Thursday of each month (January-October) and Third Thursday of November and December. Call (478) 825-8452 for details.

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF PEACH COUNTY
The Baha'i Community of Peach County warmly invites you to an interfaith devotional and discussion via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 - 8:00pm. The purpose of the gathering is to build friendship and unity. No contributions are solicited or accepted. If you're interested, email us at peachcobahais@gmail.com, and we'll send you an invitation!

COME PRAISE THE LORD OVER ZOOM
Sundays 10am - 12noon.
Wednesday nights 7pm-8:30pm.
Meeting# 2059432744
Code 75b6h8
Host James Manning (Elder)

CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
"Connecting People to Christ"
Rev. Bobby J. Roberson, Pastor
478-822-9897. 1735 Hwy 341 North, Fort Valley, GA 31030

FORT VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH
301 W. Church Street
(478)825-2762
Join us each Sunday at 10:55AM for Christian fellowship and a spirit-lead service with our pastor, Rev. Herb Flanders. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45AM. Nursery is available for infants and younger

children.
FT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (behind Courthouse)
Come & worship in a casual atmosphere at **5:00pm each Sunday.** Our weekly pastor will be the Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield, a Presbyterian minister who also teaches at Mercer University. For any interested, we will have weekly **Sunday School Bible Study starting at 4:00pm** in the room off the sanctuary. Come and join us for an exciting summer. Brenda Rackley 478-283-1356.

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2560 Willow Lake Road, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY FOODBANK
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays. 9:00am - 12:00pm. Located behind Fort Valley Court House, 203 Central Ave., Fort Valley. Phone: 478-825-2562 (TFN)

GREATER FAITH BABIES MINISTRIES
1000 Tulip Drive, Fort Valley.
Sunday School at 8:30am
Morning Worship at 10:00am
Wednesday: Free Fellowship Meal at 6pm
60 Minutes Bible Study from 7:00pm -8:00pm Come and fellowship with us!

HOSTING ANGLICAN INQUIRERS' CLASS
Led by Father Matt Harlow
Learn the basics of the Christian Faith while enjoying a meal and fellowship.
We will cover theology, history, liturgy, and more!
To register contact Fr Matt at harlowmatthew@gmail.com
<https://www.middlelegaanglican.org>

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY
1556 Peach Pkw, Ft. Valley, GA 31030. (Hwy 49N at the 49 Bypass, next to Georgia Pecan)
Pastor Charles Clance invites you to join us in Christian worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at our 10:30 service. We are a small, Bible-based church with a big heart for GOD. All are welcome!

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH located at 309 Central Avenue, Fort Valley, GA 31030. The Rev. Harriette Simmons Ballard. Services every Sunday at 9:00am with Coffee Hour following in Robinson Hall.

ST. JULIANA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
804 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Phone:(478) 825-7127
Sat., 7:00pm Spanish Mass
Sun., 9:00am English Mass; 11:00 am Spanish Mass
Weekday Mass: Tues., - Thurs. 6:30pm

BAHA'I FAITH

"Religions are many, but the reality of religion is one. The days are many, but the sun is one... The branches are many, but the tree is one."

Baha'u'llah

For more information
peachcobahais@gmail.com
www.bahai.us

Confessions: Thurs., 6:00pm; Sat. 6:30pm; Sun. 10:30am
Adoration: Thurs., 7:00pm; Sat. 8-9am; Sun. 6:00pm

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1000 State University Drive across from the first entrance to FVSU.

We hold morning prayer services, at 10:15am Sundays. Eucharist (Communion) is on second Sundays at 11am.

Please donate to our Little Free Pantry on Charlesvoix St. behind the church (or take food if you are in need). For more info, go to our Facebook page or contact Anna Holloway 478-397-4678 and leave a text message.

SAINT PETER A.M.E. CHURCH
502 State University Drive, Fort Valley GA 31030

Join us for a rewarding Worship Experience at "The Rock" each **Sunday at 10:00AM.** Our pastor is **Rev. Anthony Dixon.** You may also join us **via YouTube and Facebook.** Weekly **Bible Study every Wednesday at 7:00p.m.**
Bianca Ballard (478)825-8452.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT VALLEY

1101 East Church St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

Please join us as we continue to seek to save them that are lost! Our weekly schedule is:
Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 11:15 A.M.
Bible Study at 7:00 P.M. - Tuesdays

To contact us, please leave a message at (478) 825-7581 or send email to secretary@shilohbaptistfortvalley.org or write us at the above post office box.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
505 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Trinity Baptist Church welcomes you to join us in holy worship service each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Sunday School is scheduled at 9:30 am. and Bible Study at 7:00 pm. on Wednesday, currently on Zoom. (Contact us at the above number for Zoom access information.)

Also, we invite the participation of children in our Godly Girls and Champs Ministries. Godly Girls, ages 8-15, meets Wednesday at 5 pm; Champs on Thursday at 6 pm. in Church Annex. Transportation is available. We look forward to having you join us soon!

For additional information, call 478-825-7349.

HARPER

CONTINUED FROM 4A

There's a movement underway to onshore critical industries. The Covid shutdowns and increased global turmoil have demonstrated the weak links in international supply chains.

That will take some risk out of our economic cycles. It won't fix many of our deeper, more pressing problems.

We need more focus on the very basics of American civics.

This means we need to return to personal involvement with our time and efforts, and encourage our friends and neighbors to do the same.

the nation — a program that has quietly grown from a few dozen million dollars a year to hundreds of millions — administered by a Revenue department that hides basic statistics and a Community Affairs department that freely admits "there is no oversight process."

If this were a direct spending program, say a half-billion-dollar grant line for "job creation,"

lawmakers would expect annual reports, performance measures, county-level breakdowns, and at least some assurance that the jobs being paid for actually exist.

Because the Job Tax Credit operates inside the tax code, those expectations seem to vanish. The dollars have exploded, the data has disappeared, and there is no visible oversight. As a re-

sult, taxpayers have no way of knowing how much of their state's so-called job-creation money is actually landing in their communities.

Stay tuned. I've still got a few more JTC loose ends to tie up — and a few rabbit holes to go down — before this story is done.

Survey Seeks Input from Georgia Farmers on Economic Challenges

Contributed

Macon, Ga. – Today, the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture (GFA), Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB), and the University of Georgia College of Public Health, have partnered to launch the Georgia Farm Profitability Survey a statewide effort to measure the economic challenges facing Georgia farmers.

The survey is designed to collect Georgia-specific data directly from farmers to better understand the factors affecting profitability and identify opportunities to strengthen agriculture statewide. Findings will help inform future communications, grassroots engagement, and policy discussions while providing credible, research-backed data to support advocacy efforts on behalf of Georgia agriculture.

“We know Georgia farmers are facing significant challenges, and we want to hear directly from them,” said Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall. “This survey will help us better understand the issues affecting profitability so we can focus our efforts where they will make the greatest impact for Georgia’s farm families.”

The anonymous survey will be open to all Georgia farmers from July 1 through July 31, 2026. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Visit <https://www.gafoundationag.org/ga-farm-profitability-survey> to take the survey.

The project is funded by the GFA. Research oversight and analysis are being led collaboratively by Dr. Christina Proctor, researcher with the University of Georgia College of Public Health, and Dr. Stephanie Basey, founder of The Hive Re-

search Collective and a research consultant working with the GFA. GFB is coordinating statewide promotion and survey distribution with support from agricultural industry partners to encourage participation from farmers across Georgia.

Following the survey period, the data will be analyzed. GFA and GFB will develop a report highlighting key results, which will help inform future agricultural initiatives, communication efforts, and advocacy priorities, including the ongoing Strong Farms Strong Georgia campaign. Visit www.gfb.org/strong-farms-strong-georgia-initiative to learn more about the campaign and to access resources farmers and agribusinesses can use to educate consumers.

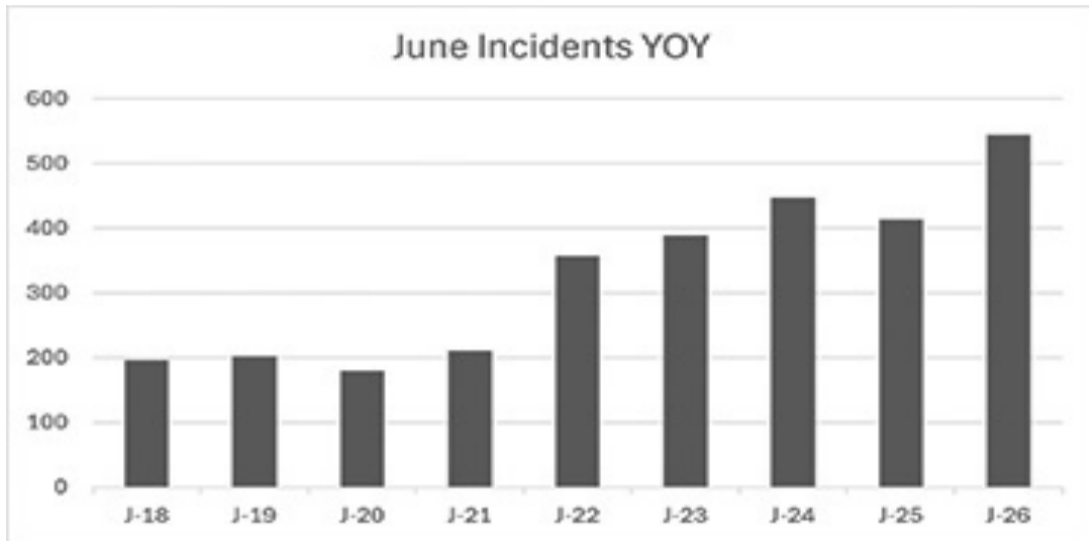
Each year the GFB Board of Directors identifies priority issues affecting Georgia agriculture for

the organization to focus its advocacy efforts on. As farm economics continued to worsen in 2025, the GFB Board identified the sustainability of the family farm as the organization’s top priority for 2026. Farm profitability has decreased in recent years as producers navigate rising production costs, fluctuating commodity markets, labor challenges, weather-related losses and other economic pressures.

Georgia farmers are encouraged to participate to ensure the survey reflects the experiences and perspectives of agriculture across the state.

For questions about the survey, please contact info@gafoundationag.org.

Peach County by the numbers, EMS responses for June



By Peach County EMS

Month after month, we share our response data, and month after month, the numbers continue to climb. This year, we’re on pace to respond to more than 6,000 calls for service. That’s a remarkable milestone, but one that places significant demands on a small EMS agency.

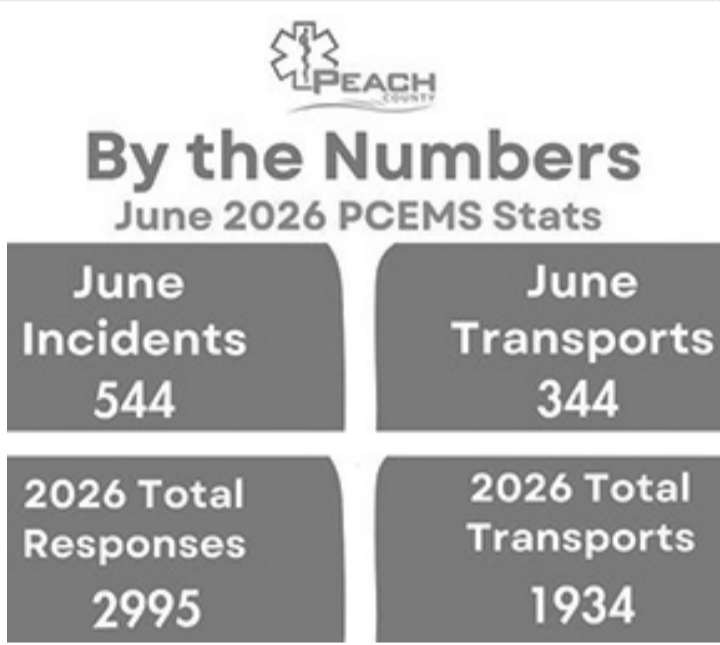
That growth has forced us to ask some important questions.

How do we make the best use of the resources we’ve been entrusted with? How do we keep pace with increasing demand while continuing to provide the level of care our community deserves? And perhaps most importantly, how do we do what we do even better?

The answer isn’t simply adding more ambulances, although that would help with increasing calls that result from population growth. The future of EMS requires us to think differently.

We’re excited to be developing initiatives that we believe will help redefine what emergency medical services can look like over the next 50 to 100 years. Through telehealth and Mobile Integrated Health, we’re reimagining the role of the paramedic. The paramedic of the future is not just an emergency responder, but a healthcare partner.

There is an entire side of healthcare that many people never see. True wellness ex-



tends far beyond treating illness or injury. It includes emotional, financial, spiritual, and physical well-being. Many of the barriers people face have little to do with medicine itself.

Sometimes the most meaningful care we provide doesn’t involve a stethoscope, an IV, or a medication.

Sometimes it’s helping someone schedule a primary care appointment. Reviewing medications with a physician to prevent dangerous interactions. Explaining hospital discharge instructions in a way that finally makes sense. Re-dressing a wound. Building a wheelchair ramp. Connecting a family with Meals on Wheels or Medicaid. Or simply helping someone navigate a healthcare system

that can be overwhelming and difficult to understand.

Those interventions may never appear in a dramatic television show, but they prevent emergencies before they happen. They improve quality of life. And they allow us to reserve emergency resources for true emergencies.

We can’t fix the healthcare system overnight. That responsibility extends far beyond our organization. But we can change the way we serve our community.

Doing more of the same isn’t a sustainable solution. Building a healthier community before 911 is ever called is.

That’s the future we’re working toward.

Summer League Mid-Season

Contributed

The games have been exhilarating, due to the teams being good and very evenly matched. Most of games ended with exciting finishes. For example, last half, clock running down, one team leading by several points (~5). The opposing team comes down and scores two to narrow the score. Down the court and a two-point shot is missed. Back to the other end and a three is attempted but short. The ball is inbounded, after a foul on the rebound, but the inbounder moved in his attempt to pass the ball in. The clock is nearing a minute. The trailing team decides to utilize their fouls to put the leading team at the foul line. It may have worked had they started earlier; however, time ran out before the trailing team could catch up, despite their valiant effort.

There are only two remaining weeks of regular season league play with the Championship tournament hastily approaching. Teams will have to rally for wins in these last days because their regular season wins and losses will be tallied to determine their playoff bracket position for the multi-day single elimination tournament reminiscent of the NCAA’s March Madness*.

The playoffs will begin on Friday, 24 July, with the Championship games on Saturday, 25 July. Spruce Street gym is the place to be on Monday and Wednesday nights starting at 7pm to watch the teams fight for tournament position and to see which team coalesces their talent, effort and game plan to hoist the coveted 2026 H. E. Bryant Summer League Championship trophy.

Sen. Ossoff Working to Ban Members of Congress from Trading Cryptocurrency & Stocks

By the office of Jon Ossoff
U.S. Senator for Georgia

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff is working to ban Members of Congress from trading cryptocurrency and stocks.

Yesterday, Sen. Ossoff spoke on the Senate Floor and asked unanimous consent to pass his Senate Resolution banning U.S. Senators from trading stocks or crypto, but Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) objected to Sen. Ossoff’s request.

Sen. Ossoff’s resolution would prohibit U.S. Senators from buying or selling publicly traded stocks or cryptocurrency, effective January 1, 2027.

“The American people want Members of Congress to stop trading stocks. The American people are sick and tired of this corruption, and in fact, this may be one of the most unifying issues in our deeply divided country,” Sen. Ossoff said on the Senate Floor. “So, let’s take action right now today. We can pass this resolution. It’s very simple. It says that starting on January 1 of the new year, no U.S. senator can trade stocks or cryptocurrency. Those will be the rules of the Senate.”

After Sen. Lummis objected and blocked Sen. Ossoff’s resolution, Sen. Ossoff said, “if we adopt this rule right now, which will ban stock trading by Senators, effective the first day of the new year, we will have the time to finish the work of writing the legislation to implement this, but it’s not going to happen unless we set this deadline for ourselves, because there’s always some reason that keeps being suggested not to do this.”

SEN. OSSOFF: “Mr. President, I don’t know if you saw, but a study last year found that Members of Congress traded more than \$600 million in stock, including stocks connected to Committees upon which members sit.”

“Members of Congress are playing the stock market, buying and selling shares in companies that Members of Congress directly regulate. Members of Congress have access to privileged and confidential and classified information. Members of Congress make decisions that send stock valuations up and down, and all the while Members of Congress are playing the stock market.”

“Now we’ve made some progress in recent years to advance a ban on member stock trading, but the bipartisan bill that



Photo Contributed

Sen. Ossoff continues working to ban Members of Congress from trading stocks and crypto.

In January 2022, Sens. Ossoff and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) first introduced the Ban Congressional Stock Trading Act, which they later reintroduced in 2023.

we passed successfully through a major Committee just in the last year appears stalled, and it seems that the Senate majority is intent on blocking legislation that would ban Members of Congress from trading stock.

“But Mr. President, this is not a controversial issue among the American public.

“We could go to any town, any county in Georgia, and ask anybody of either political party or no political party, ‘Should Members of Congress be playing the stock market while we make legislation?’ and overwhelmingly the answer would be ‘no.’

“The American people want Members of Congress to stop trading stocks. The American people are sick and tired of this corruption, and in fact, this may be one of the most unifying issues in our deeply divided country, and so let’s take action right now, today.”

“We can pass this resolution. It’s very simple: it says that starting on January 1 of the new year, no U.S. Senator can trade stocks or cryptocurrency. Those will be the rules of the Senate.”

“And I know there are a range of ideas about how to implement that. Let’s set this clock right now. Let’s come together, Democrats and Republicans, and do what’s right and pass this Senate rule that beginning in the new year there will be no trading of stocks or crypto by United States Senators.”

“The time for debate and excuses and delay and obstruction must end. There will always be some reason not to do this, but the American people see through those excuses and demand action. Let’s pass this resolution and ban stock trading by United States Senators.”

“I ask unanimous consent. The Senate proceed to the im-

mediate consideration of S. Res. 784 prohibiting members of the U.S. Senate from buying or selling publicly traded stocks or cryptocurrency, effective January 1, 2027, that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

[Sen. Lummis objects]
SEN. OSSOFF: “Mr. President, I commend the Senator for having placed her portfolio in a blind trust. I’m one of the few to have done the same. I think it’s the right thing to do, and if we adopt this rule right now, which will ban stock trading by Senators, effective the first day of the new year, we will have the time to finish the work of writing the legislation to implement this, but it’s not going to happen unless we set this deadline for ourselves, because there’s always some reason that keeps being suggested not to do this.”

“In fact, I offered this same language in the Rules Committee, and it was blocked on a party line vote. It is time to ban Senators from playing the stock market, period.”

“If we adopt this rule today, we set for ourselves a deadline of January 1 to work out the details, but I assure my colleague with regret that if we do not set this deadline and adopt this rule today, there will always be more excuses and more delay, and the confidence of the American people in the integrity of this institution will continue to plummet.”

“Thank you, Mr. President.”
In June, the Georgia Department of Corrections named John S. Harvey, Business Customer Service and Technology instructor, a finalist for its 2017 Vocational Instructor of the

FV POLICE CHIEF CONTINUED FROM 1A

stronger position today and that our efforts have helped improve the safety and well-being of our citizens.”

Wilson added that while he is “disappointed” that he will not continue to serve as chief, he believes the transition is a step in the right direction.

“While I am disappointed that my leadership will not continue under this new direction, I re-

spect the decision of the Mayor and City Council,” Wilson said. “Given these circumstances, I believe it is in the best interest of all parties for me to step aside at this time, allowing me to pursue broader career goals and explore the new opportunities that have recently presented themselves.”

The letter from Wilson said he still plans to work part-time for the FVPD, stating that he is

dedicated to the citizens of Fort Valley.

“Please be assured that my commitment to the community remains unchanged. I look forward to continuing to serve and protect the citizens of Fort Valley while returning to my part-time capacity and supporting the department in any way I can,” Wilson said.

REDIDICATION CONTINUED FROM 1A

Gymnasium into the newly renovated recreation center that we call the Peach Pit. We are making sure that the heart of this community keeps beating right on these floors for a new generation.”

Mackey invited former Peach County High School coaches Maxine Cherry and Rickey Wray to be a part of the re-dedication and reminisced about the years spent coaching at Peach County High School. Also invited was Peach County High School Football superfan, Tim Wilson, who hasn’t missed a game in over 50 years.

Each reminisced about previous games, both wins and losses, and the memories that were made within the gymnasium.

Mackey took a moment to thank the Peach County Board of Commissioners, as well as County Administrator Jill Bowen and previous County Administrator April Howard, for their support on the project. He also recognized the artist of the mural, Earl Freeman.

“An undertaking like this doesn’t happen by accident, it takes a village, an immense amount of hard work and a shared vision. I want to extend a

massive thank you to the county leadership that paved the way. A project of this scale requires incredible heavy lifting behind the scenes. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our building superintendent Ryan Jones, and our Public Works Director Bobby Cowart for turning blueprints into a reality,” Mackey said. “Also, you might not know this person, but Mr. Earl Freeman from Warner Robins, who took a blank canvas and turned it into a work of art, he brought a vision to life.”

Legals

Legal Advertising Information

Legal advertisements are published each Wednesday in The Leader Tribune newspaper, the designated legal organ of Peach County and the City of Fort Valley, City of Byron.

For information on ordering billing, please contact The Leader Tribune at (478)-825-2432. Notice is a fee led after

Legal Advertisements

E-Mail: legals@gtnl.org

E-Mail Attachments: Word Text Format

Legal Fax: 478-825-4130

AD DEADLINES: Friday's at 12:00 Noon

Information concerning legals call: 478-825-2432

12:00 Noon on Friday will be billed for insertion in that edition. Legal ads may be sent via Federal Express for Saturday delivery. Legal ads may be sent via email to legals@gtnl.org, please use word document or pdf text. Many legal notices are billed at the rate of \$15.00 per 100 words or a portion thereof for each insertion for the first four insertions. Some specific types of ads, such as divorce, articles of incorporation, articles of merger, petition to adopt, name changes and DUI notice s have fees set

based on the number of times the notice is inserted. All rates are set by the Georgia General Assembly.

For billing purposes, every word shall be counted as one word including words such as; the, of, an, etc. Grouped numbers shall be counted as one word.

The deadline for foreclosure notices and tax sales for disposal is Thursday the week before the first publication.

Incorporation Notice - These are notices so concerning a business which is to be incorporated with the office located in Peach County. Related incorporation notices are intended to dissolve a corporation, a name change of the corporation and mergers of a corporation. These notices typically run two weeks at a cost of \$40.00.

Driving Under the Influence - State law requires publication of a petition and a brief notice of anyone convicted in Peach County of a third Driving Under the Influence charge. The fines and related matters of settlement are included. The fee for these

ads is \$25 each. These ads run one time and typically come from the Peach County State Court or the Municipal Court of incorporated cities.

Juvenile Matters - This broad category includes juvenile notices such as adoption, custody, juvenile court actions and temporary custody. These matters frequently run from two to four times, depending on the order. Some of these issues come from the Peach County Juvenile Court, others from the Peach County Probate Court.

Domestic Matters - These include notices for change of name and for divorce. When one of the parties is not located locally, both of these items run four times.

Notice of Sale or Foreclosure Notice - These notices typically run the four Wednesdays prior to the first Tuesday of the month when the sales are held at the Peach County Courthouse in Fort Valley. The fee for these notices is \$15 per 100 words per insertion.

Publisher's Affidavit fee is \$10.

LT26-143 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF: GREGORY LEON WILLIAMS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-ADM-7082 NOTICE

IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO: Leroy Williams, Jr., London Moore, Latoya Moffett, Cheryl Lewis, Christopher Lott, Najah Moore, Sandra Williams, James E. Lott, Jr., Carlton Williams, Edith Mitchell, Lafonia Lawrence, Wayne Williams, Jr., Reginald Boddie, Kevin Williams, Western Surety Company, and all and singular the heirs of said decedent and to whom it may or may not.

Zondria Moore has petitioned for Zondria Moore to be discharged as personal representative of the estate of Gregory Leon Williams, deceased, of said county. This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before July 15, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
P. O. Box 327, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-825-2313

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2026

LT26-114 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

The Last Will and Testament of WALTER MALCOLM HAWKINS having been Probated in Solemn Form and Letters Testamentary, having been issued to ELIZABETH LOUISE HAWKINS this is to certify all creditors of said estate to make their demands known to us and all debtors of said estate to make immediate payment to us.

This 4TH day of JUNE 2026, ELIZABETH LOUISE HAWKINS, Executor C/O ROBERT J. AROMATORIO Collins & Aromatorio, P.C. GA Bar No.: 0233708 P.O. Box 250 Byron, GA 31008 478-956-3071

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

LT26-124 IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF PEACH STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE NO. 2026-PRO-7278 IN RE: ESTATE OF LOUIS RIDLEY PETITION TO PROBATE WILL IN SOLEMN FORM

TO: CATHY EVANS, KEMIE RIDLEY, SCRIPPO RIDLEY: This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form, in this Court on or before JULY 8, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson, PROBATE JUDGE
By: /s/ Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 825-2313
ATTORNEY: Tim J. Thompson
(478) 471-9900

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

LT26-127 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY NORWOOD SIRMON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7274 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: JOHN WILLIAM SIRMON has petitioned for JOHN WILLIAM SIRMON to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of GARY NORWOOD SIRMON deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before July 8, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

LT26-135 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF BRIAN LAWSON PAUL, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7281
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: BRUCE C. PAUL has petitioned for BRUCE C. PAUL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of BRIAN LAWSON PAUL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 15, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

IN RE: ESTATE OF BRIAN LAWSON PAUL, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7281 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: BRUCE C. PAUL has petitioned for BRUCE C. PAUL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of BRIAN LAWSON PAUL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 15, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2026

LT26-145 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Nelda S. Reese, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2025-PRO-7155 NOTICE

[For discharge from office and all liability] IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO: any and all interested parties and to whom it may or may not: This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before July 15, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley Georgia 31030
478-825-2313

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-125 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF TOMMY DONALD WEHRL, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7284 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT WEHRL has petitioned for CHRISTOPHER SCOTT WEHRL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of TOMMY DONALD WEHRL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before July 8, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley Georgia 31030
478-825-2313

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-125 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF TOMMY DONALD WEHRL, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7284 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT WEHRL has petitioned for CHRISTOPHER SCOTT WEHRL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of TOMMY DONALD WEHRL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before July 8, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

LT26-151 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH

All creditors of the estate of WILLIE REID, deceased, late of Peach County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

LOREA REID, Executor of the Estate of WILLIE REID
5008 Haddon Place
Milledgeville, GA 30253
Jordan L. Reab
WALKER, HULBERT, GRAY & MOORE, LLP
PO Box 1770
Perry, GA 31069
478-987-1415

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-146 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF SHIRLEY D. HARDISON, DECEASED

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before JULY 22, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

ESTATE NO. 2026-PRO-7226 NOTICE

The petition of personal representative for leave to sell property in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,
TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before JULY 22, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GA 31030
478-825-2313
Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-155 STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF PEACH NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by CHARITY NIESHA SOLOMON to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR ATLANTIC BAY MORTGAGE GROUP LLC in the original principal amount of \$157,102.00 dated October 8, 2021, and recorded in Deed Book 661, Page 199, Peach County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION EBO TRUST in Deed Book 738, Page 293, Peach County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 8/4/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 60 OF THE FIFTH LAND DISTRICT OF PEACH COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 10, BLOCK "C" PHASE 1, THE PRESTON SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY PREPARED BY BROOKS SURVEYS CO., DATED JANUARY 3, 2005, A COPY OF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 24, PAGES 209-210, CLARK'S OFFICE, PEACH SUPERIOR COURT.

SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, ORDINANCES, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD, IF ANY.
MAP/PARCEL: 062A 040
Said property being known as: 119 PRESTON LN, BYRON, GA 31008

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are CHARITY NIESHA SOLOMON or tenant(s).
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (note of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any tax lien authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.
The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
Selene Finane LP
3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5th Floor,
Suite 500,
Dallas, TX 75019
877-768-3759

Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION EBO TRUST, as Attorney-in-Fact for
CHARITY NIESHA SOLOMON
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470-321-7112
Firm File No. 26-394700

July 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-140 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Mark Edward Polk, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7275 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: KIMELLY A. MORRILL has petitioned for KIMELLY A. MORRILL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Thomas Beckham Futral, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 8, 2026.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 WEST CHURCH STREET
FORT VALLEY GEORGIA 31030
478-825-2313

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7285 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: KIMELLY A. MORRILL has petitioned for KIMELLY A. MORRILL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Thomas Beckham Futral, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JULY 15, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley Georgia 31030
478-825-2313

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2026

LT26-161 LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing, with public comment heard, will be held by the Peach County Board of Appeals on a Special Election request for tax rate in House 018 040B located at 1146 Camp John Hope Road, Fort Valley, GA. The request is to use an accessory building located in the front yard. The hearing will be in the Public Meeting Room of the Board of Commissioner's Office located at 213 Persons Street in Fort Valley on July 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The applications for these parcels are on file and available for review. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

July 8, 2026

LT26-126 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS IN RE: ESTATE OF HAZEL DIANNE ABNEY. All creditors of the estate of Hazel Dianne Abney, late of Peach County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment this 12th day of June 2026 to Brienne Dusold c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900.

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before July 15, 2026. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Kim Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley Georgia 31030
478-825-2313

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

LT26-142 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Louise W. Evans, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7289 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Reedis Walker, Charles Christopher Walker, Charlie Max Walker and to whom it may or may not: Alexis Gibson Jolly has petitioned for Alexis Gibson Jolly to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Louise W. Evans deceased, of said county. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before July 15, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel 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.

Ken Wilson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Katrina Corbin
Clerk of the Probate Court
205 West Church Street
Fort Valley Georgia 31030
478-825-2313

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2026

LT26-149 Notice to Debtors and Creditors

All creditors of the estate of Eileen T. Zerno late of Peach County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 24th day of June, 2025
Name: Erin Eileen Waters-McMahon c/o Broel Law, LLC
Title: Administrator
Address: 331 North Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

LT26-112 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF PEACH COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF Thomas Beckham Futral, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2026-ADM-7285 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may or may not: KIMELLY A. MORRILL has petitioned for KIMELLY A. MORRILL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Thomas Beckham Futral, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted.

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM 7A

Land or Improvements, including furniture, furnishings, mail inery, building materials, goods, supplies, tools, books, records (whether in written or electronic form) and computer equipment (hardware and software).

iii. Other tangible personal property owned by Grantor which is used then or heretofore in connection with the ownership, management or operation of the Land or Improvements or is located on the Land or in the Improvements, including ranges, stoves, microwave ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers, garbage disposers, washers, dryers and other appliances (other than Fik ures).

iv. Any operating agreements relating to the Land or the Improvements.

v. Any surveys, plans and specifications and contracts for architectural, engineering and construction services relating to the Land or the Improvements.

vi. All other intangible property, general intangibles and rights relating to the operation of, or used in connection with, the Land or the Improvements, including all governmental permits relating to any activities on the Land and including subsidy or similar payments received from any sources, including a Governmental Authority (as defined in the Security Instrument).

vii. Any rights of Grantor in or under letters of credit;

(e) All current and future rights, including air rights, development rights, zoning rights and other similar rights or interests, easements, tenements, rights of way, strips and gores of land, streets, alleys, roads, sewer rights, waters, watercourses and appurtenances related to or benefiting the Land or the Improvements, or both, and all rights-of-way, streets, alleys and roads which may have been or may in the future be vested;

(f) All proceeds paid or to be paid by any insurer of the Land, the Improvements, the Fik ures, the Personality or any other part of the Property, whether or not Grantor obtained the insurance pursuant to Lender's requirement;

(g) All awards, payments and other compensation made or to be made by any municipal, state or federal authority with respect to the Land, the Improvements, the Fik ures, the Personality or any other part of the Property, including any awards or settlements resulting from condemnation proceedings or the total or partial taking of the Land, the Improvements, the Fik ures, the Personality or any other part of the Property under the power of eminent domain or otherwise and including any conveyance in lieu thereof;

(h) All contracts, options and other agreements for the sale of the Land, or the Leasehold Estate, as applicable, the Improvements, the Fik ures, the Personality or any other part of the Property entered into by Grantor then or heretofore, including any and all rights deposited to see re performance by parties of their obligations;

(i) All proceeds from the conversion, voluntary or involuntary, of any of the items described in subsections (a) through (h) inclusive into cash or liquidated claims, and the right to collect such proceeds;

(j) All rents (whether from residential or non-residential space), revenues and other income of the Land or the Improvements, parking fees, laundry and vending machine income and fees and charges for food, health care and other services provided at the Property, whether then due, past due or heretofore have become due, and deposits forfeited by tenants, and, if Grantor is a cooperative housing corporation or association, maintenance fees, charges or assessments payable by shareholders or residents under proprietary leases or occupancy agreements, whether then due, past due, or heretofore have become due (the "Rents") and present and future leases, subleases, licenses, or concessions or grants or other possessory interests then or heretofore in force, whether oral or written, or varying or affecting the Property, or any portion of the Property (including proprietary leases or occupancy agreements if Grantor is a cooperative housing corporation), and all modifications, extensions or renewals (the "Leases");

(k) All earnings, royalties, amounts receivable, issues and profits from the Land, the Improvements or any other part of the Property, and all undisbursed proceeds of the loan secured by the Security Instrument;

(l) All Imposition Reserve Deposits (as defined in the Multifamily Loan and Security Agreement between Grantor and Original Lender dated as of September 24, 2021 (the "Loan Agreement"));

(m) All refunds or rebates of Impositions (as defined in the Loan Agreement) by Governmental Authority or insurance company (other than refunds applicable to periods before the real property tax year in which the Security Instrument is dated);

(n) All tenant security deposits which have not been forfeited by any tenant under any Lease and any bond or other security in lieu of sub deposits;

(o) All names under or by which any of the above Property may be operated or known, and all trademarks, trade names, and goodwill relating to any of the Property;

(p) If required by the terms of Section 4.05 of the Loan Agreement, all rights under the Letter of Credit (as defined in the Loan Agreement) and the cash obtained by a draw on a Letter of Credit (the "Proceeds"), as such Proceeds may increase or decrease from time to time;

(q) If the Note (as hereinafter defined) provides for interest to accrue at a floating or variable rate and there is a Cap Agreement (as defined in the Loan Agreement), the Cap Collateral (as defined in the Loan Agreement); and

(r) Any and all other rights of Grantor in and to the items set forth in subsections (a) through (q) above.

WHEREAS, the Security Instrument sets forth, in part, that certain Loan (as heretofore assigned, the "Loan") to Grantor made by Original Lender, as evidenced by that certain Multifamily Note (as heretofore assigned, the "Note"), dated September 24, 2021, payable by Grantor to Original Lender, in the original principal amount of up to Two Million Five Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$2,564,000.00), as subsequently endorsed and assigned to Lender; and

WHEREAS, defaults and Events of Default have occurred under the Note, the Loan Agreement, the Security Instrument and the other Loan Documents (as defined in the Security Instrument) and are continuing, specifically including, without limitation, (i) the failure of Grantor to pay to Lender each installment of the Monthly Payment (as defined in amount the Loan Agreement) amount that has become due beginning March 1, 2025 through July 1, 2026, (ii) failure to repay advances and all accrued interest in connection with such defaults, and (iii) failure to comply with the HAP Contract (as defined in the Loan Agreement); and

WHEREAS, by reason of such defaults and Events of Default, all outstanding indebtedness owing by Grantor to Lender has been, and is hereby asserted and declared immediately due and payable, and the Security Instrument has become, is, and is hereby subject to foreclosure as provided by law, the Note, the Loan Agreement, and the Security Instrument; and

WHEREAS, prior to the consummation of the exercise of the power of sale contained in the Security Instrument and the consummation of the foreclosure sale of all or any portion of the Property, the Reserve Funds (as defined in the Loan Agreement), and any and all other funds, assets, letters of credit and other sums held by Lender in any escrow, in reserve or in other accounts established under the Note, the Loan Agreement, the Security Instrument or any other Loan Document, if any, for payment of taxes, insurance, capital improvements, replacements, tenant improvements, leasing commissions or otherwise (collectively, the "Funds") have been or shall have been applied by Lender toward payment of the Indebtedness in accordance with and to the extent provided for in the Note, the Loan Agreement, the Security Instrument or any other Loan Document.

NOW, THEREFORE, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Instrument and according to the terms of the Security Instrument and the laws in such cases made and provided, Lender will exercise all of the Property (less and except the Funds), for sale, at public sale to the highest bidder, for a term on that certain first Tuesday in August, 2026, being August 4, 2026, during the legal hours for sale, before the courthouse door in Peach County, Georgia. The Property will be sold subject to the following:

1. All outstanding taxes and assessments, and any additional taxes which result from a reassessment of the Real Property.

2. Terms and conditions of that General Utility Easement for Natural Gas and Water Lines by and between College Square Associates, a Georgia limited partnership and Lakeview Associates, a Georgia limited partnership, dated December 23, 1971 and recorded in Deed Book 9, Page 401, of the Peach County Record.

3. Terms and conditions as set forth in that certain Laundry Space Lease dated September 18, 1991, as evidenced by Lease Memorandum and by between HSI Management, Inc. and Solon Automated Services, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, dated September 18, 1991, filed January 27, 1992 and recorded in Deed Book 127, Page 515, aforesaid records.

4. Grant of Easement from Lakeview Associates, Ltd. to the City of Fort Valley, a municipality duly authorized under the laws of the State of Georgia, dated March 10, 1999, filed March 19, 1999 and recorded in Deed Book 199, Page 634, aforesaid records, and as shown on that ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey prepared by Ronnie Joiner, GRLS No. 2488 of Atlas Technical Consultants, dated April 16, 2021, last revised September 22, 2021, being Job Number 21224 (the "Survey").

5. Use Agreement for Multifamily Projects Participating in the Mark-To-Market Program under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 by and between Lakeview Associates, a Georgia limited partnership and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C., dated July 1, 2001, filed July 27, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 235, Page 423, aforesaid records.

6. All matters affecting subject property as shown on the following plats, all aforesaid records:

a. Plat Book 9, Page 3, a 15-foot sanitary sewer easement therein, and as shown on the Survey; and

b. Plat Book 21, Page 166, a 20-foot drainage easement therein, and as shown on the Survey.

7. All other, if any, easements, limitations, reservations, covenants, restrictions, deeds to see debt, liens and other encumbrances and matters of public record to which the Security Instrument is junior and subordinate in terms of priority under the laws of the State of Georgia.

The Indebtedness remaining in default and the aforesaid defaults and Events of Default continuing, the sale of the Property (less and except the Funds) under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Instrument will be made for the purpose of applying the proceeds thereof, as provided for in the Security Instrument and pursuant to applicable law.

The Property (less and except the Funds) will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis without recourse against Lender and without representation or warranty of any kind or nature whatsoever with respect thereto, with no assurance afforded as to the accuracy of the Real Property.

To the best of Lender's knowledge and belief, the Property (less and except the Funds) is presently owned by Grantor, subject to the aforesaid interests of Lender and the matters set forth herein, and Grantor is the owner of the Property, subject to the aforesaid interests.

The notice to Grantor, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, has been provided by Lender to Grantor in accordance with said O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2.

Lender is the current owner and holder of the Note and Security Instrument. Lender is operating under the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("FHFA"), an independent agency of the United States, see 12 U.S.C. § 4617. FHFA's authority to exercise its statutory powers and functions as Conservator is protected by federal law. See, e.g., 12 U.S.C. § 4617(f). All of Lender's and FHFA's rights, titles, powers, privileges, protections, and functions under federal law are expressly reserved and preserved.

The undersigned may sell the Property (less and except the Funds) or any part of the Property (less and except the Funds) in such manner and order as Lender may elect and may sell that portion of the Property (less and except the Funds), which, under the laws of the State of Georgia, constitutes an estate or interest in real estate separately from that portion of the Property (less and except the Funds), which, under the laws of the State of Georgia, constitutes personally and not an interest in the real estate, in which case separate bids will be taken therefor, or it may sell a single bid will be taken therefor. Notice of the undersigned's intent shall be given by announcement made at the commencement of the public sale.

The recitals set forth hereinabove are hereby incorporated in and made a part of this Notice of Sale Under Power.

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, as agent and attorney-in-fact for VE Lakeview LP, a Georgia limited partnership

By: Its attorneys-at-law:
Ash Penn/
Ash Penn
Alston & Bird LLP
One Atlantic Center
1201 West Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 881-7000

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 2026

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vs. ROGERS HOLSEY, NATHANIEL HOLSEY, GREGORY HOLSEY, ALVESTER BROWN, SHIRLEY ANN MURRAY, JEROME HOLSEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYLVESTER HOLSEY, and ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO CLAIM OR MIGHT CLAIM ADVERSELY TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY BEARING TAX PARCEL NUMBER F08A-038, Respondents; and THE REAL PROPERTY BEARING TAX PARCEL NUMBER F08A-038, Respondent In Rem.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Any occupant/resident or purported owner of the property known as Map and Parcel No. F08A-038 located near Hiley St. in Fort Valley, Rogers Holsey, Nathaniel Holsey, Gregory Holsey, Alvester Brown, Shirley Ann Murray, Jerome Holsey, City of Fort Valley, Marilyn Moore-Sellers, Kerry Hillsman, Unknown Heirs of Sylvester Holsey, and any and all unknown parties with interest in the Subject Property. Take notice that on May 5, 2026, Rosalind Harris filed a petition to quiet title against the subject property bearing the Tax Map and Parcel Number F08A-038 and the following legal description: "All that certain tract, lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the State of Georgia, County of Peach and in the City of Fort Valley therein, fronting South 40 feet on an alley and running back with uniform width a distance of 85 feet. Said tract is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point 105 feet East of the East line of Hiley Street, which point on the East line of Hiley Street is 248 feet North of the intersection of Burnett Street, running thence East of 85 feet; thence South 40 feet; thence West 85 feet; thence North 40 feet to the point or place of beginning. Said tract is bounded on the North by lands of General Mobley; on the East by an alley, and on the South and West by lands of Joseph Drain." pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 23-3-60, et seq., said matter pending as Civil Action File No. 26-V-0195. For the specifics of such pleas for relief the parties respondent must refer to the original petition and all other pleadings filed with the court. By Order for Publication entered in the Superior Court of Peach County, Georgia, on June 8, 2026 and all persons who claim any interest in the said real property are hereby notified that they are required to file any response or answer with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Peach County within 60 days of the date of the Order for service by publication, or, any and all persons who claim any interest in the said real property who are served by this publication alone shall have 30 days after the latest publication of this notice to file a response, with a copy of such response or answer to be sent to the Attorney for the Petitioner: Dylan E. Wilbanks, Wilbanks Law Firm, P.C., 1215 S. Elm St., Commerce, Georgia 30529. Witness Hon. Ken Smith, Judge, Peach County Superior Court

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all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Jamal Moody and or tenant(s). 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. PennyMac Loan Services, LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for Jamal Moody, married man Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 422-2520

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Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an acreage survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the seniority deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagees to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", where is". The entire purchase price is due and payable at the option of the auctioneer in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1030, 1300 & 1400 Orange, CA 92868, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a deed under power will be issued for covered transfers. The Buyer may be required to pay charges associated with the gathering and reporting of information to FinCEN. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at:

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rr-faqs#D_5

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Augustus Gilmore, IV Attorney Contact: Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558

TS # 25-34106 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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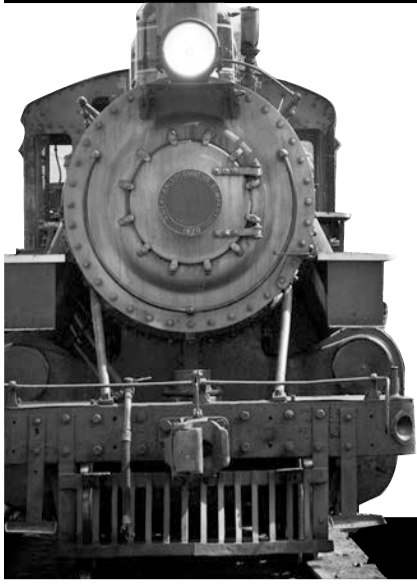
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News Match

- Donations made between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 by individuals will be matched dollar for dollar by NewsMatch.
- Checks dated between the campaign dates can be made to Georgia Press Educational Foundation with "Capitol Beat" in the subject line and mailed to Georgia Press Association, P.O. Box 4003, Marietta, Ga. 30061
- Donations can be made via a cell phone with the QR code seen above or online

As a nonprofit news organization operated by Georgia Press Educational Foundation, Capitol Beat exists solely through the financial backing of individuals and organizations who support its mission to provide thorough, unbiased coverage of state government that news consumers can trust. Capitol Beat provides gavel-to-gavel coverage of Georgia General Assembly sessions and year-round coverage of the governor's office, statewide elected officials, legislative committee hearings, state agencies and the Georgia Supreme Court.

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LOCAL MATTERS

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We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 7/5/26

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HEALTH CARE
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ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

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TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329

Our 4th Annual Trojan Fest is One Month Away!

By Peach County Schools

We are excited to announce the 4th Annual Trojan Fest will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Peach County High School. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for Peach County students and families to receive free school supplies, gather important school information, and connect with valuable community resources before the start of the new school year.

Trojan Fest will take place at PCHS from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM and will include a variety of fun, family-friendly activities such as games, free haircuts, and opportunities to meet and take photos with Peach County High School athletes.

Trojan Fest continues to be a meaningful way to strengthen the connection between our



schools, local businesses, and the Peach County community while investing in the success and well-being of our students and families.

Thank you for considering being part of this exciting event. If you have any questions or would like additional informa-

tion, please feel free to reach out. Please click on the link below to register as a vendor or community partner.

<https://forms.gle/aYzFcbiVT-jnBWfWw5>

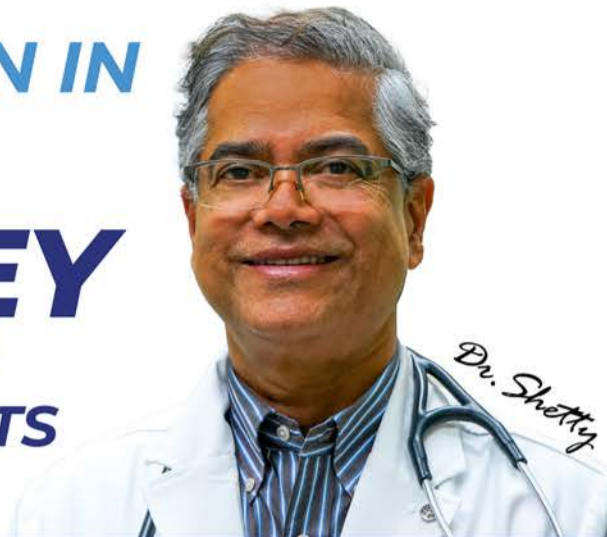
We look forward to partnering with you and seeing you there!



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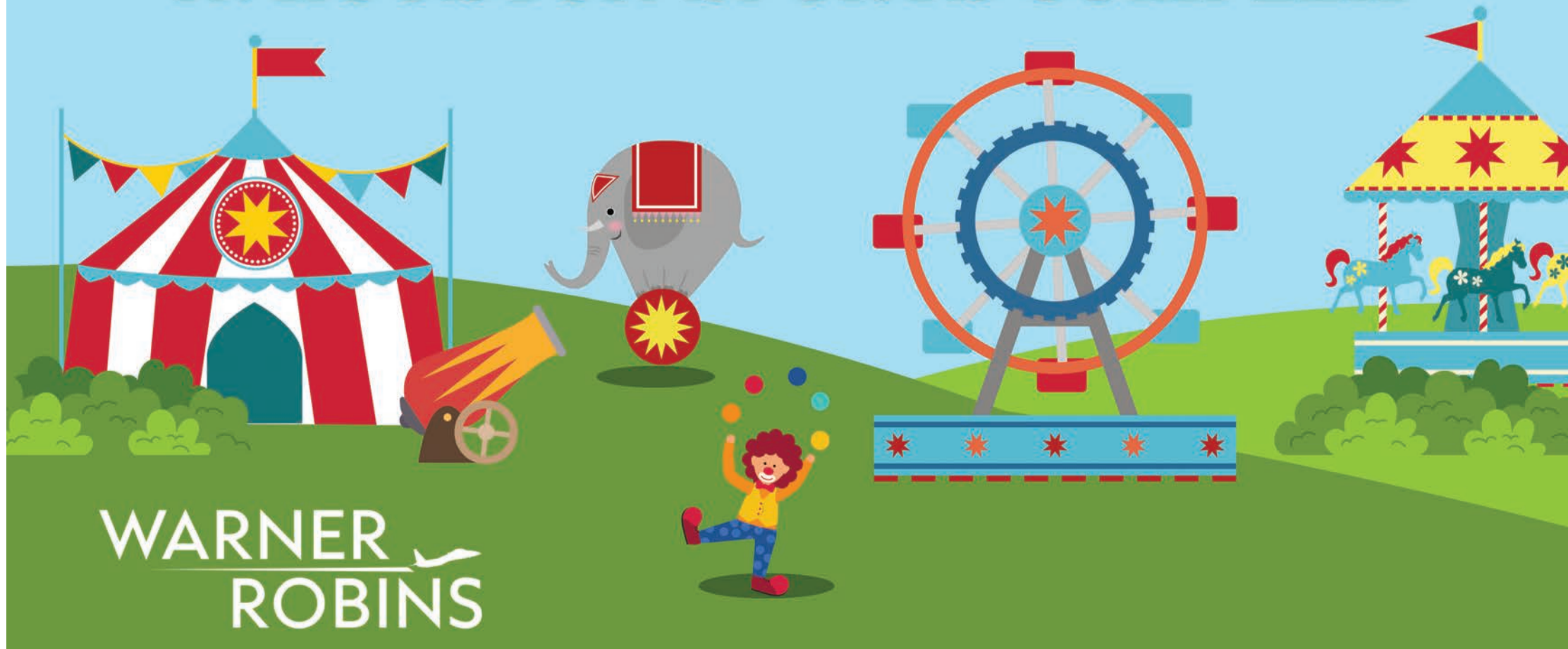
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FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**AUGUST 12, 2026
4:00-8:00 PM**

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