# MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TASK FORCE

**VOLUME 1** 



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION MARCH, 2022





"This Newspaper Features Relevant Facts on Health, Safety & History."

# INTERNATIONAL "JUSTICE4GARVEY MOVEMENT!"



# HISTORY : "ALWAYS & FOREVER!"

### Continued from page 1: GARVEY

### Garvey's Philosophy and Beliefs:

Garvey returned to Jamaica in 1912 and founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.) with the goal of uniting all of African diaspora to "establish a country and absolute government of their own." After corresponding with Booker T. Washington, the American educator who founded Tuskegee Institute, Garvey traveled to the United States in 1916 to raise funds for a similar venture in Jamaica. He settled in New York City and formed a U.N.I.A. chapter in Harlem to promote a separatist philosophy of social, political, and economic freedom for Black people. In 1918, Garvey began publishing the widely distributed newspaper Negro World to convey his message.

By 1919, Garvey and U.N.I.A. had launched the Black Star Line, a shipping company that would establish trade and commerce between Africans in America, the Caribbean, South and Central America, Canada and Africa. At the same time, Garvey started the Negros Factories Association, a series of companies that would manufacture marketable commodities in every big industrial center in the Western hemisphere and Africa. In August 1920, U.N.I.A. claimed 4 million members and held its first International Convention at Madison Square Garden in vey's name. New York City. Before a crowd of 25,000 people from all over world, Marcus Garvey spoke of having pride in African history and culture. Many found his words inspiring, but not all. Some became known as the FBI, and others of his kind, decided that Garvey established Black leaders found his separatist philosophy illconceived. W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent Black leader and officer of the N.A.A.C.P. called Garvey, "the most dangerous enemy of the Negro race in America." Garvey felt Du Bois was an agent of the white elite.

# Under Surveillance By J. Edgar Hoover

But Du Bois wasn't the worst adversary of Garvey; history would soon reveal F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover's fixation on ruining Garvey for his radical ideas. Hoover felt threatened by the Black leader, fearing he was inciting Black people across the country to stand up in militant defiance.

Hoover referred to Garvey as a "notorious negro agitator" and for several years, desperately sought ways to find damning personal information on him, even going so far as to hire the first Black F.B.I. agent in 1919 in order to infiltrate Garvey's ranks and spy on him.

"They placed spies in the U.N.I.A.," said historian Winston James. "They sabotaged the Black Star Line. The engines... of the ships were actually damaged by foreign matter being thrown into the fuel."

Hoover would use the same methods decades later to ob-

haps in desperation or maybe in delusion, Garvey collaborated with outspoken segregationist and white supremacist Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi to promote a reparations scheme. The Greater Liberia Act of 1939 would deport 12 million African Americans to Liberia at federal expense to relieve unemployment. The act failed in Congress, and Garvey lost even more support among the Black population.

Death and Accomplishments.

Garvey died in London in 1940 after several strokes. Due to travel restrictions during World War II, his body was interred in London. In 1964, his remains were exhumed and taken to Jamaica, where the government proclaimed him Jamaica's first national hero and re-interred him at a shrine in the National Heroes Park. But his memory and influence remain. His message of pride and dignity inspired many in the early days of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. In tribute to his many contributions, Garvey's bust has been displayed in the Organization of American States' Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C. The country of Ghana has named its shipping line the Black Star Line and its national soccer team the Black Stars, in honor of Garvey.

### **PUBLISHER'S COMMENTS:**

An international Justice4Garvey Movement is in effect. All concerned individuals are encouraged to join the movement to free Marcus Gar-

Garvey was an international force to be reckoned with in the late 1800's and early 1900's. J. Edgar Hoover, who led the force that later was interfering with their way of life and that he had to be dealt with; and dealt with him, they did.

Garvey was framed with a mail fraud charge, convicted and sent to prison.

President Calvin Coolidge exonerated Garvey and released him from prison in 1927 and deported him from the United States.

Garvey's criminal conviction still stands and must be cleared from his record.

Learn more: Justice4Garvey.org

See video:

https://youtu.be/a7y9mmURHYY



tain information on Black leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Charged and Deported to Jamaica.

In 1922, Garvey and three other U.N.I.A. officials were charged with mail fraud involving the Black Star Line. The trial records indicate several improprieties occurred in the prosecution of the case. It didn't help that the shipping line's books contained many accounting irregularities. On June 23, 1923, Garvey was convicted and sentenced to prison for five years. Claiming to be a victim of a politically motivated miscarriage of justice, Garvey appealed his conviction, but was denied. In 1927 he was released from prison and deported to Jamaica.

Garvey continued his political activism and the work of U.N.I.A. in Jamaica, and then moved to London in 1935. But he did not command the same influence he had earlier. Per-

Let the sky and God be our limit, and Eternity our measurement. There is no height to which we cannot climb by using the active intelligence of our own minds. Mind creates, and as much as we desire in Nature we can have through the creation of our own minds.



# MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TASK FORCE

MCCPTF Members who have stuck with the Task Force for the last 2 years are greatly appreciated, and those who have fallen by the wayside, are encouraged to return, especially elected and appointed public officials. Others may join us by going to our website: www.maconcares.org and making a request. For more information, call: 334-492-4047.

# CLOSED STATE OF ALABAMA LEADS

Law Enforcement Agency Driver System

Temporary Closure Notice: April 18-22, 2022

Driver License Offices/Units/Services will be closed to facilitate the installation of the new Driver License System. Driver License services will resume on

April 26, 2022

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces 73 Awardees of \$250 Million to Fight COVID-19 and Improve Health Literacy Among Racial and Ethnic Minority and Vulnerable Communities.



"A GREAT SOCIETY BEGINS WITH YOU." THIS MEANS THAT YOU MUST DO YOUR PART TO BE A 'STRONG LINK,' RATHER THAN A WEAK ONE!

# COMMUNITY ALERT

Elected Officials, business leaders, university students and county residents are encouraged to join the weekly Zoom discussions and planning sessions at 10:00—11:00 a.m. (CST), each Saturday morning. Valuable information is shared and discussed concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic and other relevant issues. Your input would be greatly appreciated. All public officials who were involved in the Task Force during the past 2 years and dropped out, please return. Join through the website: maconcares.org



# MACON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTORY

Macon County Commission 334-724-2606

Louis Maxwell, Chairman Miles Robinson, District 1 Edward "Coach" Huffman, District 2 Ernest Magruder, District 3 Robert "Mike" Berry, District 4

Macon County Sheriff's Office Jail Address: 246 County Road 10, Tuskegee, AL 46083 334-727-2500 Andre' Brunson, Sheriff

Emergency Management Agency 334-724-2626 Frank Lee, Director

> Revenue Commissioner 334-724-2603 Iverson Gandy, III

Probate Judge 334-724-2552 Judge James Cooper, II

Macon County Health Care Authority 334-727-5900 Bernice L. Frazier, Chair

Ray D. Martin, Presiding Circuit Judge County Courthouse, Room 204 125 North Broadnax Dadeville, AL 36853 (256) 357-2066

Steven R. Perryman, Circuit Judge County Courthouse #2 Lafayette Street Lafayette, AL 36862 (334) 864-4328

William Isaac Whorton, Circuit Judge County Courthouse #2 Lafayette Street Lafayette, AL 35010 (**334) 755-6080** 

**District Judge 334-727-6110** Judge Deborah H. Biggers Tuskegee District Court

Macon County Clerk of Courts 334-724-2614 David R. Love, Jr.

Macon County Schools 334-727-1600 Dr. Jacqueline Brooks, Superintendent

> City of Tuskegee 334-720-2514

Mayor Lawrence "Tony" Haygood Chris Lee, Mayor Pro Tem Norma McGowan Jackson, District 1 Johnny Ford, District 2 Orlando Whitehead, District 3

**Tuskegee Municipal Court 334-720-0581** Judge George Bulls, III Prosecutor, Katy Smith Campbell

> Town of Shorter 334-727-9109

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced \$250 million in grant awards to 73 local governments. The City of Tuskegee is one of the Grant Awardees. This grant is part of a new, two-year initiative to identify and implement best practices for improving health literacy. Health literacy is a person's ability to find, understand and use information and services to help them make health-related decisions for themselves and others. The grant funds are also designated to enhance ČOVID-19 vaccination and other mitigation practices for underserved populations. The Advancing Health Literacy (AHL) to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 initiative is part of the Biden/Harris Administration's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. Contact: Kim R. Ortiz @ kortiz@tuskegeealabama.gov or Dorothy Webber

@dwebber.tuskegeeahloutreach@gmail.com for additional information.



# **PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH:**

# RENTAL

ENERGY: Heating & Cooling EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

501 S. School Street, Tuskegee 334-727-6100

1113—2nd Place So. Phenix City 334-298-6672 Mayor Willie Mae Powell

Town of Notasulga 334-257-1454 Mayor Tommy Miller

Town of Franklin 334-727-2111 Mayor Henry Peavy

Macon County Health Department 334-727-1800 812 Hospital Road, Tuskegee, AL

> Utility Board of Tuskegee 334-720-0700 101 Fonville Street Gerald Long, General Manager

**Tuskegee Medical and Surgical Center 334-727-5900** 301 Wright Street, Tuskegee, AL

> **Tuskegee University 334-727-8011** Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, President



Former Tuskegee Mayor Omar Neal discuss the pros and cons of Black people's ambivalence about government sponsored health related experiments with Seyi Rhodes during Channel 4's interview for a filmed documentary.

### **REPRINT** from Channel 4.

# **Race and Medical Experiments** documentary tells the shameful truth behind vaccine hesitancy

# **REPRINT FROM 4 NEWS**

A Channel 4 documentary looks at the hidden history of medical experiments on black people that are now to blame for fear of vaccines.

1ble fear that health services cannot be trusted.

Rhodes travels from Britain to Tuskegee in the US Deep South. There scientists conducted a -disgraceful investigation into the deadly disease syphilis. They wanted to observe how the disease spread, and to see what happened if it went undiagnosed.

For over forty years from the early 1930s onwards, the experiment kept secret the fact that people in their study had tested positive for the disease. Even when new and effective treatments became available, they still hid what they knew.

The scientists even arranged that local doctors would not tell patients they had syphilis—and that led to it being contracted by partners and children.

Rhodes meets with living relations of the men who were unwittingly inducted into the trial. They describe a sense of shame and embarrassment at having been fooled. But he also meets people who today have the story of Tuskegee on their minds when it comes to getting vaccinated against Covid.

The documentary also points to something more hopeful. In a black barbershop in Washington, Rhodes meets a doctor who has pioneered taking the vaccination programme, and the message about its safety, direct to the communities most in need.

Taking up his seat, he vaccinates customers as they come in and takes up arguments that arise.

In turn, he educates the barbers. But the barbers themselves become the best propagandists for getting jabbed because they best understand the concerns of those who are fearful.

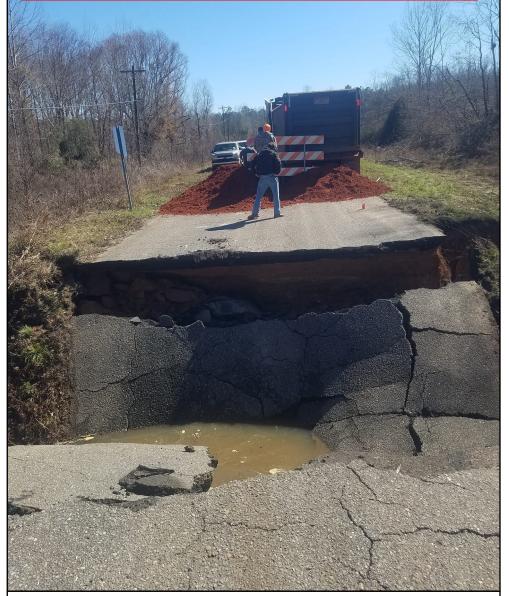
When public health officials heard of the scheme, they tried to replicate it in cities across the US. In many ways this is exactly the approach that was needed to reach those most disaffected by the medical establishment.

Rhodes also discusses how the US secret service used a fake vaccination programme in Pakistan to obtain DNA information in their hunt for terrorist Osama Bin Laden. The DNA results allowed the CIA to

track the Bin Laden family and ultimately to kill him. A victory for the US state? Perhaps. But the entirely predictable -by-product was the refusal of millions of Pakistanis to take any further vaccinations—something that endangers life to this day. My only criticism of Rhodes' thoughtful and inquisitive documentary is that Channel 4 should have fast-tracked its making and put it on our

screens months ago.





# **MACON COUNTY ROAD UPDATE!**

Macon County is experiencing multiple roadway washouts due to severe weather conditions and flooding.

Multiple county roads are flooded. Macon County's Road and Bridge Department, in conjunction with our agency and the Sheriff's Office are surveying the total damages.

Race and Medical Experiments: What's the Truth? is on Channel 4, 10pm Monday 31 Jan, and then available on All 4

# TUSKEGEE'S MASK ORDNANCE STILL IN AFFECT!

Please be advised that the City of Tuskegee's Mask Ordinance is still in full force.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05** 

"An Ordinance to require masks in public in the City of Tuskegee during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Recovery."

> Adopted: August 11, 2020



"The following roads are impacted and are presently being inspected: County Roads: 79, 22, 26, and 47. Other roads are being evaluated

Emergency Management Agency Director Frank H. Lee encourages all county residents and others who are traveling through to drive with extreme caution and care. Frank H. Lee, Director Macon County EMA / DHS 334 220 3744 334 421 3602 Frankhlee79@gmail.com

### PUBLISHERS' COMMENTS:

Drivers on all rural roads should drive carefully and be on the lookout for fallen trees—into the roadway—during inclement weather, especially following heavy rain and high wind storms!

The Macon County Community Partners Task Force created this publication following the devastating impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Task Force members pondered the best ways to alert and educate county residents of the best health related methods of protecting themselves from catching COVID-19; as well as how to socialize safely and eat better to strengthen their immune systems to protect against the virus. Weekly Zoom Meetings, a website, and Newspaper were determined to be the best methods of reminding county residents that COVID-19 will be with us for an undetermined time and encourage people not to "drop the ball" on safety, cleanliness and socialization habits.

The Newspaper is managed by the Macon County Health Care Authority, Inc., oublished by L & B Consultant Services, Leon E. "Chief" Frazier, President, and Diane

Kenney, Editor. The Task Force presented funding requests to the City of Tuskegee, Macon County Commission, Community Outreach Organizations; as well as county residents who care about the situation in their communities.

You can support this newspaper by sending donation, ads, or articles for publica-tion to: Macon County Health Authority, P. O. Box 830214, Tuskegee, AL 36083. Email: maconhealthauthority@gmail.com Publisher's Telephone: 334-492-4047.

# MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TASK FORCE A Monthly Newspaper Publication



# JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT **RAID PAY'S OFF!**

A raid on February 23, 2022, of the public hangout spot at Rosa Parks and N. School Street netted five arrests. The violations included:

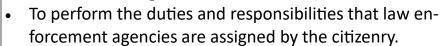
- 1. Controlled Substances
- 2. Drug Paraphilia
- 3. Arrest Warrants

# Persons arrested:

- 1. 2 females
- 2. 3 males

Purpose of the raid:

- To locate, identify and arrest lawbreakers, especially drug dealers;
- To create and maintain safe and secure environments in neighborhoods; and





# **`IGNORANCE OF THE** LAW IS NO EXCUSE!" So, let's learn some laws!

# **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

Ala. Code § 13A-11-7 (1975)

(a) A person commits the crime of disorderly conduct if, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annovance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, he or she does any of the following: (1) Engages in fighting or in violent tumultuous or threatening behavior.(2) Makes unreasonable noise.(3) In a public place uses abusive or obscene language or makes an obscene gesture. (4) Without lawful authority, disturbs any lawful assembly or meeting of persons.(5) Obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or a transportation facility.(6) Congregates with other person in a public place and refuses to comply with a lawful order of law enforcement to disperse. (b) Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor. (c) It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the mere carrying of a visible pistol, holstered or secured, in a public place, in and of itself, is not a violation of this section. (d) Nothing in Act 2013-283 shall be construed to prohibit law enforcement personnel who have reasonable suspicion from acting to prevent a breach of the peace or from taking action to preserve public safety. Ala. Code § 13A-11-7 (1975) Amended by Act 2013-283,§ 2, eff. 8/1/2013.Acts 1977, No. 607, p. 812, §5525.

Key factors about law enforcement initiative such as police raids:

# There will always be varying public opinions:

- People who support law enforcement as a means of maintaining safe and secure community environments, which are as free of violence and drug activities as possible, will applaud tough police actions.
- People who are sympathetic to criminal activities—for whatever reasons—will be critical of tough police actions.

Law Enforcement Agencies—to be efficient and effective cannot afford to get bogged down and/or swayed by either set of opinions.

They must govern themselves by the laws of their state, Constitution of the United States, and established policies and procedures of their respective agencies.

# **Comments from the Sheriff:**

The law cannot make individuals responsible for their emotions and actions. That responsibility is on each of ours. State laws are legislated to provide governments with measures to maintain order and peace.

The Disorderly Conduct law may be considered a "catch all" law when it comes to public order. What one person may consider as Constitutional Rights to speak and actions, may be described in state laws as disorderly conduct if it is offensive to other people.

Therefore, all Macon County Residents and visitors are encouraged to control your emotions and be on your best behavior in Macon County to ensure good order and peace.

> Sheriff Andre' Brunson, Macon County, Alabama



# "KEEPING QUEEN MOTHER AMELIA BOYNTON AND PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA'S LEGACIES ALIVE!"

Queen Mother Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson meets President Barack H. Obama in Selma during the 50th Anniversary of the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. She later marched "hand in hand" with the President, and his family and many other civil rights icons, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.





# A CHURCH THAT WILL NOT DIE!

C hurch services at Saint John AME Church in Tuskegee came to a halt due to structural problems. Dr. Gwendolyn Trawick Moore, the granddaughter or the Preacher and his wife: Grover and Cora Trawick Tinsley, who led the church for years was sadden by the situation and decided to "make the devil a liar!"

Dr. Moore remembered the sacrifices that her mother and grandparents made for the church. She said, "My mother was invariably having programs and asking for donations to purchase needed items for the church. She sold fruit cakes to purchase carpet for the church - just recently removed - had various programs to raise money to buy ceiling fans with lights and had the women bathroom added. My maternal grandfather, Grover Tinsley, was a cotton farmer. A donation from his first bail of cotton was always made to the church."

"Rev. Dr. Letitia Watford, Presiding Elder of the Tuskegee District, Rev. Gwendolyn Breaux, Pastor of Saint John AME Church, brother, Col. Aldolphos Trawick, relative, Millie Colbert, affiliated members, Alphonso Moore, Jeanette Moore, Senora Moore and Carlynn Moore, have, without a doubt, been committed, worked and contributed at the highest level for the success of the renovation," Dr. Moore said. Five years, later, we are in the final phase of total renovation. with

Five years, later, we are in the final phase of total renovation. with COVID 19, having delayed ordered windows for three months, supplies and prices for certain item tripled. God continues to bless us. We received donations from family, friends, churches, people we didn't know, Tuskegee and Phenix City District's AME Churches, local churches and much needed volunteer service. We are working diligently to return to the Harris Barrett Community—not only to win souls for the kingdom but to also serve as a Community Resource Informational Center." "TO GOD BE THE GLORY," Dr. Moore declared.

# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN'S DAY March 7, 2022



See video here:

https://youtu.be/LYP4VeL DTQ

# WELCOME TO HISTORIC TUSKEGEE!



EGEY

THANKS MRS. PARKS!

"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in." -Rosa Parks

Macon County residents celebrated Mrs. Rosa L. Parks Birthday on February 4, 2022. A Rally was held at Attorney Fred Gray, Sr's Law Office. The group marched to the intersection of Rosa Parks Plaza and Martin Luther King, Jr Highway at the rear of the Municipal Complex, where others spoke about Mrs. Parks' legacy. The Celebration concluded with a luncheon in the Municipal Auditorium. Mrs. Parks' niece Susan McCauley participated in the Celebration.

# Erin Jackson

# **"EXCELLENCE IS AS IT DOES!"**

USAN

Erin Jackson was born and raised in Ocala, Florida. The 29-year-old who graduated with honors from the University of Florida's Materials Science & Engineering program, became the first Black woman to win an Olympic medal in speed skating when she captured gold in the 500-meters. Jackson broke a 20-year gold medal drought by United States women in speedskating events. Prior to Jackson's victory, Bonnie Blair was the last American to stand atop a podium, also earning first place in the 500-meters in 1994. Jackson's time of 37.04 was 0.08 seconds better than Miho Takagi of Japan, who took silver, and 0.17 seconds ahead of bronze medalist Angelina Golikova of the Russian Olympic Committee. She said: "I cried immediately; it was just a big release of emotion. A lot of shock, a lot of relief and a lot of happiness. I haven't fully processed everything quite yet, but it just feels amazing." PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOUR CHILDREN WITH THIS SUPER STAR! HAVE THEM TO SAY HER NAME!

# <text><text><text>

# **SELF-TEST ORDERED & RECEIVED!**

Free, at-home COVID-19 tests are available for order. A federal website has launched for Americans to request four at-home rapid tests per household from the first batch of five hundred million rapid tests. Fifty million free at-home tests will be sent to community health centers and testing centers around the country. It is recommended that everybody get your test. Have them available in your house in case you need to test yourself, or a family member. You may be able to stop the spread of the virus. The above tests were ordered and received by mail in less than 2 weeks.

You can order yours today: <u>CovidTests.gov</u>



# Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan GUILTY again!

Brunswick, Georgia (CNN) A jury Wednesday found three White men charged in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, guilty on multiple murder counts, as well as other charges. The verdict, delivered by nine White women, two White men and one Black man, came after more than 11 hours of deliberation spanning two days. Three men convicted of murdering Ahmaud Arbery were found guilty in a federal hate crimes trial Tuesday. Travis McMichael, his father Gregory McMichael and their neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan were all convicted of felony murder and other charges in November.

On Tuesday, a jury made up of eight White people, three Black people and one Hispanic person convicted the three men of violating Arbery's civil rights and targeting him because he was Black. They were also convicted of attempted kidnapping, and the McMichaels were found guilty of using a firearm during the commission of a crime. Outside the courthouse, Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, thanked the jury for the convictions, which she said gave the family "a sense of a small victory, but we as a family will never get victory because Ahmaud is gone forever."

family will never get victory because Ahmaud is gone forever." In closing arguments Monday, the prosecution told the jury that the three defendants were driven by "racial assumptions, racial resentment and racial anger." Defense lawyers argued that the pursuit of Arbery was not racially motivated, but a result of their belief he was involved in criminal activity. At their state trial last fall, Travis McMichael was convicted of the highest count, malice murder, and all three were convicted of felony murder and other charges. The

At their state trial last fall, Travis McMichael was convicted of the highest count, malice murder, and all three were convicted of felony murder and other charges. The McMichaels were sentenced in January to a minimum of life in prison, while Bryan has the possibility of parole in 30 years.

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- Digital Donations
- Email Marketing
- Social Media



eManuel Business Solutions 205.202.9317 | info@emanuelbiz.com www.emanuelbiz.com Hours: Tues. - Fri., 9am to 4pm

Macon County Food Distributors Round Table March 2022							
Free Food Distribution Schedule							
S	М	т	W	Th	F		
<b>S</b> H		1	2 11:00 Helping Hand Ministry Prairie Farms Hwy 80 West Rev. A. William	3 s	4	5	
6	6 7 8 9 10 11 12   TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY   Manual Ministry 2107 W Mtg Rd 11 12   District 4 Seniors Food 11 12   Community Ctr Co. Rd 27 Rev. A. Williams						
13	14 12 Macon Food Distributors Roundtable Zoom Meeting L	Pantry Daly St	d <u>4771 Hwy 199</u> 11:00 Helping Hand Ministr es Chisholm Ct	ry ir.	18 Children's Foo Distribution Brownville, Sh Notasulga, Tu Warrior Stand Cotton Valley	norter skegee	
20	21	22	23 11:00 Helping Hand Ministry Notasulga High School Rev. A Williams	2107 Road	W Mtg	26	
27	28 12 Macon Food Distributors Roundtable	29	30 11:00 Helping Hand Ministry Solomon Char	1			



Solomon Chapel Rev. A. Williams



10

The Macon Food Hotline: (334) 724-2550

# **DO YOU NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

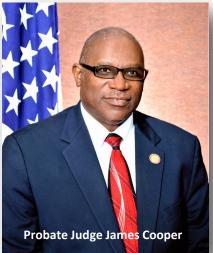
If your answer is yes, there is no reason to go hungry. Just show up at the above listed sites, on the specified dates and Macon Means and associated partners will be there to assist those of you who are in need. This is about people helping people!

# Macon County Probate Office 2021 year-in-review and outlook for 2022

By Probate Judge James Cooper

From the Macon County, Alabama Judge of Probate Office

Published January 27, 2022, 4:08 PM, revised Saturday – February 19, 2022.



On behalf of the Macon County Probate Court and Tag Office staff, I am pleased to provide our citizens with a report on the state of your Probate Court and Tag Office for the past year, and an outlook of what's planned for year 2022.

This is the second year I have published an outlook for 2022 for the Macon County Probate Office while providing you a look back at the progress we have made in providing services to you in 2021.

In spite of the continuing COVID-19 challenges, budgetary hurdles, and staffing changes, we have processed and provided service on over thirty-one thousand (31,000) transactions to our citizens and external stakeholders.

Our able staff has maintained overall good physical health and with a determined mental acumen, has provided courteous and efficient service in the face of multiple COVID-19 variants and an increase in COVID instances in our county.

### The Macon County Probate Court and Tag Office team:

Chief Clerk Deidre Harkless. **Probate Office Team:** Mary Perry and Gennie Jefferson. **Tag Office staff:** Elaine Adair, Derotha Davis, and N

Elaine Adair, Doretha Davis, and Naimah Paul.

This report provides a roadmap of accomplishments for the year 2021, as well as plans for 2022.

First, we begin with a breakdown of the number of service transactions provided during 2021.

# 2021 Probate and Tag Office Service Transactions Statistics, TRANSACTION TYPE NUMBER PROCESSED:

New Auto Registrations: 3,347 Auto Renewals: 16,875 Driver Licenses: 2,054 Auto Titles: 317 Recording Documents: 3,649 Marriage and Notary: 108 Boat Renewals: 200 Business Licenses: 157 Auto Vouchers: 553 Conservation: 137 Disabled Placards: 440 Other Transactions: 3,337 TOTAL: 31,174

### The Judicial Duties of the Judge of Probate Office are:

- 1. Probating Wills and Estates
- 2. Mental Health Involuntary Commitments
- 3. Guardianships and Conservatorships
- 4. Adoptions
- 5. Name Changes
- 6. Condemnations/Eminent Domain

### Administrative Duties include:

1. Issuing vehicle registrations, boat registrations, manufactured home registrations

- 2. Issuing business licenses
- 3. Issuing Notary Public Authorizations
- 4. Maintaining Records of:
- Deeds and Deeds of Conveyances
- Preserving documents, files, papers, and letters as required by law
- Indexes of each instrument filed in the Probate Office
- Election Results

The Judge of Probate is the Chief Election Official for the County, and

ballot selections independently using various ADA support peripherals. This is accomplished by creating an intuitive vote selection process using screen prompts, symbols, or optional audio capabilities.

### **Student Poll Worker Interns:**

The November 3, 2020 Presidential Election marked the first time the office used high-school students as Poll Worker Interns. Our plan for the 2022 Mid-term Election is to continue to utilize high school seniors from Notasulga and Booker T. Washington High Schools.

### **Online Court Hearings:**

As authorized by the Alabama Supreme Court, this office has continued to use an online video conferencing system in a majority of court cases to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### **Online Internal Court Docket:**

Over the past 12 months, the Probate Court has continued to utilize the in-house developed case tracking system. This office is now in the process of evaluating commercially available online court docket software to better serve our citizens.

### Training:

In preparation for the 2022 mid-term elections, our office participated in the Alabama Election Conference on October 27-28, 2021 via Zoom, sponsored by the Alabama Law Institute and the Alabama Probate Judges Association. The Conference was attended by Probate Judge James Cooper, Chief Clerk Deidre Harkless, and Probate Clerk Gennie Jefferson.

Additionally, Probate Judge James Cooper and Chief Clerk Deidre Harkless recently attended the Alabama Probate Judges Association Winter Conference which was held January 18-21, 2022, in Montgomery, AL.

The Conference training focused on Guardianships, Conservatorships, Recording of Documents, Adoption Statutes, Involuntary Commitments, and the New Alabama Driver's License System.

### Outlook for 2022:

The Macon County Judge of Probate and Tag Offices are moving forward with investigating innovative techniques and continuous improvement methods for quality customer services for our citizens. During 2022, Judge Cooper plans to:

1. Implement online access to land records for our citizens and stakeholders,

2. Implement an online court case management system,

3. Provide enhanced online methods to purchase tags and complete new vehicle registrations, and

4. Continue to collaborate with organizations and agencies to provide outreach on Estate Planning,

As your Probate Judge, I want to thank the Macon County Commissioners, Courthouse Office staff, Sheriff's Office, and the Courthouse building maintenance team for all the work they do in helping the Macon County Probate and Tag Office to serve our citizens and stakeholders. END

# CDC REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 20, 2022

The U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program began December 14, 2020. As of February 16, 2022, 548.4 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States. Overall, about 252.4 million people, or 76.0% of the total U.S. population, have received at least one dose of vaccine. About 214.2 million people, or 64.5% of the total U.S. population, have been fully vaccinated.\* About 92.2 million additional or booster doses have been reported in people who have been fully vaccinated; however, 50.0% of the total booster-eligible population has not yet received a booster dose. As of February 16, 2022, the 7-day average number of administered vaccine doses reported (by date of CDC report) to CDC per day was 516,988, a 12.6% decrease from the previous week. CDC's COVID Data Tracker Vaccination Demographic Trends tab shows vaccination trends by age group and by race/ethnicity. As of February 16, 2022, 95.0% of people ages 65 years or older have received at least one dose of vaccine and 88.6% are fully vaccinated. For people ages 5 years or older, 80.8% have received at least one dose of vaccine and 68.6% are fully vaccinated.

As of February 16, 2022, of all race/ethnicity groups, the Asian Non-Hispanic population has the highest proportion that is fully vaccinated (59.6%) and the Black Non-Hispanic population has the lowest proportion that is fully vaccinated (40.3%). Of the fully vaccinated population, the Asian Non-Hispanic population has the highest proportion of additional/booster doses (64.5%) while the Hispanic/Latino population has the

is responsible for managing all county-wide elections, including Special County-wide Elections.

### The dates for the 2022 elections are:

Primary Election: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 Run-off Election: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 General Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

2021 Highlights:

Technology Upgrades: In preparation for the 2022 election cycle, our



office has acquired 17 new touchscreen machines to aid in the voting process for our citizens with disabilities. The funding for the ExpressVote machines was provided by Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The secure, accurate ExpressVote machine uses touch-screen technology and produces a verifiable paper record for tabulation. The ExpressVote is compliant with the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA). It provides voters the option to navigate

lowest proportion (37.6%).

548,391,614 Vaccine Doses Administered.

**252,400,057** People who received at least one dose.

**214,218,580** People who are fully vaccinated.\*

**76.0%\*** Percentage of the U.S. population that has received at least one dose.

# 64.5%

Percentage of the U.S. population that has been fully vaccinated.\*

+0.2

Percentage point increase from last week.

+0.2

Percentage point increase from last week.

\*Represents the number of

people who have received the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series (such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines) or one dose of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

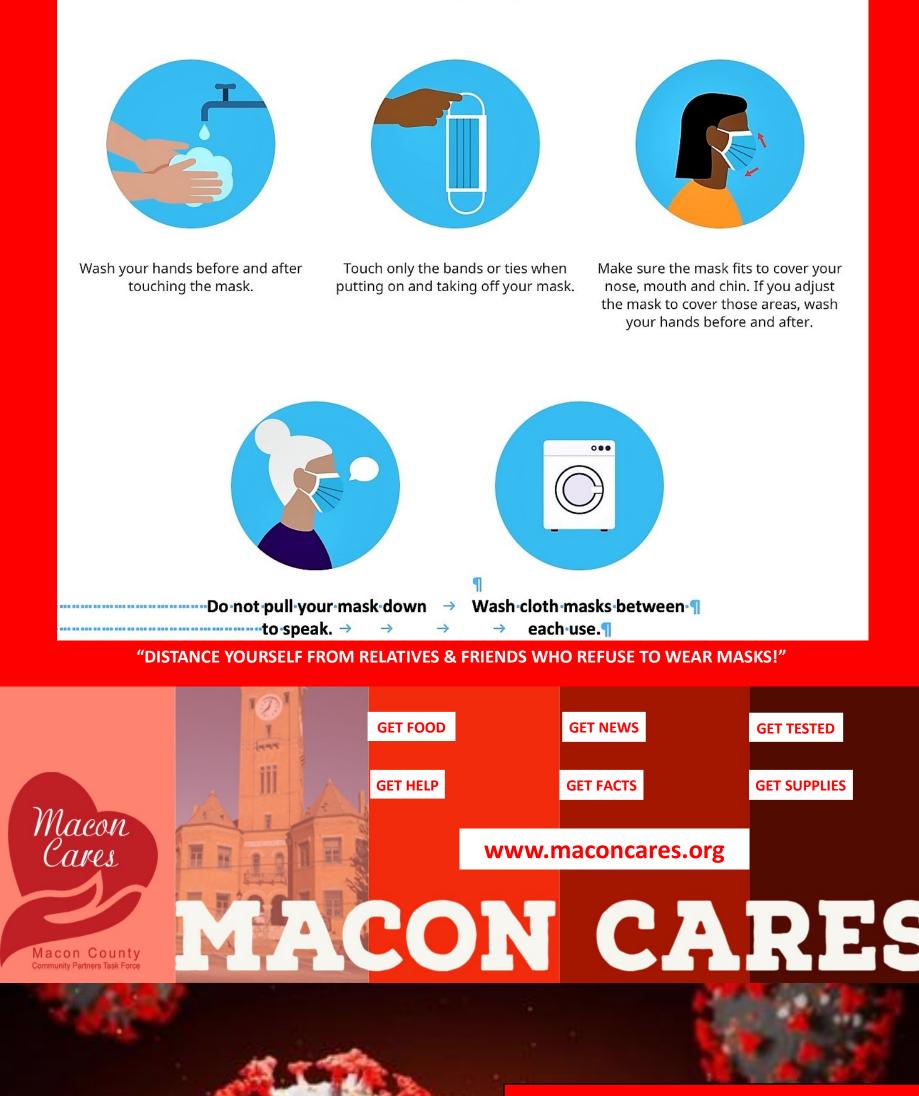


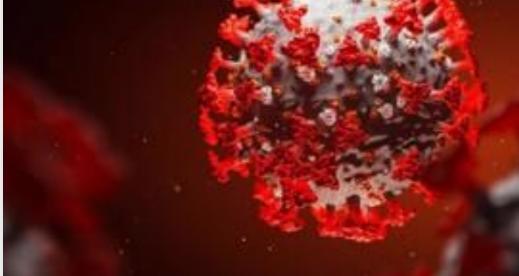
# 14 diseases we've controlled thanks to vaccines:

PolioTetanusMeaslesInfluenzaHepatitis BHepatitis ARubellaHibWhooping CoughPneumococcal DiseaseRotavirusMumpsChickenpoxDiptheria

Let's add COVID-19 to the list.

# FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO PROPERLY WEAR YOUR FACE MASK





# **COMMUNITY ALERT!**

U. S. SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC: 1918-19 DEATHS: 675,000

COVID-19 DEATHS in U. S.-2020-2021 CASES: 78,352,358 DEATHS: 933,485

> ALABAMA COVID-19 UPDATE As of February 20, 2022

CASES: 1,272,608 DEATHS: 17,933

MACON COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE CASES: 3,820 DEATHS: 72

# THE FACE OF HUMAN ENEMY #1!

The Enemy that reminds us of God's Goodness! PLEASE PAY ATTENTION & "DON'T DROP THE BALL" ON HEALTH & SAFETY!