MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS NEWSPAPER



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
July 2023

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

"A Real, Relevant Resource!"





Your safety is our priority.

#SafeWithUs

AVOID The 3 C's!

- 1. Closed spaces with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings such as close-range conversations.







Macon Calendar





Find: Events, Meetings, Concerts and more!

www.maconprogress.net/macon-calendar.html

Send events (include event street address) to:

MaconCoCal@gmail.com

Ask for the code to place this calendar on your website.

Greetings, Elected Officials and Citizens of Macon County:

On behalf of the Macon County Probate and Tag staff,we are pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report for the achievements and describes our quest for continuous improvement. It is intended to provide information to help you better understand the judicial and administrative services that the Probate Court and Tag Office provides.



Judge James Cooper Macon County Judge of Probate

The 2022 Annual Report serves as a mile-marker, so to speak, reminding us of where we have been and showing us where we are headed. It is a reminder of our foundational mission: to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice and to enable reflection and introspection on how well we have performed in carrying out that mission.

The Probate Court, Records, and Tag Office could not fulfill these accomplishments without the expertise, hard work, and dedication of the probate records and tag staff members. Although we have repeatedly faced staffing and technology shortages, our probate and tag employees continue to rise to the challenges, turning them into opportunities for innovation and improvement. We thank the Macon County Commission, Macon County Courthouse employees, Sheriff Andre Brunson and his staff, East Central Mental Health, and a host of mental health care providers who helped make these accomplishments possible.

Administrative Service Transactions for 2022

TRANSACTION TYPE	Number processed
New Auto Registration	2,623
Auto Renewals	16,731
Driver Licenses	899
Auto Titles	229
Recording Documents	3,397
Marriage and Notary	113
Boat Renewals	198
Business Licenses	146
Auto Vouchers	416
Conservation	122
Disabled Placards	2376
Other Transactions	3643
TOTAL	30,893

The Judicial Duties of the Judge of Probate Office are:

- Probating Wills and Estates
- > Mental Health Involuntary Commitments
- Guardianships and Conservatorships
- > Adoptions
- ➤ Name Changes
- Condemnations/Eminent Domain

Administrative Duties include:

- ➤ Issuing vehicle registrations, business licenses, boat registrations, manufactured home registrations, Driver's License Renewals, State ID renewals
- ➤ Issuing Notary Public Authorizations
- > Manage County Elections

Maintaining Records of:

- ➤ Deeds and Deeds of Conveyances
 Preserving documents, files, papers, and letters
- ➤ Indexes of each instrument filed in the Probate Office
- ➤ Election Results
- Marriage Records, Military Records, Plats, Maps

We are proud of our accomplishments and productivity, and we hope this report enhances your understanding of how the Probate Court serves the citizens of Macon County.

The Honorable James Cooper Macon County Judge of Probate



Judicial Cases for 2022	Number processed	
TRANSACTION TYPE Mental Health Probating Estates Name Changes	95 127 12	
Guardianships and Conservatorships Condemnations/Eminent Domain		15 2

TOTAL 251



Mental Health and Estates

Elections: The Judge of Probate is the Chief Election Official for the County. During 2022, our office managed three county-wide elections, including the May 24, 2022, Primary Election, the June 21, 2022, Primary Runoff Election, and the November 8, 2022, Presidential General Election.

Mental Health: Mental health commitments are held weekly by the court. During the hearing, the court must determine if the respondent is mentally ill and requires treatment. The proceedings operate under the State of Alabama mental health laws, and the court hears emergency requests for mental health observations, evaluations, and potentially mental health hospitalizations. During the past year, the court heard 95 cases involving involuntary commitments. The number of cases in 2022, as compared to 2021, remained essentially the same. Our office works closely with our partners at East Central Mental Health.

Estates: The Probate Court manages court filings for estates and either issues Letters of Administration (Estates without wills) or Letters of Testamentary for probate estates filed with a will. The Chief Clerk of the Court receives filings and monitors all active cases to ensure the required documentation is filed and is in order. In 2022, the court received 127 petitions for Probate.

Guardianships and Conservatorship: The Macon County Probate Court hears all petitions to initiate, modify, and terminate guardianships and conservatorships for minors and adults. Our office usually works with the Macon County Department of Human Resources or the East Central Mental Health agency.

Technology Improvements and Training

Technology: During the 2022 election cycle, our office acquired 17 new touch-screen 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).

Online Access to Land and Probate Records: In November 2022, our office began the technology project to provide online access to land (deeds), mortgage, liens, filed probate estates, mortgage releases, and election results online for our citizens, and internal and external stakeholders.



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Links to Macon County Probate Office Online Services

Access Online Land and Probate Records https://ingprobate.com/Macon_Probate/

Renew a Vehicle Tag Online https://www.altags.com/macon_license/

Renew an Alabama Driver's License Online https://alabamadl.alea.gov/_/#0

Outlook for 2023

During 2023, our goals are to:

- ➤ Continue to provide additional online services for our stakeholders
- ➤ Attend probate and election law courses offered by the Alabama Law Institute
- > Prepare for the 2024 election
- ➤ Install a customer service feedback system to determine areas to improve service
- Continue to make additional land records, military DD-214, and marriage records available online
- ➤ Collaborate with the Macon County Local Bar Association and civic organizations and agencies to provide outreach on Estate Planning



MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY RALLIES FOR HEALING

An intergenerational meeting was held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tuskegee, Alabama on Thursday, April 20, 2023, to plan the healing strategy for students, parents, and citizens of Macon County to mitigate the tragedy that occurred at the 16th Birthday Party in Dadeville, Alabama. The participants, from diverse sections of the county, shared their concerns about not only what happened, but why it happened.



Sheriff Andre Brunson Macon County, Alabama

Sheriff Andre Brunson provided an update on the details of the case but was limited as to how much he could share based upon the investigation procedures and Alabama State laws. However, his message was clear when he stated, "We all must come together and operate as one unit in order to save our children and this community." He also said, "Crimes do not take place in front of police and sheriffs. Crimes are committed in the neighborhoods and that citizens should not be afraid to report or help in an investigation".

Citizens shared their concerns about:

- > The class and cast that have caused social division based on zip codes.
- ➤ The lack of recreational, sports, and other activities in the County that will keep youth occupied in a productive manner.
- The lack of concrete support to parents because, as the African Proverb exclaims, it takes a village to raise a child.
- ➤ The lack of adequate medical, psychological, and counseling services to help our youth negotiate a more complex society.
- ➤ The lack of respect for students by some teachers in the school system often discourages as oppose to encouraging students.
- The need for more active participation by ministers of churches by opening the doors of the church for neighborhood programs and activities.
- The lack of teaching history and values that made Macon County great is imperative and all teachers and administrators must know the Booker T. Washington philosophy of head, heart and hand.
- ➤ The lack of businesses that provide goods and services to avoid the need to travel distances to get them in other jurisdictions.

While participants talked about what is lacking, they talked enthusiastically about what citizens can do to change things with a focus on the youth:

- 1. Establish academic tutorials for grades K-12.
- 2. Establish Saturday schools to help teach Life Skills, manners, and other expertise needed in the work world.
- 3. Embrace our parents who struggle to work and raise a family by developing a system of support.
- 4. Educate our community about laws and policies that impact their lives and how to manage in a basically racist society.
- 5. Implement recreational programs that can be included in the school curriculum and in after school and summer programs.
- 6. Work with Tuskegee University, the Park Service and the National Forest that help our youth at all ages appreciate nature, learn to fish, camp, and do other fun things.

The following actions were agreed to:

- A written plan for youth will be submitted to Dr.
 Williams and when appropriate, the Board of
 Education.
- 2. All political leaders will be held accountable for finances that are to be used to support communities, economic, health services and safety.
- 3. We will work together, without pay, to implement programs and projects and grants will be used to supplement the work as opposed to waiting to find a grant to begin.
- 4. Engage the youth in planning and implementing so that they will learn what and how to do when they become adults.
- 5. We will embrace parents and support them as they heal from trauma and help to relieve them of the pressures of working two jobs to financially support their families.
- 6. We will commit to working together to move our county forward and towards healing by using available and relevant cultural, psychological, and spiritual services.

The meetings are facilitated by TM46 and will rotate throughout the county every month so that all citizens will get an opportunity to contribute and express their concerns.

You may call 334-421-7244 for further information.

All citizens who live, work or love Macon County are welcome, but please be prepared to come with suggestions, plans, and contributions – we have done enough talking!

Dr. Lucenia W. Dunn, TM46 Facilitator



What You Need to Know

Post-COVID conditions can include a wide range of ongoing health problems; these conditions can last weeks, months, or years.

Post-COVID conditions are found more often in people who had severe COVID-19 illness, but anyone who has been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can experience post-COVID conditions.



While most people with post-COVID conditions have evidence of infection or COVID-19 illness, in some cases, a person with post-COVID conditions may not have tested positive for the virus or known they were infected.

COVID-19 support groups show that there are many people not considered sick enough to be hospitalized - yet they are experiencing symptoms worse than the flu.

COVID-19 is neurotoxic it is one of the first illnesses capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier. This is why many people have neurological problems.

DYSAUTONOMIA

Dysautonomia is a term for a group of disorders that share a common problem – that is, an autonomic nervous system (ANS) that doesn't function as it should. The ANS is the part of the nervous system that controls involuntary body functions (functions you don't consciously control) like your heart rate, blood pressure, breathing, digestion, temperature, hormonal / bladder / sexual and many other functions. When the ANS doesn't work the way it should, it can cause heart and blood pressure problems, and breathing trouble.

If you suffer from LONG COVID, you suffer from Dysautonomia, BUT IT CAN BE MANAGED!

SEE PART 2 - pamphlet on DYSAUTONOMIA

Reference

Preliminary scientific report. Characterization of Autonomic Symptom Burden in Long COVID: A Global Survey of 2,314 Adults; Nicholas W. Larsen, Lauren E. Stiles, Ruba Shaik, Logan Schneider, Srikanth Muppidi, Cheuk To Tsui, Mitchell G. Miglis, medRxiv preprint 2022, DOI:

The information contained in every SEED pamphlet is written and verified by scholars and researchers, sharing their knowledge in their own words. We don't oversimplify complicated issues, but we do explain and clarify.

Nile Hawkins MPH CPH Students for Economic & Educational Development, Inc.

Emergency Storm Shelters



Frank H. Lee , Director Macon County EMA / DHS 334 220 3744 Frankhlee79@gmail.com

District I

District One Recreation Center 3039 County Road 69, Tuskegee, Alabama 36083

District II

Warrior Stand Community 357 County Road 5, Union Springs, Alabama 36089

District III

Fort Davis Community 17793 County Road 2, Union Springs, Alabama 36089

Shorter Community 144 Old Federal Road, Shorter, Alabama 36075

District IV

Notasulga (Liberty City) 355 Lori Lane, Notasulga, Alabama 36866

Franklin Community 1656 AL Highway 49, Tuskegee, Alabama 36083

City of Tuskegee

Tuskegee University (The Basement of Tompkins)



Promoting COVID-19 Wrap-Around and Basic Social Support Services to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Alabama Counties Covered in East Central District:

Autauga, Bullock, Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Russell, Tallapoosa

No Age, No Citizenship, No Income Restrictions for Grant Approved Services APPROVED SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Laundry Supplies
- Referrals can be received from healthcare providers, family members, community, and service agencies and ADPH offices.
- · Referrals are assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- · Services authorized depend upon current status as determined by United Way's 2-1-1.

For detailed information and assessment, contact an ELC Social Worker: 334-293-6400 or 334-727-1800



WHEREAS, funding for activities performed under this Grant was provided by the Department, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks Division through a cooperative agreement with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, CFDA # 93.323, being Grant number 6NU50CK000545-02-03, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases for budget period August 01, 2019 – July 31, 2024



SAVE THE DATE



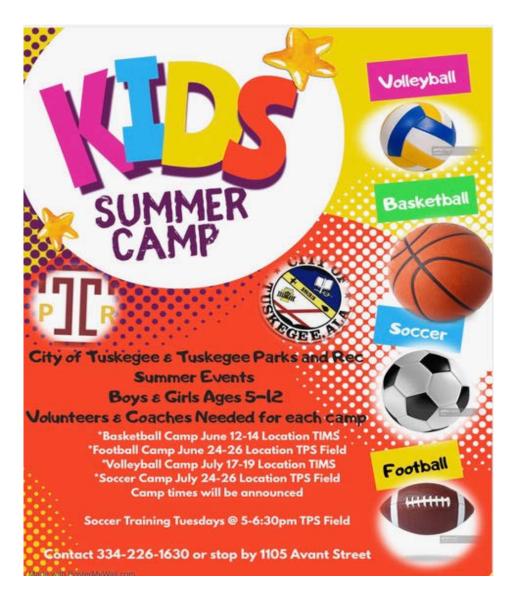
988 SUICIDE & CRISIS

Macon County

Mental Health Crisis Number

334-566-3391

24 X 7







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Is This the End of the Pandemic??

(but 250 people are still dying each day!!)





On Monday, April 10, 2023, behind closed doors in the White House, President Joseph Biden signed into law, Bill H.J. Res 7: Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, is here by terminated.

What does this mean??



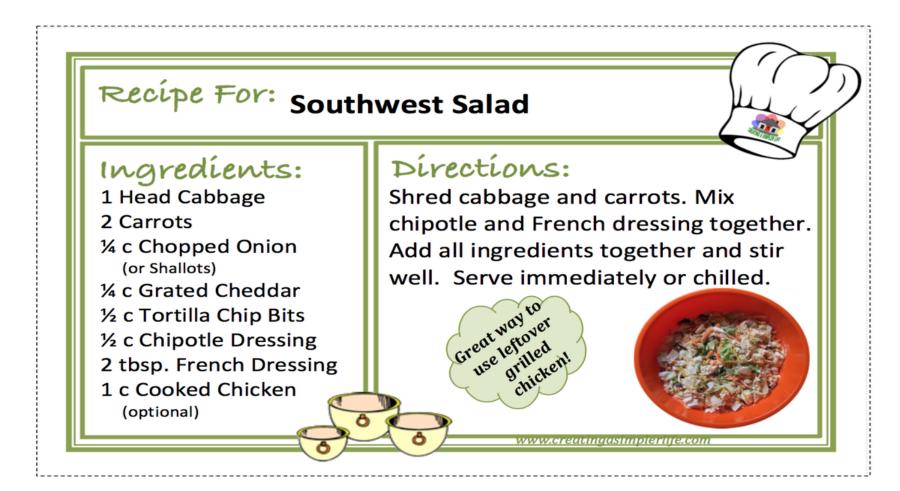
(from The Washington Post - April 10, 2023) The US has started unwinding its Covid-19 crisis measures that have expanded access to health care for millions of people since the beginning of the outbreak in the country in 2020. President Joe Biden on April 10 signed into law a measure that terminated the country's national emergency order. The White House on May 11 plans to end a separate, more consequential public health emergency and disband its Covid response team. A policy that increased health coverage for low-income people has already been discontinued. So has the federal government's purchase of Covid vaccines and treatments. While some rules around telehealth will remain relaxed, others are being tightened up again.

According to the C.D.C. Covid has killed more than 1.1 million people in the US as of early April. About 250 people are dying each day, compared with about 3,400 at the peak in January 2021. The virus is still here!

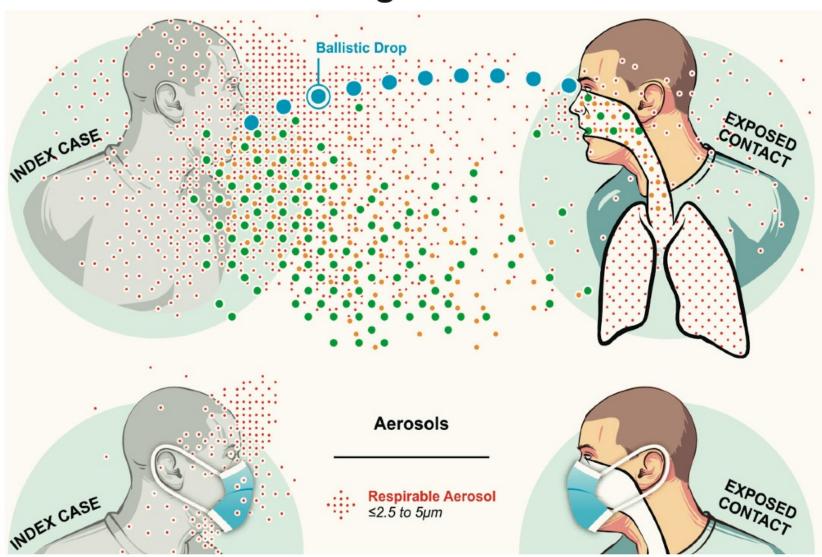
Emergency Use Vaccines - In February 2020, then-Health Secretary Alex Azar issued an emergency declaration allowing the Food and Drug Administration to grant emergency use authorization for Covid products. No plans have been announced for terminating this declaration, which has made Covid vaccines, treatments and diagnostics - which otherwise might have taken years to bring to market - available more quickly. Should the declaration be revoked, so will the emergency clearances for those products. With that in mind, many companies, like Pfizer, Moderna and Gilead, have sought to get their products approved through formal, more permanent pathways.

Free Testing Ends - Medicaid will continue to cover at-home and PCR tests until September 2024. Four free rapid Covid tests per household from the Strategic National Stockpile can be ordered at covid.gov/tests.





How we share germs and viruses:



All About The Task Force



When we recognized that multiple organizations were working in silos to address COVID-19 issues in Macon County, we made a decision to act in the greater good of the entire community and come together under one umbrella. This was the impetus for the Macon County Community Partners Task Force, a consolidation of efforts involving several local entities.

The Macon County Community Partners Task Force meets weekly on Saturday mornings via ZOOM technology. Management of each meeting is rotated among four community leaders who are responsible for efficient administration of the meetings, which typically attract about 25 individuals representing municipalities, businesses, educational institutions, churches, nonprofits, grass roots organizations and concerned citizens. This is a time to share ideas, resources, and information vital to eradicating COVID-19 in Macon County.

Work conducted by the Macon County Community Partners Task Force involves four strategic goals that model successful efforts utilized by other counties, states and parts of the world engaged in combatting the coronavirus pandemic. The strategic goals are centered on these overarching needs:

- A Comprehensive Healthcare Response
- A Unified Coronavirus Public Policy
- An Efficient Management and Distribution of Resources
- A Centralized and Multi Layered Communication System

The task force has been effective at creating an infrastructure for long-term sustainability. Committees are working on their specific areas and significant cross-pollination is occurring. Please consider joining our task force. Get details on how to join our weekly meetings on our website, www.maconcares.org.



"Healing House Is Here!"

Family, I'm excited to share Healing House at Peace Place with you!

The Healing House held its Grand Opening on Friday, June 2, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m. and Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For decades, I've known my work was to help people heal. I wasn't sure what it would look like, but finally, i'm doing the work i was born to!

Last Summer, we held monthly Self-Care Mini-Retreats, based on The 5 Pillars of Self-Care: Nutritious Food, Clean Water, Fresh Air, Exhilarating Exercise and Rejuvenation Rest. This year, we're expanding to weekly Mini-Retreats. Each week you can come to Healing House to actually experience the 5 Pillars.

Our Mini-Retreats are held on over 10 acres of land, full of greenery and fresh air. Guests are invited to take a guided nature walk around Lake Parhamarosa. In addition, the cost of \$396 includes two delectable meals, a Healing Movement Class—such as Tai Chi, Yoga, Personal Exercise or African Dance—and guided insight into The 5 Pillars of Self-Care and how to better incorporate them into our lives.

Too many of us wait until a doctor tells us we have something wrong, or pre-wrong, before we make a change. And far too often the change prescribed by a doctor is in the form of drugs. Unfortunately, most drugs merely mask the symptoms so we don't feel them anymore, but the underlying dis-ease remains. Pain and discomfort are actually there to let us know we need to fix something within. We actually have the power to stop most illness before it starts through preventative self-care.

At Healing House, our guests are able to fully experience the 5 Pillars. You'll get to taste how delicious nutritious food can be. When we think nutritious, we automatically think of salad, "rabbit food." But our guests ate full, warm meals, with dessert and didn't even know they were eating healthy food! Our water is from a well that dips deep into the springs beneath Tuskegee. The air is clean. The environment is restful and the Exhilarating Exercise is being taught by professionals who have years of experience. Among others, Macon County's own David and Chiquita Henderson of American Health and Fitness Services will be teaching Personal Fitness. If you've never worked out with them, come check them out. You just might be hooked! This is just a summary of our offerings. We'll also have Self-Care Products such as body oils and natural hand sanitizer, and you can get a Wellness Check by Dr. Darnita Muhammad. Come on over t and bring some friends with you!

Rev. Jacquetta
Self-Care Specialist, The Whole-Self Ministries
www.thewholeselfministries.org
On air Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.: www.InnerLightRadio.com







Dr. Charles Drew was the first African American to earn a Master of Medical Science degree from Columbia. He wrote a dissertation on "Banked Blood" while working as a resident at Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital. He described the technique he developed for the long-term preservation of blood plasma. Before his discovery, blood could only be stored for 2 days, however he separated the plasma from the red blood cells and refrigerated them separately up to a week. He also discovered that plasma could be used in place of blood, regardless of a person's blood type. He created the concept of Blood Banks and Cross Blood Bank program. He resigned from

Historic News



Dr. Drew

He created the concept of Blood Banks and was the first director of the Red Cross Blood Bank program. He resigned from this position when he was asked to separate white people's blood from colored people's blood.

Dr. Drew directed the Tuskegee Veterans Hospital Board of Surgeons.

Dr. Alvin P. M. Hall, Sr. was the first certified psychiatrist in the State of Ohio. He was a Diplomate with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and a Fellow with the American Psychiatric Association.



Dr. Hall

He served in the Tuskegee Veterans Hospital Psychiatric Division, and lived in the Hospital's Residence Circle.



Dr. Caliman

Dr. Avis W. Caliman was the Chief of the Tuskegee VA Psychiatric Services. He also served as the Chief Civil Rights Advisor to the Veterans Administration Chief Medical Director. He later served as one of the first African Americans in the field of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action for all Veterans Hospitals for 22 years. He was a founding member of the Association of Black Psychologists.







PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH:

Rental Assistance
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Emergency Assistance
Transportation Assistance
Prescription Assistance

Macon-Russell Community Action Agency 501 S. School Street, Suite B Tuskegee, Alabama 36083 Phone: 334-727-6100

www.mrcaa.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, Jan Fountain, District 4

Macon County Sheriff's Office Jail Address: 246 County Road 10, Tuskegee, AL 36083 Phone: 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 334-724-2611, 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

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

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

Macon County Schools 334-727-1600 Dr. Melissa Williams, 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, 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

Utility Board of Tuskegee 334-720-0700, Gerald Long, General Manager

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

