

confirmed that all required documentation has been submitted on behalf of Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes thanked Mr. Tye for his efforts in securing expedited funding, noting that this process provided significant advantages for both Idalia and Helene reimbursements. Mrs. Dukes added that not every local government in our region opted to take advantage of the expedited funding option.

- Mrs. Dukes asked Fire Chief, Billy Young, to speak regarding Fire Prevention Month. Chief Young announced that this year's fire prevention theme focuses on lithium-ion battery safety. Educational outreach has been provided to approximately 3,500 students in local schools. Chief Young also mentioned that Lowndes County Fire Rescue will participate in the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation fundraising efforts. Chief Huffmaster has agreed to lead these efforts. A charity golf tournament will be held at Quiet Pines on Thursday, October 30th, beginning at 8:00 a.m., featuring nine teams. Donations have been received from S & L Sausage Company and other community partners for raffles and prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation to support local hospitals and fire prevention programs. After the total donations are tallied, 10% will be returned to Lowndes County Fire Rescue to purchase fire prevention materials for the following year.
- Mrs. Dukes also thanked law enforcement officers in attendance in recognition of National First Responders Day.
- Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Lowndes County will participate next week in Operation Green Light, an initiative created in partnership with NACO (National Association of Counties) to encourage businesses, residents, and local governments to display green lights in support of veterans and the challenges they face. The Lowndes County Historic Courthouse will be illuminated green in observance of the initiative.

Commissioner Smith thanked staff for their efforts in organizing the Burgers and Bluegrass event held at Lowndes Park, mentioning the strong community support and overall success of the event. Chairman Slaughter stated that he had heard positive feedback about the event, although he was unable to attend. Commissioner Marshall reminded everyone to be mindful of the water table given the recent lack of rainfall and ongoing dry conditions. Chairman Slaughter added that forecasts predict a warmer and drier winter ahead.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Steven Schrek, 2606 Thomas Street, addressed the commission and apologized for his attire at the previous meeting. He stated that prior to last month's meeting, he had made several phone calls regarding a large flag displayed in his neighborhood for the past two years, which contains derogatory language. Mr. Schrek mentioned that he has contacted multiple agencies, including the Valdosta Police Department, Lowndes County 911, and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, and has spoken to Officer Baxley and Captain Whitener regarding the matter. Mr. Schrek requested that the board consider adopting an ordinance prohibiting public obscenity.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Marshall. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.