



**INSIDE:**  
 The Lincoln Journal . . . . . A4  
 The News-Reporter . . . . . A7  
 The McCormick Messenger . . . . A11

# The Journal Messenger & Reporter

Publication No. 313-660 | Volume 2, Issue 36 | **September 7, 2023** | Lincolnton, GA | www.thejournalmessenger.com  
*The combined edition of the Lincoln Journal, McCormick Messenger, and Washington News-Reporter.*

**\$100**



Gasification unit



**McCormick, Lincoln development at risk as USPS claims federal law concerning a halt to new home mail delivery a "trade secret"**

(MCCORMICK, SC) – The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) response to a Freedom of Information Act Request by the Journal Messenger & Reporter newspaper contends that federal law concerning USPS to be a "trade secret".

In the response USPS continued refusal to cite federal code authorizing the halt of home mail service to all new addresses in the United States, claiming exemption from FOIA disclosure based on 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3) Section 410(c)(2) to allow withholding "information of a commercial nature, including trade secrets," implying that federal law concerning USPS operations is a "trade secret."

The issue is hitting residents of Savannah Lakes Village in McCormick especially hard, as the local post office is refusing to deliver mail to new homeowners in the long-established community. USPS is applying the 2012 USPS plan retroactively to require cluster boxes in existing subdivisions that were completed before the plan was authorized.

Those actions are now impacting Georgia neighborhoods as well, as USPS General Law Unit Attorney Barbara Cioffi wrote to SLV residents earlier this year, "these standards apply to 'new delivery points', which in this context is a place where mail has not been previously delivered." That would include new homes in Lincoln County subdivisions as well, even though those developments were complete well before the 2012 USPS plan was approved.

Whether USPS is authorized under Federal law to implement the plan will determine the course of action by opponents to potentially block or modify the impact on not just South Carolina and Georgia, but the nation.

The issue including local impact brought national attention this summer when U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC3) questioned Trump-appointed Postmaster General DeJoy during a hearing by the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service in Washington on the issue of future home mail delivery.

The Journal Messenger & Reporter has filed an appeal on USPS failure to comply with the FOIA request to cite authorizing federal law for the policy. The newspaper filed an initial FOIA on the issue in September 2022, and again in June of this year, with no response.

## Waste-to-gas plant plan approved

By GYVONNE PINKSTON

(Washington, GA) - By unanimous vote on August 31, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners approved a request granting solid waste compliance to Eastern Energy and Environmental Services (EE&ES). This approval allows EE&ES to apply for a permit with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to operate a gasification facility on the former site of the Porta-Build building, 232 Industrial Boulevard, next to Berry Plastics off Highway 47. The facility will process up to 2,000lbs of agricultural plastics and shredded tires per day, create 10-12 jobs and convert waste into another form of usable energy using a closed loop system with no emissions.

The called meeting in the crowded first floor courtroom facilitated an information session to discuss details on the proposed facility, including the types of waste that would be converted, handling of materials



Courtroom crowd

and the environmental impact of the project. Several representatives from EE&ES were present: Co-Founders - Mike McCuen and James McKissick; Phil Morris (former official of South Carolina's Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Wastes Management (DHEC) and business development partner Michael Prince.

"We think that gasification is the wave of the future from an environmental standpoint. Gasification does not have any harmful by-products; [in contrast] incineration puts so many toxic by-products and fumes into the air," James McKissick explained. McKissick also highlighted the proposed gasification facility would convert waste which would normally go to a landfill, into another form of usable energy. "This is something that we can use to help clean up the environment. That's the

reason we are doing this. We both have a passion about sports and about the oceans; Our motivation is to take nasty stuff that would go to a landfill and turn it into energy." Additionally, this process is a closed loop system with no emissions and everything that comes out of the system is prepackaged into gas that can be converted into another form of energy. Michael Prince explained, "We put waste in, it gets heated up to 18,00 degrees. That breaks whatever you put into it: plastic, tires, at the molecular level and splits all of those molecules into certain gases. We then clean those gases and save them. So, nothing is going into the atmosphere because we re-sell every single bit of that on the backend."

Gasification, according to the National Energy Technology Laboratory website, "is a technological process that can

convert any carbonaceous (carbon-based) raw material such as coal into fuel gas, also known as synthesis gas (syngas for short). Gasification occurs in a gasifier, generally a high temperature/pressure vessel where oxygen (or air) and steam are directly contacted with the coal or other feed material causing a series of chemical reactions to occur that convert the feed to syngas and ash/slag (mineral residues). Syngas is so called because of its history as an intermediate in the production of synthetic natural gas."

Eastern Energy's proposal would rely on the local workforce to fill positions in engineering, warehouse logistics, front office staff and management with pay ranging from \$30,000 to \$120,000. Internships for students are also part of the plan, particularly in the fields of computer science, technology, engineering, and marketing.

Several questions were posed to EE&ES and commissioners; some of the responses are listed below:

How will the material arrive at the facility? McKissick: "We hope to get most of the material from town. From what I understand, there are plenty of tires here that y'all are having a problem with and this machine will take tires that make good syngas." McKissick added agricultural plastics can also be processed, instead of burying the plastic waste in the ground which is the current practice.

— Continued on Page A16 —

### INSIDE TODAY

- Sports, Entertainment ..... B1
- Editorials ..... A2
- Area Churches ..... A5, A8, A13
- Lincoln News ..... A4
- Wilkes News ..... A7
- McCormick News ..... A11
- Crossword ..... B2

### OBITUARIES B2

William Tandy Presnell  
 Joe Morton Sprouse

### COLUMNISTS

- Mike Ryan ..... A2
- Robyn Stewart ..... A5
- Nolia Biggerstaff ..... A5
- Loran Smith ..... A9
- Dr. Rod B. Nokkin ..... B1
- Lamar Garrard ..... B1
- Bill Baab ..... B4
- Sandy Butler ..... B4
- Tom Poland ..... B4

## Angye Morrison named as editor for the Lincoln Journal

(LINCOLNTON, GA) – Angye Morrison, a Lincoln County native, has been selected as the new editor of the Lincoln Journal.

Morrison grew up in Lincolnton and is a graduate of LCHS. She attended Augusta College (University) and has worked at newspapers in Florida and Georgia. She started as a reporter up to managing editor.

Telling the stories of her friends and neighbors is what

Morrison loves the most about being a journalist. "I love being able to sit down and talk with someone who thinks their story isn't that important or that no one will care and being able to craft what they tell me into a story that is compelling and means something to not only that person, but to all who read it," she said.

For the past six years, Morrison has worked as one of the editors on staff at the Statesboro Herald. She has also served as

editor for Discovering Bulloch magazine in Bulloch County, and Effingham Living in Effingham County.

"I am so excited to be coming home," Morrison said. "It has been my dream since I was 9 years old to be an editor at the Journal, and it's going to be an honor and a privilege to work for the community that I am proud to call my hometown. There is definitely no place like home, and no place like Lincoln County."