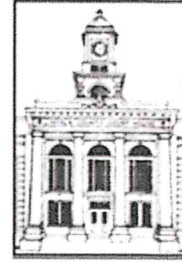


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## John Stone will serve as new development authority director



JOHN STONE

The community is invited to a "meet and greet" for John Stone, the new director of the Lincoln County Development Authority.

The event will take place Thursday, April 16, from 4-6 p.m. at The Welcome Center in the Blanchard House at 112 N. Washington Street.

Stone, who is replacing Ashley Swain, will be working for the authority on a part-time basis.

Since 1990, the Lincoln County native has been active in the political arena.

From June of 2013 until May of 2014, he made an unsuccessful bid to represent Georgia's 12th Congressional District in Washington, D.C.

During this period, he campaigned full time in 19 counties, ranging from the northern Savannah suburbs to the northern Augusta suburbs and from the Savannah River to Dublin and Glenville.

Prior to that, Stone served as Washington chief of staff for Congressman John Carter (R-TX), chairman of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, and was responsible for the oversight of all Washington operations as well as national and international media relations.

In 2008, he was the Republican nominee for the office of 12th District Congressman, after winning the GOP primary with 57 percent of the vote.

Other positions held by Stone include deputy chief of staff and communications director for Max Burns (R-GA) and director and president of the U.S. Freedom Foundation, a non-profit organization charged with making educational and public relations efforts in support of middle-income economic issues and homeland security.

He is best known by those in Lincoln County for the 11 years he spent as deputy chief of staff and communications director for the late congressman Charlie Norwood (R-GA).

Before getting into politics, Stone was a news anchor and reporter for WBBQ News in North Augusta, South Carolina.

Moreover, he attended Augusta State University, the University of Georgia, and Regent University's Robertson School of Government in Virginia.

Stone met Deborah, his wife of 37 years, at UGA. They have six daughters and four grandsons.

The couple attends Burns United Methodist Church in Augusta.

Stone indicated that when he was a young child, his parents, Ward and Ethel Stone, lived in Lincolnton, where his late father operated Stone Construction Company, a bridge building firm.

In other comments, the new development authority director said, "I see this as an incredible opportunity to do some good for the county with the greatest economic growth potential in the state of Georgia.

"It's ironic that the catalyst for my coming here to work was my hope of returning to Lincoln County to live. The quality of life here is fantastic.

"I think there are a lot of other folks and businesses that will feel the same way about Lincoln County if we can continue to get our message out to new people."

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