

The Christmas Tree Is Back at the Lincoln County Historic Courthouse

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A year after many in the community complained bitterly that the downtown Lincolnton Christmas tree was not located on the historical courthouse grounds, the critics have been emphatically silenced. If you will recall, last year at this time, the Lincoln County Historic Courthouse and grounds were off limits due to construction. What a difference a year makes.

The tree lighting ceremony, held on Friday (Nov. 27), was an exciting event for the many citizens who came out and braved the brisk, cold air. Local officials attended and Miss Lincoln County Apple Queen Jadyn Allman helped start off the festivities. Local singer and songwriter Robert Tompkins did a phenomenal job putting everyone in the Christmas spirit, as he sung all of our favorite Christmas songs throughout the evening. A special note that the free hot cocoa provided by Venture Church of Lincolnton gave many a sweet treat that helped everyone stay warm as the evening progressed.

Of course, it would not be Christmas without Santa and Mrs. Clause. There was a sighting of the Grinch, but the Christmas spirit of the evening silenced any concerns about grouchy Mr. Grinch. The crowd with the officials on site counted down until the tree lights suddenly came on and everyone took their phones out to take pictures. Any complaints about last year's Christmas tree disappeared from memory in a flash.

After the Christmas tree was all lit up, then Vanessa Leon, Lincoln County's Public Affairs Officer, introduced the movie, *The Grinch*, on the southside of the courthouse. The children were excited to watch the film outside on the crystal-clear screen, set up right on the courthouse circle next to Bank of America. As the movie began, all of a sudden, a county, that hasn't had a movie theater in quite some time, came alive as members of the community sat in this "picture-perfect," outdoor amphitheater environment.

If the Christmas tree lighting event is any indication of what's to come, Lincoln County is going to have a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. Lincoln County, the City of Lincolnton, the Lincoln Cultural Center and the Downtown Development Association deserve significant credit for this successful, kick-off holiday event.