

STEWART COUNTY COMMISSION  
MAC MOYE, COUNTY MANAGER  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
229/838-6769

**Stewart County to Celebrate Broadband Expansion Grant Award  
May 12, 2022**

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp recently announced that the Stewart County Commission will receive \$6,662,285 to match a \$9 million commitment from Kinetic by Windstream for the development of full fiber-optic capabilities in Stewart County.

In celebration of the impending dramatic improvement of communications that this grant will bring to the people of the county, the Commission will hold an event on **May 12 at 10 am**. The Stewart County Broadband Expansion Celebration will be held at that time at the **Fountain Wims Community Center** located at **7062 Green Grove Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815**.

**Governor Kemp's Rural Broadband Program.**

When American Rescue Plan funding became available that could be dedicated to rural broadband, Gov. Kemp opened a grant opportunity. It's called the State Fiscal Recovery Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program (SLFRF).

The Stewart County Commission applied for SLFRF funds last year, using a unique combination of partners. These included Sumter Electric Membership Corporation and Kinetic by Windstream. Windstream in turn committed another \$9 million, for a total funding of over \$15.66 million.

Sumter Electric held a competition among various telecommunications companies for access to the SEMC geographical area. Sumter Electric in turn had been enabled to enter telecommunications by the State General Assembly the previous year. Finally and importantly, the state's delegation in Washington supported the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**Activities of the Day.**

All the elected officials will either be present or represented that day for the 10 am program. Sumter Electric and Kinetic by Windstream will also be there.

Citizens of the county will be especially interested to know that they each can sit down with a Windstream representative and talk about the planned service at their individual addresses. In fact, Windstream will be taking pre-subscriptions if anyone wants to do so.

**Many to Thank.**

The elected officials or their representatives include:

**Gov. Kemp**---Field Representative Jody Redding

**Congressman Sanford Bishop**---Field Representative Christopher Kelley

**U.S. Senator Ralph Warnock**---Field Representative Benda Williams

**U.S. Senator John Ossoff**---Field Representative Alyse Wolfe

**Georgia Senator Freddie Powell-Sims**

**Georgia Representative Gerald Greene**

Rep. Greene will serve as co-master of the day, along with Commission Chair Joseph B. Williams.

For more information, please contact the Stewart County Commission at 229/838-6769; or email [info@stewartcountyga.gov](mailto:info@stewartcountyga.gov) .

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