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For Immediate Release  
December 14, 2022

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## The Grinch that Mangled the Apple!

The Lincolnton community will not let a Grinch steal our Apple Drop and New Year's Eve Street Party!

On Saturday night, December 10<sup>th</sup>, an individual tried to steal the Lincolnton Apple Ornament that is used for the Apple Drop and the Apple Queen pageant. The man apparently tried to climb the tower, then busted the guy wires, and finally pulled the entire installation down to the ground, rolling the Apple across the grass. Lincolnton Police Officers found the Apple Ornament on the ground during patrol shortly after the incident. Thanks to the installation of the new camera system downtown, LPD officers were able to quickly identify and apprehend the man. But the Apple Ornament was badly damaged and crushed on one side, has lights pulled out and missing electric cables.

We're making emergency repairs and hope to have the Apple Ornament back on the Tower as soon as we source some parts and can get our crews to set it back up.

So, when you see the mangled Apple Ornament on the Court Square, don't be surprised. And don't let it dampen your spirits either!

The [Apple Drop New Year's Eve Street Party](#) is scheduled for Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> on the South Court Square from 5pm-8pm. This is a FUN, FAMILY FRIENDLY event to celebrate the New Year! Honoring the early traditions of our "NC backcountry settlers," the Lincolnton Apple Drop features a NYE countdown and the blessing of the city with the Cherryville Traditional Shooters.

The Blessing of the City and the Shooters will begin at 6:30pm, and the Apple Drops at 7pm (that's midnight GMT or Greenwich Mean Time).

The event is free, but we ask for your donations of people & pet food to restock the shelter pantries at Christian Ministries and Lincoln County Animal Services. We have LOTS of NYE swag as a thank-you for your contribution. If you can't bring non-perishable food items, we also accept cash at the event, or via our online fundraiser on Facebook.

There are fun photo booths for family photos, and you can enjoy music & games on Court Square. Vendors on site will have food, treats, and drinks.

Join us for this celebration of Lincolnton & Lincoln County Heritage at the 2022 Apple Drop New Year's Eve Street Party!

More Info: [www.LincolntonNC.org/AppleDrop](http://www.LincolntonNC.org/AppleDrop)



Cut-line: Apple Drop Ornament damage (12/11/22)



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