



# Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 11      December 2019

## Holiday Luncheon is December 11

Please join us for the 2019 Employee Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Civic Center - don't forget to wear your best ugly sweater and bring a canned good to donate to ACTS!

**OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cordially Invites You to Our**

**2019 Employee Holiday Luncheon**

**Oconee County Civic Center**

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon – 2 p.m.**

Join us for great food and fun this year!  
Special Guest: Santa and his elves

RSVP to Shawn Wheeler by Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at  
[swheeler@oconee.ga.us](mailto:swheeler@oconee.ga.us) or call 706-769-3902

Be sure to wear your tackiest-ugliest Holiday Sweater!  
\$50.00 gift card for the WINNER.

Please remember to bring a canned good to donate to ACTS!

# Employment Anniversaries

Congratulations to everyone on our team celebrating another year of service to the residents of Oconee County! Thank you for making our organization an outstanding place to work and for your dedication to our community! We appreciate all that you do!

## Commission

Chuck Horton 12/06/2016

## Community Development

Ansley Nedza 12/04/2015

## Jail

Julio Soto 12/20/2004

Craig Leuze 12/19/2016

Collin Worsham 12/17/2018

## Joint Governmental Programs

Ashley Kelle 12/01/2014

## Juvenile Court

Amanda Trimble 12/01/2016

## Law Enforcement

Paul Maxey 12/11/1989

Dylan Pulliam 12/18/2016

## Operations-Facilities/Maintenance

Artie Kerns 12/03/2001

Tim Dutton 12/10/2007

## Parks & Recreation

Alexis Biondi 12/10/2018

Chase Dunagan 12/10/2018

## Property Appraisal

Greg Hayes 12/10/2007

James Evans 12/30/2013

## Public Safety

Jimmy Williams 12/20/2002

Shawn Corbin 12/05/2005

## Public Works

William Lowe 12/01/2017

Alex Davis 12/27/2018

## Tax Commissioner

Debra Watson 12/10/2012

## Water Resources

Nick Hensley 12/17/2012

Adam Layfield 12/08/2014

## Notes from IT 'Tis the Season

- When making online payments, only pay for items using a secure payment service. What does that mean? Look for https at the beginning of the website address or a padlock.
- A newer version of online shopping scams involves the use of social media platforms to set up fake online stores. They often sell fake branded clothing or jewelry. Do not trust a site just because you have seen it advertised or shared on social media. The best way to detect a fake online shopping scam is to search for reviews before purchasing.
- You can recognize a scam when the retail website asks you to pay by using a money order, or a pre-loaded card.
- Be careful shopping and have a wonderful holiday season!

# Employee Birthdays

Happy Birthday to everyone in the Oconee County Government Family celebrating a birthday this month! You have our best wishes for a wonderful day, and we hope it's the start of a fantastic year!

Balay Woodworth	12/01
Corey Dickey	12/02
David Gueth	12/03
William Lowe	12/03
Nicole Bates	12/05
Mary Hansford	12/05
Sunny Wallace-Burchett	12/06
Ricky Cuervo	12/07
Trent Crawford	12/08
Tammy Gilstrap	12/08
Allen Skinner	12/08
Vicky Feener	12/09
Shawnda Jernigan	12/09
Monte Stephens	12/09
Paul Helphenstine	12/12
John Mobley	12/12
Joan Postero	12/12
Mary Mathis	12/14
Lesia Weaber	12/19
John Hamachek	12/20
Cheryl Newell	12/21
Shayne Stone	12/22
Merry Howard	12/24
Sidney Blevins	12/25
James Wooster	12/29
Casey Smith	12/30
Julio Soto	12/30
Mandi Ellis	12/31



## Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest colleagues - we are so glad you have joined us!

### Animal Services

Lily Apollony

### Board of Elections & Registration

Kenneth Davis

### Parks & Recreation

Abbey Anderson

Brendan Soper

Gabriel Tijerina

Balay Woodworth

### Public Works

Robert Thompson

### Superior Court

Leon Ogletree





# Faces of Oconee County Government

## Grace Tuschak

Grace Tuschak is a Senior Planner with the Planning & Code Enforcement Department. Grace joined Oconee County in August 2018. Her past endeavors have included working as a confectioner in a chocolate factory, managing a growers association, and conducting agricultural research at NC State.

Grace holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Furman University and a Master's degree in City & Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. She lives in Athens with her husband Nick and a Beagle mix named Iris. Her hobbies include gardening, beekeeping, ceramics, reading, hiking, and cooking and baking.

Grace says that she loves her job because every day is different and there is never a dull moment. She also loves helping the public understand planning issues and helping the community implement its long-term vision.



“Grace has been a wonderful addition to our Planning & Code Enforcement Department,” says Director Guy Herring. “With her Master’s in City Planning and her soon to be awarded AICP certification, she has and will continue to contribute greatly to the success of the department. She championed the application for the County’s PlanFirst Certification and has been instrumental in the implementation of the new software for agendas, zoning cases, and development projects. Her terrific attitude and excellent people skills with both external and internal customers have garnered positive comments from customers and county staff. The Oconee County community benefits greatly from having someone of Grace’s caliber on staff, and we look forward to her continued contributions toward continuous improvement of the services we provide.”

Thank you, Grace, for all you do for Oconee County!

*Do you have a colleague who goes the extra mile? Nominate your favorite service superstar for a Faces of Oconee County profile by emailing [oconeeconnects@oconee.ga.us](mailto:oconeeconnects@oconee.ga.us)!*

# Awards & Recognitions

Human Resources Director Jill Faulkner recently completed the Certified Human Resource Manager Program (CHRMP) administered by the Georgia Local Government Personnel Association (GLGPA), a professional organization dedicated to establishing responsible practices throughout local government in Georgia and to the professional development of its members. Jill started the program in 2016 and completed her final course in June 2019. As part of the course requirements, she also designed and implemented a project that automated the employee training registration process.



## Notes from HR

### Mobile Mammography Unit Onsite December 3

The Mobile Mammography Unit will be onsite Tuesday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the back parking lot of the Oconee County Courthouse.



### GEBCorp Appointments Available in January

Our GEBCorp representative Greg Gease will not be here in December. He will return for individual appointments on January 23 to discuss 457 Deferred Comp plans, 401(a) Plans, and the Roth 457 Plan. Contact Human Resources to schedule an appointment.

Oconee Connections Employee Newsletter is published monthly by the Office of Communications. We want to hear from you! Please e-mail us with your department news, as well as employee announcements of births, engagements, weddings, and retirements. Please submit news items to [dbaggett@oconee.ga.us](mailto:dbaggett@oconee.ga.us) by the 15th of the month prior to publication for inclusion in the newsletter. The Office of Communications reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.