



Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 4

April 2020

Message from County Administrator Justin Kirouac Regarding COVID-19

There's no pre-written playbook for local government reaction to a global pandemic, and the past month brought incredible stress and uncertainty on all of us.

As of 6 pm on Friday, Governor Kemp's Executive Order goes into effect where unless you're working, exercising, caring for others or shopping at an allowed business, you need to stay home.

Over the past few weeks, we have taken several steps to prepare the organization, including staff rotations, distancing (a word I now hate), telecommuting where possible, and, most importantly, eliminating public access to buildings. This allows us to provide continuity of services but also protect the health of our employees, which is the most important element. What this also does is give us the ability to continue paying full-time and permanent part-time employees, which obviously is the second stressor that this pandemic is creating. Reading the news, economic conditions and unemployment claims are bleak. One of the reasons we budget conservatively during better times is that it prepares the organization to weather these periods of economic slowdown. If you think of Aesop's Ant and the Grasshopper fable, we're heading into winter, but we're the ants. That's a good thing. Hopefully, the dip will be short-lived, but we will be prepared either way.

Finally, if you even think you feel sick – STAY HOME! Your health, your family's health, and the health of your co-workers is the most important thing we are dealing with right now. Everyone, stay safe and healthy.

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!

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Clayton Baer | 04/02 |
| Matthew Coulter | 04/04 |
| Jennifer Elder | 04/06 |
| Hannah Meadow | 04/08 |
| Caleb Bar-Haim | 04/10 |
| Lisa Jackson | 04/13 |
| William Anglin | 04/14 |
| Gloria Batson | 04/15 |
| Kenji Dorsey | 04/17 |
| Carrie Hayes | 04/19 |
| Walker McNiff | 04/20 |
| Debra Watson | 04/20 |
| Allison Barnes | 04/22 |
| Andrew Elder | 04/25 |
| David Francis | 04/26 |
| Brandy Crespo | 04/28 |
| David Sweat | 04/28 |
| Allison Maddox | 04/29 |



Welcome

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

Jail

Benjamin Wilkie

Parks & Recreation

John Branyan
Jazmine Davila
McKenzie Hudgins
Charles Massey
Richard Williams

Public Safety

Branden Newton

Water Resources

David Dockins



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!

Information Technology

Paula Nedza 04/11/2005

Jail

Christopher Thompson 04/13/2015

Kyle Davis 04/09/2017

Cooperative Extension

Monte Stephens 04/01/2011

Leigh Anne Aaron 04/01/2015

Law Enforcement

Jonathan Holden 04/13/2015

Sam Smith 04/27/2015

Zach Eaton 04/23/2018

Operations

Wanda Moody 04/23/2007

Parks & Recreation

Dylan Phillips 04/14/2015

Joan Postero 04/10/2017

Tate Partain 04/10/2019

Cameron Hale 04/29/2019



Planning & Code Enforcement

Deanna Ruark 04/21/2003

Guy Herring 04/26/2018

Public Safety

Charity Bell 04/21/2003

Public Works

Dennis Chaney 04/23/2001

Vernon Craft 04/04/2003

Lee Hicks 04/04/2005

Water Resources

John Jackson 04/24/2017

Kevin Hart 04/13/2018

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 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.