



# Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 11

November 2021

## Water Resources Recognized for Excellence with Two Georgia Association of Water Professionals Awards

The Oconee County Water Resources Department recently earned the 2021 Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) **Gold Distribution System Excellence Award** for its water system and the **Gold Wastewater Collection System Excellence Award** for its sewer system.

The Gold Distribution System Excellence Award recognizes outstanding performance in Management, Operations & Maintenance, Program Management, and Planning. Oconee County Water Resources earned the award following an extensive audit in the areas of maps and records, metering, field sampling, system design and material standards, maintenance procedures, disinfection procedures, cross-connection control, water loss, finished water storage, pumping facilities, regulatory review, records retention, water quality monitoring plans and facilities, administrative procedures/policies, master planning, funding, communications, and staffing. The Gold Wastewater Collection System Excellence Award was bestowed as a result of the department achieving industry standards for capacity, management, operation, and maintenance following a system-wide audit.



Congratulations to the entire Water Resources Department staff on this major achievement! Thank you for continuing to go above and beyond in service to our residents!

# 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!

## Elections

Yale Himebrook 11/03/2020

## Jail

Joan White 11/13/2006

## Law Enforcement

Vic Green 11/19/2007

## Parks & Recreation

Tony Lathrup 11/06/2000

Cindy Hardigree 11/28/2005

## Probate

Debbie Turner 11/05/2001

Tiffany Norton 11/30/2020

## Property Appraisal

Brian Bray 11/14/2011

## Public Safety

Lee Hiland 11/06/2006

Lisa Park 11/16/2020

## Public Works

Robert Thompson 11/18/2019

## Senior Center

Marge McKee 11/15/2007

Pat McLaughlin 11/18/2019

## Superior Court

Delores Russell 11/01/1991

Lawton Stephens 11/01/1991

## Water Resources

Ginger Thrasher 11/22/2004

Greg Long 11/12/2007

Tracy Metcalf 11/24/2014

Timothy Rice 11/02/2020

# Welcome!

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

## Elections

Shari Travers

Edward Cotter

Connor Brownfield

## Parks & Recreation

Noah Steele

Gracie Martin

## Water Resources

Baylee Silvey

## Jail

Matthew Lariscy

# Notes from IT

## STOP, LOOK and THINK

Be very cautious when viewing emails. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you have verified that it is valid. When we receive emails from outside of our organization, they are marked as shown below:

External emails: (emails from anyone outside of our county domain – oconee.ga.us) give us 2 warnings:

- 1) [EXTERNAL EMAIL] listed in sender information
- 2) CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization...



Thu 10/14/2021 3:17 PM

Verizon <NOTIFICATIONS@VERIZONWIRELESS.COM>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] You've successfully registered for My Business.

To Paula Nedza

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.  
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

When we receive “internal emails” they can be deceptive, so STOP, LOOK and THINK – was I expecting this email?

Internal emails: One of the most dangerous emails is when it looks like it came from someone inside of organization:

**From:** Linda Patterson <lpatterson@oconee.ga.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:35 PM  
**Subject:** Oconee

Please see documents and advise,

[Oconee.ga.usDocumntsShared.PDF](#)

Thanks,  
Linda

This email was spoofed. It really didn't come from Linda, but it looks like it did. The link that was shared in the email opens up a window that asks you to login with your Outlook username and password. This is a Phishing attempt to get your credentials so that they can break into our network. Never use your county email and password to logon to websites that are not county related.

Continue to use the Phish Alert Button when you see a suspicious email. If you do not have this button in your Outlook, please contact Paula in IT as soon as possible.

-Paula Nedza, IT Director



# 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!



Jean Saint-Preux	11/01
Cindy Hardigree	11/03
Lee Weems	11/04
Christopher Haag	11/05
Tyler Perry	11/05
Lisa Davol	11/06
Annessa Glenn	11/07
Allen Hawkins	11/08
Amit Hull	11/08
Sam Smith	11/08
Jon Holden	11/10
Edward Brumby	11/11
Mary Hall	11/11
Nicole Gueth	11/13
Vickie Hammond	11/13
Artie Kerns	11/14
Lawton Stephens	11/14
Kayla Houseman	11/15
Ed Carson	11/27
Jessica Dudley	11/29
Brittini Conger	11/30

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.