



# Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 12

December 2021

## Employee Holiday Luncheon

It's that time of year! The annual Employee Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, from noon to 2 p.m.

This year the luncheon will be held at the Civic Center once again! We will be serving boxed lunches from Newk's. If any employee is not yet comfortable in a large-group setting, please let your department head know and arrangements can be made for your lunch to be picked up.

Bring canned goods to donate to ACTS when you come and take advantage of the opportunity to brighten someone's holiday!

We are looking forward to seeing you there, and we hope you have a very merry and bright holiday season!!



*Save the Date!*

## COUNTY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Boxed Lunch from Newks

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

NOON

OCONEE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

DONATE CANS 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!

## Extension Office

Kelle Ashley 12/01/2014

## Finance

Susan Tidwell 12/30/2019

## Jail

Julio Soto 12/20/2004

## Law Enforcement

Paul Maxey 12/11/1989

Dylan Pulliam 12/18/2016

Collin Worsham 12/17/2018

## Operations-Facilities/Maintenance

Artie Kerns 12/03/2001  
Tim Dutton 12/10/2007

## Property Appraisal

Greg Hayes 12/10/2007

## Public Safety

Shawn Corbin 12/05/2005

## Tax Commissioner

Debra Watson 12/10/2012  
Carol McGrath 12/28/2020

## Tourism

Kristy Johnson 12/09/2019

## Water Resources

Adam Layfield 12/08/2014

# Welcome!

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

## Jail

Brian Meadows

## Law Enforcement

Robert Perrin

## Parks & Recreation

McKenzie Maddux  
Mattie Lane  
Chase Dunagan  
Ricky Cuervo  
Jonathan Saunders

## Parks & Recreation (cont'd)

Abigail Ryder

## Public Works

Scott Emerick  
Scott Hollars

## Tax Commissioner

Kendra Freeman

## Water Resources

Baylee Silvey

# 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!

Lofton Tidwell	12/01
Ryan Osment	12/02
David Gueth	12/03
Pacey McIntyre	12/04
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
Daniel Murray	12/09
Laura Ferguson	12/09
Alex Helsper	12/11
Paul Helphenstine	12/12
John Mobley	12/12
Joan Postero	12/12
Scott Hollars	12/17
Lesia Weaber	12/19
Andy Hamachek	12/20
Cheryl Newell	12/21
Shayne Stone	12/22
Merry Howard	12/24
Mike Hunsinger	12/27
Travis Wooster	12/29
Julio Soto	12/30
Mandi Ellis	12/31



# Notes from IT

## ‘Tis the Season for Ransomware Attacks

The FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) warned that cybercriminals will take advantage of the holidays to target companies and shoppers with malicious attacks. Below are a few ways to protect yourself:

1. Do not use your county email on any websites not work related, plus never use the same password for your personal email accounts. Create a unique username and password for each account that you have. If a hacker cracks your login, it is amazing how fast they can get to every account where you use that same username.
2. Do not use your county computer to purchase items for personal use. When you want to purchase items from a website (on your personal devices) make sure that it is a secure site. It will have https:// or a lock in the web address, known as the URL (uniform resource locator).
3. Beware of emails, texts or promotions that seem too good to be true. Watch for spellings in the web addresses or links. Many hackers use phishing scams where they create a fake email and fake websites to attract consumers to steal their information. Many times, they can replicate a retailer's website so well that the consumer has no idea until it is too late.
4. Never provide your social security number to complete a transaction.
5. Never use free Wi-Fi at public places when online shopping.

Paula Nedza  
IT Director



# Notes from HR

## Upcoming Holiday Schedule

Oconee County Government offices will be closed the following days and times:

- December 8 from noon to 2 p.m. for the Employee Holiday Luncheon
- December 24 & 27 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- December 31 in observance of New Year's Day



## Around the County

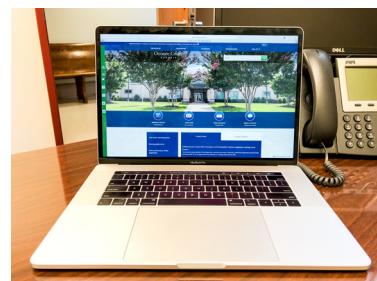
### Road Work



As clearing and construction continue along Experiment State for the Phase II Mars Hill Road Widening Project, please continue to exercise caution when driving through this area and expect delays.

### Broadband Project

Oconee County residents in areas that are underserved with respect to high speed internet coverage may submit their name and address for possible inclusion in the county's Broadband Project via the [Broadband Interest Portal](#) on the county website.



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.