

Senior Center Hosts Ribbon-Cutting for Expansion



The Oconee County Senior Center hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 7, to celebrate the grand opening of the center's expansion, which includes a new health and wellness center and additional space for arts and recreational activities.

The Senior Center received a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the state Department of Community Affairs to expand in order to continue to meet the needs of the county's older adults.

Thank you to all the Senior Center staff who worked tirelessly to make this great event happen - everything looks fantastic in the new space, and we know your members appreciate it and will enjoy it for years to come!

KOCBC

Keep Oconee County Beautiful Events in October

The Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission has several recycling and beautification opportunities available in the coming weeks:

Community Shred Day

Drive-Thru - the next free shred day will take place Friday, October 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park rain or shine; all shredded paper will be recycled.



Trick or Treat Trail and Trick or Treat on Main - bring the kids to visit KOCBC on the Trick or Treat Trail at Oconee Veterans Park on Wednesday, October 26, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., or at the Trick or Treat event on Main Street in Watkinsville on Monday, October 31, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and recycle those candy wrappers!

Tire and Battery Amnesty - throughout the entire month of October, Oconee County residents may bring up to four tires per vehicle to any one of the county's five Recycling/Waste Convenience Centers on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Only tires from cars and light trucks will be accepted, and tires must not be on rims. Auto and boat batteries will also be accepted for recycling with no limits on quantity. Both tires and batteries collected as part of this event will be recycled.

Invasive Plant Removal Volunteer Work Days - work days start in October and run through February at Heritage Park. Register online to help out at www.oconee.com/heritagepark.

Work days are scheduled for the following days:

- October 25
- November 8, 22
- December 6, 20
- January 3, 16, 31
- February 7, 20

BOC Parade Entry Decorating Committee

Looking for a fun and festive inter-departmental outlet for your holiday creativity? Volunteer to decorate the BOC parade entry! Sign up to attend the kick-off meeting on Wednesday, October 19, at noon in the BOC Chamber at the Oconee County Courthouse.

The committee will plan decorations for the Board of Commissioners vehicle that will take part in the Watkinsville parade on Sunday, December 4, and will gather on Friday, December 2, to decorate the truck.

Low time commitment and lots of fun!

Email oconeeconnects@oconee.ga.us to sign up!



Welcome Elections Director Sharon Gregg



The Oconee County Board of Commissioners appointed Sharon Gregg as the new Director of Elections for the county at its August 30 Agenda Setting Meeting. Sharon brings over fifteen years of experience working in local elections offices, most recently holding the position of Assistant Director of Elections for Newton County. She has previously served as Assistant Director of Elections, Chief Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Walton County. She has experience with all elements of running an elections office, including the most recent statewide voting requirements. Stop by the Elections Office and give Sharon a warm welcome!

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!

Facilities

Bobby Reno 10/19/2020

Jail

Samuel Masters 10/07/2019
Matthew Lariscy 10/18/2021

Law Enforcement

Sarah Groves 10/30/2013
Justin Cash 10/03/2016
Devan Blair 10/07/2019
Lex Ogan 10/05/2020

Parks & Recreation

DonL Bearden 10/11/1999
Jean Saint-Preux 10/23/2006
Noah Steele 10/04/2021
McKenzie Maddux 10/25/2021

Probate

Ginny King 10/02/2000

Public Safety

Jackie Rowell 10/02/2006
Brittany Anderson 10/24/2016

Public Works

Pat Goolsby 10/08/2002

Tax Commissioner

Lisa Jackson 10/08/2007

Water Resources

Erin Carlton 10/12/2015
Baylee Silvey 10/19/2021

Welcome!

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

Civic Center

Calvin Ranker
Brittney Turner

Parks & Recreation

Laynie Baer
Ryan Kellner
Hannah Meadow
Isabella Rodriguez

Public Safety

Taylor Howell

Senior Center

Mark Manning

Notes from IT

Look Out for Smishing

Smishing is a close cousin to Phishing. This alternative social engineering technique uses text messages to entice people to click links, much like Phishing does through emails. However, because people generally interact differently with text messages than they do emails, there is a different skill set needed for safeguarding your data.

Schedule reminders, transaction confirmations, and bank alerts are common text messages people legitimately receive every day. Because of this, they are the perfect camouflage for a fraudulent text message.



As usual, the first line of defense is common sense – does it even make sense for you to be receiving a text message from this source about this topic? If the answer is no, you should be immediately on guard.

Spelling mistakes, just like in phishing emails, are also an indicator that the text may not be genuine. The phone number sending the text can be a clue. Large businesses, especially financial institutions, are more likely to send text messages from a short code number, for example 5 digits. If you receive what looks like an automated text from a business that comes from a normal phone number, then it could be an indicator of a fraudulent text.

Since it is easier to obscure link URLs in text messages, they are not a great indicator of fraudulent texts.

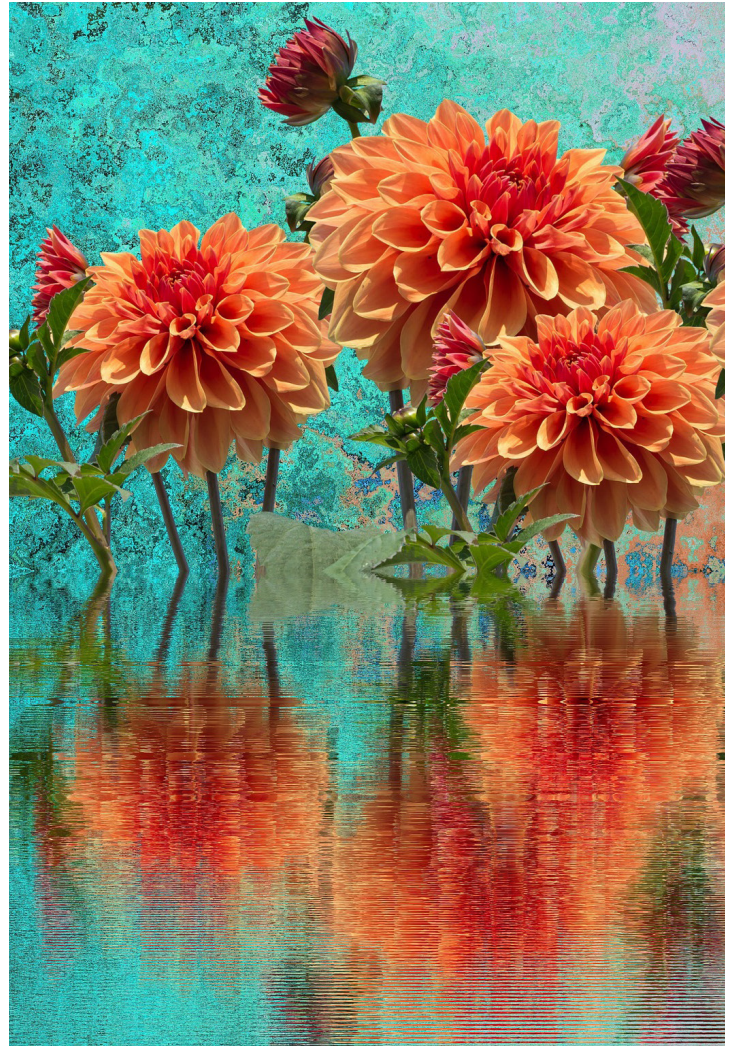
Tapping a link in one of these fraudulent text messages is nearly the same thing as following a link in a phishing email. Much like phishing links, these links can take you to fraudulent websites which request personal information. They may even try to force malware onto your device.

Justin Milligan
IT Manager

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!

Bailey Wingrove	10/05
Zach Churchill	10/06
Virginia Mitchell	10/07
Chase Dunagan	10/10
Justin Kirouac	10/11
Peyton Massey	10/13
Patricia McLaughlin	10/13
Fabian Huizar	10/14
C.J. Worden	10/14
Charity Bell	10/16
Susan Carlton-Gordon	10/19
Lisa Park	10/19
Candice Polson	10/19
Cassie Swisher	10/19
Brittany Uankum	10/20
David Burchett	10/21
Michelle Coker	10/22
Lee Hiland	10/23
Holly Stephenson	10/23
Joann Hubert	10/24
Jody Woodall	10/25
Tammi Gardino	10/27
Susan Tidwell	10/27
Marti Hardigree	10/28
Alex Newell	10/29
Jessica Hart	10/30
David Compton	10/31
Debbie Smith	10/31



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.