



Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 4, No. 11

November 2022

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

The Oconee County Water Resources Department recently earned the 2022 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. This is the third year in a row that Water Resources has earned the Gold Award for collections, and the second Gold Award in a row for distribution!

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 outstanding achievement!

Notes from IT

Vishing and You

Vishing, a combination of voice and phishing, is an attempt to use social engineering over the phone to get sensitive information. This style of attack has many similarities to phishing but because it is over voice it is more immediate and personal which may catch people off guard.

A sense of urgency—used in conjunction with fear tactics—may prompt someone to divulge information they normally would not share. An example of this is threatening someone with arrest or deportation.

A sense of authority - a caller with an authoritative tone may claim to be from an organization you depend on, such as the Social Security Administration or Medicare.

If you suspect a call is fraudulent, do not engage with the caller. If you have given out personal information, contact your financial institutions and alert them. You may also consider freezing your credit report to thwart identity theft.

Justin Milligan
IT Manager



Invasive Plant Removal at Heritage Park

INVASIVE SPECIES
REMOVAL

HERITAGE PARK

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Athens Land Trust

Do Something Beautiful!

Looking to enjoy the fall weather while having a positive impact in the community? Keep Oconee County Beautiful and Parks & Recreation invite you to take part in Invasive Species Removal Work Days at Heritage Park.

Volunteer as an individual or team up with your department to spend a few hours volunteering in this beautiful park and add some steps to your daily count as a bonus!

Help with removing an invasive species from Heritage Park

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

All dates:

9A-1P | Heritage Park
706-769-3965

Volunteering at a work day is an excellent opportunity to get outside, learn more about forest health and meet new people.

Autumn Olive, though beautiful, is crowding out native species causing ecological harm to our forest and its inhabitants.

No training or experience is required; each volunteer will be trained in identification and removal.

Volunteers must pre-register: <http://www.oconeecounty.com/HeritagePark>

No experience is necessary for these volunteer work days, and all tools are provided.

Take a break from your usual work routine and join us!



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!

Cooperative Extension

Pat McLaughlin 11/18/2019

Elections

Kenneth Davis 11/05/2019

Jail

Joan White 11/13/2006

Susie Carlton-Gordon 11/15/2021

Brian Meadows 11/01/2021

Krista Dorsey 11/29/2021

Alexander Wukoson 11/29/2021

Law Enforcement

Vic Green 11/19/2007

Robert Perrin 11/01/2021

Dustin Mines 11/29/2021

Parks & Recreation

Cindy Hardigree 11/28/2005

Chase Dunagan 11/02/2021

Abigail Ryder 11/08/2021

Probate

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

James Hollars 11/01/2021

Senior Center

Allison Burns 11/07/2016

Superior Court

Delores Russell 11/01/1991

Lawton Stephens 11/01/1991

Tax Commissioner

Kendra Freeman 11/15/2021

Water Resources

Ginger Thrasher 11/22/2004

Tracy Metcalf 11/24/2014

Tim Rice 11/02/2020



Meet Denise Bradshaw

Denise Bradshaw joined Oconee County Fire Rescue as the Fire Rescue Office Coordinator on September 19.

She previously worked in billing in home health at both St. Mary's and Piedmont. When she is not working, she enjoys boating, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family. So far, her favorite parts of her job are her awesome co-workers and the great atmosphere.

Stop by the Government Annex and give Denise a warm welcome!



Welcome!

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

***Welcome
to the
Team!***

Animal Services

Christina Lee

Fire Rescue

Denise Bradshaw

Jail

Farris Johnson

Property Appraisal

Christopher Glick

Tourism

Sarah Cumuze

Water Resources

Jordan Silvey

Elections Pink Out



Election staff dressed in pink during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

Thanks to everyone in Elections for taking the time to raise awareness about the effects of breast cancer, while also running a super-efficient advance voting system at the Civic Center!



We Want to Hear From You!

We want to share the awesome things going on in your department - send us a photo or two and a quick description so we can feature you in an upcoming newsletter!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

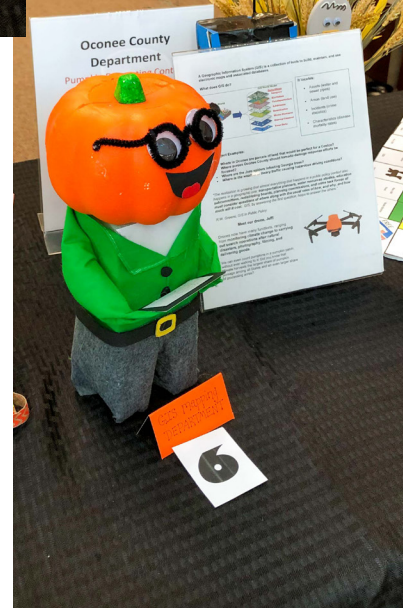
Check out the amazingly creative entries on this page and the next in this year's Oconee County Senior Center Pumpkin Decorating Challenge!

This year's winner's are:

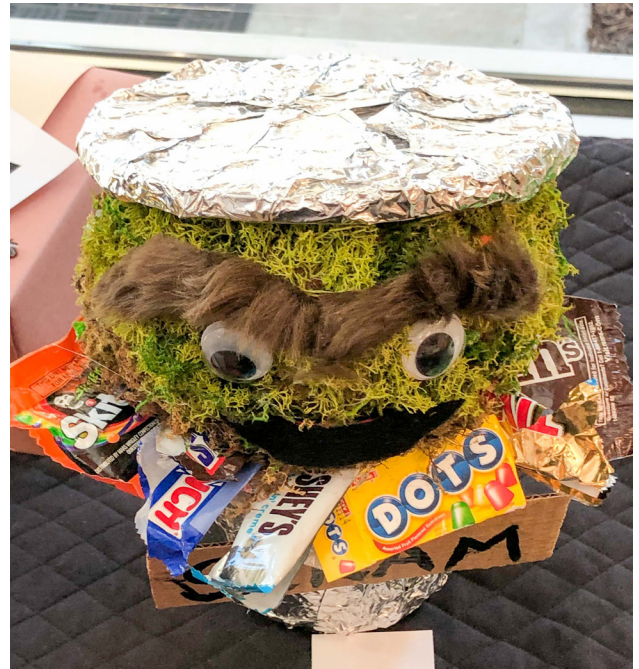
1st Place Finance
Monopoly Board

2nd Place GIS
Drone in Flight

3rd Place Public Works
Fall-Themed Turkey



Pumpkin Decorating Contest



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
Laynie Baer	11/04
Lee Weems	11/04
Christopher Haag	11/05
Lisa Davol	11/06
Annessa Glenn	11/07
Joshua Johnson	11/07
Allen Hawkins	11/08
Sam Smith	11/08
Jon Holden	11/10
Johnny Richards	11/10
Kirk Shook	11/12
Nicole Gueth	11/13
Lawton Stephens	11/14
Kayla Houseman	11/15
Ed Carson	11/27
Brittni 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 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.