



Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 7

July 2023



Administrative Building Opens to Public July 24

The opening date of the new Oconee County Administrative Building located at 7635 Macon Hwy, Watkinsville, is fast approaching. Offices re-locating to the new building will be closed to the public on Friday, July 21, as we transfer computer equipment and get set up for serving residents on Monday, July 24.

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting will be held on Tuesday, July 25, at 4:30 p.m. before the Regular BOC Meeting that evening. All Oconee County employees are welcome to attend.

Need to contact someone in their new office? Not to worry, all phone numbers for offices re-locating to the Administrative Building will remain the same.

Notes from IT

In this installment, we delve into the importance of multi-factor authentication (MFA) and how it strengthens security. As cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, multi-factor authentication is an extra layer of protection for your account credentials.

Understanding Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

In today's interconnected world, usernames and passwords alone are no longer sufficient to protect our accounts from unauthorized access. Cybercriminals employ various methods, such as phishing attacks and credential stuffing, to compromise user credentials and gain unauthorized entry into systems. This is where multi-factor authentication comes to the rescue.

MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring users to provide two or more different types of identification factors to access their accounts. These factors fall into three categories:

- **Something you know:** Typically, this refers to your password or a PIN.
- **Something you have:** This involves a physical token, such as a smart card, security key, or mobile device.
- **Something you are:** This includes biometric identifiers like fingerprints, facial recognition, or retinal scans.

By combining these factors, MFA significantly reduces the likelihood of unauthorized access, even if your password is compromised. Even if an attacker manages to obtain your password, they would still require the physical token or biometric data to gain access to your account.

Benefits of Multi-Factor Authentication

Using MFA to protect your accounts has the following benefits:

- **Enhanced Security:** MFA provides an additional layer of protection, making it significantly more difficult for attackers to breach our systems.
- **Mitigating Password-related Risks:** As MFA reduces reliance on passwords alone, it minimizes the impact of password-related risks, such as weak or reused passwords.
- **Compliance Requirements:** Many regulatory frameworks and industry standards mandate the use of MFA as a security best practice. Implementing MFA assists us in meeting these requirements.

Enabling MFA

At this point, MFA has been adopted by many applications and websites. For example, as a part of our Office 365 roll-out, we will work with each employee to set up MFA on their mobile device. Afterwards, when accessing your email you will be prompted for a code that will be pushed to your device.

If you have other systems you access that support MFA then steps to enable MFA can vary - but in general, you can usually find them in your account settings once logged in.

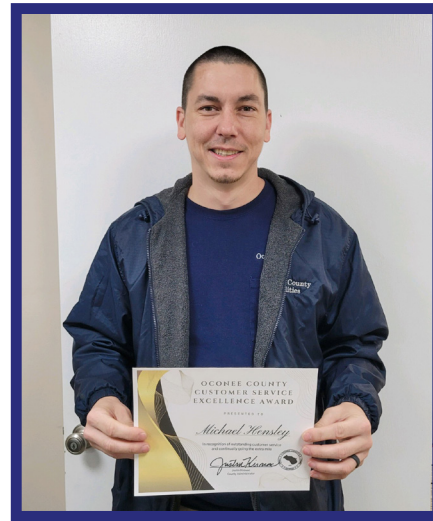
Remember, enabling MFA is a proactive step toward protecting your own data and Oconee County's systems. It is a simple yet powerful measure that ensures we stay ahead of potential threats.

Customer Service Superstars

Congrats Neang and Michael!

Congratulations to Neang Smith and Michael Hensley, both from the Facilities Department, who are the latest recipients of the Oconee County Customer Service Excellence Award!

Customer service superstars are recognized for going above and beyond every day to exceed the expectations of both internal and external clients. These individuals help keep our county thriving! To nominate an Oconee County Government employee for customer service excellence recognition, send us an email at oconeeconnects@oconee.ga.us.



Welcome!

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

Probate

Shelby Gabriel

Parks & Recreation

Jennifer Jones
Carly Russo

Tax Commissioner

DJ Starr Lowery
Kasarin Ward

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!

Administration

Justin Kirouac 07/31/2017

Finance

Kim Cramer 07/30/2018

Fleet Maintenance

Brandy Ervin 07/16/2001

IT

Justin Milligan 07/11/2022

Jail

Sheletha Pope 07/04/2016

Steve Allen 07/17/2017

William McCarthy 07/31/2017

Scotty Bodie 07/12/2021

Quintin Lowder 07/12/2021

Law Enforcement

Andrew Henderson 07/14/2014

Wade Higginbotham 07/21/2014

Matthew Pilcher 07/05/2016

Christopher Haag 07/12/2021

Amelia Willis 07/25/2022

Johnny Richards 07/27/2022

Magistrate

Richard Connelly 07/01/2016

Operations - Facilities/Maintenance

Neang Smith 07/27/1998

Michael Hensley 07/11/2022

Parks & Recreation

Tyler Hartzog 07/17/2017

Kelsey McDonough 07/18/2022

Bailey Wingrove 07/18/2022

Daniel Ramirez 07/19/2022

Planning/Code Enforcement

Gaby Bryan 07/10/2000

Probate

Kayla Houseman 07/27/2015

Property Appraisal

Diane Horvath 07/10/2000

Public Works

George Kull 07/02/2007

Allen Hawkins 07/18/2011

Charles Arlt 07/09/2018

Justin Dunaway 07/11/2022

Superior Court

Migdai Marin 07/06/2009

Stephen Wilson 07/23/2012

Michael Fitzpatrick 07/25/2022

Tax Commissioner

Marissa Rice 07/11/2022

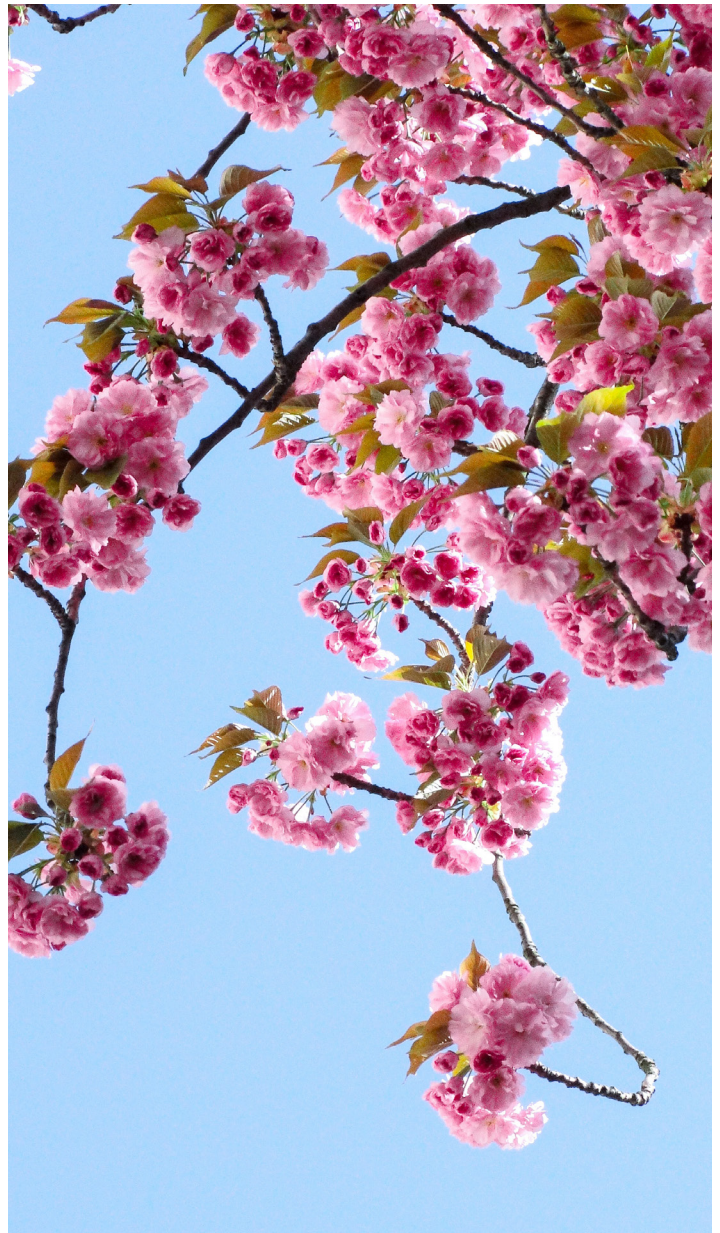
Water Resources

Lance Raines 07/03/2000

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!

David Knowles Jr.	07/01
Leon Ogletree	07/02
Diane Russell	07/03
Richard Jenkins	07/04
Carly Russo	07/04
DJ Starr Lowery	07/04
Noah Steele	07/08
Jake Thornton	07/08
Shawn Wheeler	07/08
Dennis Chaney	07/09
Quintin Lowder	07/09
Dillon Deal	07/12
Tommy Hewell	07/12
Kendra Freeman	07/13
Mark Smith	07/13
Jennifer Parker	07/14
Tim Rice	07/15
Isabella Rodriguez	07/19
Daniel Ellis	07/21
Stan Swisher	07/23
Vernon Craft	07/24
Amrey Harden	07/26
Dustin Mines	07/26
Russell Baker	07/29
Michael Hensley	07/29
Samuel Masters	07/29
Parker Middlebrooks	07/30



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.