

Early Voting Starts October 16 at the Administrative Building

Early voting for the City of Watkinsville General Election will be held October 16 through November 3 at the Oconee County Administrative Building. Voting hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday. There will also be two opportunities for Saturday voting, October 21 and October 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As the first early voting event in the new building, Elections staff will be using this election to establish procedures and protocols for future elections.



Registered voters who live within the city limits of Watkinsville are eligible to vote in this election. Voters must be registered by October 10.

Visit OconeeCounty.com/elections for more info.

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 20, 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 25, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., or at the Trick or Treat event on Main Street in Watkinsville on Tuesday, October 31, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and recycle those candy wrappers!

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 24
- November 7, 21
- December 5, 19
- January 2, 16, 30
- February 13, 27

Coming in November - Tire and Battery Amnesty - throughout the entire month of November, 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.

Welcome Elections Technician Noah Armstrong



Meet the new Elections Technician Noah Armstrong. Noah is from Oxford and joined the county on September 11. He previously worked in the film industry on various TV shows and movies.

“The people I’ve met here are so welcoming and kind,” Noah says. “A majority of my family has previously worked in the government, as well - we’re from Walton County.”

When he’s not at work, Noah enjoys watching and making films and is an avid collectible card game fan.

Be sure to stop by Elections and say “hello” to Noah!

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! This year’s theme is “A Storybook Christmas.”

A Kick-Off Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 11, at 10 a.m. in the Bishop Conference Room.

The committee will plan decorations for the Board of Commissioners vehicle that will take part in the Watkinsville parade on Sunday, December 3, and will gather on Friday, December 1, to decorate the truck.



Low time commitment, lots of fun, and a great way to get to know your colleagues!

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

Customer Service Superstars



Congratulations to our latest Customer Service Superstars, who work hard every single day to exceed the expectations of both internal and external clients!

Will Parks, Road Department

Will goes above and beyond in his duty as crew supervisor for the Road Department. He is extremely dedicated to Oconee County and its citizens to provide the best service possible. Thank you, Will, for keeping our infrastructure safe and keeping traffic flowing!

Julie Jackson, Probate Court

Julie makes the day better for everyone around her, and goes out of her way to help others. Thank you, Julie, for connecting on a personal level with both citizens and co-workers to put a smile on everyone's face!



HR News

Mark your calendars for these two upcoming wellness opportunities:

- The next **Physical Agility Test** will be held on 10/20/23 at Herman C. Michael Park from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up through Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4DA8A92EA2FC1-20231#/>
- **Flu Shot Clinic** will be held on 10/12/23 in the BOC Chambers from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sign up through Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4DA8A92EA2FC1-flushot#/>

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

Noah Steele

10/04/2021

Andrew Bishop

10/30/2022

Jail

Samuel Masters

10/07/2019

Matthew Lariscy

10/18/2021

Farris Johnson

10/03/2022

William Shields

10/17/2022

Public Safety

Jackie Rowell

10/02/2006

Brittany Anderson

10/24/2016

Superior Court

Leon Ogletree

10/21/2019

Law Enforcement

Sarah Groves

10/30/2013

Justin Cash

10/03/2016

Devan Blair

10/07/2019

Lex Ogan

10/05/2020

Tax Commissioner

Lisa Jackson

10/08/2007

Water Resources

Erin Carlton

10/12/2015

Baylee Silvey

10/19/2021

Jordan Silvey

10/03/2022

Parks & Recreation

DonL Bearden

10/11/1999

Jean Saint-Preux

10/23/2006

Welcome!

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

Elections

Noah Armstrong

Jail

Gabriel Fairbanks

Parks & Recreation

Natalie Aguirre

Laynie Baer

Zachery Green-Jackson

Emma Smith

Public Works

James Rogers

Tax Commissioner

Maggie Hill

Notes from IT

Strong Passwords: Quick Tips for Employees

Strong passwords are your first line of defense against cyber threats. As an employee, your commitment to creating, managing, and maintaining strong passwords is crucial for your personal security and for the security of your organization's data and systems. By following these best practices for password security, you contribute significantly to digital security for Oconee County Government.

Complexity Matters - include a combination of the following elements:

- Uppercase letters
- Lowercase letters
- Numbers
- Special characters (e.g., !, @, #, \$, %)

Length is Key - longer passwords are more secure; aim for a minimum of 12 characters, and consider using passphrases—a series of random words or a sentence—as they are both strong and easy to remember.

Avoiding Common Mistakes:

- Don't use easily guessable information like birthdays, names, or common phrases
- Avoid using consecutive keyboard patterns (e.g., "123456" or "qwerty")
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts

Regular Password Updates - change your passwords periodically, ideally every 90 days; frequent changes can thwart attackers who may have acquired your login credentials.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) - whenever possible, enable MFA on your accounts, which adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second authentication method, such as a temporary code sent to your phone.

Beware of Phishing - be cautious when asked to enter your password; verify the legitimacy of the request by double-checking the website's URL and ensuring it's an official login page.

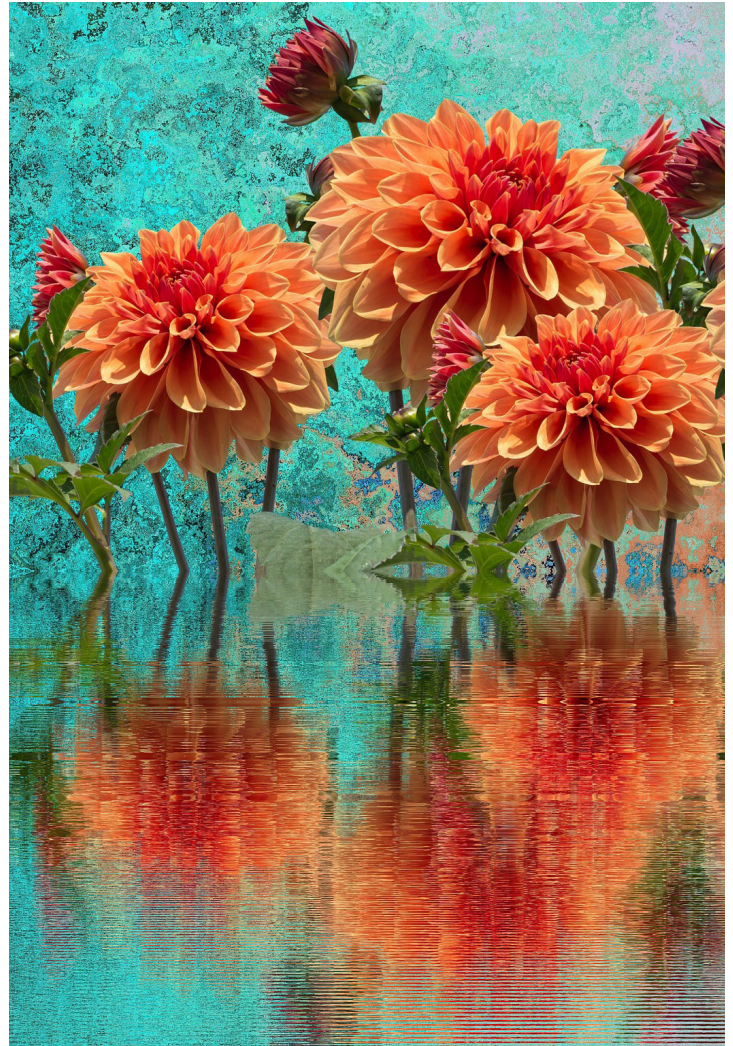
Education and Training - cybersecurity threats are always evolving, so keep up to date on cybersecurity news and best practices to stay safe both at work and at home.

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
Natalie Aguirre	10/06
Zach Churchill	10/06
Virginia Mitchell	10/07
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
Jayne Duerr	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
Jessica Hart	10/30
Nicole Locke	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.