



Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 6, No. 2

February 2024

Management Development Program Service Learning Project

The inaugural class of Oconee County's Management Development Program recently completed their service learning team project. This assignment was designed to address a current need in the county while allowing participants to use their current skill sets as well as grow new skills, as they provided a community-based service.

As a group, the class chose to partner with the Oconee County Senior to provide a donation to the Center's Rainy Day Fund. This fund helps seniors with emergency expenses that they would not otherwise be able to afford, such as water heater and minor HVAC repair.



The project raised \$1,800 dollars for the Rainy Day Fund through the sale of smoked Boston Butts, and was not only an overwhelming success, but an invaluable experience for all those involved.

Thank you, Management Development Program participants for giving back to the community!

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!

Animal Services

Kayla McAllister 02/13/2017

Board of Elections

Teresa Wallace 02/02/2016

Civic Center

Danny Cottar 02/25/2015

Clerk of Courts

Lesia Weaber 02/15/2000

E911/Communications

Deanna Smith 02/18/2008

Facilities

Tracye Bailey 02/26/1999

Finance

Donna Norton 02/15/1999

Human Resources

Beth Armstrong 02/03/2020

Jail

Candeda Ayers 02/18/2010

Lucas Peck 02/18/2013

Kloe Adriance 02/20/2023

Law Enforcement

James Hale 02/15/2000

Bradley Vaughn 02/22/2017

Steven Heckler 02/06/2023

William Reynolds 02/27/2023

Parks & Recreation

Andy Dunston 02/12/2018

Charles Massey 02/28/2020

Planning

Liz Smith 02/20/2013

Public Works

Debbie Smith 02/08/1999

Jody Woodall 02/19/2019

Richard Gutierrez 02/07/2022

Senior Center

Merry Howard 02/03/2014

Welcome!

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

Animal Services

Kevin Hearst Sr.

Parks & Rec

Molly Lee

Kathrine Servaes

Sheriff

William Lewis

Volunteer Opportunity

Heritage Park Invasive Species Removal

The last two volunteer work days of the season are coming up for the Invasive Species Removal Project at Heritage Park on February 13 and 27.

Gather your colleagues and spend some invigorating time in nature, as you help rid the park of Autumn Olive.

No previous training or experience is required and all tools will be provided.

Register at www.oconecounty.com/heritagepark.

We'd love to see you out there!!



INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL HERITAGE PARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2023 | 2024
WORK DAYS
706-769-3965

OCONEE COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

KOCB COMMISSION
FOR OCEANIC BUSINESS SERVICES

Athens Land Trust

Help with removing an invasive species from Heritage Park

<u>OCT</u> 24	<u>NOV</u> 7 & 21	<u>DEC</u> 5 & 19
<u>JAN</u> 2, 16, & 30	<u>FEB</u> 13 & 27	

9A-1P | Heritage Park

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.oconecounty.com/HeritagePark>

Notes from IT

Smart Email Practices to Outsmart Phishing Scams

This month, we're tackling an important aspect of our digital lives - phishing emails. These cleverly disguised emails can be more than just a nuisance; they can be a serious threat. But fear not! With a bit of knowledge and vigilance, we can all be champions in the fight against phishing.

Spotting the Hook: Identifying Phishing Emails

Phishing emails are like wolves in sheep's clothing, but here are some tips to spot them:

- **Surprises in Your Inbox:** If you receive an unexpected email requesting sensitive information or urgent action, take a moment to assess its legitimacy
- **Links and Attachments:** Approach links and attachments with caution, especially if they come from an unfamiliar source
- **Check the Sender:** A quick glance at the sender's email address can often reveal if it's genuine or a clever imitation
- **Grammar and Spelling:** Look out for poor grammar and spelling mistakes, common red flags in phishing emails
- **Generic Greetings:** Emails using vague greetings can often be mass phishing attempts

Practical Tips for Email Safety

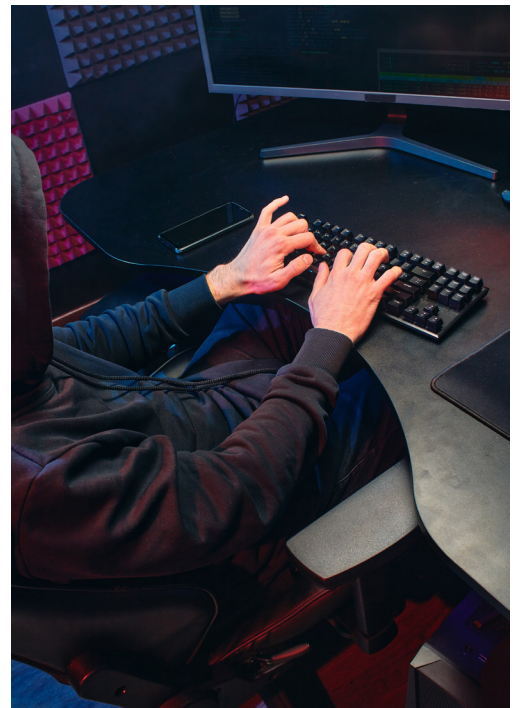
- **Listen to Your Instincts:** If something in an email doesn't feel right, it's worth a second look
- **Verify Suspicious Emails:** If unsure, verify the email's authenticity by contacting the sender through other means
- **Stay Informed:** Phishing tactics constantly evolve, so keeping abreast of the latest trends is a smart move

Fun Fact to Ponder

Did you know that a significant percentage of cyberattacks start with a simple phishing email? It goes to show how staying alert with emails is not just about avoiding spam; it's about protecting our entire digital ecosystem.

In Conclusion

Navigating the world of phishing emails doesn't have to be daunting. With a little caution and a good dose of awareness, we can all play a pivotal role in safeguarding our digital space. Keep safe and stay alert!



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!

Christi Bittle	02/01
Calvin Ranker	02/03
Alexus Hopkins	02/05
Bethany Bryant	02/07
Danny Cottar	02/08
Robert Elder	02/08
William Reynolds	02/08
Joy Chambers	02/09
Lucas Peck	02/10
Edwyna Arey	02/13
Andrew Henderson	02/13
Jonathan Sturm	02/13
Stacy Carson	02/14
Pat Sebring	02/14
Johnnie Williams	02/15
Matthew Lariscy	02/16
Amanda Mauldin	02/19
Kim Cramer	02/21
Linda Patterson	02/21
Richard Gutierrez	02/22
Donna Norton	02/22
Shawna Benson	02/23
Josh Cartey	02/23
Tyler Hartzog	02/23
John Ogle	02/24
Diane Baggett	02/26
Brian Wilson	02/27
Deanna Smith	02/28



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