

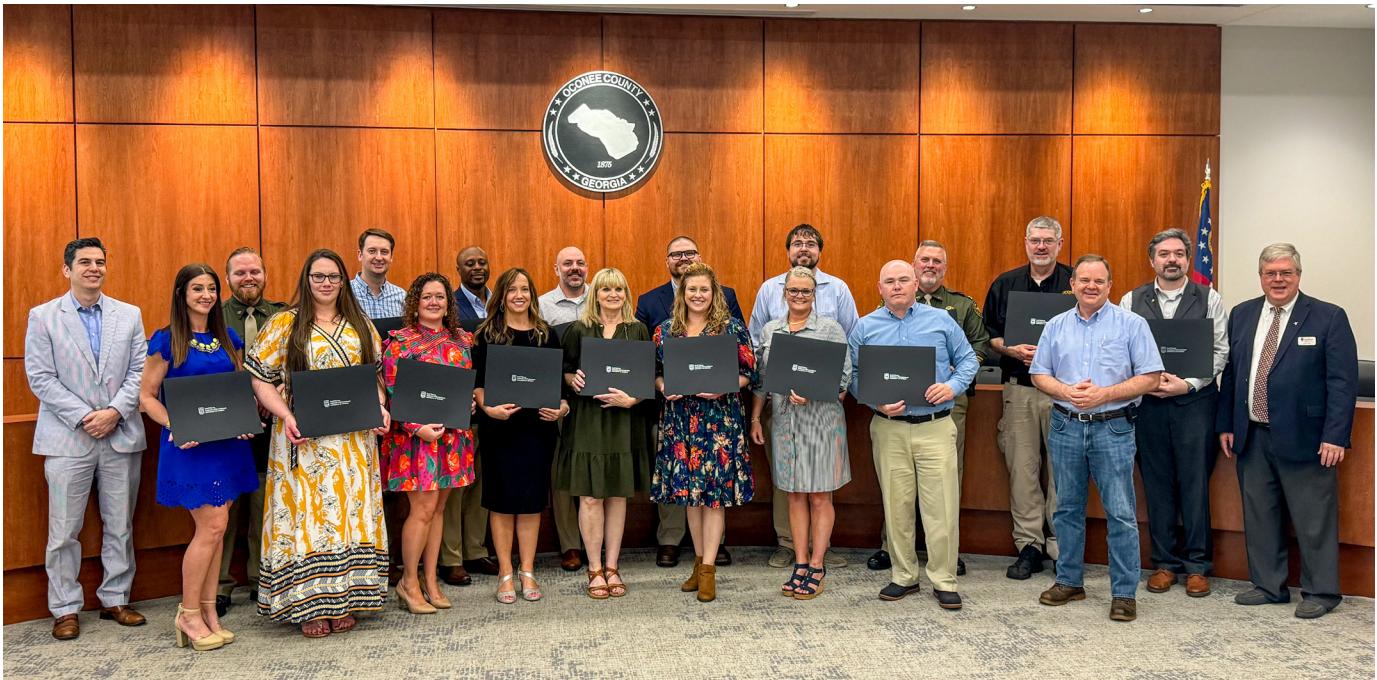


# Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

Volume 6, No. 5

May 2024

## Congrats MDP Grads!



Participants in Oconee County Government's inaugural Management Development Program gathered for a graduation ceremony at the Oconee County Administrative Building in April. This nationally recognized program offered by UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government provides a highly-interactive comprehensive management and leadership program focused on developing skills and knowledge critical to efficient local government services. Program graduates put in many hours of study over the past nine months in both classwork and individual and group projects aimed at helping our government work better and improving the lives of residents.

# Welcome!

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

## Facilities

Michael Hensley

## Jail

Nicholas Chavis

## Parks & Recreation

Sarah Glick

Michael Greene

Alexander Hamby

John Johnson

Christina Starr

## Roads

Zuri Jewell

## HR News

## Deadline to Complete Wellness Points Is May 31

All Wellness Points must be completed by May 31 in order to receive the discounted rate starting July 1, 2024.

If you need additional points, self-study classes are available! Contact Sandy Broyles for more info at 706-475-5629 or [sandra.broyles@piedmont.org](mailto:sandra.broyles@piedmont.org).



# Notes from IT

## Embracing Change and Innovation in Our Digital Tools

In this month's "Notes from IT," I want to take a moment to discuss something that affects us all: the constant evolution of the digital tools we use at work. As we continue to embrace new technologies, understanding how to adapt and make the most of these changes can significantly enhance our work experience and productivity.

1. The Power of Embracing New Technologies: Technology is ever-changing, and with each update or new tool comes the potential to streamline our workflows, enhance communication, and make our data more secure. Embracing these changes doesn't just mean learning to use new programs—it means recognizing the opportunity to do our jobs better and more efficiently.
2. Overcoming the Fear of the Unknown: It's natural to feel a bit overwhelmed by new software or tech solutions. However, viewing these as tools for empowerment rather than hurdles can transform our approach. Each new skill you acquire not only adds to your professional toolkit but also boosts your confidence and ability to adapt to future changes.
3. Learning and Growth Opportunities: Each update or new tool is a chance to learn. Whether it's a new feature in familiar software like Outlook or a completely new platform like Teams, becoming familiar with the latest tech can help you be more efficient. Remember, every expert was once a beginner, and the more you learn, the more proficient you'll become.
4. Collaboration and Support: You're not in this alone. If you're finding a new tool difficult to understand, reach out. Chances are, you're not the only one who feels this way. Together, we can learn and help each other improve, creating a more capable organization.
5. Feedback Loop: Your feedback on new technologies is invaluable. IT doesn't just implement new tools; we rely on your experiences to gauge their effectiveness. If something isn't working as well as it should, let us know. This feedback loop helps us fine-tune our systems to better meet our needs.

The tools we use may evolve, but our goal remains the same: to serve our community as effectively as possible. Here's to becoming more adaptable, skilled, and united in our mission.

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!

Russ Henson	05/02
Jill Faulkner	05/04
Kyle Gallagher	05/04
Jenna Pulliam	05/04
Jeremy Register	05/04
Mark Barber	05/05
Teresa Ebel	05/07
Joshua Morgan	05/07
Nhi Hylton	05/08
Scotty Bodie	05/11
Abbey Ivy	05/11
Teresa Wallace	05/14
Gaby Bryan	05/15
Baer Schiffer	05/15
Nico Carter	05/19
Sarah Glick	05/19
Lisa Lott	05/19
Kyliegh Carrera	05/20
Kyle Davis	05/22
Dean Sutton	05/25
Matt Towe	05/25
Daniel Queen	05/26
Cliff Threadgill	05/26
Beth Armstrong	05/27
Kyle Stephens	05/27
Maggie Hill	05/29
Starr Wright	05/29
Justin Dunaway	05/30
Danial White	05/31



# 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!

## Clerk of Courts

Michelle Coker	05/17/2004
Cassie Swisher	05/07/2018

## Civic Center

Starr Wright	05/31/2011
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## County Clerk

Holly Stephenson	05/24/2021
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## Facilities

Josh Cartey	05/02/2022
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## Finance

Melissa Braswell	05/30/2017
Kari Giddens	05/31/2022

## Jail

David Gueth	05/31/2004
Chrystal Custis	05/15/2023

## Law Enforcement

Matthew Wainwright	05/06/2019
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## Parks & Recreation

Stephen Richwine	05/23/2016
Zach Churchill	05/06/2019
Andrew Bishop	05/17/2021
Clint Kitchens	05/12/2022

## Probate

Shelby Gabriel	05/30/2023
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## Property Appraisal

Donna Fee	05/14/2019
Rachel Smith	05/01/2023

## Public Safety

John Ogle	05/21/2012
Bethany Bryant	05/01/2023

## Public Works

Teresa Ebel	05/21/2012
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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](mailto: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.