



Oconee County Connections Employee Newsletter

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Faces of Oconee

Meet Tristen Thomas!

Tristen serves as our Management Analyst! He joined the county in February 2024 and is a graduate of North Oconee High School and the University of Georgia with a degree in Finance. He currently lives in Athens and enjoys woodworking and reading when he is not in the office.

Tristen says his favorite thing about working at Oconee County is being able to work with individuals

in all departments and seeing the diversity of thoughts and ideas in everyone's perspective.

"Tristen brings a great combination of intelligence, enthusiasm, and a genuine interest in understanding people and processes," says County Administrator Justin Kirouac. "As we work on continuous improvement in our operations, Tristen will provide a great resource for the county."

Thank you, Tristen, for all you do for Oconee County!



Welcome to the Team

Animal Services

Chelsey Grayson

Parks and Recreation

Lorenza Adams
Rayleigh Smith
Jack Wahlers

Road Department

Kyler Daigle

Water Resources

Jeffrey Sheats

SeeClickFix for Employees!

See an Issue, Report an Issue

Use SeeClickFix to report problems and submit service requests quickly and conveniently!

SeeClickFix is a free mobile and web-based app you can use to report non-emergency issues within the county's jurisdiction.

Upload pictures, videos, and detailed descriptions. These will be routed to appropriate department for completion, with updates available along the way.

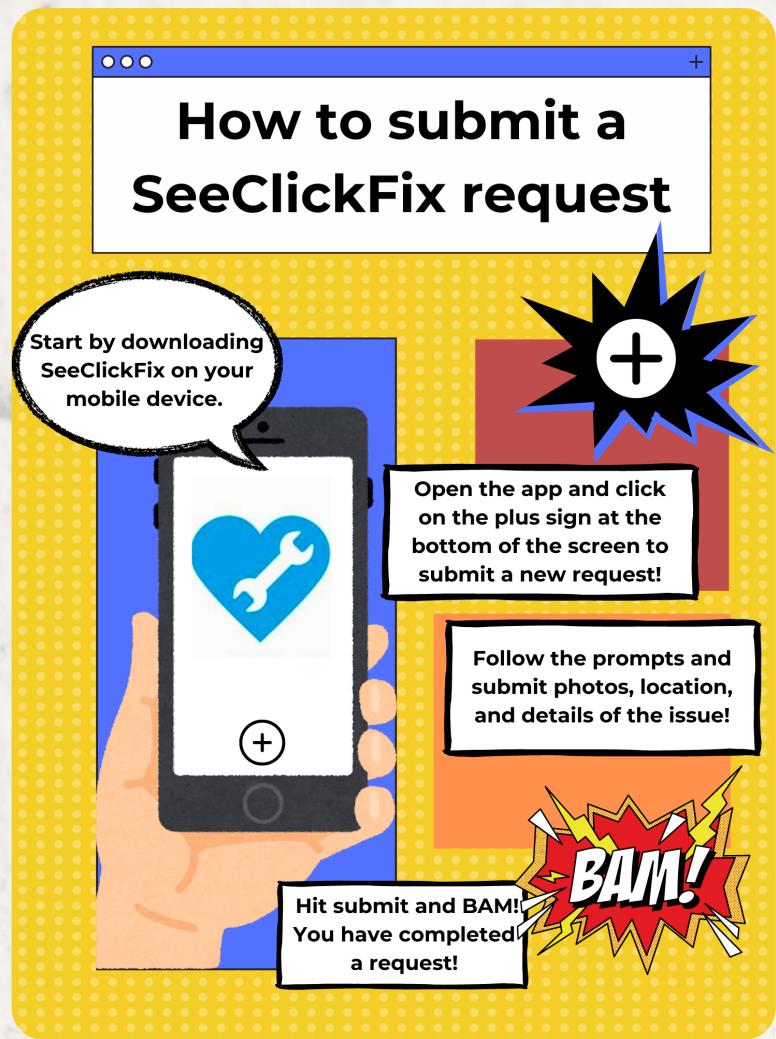
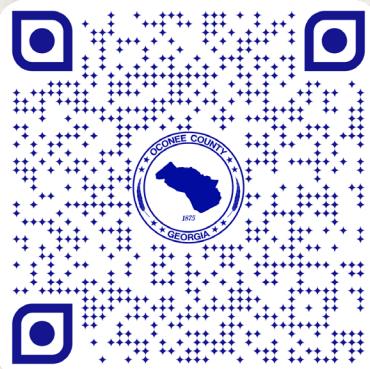
How You Can Help!

Employees may see a reportable issue before citizens! Reporting what you see helps the county respond faster!

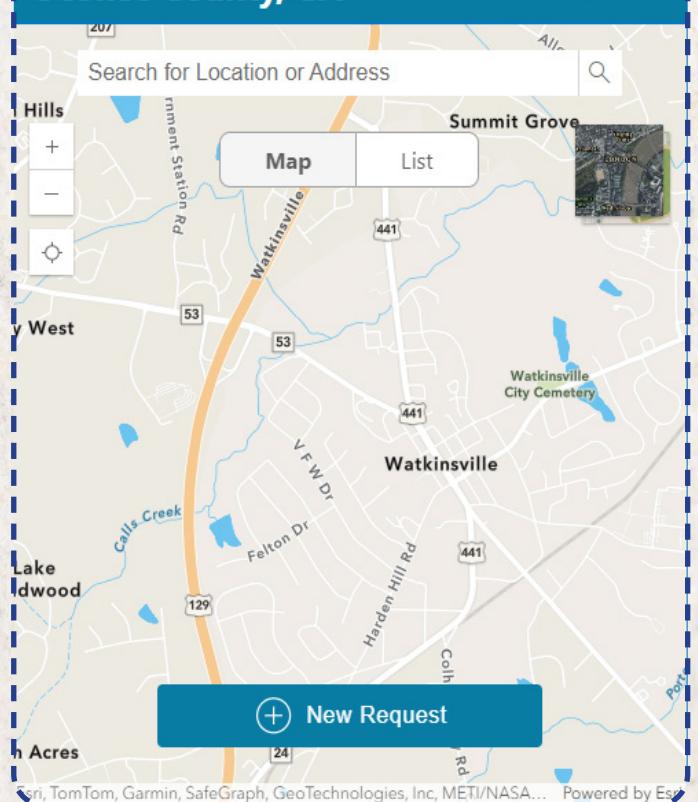
You can report issues like:

- Road/Traffic concerns
- Litter/Dumping
- Code violations
- Water quality and water meters

You can also get county alerts and see what others already reported



Oconee County, GA





OCTOBER IS BAT APPRECIATION MONTH!

A partnership between Oconee County Cooperative Extension, Oconee County Parks & Recreation, and Keep Oconee County Beautiful, the Oconee County Bat Festival will feature informational talks by bat experts from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and University of Georgia, museum specimens, kids activities, a bat costume contest, and a new bat-themed display by a local artist.

Keep Oconee County Beautiful provided funding for construction of bat houses and a Little Library housing educational materials through a Kate McDaniel Grant. Keep Oconee County Beautiful also recycled plastic film to earn a TREX bench for the viewing area and funded the artwork, which provides education about bat myths and facts.

When?

Monday, October 14 from 3-7 pm

Where?

Heritage Park
2543 Macon Hwy
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Activities

- ! Talk with bat experts
- ! See museum specimens
- ! Kid's activities
- ! Bat costume contest
- ! Display by local artist!
- ! Free hotdog meals (while supplies last)
- ! Door prizes giveaway!

For more info

Contact ANR Agent,
Carsen Dean

Phone: 706-542-7078

Email: crd72388@uga.edu

From the IT Workroom: Human Firewall

What Is a ‘Human Firewall’? You may have heard of this term in your Security Training this year, so let’s dive into it!

A firewall scans and identifies threats/potentially malicious actions on a network. It acts like a security guard, checking the traffic flowing in and out from our network, based on a set of rules it has been given. It’s an essential part of any safe network! When you take your time to ensure someone’s badge is scanned for access to a secure location, or you reach out to IT to check on a suspicious file you received, you’re acting as a Human Firewall. Not only are you protecting yourself by thinking critically about an email requesting your credentials, but you’re also protecting everyone here at the county by playing it safe if something feels suspicious!

We can’t stress enough how valuable it is to hone this skill, as cyber-crime is always evolving. We can have the best equipment in the industry, or the best IT staff in the world (we’d like to think so!), but it all depends on your ability to discern a legitimate source from a potential threat.



We’re grateful for every request we get to look over any security concerns and welcome all questions on how to better your growing skill as a Human Firewall!

Feel like you’re ready to brush up on your skills? Check out the phish email sample below to see how you can identify the red flags in your email’s inbox.

-IT Department

The image shows a phish email from DocuSign. The email header includes:

- From: DocuSign <noreply@notice-docusign.com>
- Reply-To: DocuSign <noreply@notice-docusign.com>
- Subject: Apex Industries Inc. sent you a document
- Attachment: [Remittance Advice.docx](#)

Annotations on the left side highlight:

- Email domain is spoofing a popular website or well-known organization.
- Tells you to click a link or view an attachment.

Annotations on the right side highlight:

- Attachment possibly has a dangerous file extension.
- Hover over the link. Link will not take you to where it says it will.

The email body contains:

- DocuSign logo
- Text: "Apex Industries Inc. sent you a document to review and sign."
- Link: [VIEW COMPLETED DOCUMENT](#)
- Text: "Please see the attached (DocuSign) Remittance Advice for Inv # [random_number_04]."
- Text: "For any statement or billing-related inquiries, please reach out to Supplier AR representative or Marketing Manager."
- Text: "Log in to your account to view invoice billing statement."

DocuSign, Inc.

Human Resources Scoop

Upcoming Events for Employees!

October 4th- Tailgate Food Truck Party:

We will have a tailgate catered by The Varsity from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in the back parking lot of the Administrative building. One entrée (hamburger or hot dog) and one side (fries or onion rings) and a bottle of water. We will have gluten free buns and regular Lays potato chips available for those with allergies. We also ask for employees to let us know of any other allergies. Please check your email for a Sign-Up Genius form (check spam/junk email too if not in regular inbox)

October 17th- Flu Shot Clinic

Flu shot clinic 9 am - 10 am in the North High Shoals Conference Room at the Administrative building. Employees will need a copy of their insurance card and the forms that are being sent out. Please check your email for a Sign-Up Genius (check spam/junk email too if not in regular inbox)

October 31st- Halloween in Watkinsville

Halloween festivities will be held in downtown Watkinsville. If anyone would like to help hand out candy contact Beth or Jill at 706-769-3938 for more information.

October 4th Tailgate Food Truck

October 17th Flu Shot Clinic

October 31st Halloween in Watkinsville



Around the County



Greatest American Cleanup

The Oconee County Board of Commissioners presented the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission (KOCBC) with a proclamation in honor of its work on Keep America Beautiful's Greatest American Cleanup. The Greatest American Cleanup is a two-year event focused on helping the entire country look clean, green, and beautiful for the 250th anniversary of its founding. KOCBC has committed to organizing new community cleanups, additional reduce, reuse, recycle, and beautification events, and holding an event to celebrate group progress and achievements as it works to help the United States look its best on July 4, 2026.

First Responder's Day- October 28th

October 28th is National First Reponder's Day! Make sure to thank all the first responders in Oconee County for all their hardwork!



Senior Center Month

October is National Senior Center Month, and, to celebrate we are highlighting our amazing Senior Center!

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), Senior Centers, recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as a community focal point, are one of the most widely used services among America's older adults. Today, more than 11,000 senior centers serve more than 1 million older adults every day in their communities and neighborhoods.

Visit <https://www.oconeecounty.com/1234/Senior-Center> for more information about the Senior Center's programs and activities.

Invasive Plant Removal- Voulneters Needed

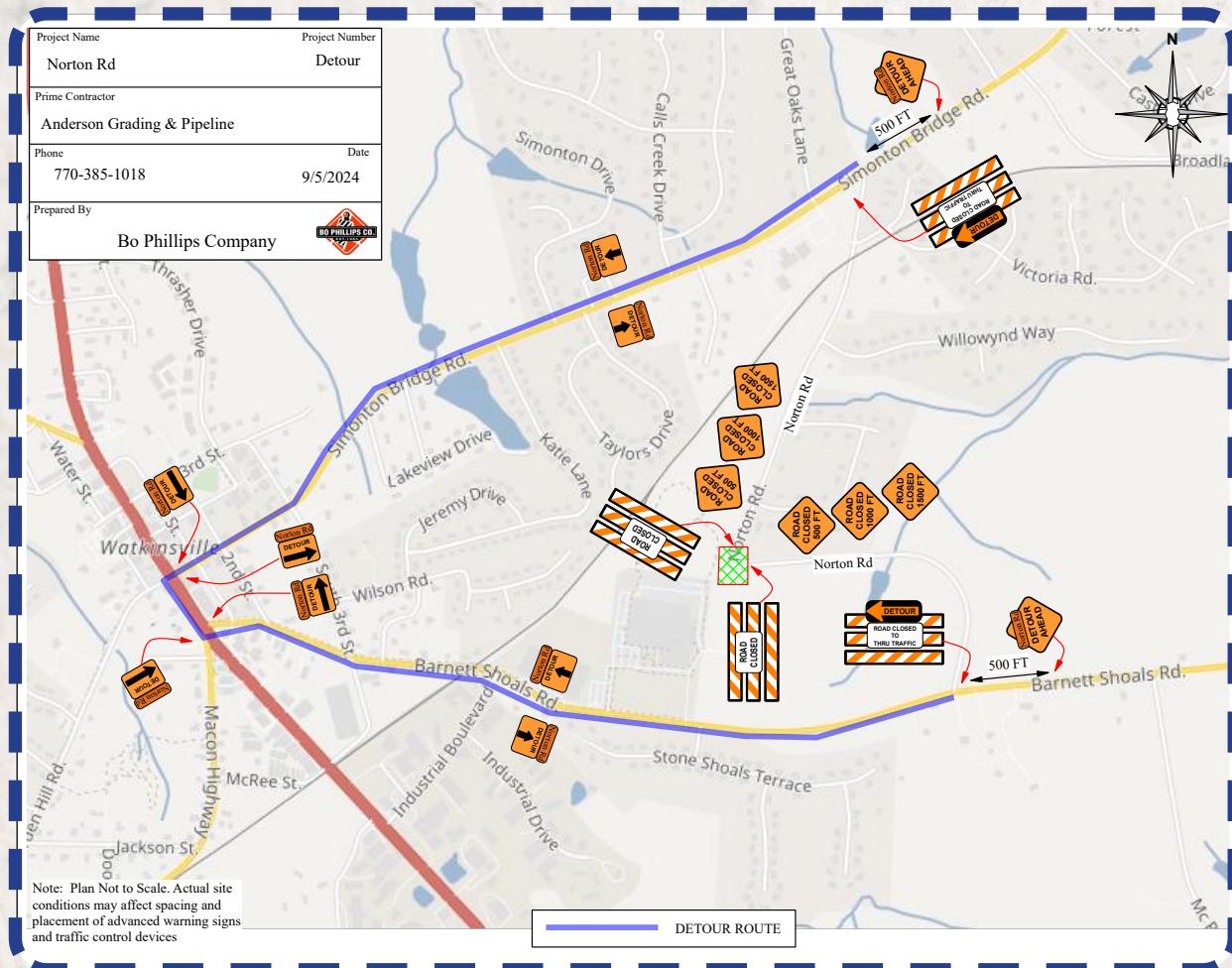
The Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department and the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission, in partnership with Athens Land Trust and Kel-Mac Saddle Club, will host Invasive Species Plant Removal Work Days at Heritage Park this fall and winter. Work days will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. The upcoming dates for October are the 8th and 22nd!

Registration is required for this event. For more information or to register online, visit www.oconeecounty.com/heritgepark. Heritage Park is located at 2543 Macon Highway, Watkinsville.



Traffic Advisory!

The City of Watkinsville plans to install a roundabout on Norton Road in conjunction with Wire Park Phase 3 Development. To accomplish this, a traffic detour will be in operation from October 2 to October 9.





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

Finance

Joy Chambers 10/16/2023

Jail

Kyle Gallagher 10/30/2023
John Young 10/16/2023
Samuel Masters 10/07/2019

Law Enforcement

Seth McCart 10/16/2023
Matthew Lariscy 10/18/2021
Lex Ogan 10/05/2020
Devan Blair 10/07/2019
Justin Cash 10/03/2016
Sarah Groves 10/30/2013

Parks & Recreation

Jean Saint-Preux 10/23/2006

Public Works

Zachary Anglin 10/30/2023
Samuel Hammond 10/30/2023

Superior Court

Leon Ogletree 10/21/2019

Water Resources

Erin Carlton 10/12/2015
Baylee Silvey 10/19/2021
Jordan Silvey 10/03/2022

Planning/Code Enforcement

David Webb 10/30/2023

Probate

Ginny King 10/02/2000

Public Safety

Jackie Rowell 10/02/2006
Brittany Anderson 10/24/2015



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	Cassie Swisher	10/19
Natalie Aguirre	10/06	Brittany Uankum	10/20
Zach Churchill	10/06	David Burchett	10/21
Virginia Mitchell	10/07	Lee Hiland	10/23
Justin Kirouac	10/11	Holly Stephenson	10/23
Payton Massey	10/13	Joann Hubert	10/24
Patricia McLaughlin	10/13	Jody Woodall	10/25
C.J. Worden	10/14	Susan Tidwell	10/27
Charity Bell	10/16	Marti Hardigree	10/28
Susie Carlton-Gordon	10/19	Haven Newbold	10/29
Jayne Duerr	10/19	Jessica Hart	10/30
Maggie Hubert	10/19	David Compton	10/31
Lisa Park	10/19	Debbie Smith	10/31
Christina Starr	10/19		

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.