

Oconee County Connections

Employee Newsletter



Volume 7, No. 1

January 2025



happy new year

Bring on the Chipper

Recycle your Christmas trees to turn into mulch.

Thomas Farm Preserve

Check out the Thomas Farms Preserve Park in Watkinsville!

From the IT Workroom

Accessing the Employee Intranet

Human Resources Scoop

Holiday Closures and 2025 Calendar

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Welcome to the Team



E-911
Jennifer Farmer

Property Appraisal
Bailey Wingrove

Volunteer Outreach

Athens Diaper Bank Outreach

Oconee County partnered with Athens Area Diaper Bank in December for a drive to collect diapers for local families in need and provide an opportunity for employees to give back to the community. The team worked efficiently to sort, pack, and distribute diapers with over 31,000 diapers being distributed that day! This initiative provided essential good to families in need, addressing a critical item for infants and toddlers that many low-income households struggle to afford.

Thank you to everyone that came out to volunteer and all who donated to the diaper drive. Be on the look out for more volunteer opportunities in 2025!



Employee Holiday Luncheon

Holiday Door Contest Winner:
Planning and Code Enforcement

**Ugly Christmas Sweater
Contest Winner:**
Shirley Finch

The Holiday Luncheon 2024 was a great event! A huge thank you to the Civic Center for hosting the annual luncheon and the decorating committee for helping set up the event!



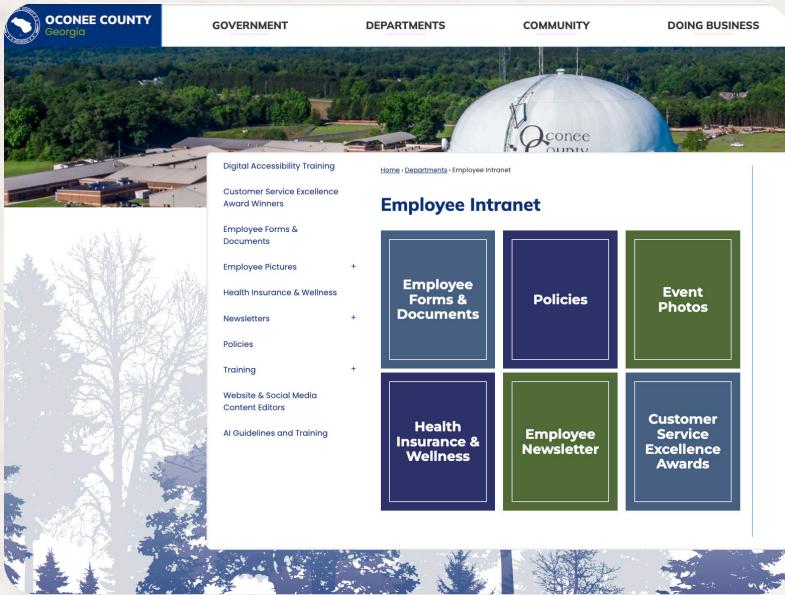
Employee Holiday Committee

A huge thank you to the Holiday Decorating Committee for their incredible work this season! Their creativity brought to life a beautiful float for the Watkinsville City Christmas Parade and transformed the main lobby of the Administrative Building into a festive holiday display.

Decoration Committee Members:

Shawna Benson
Jessica Ellis
Amanda Mauldin
Amanda Shelton
Debbie Smith
Holly Stephenson
Jesika Stock





From the IT Workroom

Accessing the Employee Intranet

Happy New Year from the IT Department!

With the new year comes new experiences, and what better way to start it off than by exploring resources that are actively available to you! Check out the Employee Intranet, accessible on www.oconeecounty.com under the "Departments" tab.

Key features of the intranet:

- Customer Service Excellence award recipients
- Photos of our county employee events
- Current and past newsletters
- Details on medical plans and the wellness program
- Employee policies
- Links to the work order systems for Fleet, Facilities, and IT
- Forms for Finance

Let us know if you have suggestions for additions to the Employee Intranet!

If you need login credentials for the intranet, please email Sarah Baird or Diane Baggett or create an IT helpdesk ticket.

Use this step-by-step guide to access the intranet:
[How to Access the Employee Intranet Guide](#)

We hope everyone has a productive and successful 2025!

Human Resources Scoop

Calendar Reminders:

Jan 1: New Year's Day

Jan 20: Martin Luther King Jr Day

2025 Calendar

Add these dates for your 2025 Calendar!

New Year's Day

January 1

Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 20

Memorial Day

May 26

Independence Day

July 4

Labor Day

September 1

Thanksgiving

November 27 & 28

Christmas Eve and Day

December 24 & 25

Oconee County Board of Commissioners



2025

Bi-Weekly Payroll & Holiday Calendar

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Dates in **GREEN** are paydays. Dates in **BLUE** are County observed holidays.



Thomas Farms Preserve Now Open

The City of Watkinsville celebrated the opening of Thomas Farms Preserve on December 14. The new park is located just inside the city limits along Simonton Bridge Road, includes more than 1/3 of a mile of frontage along Calls Creek, more than 60 acres of open pasture, 33 acres of woodlands, and two ponds.

Check out the newly opened park for some fresh air and spectacular views!

Around the County

Bring One for the Chipper

Keep Oconee County Beautiful (KOCBC) is sponsoring Bring One for the Chipper 2024 now through the end of January as part of a statewide effort to recycle Christmas trees. Drop-off for undecorated, live trees will be at all five Oconee County Waste and Recycling Sites until January 4 during regular business hours. We will have tree saplings and seed packets on January 4. If you take your tree down later than the January 4, please take the tree to the Hwy 441 location for the month of January.

This annual event continues 30 years of tradition of actively participating in environmental education and stewardship by providing drop-off points in the community. The Christmas trees are recycled by chipping them into mulch for use in landscaping, or by using them as fish or animal habitats.





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](#)

Kevin Hearst 01/03/2024

[Clerk of Courts](#)

Jenna Pulliam 01/24/2022

[Coroner](#)

Ed Carson 01/01/2009

[E-911](#)

Yashica West 01/19/2016

[Fleet Maintenance](#)

Jeremy Register 01/24/2022

[Jail](#)

Todd Gabriel 01/11/2008

Matt Towe 01/13/2020

[Law Enforcement](#)

Mark Smith 01/25/2010

Kenji Dorsey 01/01/2017

[Parks and Recreation](#)

Kaitlyn Rainey 01/30/2023

Molly Lee 01/16/2024

[Property Appraisal](#)

Chris Neal 01/14/2013

[Senior Center](#)

Shirley Finch 01/28/2013

Emily Deal 01/09/2023

[Superior Court](#)

Jennifer Parker 01/03/2017

Mandi Ellis 01/01/2019

Kelli Bardner 01/01/2019

[Tax Commissioner](#)

Jennifer Riddle 01/01/2006

[Tourism & Visitors Bureau](#)

Joann Hubert 01/21/2020



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!

Stephen Wilson	01/02	Krista Dorsey	01/19
Tristen Thomas	01/04	Jacob Hathaway	01/22
Chris Neal	01/07	Jordan Silvey	01/22
Greg Prater	01/08	Stephen Stuchell	01/22
David Webb	01/08	Stephen Baker	01/23
Adam Layfield	01/09	Julie Jackson	01/23
Jackie Rowell	01/12	Noah Armstrong	01/24
William Lewis	01/13	Annie Stephenson	01/24
Robert Perrin	01/13	Jeremy Wasdin	01/24
Dwayne Collins	01/14	Migdai Marin	01/27
Anna Leigh Hardigree	01/14	Chrystal Custis	01/28
Melissa Braswell	01/16	Eric Norris	01/28
Julius Floyd	01/16	Jennifer Jones	01/29
Ginger Thrasher	01/16	Jessica Ellis	01/30
Bruce Thaxton	01/17		

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.