

# Oconee County Connections

## Employee Newsletter



Volume 7, No. 2

February 2025

### KOCBC Helps Civic Center Recycle

KOCBC assists in recycling old equipment

### Human Resources Scoop

Love Your Neighbor Food Drive for the month of February

### From the IT Workroom

How to set up/change your voicemail

### 150th Birthday for Oconee

Oconee's Founding Birthday Bash will be February 22.

# Issue Index

1	Cover Page
2	Issue Index
3	Welcome to the Team Crisis Coordinator, Sarah
4	KOCBC Helps Civic Center Recycle
5	From the IT Workroom How to Change Your Voicemail
6	HR Scoop Love Your Neighbor Food Drive
7	Around the County Thank you Public Works and more...
8	Oconee's 150th Birthday Bash
9	Employee Anniversaries
10	Employee Birthdays

# Welcome to the Team



## Jail

Brenden Brown  
Joseph Harris  
Daniel Rainwater  
Jason Toledo

## Parks and Rec

Adam Bihi  
Jordan Smith

## Sheriff's Office

Robert McCannon  
Mark Watson



# Congrats Sarah Baird



## Crisis Coordinator Training

Congrats to Sarah Baird on earning Crisis Coordinator and Crisis Coach certification through CrisisRisk. This training is provided to county governments by ACCG in order to increase skill in effectively identifying, addressing, and mitigating crisis events in local government.

# KOCBC Helps Civic Center Recycle

The Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission recently teamed up with the Oconee Civic Center to recycle and re-purpose old equipment and supplies.

Four truckloads of materials were donated to the Teacher Reuse Store in Athens, where teachers from fourteen surrounding counties can shop for free supplies to benefit their classrooms.

Thanks to this effort, over two tons of metal and more than a ton of cardboard were diverted from the landfill showing what can be accomplished when we work together for a greener future.

If your department is in need of a clean out please contact Cindy Pritchard with the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission at [kocbc@oconee.ga.us](mailto:kocbc@oconee.ga.us) to get your recycle journey started today!



# From the IT Workroom

## How to Change Your Voicemail

Did you know that setting up or changing voicemail on your desk phone can be done with minimal IT assistance? Here's a quick guide to get you started.

### 1. Access Voicemail

Pick up your desk phone and push the voicemail button (The cassette tape image for new models or the envelope image for older models).

### 2. Enter PIN

When prompted, enter your 4 digit PIN. If you have forgotten the PIN or need a new one please email the [ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us](mailto:ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us) to have someone in IT assist in setting up a new PIN.

### 3. Navigate Voicemail to Change Name

To change your “Recorded Name”  
(The name you hear when you first dial your PIN)

Dial 4 for “Set Up Options”

Dial 3 for “Preferences”

Dial 2 for “Recorded Name” and say your name at the tone. Save the recording once you’re satisfied by hitting pound (#).

### 4. Set Your Voicemail Greetings

To change your voicemail greetings repeat step 1 and step 2, then:

Dial 4 for “Set Up Options”

Dial 1 for “Greeting”

(This is where the phone will play the current voicemail you have set up, you will need to only update the “Standard Greeting” for the main voicemail, but you can choose others)

Dial 1 to record a new greeting at the tone. Once you are done hit the pound (#) to finish.

### 5. Test Your Voicemail

Call your desk phone from another line, leave a message, and check that your greeting plays and the voicemail works.

If these steps do not work and the voicemail is not updating please reach out to IT for assistance. We are happy to help!

Cisco Older Model Voicemail



Cisco Newer Model Voicemail



# Human Resources Scoop

## Calendar Reminders:

Feb 1-28: Collect for Food Drive

### Love Your Neighbor Food Drive

Oconee County Government is partnering with the Oconee Area Resource Council for the “Love Your Neighbor Food Drive” this February. We are collecting macaroni and cheese cups to help local families in need.

#### Drop-off Location:

Oconee County Administrative Building  
7635 Macon Highway  
Front Desk Receptionist (during regular business hours)

For questions, contact Jill Faulkner at ext. 3938 or [jfaulkner@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jfaulkner@oconee.ga.us).

Thank you for your support!



## Mac and Cheese Cups



Thank you for supporting Food for Kids!  
Learn more at [www.oconeeconnection.org](http://www.oconeeconnection.org)



## Around the County

### Thank you Road Crew for your Hard Work!

A huge thank you to our dedicated Road Crew, working tirelessly in all conditions to get traffic moving safely! The crew worked not one but two snow storms within two weeks of each other. We appreciate you and the entire Public Works Department!

### ADA Help Open Office Hours

Need help with creating ADA accessible PDFs and documents? The Communications office will be holding open office hours on Mondays from 9 AM- 10:30 AM. If you need to schedule a time outside these hours please contact Diane Baggett at [dbaggett@oconee.ga.us](mailto:dbaggett@oconee.ga.us).

### Invasive Plant Removal-Volunteers 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 winter. Work days will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. The upcoming dates for February are the 11th and 25th!

Registration is required for this event but no experience needed! For more information or to register online, visit [www.oconeecounty.com/heritagelpark](http://www.oconeecounty.com/heritagelpark). Heritage Park is located at 2543 Macon Highway, Watkinsville.





# OCONEE'S 150th BIRTHDAY BASH!

**Saturday, February 22, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
**The William Daniell House, 1070 Founders Blvd. Athens, GA**

**FOOD TRUCKS | HISTORIC RE-ENACTORS | SCAVENGER HUNTS**

**Opening Ceremony will begin at 10:30AM**

- Browse Booths with Historical Documents and Photos
- Enjoy Oconeé's Very Own Famous Hot Thomas BBQ Food Truck
- Interact with Historical Re-Enactors
- Participate in Scavenger Hunts for Prizes
- Watch Live Demonstrations and So Much More!
- Come As You Are OR to Ramp up the fun come Dressed In Your Best Historical Costume!



HOSTED BY THE WILLIAM DANIELL SOCIETY, CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, REVEREND JOHN ANDREW CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND VISIT OCONEE.



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!

Administration

Tristen Thomas 02/19/2024

Animal Services

Kayla McAllister 02/13/2017

Board of Elections

Teresa Wallace 02/02/2016

Clerk of Courts

Lesia Weaber 02/15/2000

Civic Center

Danny Cottar 02/25/2015

E-911

Deanna Smith 02/08/2008

Finance

Donna Norton 02/15/1999

Human Resources

Beth Armstrong 02/03/2020

Jail

Candeda Ayers 02/18/2010

Lucas Peck 02/18/2013

Susan Carlton-Gordon 02/13/2017

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 and Rec

Andy Dunston 02/12/2018

Nicholas Carter 02/03/2019

Eleanor Dougherty 02/12/2024

Charles Massey 02/28/2022

Planning

Liz Smith 02/20/2013

Public Works

Debbie Smith 02/08/1999

Jody Woodall 02/19/2019

Richard Gutierrez 02/07/2022

Tax Commissioner

Jane Owen 02/26/2024

Water Resources

Caylan Kettle 02/19/2024



## 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	Stacy Carson	02/14
Jack Wahlers	02/01	Pat Sebring	02/14
Jane Owen	02/03	Matthew Lariscy	02/16
Michael Capie	02/04	Amanda Mauldin	02/19
Bethany Bryant	02/07	Kim Cramer	02/21
Clay Dunagan	02/07	Linda Patterson	02/21
Danny Cottar	02/08	Tovy Gutierrez	02/22
Robert Elder	02/08	Donna Norton	02/22
Daniel Rainwater	02/08	Shawna Benson	02/23
William Reynolds	02/08	Josh Carter	02/23
Joy Chambers	02/09	Tyler Hartzog	02/23
Lucas Peck	02/10	John Ogle	02/24
Ryan Henderson	02/13	Diane Baggett	02/26
Jonathan Sturm	02/13	Deanna Smith	02/28

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.