

# Oconee County Connections

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## Employee Newsletter



Volume 7, No. 9

September 2025

### **Employee Pet Corner - NEW**

Jesika Stock welcomes new kittens

### **Customer Service Superstar**

Congrats to Jean Saint-Preux

### **From the IT Workroom**

Welcome Clay Christian

### **MVD Portal**

Check out the MVD portal



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## Customer Service Superstar



For nearly 19 years, Jean Saint-Preux has been a dedicated member of the Parks & Recreation team. Beginning his career as a Maintenance Worker I, Jean now serves as a Maintenance Worker II, and continues to demonstrate an exceptional work ethic and commitment to maintaining safe, high-quality park facilities for the community.

In addition to his role with Park Services, Jean has also volunteered his time to coach soccer in our Parks & Rec programs—further proof of his dedication to serving others. We are grateful for Jean's contributions and proud to recognize him as a true customer service superstar!

## Welcome to the Team

Welcome to Oconee County! We are glad you are joining our team.

### Animal Services

Sara Carlton  
Gina Treadway

### IT

Clayton Christian

### Parks and Rec

Ryan Hawkins  
Matthew Zukusky

### Property Appraisal

Jeff Teddy

### Public Works

Caitlin Keele  
Grant McCannon

### Sheriff's Office

Connor Gentry

### Superior Court

Callie Bennett

### Water Resources

Cedric Williams



# Comms Corner

Welcome to the Communications Corner – let's talk accessibility in Adobe PDF.

Creating accessible documents isn't just about compliance, it's about ensuring meaningful communication. Here's how to get started:

## 1) Covert Scanned Text - (All tools > Scan and OCR)

Use the OCR tool to create "true text" so screen readers can read the text on screen.

## 2) Add Alt Text - (Prepare accessibility tool > Alt Text)

Provide descriptions for images, objects, and charts to communicate visual content to all users.

## 3) Check for Tags

Tags enable assistive technologies to read and interact with PDF documents. Headings (H1), paragraphs (P), and figures are examples of tag types. Check the tags pane to ensure there are tags, and, if not, add them.

## 4) Check for Reading Order

"Walk the tag tree." Review the order of the tags in the Tags Pane to ensure the correct reading order.

## 5) Artifact Tags

Artifacts are elements that are ignored by a screen reader, such as a background texture that does not contain important text. You can change an element to or from an artifact using the tag tree menu.

## 6) Set Title of Document (File > Document Properties)

Make sure the document has a title for the screen readers to read!

## 7) Run the Accessibility Checker under Prepare for Accessibility Tools

This built-in tool identifies common issues and offers fixes.

## ADA Quick Tips for Adobe PDFs

### Quick Tips to Make an Accessible Document

- 1 Covert scanned text - Under All Tools > Scan and OCR
- 2 Add alt text to images and objects - including charts!
- 3 Check for tags - Tag a document under Prepare for Accessibility tool
- 4 Check the Reading Order - Check under Tags Pane
- 5 Artifact Tags - A way to tell screen readers to skip past things, i.e background textures that do not contain important text
- 6 Set the title of document - File > Document Properties
- 7 Use the Accessibility Checker - Under All Tools tab



[Download the ADA Quickcard for PDFs here!](#)



## New MVD Portal



The Oconee County Tax Commissioner's Office is here to make your vehicle related tasks easier, faster, and greener with the following key services available through a myMVD account:

- Change your address
- Renew or cancel your registrations
- Order a replacement title
- Estimate your Title Ad Valorem Tax

[Click here to register](#) or scan the QR code!



Join the Go Green initiative through your My MVD account and help us reduce paper waste. By signing up, your renewal notices will be delivered straight to your email - no more waiting for the mail! It's a simple step to keep your renewals convenient and eco-friendly.

Need your vehicle registration renewed fast? Visit our local kiosk at Kroger on Epps Bridge Parkway. Just bring your Georgia driver's license or renewal notice, and you'll walk away with your decal in hand - no lines, no delays!!







### Welcome, Clay Christian, IT Specialist!

Please join us in welcoming Clay Christian, our new IT Specialist! He is happy to assist with any IT-related needs.

Facts about Clay: He loves cooking, camping, and once swam with whale sharks. He also created “Wrangle,” a hilarious twist on Wordle. [Try it here!](#)

#### Contact Info

Email: [cchristian@oconee.ga.us](mailto:cchristian@oconee.ga.us)

Phone: 706-310-3576

As a reminder, please continue to submit tickets via [ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us](mailto:ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us) for IT-related issues.

### Important Reminder!

Please remember to save your work files to the file server (J: Drive, K: Drive, etc.). Files saved to your **C: Drive or Desktop** are NOT backed up and could be lost if your computer crashes or the hard drive fails. Using the server ensures your data is secure and recoverable.

Thanks for helping keep our data safe! Please reach out to IT if you have questions.

## From the IT Workroom

### Knowledge Cafe - OneDrive

The next Knowledge Cafe will be held Monday, September 8, at 10 a.m. in the North High Shoals conference room in the Administrative Building. Attend in-person or via Teams. All materials and a recording of the class will be housed on [the Employee Intranet](#) on the Oconee County website and [OC Tech Landing Zone](#).

This month's topic is on OneDrive. Use the QR code below to sign up!





## Faces of Oconee

Meet Christina Starr - the welcoming face behind the front desk at Oconee Veterans Park! Christina joined the team in March 2024 and quickly became a valuable member of the Parks & Rec Department.

She brings a wealth of experience from retail management, human resources, and admin roles. A proud cancer survivor and a graduate of Oconee County 101 – Employee Edition, Christina lives in Bethlehem and enjoys gardening and spending time with loved ones. Her favorite thing about her job is meeting people from all walks of life.

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



## Employee Pet Corner

### Introducing Employee Pet Corner!

We are paw-sitively thrilled to help Jesika Stock, Water Resources, welcome two kittens, Ampersand (top picture) and Didi (bottom picture on the left)! These furballs are bringing lots of joy and mischief. Congrats Jesika on your newest fur babies!

Want your pets to be featured?  
Email: [sbaird@oconee.ga.us](mailto:sbaird@oconee.ga.us)





## New Fire Apparatus at Station 7



Oconee County Fire Department had a “push-in” ceremony for the new Engine 701 at Station 7 in Bogart on August 14, 2025.

The fire department “push-in” ceremony, a tradition dating back centuries, symbolizes the formal entry of a new fire apparatus into service and honors the history of the fire service.

Engine 701 is a 2025 Sutphen custom cab engine, built in Columbus, Ohio. This state-of-the-art apparatus features a 1,000-gallon water tank and a 1,500 GPM pump, making it a reliable asset for emergency response. With seating for six, the custom cab is designed for both performance and crew comfort. The total investment of \$629,815 reflects on our continued commitment to safety and efficiency.





# Employee Anniversaries

thank  
you

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

Christina Lee	09/21/2022
Chelsey Grayson	09/03/2024

## Board of Elections

Sharon Gregg	09/12/2022
Noah Armstrong	09/11/2023

## Clerk of Courts

Carrie Hayes	09/16/2014
Anita Reimer	09/30/2024

## E-911

Kristy Sweeney	09/23/2024
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## Extension Office

Annie Stephenson	09/16/2024
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## Fire

Denise Bradshaw	09/19/2022
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## Jail

David Knowles Jr.	09/09/2016
Danial White	09/23/2019
Gabriel Fairbanks	09/05/2023
Jacob Hathaway	09/30/2024

## KOCBC

Cindy Pritchard	09/12/2016
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## Law Enforcement

Jeremy Wasdin	09/15/2008
Sonyia Wallace-Burchett	09/15/2015
Stan Swisher	09/25/2017
Baer Schiffer	09/06/2022
Kelda Simmons	09/30/2024

## Parks & Recreation

Lorenza Adams	09/11/2024
Lisa Davol	09/27/2004
Pat Sebring	09/11/2017
Samuel Koppenhaver	09/22/2023

## Planning/Code Enforcement

Linda Patterson	09/16/1985
Kyle Stephens	09/04/2018

## Property Appraisal

Sidney Bell	09/14/2021
Christopher Glick	09/19/2022

## Public Works

Will Parks	09/21/1998
Rolland Ebright	09/09/2020

## Superior Court

Tommy Hewell	09/08/2009
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## Tax Commissioner

Maggie Hill	09/11/2023
Kasey Morton	09/18/2024

## Tourism

Sarah Cumuze	09/28/2022
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## Water Resources

Jenanne White	09/06/2005
Eddie Fouche Jr.	09/04/2007



# 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!

Yashica West	09/02	Crystal Berisko	09/19
Stephen Richwine	09/03	Joseph Berryman	09/19
Brian Bray	09/04	Steven Heckler	09/20
Dylan Pulliam	09/05	Jerry Marshall	09/20
Lance Raines	09/09	Joan White	09/20
Zyqavious Tillman	09/09	Carsen Dean	09/21
Emily Deal	09/11	Grant McCannon	09/23
Ryan Meeler	09/11	Andrew Bishop	09/24
Adam Bihi	09/12	Sarah Baird	09/25
Sandy Maxwell	09/12	Brandy Ervin	09/25
Kevin Hearst	09/14	Joel Allen	09/26
Jeff Teddy	09/14	Jonathan Saunders	09/26
John Donnelly	09/15	Greta Cherry	09/27
Pat Holl	09/15	Richard Connelly Jr.	09/27
Leah John	09/15	Chuck Horton	09/27
Jenanne White	09/15	Diane Horvath	09/27
Sarah Groves	09/16	George Kull	09/27
Shirley Finch	09/18	Warren Stanford	09/28
John Jackson	09/18	Harold Haggard	09/29

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.