

Oconee County Connections

Employee Newsletter



Volume 7, No. 10

October 2025

Customer Service Superstar

Congrats to Noah Armstrong

Linda Patterson's Anniversary

Congrats, Linda, on 40 Years at Oconee County!

Employee Pet Corner

Ginny King welcomes new dog

From the IT Workroom

Impersonation Phish Email



Issue Index

3	Customer Service Superstar Welcome to the Team
4	Human Resources Scoop
5	Comms Corner
6	Linda's 40th Work Annniversary
7	Around the County
8	From the IT Workroom
9	Tax Commissioner Kiosk Update Employee Pet Corner
10	Advance Voting
11	Anniversaries
12	Birthdays

Customer Service Superstar

We are pleased to recognize Noah Armstrong in the Elections Department as our latest Customer Service Superstar! Noah consistently demonstrates professionalism, kindness, and a true commitment to serving others.

From assisting citizens with mobility challenges during voting to creating and implementing detailed training materials, he continues to go above and beyond expectations. Noah's positive attitude, reliability, and willingness to help wherever needed make him an invaluable member of our team. Thank you, Noah, for all you do for Oconee County!



Welcome to the Team

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

Civic Center

Caden Fleming
Sophia Martinez Garcia
Brad Hale
Maggie Hubert

Finance

Erin Treadwell

Parks and Rec

Lisa Mobley
Marquise Blackman
Tate Bryant
Jack Culberson
Clarence McCord
William Smith

Sheriff's Office

Bobby Humphries

Human Resources Scoop

Upcoming Events for October

October 3 - Fall Physical Agility Test

Our Fall Wellness Physical Fitness Test will take place on Friday, October 3 at Herman C. Michael Park from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. located at 1051 Elder Rd, Bishop. All employees are welcome to participate and earn wellness points.

Emails have been sent out for sign ups.

October 17 - Fall Flu Shot Clinic

Upcoming flu shot clinic will be held in the Administrative Building in the upstairs North High Shoals Conference Room from 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please refer to the Sign-Up Genius email you recieved to register for the event by October 8. Bring your driver's license and copy of the front and back of your insurance card when you come.

November 14 - Health Fair

Watch for an email coming soon for registration with Sign-Up Genius!

If you have any questions about any of the events reach out to Human Resources at 706-769-3938 or email Jill Faulkner at jfaulkner@oconee.ga.us.



Comms Corner

Welcome to the Communications Corner – let's talk accessibility in social media.

Follow these quick tips to ensure accessible social posts!

1) Add Alt Text to Images

Describe image in clear, concise terms. You may also include a description within the post text.

2) Always Include Captions

Include captions within any video with sound.

3) Use High Contrast Colors

Images should be easy to see no matter how they are viewed.

4) Use Plain Language

Keep sentences short, clear, and direct.

5) Limit the Use of Emojis

Limit the use of emojis and place at the end of sentences, as their meaning can vary across platforms and individuals.

6) Use CamelCase for hashtags

Capitalize the first letter of each word to make them readable for screen readers (i.e. #AccessibleSocialMedia).

7) Check and Utilize Built-In Accessibility Tools

Use tools such as alt text editor on Facebook or Instagram, to ensure your content is inclusive.

ADA Quick Tips for Social Media

Quick Tips for posting on Social Media

- 1 Add alt text to images
- 2 Include captions and transcripts
- 3 Use high contrast colors
- 4 Use plain language
- 5 Limit use of emojis
- 6 Use CamelCase for hashtags
- 7 Check and utilize built-in accessibility tools.



Download the ADA Quickcard for Social Media here!

Linda Patterson's 40th Anniversary!

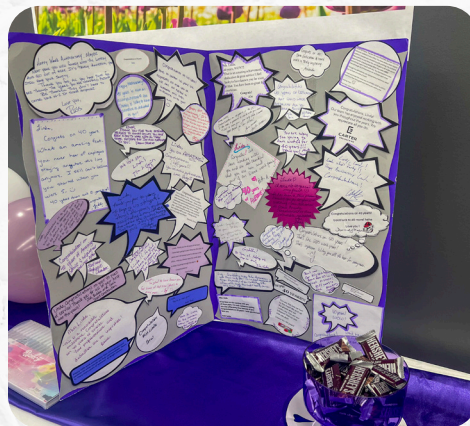


On September 16 Linda Patterson's (Planning Department) celebrated her 40th work anniversary with Oconee County!

Employees surprised Linda with a party, complete with cake and a heartfelt card signed by many who have had the pleasure of working alongside her.

"Linda has a wealth of institutional knowledge that provides valuable information for decisions made in our office," says Planning Director Guy Herring. "Her service to this county for 40 years has shown her ability to adapt to different departments and changing environments (not to mention buildings!). We greatly appreciate Linda's service to the community and contributions to the departments she has served."

Thank you, Linda, for your unwavering commitment to Oconee County. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we are honored to celebrate this incredible milestone with you!



Around the County



Oconee County Annual Bat Festival - October 13

Come check out the 2nd Annual Oconee County Bat Festival on Monday, October 13, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Heritage Park (2543 Macon Highway). This event is hosted by the Oconee County UGA Extension office in partnership with the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission and Oconee County Parks and Recreation.

Check out this educational family-friendly event! There will be a costume contest, bat trivia and talks, and more!

For more information about this event, contact Oconee County ANR Agent Carsen Dean at 706-542-7078 or crd72388@uga.edu.



Boo-lky Item Amnesty - October 30

No tricks, just treats! Bulky Item Amnesty is back this Fall on October 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Highway 441 Collection Site ONLY, 2721 Macon Highway! There is a limit of four bulky items at no charge.

Contact Cindy Pritchard at kocbc@oconee.ga.us or call at 706-310-3560 for questions about this event.

Keep Oconee Beautiful Commission Presents

HALLOWEEN AMNESTY

FRIDAY,
31 OCTOBER
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Highway 441
Collection Site only!

TRICK
OR
TREAT

BOO-LKY ITEM AMNESTY!
LIMIT OF 4 BULKY ITEMS

For Oconee County residents only. Limit of 4 bulky items. Not at all collections sites, only the Highway 441 site.

For questions call 706-310-3560 or visit www.oconeecountyga.gov



From the IT Workroom

Impersonation Scam Emails on the Rise

Cybercriminals are impersonating trusted business contacts using fake cloud storage accounts. They're sending file sharing links via Dropbox, Google Drive, etc., from email addresses that closely mimic legitimate ones. They often use personal domains like Outlook or Gmail.

For example:

Fake: kimberlybrittainelectric.net@outlook.com

Real: someone@brittainelectric.net

Be cautious if you notice mismatched email domains, unexpected file shares, or generic greetings. Always verify the sender, especially if the file seems urgent or suspicious. When in doubt, phish alert it out by clicking "Phish Alert" button on your email tool bar on the top of your screen.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you're certain they're safe. Stay alert—it's better to be cautious than to risk a security breach.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to IT by emailing ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us.

Knowledge Cafe - Microsoft Teams, CoPilot, and 365 - Oh, My!

The next Knowledge Cafe will be held Friday, October 17, at 10 a.m. in the Eastville Conference Room in the Administrative Building. Attend in-person or via Teams. All materials and a recording of the class will be available on [the Employee Intranet](#) on the Oconee County website and on the [OC Tech Landing Zone](#).

This month's topic is on Microsoft Teams & Apps. Be sure to stay after for open office hours with our IT Team! Use the QR code below to sign up!

IT Knowledge Cafe - October



New Driver Services at Kroger Kiosk

Expanded driver services are now available at the self-service kiosk in the Epps Bridge Kroger located at 1720 Epps Bridge Parkway, Athens.

You can now:

- Renew your driver's license
- Request a duplicate license
- Print your motor vehicle record (MVR)
- Update your address

Quick & Convenient

Registration renewal



Epps Bridge Kroger
1720 Epps Bridge Pkwy
Athens, GA 30606



Employee Pet Corner

Buddy the Dog!

Ginny King, Probate Court Clerk, welcomes a new dog - Buddy - into her home. Buddy is a miniature schnauzer and named after Buddy from the movie Elf since he was born around Christmas. Congrats Ginny on your new addition!

Want your pets to be featured?
Email: sbaird@oconee.ga.us

Advance Voting Reminder

Advance Voting at the Administrative Building

Advance Voting for the upcoming election will be held at the Administrative Building Tuesday, October 14, through Friday, October 31.

Voting Hours:

Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturdays: October 18 & October 25, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Check-in and voting will take place inside the Watkinsville and Bogart meeting rooms.

Watkinsville and Bogart meeting rooms will be off limits for other uses during this time.



Employee 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!

E-911

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

Facilities

Bobby Reno	10/19/2020
Julius Floyd	10/28/2024

Finance

Joy Chambers	10/16/2023
--------------	------------

Jail

Samuel Masters	10/07/2019
----------------	------------

Law Enforcement

John Young	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
Madison Moore	10/07/2024
Jonathan Saunders	10/28/2024

Planning/Code Enforcement

David Webb	10/30/2023
------------	------------

Probate

Ginny King	10/02/2000
------------	------------

Public Works

Samuel Hammond	10/30/2023
----------------	------------

Senior Center

Jeannie Caldwell	10/14/2024
------------------	------------

Superior Court

Leon Ogletree	10/21/2019
---------------	------------

Water Resources

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

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!

Lisa Mobley	10/03	Cassie Swisher	10/19
Jeffrey Watson	10/05	Brittany Stargel	10/20
Natalie Aguirre	10/06	Connor Gentry	10/23
Virginia Mitchell	10/07	Lee Hiland	10/23
Clayton Christian	10/11	Kennedy League	10/23
Justin Kirouac	10/11	Holly Stephenson	10/23
Robert McCannon	10/11	Joann Hubert	10/24
Alex Bridges	10/13	Marquise Blackman	10/25
Payton Massey	10/13	Jody Woodall	10/25
Patricia McLaughlin	10/13	Susan Tidwell	10/27
C.J. Worden	10/14	Marti Hardigree	10/28
Charity Bell	10/16	Jessica Hart	10/30
Susie Carlton-Gordon	10/19	Marcia Locke	10/30
Jayne Duerr	10/19	David Compton	10/31
Maggie Hubert	10/19	Caden Fleming	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.