

# Oconee County Connections

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## Employee Newsletter



Volume 8, No. 2

February 2026

### Hwy 441 Scale House Ribbon Cutting

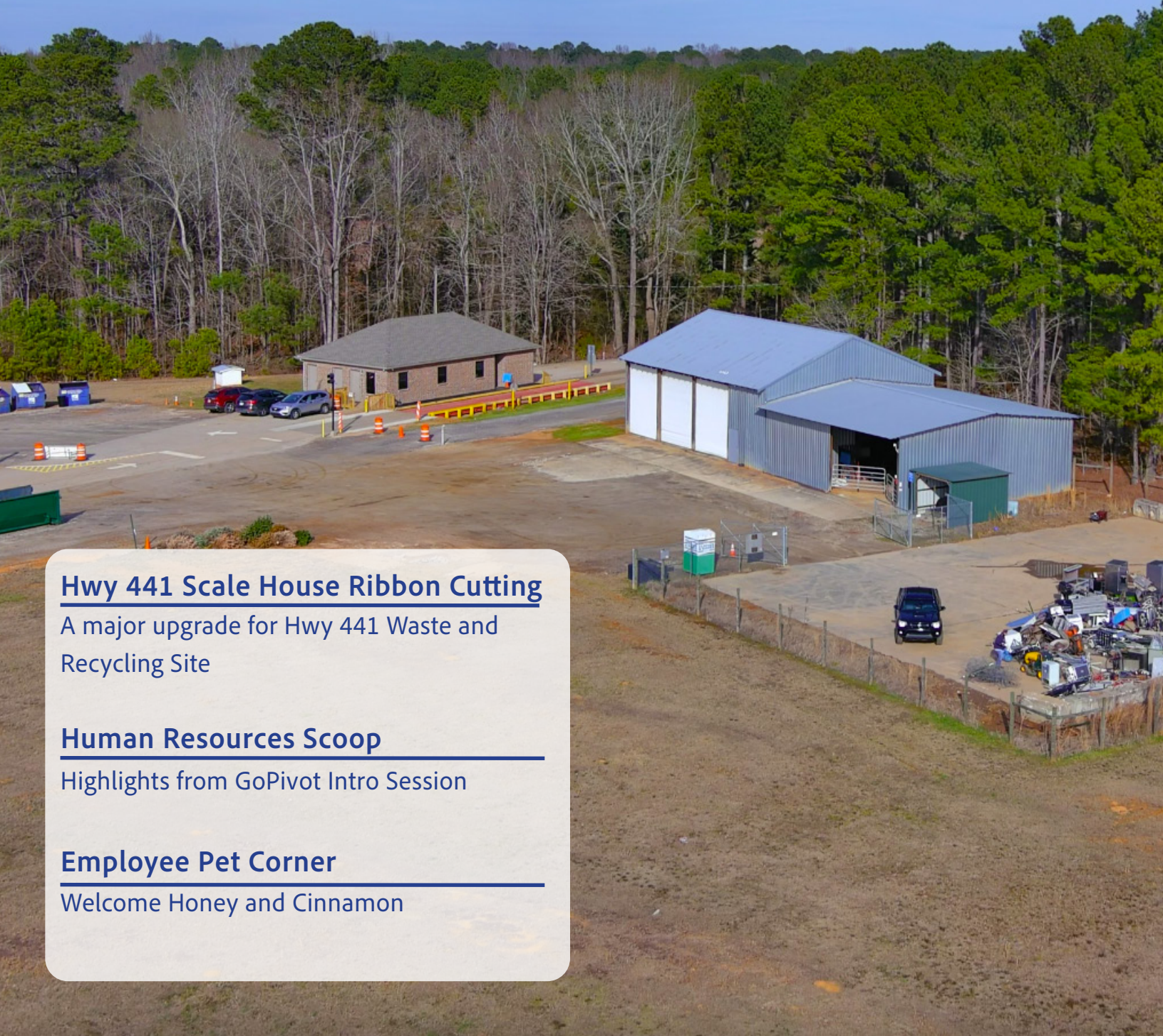
A major upgrade for Hwy 441 Waste and Recycling Site

### Human Resources Scoop

Highlights from GoPivot Intro Session

### Employee Pet Corner

Welcome Honey and Cinnamon





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# Human Resources Scoop

In case you missed or need a quick summary for GoPivot, our new wellness platform. The session provided an overview of key features and highlighted how GoPivot can be used.

## Key Highlights:

- You need **4,500 points** by **November 30** each year from the **"Premium Discount"** section to keep the discount insurance rate.
- You can download the app or access on the web at: <https://www1.gopivotsolutions.com/#!/login>
- Earning points can go towards rewards. Points for rewards roll over each year.

Contact Human Resources at 706-769-3938 or email Jill Faulkner at [jfaulkner@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jfaulkner@oconee.ga.us) or Beth Armstrong at [barmstrong@oconee.ga.us](mailto:barmstrong@oconee.ga.us) with questions.

GoPivot Introduction Meeting  
Recording

Check out this  
GoPivot  
Challenge  
worth 300 points

GoPivot Program Guide





# Invasive Species Removal Workdays



The final Invasive Species Removal Work Days of the season are coming - don't miss out on this great volunteer opportunity and a chance to get some steps in! 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, are hosting Invasive Species Plant Removal Work Days at Heritage Park. Work days will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. Come out and volunteer February 3 or 17 at Heritage Park for Invasive Species Removal Work Days!

Registration is required for this event. For more information visit the event page on our website. Heritage Park is located at 2543 Macon Highway, Watkinsville.

## Welcome to the Team

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

### Superior Court

Taylor Craig

### Sheriff's Office

Ryan Sabia

### Public Works

Maria Recendez



# Hwy 441 Scale House Ribbon Cutting

Big news at the Highway 441 Waste & Recycling Site!

We have officially opened our new scale house. This upgraded, new facility will help our team better serve the community. To mark the occasion, staff celebrated by tearing through a line of blue Pay-As-You-Throw bags instead of a traditional ribbon!

We appreciate everyone's hard work in bringing this facility to life and look forward to the seeing the scale house in action.

Thanks to Tovy Gutierrez, Maria Recendez, Justin Kirouac, Jody Woodall, and Cindy Pritchard for taking part in this official grand opening event!





# From the IT Workroom

You may receive an “undeliverable” or “delivery failure” message when sending email. These notices include Microsoft Exchange failure codes that explain why the message did not go through.

## **What the codes mean:**

4.x.x errors – Temporary issue. Exchange will usually retry delivery.

5.x.x errors – Permanent issue. The message will not be delivered without changes.

## **Common examples:**

5.1.1 – Recipient Not Found: The email address is incorrect or no longer exists.

5.2.2 – Mailbox Full: The recipient cannot receive new messages.

5.7.1 – Message Blocked: Security or spam rules prevented delivery.

5.3.4 or 5.2.3 – Message Size Exceeds Limit: The email or attachments are too large to send.

4.4.7 – Message Delayed: Temporary server or network issue.

If an email continues to fail please contact the IT Department by forwarding the bounceback email to our helpdesk. Understanding these codes can help you and IT understand the issue quickly and get to a resolution. When in doubt email:  
[ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us](mailto:ochelpdesk@oconee.ga.us).





## KOCBC Arbor Day Saplings

Arbor Day is February 20! Let's celebrate by picking up and planting your own tree! Trees are a vital renewable resource in our world. Trees offer shade to support wildlife and beautify our surroundings. Keep Oconee Beautiful is handing out bald cypress, catalpa, and red oak tree saplings at the Oconee Administrative Building, both Bogart and Oconee Libraries, and City Hall in Watkinsville. Saplings will be available all week long from February 16 - 20, while supplies last.

Join the celebration and plant a tree today!



## Employee Pet Corner



### Meet Honey and Cinnamon!

Matt Beal, GIS Director, welcomed Honey (pictured left) in 2018 from the Athens Animal Shelter when she was just a puppy. She was frightened, but after spending some time with her new family, she warmed up quickly to her home. While her name suggests sweetness, Honey grew from a docile puppy into a very energetic dog. In 2020, Matt welcomed Cinnamon (pictured right) into his family as a foster. She bonded immediately with Honey and helped ease Honey's separation anxiety. Matt officially adopted Cinnamon in April 2020. True to her name, Cinnamon is incredibly gentle and sweet, with the calmest temperament. Thank you Matt for sharing your pets with us!

Want to highlight your pets in the next newsletter? Send your story and pet photos to Sarah Baird at [sbaird@oconee.ga.us](mailto:sbaird@oconee.ga.us)



# 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!

## 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

Carsun Neubauer 02/07/2025

## E-911

Deanna Smith 02/08/2008

Haleigh Long 02/03/2025

## Finance

Donna Norton 02/15/1999

## Human Resources

Beth Armstrong 02/03/2020

## Jail

Candeda Ayers 02/18/2010

Lucas Peck 02/18/2013

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

Nico Carter 02/03/2019

Lanya Scott 02/06/2025

Payton 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

Caleb Epps 02/03/2025

## 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	Matthew Lariscy	02/16
Jane Owen	02/03	Erin Treadwell	02/17
Michael Capie	02/04	Amanda Mauldin	02/19
Bethany Bryant	02/07	Kim Cramer	02/21
Clay Dunagan	02/07	Linda Patterson	02/21
Robert Elder	02/08	Tovy Gutierrez	02/22
Daniel Rainwater	02/08	Donna Norton	02/22
William Reynolds	02/08	Shawna Benson	02/23
Joy Chambers	02/09	Josh Carter	02/23
Michael Gordon	02/10	Tyler Hartzog	02/23
Lucas Peck	02/10	Bobby Humphries	02/23
Ryan Henderson	02/13	John Morris	02/23
Jonathan Sturm	02/13	John Ogle	02/24
Stacy Carson	02/14	Diane Baggett	02/26
Pat Sebring	02/14	Deanna Smith	02/28
Stacy Fowler	02/15		

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.