

The Oconee Enterprise

Business

Editor: Michael Prochaska • editor@oconeeenterprise.com • 706-769-5175 ext. 101
Reporter: Nathalee Simoneau • news@oconeeenterprise.com • 706-769-5175 ext. 106

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Watkinsville approves fee schedule for park rentals

BY NATHALEE SIMONEAU
At its May 21 meeting, the Watkinsville City Council approved a revised fee schedule for park rentals. The changes add additional charges for rental of Thomas Farm Preserve for special events or events with more than 50 people in attendance. Using the park for a special event, such as a wedding, race or a gathering of more than 50 people, will cost \$250.

Special events that utilize the pavilion or the oval (a public meeting space) will cost \$500, and a rental that utilizes both will cost \$750. Special event applications and associated fees must also be submitted. The changes also add a \$10 fee for using power/electrical access at Harris Shoals Park and the pavilion at Thomas Farm Preserve. In his report at the end of the

meeting, Mayor Brian Brodrick announced that the renovation of the old dairy barn at Thomas Farm Preserve is underway for additional restrooms. Brodrick also announced that the city will likely be launching a request for proposals for a cafe to occupy the rest of the old dairy barn. The old dairy barn sits at the east entrance near the house and currently has one restroom. The council also approved an

agreement with the Downtown Development Authority to use Rocket Field for Papa Palooza for a fee of \$10. The event will take place on June 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will feature musical performances, vendors and food. The Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation will have craft booths, and Core Blend Training will host field day games. The council also approved a

procedure for installing, evaluating and maintaining streetlights within the city's limits. New streetlights may be requested for areas with documented public safety concerns, regular pedestrian activity, residential streets or gas in existing lighting of more than 300 feet. The council amended the distance between lights from 500 feet to 300 feet. The policy continues that re-

quests can be made online, in-person or over the phone to the public works department. The city will then acknowledge the request within five days and evaluate the location within 30 days. Maintenance for the street lights will be completed by the Public Works Department or the utility provider that owns the pole. Outages or damages should be reported to the city, the policy states.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Local bank provides food for Oconee deputies

BY MICHAEL PROCHASKA
First American Bank & Trust recently provided breakfast for the Oconee County Sheriff's Office as a gesture of appreciation. The bank is located at 1681 Experiment Station Road. In related news, Georgia Home Partners Realty, through its Holes For Heroes Golf Tournament, raised \$50,000 for the foundations of local law enforcement and for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Inc. "Thank you to every single person and business that contributed to this wonderful and fun event," according to Georgia Home Partners Realty.

Teens gain experience
Oconee County Schools celebrated another year of Work Based Learning with the Employer and Mentor Appreciation Reception at the Oconee



On behalf of First American Bank & Trust, John Loftis delivers breakfast to Sheriff's Office employees with Tammy Gilstrap

Civic Center. According to a public statement, 80 businesses participated, and 122 OCS students garnered valuable workplace skills.

The Employers of the Year for 2024-25 were University Cancer and Blood Center with mentor Molly Cooney and student Lauren Myers of Oconee County High School and Urgent Care of Oconee with mentor Linzi Smith and students Laura Duarte Nino and Rayna Xiao from North Oconee High School.

Support Lydia's Place
Watkinsville nonprofit Lydia's Place invites families to host their own lemonade stand between May 19 and July 23 as a fundraiser to support young adults who have experienced foster care or homelessness. Lydia's Place, which will soon relocate to 1260 Greensboro Highway, Suite 210, provides resources and housing to those ages 17-24. The forthcoming 10,500-square-foot headquarters is in the former Core Blend Training

building in Watkinsville! "This expansion means more room, more resources and more opportunities to serve and support the young adults in our community," according to a Lydia's Place newsletter. People can pick up a lemonade packet with signage and instructions at the current office at 565 Jerry Smith Drive, Unit 1, Watkinsville. There will be an awards ceremony and check celebration Aug. 2 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the new office. "Let's turn lemons into lasting impact," stated the newsletter.

Learn life-saving skills
Piedmont Athens Regional is hosting "Save a Life Day," a free community event offering hands-on training in emergency response techniques. The event will take place on

Saturday, May 31 from 9 a.m. to noon at Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Services Building A, third Floor, 242 King Avenue, Athens. Training sessions include learning how to provide immediate medical aid in emergency bleeding situations, CPR and safety techniques for children and teens. For more information, contact Eva Carignan at (706) 475-7032 or Evamae.Carignan@piedmont.org.

Bank sponsors event
Oconee State Bank will be the official title sponsor of the inaugural PapaPalooza on June 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rocket Field, there will be live music from Diablo Sandwich and the Dr. Peppers & Leeroy Voodoo, field games with Core Blend, crafts with OCAF and vendors to buy a Father's Day gift.

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