

Kent Connections



A Newsletter Published by Kent County Levy Court for its Employees

August 2007



Employee of the Month

Melissa A. Stanley

The Kent County Employee Council has selected MELISSA A. STANLEY from the Department of Planning Services as the August 2007 Employee of the Month.

Melissa, a Kent County employee since December 2002, is a Permit Technician II in the Division of Inspections and Enforcement primarily responsible for explaining zoning and related ordinances to the general public and building contractors; reviewing building permit applications for completeness and approval; and conducting research of property ownership records, zoning violations, and demographic trends.

Supervisors praise Melissa for always going the extra mile to perform her duties and exceeding their expectations. She is often asked to perform additional research for permits or properties, and is always willing to assist with special projects. When that research turns up a problem, she will devise and present possible solutions instead of just pointing out the issue and expecting someone else to resolve it.

Melissa exemplifies the high standards and values set forth by the Kent County Levy Court.

Congratulations Melissa on a job well done!

COMING NEXT MONTH:

- > School is back in session, watch out for children!
- > Who is the new County I.T. Director?
- > County comp plan group works toward support

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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Kent Connections is published for the employees and retirees of Kent County Levy Court using Microsoft Publisher® & Microsoft PowerPoint®. Comments, suggestions and story ideas should be addressed to: Kent County Personnel Office, 555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901, or given to Allan Kujala, Sophie Dear, Cathleen McLean, or Carissa McLoughlin. Or, call the Personnel Office at 744-2310.

County gearing up to absorb IT functions Oct. 1

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

Organizationally, it is one of the biggest things to impact the County government in almost 20-years, yet most employees and citizens won't even notice. The County's information technology operation will transition from a contracted service provided by Associated Computer Services, Inc. to an internal service function.

The current three-year contract with ACS expires on September 31, 2007 and caps off the County's 19-year public-private venture that was initiated in 1988, when data processing was emerging as a vital component of normal office operations and qualified staffing was scarce.

At the time, the County's seven-member data processing staff was largely responsible for maintaining data files for automated property tax billing purposes, but things were beginning to change as personal computers, e-mail, and the Internet became business necessities. Unable to recruit, train, retain and adequately compensate highly skilled IT staff, the County opted to contract out the then-called data processing staffing function, but retained ownership of all computer hardware, software, and related systems.

With October 1, just around the corner the County has started interviewing for an Information Technology Director for the new Information Technology Office housed within the Administration Department, and has begun advertising for the 10 remaining new County positions, including a Network Administrator, Systems Analyst Administrator, Network Specialist, Programmer, and Computer Support Technicians.

Existing ACS employees must apply and compete with other external applicants for the recently posted positions.

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: J. MICHAEL WILLSON



Job: Dispatcher I
Date hired: July 1, 2007
Education: B.S., Justice, Frostburg State University
What I like most about my new job: Being involved in Emergency Services
Greatest accomplishment: Graduation from college

Greatest challenge or obstacle: Getting hired as a police officer

Future goals: Become a police officer

Person/event that most inspired me in my career: My father

If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Joined the military upon graduation from college

I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Sitting in my recliner with an ice cold Bud Light

Family: Mother, Sue; father, John; sister, Stacy

Most recent movie enjoyed: Deja Vu

Favorite TV shows: Rescue Me

Favorite sport: Baseball

Favorite meal: All of them

Favorite music: Country, Alternative, most everything

Favorite saying or slogan: Don't let starting a career stop you from starting a life.

Who has had the greatest impact on my life: My mom

A dream I have is to: Own a house

If I won a million dollars I would: Buy a house and a large boat

Three words that describe me: Friendly, outgoing, honest **9382**

High Praise

High Five for JANET LLOYD and PAT ORONA, Deeds Office, for a fax from a happy constituent praising their fast customer service. *Great!!*

High Praise to MELISSA STANLEY, Inspections & Enforcement Division, for a constituent comment card praising her for being helpful, professional and fast. *Keep up the good work!!*

EOM INSIGHT



Name: MELISSA A. STANLEY

Job: Permit Technician II

Years with the County: 5 years in December

What I like most about my job: The customers

Family: Two younger brothers

After work I enjoy: Running and hanging out with friends

Favorite new movie: Pirates of the Caribbean

Favorite old movie: Alice in Wonderland

Favorite TV show: Grey's Anatomy

Favorite TV show as a child: Animaniacs

Favorite sport: Football (Go Colts!)

Favorite meal: Chicken and dumplings

Favorite music: Rock

People (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Frank Miller, Quentin Tarantino, and Steven Spielberg

Pet peeve: People who don't use their turn signal

Motto: "You're the BEST!"

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: To be patient.

Who has had the most impact on my life: My grandmother

A dream I have is to: Go back to college

If I won a million dollars, I would: Build the house of my dreams, travel, and invest

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Was certified as a Waste Water I Operator

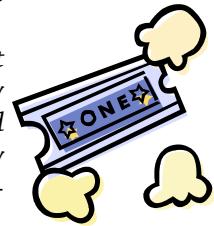
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Swimming with sting rays in Jamaica

Three words that describe me: Friendly, goofy, and helpful **5263** **3930**

Discount Movie Tickets

Discount movie tickets to Dover Mall's Carmike Theaters are available for sale in the Personnel Office.

The discount tickets cost \$6.00 each and can be used at any scheduled time, but cannot be used during the first 14 days of any Sony® movie. All other movie studios allow ticket use at any time.



National politics and workshops dominate NACo

By Bret Scott, Public Information Officer

Levy Court joined 3,000 elected officials and staff from across the country for the annual National Association of Counties conference last month in Richmond, Virginia. Commissioners ALLAN F.



ANGEL, P. BROOKS BANTA, HAROLD K. BRODE, ERIC BUCKSON, BRADLEY EABY, and W.G. EDMANSON joined staff members MIKE PETIT de MANGE, and BRET SCOTT for the four-day event. Clerk of the Peace LORETTA WOOTTEN also attended.

MSNBC Political commentator Tucker Carlson opened the conference with his take on the 2008 Presidential election. "I am not easily rattled," Carlson began. "I can handle anything with the possible exception of a Hilary Clinton presidency."

Carlson said he fully expects Clinton to win the democratic nomination and become the country's first female president before reminding the crowd that John Kerry, largely considered the favorite to unseat President George W. Bush, faded down the stretch of the 2004 election

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Mileage rate set at .485

The Fiscal Year 2008 budget provides that the mileage rate for County business travel in a personal private vehicle shall be adjusted each July 1 and January 1 to match the General Services Administration rate in place on that date.

From July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, the rate is set at .485 cents per mile. Employees can submit mileage reimbursement requests using a new reformatted form available on the V: drive. Employees should submit mileage reimbursements on a monthly basis for regular use of their personal vehicle and within five days for any other travel, such as to a training conference.



Kent County Medal recipient 7-year-old Kyle Blodgett (center) proudly displays his medal and framed resolution surrounded by family members and Levy Court Commissioners.

First County medal awarded to young boy who inspired it

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

A whole lot of Kent Countians do great things, but until now the Levy Court did not have any way to appropriately recognize heroic acts of courage or lengthy meritorious service to the community.

Last November, Commissioner ALLAN ANGEL read a heart warming newspaper story about Kyle Blodgett—a 7-year-old second grader at Star Hill Elementary School whose quick action saved his grandmother's life after she collapsed to the kitchen floor on the morning of September 23, 2007 while preparing his breakfast.

Despite his young age, Kyle woke up another adult in the home and then dialed 9-1-1. Emergency help arrived and his grandmother, Ruth Gray of Frederica, was revived and has returned to good health.

Commissioner Angel decided that such a heroic act deserved recognition, and after several months secured approval by Levy Court of the procedure for awarding such a medal. The bright gold medallion hanging from a blue and white ribbon, featuring the County seal on one side, and the name of the recipient along with the date of award on the other, was finally presented to the youth on July 24, culminating an effort almost one year in the making.

Medal nomination forms are available on the V-Drive and must be submitted to the County Personnel office for consideration/recommendation by the Personnel Administration Board.



ON THE MOVE. . .

Compiled by Carissa McLoughlin, Personnel Technician II

New Hires

- 07/01/07 JOSHUA NORRIS, Dispatcher I, Grade 8, Public Safety/Emergency Communications
- 07/01/07 J. MICHAEL WILLSON, Dispatcher I, Grade 8, Public Safety/Emergency Communications
- 07/03/07 MEGAN REEDY, Paramedic Trainee, Grade 7, Public Safety/Emergency Medical Services
- 07/09/07 DEANNA CAMPAGNINI, Plant Operator I, Grade 6, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities
- 07/09/07 JEFFREY CLAYTON, Custodian, Grade 3, Public Works/Facilities Management
- 07/09/07 ZACHARY LAWSON, Plant Operator I, Grade 6, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities
- 07/09/07 DAVID WHITNEY, Plant Operator I, Grade 6, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities
- 07/10/07 WYNONAH WALLACE, Custodian, Grade 3, Public Works/Facilities Management
- 07/23/07 YVONNE MESSINA, Clerk-Typist, Grade 3, Administration

Reinstatement

- 07/09/07 BRANDON OLENIK, Dispatcher II, Grade 9, Public Safety/Emergency Communications

Promotions

- 07/01/07 RONALD BERRY, GIS Clerk, Grade 4 to Utility Locator, Grade 5, Public Works/Engineering
- 07/01/07 JENNIFER GRAHAM, Secretary, Grade 6 to Senior Secretary, Grade 8, Public Safety/Emergency Medical Services
- 07/01/07 WM. MICHAEL WARD, Technology/GIS Administrator, Grade 13 to Asst. Director of Planning Services/Geographic Information Systems, Grade 14
- 07/08/07 WM. KEITH POWELL, Maintenance Supervisor, Grade 12 to Plant Superintendent, Grade 14, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities
- 07/20/07 CRISTAL CANNON, Custodian, Grade 3 to Custodian Supervisor, Grade 7, Public Works/Facilities Management
- 07/22/07 ROBERT PIERCE, GIS Technician II, Grade 9 to GIS Specialist, Grade 10, Public Works/Engineering
- 07/30/07 RUTHANN MILLER, Permit Technician II, Grade 8 to Permit Technician III, Grade 9, Planning Service/Inspections & Enforcement

Retitles

- 07/01/07 SABRINA FITE, GIS Technician III to GIS Specialist, Grade 10, Planning Services/Geographic Information Systems
- 07/01/07 CYNDI LAIRD, Account Analyst to Project Analyst, Grade 12, Public Works/Wastewater Fac.

Reassignment

- 07/02/07 KATHY SKINNER, Senior Secretary, Grade

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COUNTY BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST

- 01 Kim Lombardi, Planning Services/Planning
- 02 Sandy Hanggi, Community Services/Libraries
- 03 Ronald Harrington, Public Works/Engineering
- 04 Cyndi Laird, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities
- 07 Darin Jones, Community Services/Parks
- 09 J. Michael Willson, Public Safety/Emer. Comm.
- 10 Cathleen McLean, Administration
- 11 Jerry Johnston, Public Works/Engineering
- 12 Jan Morris, Administration
- 12 David Whitney, Public Works/WWF
- 13 Mary Eisenbrey, Assessment Office
- 13 Pat Uhey, Wills Office
- 15 Don Williams, Public Works/WWF
- 17 Melissa Stanley, Planning Services/Insp. & Enf.
- 19 Mike Clarke, Public Safety/EMS
- 19 Scott Vautard, Planning Services/Insp. & Enf.
- 21 Jack VanDorpe, Sheriff's Office
- 21 Mike Weyant, Planning Services/Insp. & Enf.
- 22 Diana Golt, Public Works/Engineering
- 23 Jody Coulbourne, Deeds Office
- 23 Sherry Barker, Public Works/Engineering
- 24 Lou Cox, Assessment Office
- 24 Angel Short, Community Services
- 24 Jason MacDonald, Public Safety/EMS
- 24 Ruth Ann Miller, Planning Services/Insp. & Enf.
- 25 W.G. Edmanson II, Levy Court Commissioner
- 26 James Nunes, Public Works/WWF
- 27 Debbie Elders, Finance
- 28 Robert Wayman, Public Works/Facilities Mgmt.
- 28 Robert Probst, Community Services/Recreation

SEPTEMBER

- 05 Adam Bradford, Public Works, WWF
- 06 Carl Solberg, Community Services/Parks
- 07 Glenn Bennett, Public Works/Engineering
- 07 Michele Lapinski, Community Services
- 07 William Woodall, Public Works/WWF
- 08 Mary Karol, Finance
- 09 John McDowell, Finance
- 09 Leslie Vasquez, Assessment Office
- 10 Michael Berry, Public Works/WWF
- 10 Shelby Burd, Finance
- 10 Kevin Imhof, Public Safety/EMS
- 10 Linda Pfeiffer, Finance
- 11 Robert Bloodsworth, Public Safety/Emer. Comm.
- 11 Kimberly Crouch, Administration
- 11 Nicole Vautard, Public Safety/Emer. Mgmt.
- 12 Sharon Ivory, Deputy Receiver of Taxes
- 13 Eric Buckson, Levy Court Commissioner

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Annual Delta Dental report shows 1/3 could become toothless

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

Most Kent County employees care about their teeth, according to the annual utilization report recently released by the County's dental insurance administrator, Delta Dental of Delaware, but a whopping one-third don't get regular check-ups, which are free under the dental plan.



Delta Dental reported that 54% of the dental claims paid from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 involved preventative or diagnostic services. The use of these particular services, which are paid at 100% of customary and reasonable costs under the plan, helps prevent tooth decay and reduces the need for more expensive restorative services such as fillings, endodontic services like root canals, or periodontic services for gum diseases, which require employee cost sharing.

The County spent \$153,836.10 last fiscal year for direct dental services under the self-insured plan that provides an annual calendar year limit of \$1,000 per employee or insured dependent. Cost savings last year were considered significant by Delta Dental because it had avoided about \$31,000 in charges through its diligence in cost containment measures as well as the benefit limitation.

One aspect of the report that continues to be surprising is the fact that only about two-thirds of the County's employee and retiree group visited a dentist last year. One-third did not take advantage of the plan's 100% covered preventative services which includes annual x-rays and cleaning every six-months. Delta Dental, however, found the participation results typical of an organization the size of Kent County.

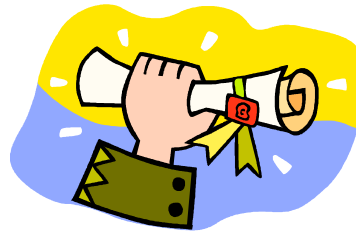
Delta Dental boasted a 7-day or less payment rate for properly filed claims 72% of the time, with 97% of claims paid within two weeks. Customer service calls received from or on behalf of County employees totaled 170 last year with most checking on eligibility or status of a claim payment. Interestingly enough, 70.8 percent of enrolled spouses utilized Delta Dental services outpacing employees by 5%, while children participation dropped to 62%.

For more information about the County's dental program, contact the Personnel Office.

Tuition assistance can help advance County career

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

A popular County benefit can help employees advance in their chosen careers or even change careers - it is the tuition assistance program.



Many existing County employees have taken advantage of the program, which pays up to 75 percent of tuition costs for higher education courses leading to a work related degree. Former County employees often advise that their new employers do not offer such a program - which they regret.

The employee education assistance program provides reimbursement of up to \$750 per fiscal year for undergraduate classes and \$1,000 for graduate courses if the employee earns a minimum passing grade of "C".

Employees interested in the program must first complete an application endorsed by his or her department head. If sufficient funds exist then the class(es) will be approved and the employee will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts and report card. To be eligible to participate and receive reimbursement, an employee must continue to perform satisfactorily in their County job.

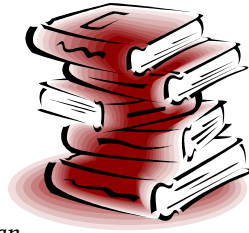
How does the County square the 75% reimbursement with the fiscal year maximums of \$750/\$1,000? Employees are eligible for the full 75% reimbursement, but it is paid out over many years often extending past the graduation date—as long as they remain active employees. Employees terminating employment within one year of receiving assistance must reimburse the County.

High Praise

Shout out to SHIRLEY GOODWIN and DEXTER KOLLIE, Planning Services, for a constituent comment card praising both for being "very helpful and informative." *Keep up the exemplary work!!*

High Praise to JUNE GLADDEN, Assessment Office, for a constituent comment card praising her respectfulness and prompt answers. *Super service!!!*

FROM THE STACKS



By Bonni Capobianco, Evening Librarian

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Have you ever wanted to run away with the circus? Well, here is your chance. Water for Elephants is a delightful novel that tells the story of Jacob Jankowski's adventure when he runs away with the circus. Jacob's story starts in a nursing home as he is reminiscing about his earlier life in the circus. The circus has come to town, and Jacob remembers his early twenties. Jacob is an aspiring veterinarian when his life is shattered financially and emotionally by the sudden death of his parents. In his grief he ends up hopping a train and finds out later it's a circus train. The story takes off from there.

Gruen weaves a wonderful story of characters includes performers, workmen, animals, and the bosses, most with bigger than life personas. Jacob becomes the veterinarian for The Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth and forms special bonds with some of the animals, including Bobo the chimp and Rosie the elephant. He also has bonds with all levels of people on the train, most of which do not mingle with each other. He complicates things when he falls in love with Marlena, the equestrian star who is married to the animal boss, and that's just the beginning.

Water for Elephants is a quick page turner that keeps you so entertained you don't want to put it down. Gruen did research on circus trains in the 1920's and 1930's to make it authentic and give you a feel of what the traveling circus life was really like. Many of the story lines come from actual stories and pictures of the circus' at the time. She weaves the current Jacob story with flashback's of young Jacob telling most of the story. So, if you ever wanted to run away to the circus, here is your chance, after all it's the greatest show on earth. **6007**

* * *

It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is a sin.
~ Benjamin E. Mayes

Recipe of the Month

By Sophie F. Dear, Personnel Technician II

ZUCCHINI BREAD

Submitted by Mary Wozniak, Chief Deputy Register of Wills

- 3¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine flour, salt, nutmeg, baking soda, cinnamon and sugar. In a separate bowl, combine oil, eggs, water, zucchini and lemon juice. Mix wet ingredients into dry, add nuts and fold in. Bake in two standard loaf pans, sprayed with nonstick spray, for one hour, or until a tester comes out clean; or, bake in five mini loaf pans for about 45 minutes.

Recipe courtesy Paula Deen, Food Network TV 2006

I found the baking time on this recipe to be a little longer than called for. For anyone who has an abundance of zucchini in their garden and are tired of making it, but really enjoy it, just do what I do – shred the necessary zucchini, either 1½ or 2 cups at a time, depending upon the amount preferred for your recipes, and put it in a ZipLoc® bag and freeze it. You'll be able to enjoy zucchini bread anytime during the year! -

Mary Wozniak

Kent Co. Employee Obsessions

The display case on the main floor of the Kent County Administrative Complex features a unique assortment of original railroad lanterns collected over the years by Archives Clerk EVELYN JOPP and her husband.

In the second floor display case, Levy Court Office Senior Secretary KATHY PHINNEY has her NASCAR passion on exhibit. Stop by and see this wide variety of collectibles. It'll drive you insane!

Got an interesting hobby or like to collect limited edition baubles? How about a collection of trinkets from far-away lands? Then show off your talent for amassing things—it may interest others as well.

Learn how to dress for success at monthly training

By Sophie F. Dear, Personnel Technician II

Have you seen it all when it comes to your co-workers' work attire? Improper or too casual clothing isn't just a fashion faux pas surrounding business attire, it can put the damper on your credibility, a promotion, or advancement in your career. The training topic in August will be "Dress for Success" and will include the County's *Workplace Attire*

Guidelines. The sessions will be presented on **Thursday, August 16, at 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** in room 220 A/B in the Kent County Administrative Complex.

To sign up for training, please contact me in Personnel at 744-2312, by e-mail (if you have a list), or in person. If you initially forget to sign up and wish to attend, or discover that you will be able to attend on the day of the training session -- show up and sign in.

In July, County employees who attended the "Working with Stress" session were JUNE GLADDEN, KATHY GOODEN, WENDY HAYWOOD, EVELYN JOPP, GALE MAAS, SHEILA ROSS, ANGEL SHORT, and JIM WELSH.

Another employee has earned a one percent pay increase for achieving 15 CEU's of voluntary training - WAYNE McCARTY. Congratulations, Wayne!

Thank you for your continued interest in voluntary training!

High Praise

Kudos to KRIS CONNELLY, Planning Division, for a constituent comment card praising him for being courteous, efficient, and having an answer/explanation for each question. *Outstanding!!*

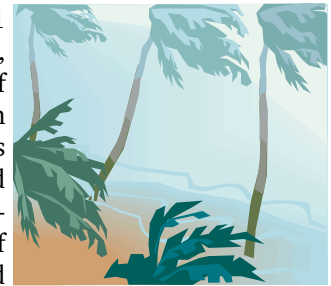
High Five to RUTH SEMANS, Deputy Register of Wills, for a constituent comment card praising her patience, politeness and understanding. *Great!!!*



Plan ahead now for natural disaster evacuations

By David Mick, EMS Operations Support Officer

Experts predict that the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1 and ends November 30, has a 75 percent chance of being above-normal in activity. NOAA scientists predict 13 to 17 named storms, with 7 to 10 becoming hurricanes, of which three to five could become major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher. An average season sees 11 named storms, with six becoming hurricanes, including two major hurricanes.



Hurricanes are not the only events that could cause you and your family to have to evacuate your home. Generally, the need to evacuate implies the relocation will last for a long period of time. Those people who have had to flee wildfires may not be allowed to return to the area for several days or a week or two. We all know that those who were displaced by Katrina and Rita did not get back to their home areas for very long periods.

So what do you need to take with you if a disaster causes you to relocate? How long before your personal needs are met by the assistance of others? Most agencies recommend that you prepare to sustain yourself and your family for three days after a major Katrina-like disaster occurs. Of course, the best thing is to get away from the disaster before it happens, but even then, what things do you need?

NFPA has a "Get Ready" checklist you can use to get started on a cache of supplies to have on hand...ready to go. A good bit of this list comes from plain old common sense. Everyone would think about things like a flashlight, first aid kit, and a blanket. It's not much of a stretch to think of personal hygiene items and prescription medications.

A few items on the list may not be so obvious. After a major disaster debit/credit cards may be of no use. When the banks and ATMs are closed or not working you won't be able to get cash or credit. It's a good idea to have a record of your bank account and **(Continued on Page 16)**

EMPLOYEE COUNCIL NEWS



By Michele Lapinski, Employee Council Secretary

It looks like the proverbial dog days of summer are here, which means that the start of the school year and the coming of autumn aren't too far away. Autumn is also when the Employee Council begins to work in earnest on the anticipated Holiday Dinner/Dance and Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon events. Ticket and other pertinent information for these two special events will be forthcoming via *Kent Connections* and e-mail.

The Employee Council would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their continued participation in the 50/50 and parking space raffles, and all the other fundraisers that we've had over the past several months. We really appreciate your support.

Speaking of raffles, after careful consideration (and demand by fellow employees), the Council will be doing away with the monthly parking space raffle and replacing it with another 50/50. That means two chances each month to win some cold hard cash. The 50/50 raffles will be held on the first and last paydays of the month. We'll try to send out an e-mail a few days in advance of each raffle as a reminder.

The Council would like to congratulate MELISSA STANLEY, Inspections & Enforcement, as Employee of the Month for August. In addition to a day off with pay, "Mel" will also receive a \$100 stipend, and a reserved parking space in the administrative complex parking lot.

If you know of a co-worker who deserves to be recognized for going "above and beyond" in the performance of their daily job duties, then nominate them for Employee of the Month. Nomination forms can be found in the mailroom and also in the "forms" folder on the "V" drive. All Employees of the Month are also eligible for consideration for the Employee of the Year Award which will be announced in December at the Holiday Dinner/Dance.

Your Employee Council members are: KATHY PHINNEY, President; MARY EISENBREY, Vice-President; CYNDI LAIRD, Treasurer; MICHELE LAPINSKI, Secretary; members PAT ORONA, LORI SHORT, and JAYNE ZERANSKI. **4948**

Tech Talk



Microsoft vs. MAC OS X

By Kevin Curtis, Systems Development Specialist

Most computer users only use one operating system on their PC (Microsoft). Microsoft has been the mainstream business and personal computer operating system since the release of Windows 3.1 in 1992. Everyone that has used a computer since the release of 3.1 has experienced the pitfalls of Windows operating system releases. Windows continues to be the main target for malware and virus attacks almost on a daily basis.

Microsoft suggests updating patches for security, internet explorer, OS upgrades on a daily basis and updating virus protection software to prevent loss of data.

Recently I had the experience of having my eldest daughter ask me if she could download music from limewire. Well, that was a big mistake, I granted access to the site, I bet it wasn't 2 weeks and the PC was infected with a virus. I was able to save off all my important documents, my kids homework, photos, music and tax records by starting the PC in safe mode.

I reformatted the hard drive 5 times before realizing the virus had attached itself to the startup sector on the hard drive. Each time I loaded virus protection and connected to the internet, the virus searched the internet to enable the virus to take control of the PC, disabling virus protection and opening up the PC to be controlled remotely.

Thinking for a bit I realized the only solution would be to replace the hard drive. The PC was about 3 years old, was it worth buying a new hard drive? I did some research into an alternative to Microsoft. I visited the Apple store in the Christiana Mall, after asking questions about virus protection, operating system updates, software availability for MAC OS, the decision to me was clear, I bought an iMac.

Although the cost of the iMac was substantially higher than a Dell or HP computer, the iMac is a complete system right out of the box. Speaking of boxes, from box to desktop, complete configuration, including installing batteries in the wireless mighty mouse and keyboard, plugging a single power cord

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Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: DEANNA CAMPAGNINI



Job: WWF Plant Operator I
Date hired: July 9, 2007
Education: M.S., Environmental Health & Safety
What I like most about my new job: The people – they are a great group
Greatest accomplishment: I'm not there yet

Greatest challenge or obstacle: Finishing my Masters while working two jobs

Future goals: To make a difference

If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Finished my degrees sooner

I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Art

Family: Most have long tails and a lot of hair

Favorite sport: Fishing

Favorite meal: Italian

Favorite music: Alternative

Who has had the greatest impact on my life: My nana

If I won a million dollars I would: Pass out

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Am a freelance artist

ON THE MOVE. . .

(Continued from Page 4)

8 to Planning Technician II, Grade 8, Planning Services/Planning

Transfer

07/23/07 JAMES BROWN, Custodian, Grade 3 to Parks Worker II, Grade 6, Community Services/Parks

Retirements

07/05/07 WM. RANDY STAATS, Dispatcher II, Grade 9, Public Safety/Emergency Communications

07/31/07 ANITA LLOYD, Planning Technician II, Grade 8, Planning Services/Planning

07/31/07 CAROL DILL, Chief Deputy Register of Wills, Grade 10, Register of Wills Office

Resignation

07/27/07 JAMES MOORE, WWF Plant Operator I, Grade 6, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities

Milestone

07/15/2002 MICHAEL BERRY, Maintenance Mechanic II, Public Works/Wastewater Facilities—5 years

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: JEFF CLAYTON



Job: Custodian I
Date hired: July 9, 2007
Education: Some college
What I like most about my new job: The hours
Greatest accomplishment: Football
Greatest challenge or obstacle: Football

Future goals: Finish school

If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Talked more

I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Exercise

Family: I'm here on my own (from Cleveland, Ohio)

Most recent movie enjoyed: Transformers

Favorite TV show: Law & Order

Favorite sport: Football

Favorite meal: Anything

Favorite music: R&B, Jazz

Favorite saying or slogan: "Just do it."

Who has had the greatest impact on my life: Mom

A dream I have is to: Live

If I won a million dollars I would: Spend it

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Play golf

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Sky dive

Three words that describe me: Smart, smart, smart

A Monthly Contest

A free movie ticket will be given to the first two employees who find the last four digits of his/her Social Security number in the current issue of Kent Connections and contacts the Personnel Office at 744-2310. WENDY HAYWOOD of Community Services and BILL VINCENT of Wastewater Facilities found their numbers and claimed their movie tickets in July. It's easy to pry a few bucks out of the Personnel Director's wallet in the form of a free movie ticket - just read Kent Connections.



BENEFIT BLURBS

By Sophie F. Dear, Personnel Technician II

Kent County offers excellent health and dental coverage. To get the most from these benefit plans, patients must take an active role in their health care. You and your doctor or dentist will work in partnership to achieve your best possible level of health.

Here are some questions you can ask your provider to get your discussion started:

About the illness or disorder: What is my diagnosis? What caused my condition? Can my condition be treated? How will this condition affect my health now and in the future? Should I watch for any particular symptoms and notify you if they occur? Should I make any lifestyle changes?

About the treatment: What is the treatment for my condition? When will the treatment start, and how long will it last? What are the benefits of this treatment, and how successful is it? What are the risks and side effects associated with this treatment? Are there foods, drugs, or activities I should avoid while I'm on this treatment? If my treatment includes taking a medication, what should I do if I miss a dose? Are other treatments available?

About the tests: What kinds of tests will I have? What do you expect to find out from these tests? When will I know the results? Do I have to do anything special to prepare for any of the tests? Do these tests have any side effects or risks? Will I need more tests later?

- If you don't understand your provider's responses, ask questions until you do understand.
- Take notes, or get a friend or family member to take notes for you. Or, bring a tape-recorder to assist in your recollection of the discussion.
- Ask your provider to write down his or her instructions to you.
- Ask your provider for printed material about your condition.
- If you still have trouble understanding your provider's answers, ask where you can go for more information. Other members of your health care team, such as nurses and pharmacists, can be good sources of information. Talk to them, also

For more information or questions about County benefits, contact the Personnel Office at 744-2310.

CAT BOX



By Cathleen McLean, Payroll Administrator

ICMA-RC has announced a new feature for our employees who wish to take a proactive approach to their 457 deferred compensation contributions. The following is a direct excerpt from the message sent to our Employer Web page on July 29, 2007.

Announcing a new feature your participants can use to track personal performance online!

The Personal Performance tracking feature will help your participants understand the performance of their investments over specific periods of time. This new online feature also allows participants to:

- Review simple charts and graphs that show their account's performance including investment history and changes over time; and
- Get the most from the tool through a simple online tutorial

Participants may access these new menu options by selecting the "My Account View" tab and the "Personal Performance" and "Activity Summary" menu options on Account Access.

Participants can obtain assistance using these new tools by selecting the "Contact Us" option at the bottom of each page on Account Access."

If you have any question please call me at 744-2387.

COUNTY BIRTHDAYS

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- 14 David Baker, Public Works/WWF
- 15 Allan Kujala, Administration
- 16 Jack Schulties, Public Works/WWF
- 17 Penny Gibbs, Deeds Office
- 21 Sophie Dear, Administration
- 24 Dylan Carrar, Public Safety/Emer. Comm.
- 25 Cynthia Goldsboro, Sheriff's Office
- 25 Jennifer Graham, Public Safety/EMS
- 27 Kelly Blanchies, Sheriff's Office
- 27 Patricia Orona, Deeds Office
- 28 Allan Thomas, Public Works/WWF
- 29 Cynthia Johnson, Assessment Office
- 29 Evelyn Jopp, Administration
- 29 Vaughn McCall, Public Works/WWF

FOREIGN STUDENT BECOMES PART OF FAMILY

By Sophie F. Dear, Personnel Technician II

World Heritage (WH) is a student exchange program dedicated to fostering cultural enrichment and intercultural understanding through youth exchange programs. Each year WH offers North American families the opportunity to host girls and



boys, ages 15 to 18, from Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and Thailand.

All students are at least conversant in the English language before their arrival, having studied it for a minimum of three years and many times even more. Students are carefully screened by the overseas offices of WH, and are selected on the basis of their high academic standing, good-natured and adaptable manner, and their curiosity and sense of adventure. WH invites you and your family to participate in this invaluable cultural experience and help contribute to global harmony. The host family's financial commitment is minimal – you merely provide meals and a room (your student may share a room with a child of the same sex who is close in age).

Last summer my husband, Leroy, and I decided to “participate in this invaluable cultural experience and help contribute to global harmony.”

Aliya Khaybullina arrived from Russia on a really hot day in August. While she was only with us for a few weeks, she became a champion crab picker – thanks to my niece, Michelle. Aliya really dug in after a one-crab lesson! She also ate her share of shrimp while she was with us. Due to her religious beliefs (Muslim) she kept covered no matter how warm the weather – always keeping her head and legs covered while with us. Eventually, Leroy went out of town for a week and she was comfortable enough with me to literally let her hair down (to her thighs, no less!) and come out of the bedroom in shorts and tank-top. However, when my mother pulled into the driveway, Aliya ran for the laundry room as a hiding place, and I had to convince her that it was a female family member and OK to come out. According to Aliya, after Muslim girls are of a certain age, males are not to see their hair – it is a privilege for their future husband, and their bodies remain covered except in the presence of only the closest of family members. Aliya moved on to live with a Muslim family with several small children,

who kept her moving!

A few days later I received a call asking me to host a Swiss student until she could be placed with a full-time host family. At that point I decided if we were going to host her for up to eight weeks, I may as well host her for the entire school year. We met Melanie Sidler late at night in Philadelphia, stopped for dinner, then arrived home after midnight. She had to unpack, grab some school supplies, and crawl out of bed a few hours later for her first day of school in America. She fell in love with our cat, had a love-hate relationship with the dog, and her idea of eating out was going to Sonic. She impatiently waited for the Sonic near our home to finally open. It's a wonder Leroy didn't help her skip school so she could be the first one in line!

Melanie was Leroy's Lowes buddy. If he mentioned going to Lowes for something, no matter how small, she would drop whatever she was doing (usually homework) and run for the door. After she left, he asked, “Who's going to go to Lowes with me, now?” Melanie did well in school – she came here with her native Swiss German, Swiss French, and English under her belt. While she was here, her local school (Campus Community High School) required her to take Spanish, and her Swiss school required her to study French. She gave up her lunch hour twice a week to take a class at Wesley College, completing it with a grade of “A” on top of her other studies.

We took Melanie to Manassas, Virginia, to visit my son and his family, then flew to Colorado in November and spent Christmas in Phoenix so she could meet Leroy's sons. While in Colorado and Arizona, she picked, teased, and fought like the proper bratty little sister that she is. We also spent a weekend in Hampton, Virginia so I could attend a quilt exposition. She loved Colorado, liked Phoenix (it wasn't as warm as she had expected it to be), and hated the quilt expo. (She and Leroy escaped to Virginia Beach, which she loved, even though it rained.) She spent her spring break touring Southern California with a large group of exchange students. Leroy even purchased a larger, nicer truck, which was used to carpool Aliya and Melanie to and from school. Before she left, I asked her which she would miss more, Leroy or his truck. She immediately said, “Don't be silly,” then after a few seconds of hesitation, continued with “The truck, of course.” She was so accustomed to thinking and speaking in English, one day she tried to say something in German and

(Continued on Page 12)

HOSTING A STUDENT

(Continued from Page 11)

couldn't remember a word she needed.

Then there was this other student—Needa Al-Kadasi. Tiny Needa with the huge smile and personality. I was asked to be Area Representative for Needa while she lived with another family, JAMES NUNES (Wastewater Facilities) and his wife,



Wanda. When Needa was asked if she would mind living someplace where it gets cold during the school year, she readily agreed to it, thinking it can't be THAT cold. Luckily for her, we had a relatively mild winter, because all she brought were sandals and light-weight little shoes, the type worn in hot weather, because that was all she had ever experienced.

The students were considered "family" by their host family for the duration of their stay, attending family functions (Melanie couldn't believe the size of my immediate family's annual holiday gift exchange – we usually host 25-30 people at one time in our home) and traveling with the family. The three girls went to Wallops Island for a rocket launch, but it was scrubbed, so Melanie, Aliya, and I spent the rest of the day in Chincoteague.

So far, so good . . . right? Not quite. Three teenage girls came with their share of funky clothes, foot-stomping, phone calls requesting curfew extensions, gripes about teachers and other foreign students, and "You want me to do what?" All three gained weight, two of them to the point where they had to buy new clothes, from the combination of American cuisine and not being as active as they were in their home countries.

Would we do it again? Of course! Many months ago we selected a German student, Maike Timmerberg, and have been e-mailing for a few months now. We will meet her in DC, again late at night, and three days later she will begin school at Campus Community High School.

If you like working with young people, have loads of energy, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to help make your community a little more international – one country at a time – why wait? For more information go to the WH website at www.world-heritage.org or contact Sue Bancroft at suebancroftwh@sbcglobal.net.

Tech Talk

(Continued from Page 8)

into a surge suppressor and plugging in the internet connection took less than 10 minutes.

We have only purchased one software package Microsoft Office for MAC. This suite of software comes with Word, Excel, Power Point and is completely compatible with Microsoft's version of office.

The iMac comes with a built in camera in the top center of the screen. Software already on the iMac enables the user to take pictures and or video that can be saved to attach to an email so you can send photos and video to friends and family.

I paid \$99 to get the extended warranty and help support, I've made several calls to Apple's help desk and each time I've done so I've been directly connected to a person that could quickly answer my question. The number to their help center is an 800 number so you won't be charged for the call.

The iMac comes with the following software pre-loaded and ready to use:

Spotlight --- search the computer for files, images, emails, contacts, calendars and applications.

Safari --- Apple's version of internet explorer, Safari puts everything you need to browse, search, view RSS feeds and manage your bookmarks in a clean, easy-to-use navigation bar.

iChat AV --- Featuring a three-dimensional view, iChat AV 3 for Tiger practically puts your colleagues in the room with you, making it easier to follow the conversation. View their faces reflected into space, just as if they were sitting around a conference-room table.

Parental Controls --- Its simple multi-user setup and powerful parental controls let you choose how much freedom to give each family member — while protecting your little ones from things they shouldn't see.

To learn more visit www.Apple.com

High Praise

High Five for WAYNE McCARTY, MIKE RIGBY, and staff, Parks Division, for a letter from a Camden resident for the outstanding effort extending the Breaknock Park trail to the Pharsalia development and for keeping residents informed about the progress. *Outstanding!!*

High Praise to retiring ANITA LLOYD, Planning Division, for a constituent comment card praising her for her exceptional customer service and being so "cheerful and helpful". *It's your enthusiasm!!*

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: MEGAN REEDY



Job: Paramedic Trainee
Date hired: July 3, 2007
Education: Currently at Del Tech
What I like most about my new job: Starting my career of choice
Greatest accomplishment: Getting hired; how well I competed
Greatest challenge or obstacle: Overcoming family issues

Future goals: Flight medic
Person/event that most inspired me in my career: Dr. Alan McKersie
If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Stayed in college the first time and not dropped out
I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Playing softball, fishing, or on the boat
Family: Mom, Dad, five stepparents, two brothers, four stepsisters
Most recent movie enjoyed: The Holiday
Favorite TV show: One Tree Hill
Favorite sport: Softball
Favorite meal: Steak
Favorite music: Country
Favorite saying or slogan: "Just kidding"
Who has had the greatest impact on my life: My parents (all four of them!)
A dream I have is to: Have my own family
If I won a million dollars I would: Save some for kids; take a huge vacation
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Know sign language
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Go on a cruise with a bunch of friends
Three words that describe me: Smart, funny, loveable

Letter of Thanks
Manship Chapel sent a thank you note, acknowledging with deep appreciation for the memorial gift from County employees as an expression of sympathy in loving memory of Carol Schulties. Thanks to all County employees who contributed!

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: DAVID WHITNEY



Job: WWF Plant Operator I
Date hired: July 9, 2007
Greatest accomplishment: 26 years USAF service
Future goals: Education
I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Hanging out with friends
Family: Wife, Cheryl; daughter, Amber

Most recent movie enjoyed: Skeleton Key
Favorite TV show: Dirty Jobs
Favorite meal: Homemade
Favorite music: Rock
Who has had the greatest impact on my life: Wife
A dream I have is to: Finish all my home improvement projects
If I won a million dollars I would: Invest
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Enjoy cooking
Three words that describe me: Motivated, friendly, nice

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: ZACH LAWSON



Job: WWF Plant Operator I
Date hired: July 9, 2007
Education: Some college
What I like most about my new job: Spending a lot of time outdoors
If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: High school
Most recent movie enjoyed: The Holiday

Favorite TV show: Futurama
Favorite music: Rock
If I won a million dollars I would: Buy a house

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: JOSHUA NORRIS

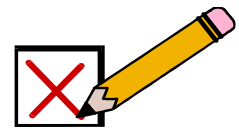


Job: Dispatcher I
Date hired: July 1, 2007
Education: High school, Junior year of college
What I like most about my new job: Sense of satisfaction knowing I am helping the community.
Future goals: Maintain a great job, support a family, Chief of Hartly Volunteer Fire Company

Person/event that most inspired me in my career: Father
If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Would have gone into fire academy post-high school
I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Sleeping
Family: Three older sisters: Julie, Tonya, Lois; dad, Jim; mom, Pauline; step-mom, Victoria
Most recent movie enjoyed: Apocalypse II
Favorite TV shows: Rescue Me; Family Guy
Favorite sport: Rugby
Favorite meal: Lasagna
Favorite music: Country
Favorite saying or slogan: H-Town!! You know!!
Who has had the greatest impact on my life: Friends and family
A dream I have is to: Wake up!!
If I won a million dollars I would: Buy 100,000,000 Swedish Fish and give everyone a sweet tooth or cavity.
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Run fast for a big guy. Look out!
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Experienced rugby
Three words that describe me: Funny, dedicated, loyal **2656** **0505**

HOW TO BE EXCEPTIONAL
 DEVELOPMENT OF SELF—b. *Continuously build skill and knowledge bases and encourage other to do so;* c. *Develop and teach ways to perform job better;* d. *Initiate efforts to obtain high level job related certifications and share expanded knowledge.* **G.A.U.G.E.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- August 1, 2007 - Blood Pressure Checks at the Wastewater Facility from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- August 8, 2007 - L&W Ins. Rep. to answer health insurance questions from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in Room 213 at the County Administrative Complex.
- August 8, 2007 - Blood Pressure Checks at Annex at 9:00 a.m., Kent County Administrative Complex in Room 257 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- August 16, 2007 - Employee Training Session titled "Dress for Success". Sessions will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in room 220 A/B in the Kent County Administrative Complex.
- September 3, 2007 - Labor Day holiday. County offices closed. Enjoy your day off.

NACo conference

(Continued from Page 3)

When examining the Republican race for the presidency Carlson said, "John McCain is the happiest when he is losing. I ran into him after he won in New Hampshire and he was miserable."

Attendees also took advantage of the valuable training opportunities NACo provides. Commissioner Angel and Mr. Petit de Mange participated in a day long technology summit while Commissioner Brode participated in several public safety workshops including one on the importance of interoperability among police, fire, and rescue personnel.

Kent County's delegation maintains a visible role within NACo. Commissioner Eaby serves on NACo's Board of Directors and three Commissioners serve on one of NACo's twelve Steering Committees. Steering Committees decide NACo's National County Platform which is presented to Congress. Commissioner Banta serves on the Economic Development Steering Committee; Commissioner Angel serves on Telecommunications Steering Committee; and Commissioner RICHARD E. ENNIS serves on the Transportation Committee.

High Praise

Kudos to DALE HAMMOND, Inspections & Enforcement Division/Manufactured Housing section for passing the International Code Council B-1 Residential Inspection exam. *Yeah!!*

County staff urged to mentor youth through program

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

Hundreds of children in the Kent County community are in need, and a little of your time is all they request.



Three years ago, Levy Court approved a partnership with Creative Mentoring after department heads indicated that they would support staff members participating in the program.

Employees interested in spending up to one hour each week with a child at one of the local elementary or charter schools are encouraged to stop by the Personnel Office for a mentoring information packet.

The program requires participants to complete a training program, but it is not lengthy and helps mentors learn what activities the assigned child might like to participate. The commitment only lasts the school year, but program coordinator Jim Crellin says that most mentors receive great personal satisfaction and return year after year.

If you think you would like to mentor a child in your local school community, meet with your department head to discuss the time commitment. Most programs are scheduled around the lunch hour, so department heads understand that the mentoring employee might return back to work a little late.

High Praise

Give a hand to KIM DIXON and KAREN COOPER, Receiver of Taxes Office, for separate constituent comment cards praising each for their congenial and professional customer service and ability to fully explain the tax process. *Best of the best!!*

Kudos to GINA GLANDEN, NANCY GLENN, MARK ST. JEAN, LORI SHORT, SCOTT VAUTARD, and MIKE WEYANT, Inspections & Enforcement Division, for individual constituent comment cards praising each one for their excellent service, professionalism, helpfulness, polite, well mannered, and extremely knowledgeable way of addressing citizen questions and complaints. *Spreading happiness all around!!!*

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: YVONNE MESSINA



Job: Clerk-Typist (Receptionist)

Date hired: July 23, 2007

Education: High school graduate

What I like most about my new job: Meeting, greeting and helping people

Greatest accomplishment: My family

Greatest challenge or obstacle: Family illnesses

Future goals: To be a good employee for Kent County Levy Court and retire

Person/event that most inspired me in my career: My husband

If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Taken some extra business courses

I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Sitting on a beach with a book

Family: Husband—Phil, son—Chris, daughter - Valerie, 2 grandsons—Matthew & Christopher

Most recent movie enjoyed: I don't watch many movies

Favorite TV show: Design to Sell

Favorite sport: Baseball

Favorite meal: Beef stew

Favorite music: Country

Favorite saying or slogan: "Have fun, but be careful"

Who has had the greatest impact on my life: My mother-in-law

A dream I have is to: Take a cruise and visit Hawaii again

If I won a million dollars I would: Take the whole family to Disney for a week and invest the rest

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Lived at a beach for 14 years

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: A week in Hawaii is about as adventurous as I get!

Words that describe me: Responsible, dedicated and reliable

* * *

No matter what you've done for yourself or for humanity, if you can't look back on having given love and attention to your own family, what have you really accomplished?
Lee Iococca

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: BRANDON L. OLENIK



Job: Dispatcher II
Date hired: July 9, 2007
Education: Caesar Rodney, Class of 2003
What I like most about my new job: Fast-paced work environment
Greatest accomplishment: EMT/FF (Emergency Medical Technician & Firefighter)
Future goals: To own my own NHRA Powerade Drag Racing Series Pro Stock team

I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Sleeping
Family: Single; no kids
Most recent movie enjoyed: Talladega Nights
Favorite TV show: Impact Stories of Survival
Favorite meal: Tacos
Favorite music: Country
Favorite saying or slogan: "If you're not first, you're last."
Who has had the greatest impact on my life: Father
A dream I have is to: Own my own home
If I won a million dollars I would: Retire, invest
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Have drag-raced since I was 12 and have been on ESPN for it.
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Run into a burning building
Three words that describe me: Outgoing, tall, fun **4514**

Welcome to Levy Court!



Name: WYNONAH G. WALLACE



Job: Custodian I
Date hired: July 10, 2007
Education: High school graduate
What I like most about my new job: Meeting new people and working for the County
Greatest accomplishment: My family, always being there for them
Greatest challenge or obstacle: Starting a new job

Future goals: Moving up in my job
Person/event that most inspired me in my career: My husband
If I had it to do over, I would have done this differently: Mostly, try to not take things for granted
I'm most relaxed and happy when I'm doing this: Having a family dinner and visiting friends
Family: Tim, Jessie, Jay, Jeffrey, and Majessah
Most recent movie enjoyed: DeJaVu
Favorite TV show: Everyone Loves Raymond
Favorite sport: Football
Favorite meal: Anything on the BBQ grill
Favorite music: Classical, Rock, Pop
Favorite saying or slogan: "You know what"
Who has had the greatest impact on my life: My family
A dream I have is to: Retire at the beach
If I won a million dollars I would: Give it to charities and buy a beach house
The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Having kids, and have been a single parent
Words that describe me: Hard working, honest, shy **1597** **9552**

Plan ahead for possible storm evacuations

(Continued from Page 7)

credit card numbers in case you have to re-establish your finances from a distant location. Don't forget your passport!

Kids have a hard time coping with the stresses of an evacuation. If you wind up in a shelter or other strange environment, it's really helpful to have a child's favorite toy and some crayons or a

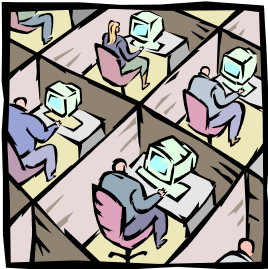
small game for them...something they like..

There are many sources of information for emergency planning. Check out a few of the NFPA web links and use the info to make a "Ready Kit" that suits your own needs. Don't think it could never happen. It may take a bit of effort, and it's certainly not a "warm and fuzzy" thought, but better to have and not need than need and not have.

Furniture system enhancements set for Complex

By Kim Crouch, Chief Technology Administrator

Several furniture system enhancements will be installed in a half dozen County offices this month to provide better privacy or enhance safety.



Workers from the County's modular furniture contractor, Advanced Office Environments (AOE), will be in the Planning Services Department installing supports on several unsafe workstations that are leaning. The support legs are called "C" legs, because they look like a 'C' and perform exceptionally well.

The Register of Wills office will receive their long awaited work station partitions which are shorter than the current partitions. This will allow the Wills staff to see customers who are in the waiting area. In addition, Wills will receive four small rolling file cabinets, a large cabinet for supplies and a tripod table.

The Recorder of Deeds office will receive eight small rolling file cabinets, an overhead cabinet, two tables, and adjustments on various cabinet locks. The Receiver of Taxes office will get a tripod table and a small rolling file cabinet for storage. The Clerk of the Peace office will receive improved workstations with a privacy panel and storage cabinets.

The GIS Division will receive a cabinet for supplies and an overhead cabinet. The GIS staff in the Public Works Department will receive a work table which is essential for laying out maps while working at their workstations.

The Personnel Office will receive an under the desktop filing storage cabinet and their current smaller cabinets will be installed in the Clerk of the Peace office. The Assessment office will receive a half moon table and a counter top for existing counter-level filing cabinets. The Finance Department will receive a replacement book case that was previously installed in the Register of Wills office.

The furniture enhancement project will conclude in September when a privacy wall for the bump-out conference room in the Personnel Office is installed.



Safe Kids group honors McCarty for Day event

By G. Wayne McCarty, Park Facilities Specialist

Three months ago, I wrote a story about Safe Summer Day 2007 explaining that it was all about you and your safety.

Safe Summer Day Committee Members representing Kent County Levy Court, Kent County EMS, Kent County Parks and Recreation, Delaware Office of Highway Safety, Delaware State Police, Delaware Solid Waste Authority, the Delaware Safe Kids Coalition, Delaware Risk Watch, and Dover A.F.B -512th Civil Engineering Squadron reached out to well over 60 displayers, and 50 volunteers, which in-turn attracted over 4,000 visitors this year.

On the day of the event, tables were placed and marked, and power was installed where needed by the Parks Division Staff and volunteers. Pools were filled, beach balls blown-up by one of our first time displayers Kent County's own Inspections and Enforcement Division. By the end of the event the visitors were leaving with bags of goodies, and safety tips that could save their lives.

Then, on June 27, 2007 I was totally surprised to receive from the Kent County Chapter of the Delaware Safe Kids Coalition the annual "Leadership Award" for my part as Chairman of the Safe Summer Day 2007 Committee. I accepted the Award on behalf of Kent County Levy Court, Department of Community Services, and The Safe Summer Day 2007 Committee who made it possible for Safe Summer Day 2007 to be an overwhelming success.

Just for the record, Safe Summer Day 2008 will be June 14, 2008 – mark your calendars now.

SOME ANSWERS TO THOSE NAGGING QUESTIONS

By Allan Kujala, Personnel Director

Q. *Why does the County not trust men to have paper towels in the Administrative Complex bathrooms, when the women have them?*

A. This was a hot topic at a Manager's meeting about two years ago, when neither restroom had paper towels. The then County Administrator explained that electric hand dryers are more sanitary, and less costly than providing paper. The sole female Department Director at the time made a compelling argument for paper towels in the ladies room, but nary a male spoke up. Fortunately, the custodial staff heard our pleas and maintain an adequate supply of paper towels in the handicapped stall. They also arranged for the trash can conveniently located by the door. Now, you know the secret, but the public will still likely use the dryers.

Q. *I was wondering how you feel about a County employee that wears a County uniform everyday, but insists on the polo shirt collar being pulled straight up. I can't imagine this is how the County intended it to be worn, and I don't think County uniforms should be used as a fashion statement. If this is okay, what would prevent him from wearing one pant leg rolled up?*

A. The County's uniform policy makes the department head responsible for insuring that employee uniforms are maintained in clean condition and are worn appropriately. I agree that a rolled up pant leg would be over the line of appropriateness as would be sagging pants. And while a collar pulled up on a uniform shirt would seem odd to me, it is up to the department head to decide if the employee is a positive reflection of the County and the department.

Q. *I notice that the County has posted all the Information Technology jobs effective October 1 when the County's contract with ACS ends. What about the existing ACS employees? Will they lose their jobs? I think that is unfair. In my opinion, these people have a right to these jobs. We have always treated them like part of the County and they should not be tossed out like last month's newsletter.*

A. The County personnel ordinance dictates how new and vacant positions are filled. The Information Technology staff are employees of Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., not Kent County. The new County IT positions were approved as part of the FY08 budget

and position descriptions were just approved last month by Levy Court. The personnel ordinance does not provide any special exception for people previously employed by a contractor. As a government, all citizens/taxpayers should have an equal opportunity to apply for vacant County jobs, except in certain circumstances such as in-house transfers, promotions, reinstatements, or seasonal, temporary, contractual, and court-appointed positions. I hope the existing IT staff does not think we are trying to toss them into the street. We have advised them the ACS contract will not be renewed and have encouraged each to apply for the new County positions. But in our search to hire the best qualified individual for each County position, they will have to compete with other applicants—just like you did.

Q. *With all the parking we have at the Complex, why would an employee choose to park her County vehicle next to the curb at the employee entrance with the flashers on?*

A. I looked into it and was informed that the employee exits the vehicle and runs into his nearby office for less than two minutes to pick up job orders and then she rushes back out on the road. It appears to be done for efficiency reasons only. It seems like a minor thing, but I have suggested that the vehicle not block the curb cut so employees with handcarts or a wheeled case can easily access the parking lot.

Q. *I'm not sure if has ever happened, but with all the cash changing hands here at the County, I was wondering what one would do if someone attempted to rob the County tax office or other office.*

A. Excellent question. These things do occur under the most unusual circumstances, so it could happen here. The Tax office is equipped with an emergency alarm system and the entire County complex is constantly being monitored by the County 9-1-1 dispatchers via the numerous cameras located within the building and in the parking lot. These cameras are so precise that the dispatchers were able to zoom in and watch County Administrator Mike Petit de Mange get dunked about 30 times in the employee picnic dunking booth on June 20. Despite this capability, you should dial 9-1-1 if you ever feel threatened while in the County building or anywhere for that matter.