

# PEvents

A monthly publication of news and views at Person Industries

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## PATS Riders Choose Transportation Increase



PI Riders exit the vans after being transported to PI.

It is rare for any consumer to choose a rate hike. However, given the choice put before PI transportation riders last month, they indeed chose to have their transportation rates increased.

PI learned in mid June that PATS would increase rates by a full 33% for in town

riders and 20% for out of town riders. With such an increase, it was unavoidable to have some of that cost passed on to riders. To determine which was the best way, riders were asked to complete a transportation

survey wherein they opted for either a rate increase or a reduction in the number of days PI offered transportation. Riders overwhelmingly chose the rate increase.

So, effective September 1, 2008, the cost of riding PATS will increase to \$50 per month for full time

riders and \$25 per month for part time riders. The additional rider fee, currently at \$10 per month for second or third riders in the same household, will increase to \$15 per month.

The original intent was not to increase transportation costs for those riding the SE vans, however, this may change if the proposed PATS rate increase is not sufficiently offset by PI's increase. PI Director Wanda Rogers says she is also reserving the right to revisit the four day per week ridership option if these cost measures do not sufficiently manage the increase.

### Current and Proposed Monthly Transportation Rates

	Current	As of 9/1/08
Full Time	\$40.00	\$50.00
Part Time	\$20.00	\$25.00
Additional Rider	\$10	\$15.00

### Inside this issue:

Words of Wellness	2
Merriell Jay—onsite EMT	2
PC Pride Fund-raiser	2
Terrence Poole Leaves PI	2
Andy Davenport Retires	3
Co-Worker Rivalry	3
Calendar of Events	4

## Client Rights Committee Seeking New Members

The PI Client Rights Committee meets once every three months to review and give recommendations on any incidents that involve people in programming at PI. If a program employee is injured or violates rules and is suspended or gets in a fight, an incident report is filled out by the staff who witnessed the incident. The committee reviews these reports and makes recommendations for handling future inci-

dents. The committee reviews any behavior plans, complaints and any violations of programming employees' rights. The mission of the committee is to review and monitor Person Industries' practices to ensure the rights of all clients are protected.

The Person Industries Client Rights Committee is made up of at least five and no more than ten members. The committee is made up of individuals

from local businesses, professionals in the field, family members, former or current clients and citizens from the community. We are currently seeking a business representative, a client representative and other community members to serve on the committee. If you would like to be a member of the PI Client Rights Committee, please contact Judith Casseday at 599-7571x16.

### Special points of interest: Cultural Diversity Training

PI Staff are scheduled to participate in a full day cultural diversity training on Friday, August 22nd and a half day overview of cultural diversity training on Friday, August 29th. The full day will run 8:30 to 4:00. The half day training will run 9:00 to 12:00. Both trainings will take place at the IT Training Room on Morgan Street. The half day overview will be recorded for future use. Supervisor's will decide who will attend each session based on their previous training experiences. The trainings are being presented by the Office of Minority Health out of the state office.

## Words of Wellness



**Leigh Ann Creson,**  
Health Promotion Coordinator for Person County Health Department

Every January, thousands of North Carolinians make vows to eat smarter and move more, and lose those extra pounds. Whether your New Year's Resolution was to be active five days a week, eat more fruits and vegetables, or choose water over soda or sweet tea, chances are you have long forgotten it. You are not alone.

The majority of people abandon their New Year's Resolutions by mid-February. Individual reasons may vary, but the truth is – change is hard. With some good tips and determination, you can succeed. Now is the time, as we are more than half way through 2008, to revisit your resolutions or make new Mid-Year Resolutions.

When thinking about making a healthy change in your lifestyle, keep the 5 P's of change in mind.

- 1. Proper Goals.** *Proper goals are reasonable and specific. Set small goals that you know you can reach. Make your goals specific. Don't just say you want to lose weight, specify how much you want to lose, and by when.*
- 2. Plan.** *Once your goals are set, make a plan of how you are going to reach them. For example, if your goal is to eat more fruits and veggies, you could decide to substitute a piece of fruit for your usual mid-morning snack and eat at least two veggies with dinner every night.*
- 3. Progress.** *Track your progress along the way. Keep a food log or an activity log, depending on your goal. Track how you are feeling about your goal each day and the things that seem to derail you so you can be prepared the next time they occur.*
- 4. People.** *Make yourself accountable to the people in your life. Tell someone or several people about your goal and ask them to hold you accountable. Be accountable to yourself too.*
- 5. Perseverance.** *Stuff happens! Even the most dedicated people will have setbacks every now and then. Don't let it ruin all the progress you are making. Forgive yourself, make note of what caused the setback and make a plan to combat it the next time, and then get right back on your healthy eating or activity plan.*

## PI Has Onsite EMT

As a substitute at PI for the past four years, Merriell Jay has shown his versatility in many areas. A retired graphic designer, he has filled in for every direct service staff at PI and in the community. He has even been trained to assist with time study evaluations that determine the rate of pay for employees with disabilities. But the unsung role that he has been quietly filling for PI is on-site EMT or Emergency Medical Technician.



**Merriell Jay**

and as such, he and fellow rescuers respond to all rescue and recovery missions in the county and they are first responder to all accidents. PI is pleased to have this first responder already onsite.

Merriell volunteers as an EMT with the Person County Rescue Squad,

Merriell says that his state license as an EMT allows him to work up to his fullest level of training whenever he responds. This has been invaluable to PI as he has been on hand to administer first aid, control minor bleeds, assist with seizures and act as consultant on first aid matters.

## PC Pride and PC Retired School Personnel Sponsor Fund Raiser

On Friday, August 22, 2008, PC Pride and Retired School Personnel will sponsor a Magic Show to raise money for recycling in schools. The show, featuring world renowned Magician Lisa Menna, will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Kirby Civic Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for

regular admission, \$5 for children 12 and under. Special reserved seating may be purchased at the Kirby.

To purchase tickets at PI, please see any administrative office staff.

## Terrence Leaves After 22 Years



### Terrence Poole leaves PI after 22 years of services

his headstrong nature, Terrence could frustrate unit workers and then soothe their frayed nerves with his big, engaging smile.

Terrence came to PI in September of 1986. Although he was officially in the CAP Unit, as a boisterous and energetic young man of 22, he roamed the halls of PI, then located in the old Bushy Fork Building, and got to know everyone. With

Through the years, he has contended with many health issues that have taken a toll on his once active body. Now with limited mobility, he has lost some of the independence that made him an institution at PI but still maintains that independent spirit that leaves unit staff clear about what his choices are.

Terrence will leave PI on August 15th for other programming options. However, with 22 years of being served at PI, he could never leave the PI family. We wish him well and will continue to follow his progress.



Andy (center) practices for his retirement as he relaxes in his Adirondack furniture with wife and grandchildren. The furniture was a retirement gift from PI. Were it not for the tie, it would be easy to assume that his retirement had already begun.

July 29th was the big day for Person County Finance Director Andy Davenport. Davenport retired from his demanding position and will begin a life of leisure.

It was Andy and his Assistant Amy Wehrenberg who “got the ball rolling” for PI to move to Person County

from OPC Area Program. Andy met with PI staff representatives and then OPC management to negotiate the start date, the transfer of leave and all the other challenges involved in getting PI employees who are receiving services and those working solely in the production department onto the Person County Payroll. He and other members of his department also made sure the needs of PI were considered in the financial software purchases and conversions.

Andy has been Director of Finance for Person County Government since 1990 and has made an indelible mark in county history by receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the entire 18 years of his tenure. This certificate, given by the Government Financial Office of Accounting, is a means of recognizing the outstanding financial practices and procedures that are noted from the annual audit.

Andy was honored with a Reception on Tuesday, July 29th in the Person County Commissioner’s room. He was presented with gifts and words of appreciation for being an excellent steward of Person County tax dollars.

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## Co-Worker Rivalry Boosts Weight Loss

The expression, “put your money where your mouth is” has new meaning for PI co-workers Jody Suitt and Jeff Villines. Jody and Jeff engaged in a friendly wager to see who could lose the most weight between July 1st and Labor Day. So rather than eat, they are trying to pocket the \$50 winners purse.

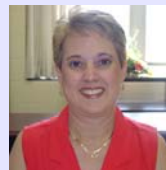


Jeff Villines and Jody Suitt

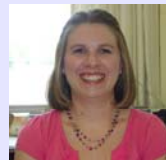
The two intended to have a “private” weigh in and then a quiet competition. Somehow the word has gotten out and there are cheerleaders on both sides. What’s more important is that their weight loss efforts are being imitated by others. Jeff, now down some 15 pounds, says that five other PI employees and

staff joined him for his evening walk at the track. Jody, now down 18 pounds, has two other staff who have committed to his diet plan. Who knew that a little rivalry among co-workers could lead to such positive health benefits for others?

## Amy Wehrenberg Takes the Helm of Finance Department



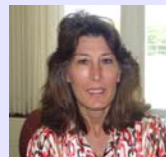
Amy Wehrenberg  
Finance Director



Beth Farabaugh  
Assistant Finance Director



Consuela Pettiford  
Accounting Assistant



Karen Whitfield  
Payroll Supervisor

**Not pictured:**

Debbie Whitfield  
Accounting Supervisor

Andy’s retirement opened the way for an upward shift in the Finance Department for two members. **Amy Wehrenberg**, Assistant Finance Director, was awarded the position after the County launched an exhaustive candidate search only to find the best person, albeit a reluctant one, in the office to the right.

Amy started with Person County in 1994 handling payroll operations. Within two weeks she had moved to the Assistant Director’s position where she has performed outstandingly since. She has worked alongside Andy to achieve excellence in financial reporting. Amy has also been instrumental to PI becoming a stable county department.

Amy has in turn promoted **Beth Farabaugh** to position of Assistant Finance Director. Beth too got her start with payroll operations and was promoted to accounting supervisor in 2006 where she worked until her recent promotion.

Amy has also hired **Debbie Whitfield** to replace Beth as Accounting Supervisor. Debbie starts on August 4, 2008.

**Consuela Pettiford** and **Karen Whitfield** make up the other two members of the Finance Department. Consuela, Accounting Assistant, handles accounts payables functions. Karen, also a new hire, is the Payroll Supervisor. Both brought years of experience in their respective areas with them to county employment.

Together this team will continue the outstanding tradition of excellence in finance that has become the hallmark of the Person County Finance Department.

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**Heidi York**  
 Person County  
 Manager

PI welcomes Heidi York to her new position as Person County Manager. Heidi took over the reigns of Person County Government on July 21, 2008 and has already impressed us with her very approachable style. We look forward to her direction and leadership.

Heidi serves in the position formerly held by Steve Carpenter, who retired on June 30, 2008.

# August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Quarterly Safety Address 3:45 in PI Main Break Room	22 Cultural Diversity Training & PC Pride Fund- raiser (See page 1 and 2 for more details)	23
24	25	26	27 Blood Borne Pathogens Training (See right for details)	28	29 Cultural Diversity Training (See page 1 for more details)	30
31						



## Up Close at Person

We offer our condolences to Dale Ball, Onsite Implus Representative on the death of his brother, James Ball. James died on July 30, 2008 in Ohio. He was 56 years old.

### PI Announces Employee Appreciation Banquet

The 2008 Employee Appreciation Banquet will be held on Friday, September 19, 2008 at the Homestead Festival House from 5:30–8:30 p.m. The banquet is an opportunity that PI takes to show appreciation for its employees and staff for their commitment and dedication throughout the year.

### PI Staff Participates in Blood Borne Pathogens Training

On Wednesday, August 27, 2008, PI staff will participate in the annual Blood Borne Pathogens Training. The training, presented by Becky Nowachek with the Person County Health Department, will be offered in two one hour sessions—9:00 & 10:00.