

# PEvents

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## PI Receives the Financing to Build the Person County MRF

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PI has reached the final step of the ladder to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for Person County. On Monday, January 19th, Person County Commissioners, having already approved the building of the facility at a previous meeting, also approved the funding that is necessary to move the project forward.

BB&T Bank was awarded the bid for the 58 month, \$457,000 loan. While Person County will assume the loan, PI will be responsible for paying back the loan in full.

Since February of 2008, PI has taken the necessary steps to build the MRF. With this last hurdle of financing now

cleared, the facility is targeted to open in July of 2009 in the building now used as PI Manufacturing (formerly Irvin Industries).

The MRF will give county residents a place to bring recyclables from their homes and businesses. Unlike the current center located on Madison Boulevard, however, recyclable materials will not need to be sorted. Instead, they will be loaded onto a conveyor in a single stream and sorted directly from the equipment by employees of Person Industries and then compressed and sent to recyclable goods vendors.

The contract to build the MRF has been awarded to Davco Steel, Inc. located in Loris, SC.



**Example of a single stream conveyor at Burbank Recycling, Inc. in Burbank, California.**

In the past eight years, Davco has installed more than 80 major recycling systems across the country. PI looks forward to their well reputed customer service and to providing this service to the citizens of Person County.

### Special points of interest:

- PI will undergo a national CARF Accreditation Review on February 2-4, 2009.
- Each county has a Special Needs Registry for individuals who may need assistance in a disaster. It is important to get on this list before a disaster or emergency situation occurs. Employees of PI should see their program manager if they have questions about getting on this list.

## PI Has Exemplary Year in Health & Safety

When it comes to maintaining a safe work place, this year the employees and staff at Person Industries have a lot to be proud of. In spite of a busy year in production, PI maintained a perfect safety record, with no recordable accidents. A recordable accident is one that requires treatment that can only be performed by a medical professional. No recordable accidents means no lost work days, which means that more work gets done.

PI's record of no accidents is,

pardon the pun, no accident. It is the result of analysis of accident trends and near misses in the work place over the past several years by the Health and Safety Committee and the Management Team, and pro-active action to organize the work place in the safest possible way.

Employees may recall that the work floor was re-organized and re-taped last year to address what had been a rising number of incidents where people were tripping over

pallets. By comprehensively analyzing the way the work flowed through the facility, and reconfiguring the work areas so that all flowed in a logical way, PI was able to reduce the incidents of tripping to the point where there were none at all last year.

Additionally, PI began a Quarterly Safety Address wherein PI Director Wanda Rogers, meets with employees to discuss safety issues. The "pep talk", along with promising

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## Words of Wellness



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

Regular physical activity reduces the risk in adults of early death; coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 Diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and depression. It can improve thinking ability in older adults and the ability to engage in activities needed for daily living. The recommended amount of physical activity in children and adolescents improves cardio respiratory and muscular fitness as well as bone health, and contributes to favorable body composition. Adults gain substantial health benefits from 2 ½ hours a week of moderate aerobic physical activity, and children benefit from 1 hour or more of physical activity a day, according to the new Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. This comprehensive set of recommendations for people of all ages and physical conditions was just released in October by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These new guidelines At-A-Glance for different groups are:

### Adults (aged 18-64)

2 ½ hours a week of moderate-intensity PA, or 1 hour and 15 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic PA, or an equivalent combo of moderate and vigorous-intensity PA; aerobic activity should be performed in episodes of at least 10 minutes, preferably spread throughout the week.

Should also do muscle-strengthening activities, involving all major muscle groups, 2 or more days a week.

### Older Adults (aged 65+) and Adults with Disabilities

Should follow the adult guidelines. If this isn't possible due to limiting conditions, they should be as active as their abilities allow and avoid inactivity. Consulting with a doctor on appropriate and safe activities is advised.

### Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Healthy women who are not already doing vigorous-intensity PA should get at least 2 ½ hours of moderate-intensity aerobic activity a week. Preferably, this activity should be spread throughout the week. Women who regularly engage in vigorous-intensity aerobic activity or high amounts of activity can continue their activity provided their condition remains unchanged and they talk to their health care provider about their activity level throughout their pregnancy.

For more information about the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, visit [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov) or [www.health.gov/paguidelines](http://www.health.gov/paguidelines)

## Pauline Porterfield Announces Retirement

April 1, 2009 will seem like April Fool's Day at PI for more than one reason. On that day, Pauline Porterfield will retire from her position as Job Coach at PI.

Pauline began working at OPC (PI's former parent organization) at the tender age of 18 at the PC Children's Learning Center, now Early Intervention Family Services. In 1993 she

was hired at PI where she worked as work floor supervisor and production manager before transferring into PI Supported Employment. It is there that she found her niche and performed outstandingly as a job coach, so much so that she was the logical person to move into the newly created position as PHS Transition Job Coach, a role with which she is most strongly identified today.



**Pauline Porterfield**

While Pauline is looking forward to moving to this next phase of her life, PI is still trying to envision PI Job Coaching without her.

We send our wishes for a happy retirement.

## PI Staff Undergo Annual Training

On Friday, January 9, 2009, PI staff had what has become an Annual Training Day.

After a brief staff meeting, the Training Day began at 8:30 with training on workplace violence (see story on page 3). Al Rhew, Chief Deputy with the PC Sheriff's Department was the featured speaker.

Health and Safety occupied a major portion of the training agenda. Dr. Steve Saunders helped keep the workplace healthy by presenting information on the correct way to lift. Dr. Saunders also emphasized the importance of caring for the entire body by getting proper rest and exercise.

Johnny Gentry, PC Fire Marshall presented the fire suppression portion

of the training. In addition to discussing how to suppress a fire, Gentry stressed fire prevention measures in the workplace and at home.

Andy Gentry of the NC Highway Patrol was the featured speaker for Safe and Defensive Driving Training. In addition to driving tips, Gentry gave information on new laws that will affect PI drivers and warnings on common causes for accidents on the highway.

Members of the PI Health and Safety Committee presented portions of the training as well. Vernon Dowdall, PI Health & Safety Coordinator, Yvette Farmer and Alison Foley covered the topics of disaster preparedness, bomb threat procedures, hazardous com-

***"Andy Gentry of the NC Highway Patrol was the featured speaker for Safe and Defensive Driving Training. ... Gentry gave information on new laws that will affect PI drivers and gave warnings on common causes for accidents on the highway."***

munications, lockout/tag out procedures, power failure drills and monthly inspections.

Training on Client Rights, Confidentiality and HIPAA Compliance and Subpoena's was handled by Becky Clayton, PI Program Manager.

The day ended with a much more informed staff.

## Popcorn Vendor Makes Trial Run at PI

Sam Walker has embraced the entrepreneurial spirit that propels individuals to success. He has started his own business as a popcorn vendor.

Sam got his start as a student in the Living Skills Class at Person High School. There he worked in the Rocket Café making popcorn. Since he enjoyed this job and was good at it, he and Job Coach Pauline Porterfield thought of pop-

corn vending as a job opportunity when he graduated this past June. As with any business, there were startup costs. Pauline enlisted the willing support of VR Counselor Vickie Winters who in turn secured funding from Vocational Rehabilitation to pay for the machine. Vickie was also extremely helpful in writing the business plan.

PI employees got acquainted with Sam when he

made his trial run with his new business. Each day for a week, Sam set up in the PI break room during break and lunch periods to sell freshly popped corn to PI employees and staff. With great hopes, he then moved to PCC where he is vending to students and faculty.

Sam, like other new business owners, likes earning his own money and the independence that goes with it. We wish him much success.



**Sam stands ready for his next customer during his trial run at PI.**

## PI Strategically Plans for the Future

In order to remain a viable organization and stay true to our mission, Person Industries must plan for our future. Our stakeholders, funding agencies and accrediting bodies require us to look to the future and make decisions about our priorities and how we will accomplish them. To this end, Person Industries' Management Team creates a 5 year strategic plan. We develop three to five year goals in the following gen-

eral categories: Finance, Quality of Services, Human Resources, Leadership, Technology, Health and Safety, Community Collaboration, and Federal/State Requirements. Annual goals and strategies for achieving those goals are developed and reviewed each year the plan is in effect.

Our current Strategic Plan covers 2009 to 2012. Some of the goals PI is trying to achieve are: increasing reve-

nue in order to decrease county funding, building and operating the Materials Recovery Facility for recycling, improving customer satisfaction and quality of services, adjusting to new county leadership, and using technology to deliver services more efficiently. If you are interested in knowing more about PI's Strategic Plan, please contact our office at 336-599-7571. We have copies of the plan available by request.

***"Some of the goals PI is trying to achieve are: increasing revenue in order to decrease county funding, building and operating the Materials Recovery Facility for recycling..."***

## PI Implements New Visitors Policy

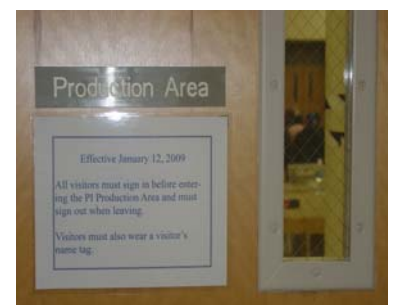
You've all heard the stories and seen the news clips of how some disgruntled or emotionally ill person entered a school or business and threatened, shot or even killed innocent people. The reality of those stories have resonated at PI and prompted new visitor policies.

As of January 12, 2009, all

visitors must enter through the main entrance (glass double doors). Once inside, visitors must sign in at the receptionist window and be given a visitor's badge before going onto the work floor. The badges are dated so that each time a person comes to PI, he or she must be given a new tag. Visitors must sign out upon leaving the premises as well.

The employee entrance door will remain locked except during employee daily arrival and departure and during the break and lunch periods.

The changes were among several recommendations from a workplace assessment done by PC Sherriff's Department Chief Deputy Al Rhew.



**Signs informing visitors of the need to sign in and wear a badge are posted at each production floor entrance.**

www.personindustries.com

## Person Industries

601 N. Madison Boulevard  
Roxboro, NC 27573

Phone: 336-599-7571

Fax: 336-597-2834

E-mail: vwilkerson@personcounty.net



As of February 9th, the price for monogramming and screen-printing services at Bee-Line Designs will cost a little more. Please call for our new price rates—336-322-0000.

## PI Has Exemplary Year in Health and Safety

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incentives for a perfect quarter, have helped keep employees focused on safety issues in the workplace.

Since PI has now completed four perfect quarters, all employees will be rewarded with a Pizza Party on Thursday, February 19, 2009. More details on this will be provided later.

Finally, it is worth noting that this year Person Industries will receive a 10th consecutive Safety Award from the North Carolina Department of Labor. Congratulations to everyone on their efforts, and keep up the good work!

## February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 CARF Accredita- tion	3 CARF Accredita- tion	4 CARF Accredita- tion	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19 Quarterly Safety Address & Pizza Day See page 1	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28