

Special points of interest:

- The “Women Be Healthy” classes focusing on breast healthcare for women with disabilities will begin Wednesday, July 2nd in the PI Conference Room. The classes are part of Project AWESM featured in last month’s issue of PI Events and will serve to educate women of the three steps of breast healthcare, promote access to mammography and link women with positive mammograms to the next level of care.
- PI staff at or nearing retirement may attend the retirement information sessions for local government employees at the PCOB Auditorium on July 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Steve Carpenter Retires After Nine Years in PC



Steve Carpenter, Retiring Person County Manager

June 30th is a milestone day in the life of Steve Carpenter, Person County Manager. It marks the last day in his role of

County Manager and also his last day of career employment. Steve is retiring at age 55 after more than 30 years in public administration, the last nine of which was spent here in Person County.

Although nine years may not seem like a very long time, he demonstrated that it was not the quantity of years that made his employment successful but the quality of his job performance. In writing his last page in the Person County Newsletter, Steve reported on his progress in meeting performance objectives set when he was hired in 1999. He was able to say that great strides had been made in all the areas.

So much of Steve’s work was already in motion when PI came aboard Person County Government

in July of 2005. Prior to this time, PI was managed by OPC Area Program until the State of NC mandated a separation. The transition from OPC to Person County Government was an anxious period for PI staff and employees. There were natural concerns over job security and benefits but also the service delivery to the consumers with disabilities that participate in PI programs. What was in PI’s future?

Thanks to Steve’s leadership, the transition was seamless. With his approval, other county department heads made room for PI under the Person County “Big Tent”. They welcomed our staff to serve on various committees and have opened their departments up to our services. Most importantly, the service PI offers looks the same today as when the program was divested from OPC three years ago—well, even a little better. It goes without saying that the staff of PI have very mixed feelings about his retirement.

Steve was known to be very personable and very smart. He came and went without great fanfare, just kind of “popping in” when he needed to. Even then, his pres-



Steve (bottom right) sits on his retirement “front porch” furniture with a few PI Staff: (Bottom L to R) Judith Casseday and Wanda Rogers. (Top L to Right) Vernon Dowdall and Yvette Farmer. The set of Adirondack furniture was a gift from PI.

ence did not evoke any fear but rather he was a welcome sight, unless of course he was wearing the flamingo tie.

We congratulate Steve on his retirement and wish him continued good health and the freedom to do whatever he wishes.

Transportation Costs to Rise on July 1st

It was very unwelcome news to PI but at the same time not very surprising—a PATS transportation increase. Effective July 1st, the cost of a trip on the PATS van will increase by \$1.50 per trip which is 33% for an in town trip.

Most people who work at PI know there is a fee for riding the PATS van each day. What most don’t know is how much of that cost is absorbed by PI. For each person who lives in the city limits, the cost

of riding PATS will go from \$4.50 to \$6.00 each way. So for that person who rides PATS to work and back home, the cost each day will be \$12.00. That amounts to \$240.00 per month that PI pays PATS for each person riding an average of 20 days during a month.

PI in turn passes some of this cost back to the riders by charging \$40.00 for full time riders and \$20.00 for part-time. With the

aforementioned increase from PATS, PI must pass some of this cost back to the riders as well. The question is how it should be done.

To determine the best way to absorb this cost, the PI Management Team has proposed two options. They would like the input of riders and family members to determine which option is best.

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PI Requests Stakeholder Input for Accessibility Plan

June 30th is the last day of Person Industries' fiscal year. This brings us to a time of reflection on our accomplishments and setbacks of the year we are completing and planning our goals for the coming year. Each year we set goals for making our program and our community more accessible for the people we serve in the form of an Accessibility Plan. We are in the process of reviewing this plan with staff, Program Management Team and Employee Advisory Council.

In fiscal year 2008, we addressed several communication barriers. The PI Health and Safety Committee and Program Managers compiled

a list of consumers who would need special assistance during a county-wide emergency situation. These folks have been entered into a data base with the EMS so that they will be checked on, brought needed medications or assisted with evacuation during an emergency situation. Another communication barrier exists for PI employees who do not speak English. We are compiling a list of language interpreters and have contacted the community college

regarding offering ESL classes.

We addressed technological and employment barriers through our new computer

dress the lack of computer access and training for our consumers. The lab has two computers and a software library. PI purchased software addressing job skills, job retention and other areas of concern for the people we serve. One employment barrier that many face is the lack of a high school diploma. PI partnered with Piedmont Community College to offer an on-line GED course at PI. Several consumers participated in the program.

We will finish our review of the Accessibility Plan this month. Part II of this series will look at accessibility goals for the upcoming fiscal year 2009. We invite your input.

We Value Your Input

We would like to have community feedback on accessibility issues that you see people with disabilities facing in our community. The accessibility categories are: Attitudinal Barriers, Architectural Barriers, Communication Barriers, Transportation Barriers, Employment Barriers, Leisure Barriers, Technological Barriers, Environmental Barriers and Financial Barriers. If you have a barrier you would like PI to address in our plan please contact Judith Caseday at 336-599-7571x16.

lab. This lab was set up during fiscal year 2008 to ad-

Transportation Costs to Rise (cont. from page 1)

Please complete the enclosed survey to let us know which option is better for you or your family member and return by July 7, 2008. All surveys will be reviewed with the results printed in the next issue of this newsletter. The effective date of the change will be September 1, 2008.

Only employees currently paying for transportation services will receive a copy of this survey.

Option 1:

PI will keep the transportation rate the same but will cut back on the number of days PATS will pick up riders. So if you ride PATS every day at the price of \$40.00 per month, you will continue to pay that same amount but will only ride the van Monday through Thursday. **You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from work each Friday.**

Option 2:

PI will raise transportation rates to correspond with the increase from PATS. The proposed rates will be as follows:

**Full Time—\$50.00 per month
Part Time— \$25.00 per month**

There will be no increase for those transported on the PI SE Van.

PI to Assist with Health Care Study

The North Carolina Office on Disability and Health (NCODH) in conjunction with UNC-CH is conducting a pilot study on the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in people with intellectual disabilities. The long term goal of the study is to assess risk and appropriate treatment interventions for adults with intellectual disabilities. The participants in the study will receive an assessment of their personal risks and information that could help their doctors better treat their condition.

Person Industries has been contacted by NCODH to participate in the study. They asked for 15 volunteers to meet with the project team and doctors in order to assess their individual risk for CVD. We are pleased that this study is being offered and look forward to the benefits it will bring to some of our employees and to the general population of people with Intellectual Disabilities.

Classic Foods Sponsors Popcorn Day

On Thursday, July 3rd, Classic Foods will sponsor a Popcorn Day at PI. What is a Popcorn Day?

Just as it sounds, it is a day where popcorn will be available for each break and lunch to all employees and staff — free of charge. The day is courtesy of Classic Foods to show appreciation for PI business.



Update on PI's efforts to build a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in Roxboro...



As requested by the Person County Commissioners, PI obtained a third party consult from the NC Department of Environmental

and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Jim Hickman and Matt Todd represented the agency as they reviewed PI's business plan and ideas for the MRF setup, expected equipment needs and projected tonnage. In a written report, which has been shared with commissioners, the NCDENR has endorsed the plan.

They also suggested that PI representatives visit a Solid Waste Management Program in Davidson County that has been in operation since 1998 and is county operated. PI has com-

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PI Receives “High” Ranking on FEM Report

Many changes have occurred over the last six years since the State of North Carolina began to reform Mental Health Services. Since LME's like OPC were no longer allowed to provide services, many were concerned that the quality of services would deteriorate.

To combat the problem, the Division now requires LME's to perform Routine Local Monitoring Reviews wherein they look at how well programs are doing in providing services.

Frequency and Extent of Monitoring Reports (FEM) is a tool used to

assist LME's in determining how often such reviews should be held.

PI received a ranking of “High” on the most recent FEM, which means OPC will complete the Routine Local Monitoring Review approximately every three years. According to Christine Spinks, the Provider Monitoring Team Leader, OPC's provider community did very well overall, with the majority receiving a ranking of “Moderate”.

OPC will also use the tool to assist in future contracting decisions.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Increases

All have seen fuel prices go up. Now Person County Employees will see the mileage reimbursement rate go up as well.

As of July 1, 2008, the mileage reimbursement rate will increase from \$.505 cents to \$.585 per mile. The increase will remain in effect until December 31, 2008.

The county's rate increase comes on the heels of an IRS mileage adjustment rate. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year, in the fall for the next calendar year, but rising gas prices and other factors spurred an earlier than usual adjustment.

Minimum Wage to Increase in July

On July 24, 2008, the federal minimum wage will rise from \$5.85 to \$6.55 per hour. This is the second wage increase in as many years for North Carolinians. NC lawmakers got ahead of the

feds and raised the state minimum wage to \$6.15 in January 2007. The July 24th increase will be a 2nd step in raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.25. The final increase will take place on July 24, 2009.

Words of Wellness



Leigh Ann Creson,
Health Promotion
Coordinator
Person County
Health Department

Want to lose fat, get fit and have more energy? Want to improve blood pressure, cholesterol, and reduce your risk for disease? You can get all those benefits (and many more) from just putting one foot in front of the other.

WALK regularly. The key to fitness is consistency. Start by picking a walk (or several small walks) that fits into your schedule. Make this a top priority and aim for walking at least 3-5 days a week.


WALK for transportation. Using your legs instead of a car is one of the most efficient ways to fit fitness into your day. Try walking to the grocery store, post office or a convenience store in the neighborhood. Of course, you want to make sure that these areas are safe first.

WALK for fun. A daily walk can do double duty – as a dose of companionship with friends, a time to connect with family or a way to keep your pets strong and healthy. It can also be a relaxing solo time to think or listen to music.


WALK outside. In almost any weather, walking outside is possible with the right clothes and shoes. Look for safe sidewalks, country roads and parks. Take precautions when temperatures are extremely hot. Find someplace inside to walk or walk early in the morning or later in the evening and stay hydrated.

WALK inside. Remember, every step counts – every step around the house, around the office or around the mall. You can walk around the house during TV commercials, walk around the office during break time and walk around the mall before or after a shopping trip.


WALK 10,000 steps a day. Research shows that walking 10,000 steps a day is all it takes to reduce stress, improve health and reduce the risk of disease. With an inexpensive pedometer, it's fun (and easy) to see how quickly your steps add up from simple changes like taking the stairs.



Up Close At Person



Congratulations to Shantrice Bradsher, daughter of PI Job Coach Lorri Barnett. Shantrice graduated from the 5th grade at Stories Creek Elementary school on June 9th. Shantrice moves on to Northern Middle School. Yeahhh Shantrice!!!



Picture of the Month

Cogratulations to PI Director Wanda Rogers, recipient of the “For Pete’s Sake Extra Effort Award”. The award, contrived by PI staff member Lisa Jeffreys, was given to Wanda in recognition of her diligent work to establish a

recycling program in Person County. The award, made completely of recycled materials, was a spoof on the Pete ratings on the bottom of plastic drink bottles. The award was presented at the June 20th PI Staff Appreciation Day.



**PEOPLE INVESTING IN
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July 2008

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Update on Recycling (cont from page 2)

plied with this suggestion and received valuable information related to start-up, daily operation and recycling promotional/ educational ideas.

And to make sure that staff are up to speed on PI's effort to "go green", a staff training session was held on June 20th. Emphasis was placed on each person doing more to recycle on an individual basis. Staff were educated on exactly what materials can be recycled—plastics, aluminum and many other materials that were being discarded. Containers to collect recyclable materials have been set-up throughout the facility for easy collection of recyclable materials.

It is now a waiting game as staff wait to see how the final county budget will impact PI's ability to move to the next step.