



The Dare County Employee of the Month of December Mary Ann Hurd, Public Health Nurse II for Dare County, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting, Monday, December 6. Arlene Hibler, Public Health Nurse Supervisor II, presented the award to Hurd and said a few words to commissioners about Hurd's outstanding work.

"Mary Ann has been an employee of the Health Department for over seven years," Hibler said. "She has been one of the most reliable, dependable and hardworking employees that I have worked with."

Hurd not only acts as a clinic nurse but also facilitates the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. The program provides both breast and cervical screenings for women who do not have any insurance or have a limited income. Dare has become an outstanding leader in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program and helps guide many other counties in developing their programs.

Hibler continued by announcing that Hurd's retirement is scheduled for January. "Mary Ann has been in the nursing profession for 38 years ... and has always been one to try to raise the bar in the nursing profession to always make the best better. She always goes the extra mile to make sure her clients get what they need."

Originally from Maine, Hurd has practiced nursing in six different states. She is married to Craig Hurd and lives in Southern Shores. She has one daughter, Jennifer, who is married to Dwayne Paugh. She also has two grandchildren, Alison age 10, and Bryan age 9.

After receiving the award, Mary Ann said a few words to the Board and to her friends at the Health Department, "I'm just so very honored. My employment here at Dare County is a wonderful way for me to end my career. After 38 years of doing many things in nursing, public health is one thing I can add to my resume and I am very proud to be able to do that. Thank you very much."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for November Carlisle "Dubby" Ward, Fleet Maintenance Mechanic I for Dare County, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, November 1. Edward Lee Mann, Director of Dare County Public Works, presented the award to Ward and said a few words about his strong work ethic and helpful attitude.

"Carlisle began working with the County as a sanitation laborer and tackled any job that came along," Mann said. "He transferred when there was an opening in our garage and he is doing an excellent job there. He will do anything you ask him to do and he never complains. If we had 700 Carlisle's in county government, it would be really great. On behalf of all his coworkers and all county employees, it's my pleasure to present Carlisle with employee of the month."

Ward began working with the county in June of 1999. As a mechanic for fleet maintenance, he is responsible for the preventive maintenance of all large trucks and heavy equipment. He assists with all jobs pertaining to diesel engines and also issues North Carolina state inspections.

"I was really surprised to receive employee of the month," Ward said. "I like working for the county and I like everyone I work with. I appreciate them nominating me."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for October Sharron Sanderson, Transportation Program Coordinator for Dare County, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting, Monday, October 4. Brandi Rheubottom, Senior Services Manager, presented the award to Sanderson and said a few words about what a great asset Sanderson is to the County.

“Dare County Transportation has expanded from just working with elderly and disabled adults to providing transportation to anyone from young infants to senior adults,” Rheubottom said. “The system expanded a lot in part due to Sharron’s hard work. She has dedicated her time and willingness to work with not only the population she deals with in providing transportation but also with the volunteers, part-time County employee drivers and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. She does a lot of hard work, and I tell you with such appreciation what a truly wonderful employee Sharron is and what a tremendous asset she is to Dare County. I can’t thank her enough for working with us and for all that she does.”

Sanderson began working with the county in 1991 and worked in Social Services and Public Works before she began working in Transportation in 1996. Some of Sanderson’s responsibilities as Transportation Program Coordinator include, managing schedules, applying for grants and making sure the vans are well maintained.

Sanderson has been married to Dare County Emergency Management Director Sandy Sanderson for 25-years. They have two daughters; 20-year-old Jennifer and 18-year-old Shelbi.

“I was definitely surprised to receive Employee of the Month,” Sanderson said. “It makes you feel so good and so humble at the same time. I work in a really nice environment and we all get along so well. I really appreciate my coworkers thinking of me.”



The Dare County Employee of the Month for September Sergeant Norman Johnson, Supervisor for the Dare County Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Division, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday, September 7. Sheriff Rodney Midgett, presented the award to Johnson and said a few words about Johnson’s hard work and commitment.

“Norman is a big reason why the Sheriff’s Office has done so well in the last two years,” Midgett said. “In 1988 he was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. The Lieutenant making the recommendation to promote Johnson wrote, ‘While there are many officers that have more years of service, none of them have the same drive and motivation.’ The same is true today. During Hurricane Isabel, Norman spent a couple weeks in Hatteras Village and while he was there he didn’t stop working. Through talking and interaction with the community he was able to solve a long standing pharmacy break-in. I consider him one of the best officers in Dare County and am very proud to have him here.”

Johnson was hired in 1982 as a detention officer. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 1988 and is currently Supervisor of the Dare County Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Division. As a narcotics investigator, Johnson looks into all drug complaints and investigates major narcotics cases for the county.

Johnson is married to De Johnson. They have two daughters; 15-year-old Morgan and 11-year-old Ashley.

"I was very honored and grateful to the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy for presenting me employee of the month," Johnson said.



The Dare County Employee of the Month for August Holly Meekins, Public Health Nurse II for Dare County Home Health and Hospice, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday, August 2. Anne Thomas, Director of the Dare County Health Department, presented the award to Meekins and said a few words about Meekin's compassion and hard work.

"Holly is that rare combination of intellect, compassion and humor that define her as someone worth listening to, making her skills as a nurse and a listener readily accessible to both patients and staff," Thomas said. "She can find humor in virtually any situation and brings the gift of laughter and joy to all she encounters, often providing the perspective to see the best even in difficult situations. The Home Health and Hospice division routinely receives exceptionally positive feedback about her care from patients and others in the community."

Meekins has been employed by the Dare County Department of Public Health since November 1997, in the Home Health and Hospice division providing skilled nursing care in the home. Her duties also include acting as a clinical manager, assigning nurses to patients, and talking with doctors to coordinate care.

Meekins is a native of and currently resides in Stumpy Point. She is active in the Shiloh United Methodist Church as vice-president of the women's group and also works as a volunteer for the Stumpy Point Auxiliary Fire Department.

"This is a great honor because it comes from my peers," Meekins said. "I work with a great bunch of people - they're wonderful and I like being able to serve the community."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for July

Roland Bowser, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday, July 19. Director of Public Works Edward Mann presented the award to Bowser and explained to Commissioners the extent of Bowser's dedication and contribution to Dare County.

"Roland became a Dare County employee in July of 96 as a maintenance aid. Now he's Fleet Maintenance Supervisor," Mann said. "He takes care of and repairs 650 vehicles. Last year, the repair cost was just over \$534,000 dollars for parts alone. He has 15 people that work under him. He also supplies all the fuel, takes care of washing the vehicles and has also implemented a program where he's instrumental in communicating to companies the needs and specifications of garbage trucks and any other county vehicles prior to purchasing. That way, he's familiar with the equipment in the vehicle if there's a problem. He's been around a long time and we're just happy to have him."

Mann then thanked Bowser and gave him an Employee of the Month plaque and nameplate.

"I was surprised," Bowser said afterward. "I appreciate being nominated."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for June Brian Mitchell, Air Operations Technician, was announced as the Dare County Employee of the Month at the Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, June 7. Airport Director George Speake presented the award to Mitchell and briefly discussed Mitchell's contributions and dedication as an employee of Dare County.

Mitchell has worked with Dare County since July of 1994. As an air technician, just a few of Mitchell's responsibilities include minor maintenance and fueling of the aircrafts, maintaining rescue boats and fire trucks, greeting visitors and passengers and helping them coordinate their stay in Dare County.

"Brian handles everything that is thrown at him," Speake said. "He makes sure that all our vehicles are well maintained so that they're ready to do what they've got to do. He's a very hard worker."

Mitchell has been married to Lisa Mitchell for the past eight years and has recently built a home near Airport Road where he grew up. His father, Bud Mitchell, also works for Dare County in the Building and Grounds Department.

"I'm really appreciative for being selected Employee of the Month," Mitchell said. "I wasn't expecting it because I feel like I'm just doing my job."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for May is Mike Melugin, Chief Pilot for Dare MedFlight, the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Helicopter. EMS Director Skeeter Sawyer presented the award to Melugin at the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 3.

Melugin has worked with Dare County since 1989, when he was hired in his current position. As Chief Pilot, Melugin has worked to develop safety and orientation programs not only for EMS personnel but for Fire Departments in the county, law enforcement agencies and medical facility personnel. As Chief Pilot, some of Melugin's daily responsibilities include scheduling pilots, scheduling maintenance for helicopters, coordinating schedules with EMS paramedics that staff the helicopter, and of course, flying the helicopter. According to Sawyer, Melugin is diligent about keeping abreast of aircraft safety concerns and practices and has established safety policies for flight operations during inclement weather to keep crew, passengers and the aircraft safe.

Melugin has had many years of experience as a pilot in various types of aircrafts. Melugin grew up in an aviation oriented family (Melugin's father was a pilot in WWII), and he served in Viet Nam as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army. He has also gained a lot of experience in the air working as Pilot in Command of corporate jet aircrafts.

"Mike is a team player," Sawyer said. "He has a saying that is an excellent example of his team spirit, 'If you're not a part of the solution, you're a part of the problem.'" He works hard to make sure that Dare MedFlight maintains a state of readiness to respond to calls for service that is far above the industry norm. He treats not only the aircraft, but the entire Dare MedFlight program as if it's his baby. Mike takes pride in his job, and I believe I speak for the entire EMS Department when I say we are extremely proud of Mike, as Chief Pilot and for the person he is."

Melugin is married to Gigi Melugin and has three sons, 28-year-old Mike, 18-year-old Billy and 16-year-old Seth.

"I love my job," Melugin said after receiving the award. "I like helping other people. Just to be able to do a job where I help people and get to fly is amazing. I mean, how many people have a job they truly love."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for April is Betse Kelly, Medical Social Worker II for Dare Home Health and Hospice. Health Director Anne Thomas presented the award to Kelly at the Board of Commissioners meeting on April 5.

Kelly has worked with Dare County since May 1999, when she was hired as a Social Worker III with Dare County Social Services. In April 2000, Kelly transferred to the Health Department as a Social Worker II.

According to Kelly, her drive as a Dare County employee stems from her strong commitment to Home Health and Hospice. "Hospice is an incredibly important thing to me," Kelly said. "I had hospice service with my own mother and working as a social worker I saw even more benefits from the service. It's truly a team thing. I am very supported by my co-workers. They are a dedicated group of people that work long hours and give loving and compassionate care. What we promote [Hospice] is not mandated. The fact that our county has such a great program that helps so many people means a great deal to me."

Kelly's dedication was described briefly to Commissioners by Thomas just prior to her presenting the award. "She has a genuine care and concern for those facing end of life and is committed to making that journey less painful," Thomas explained. "As you can imagine, this takes some specialized skills and a lot of courage. It takes the ability to listen and to hear what someone is saying often between the words that are actually spoken. She is intuitive and sensitive and really does make the end of life journey a better experience for a patient and their families. I am very proud and privileged to work with her and have her as a member of our Home Health and Hospice team."

Kelly [Betse] has been married to Mike Kelly for ten years and has two step-children Shannon Brown and Brian Kelly. She also has three grandchildren, Emma Brown, Megan Kelly and Michael Kelly. A fourth grandchild, Mary Catherine Brown, is expected in June.



The Dare County Employee of the Month for March is Billy Brown, Superintendent of the Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo Water Plant. Benjie Carawan, Water Production Superintendent, presented the award to Brown at the Board of Commissioners meeting on March 15.

Brown has worked with Dare County since 1990 when he was hired as a truck driver for Dare County Public Works. He began working for the Water Department in 1996 and was promoted to Chief Operator in 2000. He was then named Water Treatment Plant Superintendent in 2002.

When describing the duties in his position, Brown stated, "I am in charge of the operation of the RWS Water Plant. I make it the best it can be." In line with his mission, the Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo Water Plant won the

2003 North Carolina Rural Water Association Water Taste Contest.

"Billy is super conscientious and does fantastic work," Carawan explained to Commissioners. "If you need something, ask Billy and he'll get it... this award is very well deserved."

Brown is married to his wife of 36 years, Marsha Mann Brown. He has two children, Bill Brown who lives in Wanchese and Bonnie Brown Mueller who lives in Salvo. He also has three grandchildren, 10-year old Kristian Brown, 9-year-old Jeffrey Mueller and one-year-old Ben Brown. "It is an honor to be selected as employee of the month," Brown said. "I'm proud to be a county employee."



The Dare County Employee of the Month for February is Maggie Dennis, Tax Customer Service Representative II for the Tax Mapping and Land Records Department. Eddie Francis, Land Records Manager, presented the award to Dennis at the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 16.

Dennis has worked with Dare County since April 1996, when she was hired in her current position. On a typical day, Dennis processes and inputs recorded property documents from the Justice Center and creates tax records for new subdivisions in order to keep county tax listings updated. She also assists the public and business community on a daily basis.

“Maggie came to work for us eight years ago from New York,” Francis explained to Commissioners. “She has a great work ethic and doesn’t mind working late to get the job done. But besides being a hard and accurate worker Maggie uses her free time volunteering for March of Dimes, Angel Tree, Dress Down and Friends of Youth. She is a friend to all who know her.”

Dennis has been married to another county employee, Neal Dennis, for eight years. They have two dogs and two cats.

“I really enjoy working for Dare County,” Dennis said. “This is one of the best groups I’ve ever worked with and it would be really hard to leave this department. We get along so well. We’re like a family.”



The Dare County Employee of the Month for January is Jessica Phillips, Office Support Specialist for the Emergency 911 Communications and Emergency Management Departments. Major Almey Gray, Communications Director, presented the award to Phillips at the Board of Commissioners meeting on January 5.

Phillips has worked with Dare County since April 1995 when she was hired in her current position. Her job can vary dramatically day to day but she is always responsible for making sure bills are paid on time for both agencies, answering the department phones, doing monthly reports on the number of calls every dispatch attends, occasionally answering the phones for the 911 Center, helping with issuing re-entry permits and keeping a database of issued permits. She also updates the Emergency Management contact book for Emergency Management on a yearly basis.