

## 2007 Employee of the Month

### Employee of the Month of December



Susan Saulsbury was named Employee of the Month for December at the December 3, 2007 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Susan moved here from Baltimore and joined the Dare County Department of Social Services in February 1989. She has held several positions with the department in her 18 years of service. Her starting position was an Emergency Services Intake Social Worker. After five years in that position she became an In-Home Services Social Worker, a position she held until 2003. She is currently working as an Adult Protective Social Worker.

As an Adult Protective Social Worker, Susan has several primary purposes, some of which include receiving, investigating, and evaluating reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation. She also counsels clients and their families who are in need of assistance with financial, medical, social and psychological problems.

Teresa Edwards, Social Worker Supervisor III, presented Susan with the award, and described Susan as an example for her co-workers.

"[Susan] has always set an exemplary example for those in our unit," said Edwards.

Edwards went on to describe an article she had read regarding common characteristics among those who excelled at social work.

"The one quality that was almost universally shared was a deep and abiding belief that all human life is valuable," said Edwards. "I can't think of anyone who has made that belief more a part of their life than Susan."

Susan was quick to point out that it was not an individual effort, and that those beliefs were held by all of her co-workers.

"It's just so good to be a part of an agency that has those beliefs," Susan said.

Susan then took a moment to say thanks. She thanked her unit and described their diligence in their work. She thanked her family for being patient with her when she had to sacrifice time with them for her work.



### Employee of the Month of November

Dallas "Mac" Gray III was named Employee of the Month at the November 5, 2007 Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting. Clyde Gard, Assistant Public Works Director, presented the award to Gray who works in the Recycling Department.

Mac, as everyone calls him, started with the Public Works Department in 1996 working with Turf Maintenance. After a year and a half there, he moved to the Recycling Department. In his current job, he has a litany of responsibilities that include operating many different types of equipment.

"[Mac] is one of those guys you can call at two o'clock in the morning as easy as you can call him at two in the afternoon, and he'll be there," said Gard.

Gard also commented that Mac has a class A CDL and "can drive anything we have on the yard".

Outside of work, Mac has been fighting fires as a volunteer firefighter for 11 years. He began with the Stumpy Point Volunteer Fire Department and is now a Lieutenant with the Roanoke Island Volunteer Fire Department. He says he does it to give back to the community. It is also what he loves doing.

When asked what he likes most about his job, the answer was a simple and easy one.

"It's the people I work with," said Mac.

Congratulations to Dallas "Mac" Gray III, Dare County's November 2007 Employee of the Month.

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### Employee of the Month of October



Michelle Evans presented the October Employee of the Month Award to Deanie Ward at the October 1, 2007 Dare County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Deanie began with the Dare County Tax Office in the spring of 2004 after working for just over 24 years in the Register of Deeds office. She is a Tax Processing Specialist and works in Vehicle Tax, Tax Listing, and Collections for the tax office.

"Deanie is one of the most deserving people for this honor we have ever nominated," commented Evans during the presentation. "She came to work for the county in 1979 and has been a loyal, hardworking, and dependable employee for 28 years."

Deanie, along with her regular duties, also posts the vehicle deposits each day and handles most of the walk-ins who come to pay vehicle tax. She also helps with the real estate window whenever she can, and carries the afternoon mail daily.

"Deanie should have been given this award years ago; she is an outstanding county employee," said Evans.

According to Evans, Deanie is valued and loved by her coworkers. Her example is something that everyone in her offices strives to emulate. Congratulations to Deanie Ward, Employee of the Month for October 2007.

## Employee of the Month of September



Karen Arbaugh, an EMT Paramedic with EMS, was awarded the Employee of the Month Certificate from William "Skeeter" Sawyer, Public Safety Director, at the September 4, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

Karen began work with Dare County EMS in April 2006. Since that time her positive attitude, compassionate service, and knowledge of her work have made both her supervisors and co-workers proud to have her.

"Karen is good," Sawyer said. "She is kind and compassionate. She has the attitude that she is here to work. It is wonderful to have her as an employee."

Sawyer also told of how Karen actively maintains the status of the overall system and does an excellent job of communicating with her supervisors to make sure that both she and other on duty personnel are in the correct positions.

Congratulations to Karen Arbaugh, Dare County's Employee of the Month for September.

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## Employee of the Month of August



Heather Gardiner received the Employee of the Month Award at the August 6, 2007 Dare County Board of Commissioners meeting. Gardiner is a Public Health Nurse I with the Health Department and has been working there since 1998. Laurie White, Public Health Nursing Director, was on hand to present the award and conveyed many of the reasons Gardiner's coworkers nominated her to receive the award.

"One of her greatest strengths is the ability to be flexible and versatile," White said. "Her knowledge of all divisions [of the Health Department] is outstanding."

Gardiner has served in several units including Home Health and Hospice and the Clinic. Gardiner now serves as the Baby Links nurse visiting mothers and newborn babies throughout Dare County. She has been the lead family planning nurse, but now works part-time so she is able to spend more time with her growing family and to enable her to assist in running a home based business with her family.

"We have watched her grow in the Health Department and also as a family," White commented.

Gardiner's coworkers describe her as a very nice person, a friend, someone who is always there when you need her, someone who always steps up to meet the need, never complains, and is always positive.

## Employee of the Month of July



Suzanne Stark, Fitness Coordinator at the Fessenden Center in Buxton, was named Employee of the Month for July 2007 at the July 16 Dare County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Cliff Ogburn, Parks and Recreation Director, describes Stark as a very unassuming employee who teaches classes five days a week for ages ranging from 7 to 92.

"[Suzanne] is improving lifestyles on a daily basis. She is influencing people and making a difference in their lives," Ogburn said.

Ogburn read a quote from one of Stark's students during the presentation that he believed summed up her dedication and attitude very well.

"Suzanne is the answer to all of our exercise dreams. She makes it a pleasure to come to class. She explains all we do and the benefits to be gained. She is a ray of sunshine and we are privileged to have her," the student was quoted as saying.

Coworkers say Stark is always smiling, cheerful and willing to help. She is well respected by her coworkers and students. She is now the July 2007 Dare County Employee of the Month. Congratulations to Suzanne Stark.

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## Employee of the Month of June



Amanda McDanel, Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent with Cooperative Extension, was named the Dare County Employee of the Month for June 2007 at the June 4, 2007 Dare County Board of Commissioners Meeting. McDanel has worked for Dare County for two and a half years, and according to Ann Ward, Cooperative Extension Director, she has made a great impact in that time.

"Amanda has brought to our program and to Dare County as a whole, a lot of new energy and new ideas," Ward said. "She is one of the most creative people I've met in my life."

In her job, McDanel teaches both children and adults, helping them to improve their lives by learning skills ranging from cooking to baby massage. She is an "outstanding" teacher, Ward says, because of the creativity and energy she shows in everything she does. "She does what it takes to capture the interest of her audience whether it be youth or senior citizens or all ages in between, and whether it be a group of five or five hundred," Ward commented of McDanel. She is also known as a selfless team player. Anytime someone needs help, she is always there. Her spirit and energy inspires her coworkers and those she teaches.

Congratulations to Amanda McDanel, Dare County's Employee of the Month for June 2007.

## Employee of the Month of May



Merry Kocian was named Dare County Employee of the Month for May 2007 at the May 7, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Kocian is a Telecommunicator with the Sheriff's Office and has worked there for over six years. In her job as a telecommunicator, Kocian fields 911 emergency calls and coordinates the response of the various emergency units in Dare County.

"She has a way to be able to handle anything that comes along," said Sheriff Rodney Midgett while presenting Kocian the award. "We're very fortunate to have her."

Sheriff Midgett went on to describe some of the calls that Kocian has handled during her career. The most recent he recalled was the fire at Lone Cedar during which Kocian was working the fire panel. Sheriff Midgett said that she handled that situation superbly and did an outstanding job as always while handling the coordination of several fire departments and other agencies responding to the blaze.

Kocian gave the credit to her crews and supervisors both past and present. She said she could not do her job without their help.

Congratulations to Merry Kocian May 2007 Employee of the Month.

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## Employee of the Month of April

Connie Daniels, Housekeeper for the Department of Public Health, was named April Employee of the Month at the April 2, 2004 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Daniels has worked for the Health Department for nearly two years and according to Anne Thomas, Department of Public Health Director, she has become an essential part of the department's operation in that time.

"She is one of the most reliable, hardworking, and dependable employees I have worked with," Thomas said while presenting Daniels with the award. "She takes her job seriously and has a deep sense of pride in her responsibilities and accomplishments."

Daniels is heralded by coworkers as a person who performs random acts of kindness for everyone around her. She makes the environment at the Health Department feel more like home for all of the employees.

"She has an intuitive sense about people and what would make their day brighter," Thomas commented of Daniels ability to improve the department's environment. "No matter how busy Connie is, she is always looking for ways to make improvements."

Congratulations to Connie Daniels, Dare County April Employee of the Month



## Employee of the Month of March



Dare County named Shawn Hughes Employee of the Month for March 2007 at the March 19, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Edward Mann, Public Works Director, presented the award to Hughes who has been employed in the Public Works Department for 11 years.

Hughes, a Fleet Maintenance Technician with Public Works, also works in the warehouse. He is in charge of scheduling and is the safety officer for his department.

“The guys all call him MacGyver,” Mann joked when presenting the award. “I believe he could take two coffee cans and duct tape and make anything work.”

Mann went on to say that Hughes keeps abreast of all the technologies that are a part of newer automobiles and that he does an outstanding job.

“I think when he was 15 he knew more than the average mechanic knows,” Mann commented of Hughes.

Congratulations to Shawn Hughes, Dare County’s March 2007 Employee of the Month.

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## Employee of the Month of February

Deanna Rollinson, Tax Listing Administrator, was named February Employee of the Month at the February 5, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Michelle Evans, Tax Collector, presented Rollinson with the award.

Rollinson began working for Dare County in 1984 at the county switchboard and a year later moved to the Cooperative Extension office. In 1986, she began her work in the Dare County Tax Office where she has remained. Through her hard work and attention to detail, Rollinson was promoted to her current position of Tax Listing Administrator. As Tax Listing Administrator, Rollinson handles the listing of all taxable personal property with the exception of automobiles in Dare County. She is responsible for processing the over 43,000 listing forms that come through the Dare County Tax Office each year.

“She is practically perfect in every way,” Evans said of Rollinson during the award presentation. “To my knowledge, she has not made a key error in probably 20 years. She is the best of the best.”

Not only is Rollinson a nearly perfect and dedicated employee of the Tax Department, she is also loved and respected by her colleagues and supervisor alike. She has supported those she has worked with and done quality work throughout her career in Dare County.

“I have worked for Dare County for 22 years and in the Tax Department for the past 20 with a group of girls that are the very best to work with. I wouldn’t change a thing,” commented Rollinson. “I was really surprised to receive this. It was an honor to be selected for this award, especially considering those who work with me in this office. There are many others here who deserve this award.”

Congratulations to Deanna Rollinson, Dare County’s February 2007 Employee of the Month.

## Employee of the Month of January



Jeff Mitchell, Lieutenant with Dare County EMS, was named Employee of the Month for January at the January 2, 2007 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Mitchell was presented the award by Public Safety Director Skeeter Sawyer.

Mitchell joined Dare County EMS in August 2000 when he relocated from upstate New York to live in Dare County. He was promoted in April of 2003 to his current rank of Lieutenant and was made a shift supervisor.

He also represents EMS on the county's risk management team and aids in instruction for other EMT's and Paramedics. "Jeff is a wonderful county employee. He's a pleasure to work with," commented Sawyer during the award presentation. "There is no task that he hesitates to take on or work with. He does everything from working as a paramedic on the street and shift supervisor to assisting with any number of teaching efforts that we undertake." Mitchell accepted the award with his wife and two children present saying, "I know now why I moved here, and why I love to make Dare County my home."

Congratulations to Lieutenant Jeff Mitchell, Dare County's January Employee of the Month.