



GUILFORD COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2015 EDITION

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CONNECTIONS

Breaking News...Planning and Development is keeping up with modern technology....Denita Singletary, Permits Chief Luis Jimenez, Beth Anne Aheron, Italy Henderson & Mary Beth Deal are pictured below with their new wireless headsets. The new headsets are fabulous and have helped to increase productivity. They allow the freedom to multi-task away from workstations (e.g., answer customer telephone calls) & more efficiently assist customer's needs.





The Spotlight for this Edition is on the Guilford County Planning & Development Electrical Inspectors ...and they may very well have inspected these spotlights!!!! Let's get to know our Electrical Inspections Chief William "Dee" Hand and his staff Don Berckman, Randy Kernodle & Terry McMasters.....



I am **William G. "Dee" Hand**, Chief Electrical Inspector for Guilford County. I have been with the County for 16 plus years, the last seven years as Chief. I started my career in the Electrical Industry in the mid 1970s as a green helper. I worked my way through the ranks for the next few years from lead man to foreman to job superintendent. From there I moved to a position as an estimator/project manager. I also spent time as a small business owner. I am married to my best friend, greatest asset and the love of my life Nell. About 6 years ago, we relocated to the family farm that I grew up on. We are a Christian family enjoying life with our children and grandchildren, the cats, dogs and critters of nature. We enjoy camping, kayaking, canoeing and the general outdoors.

Dee is pictured above with his lovely wife Nell.

My time with Guilford County Inspections has been a great opportunity for me to grow and learn. I have a staff of three professional level three certified Electrical Inspectors: Randy Kernodle, Don Berckman and Terry McMasters. These men have the knowledge, ability, and the experience necessary to carry out the day to day duties of electrical inspections. The duties of an Electrical Inspector at the end of the day are to safeguard the public from the hazards associated with the use of electrical energy.

I would like to say thanks for the opportunity to say a few words about the Electrical Inspections Department. Again, let me say thanks to the Electrical Inspections staff for their dedication to the safety of the public here in Guilford County.



The Glamorous Life of an Inspector

By Terry McMasters



Terry is pictured above and in his own words...

"Another 15 degree day in paradise"

At least I can walk on top of the frozen ankle deep mud and my not so private little green or blue bathroom conveniently located within 5 or 6 miles from my rolling office does not stink today because it is full of poopsicles.

(It's a great thing to know that our Electrical Inspectors have a fantastic sense of humor!!!)

Although my daily work environment may not be ideal, working as an electrical inspector for Guilford County is one of the best jobs I have had during my career. I have a great boss who gives me support when I request it, but mostly allows me to do my job without being micro-managed.

Every day is unique because I get to deal with different people and challenges. I see and learn something new almost every week. Some jobs are nearly perfect, which shows that the workmen took pride in their work and checked the entire job before requesting an inspection.

Other jobs make me stop and ponder how a sane person could justify in their mind, that the possible death trap they just created for a homeowners family was a job well done that met the letter of the code.

Also, working with a homeowner who is doing their own electrical work can be a time consuming challenge that requires additional patience and guidance.

I am happily married to my best friend who is also the love of my life. We share a quiet but busy life in the countryside away from the hustle and bustle of the city. I don't facegram, instabook or twit on the interweb because my personal life for the most part is private.

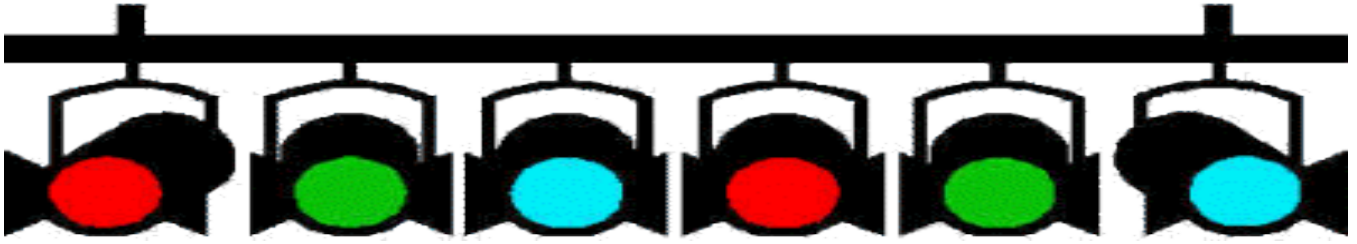




Hi, I am **Don Berckman**. Some of you have seen me around for a “few” years. I am a Level 3 Electrical Inspector, and I also hold a Level 1 Plumbing Certificate.

I have been working as an Electrical Inspector with Guilford County for more than 27 years. Prior to Guilford County, I was employed at Lowdermilk Electric as an electrician for 10 years. I have watched Guilford County grow a lot in almost 3 decades. I have spent the majority of my time making inspections in the South and Southeastern areas of the county. This job has given me the opportunity to meet and become friends with many great people. I enjoy the outdoors, hunting, shooting, planting a garden, etc., I guess mainly just being outside to absorb as much of God’s creation as possible. I am not a religious man, I am a Christian, I do think there is a difference. My wife and I have two children and one grandchild (so far). We own a firearms business that we enjoy working. I also teach Conceal Carry Handgun classes. We believe that knowledge is the best tool for everyone. I hope that if I have not met you, that will change. No one can know too many people nor have too many friends. I wish you all a great day!





Randy Kernodle joined the Guilford County Inspections Department in 1998. He has been happily married to his wife Debbie for the last 8 years. He is the stepfather of 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. He has an interest in photography. He is a member of Altamahaw Baptist Church. He serves on the maintenance, grounds and beautification, audio visual committees, daycare board and as church webmaster. Randy is a NCBEEC approved sponsor/instructor, an NC Code Officials Qualification Board approved instructor for standard certificate courses and continuing education. As a member of the Ellis Cannady Chapter of IAEI, Randy is a member of the Code Clearing & Codeship Committee and the Education Committee.





And now a new feature in our newsletter...**A SAFETY TIP**

Out of Tragedy Comes Safety Requirements

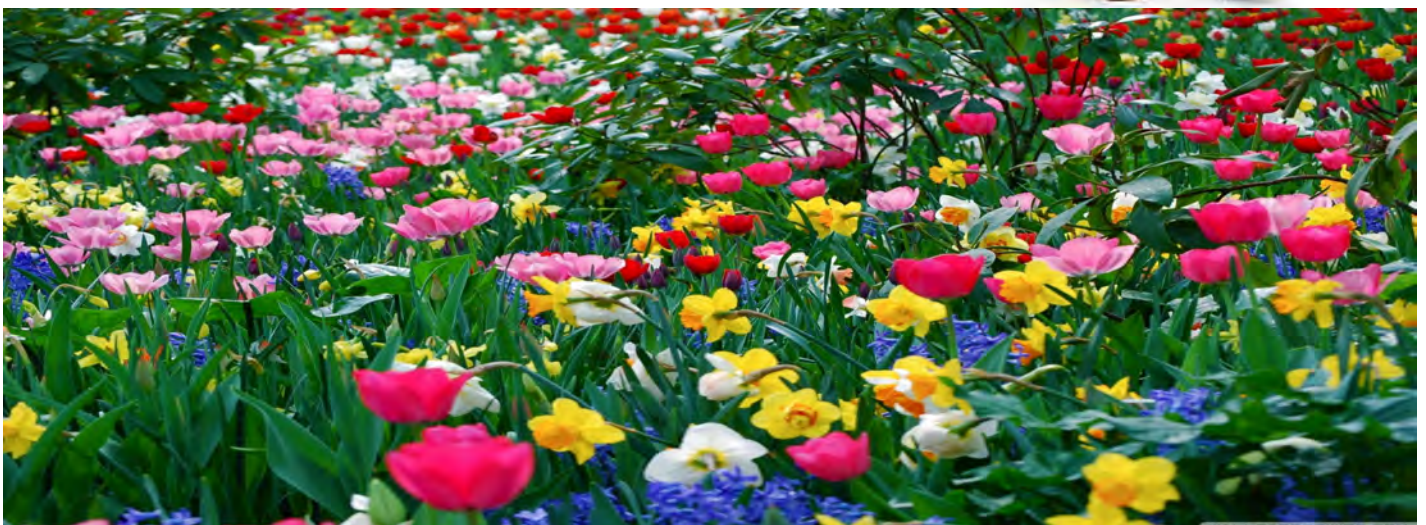
As with many things in the construction industry, tragedy tends to motivate change to alleviate or prevent future occurrences. New reports often show a serious injury or death due to fire. Sometimes a functioning smoke alarm saves the life of a family; other times, deaths occurred because of their absence. Often these deaths could have been avoided with proper foresight and maintenance of this equipment. Batteries in these units need to be replaced on a yearly basis. In most cases, failure to do so results in a “chirping sound” alerting the occupants of a problem. Many smoke alarms emit this “chirping “ sound when the battery is low and in need of replacement.

While most people replace batteries on a yearly basis, unbelievably, others decide to unhook this equipment to stop the “chirping” sound. Disconnecting the alarm is unsafe and places the occupants in danger in the event of a fire within the structure.

CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SINGLE STATION SMOKE ALARMS AKA “SMOKE DETECTOR” YEARLY

Your Friendly Neighborhood Electrical Inspectors

Be safe out there!





ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



Theron Jackson successfully passed his exam and received a certification as a Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector.

The CESSWI program addressed all aspects of providing complete inspections for erosion and sediment control and storm water compliance within the Federal (NPDES), State and Local regulations. Inspectors are qualified in construction, post-construction, multi-sector, industrial and commercial erosion and sediment control and storm water inspections. The CESSWI program recognizes the importance of documentation, communication and safety as well as an understanding of the rules and methods of erosion and sediment control and storm water control and management.

Congratulations Theron!!!

SPRING

Congratulations



In an effort to and as part of retooling the Planning and Development Department and strengthen our capacity, our Department Director J. Leslie Bell worked with both Human Resources and Administration to allocate resources for the new position of Inspection Services Manager. With the number of direct report positions to Mr. Bell at 15 and to improve response time and organizational efficiency, this position is a key element in ensuring advocacy for the Division and consolidates the Inspection services functions as we implement and upgrade Accela last improvement to permits system to enhance how we deliver our customer services. We send a hearty congratulations to Mr. Melvin Sutton who officially assumed duties in this position on Monday, February 9th. Melvin has been with Guilford County for 27 years. He has served as Chief Building Inspector for 25 years, was Deputy Director for 2 years, and a former NC Building Inspector of the Year.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES NEWS



E-Cycle Oak Ridge

On Saturday, December 6th, Environmental Services staff partnered with the Town of Oak Ridge to provide a new electronics recycling and document shredding day for County residents at the Oak Ridge town Park. The event provided a free, secure, easy way to prevent identity theft while disposing of these unwanted items properly. 264 households participated in the event, dropping off a total of 23,513 lbs. of electronics and 3,816 lbs. of personal documents for recycling. Through their efforts at E-cycle Oak Ridge, County residents diverted more than 13 tons of these materials from disposal at the landfill!

Upcoming Events

Environmental Services has three one-day collection events planned for spring. The first, E-cycle 2015, is the result of a successful partnership with the town of Pleasant Garden. This year, the popular 3-cycling/shred-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st from 9 am to 2 pm at the Pleasant Garden Town Hall.

Our biggest event of the year, the Guilford County spring Clean-up, began modestly more than 10 years ago when it was held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center. Since then, it's developed into a huge recycling opportunity that has moved to the UNCG bus parking lot across from the Greensboro Coliseum. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th from 8 am to 2pm, and residents will be able to recycle lots of hard to dispose of items safely, easily and at no charge. Tires, appliances, electronics, televisions, mattresses, personal documents to be shredded and all types of household hazardous waste (paints, chemicals, fluorescent tubes and lamps) will be accepted. Last year, the event resulted in the safe disposal of almost 50 tons of these materials.

Finally, the bi-annual partnership between Environmental Services and the City of High Point has scheduled a Clean-n-Green 2015 for Saturday, June 13th from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Mendenhall Transportation Terminal in High Point. This event will again feature free disposal for all types of household hazardous waste, tires, appliances, electronics and televisions, mattresses and free shredding of personal documents. The 2013 event attracted more than 500 vehicles dropping off these materials, and increased participation is expected again this year.

**The 2014 Planning & Development Department's Christmas
Breakfast was a joyous morning of good food, fun & fellowship....**



More pictures of the 2014 Planning & Development Department's Christmas Breakfast. It's the one time of year when we all gather together.





UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

APRIL

Denita Singletary 25th

JUNE

Melvin Sutton 10th

Theron Jackson 23rd

Vivian Street 29th

MAY

Doug Springer 6th

Tim Cole 6th

Justin Gray 20th

Frank Park 26th

C-26-77



It's time for this edition's guessing game:

The picture above is from March 1977. Here are your clues:

North side of I-40 / 3000 feet east of NC 68 / West of Gallimore Dairy Rd

Can you guess what's here now???? The answer is at the bottom of the page

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER EDITION NEWSLETTER WILL BE MONDAY, JUNE 15TH. PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE IN THE NEXT EDITION

Triad Freightliner (6420 Burnt Poplar Rd)