



INSIGHTS

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Don't Miss Annual Enrollment Period for Benefits

The 2009 Annual Enrollment period for Health, Vision, Flexible Spending, Supplemental Life, AD&D and Short-term Disability plans starts Tuesday, November 6, and ends Friday, November 21, 2008. During this period, employees can drop and add dependents to their plans without having a qualifying event. Employees can also change enrollment from one plan to another or increase their coverage level.

With the exception of the Flexible Spending Plan, no action is required for employees who are "not" making any changes to their current benefit elections. If you are content with your current benefit elections, do not have to do anything. The plan and the dependents that are covered will remain the same. Remember, everyone must re-enroll during this period for Flexible Spending in order to participate from January through December of 2009.

Enrollment and changes may only be made online beginning at 12:01 a.m. on November 6, 2008, and ending by 11:59pm on November 21, 2008. Employees who miss this period will be eligible to enroll in Fall 2009 for the 2010 calendar year.

For more information on benefits and a schedule of countywide Informational Meetings, visit www.wakeemployees.com/benefits or call 856-6090.

Flexible Spending Reminder

Employees who have a flexible spending account must re-enroll for 2009 during the annual open enrollment period, which runs from Thursday, November 6, 2008, to Friday, November 21, 2008.

Before enrolling, employees are reminded to:

- Review current benefit elections
- Determine current out-of-pocket benefit eligible expenses
- Estimate the benefit eligible expenses for the entire family for the 2009 plan year
- Compare for possible changes to current benefit elections

Caring, Serving and
Respecting
Customer Service
Award

Prizes Available in
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Award?

Watch your e-mail for more information on the 2009 enrollment period or visit www.wakeemployees.com/benefits.

If you miss the deadline, the next enrollment period will be in Fall 2009 for the 2010 calendar year.

The 2008 Combined Campaign Is Off and Running

Way to go! Ninety-six PaceSetters led the way and raised \$18,423 to benefit the Wake County Combined Campaign. Don't forget to turn in your pledge card today and become part of this winning team as we race toward our goal of \$90,000.

Details on this year's Combined Campaign and its events can be found at www.wakeemployees.com.

Strap On Some Shoes, and Grab a Ball!

Come out for a day of fun and to support a good cause! The Combined Campaign will host its third annual "Bowl-A-Thon" on Saturday, November 1, 2008, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Buffalo Lanes on Highway 401 South. Entry fees are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Proceeds from this event will go toward Wake County's goal of raising \$90,000 for the Combined Campaign.

To participate in the Bowl-A-Thon, contact Richard Black at 856-5690, Loretta Alston at 856-6125, Carolyn Goddard at 856-5713 or Wanda Cox-Bailey at 919-856-5724. Registration packets are also available on the P Drive at P:\Combined Campaign 2008\Bowl_A_Thon_Nov 1st.

City-County Rivalry Needs Players and Fans to Reach \$90,000

Let's play ball for the Wake County Combined Campaign!

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, there will be a five-game set of softball games played between the City of Raleigh and Wake County at Walnut Creek. We hope to see you there at high noon. If you want to play, fill out the registration form at www.wakeemployees.com or contact Steve Bristow at 856-7432.

Plus! Plus! Come out to support your fellow work mates while they take on the City and win the trophy. The entrance fee for

the game is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Your entertainment dollars will be well spent for great camaraderie, fun and surprisingly intense competition for a great cause. So be on the team that's on the way to raising 90K!

Annual Golf Tourney Looking for Players

Help make our 2008 Combined Campaign a success by participating in the Wake County Combined Campaign Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held on Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11, at Eagle Ridge Golf Club. Your support of this year's event will help us reach the County's Combined Campaign goal of \$90,000.

A golfer who would like to join the tournament can complete the form on www.wakeemployees.com. Tournament day is always a lot of fun and a great way to way to give back to the community.

Oyster Shell Recycling Program Recognizes Local Participants

The Wake County Health Department and the Wake County Solid Waste Management Division were recognized along with 42nd Street Oyster Bar, Tony Bourbon's Oyster Bar, Shucker's Oyster Bar and Sunnyside Too, for participating in the N.C. Oyster Shell Recycling Program. These restaurants received a grant from the State to contract a vendor to haul their discarded oyster shells to the South Wake Landfill. The State's Division of Marine Fisheries then collects the shells and takes them to the coast

The shells are placed back into the water to provide a substrate for oyster larvae to attach to and grow. As many as 14 baby oysters can grow on a single shell. The participating restaurants have donated more than 3,000 bushels of oyster shells to the project since 2007.

Wake County's Solid Waste Management Division is working to establish a public oyster shell drop-off site for restaurants and citizens to use next to the South Wake Transfer Station near Holly Springs. In addition, the Division is working to establish recycling sites at convenience centers that can be used by Wake County residents.

Wake County 11th Grade Triplets Roll-Up Their Sleeves for Wake Board of Elections

Wake County Board of Elections staff "tripled" its workforce temporarily to process thousands of voter registration forms in anticipation of this year's elections. Well, maybe Board of Elections staff didn't actually triple their workforce, but they did welcome help from 11th-grade triplets from Southeast Raleigh Senior High School. Risi, Rucca and Sheri Ademola decided to use their fall break to volunteer their time by sorting mail.

"We wanted to be involved in the elections process, even though we aren't old enough to vote," said Rucca. Risi, who also serves as Junior Class President says they decided to volunteer, while taking part in the Wake County 4-H Leadership Program. "We knew it was going to be hard work, but it's worth it. Time flies when we're having fun."

It was so much fun that the sisters say they'll return in the near future.

Wake VSO Reaching Out to Vets at Regional Centers

Wake County Veterans Services Office (VSO) is extending its outreach to veterans by holding office days at the County's Northern, Southern and Eastern regional centers.

There are more than 53,400 veterans in Wake County and more than 3,200 National Guard and reservists, plus their families. If you or someone you know is a veteran or a veteran's family member who needs help applying for benefits, please refer them to the Wake County VSO officers.

The VSO office is located in the A.A. Thompson Building, 567 E. Hargett Street. The phone number is 856-6161.

The new VSO outreach Wednesdays are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.:

- Northern Regional Center, Wake Forest, 2nd Wednesday of each month
- Eastern Regional Center, Zebulon, 3rd Wednesday of each month
- Southern Regional Center, Fuquay-Varina, 4th Wednesday of each month

Commissioners Honor 12 Schools for Feed the Bin Participation

Twelve schools were honored for their participation in the Feed the Bin program at the October 20, 2008, Wake County Board of Commissioners' meeting. Feed the Bin is a school-based recycling program jointly sponsored by the Cooperative

Extension Division and the Solid Waste Management Division of Wake County Environmental Services.

Feed the Bin is currently in place in 153 Wake County Public School System sites. During the 2007-2008 school year, WCPSS schools recycled 1.6 million pounds of paper, or 12.4 pounds per student, through the Feed the Bin program. This was an increase of 18.8 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively, from the previous school year. Feed the Bin has recycled more than 4 million pounds of paper since its inception in 2004.

Categories included highest total pounds, most pounds per student and highest increase in total pounds and pounds per student from the previous school year. Winning schools included: Wildwood Forest Elementary, Barwell Road Elementary, Hilburn Drive Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, Wilburn Elementary, Ligon Middle, Heritage Middle, Fuquay-Varina Middle, East Cary Middle, Carroll Middle, Knightdale High and Enloe High. Representatives from the winning schools were in attendance at the Board meeting.

Wake Human Services' Jean Smith Wins Hands of Health Award

Dr. Jean Smith of Wake County Human Services was awarded this year's Hands of Health Award by the Rex Endowment. This award is given annually to one person in recognition of new and innovative ways to address the health of underserved children and youth in Wake County.

Dr. Smith has been with Wake County Human Services since 1994 when she joined the County as a public health physician. Throughout the last several years, Jean has worked to promote healthy physical and emotional development of children by building the community's capacity to provide holistic health, behavioral health and developmental services.

As a reward for her hard work, Jean will receive a \$10,000 contribution payable to the charitable organization of her choice.

Caring, Serving and Respecting Customer Service Award

Are you aware of someone who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure good customer service to other Wake County employees or citizens each day? Don't let their good deeds go unrecognized or unrewarded. Nominate them for the Caring, Serving and Respecting Customer Service Award.

Contact your department head to obtain a nomination form. Please submit all completed nominations to CSRC, Human Resources, Suite 300, Waverly F. Akins Wake County Office Building, Raleigh, NC 27602. The nomination deadline is Friday, October 31, 2008.

If you need additional information, call Stephanie Goddard at 856-5595.

Prizes Available in National Arts Program

Wake County, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County invite all City and County employees and their immediate family members to enter the sixth annual National Arts Program competition and exhibition, December 4, 2008, through January 13, 2009.

The deadline for employees to submit the intent-to-participate registration form is Wednesday, November 12, at 4 p.m. Registration forms and details can be found at www.wakeemployees.com.

A jury of recognized artists and arts professionals will judge all works. Cash prizes will be awarded in the exhibition's five artistic classifications: amateur, intermediate, advanced, youth ages 12-17 and youth under 12 years. There is no fee to enter the program, and each person may enter one work of art.

An opening reception will be held December 4 at the Avery Upchurch Municipal Complex for all Wake County and City of Raleigh employees and their families to view the exhibit. For more information, contact Sharon Brown, Community Services at 856-6555.

Applying for an Award?

Is the program you work for applying for an award or another form of recognition? Has your program recently received an award or recognition? Be sure to let the Public Affairs Office know, so we can share the good news with co-workers, commissioners and the media.

For more information, contact Public Affairs Manager Wil Glenn or Public Affairs Director Marshall Parrish, or e-mail [Insights](mailto:Insights@co.wake.nc.us) at Insights@co.wake.nc.us.

News ideas? Something Wake employees should know about?
Submit your Insights suggestions to insights@co.wake.nc.us

www.wakeemployees.com/insights