

# PI Events

A monthly publication of news and views at Person Industries

[www.personcountync.gov](http://www.personcountync.gov)

## April 2023



**PI & PCRC Closed**  
**April 7, 2023**



**Person Industries Welcomes New Employees to the Team**

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**World Autism Awareness Month**  
See Below



Our planet is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive! That's why each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we're making our world a happier, healthier place to live.

Become a waste warrior. A plastic bottle can take over 450 years to break down in a landfill. Before throwing something away, think about whether it can be recycled or repurposed. Turn off lights. Try conserving electrical energy by using only what you need. Limit your water usage. Turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth can conserve up to eight gallons of water a day.

**Help spread the message!**

**Join us at the Person County Recycling Center on Friday, April 21st from 9-12 and receive a reusable recycling tote and updated information regarding acceptable materials!**

### National Deaf History Month

American Library Association (ALA) and National Association of the Deaf (NAD) - Both advocacy organizations have continued to actively protest for a federal proclamation of National Deaf History Month by the White House and/or Congress. In 2022, both organizations changed Deaf History Month to the full month of April.

National Deaf History Month is important because:

Advocating for the rights of deaf persons—Many deaf and hard-of-hearing people often struggle with stigma in our society. Deaf History Month offers the right opportunity to speak up for them and advocate for their inclusion and accessibility in our communities.

Celebrating the community—The deaf community is one that is largely ignored. Having Deaf History Month enables us to celebrate and remember this community.



Creating awareness—National Deaf History Month raises awareness about the deaf and hearing-impaired community. With proper awareness, we can share and celebrate their culture and celebrate diversity and inclusiveness.

### World Autism Awareness Month—Increasing Awareness About The Common Characteristics Of Autism:

Whilst no two people with autism will have the same set of symptoms, there are common characteristics found in those with this complex disability. Briefly, these characteristics include:

**Social Skills** - People with autism have problems interacting with others; autistic children do not have adequate playing and talking skills. Mild symptoms on one end of the spectrum may be displayed through being out of sync with those around them and inappropriate or offensive comments being made.

**Empathy** - Empathy is the ability to recognize and understand the feelings of another person. People with autism find it harder to show empathy to others although they can be taught to acknowledge the others' feelings.

**Physical Contact** - In some cases, autistic people do not like physical contact such as tickling or physical play with others.

**Sudden Changes To Their Environment** - A sudden change in the surrounding environment may affect a person with autism. This could be a loud noise, a change in intensity of lighting or even a change in smell.

**Speech** - Speech can be affected in people with autism. 'Echolalia' is a typical speech symptom in which the person repeats words and phrases that they hear. The speech tone of an autistic person may be monotonous. Where symptoms are more extreme the person may not speak.

## What does SAFETY mean to you?



Sean Allen from the Person County Recycling Center stated, 'For myself and others to be safe and not get hurt.'



# Welcome New Staff

For many years, Person Industries and the Person County Recycling Center has worked with a reduced work force due to the inability to find qualified candidates for positions that require direct care of adults with intellectual disabilities. Search after search was conducted and then restrictions within the realm of the pandemic changed many job expectations and needs.

That all changed at the beginning of 2023 as we welcomed three new full-time employees. We are very excited to introduce the following:

**Sequoia Albright** was born and raised in Winston Salem. He, along with his family, currently resides in Burlington. Sequoia brings over 15 years experience working with individuals with disabilities. His work history includes Orange County Schools as an EC Instructor and Orange County Government where he worked as a Family Navigator, assisting others to obtain the appropriate services needed.



Sequoia is a graduate of Mt. Tabor High School where he played football, receiving a scholarship to continue playing at Allen University in Columbia, SC. He is an avid sports fan and a diehard Duke and New York Giants follower. He is married to Natasha (13 years) and they have two kids, Kristian and Khori. He is a Community Employment Specialist.

**Lakesha Jones** joins Person Industries as a Production Assistant. She has worked in the field for six years and loves the diversity of our work force. Lakesha has her diploma in early childcare, and business administration and marketing. She spent 5 years working as a CNA/

MedTech and also worked at Central Regional Hospital as a Therapeutic Support Specialist.

In Lakesha's spare time, she loves spending time with her kids. Before her passing, her

mother was the biggest supporter in her life. At PI, she will be assisting individuals in achieving their professional goals in the community at job sites, as well as assisting with our Healthy Living Program.

**Brittany Pettiford** comes to PI with experience under her belt at our local group home organization. Bringing



someone in-house that is already familiar with our consumers helps with transitions especially supervision, safety, and ease. Brittany is also a Production Assistant and will be working with individuals at community job sites as well as providing supervision in-house with-

in our different programs. She has three years of experience working with the population and has worked in different fields over the years from fast food and cashier to customer service and child care.

During her time away from work, she loves being with her family, she is a mother of three. She enjoys spending time at the beach, good food, and basically enjoying life, laughing and loving.



**Welcome New Staff Continued:**

We also welcome back retired veteran, **Gloria Drollinger**. Gloria spent 12 years at Person Industries retiring in April 2022 as a Job Coach. She has returned as a PT Habilitation Assistant and has enjoyed filling in as needed in the community, in-house coverage, and anything that comes up where additional supervision is required.

PI and PCRC are ecstatic to welcome these well rounded, experienced, and dedicated individuals to our team, our family! There are many advancements, changes, and service needs on the horizon and we know these individuals will be a great asset to our ever growing organization.

WELCOME ABOARD! We are looking forward to your bright future with Person County Government!



*PCRC Gate Hours*

**Holiday Gate Hours**

Gates will close  
**Thursday, April 6th**  
at 4:00 pm  
and reopen

**Monday, April 10th**  
at 7:30 am



741 Martin Street  
Roxboro  
336-597-4437

Person County Town Hall  
Plan to Attend!!!

**Save the Date**

Person County Town Hall Meeting

Mental Health, Intellectual Developmental Disabilities &  
Substance Abuse

April 17, 2023

10am—12pm

105 S Lamar Street, Roxboro, NC 27573



**Guest Speakers:**

Senator Lisa Grafstein, Disability Rights of NC, Samantha R vs. NC  
Kelly Crosbie, Director of NC Division of MHDDAS, updates from NCDHHS  
Debra Farrington, NC DHHS Deputy Secretary/Chief Health Equity Officer  
Senator Graig Meyer, updates from NC General Assembly

**For information contact**

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# Person Industries

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County Recycling Center



## April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday PI/PCRC Closed	8
9 Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Town Hall Meeting 10 am	18	19	20	21 EARTH DAY Celebration @ PCRC, 9-12	22 EARTH DAY
23 /	24	25	26 Administrative Professionals Day	27	28	29
30						

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