



# In the Spotlight

*Highlighting Exceptional Employees*

## Barry Lowry Fleet Manager

Barry Lowry, the Town of Chapel Hill's fleet manager, is this year's National Professional Manager of the Year. He was chosen out of 64 candidates among the American Public Works Association (APWA), a national network of public works professionals.

How does one person balance managing nearly all the Town-owned equipment at work and three girls at home? Teamwork.

Barry works with six mechanics, a parts technician and a processing technician. Together they ensure that about 420 pieces of equipment (not including Transit vehicles)—ranging from chainsaws to fire trucks and everything in between—are in good working order.

"If you see it on the road or in someone's hands, it is typically maintained by this division," Barry says.



Ran Northam photo

Despite that tall order, Barry says coming to work is where he comes to rest. He and his wife of 17 years, Amy, have three daughters—Ava, 10, Charlotte, 8 and Lorelei, 3.

"I'm now a chauffeur service," Barry says. "I just move people around."

Whether he's working together with his wife or with his co-workers, Barry says there's no better or more efficient way to do so than as a team.

"No one person should have to do any single thing without help," Barry says. "When people are working together, there's assurance that the job will be done correctly."

Barry says it has meant a lot to him that the Town has been an avid supporter of professional development.

In 2013, Barry was elected APWA President of the equipment services division. This year, Barry has moved to the state chapter level where he is serving as vice president. He says he's on track to serve as president of the state chapter in 2017, when the state chapter will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

He'll be recognized as the National Professional Manager of the year at the 2015 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Phoenix, Ariz. on Aug. 31.

Barry graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1997 with a degree in political science. After brief stays in Winston-Salem and Myrtle Beach, Barry said he realized what he wanted to do in life and returned

## Value in the Spotlight Teamwork

to the Triangle area. In 2004, he started evening classes at NC Central University, where he received his Masters of Public Administration. During the 2003-04 academic year, he was an unpaid intern under former Town Manager Cal Horton.

Now, Barry has eight and a half years of employment with the Town.

"The people are what make working for the Town so great," Barry says. "Even during tough times, we work through it and we work together. We find comfort in one another."

He says his favorite hobby is golf, but his two-times-a-week outings have fallen to about two times a year as his family has grown.

The Lowry family currently lives in Mebane, and Barry says he's excited that they'll soon be building a house on New Hope Church Road.

### RESPECT Values

**Responsibility**

**Equity**

**Safety**

**Professionalism**

**Ethics**

**Communication**

**Teamwork**

