

Contact: Chip Guy
Chief of Public Information
Sussex County Administration
(302) 854-5000
pio@sussexcountype.gov

Sussex County Council
Administrative Offices
2 The Circle
PO Box 589
Georgetown, DE 19947

Sussex County
Government

News Profile

Sussex County Accountant Gina A. Jennings

Georgetown, Del., May 16, 2006: When Gina Jennings earned her college diploma from the University of Delaware in 2001, she did what many new graduates do: she went off to the big city and landed a job.

But soon after beginning her career as an accountant, the Sussex County native realized something was missing: the comfort of home.

"I just missed Sussex County so much. Philadelphia is so different from the beach," Ms. Jennings said. "I wanted to come home."

She did just that. And now the big city's loss is Sussex County's gain.

As one of Sussex County government's newest accountants, Ms. Jennings is getting the chance to apply her knowledge, training and insights in an environment that she admits is more familiar and friendlier than what she could have ever found in one of the larger accounting firms.



Gina Jennings

Finding that back home, though, wasn't easy. Upon leaving Philadelphia after a little more than a year, Ms. Jennings discovered that to work in accounting at home, her options might be limited. "There's not much down here for accounting, so that's why I began teaching," she said.

She taught accounting, business and computer courses in area school districts for three years,

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until an opportunity arose to be the Town of Milton's finance director, keeping monthly records and preparing an annual budget.

"I got the chance to go in there, fix some problems, and make an accounting department in a town what it should be," Ms. Jennings said. "It was a good education."

It also was her introduction to local government, politics and service to the community, all of which, she said, have always interested her. So when an opportunity to move to Sussex County government came up this past winter, Ms. Jennings took another step in her career.

Name: Gina A. Jennings
Age: 27
Residence: Milton
Occupation: accountant III, Sussex County Accounting division
Responsibilities: manages accounts receivable (billings) for the Sussex County Airport and Industrial Airpark; records connection billings for new county sewer users; maintains inventory of certain county property
Background: has worked recently as finance director for the Town of Milton, managing an annual budget of about \$2 million; taught various courses in two area school districts for three years; worked one year as an auditor at a major accounting firm in Philadelphia
Education: bachelor's degree in accounting, with minor in information systems management, University of Delaware, 2001

"I wanted a new challenge," she said. "I knew I needed to grow. Working within a small town gave me good experience, but I felt the opportunity with Sussex County would give me a new challenge on a much bigger scale."

Since beginning March 1, Ms. Jennings has taken on a number of tasks, from managing accounts receivable for the county's Accounting division to being an integral part in a recent presentation to County Council on how Sussex County could minimize the costs associated with an upcoming electricity rate increase.

Susan M. Webb, director of the Accounting division, said Ms. Jennings brings with her all the skills the county needed in a new accountant – accounting experience, governmental exposure and computer literacy. "We're very lucky to have someone with her credentials, someone as talented as she is," Ms. Webb said.

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This is the sixth in an occasional series of profiles about some of the newest members of Sussex County government.