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# The Haverhill Gazette

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## News

### Devoted lab manager honored by hospital

By **Jonathan L'Ecuyer**  
*Staff Writer*

*(single page view)*  
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Dawn Walker has been named Employee of the Year at Merrimack Valley Hospital.

The assistant lab manager and chemistry section supervisor works 50 to 60 hours per week. She arrives at 3 a.m. on some days to get a jump start, and is always willing to help where needed — and does it all with a smile, too. The 30-year veteran lab manager works tirelessly to get the job done well.

"I'm a little overwhelmed," Walker said about the accolade. "I'm not sure how I'm even supposed to feel."

According to the hospital, staff members given the Employee of the Year award excel in performance, reliability, personality, appearance, consideration, initiative, communication and acting as a hospital ambassador during work hours.

"Dawn is a dedicated worker and always puts quality first," said Stephen Geary, interim laboratory director. "I rely on Dawn tremendously, and I know her co-workers do too. She truly goes above and beyond the call of duty and I am so happy she is being recognized for her accomplishments."

Walker has worked for the hospital for five years but also accrued 25 years of service when the hospital was under city ownership and known as Hale Hospital.

"It's nice to see the function of the lab grow. We do a huge variety of testing considering we're a fairly small community

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**Stacey Fecteau**  
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hospital," Walker said. "We have a full-service laboratory, meaning we are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The job is rewarding because you know you're helping people."

Walker spoke with The Haverhill Gazette.

**Birthplace:** Exeter, N.H. Now lives in Hampton, N.H.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in medical technology from Northeastern University.

**Hobbies:** Skiing, golf, photography

**Community involvement:** Outreach for Miraculous Metal Church in Hampton, N.H.

**What do you like most about your job?** I enjoy the work and have the good fortune of working with a great laboratory staff.

**What do you like least?** Paperwork

**What do you hope to accomplish?** To continue to provide quality health care to the community.

**Why did you choose your career path?** Visited a hospital laboratory when in high school and the work seemed interesting.

**Best thing about Haverhill?** Open spaces

**Worst thing?** Downtown traffic

**Do you have pets?** I have two cats — Zoe and Shadow.

**Any siblings?** I am the oldest of five children; I have three sisters and a brother.

**Alternate career choice:** Travel photographer

**Type of entertainment preferred:** Live stage performances, music and theater.

**Favorite entertainer:** James Taylor

**Favorite actress:** Meryl Streep

**Favorite actor:** Robert DeNiro

**Favorite film:** "The Deer Hunter"

**Favorite TV show:** "Antique Roadshow"

**Favorite song:** "In My Life" by the Beatles

**Favorite magazines:** "Travel and Leisure"

**Kind of music:** Rock, classical

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**Favorite books:** Mysteries

**Favorite quote:** Murphy's Law ("If something can go wrong, it will.")

**Pet peeve:** E-mail

**If you could be anyone else:** Samantha Brown — world-traveling TV host of hit Travel Channel shows like "Passport to Europe" and "Great Hotels."

**Which person, living or dead, would you want to join for dinner and why?** Emeril Lagasse because I know we'd have a terrific meal.

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100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845 978-946-2000