

I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else.

Lily Tomlin



Updates

Well, another short newsletter this month while we have all been huddled down due to the cold and snow. I am tired of winter!

A good thing about February is that it is National Snack Food Month. Highlights include

National Gumdrop Day, February 15, National Chocolate Mint Day, February 19, National Tortilla Chip Day, February 24, and National Pistachio Day on February 26. Truly something for every craving! BUT—February is

also National Heart Healthy Month. Try to reconcile that with February 29 (when we have one) being Surf and Turf Day! Have a great, short, February and keep those jackets buttoned up!

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Ongoing Maintenance

So by now you have your W2 forms and are looking at your tax preparation. As you work through take time to re-evaluate your withholdings. Do you need to adjust them for 2009? Have you had changes that are not reflected for the upcoming year? Did you change your marital status, the number of dependents you can claim, interest payments on your mortgage, make changes to your deferred compensation? These are only a few examples of changes that you may need to look for. To make

changes to the amounts withheld from your paycheck contact the County Clerk's office at 637-5566. Report any **NAME CHANGE TO SSA** and obtain a corrected Social Security card. If a name change has occurred please let Linda Morrison know so that all of your checks are printed with the correct name on them. Employee names and Social Security numbers that are submitted on Vernon County's annual wage report are matched against SSA records. If everything does not

match, an employee's wages may not be credited to his or her SSA record. Did you move or change your phone number? Who would you like contacted in the case of emergency? Contact Bonnie of Lori in Human Resources to update your employee information. It is important that your contact information is current. Call 637-5303 to make changes or to verify that our records match your wishes and are up to date. A few minutes is all it will take.

Welcome New Employees

We would like to welcome the following new employees to Vernon County:

Land and Water

Benjamin Wojahn, Project Manager/GIS Specialist 1/05/09

Human Services

Marla Sadowsky, Social Worker 1/05/09

Vernon Manor

Nadine Paulsrud, RN 12/24/08
Kathy Ronnefeldt, On-Call 1/6/09

Natasha Faulkner, CNA 1/06/09

Sheriff

Jeffrey Smith, On-Call 1/07/09
Donna Karasek, On-Call 1/19/09

Aging

Todd Brye, Mealsite on-call 1/28/09



Human Resources Continuing Information

***Congratulations to Vernon County! 2008 saw only 29 reported injuries to employees in 650,174 total hours worked.**

*Retirement Information

Information is available from the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) on their handling of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). SWIB is responsible for investing the assets of WRS. Contributions to the WRS by participating employees and employers are

invested by SWIB. The accumulated funds are used to pay retirement, death and disability benefits. When employees retire they will receive a pension annuity initially determined by Employee Trust Funds (ETF). Adjustments are then made annually to annuity payments based on investment results. Some information about SWIB:
 *9th largest public pension fund in the US.
 *24th largest pension fund in the world.
 *Comprised of the Core Fund, a balanced fund, and the Variable Fund, a stock fund.
 *Core Fund gains and losses are spread over

five years to smooth the effect on participants' accounts.

*Variable Fund annuities fully reflect prior year gains and losses of the investments.
 *About 110,000 people participate in the Variable Fund.

An informational brochure about SWIB will be distributed to all employees.

For further more information online: www.swib.state.wi.us or call their hotline at 1-800-424-7942.

Child Maltreatment Conference

12th Annual La Crosse Child Maltreatment Conference
April 3, 2009
(8:30AM – 4:00PM)
 Radisson Hotel, La Crosse WI

Children living in homes with parents/caregivers who struggle with major mental illness or substance abuse are at increased risk for child maltreatment. The 2009 conference will increase practice expertise and skills, through interactive presenter/audience participation and networking, for attendees.

National and regional speakers will focus on successful intervention/treatment strategies to educate professionals including but not limited to; child protection workers; law enforcement officers, counselors/therapists, medical and mental health providers, attorneys, teachers, social workers, child care workers and child/family advocacy staff.

Conference registration fee is \$95.00 and includes a bound conference manual containing presentation outlines and

speaker handouts. Continuing education credits for physicians/psychologists, nurses, social workers, attorneys, and Minnesota Board of School Administrators will be applied for. Full conference brochures and registration forms will be available in print and electronically in February.

Please contact Cathy Pupp @ Pupp.Cathleen@mayo.edu or (608) 392-4172 for more information or to register.

Quick and Easy Recipe: Blueberry Delight

4 cups blueberries
 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon

1/4 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 375* F. Butter a 6 cup glass pie pan or casserole dish. Evenly spread the berries over the buttered surface. Mix the sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle evenly over the berries.

In a small mixing bowl, combine

1 cup flour	3/4 cup sugar	1/4 tsp salt
2 TBSP butter	1 1/2 t baking powder	3/4 cup milk

Mix together thoroughly and add milk and stir into batter. Spread batter, by the spoonful over the top of the berries. Bake in a pre-heated oven for 40-45 min until the berries are bubbly and topping is nicely browned. Remove from the oven and cool slightly before serving with a generous topping of whipped cream or large scoop of ice cream.



Vernon County Calendar

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Land Info 9A CB	3 LW Cons 8:30A CB309 CDBG/EAP 9A CB Cty Bd 9:30A	4	5 Land Use 9A Ag Ser Ctr Bld Fac 9A CB	6	7
8	9 Ag Ext 9:30A Ext Conf Rm	10 Hwy 9A Hwy Zon 9A EOB	11 LWC 9:30A Ag Ser Ctr	12	13 Em Man 2P EOB	14
15	16 HS 9A EOB	17	18	19 Fin 9A 309 HR 10:30A 309	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Dept Head 9A museum	27	28

Special Dates

For more dates and to confirm dates check the calendar at our website:

www.vernoncounty.org

Abbreviations

BR—Boardroom
 BOH—Board of Health
 HS—Human Services
 HR—Human Resources/Personnel
 EOB—Erlandson Office Building
 Hwy —Highway Department Bldg
 VM—Vernon Manor
 Vet Ser—Veterans Services
 LWC—Land And Water Conservation
 Ag/Ext—Agriculture/Extension

Leg Aff—Legal Affairs
 Zon—Zoning
 Bldg Fac—Building/Facilities
 VCCPC—Vernon County Comprehensive
 Planning Commission
 Land Info—Land Information
 SWR—Solid Waste/Recycling
 RF—Recycling Facility
 Em Plan—Emergency Planning
 BB—Banta Building
 Sec/Fac—Security and Facilitie

Vernon County Connection

Employee Anniversary Dates February

Thank You

Thank you to Alice Olson for the recipe this month.

As always, thank you to Connie McCullick for converting the newsletter so all can read it on their computers regardless of the programs they run.

25Year

Charles Suhr, Sheriff

20 Year

Phillip Hahn, Land & Water

10 Years

Evelyn Williams, Veteran's Services

Linda Morrison, County Clerk

5 Year

Michael Davig, Sheriff



Upcoming Events

Tentative Schedule of Events for 2009
July 28 Employee Picnic
Sept Employee Anniversary Recognition at Board Meeting
Oct 30 Halloween Extraganza

Dec 14-15 Holly Gram deliveries
Watch for news on these and other exciting events from your Human Resources Department!

You can read Vernon County Connections on your personal computer! The newsletter is now available each month at the Vernon County website for those who may not have computer access at work. Go into the Personnel page and click on the newsletter link. Please pass the word!!

The Internet is a telephone system that's gotten uppity.
Clifford Stall

County Board Contact Information

Harry Baller, District 27 489-2288	Maynard Cox, District 7 648-2599	Kevin Larson, District 14 634-3439	Jack Robinson, District 24 337-4445
David Banner, District 16 6372451	Karen Dahl, District 17 637-7710	Chet Lee, District 18 637-3990	Jim Servais, District 5 483-2800
Geoffrey Banta, District 20 637-3286	Frank Easterday, District 22 634-4521	John McClelland, Jr, District 6 634-2341	Tom Spenner, District 26 489-2302
Will Beitlich, District 1 483-2664	Sherman Erlandson, District 11 634-4327	Frank McCoy, District 21 629-5262	Leo Verbsky, District 29 489-3295
Dennis Brault, District 13 634-2146	Kevin Gobel, District 2 457-2638	Ray Moser, District 12 634-4995	Ole Yttri, District 23 625-2601
Richard Brose, District 9 452-3923	Philip Hooker, District 4 648-3574	JoAnn Nickelatti, District 3 689-2491	
Jerry Cade, District 19 637-7435	Francis Hynek, District 25 625-2205	Todd Overbo, District 15 637-8102	
Herbert Cornell, District 8 452-3901	Robert Johnson, District 10 634-3156	Brian Richardson, District 28 489-3563	

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.VERNONCOUNTY.ORG

In Honor of Lincoln's 200th Birthday

SOME THOUGHTFUL LINCOLN QUOTES

LEAVE NOTHING FOR TOMORROW WHICH CAN BE DONE TODAY.

I HAVE STEPPED OUT UPON THIS PLATFORM THAT I MAY SEE YOU AND THAT YOU MAY SEE ME,
AND IN THE ARRANGEMENT I HAVE THE BEST OF THE BARGAIN.

EVERYBODY LIKES A COMPLIMENT.

THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS IN MY PHILOSOPHY. EVERY EFFECT MUST HAVE ITS CAUSE. THE PAST
IS THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT, AND THE PRESENT WILL BE THE CAUSE OF THE FUTURE. ALL
THESE ARE LINKS IN THE ENDLESS CHAIN STRETCHING FROM THE FINITE TO THE INFINITE..

DON'T WORRY WHEN YOU ARE NOT RECOGNIZED, BUT STRIVE TO BE WORTHY OF
RECOGNITION.

THINGS MAY COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT, BUT ONLY THE THINGS LEFT BY THOSE WHO
HUSTLE.

MOST FOLKS ARE AS HAPPY AS THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO BE.

TACT IS THE ABILITY TO DESCRIBE OTHERS AS THEY SEE THEMSELVES.

EVERY MAN IS SAID TO HAVE HIS PECULIAR AMBITION. WHETHER IT BE TRUE OR NOT, I CAN
SAY FOR ONE THAT I HAVE NO OTHER SO GREAT AS THAT OF BEING TRULY ESTEEMED OF MY
FELLOW MEN, BY RENDERING MYSELF WORTHY OF THEIR ESTEEM.

WHATEVER YOU ARE, BE A GOOD ONE.

Too often we go through our day to day tasks without recognizing the people around us in a significant way.

February 12 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. To honor the day, the man and his ideals please take a moment to sincerely compliment, thank or empathize with a fellow Vernon County employee. It's worth the time and effort!