

THE COMMUNICATOR

Editor - Dawn Mergen, Personnel Specialist

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Grant County Employee Newsletter

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~In the Spotlight~

Hello from the Grant County Fair!

Amy Olson, Grant County Fairgrounds & Operations Director

The fairgrounds is the home of the annual Grant County Fair and over forty acres of land with multiple buildings that are rented out and maintained throughout the year. I took over as the director of the fairgrounds in 2012 after working for the fair since I was 15 years old. I have two full-time maintenance technicians and 13 LTE workers, and I recently act as the department head for the UW-Extension support staff. I wear many hats at the fairgrounds from doing all the financial records and budgeting to general office duties including payroll, ac-



counts receivable, and account payable. The fair keeps me busy with sponsorship, vendor space, entertainment lineup, promoting and advertising, fair entries, volunteers, ordering concession supplies, etc. I am actively involved with promoting Grant County as I am the Treasurer of the Grant County Tourism Council and help produce the Grant County Travel Planner. The fair is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs (WAF) and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). Both of these give me insight on fair activities, guidelines and networking opportunities. I have been recognized for three awards in the past two years



at the IAFE Convention for my marketing campaign for the fair. Something that I am honored to receive as I was judged against fairs from across the U.S. and Canada that have attendance of up to 100,000. I sit on the IAFE County Fair Committee and have done presentations during conventions on the "How To's" of running a fair on a small budget. I enjoy my job and promoting Grant County by being involved in the community.



Part of my job is to supervise the maintenance at the fairgrounds. I am fortunate to have two dedicated and skilled maintenance technicians. Brian Heinrichs and Brenda Schneider are a great asset to the fairgrounds. There is very little that they cannot repair or install so we don't have to hire outside help. They assist with the rental of our facilities by making sure the buildings are ready and cleaned up after the event. They also take care of all the upkeep of the grounds. Brian and Brenda do the majority of the repairs at the fairgrounds and work on major projects such as installing new water lines in the open dairy barn, build new wash racks, assembled bleachers from 32 capacity to 182 capacity, reconstruct the guard rail on the race track, built sound boards for the Eckstein Exhibit Hall, uninstalled, painted, and reinstall the bathroom stalls in the Youth & Ag Building, and put counter tops in the North Room of the Youth & Ag Building. Brian also replaces all the fixtures on the light poles on the race track. A job that requires no fear of heights! Brenda documents repairs and activities with Facility Dude and is in charge of coordinating the winter storage with people. They both are hardworking individuals and I am grateful to have them at the fairgrounds.

I also have two individuals that not only support the UW-Extension Office but support me with the fairgrounds as well. Jenny Dixon is an Administrative Assistant I, and Lori Vesperman is an Administrative Assistant II. They book events that take place at the fairgrounds year around. They are involved with the Grant County Fair working with me, the Agriculture Educator, and the 4-H Youth Development Educator. Together we provide the necessary information to exhibitors to make sure they have met all their requirements to show or sell at the Grant



County Fair. These two ladies play a vital role in assisting me and are very true to their work and the public they serve.

I am thankful for the workers that I have and the service that we provide. I am not just their supervisor but I consider myself a team player and I believe I have the best team around!



GRANDSTAND EVENTS & ADMISSION

Tuesday, August 14	Tues	day,	Aug	ust	14
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AMERICAN BANK PRESENTS	
HUMAN FOOSBALL/MUD TUG OF WAR - 6:30 p.m.	. FREE
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, LION KING - infield racetrack 8:30 p.m	FREE

Wednesday, August 15

ALTERNATIVE RECYCLING RACE NIGHT PRESENTS LAFAYETTE COUNTY PROMOTIONS, LLC - 6:30 p.m. Adults 18 & over (tax included) \$10.00 Students, 9-17 (tax included) \$6.00 Children 8 & under accompanied by an adult FREE

Thursday, August 16

CC BUCKING BULL RODEO & MUTTON BUSTIN - 6:30 p.m.	
Adults (tax included)	\$10.00
Children 8 & under accompanied by an adult	FREE

Friday, August 17

ECI PULLERS ASSN. & DAIRYLAND ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULLEI	RS 7:00 p.m.
Adults (tax included)	\$10.00
Children 8 & under accompanied by adult	FREE

Saturday, August 18

EPIC CONSTRUCTION PRESENTS	
OPEN TRACTOR, TRUCK PULLS WITH SW WISCONSIN PULLE	CRS, & ATV/UTV
GARDEN TRACTOR PULLS - 6:00 p.m.	
Adults (tax included)	\$10.00
Children 8 & under accompanied by adult	FREE

Sunday, August 19

HARD HIT PROMOTIONS, LLC - Demolition Derby – 11 a.m.	
Adults (tax included)	\$5.00
Children 8 & under accompanied by adult	FREE
HARD HIT PROMOTIONS, LLC - Night of Destruction - 5:00 p.m.	
Adults (tax included)	\$10.00
Children 8 & under accompanied by adult	FREE

For full details of the Grant County Fair visit our website at www.grantcountyfairwi.org

Dana's Desktop Dana C. Andrews, Grant County IT Technician

Back In Space Again...



There was a lot of positive feedback on the article about printing in space. Continuing that theme, here is a story about a single company that is specializing in space operations. 'Made In Space,' is a California based company that provides the two 3-D printers currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS). These printers use a special type of poly-

mer to construct needed repair parts (saving the time and cost of send-

ing them via rocket). However, while many components can be made of plastic, some things just need the structural integrity only metal can provide. Made In Space is working with NASA to produce just such a metal printing 3D device. They actually have a working proto-type and current work is more about fine tuning it for daily operations in space. It works with titanium, stainless steel, aluminum and a larger variety of plastic composites. Maybe more dramatic, this is just one part of MIS' end vision to build a spacecraft with 3D printers attached to robotic arms. This will allow it to build large structures free floating in space. When finished, this space factory will be able to produce the next space telescope or space station without launching from Earth! Made In Space has in fact, several projects ongoing. They are also currently manufacturing fiber for fiber optics networks aboard the ISS. Doing this in microgravity eliminates the flaws earth-bound manufacturing produces. It is another technology that they already have working and the question right now is more about being able to do it in bulk. We may soon see SpaceX flights going up empty and coming down full instead of the other way round (this would be much cheaper).

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better...

The other technical news is the U.S. has reclaimed the title of having the fastest computer in the world. Called Summit, it can perform around 200 quadrillion calculations per second (technically they call that 200 petaflops. By comparison, the previous record was 93 petaflops). How fast is that? It is the equivalent of everybody in the world (7.6 billion of us) doing a single calculation every second for an entire year to match what Summit does in one second of time. In some early acceptance testing, it solved a problem in one hour that would have taken the average work computer 30 years to complete.

It takes a lot of power to deliver that kind of performance; 15 megawatts to be exact. They also have to pump 4,000 gallons of cooling water through it every minute. Here is some math for you: it has 4,608 interconnected computer nodes. Each node has 2 computer chips (each chip has 22 cores on it). Each

node is also provided with 1600 gigabytes of memory (your workstation most likely has 4gb of RAM). So, if you are looking for an equivalent system at Best Buy, you will need to ask for a machine that has 9,216 22-core CPUs with 7,372,800gb of RAM (oh, also what is a computer without a good graphics card. This one has 27,648 of them). You'll want free shipping on this as it weighs as much as a large commercial jetliner.





The main purpose of Summit is Artificial Intelligence (thank goodness they didn't call it SkyNet). It will be working on issues involving health, power production (cold fusion for example), and hopefully balancing my checkbook. It is the brainchild of IBM (so Deep Blue basically got an upgrade).

Another Gaming Addiction Story...



There is a current news story about a 9 year old girl who has been admitted to a British substance abuse clinic for addiction issues with the wildly popular new game Fortnite. The parents say their daughter started showing aggressive behavior after becoming hooked on the game. She falls asleep in school and gets into frequent arguments with family and peers. The parents also discovered credit card charges averaging \$67 a month to Microsoft. After the girl's father

took away the Xbox, she reportedly slapped him across the face. She has become so engrossed in the game that she has wet herself rather than leave the console at times. This is the same game that allegedly gave a major league pitcher carpal tunnel syndrome from playing it too much. (Note that in 2017 alone, video games made over 100 billion dollars between sales and in-game purchases. The game Fortnite is currently earning its makers a million dollars a day).

Retirement Recognition

April 15, 2018 through June 09, 2018

Cheryl Klein (Orchard Manor), 35 years (retired June 7)

Grant County wishes you a happy and healthy retirement!

Reminder: Please contact the County Personnel Office at least two months before your retirement date so we can assist you with the process



Aflac

Grant County's benefit eligible employees may participate in Aflac. This coverage helps you pay for medical related out-of-pocket costs. <u>Policy changes/enrollments are effective July 1st and January 1st.</u>

Michelle Nodorft (608-778-8057) from Aflac will be in Lancaster to meet with employees that would like to learn about the coverage types, have questions, or want to make changes. Please see the below schedule and choose

the location and time that works best for you.

November 6, 2018

9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Community Services building (Social Services Conference Room 22) 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Administration building (Conference Room 266) 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 107) 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Law Enforcement building

Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045 or <u>iroling@co.grant.wi.gov</u>.



What is Onboarding?

Joyce Roling, Grant County Personnel Director



Onboarding is the process of integrating a new employee into an organization and familiarizing them with their



new job duties, co-workers, policies, and day to day op-

erations in a manner that is welcoming and organized, but not overwhelming.

Grant County created a guide to assist in the process of welcoming new employees and make it easier to acclimate into their new work environment. Although we all have an employee orientation to learn a job, this program will start with the new employee before their first day.

As a current employee, you are very much a part of the onboarding process. Providing a new employee a welcoming smile, introducing them to co-workers, or offering to have lunch with them goes a long way on their first impression of the work environment. Keep that in mind the next time you see a new face.

The following link will take you to the County's Onboarding Program Guide on our website. Take a look. It will give you an idea of what we do for our new staff. http://www.co.grant.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=24331&locid=147



Deferred Compensation Retirement Contributions

Grant County partners with Wisconsin Deferred Compensation program and Nationwide deferred compensation program, to provide an additional avenue of saving for your retirement other than WRS. All benefit eligible employees have the option to save through pre-tax or after-tax payroll deduction.

Representatives from both programs will be in Lancaster to meet with employees that would like to learn about deferred compensation, have questions, or

want to make changes to their accounts. Please see the below schedule and choose the location and time that works best for you.

September 20, 2018

Nationwide Retirement Solutions; Kerryl Johnson (608)825-2516 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Services building (Social Services Conference Room 1) 11 a.m. Group Presentation at the County Board Room; must contact Personnel Office if plan to attend 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Administration building (Conference Room 266) 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 104) 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Law Enforcement building

Wisconsin Deferred Compensation; Stephanie Rautio (608)241-6604 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Services building (Social Services Conference Room 22) 11 a.m. Group Presentation at the County Board Room; must contact Personnel Office if plan to attend 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Administration building (Conference Room 201)

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 107)

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Law Enforcement building

Service Anniversaries

July, 2018 through September, 2018 (5 year increments)

Luann Bendorf (Sheriff's Office), 40 years on July 17

Jack Johnson (Sheriff's Office), 30 years on August 8

Fred Naatz (Social Services), 25 years on August 9 Joann Koeller (Sheriff's Office), 25 years on September 27

Betty Steiger (Orchard Manor), 20 years on July 18 Brian Monahan (Sheriff's Office), 20 years on September 27 Jennifer Dixon (Fair / UW Extension), 15 years on September 8 Teresa Putchio (Finance), 15 years on September 8 Carol Schwartz (Orchard Manor), 10 years on August 1 Terri Dilley (Orchard Manor), 10 years on August 6 Nichole Durni (Orchard Manor), 10 years on August 6 Kristi Lenz (Register in Probate's Office), 10 years on September 8 Sara Hullermann (Clerk of Court's Office), 5 years on July 5 McKenzie Croft (Orchard Manor), 5 years on August 1 Kasey Kaufman (Orchard Manor), 5 years on August 1 Laura Martin (Orchard Manor), 5 years on August 1 Lisa Robinson (Orchard Manor), 5 years on August 1 Amanda Hochhausen (Orchard Manor), 5 years on August 5 Angela Froiseth (ADRC), 5 years on August 19 Erica Traver (Sheriff's Office), 5 years on September 1



~In the Spotlight~ County Board Chair Position

The position of Grant County Board Chair is very interesting and to me very enjoyable. While there are challenging days being a sounding board for staff and the public, it is rewarding when projects are completed and outcomes show the benefits to all involved. As described in the summary of duties for the Board Chair, knowledge of operations is a key component of job. It is important to understand the makeup of Grant County, important to attend committee meetings to understand and monitor departments, important to understand state and federal government to protect our interest and that of the communities in our



County, important to understand the processes in running effective meetings, and important to understand and support the creation of a responsible balanced budget. I appreciate the opportunity to represent Grant County in the role of Board Chair at numerous events to learn what is going on around us. It's exciting to see what works in some areas, interesting to see what might not work in others, but most important is the networking, the sharing of ideas, with the many levels of government that we deal with to supply the services to the people of Grant County.

As I move into my third term as Grant County Board Chair, I feel that I am better prepared to lead us into the future because of the experiences of the past four years. I am more comfortable communicating with staff, the public, vendors, contractors, and governmental officials due to the number of meetings and events I have attended. While the job duties include running meetings, review and sign payroll, vouchers, resolutions, grant requests, contracts, zoning petitions, and other documents as needed, the leadership and coordination for the integration of county governmental functions including the county board, its committees, the departments and organizations remains my top priority. I consider open communications with the public, staff, elected officials, municipalities, state and federal agencies and various organizations an important part of that coordination effort. These relationships have proven to be very valuable for



awareness of opportunity or challenges that could affect the way we do business.

We have been fortunate to complete many projects in recent history. The Courthouse Restoration Project, the placement/lighting of the Flag on the Dome, Grant County presence at the Kieler Rest Area, Youth Government Day, and working through a Master Plan leading to the construction of a new facility have been accomplished through the dedication and cooperation by many in our county. One of the success I am proud to have been a part of was working on the change in the law to cushion the financial burden to Cassville and Grant County on the loss of the power plants and the associated revenues. With the help of Cassville officials, Representative Tranel, Senator Marklein, the Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Association, County staff, and others, we were honored to attend the Governors signing of the bill to phase out the revenue payments over 5 years after decommissioning of generation instead of the previous abrupt cut of those funds.



As we follow through on our existing projects - LEC,SS & ADRC Building, sewer extension from City to Orchard Manor, the Swine Barn, numerous LEAN projects, full implementation of Facility Dude & Capital Forecasting, 2019 Highway project in downtown Lancaster, UW Extension restructure, balancing future budgets - we need to prepare for future challenges. Change is inevitable. How we deal with that change can be uncomfortable, but I look forward to leading Grant County through those challenges with the help of everyone. I believe we need to systematically work through the issues by developing a Strategic Plan with achievable goals working as a TEAM. Transparent communication and sharing of ideas, Efficient use of staff and resources, Accountable operations following policy and best practices, and responsible Management with respect of everyone involved will make us successful in supplying the services that Grant County residents and business expect in the most cost effective timely fashion.

Corporate Discounts—Cellular Service

Cellular Service

Verizon **NEW**

Grant County employees may be eligible for a discounted service rate through Verizon. Contact the Lancaster Verizon office to find out if your service plan is eligible. You will need to tell them you work for Grant County and you will need to provide a copy of your most recent direct deposit payroll sheet. *Verizon, 102 S. Madison St., Lancaster, WI (608)855-1099*

US Cellular

To find out if you qualify for the US Cellular discount, contact the Lancaster US Cellular office. You will need to show them a copy of your most recent direct deposit payroll sheet, employee badge, or provide discount code PED4581. <u>Please note you must contact US Cellular every</u> <u>two years to renew the discount.</u> US Cellular, Tri-Com, 1511 Ihm St., Lancaster, WI (608) 723-4854



Employee Policies

Joyce Roling, Grant County Personnel Director

Each newsletter will contain a review of a policy from the employee handbook. Although employees have access to the handbook at all times, it is not something that is reviewed often. These reviews will act as a reminder.

Conduct Rules. We have a significant amount of long term employees. Oftentimes the employee handbook is not reviewed on a regular basis. It stands to reason how at times policies get forgotten. Con-

duct Rules are an important facet to county employment. The following policy will review the expectations of county staff.

CONDUCT RULES

Employees are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on themselves and Grant County. The following rules of conduct reflect general principles of honesty, respect, decorum and professionalism that are expected of all county employees. The conduct rules listed in this policy are not exclusive, but illustrative of the general principles that should guide employee conduct.

A. Care of Equipment and Property. Careless handling of equipment, supplies, or property greatly increases the cost of operations. Any equipment deliberately abused by an employee will be repaired or replaced by the employee.

(Revised 11/08/2011)

B. Conflict of Interest. No County employee shall use his/her office or position for personal financial gain or the financial gain of his/her family. No employee shall engage in his/her own business activity, accept private employment, or render services for private interests when such employment, business activity or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of his/ her official duties or would impair his/her independence of judgment or action in the performance of his/her official duties. No employee shall use or disclose "privileged information" gained in the course of, or by reason of, his/her official position or activities.

C. Dress. The personal appearance of all employees is important to our image with the citizens we serve. Without unduly restricting individual tastes, it is the policy of Grant County to require personal cleanliness, good grooming, and appropriate dress while employees are on duty. Dress should be consistent with standards of the community, business and occupation.

D. Gifts and Gratuities. The nature of public employment, and the ethics of public service, dictates that no employee is allowed to accept gifts or gratuities from vendors, County residents or others, for any reason.



E. Personal Mail. The use of any County facility as a mailing address, for personal purposes, is not permitted.

F. Solicitation/Distribution. Solicitation and/or distribution of material, by an employee, to another employee, is prohibited while the person doing the soliciting or distributing, or the one being solicited or



County time is not to be used to conduct private business. Collections and sales of goods and services (cosmetics, jewelry, and insurance, for example) by employees or non-employees, is strictly prohibited. Contributions for charitable fund raising activities may be solicited on County property, only with the advance permission of the Executive Committee or County Board Chair.

(Revised 11/08/2011)

G1. Telephone. People form opinions of an organization based on the treatment they receive when they call. When answering the telephone, you are the County to the person calling. It is important to be friendly, courteous, and helpful. Incoming personal calls for employees are not permitted except in an emergency. In an emergency, a message will be taken and delivered promptly. Outgoing personal calls may be made only during breaks or lunch periods. Employees are to reimburse the county for any personal calls made from county phones.

G2. Cellular Phones. The telephone policy G1 applies to the use of cellular phones. If employees are issued a county provided cellular phone it must be used for work-related purposes only. Handheld cellular phone usage (including dialing) is not permitted while driving a motor vehicle for county work purposes (unless responding to a work-related life threatening/emergency situation). Employees must find a safe spot to park their vehicle before using handheld cellular phones.

You're four times It's hard to more likely to have concentrate on a road accident two things when you're on at the same time. a mobile phone.

(Revised 12/19/2000)

H. Nepotism. The employing unit, department or agency shall not hire or arrange for the immediate supervision of an employee who is the spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, aunt, uncle, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, or "significant other", of the immediate supervisor. This prohibition shall also apply to step or adopted parents, children, sisters or brothers. A person considered to be a "significant other" would include a person with whom the supervisor cohabits or whom he/she maintains an intimate relationship. This policy is established to eliminate the possibilities of preferential treatment given in favor of relatives and to reduce possible criticism to appointing authorities.

I. Disclosure And Reporting Suspected Unlawful Conduct.



Grant County encourages and expects its employees to immediately disclose to appropriate County Officials any and all information, which an employee reasonably believes to show unlawful conduct by the County, its officers, employees or agents, whenever the employee comes into possession of such information. Unlawful conduct includes fraudulent bookkeeping, embezzling, theft, misappropriation of funds, safety and health violations, discrimination and any other activity prohibited by law.

The purpose of the policy is to allow Grant County the opportunity to investigate the alleged unlawful conduct, determine the veracity of the information submitted, notify enforcement authorities when appropriate, and take corrective action as required. Grant County has an affirmative obligation to the general public and its employees to take immediate action when circumstances warrant. If a Grant County employee has information which he/she reasonably believes to show that the County, its officers, employees or agents are engaged in unlawful conduct or activities, that employee has an affirmative duty to report or disclose that information to Grant County so corrective measures can be instigated immediately for the County's protection.

The report or disclosure should be made in writing and submitted in confidence directly to the Grant County Personnel Director and a copy of the original document is to be retained by the reporter. NOTE: If the Grant County Personnel Director is the source of the alleged unlawful activity, then a written disclosure should be made directly to the County Board Chair. The Personnel Director or the County Board Chair shall forward the employee's report to appropriate agents of the county for confidential review and investigation.

The report may be submitted on anonymous basis if the person so desires. However, an investigation of unspecified wrongdoing or broad allegations will not be undertaken without verifiable evidentiary support. Because investigators are unable to interview anonymous reports, it may be more difficult to evaluate the credibility of the allegations and therefore, less likely to cause an investigation to be initiated.

Employee reports or disclosures made in good faith by any Grant County employee under this policy will be protected from any adverse employment action, which could be associated with the disclosure. Malicious allegations may result in disciplinary action.

This policy shall not be construed or implemented in any manner which would impermissibly restrict any public employee's protected constitutional right to speak freely as a private citizen on his or her own time about matters of public concern. Grant County reserves all rights inherent in its authority to apply this policy as it deems necessary to efficiently and effectively conduct this lawful business of County government.

(Approved 9/16/08)

You can find the complete Grant County Handbook on our website. <u>http://www.co.grant.wi.gov/</u> docview.asp?docid=2666&locid=147

