



THE COMMUNICATOR

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Grant County Employee Newsletter

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Grant County Health Department

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March 18, 2020

Contact: Jeff Kindrai, MSPH, RS
Director/Health Officer
(608) 723-6416

For Immediate Release- Community Spread of COVID-19 identified in Wisconsin

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that community spread of COVID-19 has occurred in Wisconsin. This means that there are people who have tested positive who have no known exposures to a confirmed case nor did they travel to a location where there is known community spread. As of 2 pm on March 17, 2020 community spread was identified in Milwaukee, Dane, and Kenosha Counties. Updated numbers of positive cases per county and locations where community spread is being seen are updated on the [DHS Outbreaks website](#) daily at 2 p.m.

Governor Evers enacted Emergency Order # 5 on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 or more. This action closes many businesses including but not limited to: auditoriums, theatres, movie theatres, museums, stadiums, arenas, conference rooms, meeting halls, exhibition centers, taverns, health and fitness centers, recreation centers, licensed pools, places of worship and religious gatherings. It also includes restaurants.

Restaurants however, may provide carry out service only but cannot offer seating or allow consumption on site. Restaurants must also require people to be 6 feet apart if coming to pick up food. Restaurants should have patrons phone in orders and give pick up times to help with reducing close contact to others as much as possible.

Social distancing is a strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. This is a conscious effort to reduce contact between people to slow the spread of the virus. Social distancing will help keep you, your

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family, and our community from increased risk of exposure.

“Even if you are symptom free and not part of an at-risk group, you still need to change your habits at home and work,” said Jeff Kindrai, Director/Health Officer “The growing number of confirmed cases in Wisconsin reminds all of us about the importance of social distancing and maintaining good hygiene to prevent the spread of disease.”

According to DHS, avoid public places. If you cannot avoid public spaces, stay six feet away from other people. Stay home as much as possible. And think about how you can decrease close contacts and crowded environments while COVID-19 is spreading through our communities. [Learn about precautions for high risk and elderly individuals.](#)

Grant County Health Department is keeping track of this outbreak. We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to deal quickly and effectively in the event people have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around people who have been infected with the new coronavirus. The health department wants everyone to know that they should follow simple steps to avoid getting sick, including:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice social distancing.
- Avoid large public gatherings and crowds.
- Be sure to call your health care provider before going in if you have fever and cough.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit the [CDC's website](#), the [DHS website](#), or contact the Grant County Health Department at 608 723-6416 or visit www.co.grant.wi.gov.

Public Health - Immunizations - Health Check - WIC - Rural Safety - Environmental Health - Home Nursing - Personal Care - Hospice



Grant County's New Facilities and Maintenance Manager



Garry Pluemer

Hello everyone. My employment as the County's Facilities and Maintenance Manager began in January. My responsibilities include overall maintenance, facility plans, and preventative maintenance of the Community Services Building, Courthouse, and Administration building.

I've been married to Karen (Dressler) Pluemer for 35 ½ years. Yep, she's put up with me that long. We have 3 boys and their family's that we're very proud of. If you see me away from work, there's a very good chance you're going to see me with them. If I'm not with family, you will see me with my dogs hunting in the winter or, as soon as the ice is off the water you're going to see me with my boat. My son and I team up together and do a lot of tournament fishing for catfish throughout the mid-west. We start in March and finish in October.

I worked for H&N Plumbing, Heating, and Electrical for over 20 years. While there I got my Master Plumbers license and worked with a lot of plumbing and heating. Most of my work was leading large commercial projects. I then went to Prairie Du Chien Correctional where I started out as a plumber. After a couple of years, I was both the Buildings and Grounds Superintendent and the plumber. After just about 5 years there, I came to Grant County.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you.





Dana's Desktop

Dana C. Andrews, Grant County IT Technician

News Flash... From 1953

The future is calling. This is an article published April 10, 1953 in the Tacoma News Tribune.

Breach Monitor

How do you know or keep up with all the companies that have had data breaches that might affect you? Well you're in luck. In 2019, several services were started that track these incursions and provide websites that let you search your email address. Monitor.firefox.com is one of the newest. Probably the original was haveibeenpwned.com. A third one (with a lot of ads) is whatismyipaddress.com/breach-check. They all work in about the same way. Just put in an email address you are concerned about and click the button. Each one of these sites shows the breach incidents for that account along with any special notices. Note that these websites are only advisory. They do not provide data protection or actual mitigation of the hack. However, if your email address was exposed, the easiest thing to do is just change the password on the account (make it something hard to figure out). This will break 90% of the malicious use (although they can still send emails that look like they came from you, something called spoofing).

Quantum Supremacy

Have you heard news about a new type of computing? One that involves quantum mechanics? While there has been a lot of research into this, up until now it has all been Buck Rodgers dreams. That is until now. Google recently published a paper on a NASA research web site (that they hastily took down later) that talked about a working quantum computer, abet somewhat specialized. The computer was built to handle just one function (prove the randomness of numbers produced by a random number generator). This particular task, at a certain input level, was mathematically proven to take 10,000 years to solve on the current record holder for the world's fastest computer (a supercomputer called Summit). When Google researchers ran this problem on their quantum machine, it solved the same question in 3 minutes and 20 seconds. The difference between a regular computer and a quantum computer is in something called qubits. When we store data in a computer, it is either a 0 (no electrical charge) or 1 (electrical charge is present). However, qubits can be both 0 and 1 at the same time. How that helps is beyond me but it significantly increases the amount of data that can be processed (instead of just yes/no, we now have maybe?). Don't be looking for these workstations at Best Buy anytime soon but we are getting a great preview of what the future holds for us.

There'll Be No Escape in Future From Telephones

PASADENA.— P —The telephone of the future?

Mark R. Sullivan, San Francisco, president and director of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., said in an address Thursday night:

"Just what form the future telephone will take is, of course, pure speculation. Here is my prophecy:

"In its final development, the telephone will be carried about by the individual, perhaps as we carry a watch today. It probably will require no dial or equivalent, and I think the users will be able to see each other, if they want, as they talk.

"Who knows but what it may actually translate from one language to another?"

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Cookies in Space

Do you remember the article about having printers on the space station? How the lack of gravity complicated the process of getting ink onto paper? Well, having solved that problem, NASA took up the next critical issue of living in space. How do you bake cookies in a free-floating environment?

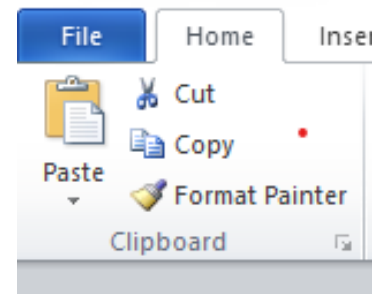
A special oven was created and the cookie dough was provided in individual baking pouches. The results? Well, nobody knows yet. They did discover that it takes a lot longer to bake in space. Cookies baked for 25 minutes were under-done. Cookies baked for 120 minutes and left to cool for 25 minutes seems to be the most successful. Now, here is the cruel part, apparently, the oven does not contain the aroma of baking

and the ISS is reported to have smelled of fresh baked cookies. However, because it was an experiment, the astronauts were not allowed to eat them. They were instead sent back to earth where, a person with the job I want, will test them to see if they taste good.

The Passing of Larry Tesler

Larry Tesler, born in 1945 passed away Monday, February 17, 2020. Larry was probably one of the most influential people in computers that you never heard of. His biggest contribution was the cut/copy/paste function we take for granted in every device we have. He also worked with the team that developed the mouse interface. He championed the 'modeless' model of user interface (UI) which means when we type on a keyboard, no matter what program is open, it will produce the letters, numbers, and symbols of the keyboard. Believe it or not, it used to be if you wanted to use a keyboard, you had to run a special program for that. Want to use the keyboard for a different program, you'd have to reload the keyboard program again.

Larry worked for IBM, Xerox, and Apple. At one point, he held the title of Chief Scientist for Apple. After his time at Apple, he worked for Amazon (VP of shopping experience) then Yahoo and eventually 23andMe. His final years were spent consulting. He is credited as being one of the major reasons computers moved out of research and businesses and into the home.



Predictions for 2020 and Beyond

Forbes and others have released their prognostications for the near future technology. Here is the short list:

- 5G Is going to take over the world. Forget wires and glass cables. We will all be wireless. This will in turn, drive more smart homes and other human-device interactions.
- Autonomous Driving will mature. From standalone cars to highway cruise options.
- Technology will grow that personalizes and predicts your healthcare (called Data-driven Healthcare).
- Blockchain, especially bitcoin, will go mainstream with easy to understand interfaces and legal controls.
- The term 'Computer Vision' is going to be a bigger term in 2020. This is the ability of cameras to recognize what they are looking at and react to it.
- We will be more vulnerable to hacking and exploits, however there will be increasing demand for formal governance of online activities by official agencies.

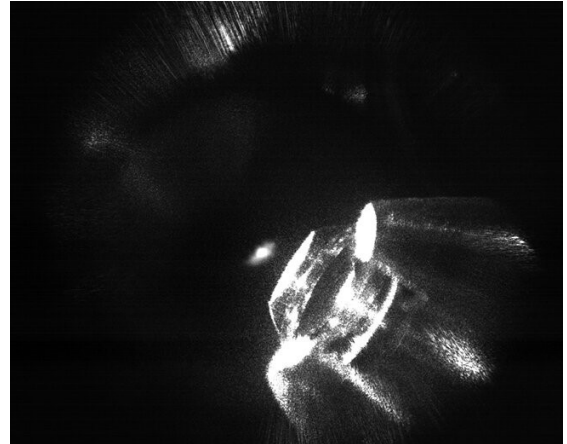
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- Sadly, there is no new news about printers getting any easier to set up or work when you need them.

A Molecule

This is an image of 3 atoms which have just formed into a molecule. Apparently, this has never been done before (prior knowledge was based on clouds of atoms and statistical analysis).



Another Hacking Technique

Recently, one of the largest software companies in the world was hacked. Citrix, of remote desktop and VPN fame was hacked for 5 months between 2018 and 2019.

The hackers appear to have been Iranian. The FBI told Citrix the hackers likely got in using a technique called “password spraying”, a relatively crude but remarkably effective attack that attempts to access a large number of employee accounts (usernames/email addresses) using just a handful of common passwords.

This is probably a good opportunity to remind everyone that a password like “My dog jumped tymes squared” is a perfectly legitimate password that is almost impossible to crack.

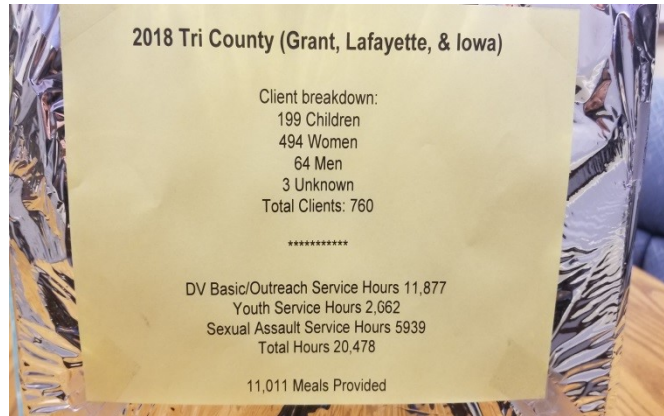


Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045 or jroling@co.grant.wi.gov.

Thank you Grant County Staff for your contributions and recognition of these important causes:

Domestic Outreach Donations

Submitted by Darla Adams



Domestic Violence 2018 Statistics

Items donated by Grant County Staff through the month of October

Health Department Staff Participating in National Wear Red Day

Submitted by Jamie Kreul



IT'S NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY!
 Grant County Health Department staff wear red today to help raise awareness about heart disease, the leading killer of U.S. women. What does it mean to GO RED?

G: GET YOUR NUMBERS
 Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure and cholesterol.

O: OWN YOUR LIFESTYLE
 Stop smoking, lose weight, exercise, and eat healthy. It's up to you. No one can do it for you.

R: REALIZE YOUR RISK
 We think it won't happen to us, but heart disease kills one of three women.

E: EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY
 Make healthy food choices for you and your family. Teach your kids the importance of staying active.

D: DON'T BE SILENT
 Tell every woman you know that heart disease is our No. 1 killer.
 @AHAWisconsin #wearredday

Training Schedule

These sessions are held in the County Board Room and reserved seating is appreciated by calling 723-2540 or emailing Dawn at dmergen@co.grant.wi.gov.

Dates: May 21, September 17, and November 19

8:15 a.m. to 8:55 a.m.	Civil Rights Compliance
8:55 a.m. to 9:25 a.m.	Electronic Communication Policy / I.T. Update and Education
9:25 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.	Sexual Harassment Workplace Violence
10:05 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.	FMLA
10:40 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Workers Compensation
11:00 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.	March and September: Deferred Compensation Plans Presentations May and November: Aflac Presentations
11:25 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	County Benefits in Review (Optional for staff that recently oriented with Dawn)

SkillPath Star12 Live Webinars

Keep an eye out for postings with monthly personal development webinar opportunities. These live webinars are held in the County Board Room at 1 p.m. and typically end by 2 p.m.

Staff are encouraged to attend after asking for supervisor approval.

We hope to see you there!



Aflac

Grant County's benefit eligible employees may participate in Aflac. This coverage helps you pay for medical related out-of-pocket costs.

Policy changes/enrollments are effective July 1st and January 1st.

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.

Visit date / times have been planned as follows.

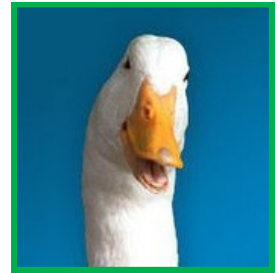
May 21, 2020 and November 19, 2020

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Services Building (ADRC Room 1511)

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 3 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 104)



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.



Staff can also sign up for appointment slots at the following links.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions: <https://grantcounty.myretirementappt.com>

Wisconsin Deferred Compensation: <https://docs.empower-retirement.com/EE/WisconsinWR/DOCS/Schedule-A-Meeting.pdf>

Visit dates have been planned as follows.

September 17, 2020

Nationwide Retirement Solutions; Kerryl Johnson (608)825-2516

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Services Building (ADRC Room 1511)

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 3 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 104)

Wisconsin Deferred Compensation; Eric Jochimsen (608)241-6604

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Services Building (ADRC Room 1522)

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 3 p.m. at Orchard Manor (Conference Room 101)

2020 Paid Holidays

The following is a listing of Grant County's year 2020 observed paid holidays:

New Year's Day.....	Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Friday Afternoon before Easter.....	Friday, April 10, 2020
Memorial Day.....	Monday, May 25, 2020
Independence Day.....	Friday, July 3, 2020
Labor Day.....	Monday, September 7, 2020
Veteran's Day.....	Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving Day.....	Thursday, November 26, 2020
Christmas Eve.....	Thursday, December 24, 2020
Christmas Day.....	Friday, December 25, 2020

The New Year's Day holiday for the year 2020 will be Friday, January 1, 2021.



Retirement Recognition

September 15, 2019 through February 29, 2020

- Debra Schmidt** (Orchard Manor), **36 years** (retired November 1)
- Kevin Lange** (Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning), **29 years** (retired November 18)
- Luann Bendorf** (Sheriff's Office), **41 years** (retired November 29)
- Lois Mook** (Orchard Manor), **5 years** (retired December 20)
- William Wiederholt** (Highway), **31 years** (retired January 2)
- Terry Clark** (Facilities and Maintenance), **8 years** (retired January 6)
- Brenda Cullen** (Health Department), **31 years** (retired January 10)
- Ruth Rotramel** (ADRC), **34 years** (retired February 3)
- Debbi Donald** (Social Services), **37 years** (retired March 2)
- Nancy Scott** (Finance Department), **20 years** (retired March 2)

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.

Team Grant County

Welcome to our Team!

New Employees - September 15, 2019 through February 29, 2020

Virginia Schaefer ~ September 17 ~ ADRC
Bobbi Jo Pink ~ September 23 ~ Orchard Manor
Danielle Davies ~ October 2 ~ Orchard Manor
Akeya Sylvester ~ October 2 ~ Orchard Manor
Kelly Mergen ~ October 9 ~ Orchard Manor
Jeri Novinska ~ October 10 ~ ADRC
Ma. Theresa St. John ~ October 10 ~ Orchard Manor
Jamie Cliff ~ October 11 ~ Orchard Manor
Sheri Leibfried ~ October 11 ~ Orchard Manor
Rhyann Luckey ~ October 13 ~ Orchard Manor
Joanna Schindler ~ October 16 ~ Health Department
Beth Strangstalien ~ October 16 ~ Health Department
Brandon Kinyon ~ October 28 ~ Sheriff's Office
Kimberly Seifert ~ October 30 ~ Health Department
Jillian Albert ~ November 5 ~ Orchard Manor
Ashlyn Digman ~ November 5 ~ Orchard Manor
Kevin Jones ~ November 6 ~ Sheriff's Office
Jason Hollander ~ November 12 ~ Health Department
Jenna Leffler ~ November 16 ~ Orchard Manor
Steven McKillip ~ November 24 ~ Sheriff's Office
Abigail Fowell ~ November 29 ~ Orchard Manor
Ellie McCollough ~ December 6 ~ Orchard Manor
Nolan Ackerman ~ December 13 ~ Orchard Manor
Abby Mergen ~ December 13 ~ Orchard Manor
Margo Klein ~ December 16 ~ Orchard Manor
Megan Volkmann ~ December 16 ~ Orchard Manor
Alissa Barr ~ December 30 ~ Orchard Manor
Robert Busser ~ January 2 ~ Sheriff's Office
Melissa Wehrle ~ January 2 ~ Social Services
Megan Shager ~ January 3 ~ Social Services
Cierra Clay ~ January 6 ~ Sheriff's Office
Nicole Vosberg ~ January 6 ~ Social Services
Garry Pluemer ~ January 13 ~ Facilities and Maintenance
Annette Snyder ~ January 13 ~ Health Department
Jocelyn Goodney ~ January 15 ~ Treasurer's Office
Dawn Mahr ~ January 15 ~ Orchard Manor
Jennifer Moon ~ January 24 ~ Orchard Manor
Elizabeth Maluchnik ~ January 30 ~ Orchard Manor
Justin Grinnell ~ January 31 ~ Social Services
Jennifer Elsner ~ February 5 ~ Health Department
Susan Mumm ~ February 10 ~ Highway
Andrea Pierce ~ February 15 ~ Orchard Manor
Paige Pluemer ~ February 15 ~ Orchard Manor
Robert Breitsprecker ~ February 17 ~ Highway
August Wall ~ February 17 ~ Highway
Diane Morgan ~ February 20 ~ County Clerk's Office
Andrew Fessler ~ February 26 ~ Health Department
Angela Nielsen ~ February 28 ~ Orchard Manor

Service Anniversaries

January, 2020 through June, 2020 (5 year increments)

Lori Vesperman (Fair / UW Extension), **35 years** on June 17

Michelle Moore (ADRC), **30 years** on March 5

Michael Stelpflug (Highway), **30 years** on April 9

Brian Bierman (Sheriff's Office), **30 years** on April 23

Terri Irish (Social Services), **30 years** on May 14

CeCe Fishnick (Social Services), **30 years** on June 18

Bruce Clauer (Highway), **20 years** on January 18

LeaAnne Smith (Social Services), **20 years** on April 3

Kimberly Lolwing (Orchard Manor), **20 years** on April 18

Madelyn Foyt (Orchard Manor), **20 years** on April 19

Tonya White (Emergency Management), **20 years** on June 23

Sheila Schluenz (Orchard Manor), **15 years** on March 15

Andrew Smith (Sheriff's Office), **15 years** on March 20

Michael Bartels (Highway), **15 years** on March 28

David Lambert (Highway), **15 years** on April 8

Jo Ann Brinkman (Orchard Manor), **15 years** on April 12

Adam Day (Sheriff's Office), **15 years** on May 15

Gerald Staskal (ADRC), **15 years** on May 17

Cory Burgess (Highway), **15 years** on June 6

Holly Muench (Health Department), **10 years** on February 22

Diana Flogel (ADRC), **10 years** on April 20

Courtney Brookhart (ADRC), **5 years** on January 2

Joseph Majerus (Highway), **5 years** on January 5

Matthew Whipple (Sheriff's Office), **5 years** on January 26

Danielle Whipple (Orchard Manor), **5 years** on February 4

Brian Reuter (Highway), **5 years** on February 16

Amy Budworth (Health Department), **5 years** on February 18

Carrie Eastlick (Treasurer's Office), **5 years** on March 5

Anita Schmitz (Clerk of Court's Office), **5 years** on March 9

Krystal Steinbach (Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning), **5 years** on March 24

Dustin Bierman (Social Services), **5 years** on April 20

Laura Knutson (Orchard Manor), **5 years** on May 18

Rachel Ihm (Orchard Manor), **5 years** on May 27

Tammy Hampton (County Clerk's Office), **5 years** on June 1

Carol Miles (Orchard Manor), **5 years** on June 5

Jordanna Wills (Orchard Manor), **5 years** on June 22

BULLYING IS A
TERRIBLE
TERRIBLE
THING



Work Shouldn't Hurt

WORKPLACE BULLYING

Grant County is committed to providing our employees and clients with a respectful, healthy, and safe work environment that includes being free from workplace bullying.

Bullying is malicious repeated behavior that a reasonable person would consider to be offensive, degrading, humiliating, or threatening. Bullying may be directed toward one employee, a group of employees, or clients.

Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Screaming at someone
- Condescending and belittling comments
- Name calling or ridiculing
- Derogatory remarks or insults
- Undermining or impeding others' work, or unwarranted harsh and persistent criticism of work.

This includes cyber bullying which is bullying using social media, website materials, e-mails, texting, and cell phones.

Grant County expects all employees who experience bullying or who see others being bullied to report it as soon as possible to the appropriate supervisor, manager, department head, or Personnel Department. Management employees are expected to take action to stop workplace bullying.

Any reports of workplace bullying will be treated seriously and investigated promptly.





Facilities and Maintenance Word Find

E R A G R T H F B U I L D I N G
 U P M E E S C C R L A T I C I T
 P E C A I N S P E C T D F G R P
 K S E U I Q E E I E C N I P H N
 E S Q F S N R R A O F F I C E T
 E A U I I T T L A D D E R A E L
 P S I D M C O E G T I D E R E A
 R E P E E K S D N U O R G P E S
 O I M L C W D N I A N R E E C L
 P T E C H N I C I A N C S N A O
 E I N N A P A H A N N C R T L O
 R L T C N E V I T N E V E R P T
 T I C R I A P E R C S S L Y E N
 Y C M E C A N R U F E N I M R E
 O A L L A T S N I E N F O T R N
 A F A C L V R X R P I W B W A L



Facilities
Maintenance
Boilers
Custodian
Light
Technician
Mechanical
Inspect
Repair
Groundskeeper

Ladder
Mow
Generator
Upkeep
Furnace
Building
Fix
Electrical
Salt
Carpentry

Property
HVAC
Preventive
Snow
Equipment
Office
Install
Replace
Tools