



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Grant County Employee Newsletter

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October 2008

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## Guest Columnist — Grant County Highway Department David J. Lambert, Commissioner

The responsibilities of the Grant County Highway Department involve the maintenance of the highways and bridges within Grant County. There are 70 bridges and 311 miles of highways on the County System. These are split up into 12 patrol sections of approximately 26 miles each. Each section has one patrolman who is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of his section. During the summer months, a patrolman's duties include asphalt patching, mowing, drainage structure maintenance, garbage and dead animal pickup, shoulder maintenance and guardrail maintenance. During the winter months these duties also include snow and ice removal and brush cutting. The work on the County

Highway System is managed by Randy Franks, County Patrol Supervisor.

The Grant County Highway Department also maintains the State Highway System. There are 259 miles of State Highways, within Grant County, that are maintained by 11 patrolmen. The duties of the state patrolmen are similar to those of the county



Rooster Kirschbaum on the roller



Bill Knotwell's new 2007 Peterbilt

patrolmen. The work on the State Highway System is managed by Jon Knautz, State Patrol Supervisor, under the direction of the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation.

In addition to the patrolmen, we have operators and truck drivers that together make up the work crews that are assembled to complete various highway construction

projects. Construction projects include asphalt paving, installation of seal coats, crackfilling, slope work and drainage structure replacement. During 2008 these crews have been busy repairing flood damaged roads, including replacing gravel shoulders and guardrails, repairing asphalt surfaces and cleaning out drainage structures and ditches. Helping Randy and Jon manage the construction crews is Scott Pagenkopf, Road Supervisor.

Other specialized workers here at the County Highway Department are the mechanics, the welder, the engineer and the signman. As may be indicated by his title, the signman's job is to maintain the many road signs on the County and State



Larry Ploessl and new  
2008 Patrol Truck



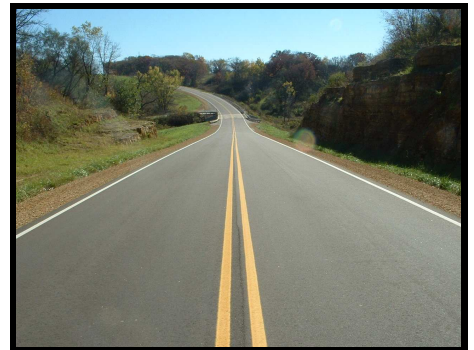
July 2008, Flood Damage to CTH O

Highway System. The engineer solves problems encountered during maintenance, designs replacement structures and road realignments and helps with the administration of permits and right-of-way acquisition. The mechanics and the welder spend their time maintaining all the various equipment that is required to complete our work here at the Highway Department. They work under the direction of Jeanie Morgan, Shop Foreman. All of these employees work together to fight winter storms. During the 2007-08 winter season the crew worked extremely hard to clear the highways of a record seasonal snowfall. Lets hope next winter is a bit milder.



Dick Stenner's Patrol Truck during winter storm

There are two additional employees who work in the front office to keep track of the work we do. Donna Bohnenkamp and Anita Kelly make sure that the bills are paid on time as well as all of us. In total, we have 47 employees at the Highway Department. The tasks and talents of our highway department employees are varied but together we work to keep our highways and bridges well maintained.



New asphalt surface applied to CTH D in 2007

## Highway Department Word Find

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

Bookkeeper  
Commissioner  
Engineer  
Heavy Truck  
Mechanic  
Parts Foreman  
Section Patrol Worker  
State Superintendent

Broom Operator  
Cooperative Engineering  
Flagger  
Laborer  
Office Manager  
Road Supervisor  
Shop Lead Worker  
Tandem

Brush Chipper  
County Superintendent  
Grader  
Maintenance  
Operator  
Runner  
Sign Technician  
Welder



Dawn Mergen,  
Personnel Specialist

## Open Enrollment

Grant County's Open Enrollment and Informational Meeting is scheduled for

**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Administration building from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Representatives will be at the meeting from Dean Health Plan, Medical Associates Health Plans, Assurant dental, Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program,

The Equitable, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Benefits Inc., and AFLAC. This meeting starts the annual open enrollment period where employees may make health and dental insurance changes, sign up for EBC Flex, AFLAC insurance, voluntary life insurance, or make deferred compensation changes.

***Please contact me with any questions on how to change insurance carriers, to obtain a complete schedule of benefits and provider list or questions regarding open enrollment.***

**Changes are effective January 1, 2009.** Watch for more information attached to future paychecks.

### 2009 Dental Insurance Premiums

<i>Basic plan</i>	Monthly
Employee Only	\$ 19.84
Employee + 1	\$ 37.87
Employee + 2 or more	\$ 68.88
<i>Advanced plan</i>	Monthly
Employee Only	\$ 40.09
Employee + 1	\$ 74.96
Employee + 2 or more	\$121.61

Two **Health Insurance Plans** are offered to Grant County's benefit eligible employees. The main differences in the plans are listed in this chart.

	<u>Medical Associates Health Plans</u>	<u>Dean Health Plan</u>
Primary Physician	Not necessary	Required
Coverage Area	Parts of Iowa, Illinois & Wisconsin	Southern Wisconsin
Specialists	Dubuque and Iowa City	Madison – St. Mary's
Lifetime Maximum	\$2 Million	Unlimited
Prescription Drug Co-pay	\$5 generic / \$10 brand name	\$6 generic / \$10 brand name
Routine Eye Exam	Coverage frequency based on age	Covered annually
Eye Wear Coverage	Partially covered	None
Hearing Aid	No coverage	\$500 every 36 months
Fitness Club / Wellness Programs		
Reimbursement	None	WIN Program
Monthly Premiums (effective 1/1/09)		
	County Pays	County Pays
Single	\$ 552.67	\$ 526.35
Employee/Child	\$ 845.59	\$ 850.05
Employee/Spouse	\$ 986.51	\$ 939.54
Family	\$1089.86	\$1275.08
	Employee Pays	Employee Pays
	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$149.22	\$150.02
	\$174.10	\$165.80
	\$192.34	\$225.02

### PLEASE NOTE:

Medical Associates prescription coverage will include Chantix (tobacco cessation) in 2009.

Dean WIN Program You can be reimbursed for activities you do to remain healthy. Check it out at [www.deancare.com](http://www.deancare.com).

**Co-pay Reimbursement requests due October 10th** The Personnel Office will be accepting office visit co-pay reimbursement requests on the following dates for 2008: October 10th and January 15th (of 2009). You may print a reimbursement request form at [www.co.grant.wi.gov](http://www.co.grant.wi.gov) or contact the Personnel Office.

**EBC Flex:** Don't forget to use your EBC Flex dollars before the end of the year. Remember you can use the dollars towards eligible over-the-counter medications. Please contact the Personnel Office (723-2540) if you want to learn how to use EBC Flex to save taxes.

Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045.



## Service Anniversaries

(5 year increments)

Beverly Broihahn, 30 years on December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jackie Ellingson, 30 years on December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Debbi Donald, 25 years on October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Louise Ketterer, 25 years on October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Kenneth Kipper, 25 years on November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Cheryl Klein, 25 years on December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Colleen Nelson, 25 years on December 12<sup>th</sup>

Gail Schaefer, 20 years on November 28<sup>th</sup>  
Terry Mayne, 20 years on December 21<sup>st</sup>

Tracy Schildgen, 15 years on December 29<sup>th</sup>

Angie Capps, 10 years on October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Joseph Kaiser, 10 years on October 12<sup>th</sup>  
Rachel Bohringer, 10 years on November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Dan McLimans, 10 years on November 16<sup>th</sup>  
David Melssen, 10 years on December 7<sup>th</sup>

Wayne Klein, 5 years on November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Amy Busch, 5 years on November 12<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations on reaching these Milestones!  
Thank you.

