

Fillmore County



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 6 Commissioner Meeting
- 9 Payroll Check Date
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 13 Commissioner Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day 
- 23 Payroll Check Date
- 27 Commissioner Meeting

April

- 3 Commissioner Meeting
 - 6 Payroll Check Date
 - 10 Commissioner Meeting
 - 11 Stress Awareness
 - 19 Tornado Drill Day
 - 20 Payroll Check Date
 - 24 Commissioner Meeting
-  National Government Month

Service and Safety Celebrated at Employee Recognition

In an age when the headlines are usually bad news here is a change... GREAT news right on the front page!

On February 14th, Fillmore County celebrated the service of 25 employees at the annual employee recognition celebration. Our workforce is our County's most valuable asset, we are proud to be the kind of employer people want to stay with for many years.

Along with the years of service awards, the annual safety award was presented. This award is unique because all the nominees come straight from the employees. This years winner is..... The Highway Maintenance Team! In recognition of their commitment to safety in sometimes treacherous conditions, the Fillmore County Board was please to present these employees with the annual safety award.

There is an old saying that an organization is only as good as its employees. With the employees we have here in Fillmore County, we must be truly great!



Safety Award

10 Years



5 Years



20 Years

Corned Beef & Cabbage

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, what better way to celebrate than with this traditional Irish meal.

Ingredients

- 3 pounds corned beef brisket with spice packet
- 10 small red potatoes
- 5 carrots, peeled and cut into 3-inch pieces
- 1 large head cabbage, cut into small wedges



"May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live."

- Irish Blessing

Directions

1. Place corned beef in large pot or Dutch oven and cover with water. Add the spice packet that came with the corned beef. Cover pot and bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Simmer approximately 50 minutes per pound or until tender.
2. Add whole potatoes and carrots, and cook until the vegetables are almost tender. Add cabbage and cook for 15 more minutes. Remove meat and let rest 15 minutes. Place vegetables in a bowl and cover. Add as much broth (cooking liquid reserved in the Dutch oven or large pot) as you want. Slice meat across the grain.



Wellness News

In January, employees joined in a Wellness challenge sponsored by Southeast Service Coop called the "Member vs. Member Challenge". This walking challenge against other member cities and counties tested average steps per person. At the end of the challenge, the final standings were:

- 1st—Freeborn County
- 2nd— City of Albert Lea
- 3rd— City of Byron
- Honorable Mention— Fillmore County
- Have no fear... We'll get them next year!

Keep watching for programs and activities to come from your Wellness Committee. Some items to watch for are:

- ◆ Stress Awareness
- ◆ "Poker Walk"
- ◆ Massages (yes.. Massages)
- ◆ And much, much more...



The Fillmore County Wellness Committee is happy to Present "Stress Busters"

WHEN: Wednesday, April 11

TIME & PLACE: 10:00 – 11:00 am, Conf. Rm. 108, FCOB
1:00 – 2:00 pm, Boardroom, Courthouse

INTRODUCING:

Andrea Smothers, MSW, LICSW Director
Covered Bridge Family Resources, LLC
Zumbrota, MN

Andrea received a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Winona State University in Minnesota and a Masters of Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis MO. Her concentration was in children and youth, with a specialization in family therapy. Andrea is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, state of Minnesota, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

Andrea will discuss ways to help us to manage stress which she feels is incredibly important and will show us easy and practical things that we can do to manage stress.

Come join us and become a "stress buster" too!

Email Etiquette– What Everyone Should Know

In our electronic work environments, email often becomes a more common form of communication than even speaking. In fact, in many cases, your email message is the first “face” of Fillmore County employees that people see. With this in mind, here are some guidelines for composing or responding to email that we should all use with all of our correspondence:

- 1) Don't write in all capitals: If you use all capitals in your writing, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE SHOUTING.
- 2) Don't lose your message in pretty wrapping: Using brightly colored, or patterned backgrounds, small or swirly fonts, and colored text may look nice, but it can make your message quite difficult to read. White backgrounds with black, basic fonts in 11-12 pt. are the standard and give your message the best potential for its full effect.
- 3) High priority is the exception, not the rule: Overusing the high priority button can become like the boy who cried wolf. When you really do have a pressing matter, a quick response is not likely to be forthcoming.
- 4) Proofread your emails: Remember, you are a representative of your County, take a moment to read your own writing to make sure what you meant to say is what you wrote. Make sure to use proper grammar and spell-check, spell-check, spell-check.
- 5) Don't use email for confidential matters: Unless you have an encryption, remember that email is not private and, like a postcard in the mail, anyone can read it. Call or speak in person regarding confidential or sensitive matters.
- 6) Summarize long discussions: An email should not look like the next great American novel. If you are referencing a long discussion, summarize. If this is not possible, then maybe this is not an email conversation, and a phone call or walk across the hall would be the better choice.
- 7) Fundraiser notices and jokes: In general, emails should be work related. Fundraisers belong in the break room where they can be viewed on personal time, and jokes can cause problems when someone finds it offensive.
- 8) Mass mailings can cause massive frustration: Send your emails to those who **need** them. Sending many emails to everyone clogs the system and frustrates coworkers.
- 9) Abbreviations and Slang: Be mindful of using abbreviations and industry slang in your emails. Not everyone knows what they mean and your message may get lost.
- 10) And remember... Good manners never go out of style.

Email can be a powerful tool to accomplish work, or cause us plenty of grief. Take a moment to make sure your email is working for you, not against you.



“Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot.”

~Clarence Thomas

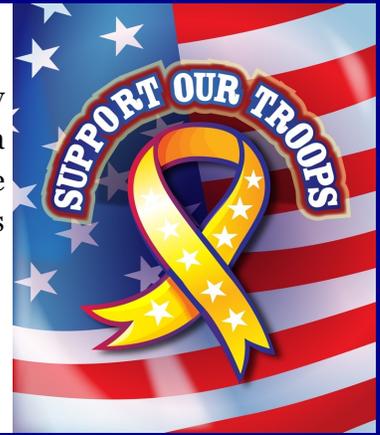


Employee News

Thank you for your Service and Welcome Home!

The Sheriff's Office would like to welcome home their own Corey Merkel. Corey is returning from a year of service to his country as a National Guardsman in Afghanistan. We would all like to join the Sheriff's Office in thanking Corey for his service and celebrating his safe return!

Thank You Corey and Welcome Home!



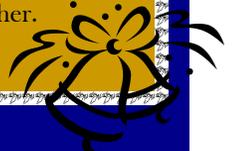
Have a birthday? Anniversary? Special event? Vacation? Send your announcement and photos to the Coordinator's Office to be included in the employee newsletter. We want to share your joys with you!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

We would all like to congratulate Dan Dornink. Dan was married on February 18th. We hope Dan and his new wife Kelli have a long and happy life together.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Proud Parents

Audrey Inglett and her husband Dave are proud to tell the world that her daughter, Dacia, was accepted to the Radiography program at Southeast Technical College in Winona.

Congratulations and Well Done!



Celebrating Health

Erik Paulson is celebrating a major victory. On April 10th, Erik will celebrate 3 years of being **CANCER FREE!**

Here's to many more healthy years!

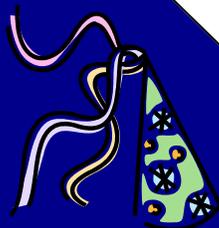
CONGRATULATIONS ERIK



Happy Birthday!

Terry Schultz will celebrate a birthday (which one...he won't tell) on March 21st. We would like to wish him a happy birthday and a wonderful year to come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy Anniversary

Karen Brown and her husband Jim will celebrate 42 years of wedded bliss on March 21st. Here's to many more happy and healthy years together.

Happy Anniversary!

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson