



COUNTY OF FILLMORE Employee News

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER

- 2 Payroll Check Date
- 6 Commissioner Meeting
- 9 Benefits Enrollment Forms Due!!!**
- 12 Veteran's Day (Holiday)
- 13 Commissioner Meeting
- 16 Payroll Check Date
- 22 Thanksgiving (Holiday)
- 23 Day after Thanksgiving (Holiday)
- 27 Commissioner Meeting
- 30 Payroll Check Date

DECEMBER

- 7 Payroll Check Date
- 11 Commissioner Meeting
- 18 Commissioner Meeting
- 21 Payroll Check Date
- 24 Christmas Eve Offices Close at 2:00 pm
- 25 Christmas (Holiday)

OPEN ENROLLMENT

It's that time of year! Open enrollment for all benefits begins Monday, October 31st with informational meetings for all staff. Open enrollment continues through November 14th.

The Schedule for form assistance is as follows:

Wednesday Nov. 2: 1- 3 pm Extension Office Conference Room

Friday Nov. 4: 10 am—noon Extension Office Conference Room

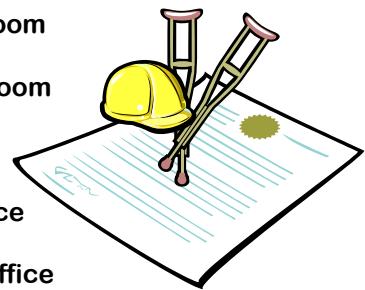
Friday Nov. 4: 2 - 4 pm Coordinator's Office

Monday Nov. 7: 10 am—noon & 2 - 4 pm Coordinator's Office

Thursday Nov. 10: 10 am—noon & 2 - 4 pm Coordinator's Office

Monday Nov. 14: 10 am—noon & 2 - 4 pm Coordinator's Office— **ALL FORMS DUE!**

Please take the time to review your benefits, this is a once a year opportunity!



Employee Purchase of Computer Hardware

Fillmore County employees are eligible to participate in the MN Dept. of Admin and Office of Enterprise Technology program to purchase computer hardware through the state contact. This means that employees can get the same discounts on computer hardware as the State gets. This is a great opportunity to get the system you want at a price that is much more affordable.

Microsoft Software Home Use Program approved for County Employees

Employees are also eligible to purchase Microsoft software for their private home use at significantly discounted prices. This is an employee benefit approved by the Board and allows employees to obtain new or update their existing software for their home computers.

These programs are brought to you by your Technology Committee and County Board.

For more information on these programs, see the intranet or contact the IS department.

Who's been Safe in 2011?

Do you or someone you work with...

Talk about safety? Demonstrate safety?
Work safely?

The Fillmore County Safety Committee is accepting nominations for the 2011 Excellence in Safety Award until **December 9, 2011**.

To nominate: Send an email to: sug-gest@co.fillmore.mn.us or call Kristina Kohn (507) 765-4566. Nominations must include the person's name whom you're nominating and a brief statement of why this person deserves the award.

The winner will receive a **Winter Emergency Kit** and a certificate of recognition at a County Board meeting during the Recognition Ceremony early next year.

Past Winners: **2006** - Brenda Pohlman (Public Health), **2007** - Norm Craig (Zoning), **2008** - Susan Phillips (Recorder), **2009** - Terry Schultz (Building Maintenance) and Blaine Tufte (Building Maintenance), **2010** - Jeff Dyreson



Make the Most of Your VEBA Dollar Get the Scoop on...



Affordable Rx glasses and Bifocals



Eye exam time for my family always meant big bucks going out the door. With three in glasses (one in bifocals) getting glasses for the family meant hundreds of dollars a pair. Well I no longer dread the eye doctor, in fact, I look forward to my annual visit. Now I get Rx glasses, sunglasses and even "for fun" glasses – all for less than I used to pay for one pair at the eye doctor. My scoop— zennioptical.com. I was recommended this site years ago by an insurance rep. and boy am I glad they did! Zenni offers prescription glasses online at drastically discounted rates. In fact, the price listed online for the frames is the price with single vision lenses! You need bifocals, no problem, add no line bifocals for an extra \$25.00! The price of their frames range from \$6.00 to \$46.00. You can also make any pair Rx sunglasses for \$5.00 more.

I know what you are thinking (I did), they must be cheap and break right away. I have been using this company for 3-1/2 years and all have lasted and been donated to charity when I get the next year's glasses. My husband likes his no line bifocals from Zenni more than the ones he got in the store. It is a great way to make your health care dollar go a long way.

That's my scoop!

* If you have a "scoop" on how to make the most of your VEBA dollar,
please send to Kristina Kohn or Audrey Inglett

Don't let Winter Give You the Slip

Winter is a time for family gatherings, snowmen, and slips, trips and falls. A few simple tips will help you enjoy the fun without getting "tripped up" by winter.

- These Boots Were Made for Walkin' - Ladies, we love our heels, but they were not made to walk in winter weather. Men, those dress shoes look great, but aren't the right gear to get to work in one piece. Boots are the footwear to have for winter, let your dress shoes stay dry until you get indoors. That's where they belong.
- Walk Don't Skate - Some sidewalks may contain ice, or melting ice; this can be a dangerous path to cross. When faced with the choice, walk only where the ice has melted. If the entire area contains ice, waling through the snow along side is actually safer as snow is not nearly as slippery as ice.
- Don't Play Peek-a-Boo – Use extra caution when crossing the street by high snow piles. If you have to get into the street to see the traffic, they can't see you until you are there either.
- When hanging lights this holiday season, be sure that your ladder does not have snow or ice on it before use, the area you are placing the ladder is free from ice, and always have someone with you when in elevated areas.

With an ounce of prevention, you can enjoy the season and not let winter give you a fall.

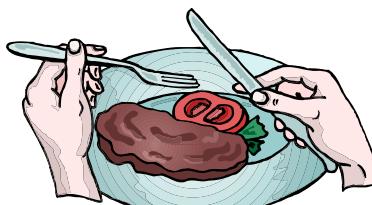


Wellness Committee says "Eat and Win"

The final Wellness activity for 2011 is underway, and this one gives a whole new meaning to the "sweet taste of victory". This November, eat your way healthy by participating in the Wellness campaign.

The activity involves using the nutrition cards to eat... that's right EAT. Choices to complete sections of the card include healthy snack, water instead of Soda or Coffee, cooking from scratch, eating fruit, and so on. Once each day you follow the guideline, you cross off a box. Get 25 boxes crossed off and turn it in to your Wellness Committee member or the Coordinator's Office. Fill out as many cards as you like, at the end of the month, one winner will receive a \$20.00 gift card to the Fillmore County restaurant of their choice!

So eat your way to a healthier lifestyle— and maybe even a free meal!



AROUND THE COUNTY

Here's what's happening around our County this time of year:

- Nov. 8th—**ELECTION DAY!** Make your voice heard!
- Nov. 17th Second Annual Madrigal Dinner— Chatfield Call 507-867-0172 for details or ticket information
- Nov. 20th SE MN Youth Orchestra Fall Concert— Chatfield Center for the Arts 2:00 P.M.
- Nov. 24th Fillmore County Turkey Day run—Preston
- NEW! Ice rink in Rushford— open as soon as weather permits— free to the public (Sponsored by SHIP grant)
- Dec. 4th Chatfield Community Choir & Brass Band Holiday Concerts— Potter Auditorium. 3:00 & 3:30 respectively
- Dec. 10 Parade of Lights starting at 6:30— Rushford
- Fillmore Central High School Tapestry Concert— Branding Iron, Preston
- Dec. 21st Candle light Ski & Chili Cook off— Preston

**Fillmore County would like to
wish you all a safe and happy
Holiday season!**



Breathe Easy-

We all want a work environment that helps us be productive and feel comfortable, a place, where we can “breathe easy” and go about our work. For some, that is not possible. For some, “taking a breather” means leaving their space.

The use of aerosol spray cans or personal scents at work effects millions of people around the country. To those with a sensitivity, someone in the office using an aerosol spray to kill germs or heavy perfumes can cause them to have difficulty breathing.

Fillmore County’s building maintenance/custodial staff will not use aerosol spray products during the normal business hours of 8:00-4:30, Monday– Friday. Additionally, all public bathrooms have been equipped with deodorizers which do not use aerosol. The smaller, private bathrooms still use this as required ,due to space constraints.

We are asking County employees to refrain from using aerosol sprays in their work areas as the fumes travel and could effect others, both who work in your department and the visiting public. We also ask that you be aware of those around you when choosing perfumes or personal scents.

If you would like assistance locating a non-aerosol product, please contact building maintenance or the Coordinator’s Office. Let’s all work together so that everyone can breathe easy!

Herb Pork Roast with Creamy Mushroom Gravy

Recipe Courtesy of Sandra Lee—Food Network

At this busy time of year, try this “Semi Homemade” recipe for a quick and healthy dinner

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary leaves, or 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh parsley leaves, or 1/4 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme leaves, or 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 1/2 to 3 pounds boneless pork loin roast
- 2 (10 3/4-ounce) cans 98 percent fat-free cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup skim milk

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Mix together rosemary, parsley, thyme and garlic. Cut small slits over surface of roast and insert herb mixture into slits. Place in a roasting pan. Roast until the internal temperature is 165 degrees F. Remove roast from pan and let stand 10 minutes. Stir soup into pan drippings in roasting pan and heat over a medium flame. Gradually stir in skim milk. Continue to stir until mixture boils. Slice pork and serve with gravy.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

WELCOME TO FILLMORE COUNTY!



Jocelyn Poehler–

Assistant County Attorney



Bill Franken– Probation



Jason Marquardt– VSO



Kari Schultz– PHN



Jill Woodard– Custodian



Mike Vogen– Highway (SV)



John O'Connell—Highway (SV)

We are only as good as the people we employ and Fillmore County has the **BEST** employees **ANYWHERE!**

WELCOME ABOARD!



The Happy Couple

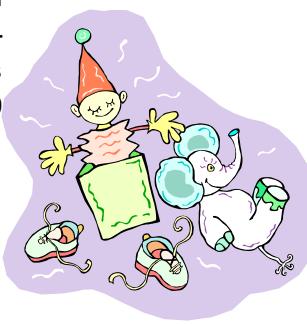
Cindy and Mark Johnson are proud to present their son Benjamin and his new bride Tiffany. The new couple was married in Minnesota Lake, MN on September 30th. Cindy and Mark want to welcome Tiffany to their family and introduce us all to the new Mr. and Mrs. Johnson!

Congratulations!

Twice blessed

Brian Hoff and his wife are blessed again, this time with their first granddaughter! Kennedy Ann Hoff was born 8/21 weighing 6lbs 15oz and 19 1/2 inches long.

Congratulations!



Wedded Bliss

Heather and Chuck Barth will celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary on November 18th. We want to wish them a wonderful anniversary and many more happy and healthy years together!

Happy Anniversary!



New Addition

Jessica Kraus and family have a new addition! Mackenzy Opal Kraus was born September 1st. She weighed 7lbs 1 oz and was 19 inches long. Mackenzy is blessed with big sister Macy, and brother Jacob.



Congratulations!