



See our new billboard in Viroqua and Readstown representing this exceptional team of Installation and Repair employees. We take pride in serving our communities with this highly qualified, skilled, technical group.



MONTHLY NEWS

WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY. UNRIVALED LOCAL SERVICE.

AUGUST 2021

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CYBER SECURITY



Vernon Communications works hard to ensure our members are safe and secure on the internet. Online fraud and hackers pose as the biggest threat not only to our national security, but domestically as well. Because so much of our

daily lives are online including work, education, shopping, banking, health care and social media, it is important to stay vigilant and take precautions to prevent hackers from victimizing our network. Keeping our network safe sustains our member services and keeping our members safe and educated is our ultimate goal.

First and foremost, we partner with a national company called Dynetics to help keep our information secure. They provide us with credential vulnerability scans, phishing assessments, cyber risk awareness training, vulnerability assessment scans, and they provide support with endpoint detection and response. KnowB4, a security awareness platform, supplies us with monthly tests for our employees to keep them educated on what to look for. We are continuously on the look-out for scams and fraudulent behavior. They do random tests and send emails to our employees that are disguised as phishing or malware to see if they take the bait. Reports are sent to assess how we have performed.

We feel by keeping our employees up to date on the latest information on cyber security and also passing this on to our members is the best way to keeping us all safe online.

FROM THE CEO



Rod Olson, CEO

I'm often asked what part of my job keeps me up at night. The answer to that question seems to change over time. Employee issues, new technologies, money, even seasonal storms have always been on the top of the list. Some problems can be avoided, and some can be fixed with patience and a cool head. Right now, Cyber

Security is the cause for my insomnia. You never know when or where an attack will come. Attackers try to bait someone into clicking on an email link or visiting a website.

VC Co-op does everything we can to protect our networks from hackers, but ultimately it is people who unknowingly let them in. We are continually trying to keep this in the back of our staff's mind. We have 7,300 cooperative members who use the internet on computers, tablets and phones. Your information is every bit as valuable to hackers as ours. Cyber protection is available and this is a call to action to spend some time and learn about cyber security. Being proactive is key. Spend some time reading, listening and learning to keep yourself protected. You need to be suspicious of emails from people you do not know. If someone you do not know is asking for information via an email, or trying to get you to click on a link for more information, it is most likely a Phishing Attack.

Approximately a year ago, my work email was personally hacked and over 2,000 emails were sent out, looking like it came from me, with a link to click to update the recipient's information. That was one of my worst weeks. If it can happen to me, it can happen to you.



214 N. Main St. Viroqua | (608) 638-2030

Computer Repair

Bring it in and we will do our best to solve the problem for you.

Replace Faulty and Damaged Components

Remove Malware and Spyware

Recover Deleted Files

Factory Reset

National Night Out

August 3, 2021



VC Co-op will be at "National Night Out" on August 3, 2021 at the Vernon County Fairgrounds. Our employees will help serve food at the 4-H booth and you can also visit the VC Co-op booth for a fun game and prize give-away! Learn about staying safe on the Internet. We are also supporting the *Eric Tollackson benefit* by wearing t-shirts in his honor. Eric is a Vernon County deputy who was injured in the line of duty. VC Co-op has also donated 2 bicycles and 10 bike helmets to be given away at this event.

Come and support our local law enforcement, fire departments and EMS for this fun, family event.

STUFF THE BUS

Purchasing school supplies and going back to school can be very expensive for some families. Join VC Co-op and Vernon County by donating school supplies for students in need. Stuff the Bus is a program sponsored by the Vernon County Health Department to assist students who could use help purchasing school supplies.



Stop by Walmart in Viroqua on August 7th to donate school supplies for "Stuff the Bus" and help our local students in need get back to school with the supplies they need.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Does Wi-Fi router location matter?

Absolutely. Picking a good spot to place a Wi-Fi router is ideal to ensure the best internet experience.

Where should a Wi-Fi router be placed?

Variables such as building size and material, number of devices, and location of devices all play a factor in determining where a router should be placed. Wi-Fi routers usually broadcast signals omni directionally,



so a centrally located spot away from exterior walls is best. If placed in an exterior corner or near an exterior wall, a significant amount of the signal will be broadcast outside of the building away from your devices. Some Wi-Fi routers come with adjustable antennas, which can be positioned in different angles to direct the signals in

a specific direction. However, that cannot fully resolve a poor router location.

Building materials such as metal, stone, and plaster are problematic and can interfere with Wi-Fi signals. If those materials cannot be avoided, or if you are in a larger building, you may need multiple points of Wi-Fi to adequately cover the building. This can be accomplished by installing either hardwired and/or mesh Wireless Access Points.

Electronics such as microwaves, cordless phones, and other household devices can also cause Radio Frequency (RF) interference. Locating your router as far away from these devices will result in the best signal.

To recap, the general rule of thumb is to select a centrally located spot away from any walls and other electronics. If you are having issues despite having a centrally located Wi-Fi router, you may need a new router or additional Access Points.



*Calix Gigaspire
High-performance router*

Contact VC Co-op or the Vernon Tech Center to speak with a technician who can help amplify your Wi-Fi experience!

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



A New Look to your Guide

Effective August 16, 2021 the guide on your TV will look a little bit different. The guide will have logos instead of call signs for each channel.



The Hype - HBO MAX

Reality series on HBO MAX. August 12.

A competition series set in the colliding worlds of street-wear, business and culture where fashion visionaries must elevate their designs and entrepreneurial sense to avoid elimination while remaining authentic to their style.



The 2021 Directory will be in the mail soon. VC Co-op and Coon Valley Farmers Telephone team up to put this directory together. Because of COVID 19, a 2020 directory was not printed. This book has much more than phone listings and is a reference guide for your communication needs.

Also don't forget to check out the Vernon County App!



School will soon be back in session! Check your Internet speeds to make sure you have enough bandwidth for the maximum speeds needed for the entire family .



103 N Main Street
Westby, WI 54667

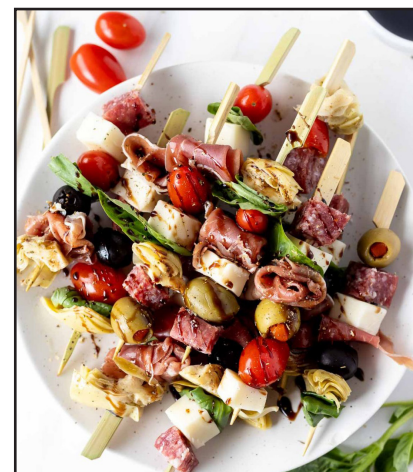
Lobby Hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm (M-F)

(608) 634-3136
www.vernoncom.coop



Easy Summer Antipasto Skewers

- Grape tomatoes
- Black and green olives
- Prosciutto
- Salami
- Mozzarella
- Fresh basil
- Marinated artichoke hearts
- Spinach leaves
- Balsamic dressing of your choice
- Italian seasoning
- Wooden skewers



Instructions:

1. Cut the meat, cheese and artichokes into chunks.
(They should be bite size, but not too small or they will be difficult to skewer).
2. Skewer the ingredients onto large wooden skewers. Sprinkle with Italian seasoning and drizzle with your favorite balsamic dressing before serving.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SYMMETRICAL

Up to **25 MEG**

- Email, Web Surfing, Video Streaming
- Up to 5 devices simultaneously streaming

\$49.95

Up to **50 MEG**

- 4K Video Streaming, Gaming, Smart Home
- 5-10 devices simultaneously streaming

\$77.95

Up to **100 MEG**

- Small Business, Telecommuter
- 10-25 devices simultaneously streaming

\$129.95

Up to **500 MEG**

- Large Business, Commercial Enterprise
- 25+ devices simultaneously streaming

\$299.95

Up to **1 GIG**

- Impossibly Fast

ICB
Call for Pricing

LA FARGE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The community of La Farge held their annual 4th of July celebration. It was a beautiful day and the crowd was ready to get back to a normal celebration. Our employees were also anxious to get out and greet our members once again and we did just that!

