

MONTHLY NEWS

November 2024



Connecting our members with exceptional communication solutions with ease and integrity.

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Gunnar Gretebeck
U.S. Air Force

Stationed in Colorado Springs, CO. and also Spangdahlen Germany



Kevin Karwoski
U.S. National Guard

Basic training in Fort Jackson South Carolina and served in Fort Lee Virginia



Todd Tunks
U.S. Navy

Stationed in San Diego, CA, and served in the Persian Gulf



Veterans Day
November 11, 2024

We salute and honor all military Veterans for serving in the armed forces. Your patriotism and willingness to serve are a testament to your commitment to our country and is appreciated by all Americans. Your service to our country has made a profound impact on the freedoms we have as a nation. A special thank you goes out to our veteran employees, Gunnar Gretebeck, Kevin Karwoski, Todd Tunks and our Board of Directors, Brad Gabrielson and Steve Woodhouse. We are grateful for your honorable service and to all Veterans and their families for the sacrifices you have made.

Board of Directors



Brad Gabrielson
U.S. Air Force



Steve Woodhouse
Army National Guard

From the CEO - Garin Mayer

Greetings,

I hope you've had a chance to get out and take a ride to see the fall colors in this beautiful part of Wisconsin. Now that summer has ended and fall is here, we are cleaning up our construction sites and finalizing our grant area in Monroe County. We can now say that people in that area have the best in fiber optic technology. They have the speeds they need to work from home, educate, utilize telemedicine, game and just surf the internet. A slow connection is no longer a problem because of the location of their home. This will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for residents there and open up new opportunities to live, work and entertain.



I would like to thank our employees and White Construction for completing this project in such a timely manner.

A Testimonial From The Smith's



Watch the interview with Emile and Camille Smith who own a small business near Seneca. The couple talks about the struggles they faced without good broadband before VernonCom constructed a fiber optic network in their area. The couple was recently asked to attend President Biden's visit to Vernon Electric in August. They spoke with him about the grant that helped VernonCom bring fiber to their area. They also told their story to News Nation, a national news network. Emile and Camille are a perfect example of the success of VernonCom's fiber optic network and how it has changed the way people live and work. Go to: <https://youtu.be/rkLrJbapCGQ> to see the full interview and hear their story.

TV Changes Coming



As previously stated in the October newsletter, on November 12, 2024 we will be adjusting our TV channel lineup. If you are currently using the HD numbers to channel surf, you will need to refer to your guide for the updated channel numbers. There are no programming changes. The complete HD channel lineup will be straightforward, with only one set of numbers for each channel. On November 12th, you may also see a scroll across the TV screen informing you of the change. If you are a video customer, you should have received a new channel lineup with your November billing statement.

Meet our Member Service Techs



You may have seen some of these employees around, whether it be in the trenches or installing equipment in your home. This group has a vast knowledge of their jobs and unique skill sets, whether it is locating, mapping, installing or construction, they do it all!!!

Missing: Bret Halvorson, Josh Fanta, Kevin Karwoski and Ryan Brinkman



VernonCom wishes you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving. Our office will be closed on November 28th and 29th for the Holiday. Our office will reopen on Monday December 2, 2024 with our regular scheduled business hours.

Kick off the holiday's and visit the Twinklefest Parade in Viroqua, Friday November 29th. Parade begins at 6:00 pm.



Small Business Saturday is November 30th! When shopping for those special people in your life, remember all of our local businesses that strive to keep our small towns flourishing, this Holiday season. Here are some reasons to shop small:

- **Keeps money local** - Sales taxes fund our communities and help support vital services such as police and fire protection.
- **Local products** - Helps preserve the community's distinction and creates more jobs locally.
- **Supports future growth** - Shows pride in our community and helps protect the businesses that make them unique.
- **Better service** - Local business owners go the extra mile to ensure a happy customer.



Let the Holiday shopping begin! Cyber Monday is Monday December 2, 2024 and retailers everywhere will have deals and steals for Christmas. If you are in the market for a new computer, Black Friday and Cyber Monday are the best times to purchase electronics.

2024 Deer Season Photos



We want to see your trophy! Send us your 2024 deer hunting photos for a chance to win a care package with deer hunting supplies. Send a family friendly pdf or jpeg photo to: contest@vernoncom.coop and your name will be entered into a drawing. Please include your name, address and phone number. Photos must be sent by December 5, 2024 and may be used in social media posts.

2024 Toy Drive



Every Child deserves toys at Christmas. We are holding our annual Toy Drive, so bring your new toys to our office by November 29th and we will match and distribute them to Bethel Butikk in Westby.

Business Spotlight



This month, we are shining a spotlight on a local gem that has been serving the Readstown community for many years. Kickapoo Corners Family Restaurant & Gift's was established in 1996 when Dionne Cary and her parents joked about starting a restaurant. They soon realized that the business would be a perfect addition to the area, and it has since become a beloved cornerstone of the community. In 2005, Dionne and her husband became the proud owners and added a gift shop to enhance the charm of their establishment. What started as a small over-the-counter grew into a sit-down restaurant offering breakfast, lunch, and a buffet on Sundays. Kickapoo Corners Family Restaurant & Gift's offers a variety of breakfast classics, homemade buttermilk pancakes, specialty skillet, lunch options, and even lefse.

In 2015, Dionne added catering services for weddings, funerals, parties, and gatherings of any size. What sets Kickapoo Corners Family Restaurant & Gift's apart from other businesses in the area, is the deep connection between their employees and customers. They pride themselves on treating customers like family and offering a friendly atmosphere. With a dedicated staff of 20, Dionne is grateful for their loyalty and hard work, acknowledging that without them, she wouldn't be where she is today. Facing challenges such as floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, they persevered. Business took a turn for the better when they received support from The Barstool Difference, founded by Dave Portnoy. His generous donation helped Kickapoo Corners navigate through tough times and get back on their feet. Dionne credits this experience with keeping her business not only afloat, but also growing. She states, "Their struggles build their story."

Kickapoo Corners relies on VernonCom's internet to run their computer systems and handheld devices; enabling seamless restaurant operations and free Wi-Fi to customers and staff. They are open from 8 am to 2 pm, Tuesday through Sunday, providing a friendly atmosphere and delicious meals.

Go to: <https://vernoncom.coop/spotlight> for a chance to win a \$35.00 gift card to Kickapoo Corners.

Employee News



Amy Swiggum has served the cooperative for 1 year! Amy is the Human Resource Generalist and she has been a great asset to the cooperative. Her duties include hiring, recruiting, interviewing, onboarding, and generally taking care of any employee needs that arise. Amy was recognized in the

September employee meeting by CEO, Garin Mayer for her 1 year of service. Amy's positive attitude and hard work make her a valuable employee. Congratulations to Amy on her 1 year anniversary!

Retreat 2-Way Parade



The Retreat 2-way parade was held on Saturday September 28th. Residents in the area were also able to enjoy a tractor pull, horse show, kids pedal pull, charcoal chicken, trap shoot and more.



103 N Main Street
Westby, WI 54667

Lobby Hours:

8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(M-F)
(608) 634-3136
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