

MONTHLY NEWS

May 2026



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

Top News Inside

\$15,000 for Scholarships

Fiber Construction begins

New Employee

Member Picnic

VernonCom provides essential scholarship opportunities for our local students. This year, VernonCom will help ten students achieve their dreams by providing \$1,500.00 each towards their college education. By investing in our youth, VernonCom continues its long-standing commitment to the growth of our local communities. Congratulations to these students for their academic achievements and the pursuit of fulfilling their dreams and lifelong careers.



Avery Abbott
Sparta H.S.



Lizzy Curtis
Westby H.S.



Maddi Fletcher
Viroqua H.S.



Kristal Levendoski
Westby H.S.



Erin Mueller
Continuing Ed.



Hallie Nemec
La Farge H.S.



Theo Parr
La Farge H.S.



Tessa Sanders
Cashton H.S.



Bryce Schultz
De Soto H.S.



Sadie Venner
De Soto H.S.

2026 Annual Meeting

The virtual 2026 Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. The meeting opened with the National Anthem. Trudy Wallin, Board President, presented opening remarks, followed by Crystal Morley, CFO, giving the financial report. CEO, Garin Mayer talked about the 75 year anniversary of the cooperative and gave a favorable operations report and the future of fiber construction for the cooperative. He also presented the election results for two Board of Director terms that expired for Districts 2 & 4. Daren Matthes (incumbent) will serve on the Board for another three years for District 2 and Steve Woodhouse (incumbent for District 4) ran unopposed and will also hold another three year term. Jana Pedretti, Member Relations Manager, introduced the scholarship recipients for 2026. Trudy Wallin closed the meeting with no new business. Anyone who registered and attended the meeting received a \$25.00 credit on their billing statement.



Garin Mayer, CEO



Trudy Wallin, Board President



Jana Pedretti, Member Relations Mgr.



Crystal Morley, CFO

Thank you to all of our special mothers!

Sunday May 10, 2026



Employee News

Meet our new employee Laci Olson

Laci Olson



Laci Olson began her employment as a Billing Specialist with VernonCom on April 13, 2026. Laci grew up in Westby, attended high school, and has lived and worked in the Westby area her entire adult life. She lives with her husband Mike, and two sons, Isaac and Jackson. Her daughter Alexis and son-in-law Jeff also live in the area with their two young children.

Being a dog lover, she has a French bulldog, a black Lab and a cat. She keeps busy attending school activities and spending time with her children and grandchildren. We welcome Laci to the team and are excited to have her on board.



March can be questionable for any kind of construction, but fiber construction at VernonCom has begun and is in full swing for the season! Our crew has been busy working all over our serving area, but a new housing addition on the South side of Westby was the start of getting fiber into the ground. Bethel Birchwood is developing a new community of duplex homes in the city of Westby called Birchwood Ridge. VernonCom has constructed a fiber optic network to the new site. Westby city employee, Eric Miller, worked with VernonCom employees, Jeff Holey and Josh Fanta to plow cable and electric to the location. The project will soon be complete and people moving into those homes can enjoy access to internet, stream TV, and phone service provided by VernonCom. This is just the start of a busy summer for our construction crew.

Reminder: Call Diggers Hotline for any kind of digging and always pay attention to hand holes while burning.

**Attention
MWT email
subscribers:**



VernonCom is discontinuing hosting MWT.net email accounts effective, December 31, 2026. To ensure you don't lose access to your messages, please transition to a new email provider before this date. There are several secure, reliable, and free options available including Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, and iCloud. We recommend selecting a provider that offers robust security features to keep your data safe. Go to www.vernoncom.coop for options. You can even create an account directly from the site.

Please note: After December 31, 2026 your MWT.net account will no longer be accessible.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

"Cooperation among Cooperatives", is the sixth Cooperative Principle. Working alongside Vernon Electric for last year's member picnic in Readstown was such a success that we are thrilled to do it again! We are looking forward to hosting the second annual joint picnic at the pavilion in Genoa from 11 am - 1 pm. Food and beverages will be served for this member appreciation. We look forward to seeing you there.



Business Spotlight -



Noble Rind is located in the newly remodeled Fortney Hotel at 110 W. Court St, Viroqua. The charming restaurant started as a curated selection of artisan cheeses and is now a vibrant bistro with a diverse menu.

Sarah Clemens and her husband Chris are the owners of this delightful sandwich shop. Sarah knows cheese and was working at a cheese counter before they moved to Viroqua and started working at the Viroqua Food Co-op. Sarah never dreamed she would own her own business until after COVID when a friend approached her with the idea. The seed was planted and with the help of community, the rest is history!

Sarah was running the shop on her own, until the commitment of their family values and operating the shop alone became overwhelming. Chris decided to quit his job and help run the restaurant together. It is a true family venture as their two young children help when they are available. Sarah works during the day, while Chris comes in at night. They are open until 8:00 pm to accommodate the Fortney Hotel and their regular customers. They supply the hotel with muffins for their guests, which are made daily, as well as the bread made for their sandwiches. They also make their own salad dressings, soups and desserts, and use mostly local vendors. They sell a variety of unique brands of cheeses, specialty wines, and beer.

Tourism is a large part of the business. The busy season is from spring until fall, when people are on vacation and coming to this beautiful Driftless region. They also cater small events such as Music in the Park, Live on Court, and smaller parties with

trays to go. They are currently working on a "Grab and Go" option.

VernonCom supplies phone service and internet to the location, which is what they use for their POS system, music, and Wi-Fi.

They can be reached at www.noblerind.com or (608) 638-2743.


Check our website in May for a chance to win a \$35.00 gift card. Go to: <https://vernoncom.coop/business-spotlight-contest/>



**Brewers TV is now
being broadcast on
Channel 41
All season long**




In March, Garin Mayer, CEO, visited State Senator Brad Pfaff's office in Madison, WI, along with Lynxx Networks, lobbying for rural broadband carriers.



**103 N Main Street
Westby, WI 54667**

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