MONTHLY NEWS

November 2026

Your source for exciting news, member updates, and things to know.

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Director
U.S. National Guard



On Wednesday, November 11, 2026, we will recognize and honor our military veterans. Whether they are living or deceased, this day is set aside to express our gratitude to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

We also want to take this opportunity to recognize our employees who have served in the military. Thank you for your service!

VernonCom extends its heartfelt thanks to all military veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made to serve our country and keep us safe.

75th Anniversary Party

On October 9, we celebrated a major milestone with our 75th Anniversary Celebration, and we couldn't have asked for a better day! Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and helped make the event such a success. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring our members, families, and community together to celebrate 75 years of connecting our communities.



The celebration was filled with delicious food, fun drinks, live music, family-friendly activities, exciting prizes, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy time together. From the food trucks and music to the bouncy houses, face painting, and games, there was something for everyone to enjoy. We loved seeing so many familiar faces, meeting new people, and celebrating this special milestone with the people who make VernonCom what it is today.

A special thank-you goes to all the vendors who joined us and provided food, drinks, entertainment, and activities throughout the day. We're also incredibly grateful to the businesses and individuals who donated items and prizes for our event. Your generosity and willingness to be part of our celebration helped make the day even more memorable.



Most importantly, thank you to our members for being part of the VernonCom cooperative and supporting us throughout the years. Since 1951, VernonCom has continued to grow and evolve alongside the communities we serve, and we're proud of the connections we've built along the way. Reaching 75 years is a milestone worth celebrating, and we're thankful to have such a supportive community behind us. We had an amazing time celebrating with you and look forward to continuing to connect our communities for many years to come. Here's to 75 years of VernonCom and many more ahead!







Black Friday/Cyber Monday

Although Black Friday remains the busiest shopping day of the year, Cyber Monday is a close contender. For many years, Black Friday was traditionally the day when shoppers waited in line outside retail stores from early in the morning to grab the best deals. If you prefer shopping online and want to protect your payment information from data breaches, consider the following tips:

Avoid Making Payments With Debit Cards

When you make purchases online, always use a credit card instead of a debit card. Debit cards are linked to your bank account, so if a bad guy can access your debit card information, they can access your entire bank account. Because debit cards use the cash available in your bank, disputing a charge can lead to the long and complicated process of replacing stolen funds. Credit card purchases add to your debt, which means that a fraudulent charge won't immediately impact your finances. Using a credit card for online purchases allows you to dispute a charge, without losing access to your cash.

Avoid Saving Payment Methods for Future Purchases

When you shop online, many retailers offer to save your payment information for future purchases. While this option is more convenient than entering your payment information every time you shop, always decline saving this information. Unfortunately, data breaches happen and even the most reputable online retailers are vulnerable to a breach. Avoid saving your payment method altogether so that your information is not at risk during a cyber attack.

Avoid Saving Payment Methods for Autofill

When you make purchases online, internet browsers such as Chrome, Edge, and Firefox offer to save your payment information for autofill. Even if it is more convenient to use the autofill feature, always decline saving this information. If bad guys physically or remotely gain access to your browser, they can steal any information that your browser stores for autofill purposes. It may be inconvenient to manually enter your payment information every time you shop online, but the inconvenience is worth keeping your information secure.





Employee News

Service Award



Bret Halverson celebrated his 20 year employment anniversary with VernonCom in September! CEO, Garin Mayer, presented him with a service award for this accomplishment. Congratulations on reaching this milestone!

FRS 5K Run/Walk





On September 24, some of our VernonCom team members teamed up with the Westby Cross Country team to take part in a 5K supporting the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)!

The FRS helps strengthen rural communities through programs like scholarships, community grants, and Youth Tour opportunities. We're proud to be part of an event that gives back to the communities we're lucky to call home.

Parade



It was a perfect sunny day for the Viola Horse and Colt Parade on Saturday, September 26th. It was great to see so many familiar faces in the communities we serve. We end parade season with the Viroqua Twinklefest parade on November 27th. See you there!

Business Spotlight



This month we are highlighting Stonehouse Counseling as our November Business Spotlight. Stonehouse Counseling recently became a nonprofit organization, marking an exciting new chapter in its commitment to making high-quality mental health care accessible to everyone in our community. Founded in 2018, Stonehouse was created with the belief that compassionate counseling should be available regardless of a person's financial circumstances. Today, Stonehouse is committed to continuing that mission without limiting the number of Medicaid and Medicare clients that they serve.

Located at 427 East Oak Street in Viroqua, Stonehouse Counseling provides individual, couples, family, and group counseling, offering support for concerns ranging from anxiety, depression, trauma, and grief to relationship challenges and life transitions. The organization is also working on Vernon County's Domestic Violence Initiative as a partnering agency, to provide coordinated care for those facing some of life's most difficult circumstances.

Becoming a nonprofit allows Stonehouse to pursue grants and other funding opportunities that will help sustain and expand these services for years to come, with the goal of supporting mental health across the community. The organization is committed not only to caring for clients but also to supporting the well-being of the professionals who serve them through an equitable organizational model that values collaboration, shared leadership, and community.

Like many organizations today, Stonehouse depends on reliable internet service. Dependable connectivity supports secure telehealth sessions, client communication, electronic health records, scheduling, and daily operations, allowing therapists to focus on the people they serve.

VernonCom has met these needs while providing the added benefit of being local and accessible – a true community partner.

Stonehouse Counseling believes that when individuals and families have access to quality mental health care, the entire community benefits.

To learn more about Stonehouse Counseling and its services, visit stonehousecares.com or call 608-638-333



Lobby Hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm (M-F)
(608) 634-3136
www.vernoncom.coop

Payment Options
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