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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S INSIDER

CONNECTING CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S WORKFORCE

JUNE 2011

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WWW.CO.CHAMPAIGN.IL.US

The Insider Editorial Team consists of Kay Rhodes, Debbie Chow, Jacque Chase, Amanda Tucker, Traci Heiden, & Teresa Schleinz

County Board Report

C. Pius Weibel, County Board Chair

The end of May usually means at least two things are happening. One, spring is ending and summer is beginning, and it is the end of legislative activity in Springfield. For the former, this year was a sputtering jump from early spring to middle summer—it seems we have only had a handful of warm dry days this year. Legislative activity in Springfield has been equally sputtering—until this final weekend—and some of it still is in the "uncertain" status. It started out a few days ago when I thought that my current Congressional Representative Tim Johnson was going to be my former Representative when most of Champaign and Urbana were carved out and merged into a more southwestern district instead of the current east-central to southern IL district. Then a day or two later, Representative Johnson was "moved" with the rest of Champaign and Urbana. Politics can really be weird. Still, as often as many of us lament about State politics, there was more activity in Springfield this past week than I have seen in some time. A few years ago when Governor Blago held reign in Springfield (instead of the current defense table in the Chicago courtroom), I expected little activity in Springfield. Now, the Legislature is actually doing something (whether you like it or not). How this activity affects Champaign County remains to be seen. A number of bills depend on the Governor's signature: Health Alliance's position as a provider to many State employees who reside in Champaign County; gambling, in Danville; Workers Compensation Reform and costs for publication of notices. One thing that thankfully did not happen, but was rumored to happen, was a reduction in the amount of monies that are distributed to local governmental entities such as counties and municipalities. Even with these uncertainties, I do feel a little bit more optimistic than I felt a couple of days ago! Now, if we only knew what the Federal Government is going to do…..

County Clerk News

Champaign County Clerk Gordy Hulten announced information about his office's preparations for the June 1 opening of a new state law allowing Civil Unions.

"I am committed to administering this new law efficiently and fairly. We are implementing some new online solutions for Civil Unions that will streamline the process for customers and my staff. We are excited about these improvements and want to share as much information about them as possible."

Civil Union licenses are available beginning on June 1 in the County Clerk's office. Eligible parties must be 18 years of age, complete a license application and affidavit, bring acceptable identification to the County Clerk's office, and pay the $4 cash-only application fee. Licenses require a one-day waiting period, and are then valid for 60 days for ceremonies performed in Champaign County only.

In addition, Hulten is launching a new online application for Civil Unions. "Applicants can visit our website at

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Coroner's Office Receives Recognition

Kay Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF) presented a plaque at the May 19, 2011 County Board meeting to Champaign County Coroner Duane Northrup and his staff, in recognition of their support of bereaved families and tissue donation.

The Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation changes lives by connecting donors with surgeons and transplant recipients. MTF is a non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in education, research, recovery and care for recipients, donors and their families. Since their inception in 1987, MTF has recovered more than 60,000 donors.

The Coroner's office began working with MTF in July of 2010 by offering donation options to families whose loved ones died suddenly or unexpectedly at home or somewhere other than the hospital. There have been nine successful donor cases since last July which resulted in over 400 transplants of tissue and/or bone.

The Coroner credits his staff for their hard work coordinating families and MTF all while performing the daily duties of the office. The Coroner's staff consists of: Steve Thuney, Chief Deputy Coroner; Deputy Coroners Steven Skinner, Tracy Brookshire, David Stinebaugh Jr., Steve Elkins, Leo Studer, and Senior Medical Secretary Rose Oskard. The Coroner's office has also moved to their new facility at 202 Art Bartell Road. The process of tissue donation will most likely take place at the new facility in the future.

Sheriff's Deputy Receives Commendation Award

Allen E. Jones, Lieutenant, C.C.S.O.

At a recent Champaign County Board Meeting Deputy Jeff Vercler was presented with a "Commendation Award" for actions taken on December 18, 2010.

The Commendation Award is presented to deputies that perform "a routine police duty with excellence and diligence".

On December 18, 2010 the Champaign County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene of a shooting located at 201 Colburn St, Ivesdale.

When deputies arrived the victim of the shooting, the remaining family members and the suspect were all still inside the home. The victim needed immediate medical attention, however emergency medical services could not enter the residence until the scene was secure.

Deputy Jeff Vercler was the senior deputy on scene that night and together with other on scene deputies he created a plan to retrieve and remove the injured person from the home and isolate the suspect.

Once that evacuation was completed, Deputy Vercler, observed a teenager walking down the stairs carrying a handgun. Deputy Vercler was able to demonstrate great discernment and discipline in directing a relative of the actual suspect into dropping the firearm before ultimately arresting the suspect. It turned out that this teenage relative was not actually the suspect, but was bringing the firearm down to the deputies and away from the suspect.

The Champaign County Sheriff's Office recognizes the actions that Deputy Jeff Vercler took that night to both rescue the injured and safely resolve a tenuous situation when presented with an armed subject.

Deputy Vercler has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1995. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division, is a Field Training Instructor, and member of the METRO (SWAT) Team.

Network News

Andy Rhodes, Information Technology Director

Many of you know that Kari Thompson has left our department. She and her husband bought a house in Florida and have left the area. She was in charge of our website, as well as programming for Animal Control and another office. We will miss Kari and wish her the best of luck in the future.

Email/Contacts/ Calendar Cell Phone Synchronization

County IT is now offering to set up your Blackberry or Exchange ActiveSync capable cell phone to wirelessly synchronize your County email, contacts and calendar with the device. If you are a salaried employee please ask your department head to contact the IT Helpdesk to authorize you for this service.

Helpdesk

Did you know the quickest way to get a response to your problem or request is NOT to contact an IT staff member directly, but to contact the IT Helpdesk? Not only will you get a quicker response to your problem or request, but using the helpdesk allows us to evenly distribute service requests, assign them to available staff, and track the requests from start to finish.

Office 2007 Seminars

As we upgrade County offices to Office 2007, IT is offering hour long seminars on the differences between Office 2007 and Office 2003. Seminars are held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you are interested in coming to one of the seminars contact your department head and have them schedule a session for you through the IT Helpdesk.

Checking County Email From Home

Did you know you can check your County email from home by going to:

https://owa.co.champaign.il.us/owa?

Web Content Filtering Software

County IT recently upgraded the software used to filter web content and track web usage. As a result of the upgrade you will now need to put your user name and password in the first time you open an internet browser session and go to an internet site. You will not be prompted again if you leave your browser open.

Summer Projects

This summer, County IT will deploy new PCs for various offices including the Public Defender, Recorder of Deeds and Juvenile Detention Center. County IT will also continue to roll out Office 2007 to those offices that have not yet been upgraded. IT will also be involved in the upgrade for the Recorder of Deeds server and Lands Record Management software package. The Supervisor of Assessments Office will receive an upgrade for FARMS software, which is used to help manage assessments on farm parcels. All offices that use GIS services will need the newest version of ARC GIS software upgraded to enable the GIS staff to upgrade their server this fall. The Highway Department just received a new version of Auto-Cad (Computer Assisted Design) software that will need to be installed on their server and all Highway workstations. Work will continue on the fiber optic network ring on the East Campus and on the migration of County400 to the new system purchased in December of 2010.

Health Insurance News

Debbie Mennenga, Insurance Specialist

Carle RxExpress

Pharmacies Sold to Walgreens

Effective April 1, 2011 Walgreens purchased Carle RxExpress Pharmacies. If you are a current Carle RxExpress patron your prescription information will be transferred to the nearest Walgreens. Because Walgreens doesn't participate in the Rxtra program, members will need to transfer their prescription(s) to Wal-Mart, Sam's Club or Schnucks to continue to receive free 30-day supplies of common generic medications.

Please call the Health Alliance Pharmacy Department at 1-800-851-3379 extension 8078 with any questions.

Health Insurance Committee

Recently the County Board approved the appointment of a Health Insurance Committee. This committee will include employee and County Board representatives who will participate in the preliminary steps of negotiating and selecting plans and plan designs for health insurance benefits, to ultimately be recommended for labor contract negotiations and approval by the County Board.

The members of the committee are as follows:

John Farney, County Clerk's Office – AFSCME Representative

Debi Young, Circuit Clerk's Office – AFSCME Representative

Brian Mennenga, Sheriff's Office – FOP Representative

Ed Sexton, Court Services – FOP Representative

Elizabeth Murphy – Non-bargaining Representative

Amanda Tucker – Non-bargaining Representative

Astrid Berkson – County Board Representative

Stephanie Holderfield – County Board Representative

Deb Busey – County Administrator

Debbie Mennenga – Insurance Specialist

The Health Insurance Committee will meet with the county's broker on a regular

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Insurance continued…

(Continued from page 3)

basis. At the meetings the broker will review the county's current utilization of health insurance with its providers and potential development of wellness program planning and other initiatives related to health insurance.

From May through August, the committee will work with the broker to evaluate current benefit structures and requests for proposals for health insurance plans to be developed and implemented for the ensuing benefit year.

Youth Helping Youth

Jennifer Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent, JDC

In April of 2011, the youth and staff at the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center worked together to help the children of Japan who had been affected by the previous month's deadly earthquake and tsunami by participating in OshKosh B'gosh's Cranes For Kids program. The program asked people to make origami paper cranes and upload the photos to OshKosh B'gosh's Facebook page and in return, the company would donate pieces of clothing to children in Japan. JDC's participation in this program was sparked by a member of the facility's education staff who had heard of the project and thought it might be something the youth in custody would like to participate in. Over the course of three weeks the youth sacrificed part of their recreational free time and worked with the facility staff members to make 1,000 origami paper cranes. Because of the overwhelming participation in the program, OshKosh B'gosh increased their donation from 50,000 pieces of children's clothing to 80,000 pieces of clothing.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Susan Monte, Champaign County Recycling Coordinator

The last time a Household Hazardous Waste collection occurred locally was in April, 2006. That collection was held in Urbana and was sponsored by the City of Urbana, with support by the City of Champaign and Champaign County. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) funded most of the $96,705 cost of that collection, with local governments providing the site, coordinating and publicizing the collection. The types of household hazardous waste materials collected included: oil-based paints, paint thinners, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, old gasoline, pool chemicals, cleaning products, mercury, drain cleaners, lawn chemicals, solvents, aerosol paints and pesticides.

In 2008, the IPEA suspended its One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program due to lack of funding. The IEPA Waste Reduction Unit recently requested renewal of funding to continue the HHW local collection program, and whether or not the state will divert funds to this program is unknown.

Though too distant to benefit Champaign County residents, there are four permanent household hazardous waste collection facilities in Illinois—all situated in northern Illinois (City of Chicago, Naperville, Lake County and Rockford). Information about these permanent HHW collection facilities can be found on the IEPA website.

IEPA recommendations regarding handling and disposal of used latex paint follow….

Source: http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste

Used Latex (Water-Based) Paint Disposal Alternatives

At every collection, in every part of the state, paint is the most common material delivered by Illinois citizens. Encouragement to use up leftover paint or give usable paint to a neighbor has not decreased the amount of latex paint significantly. Today's latex (water-based) paint has a very low level of toxicity. Disposing of it at a household hazardous waste collection day is very expensive. Therefore, the Illinois EPA encourages people with unwanted latex paint to use other options.

Disposal Alternatives After your painting job is done you may have some leftover paint. The question now is: "What should you do with it?" Here are some alternatives:

- **Keep Painting!** This may sound simple, and it is**.** What better place to put that last pint or so of paint but right up there on the wall where it blends in perfectly with all the other paint you just put up there. Sure, it's a little extra work - and right when you thought you're done for the day - but you'll be rid of that extra paint for good. Simply let the can dry and then recycle or dispose of it.

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Animal Control Director Wins Award

Amanda Tucker, Human Resources Generalist

Stephanie Joos is the Director of Animal Control and received the "Outstanding Women You Should Know 2011" award. Stephanie was nominated and chosen from the selection committee because of her community volunteer activities and career. Stephanie has always had a real passion for animals and many great successes to show her commitment to help our furry friends. Congrats Stephanie!!!

County Clerk continued...

Steve O'Connor, County Board Member, Tabulating Early & Absentee Votes

(Continued from page 1)

www.champaigncountyclerk.com to begin their application. Within the next 14 days, in order to complete the application, they must visit our office to proof their information, show identification, sign the application and affidavit, and pay the application fee. At that point we can issue them a civil union license."

The online application will improve accuracy and efficiency while allowing applicants to complete the most time-consuming part of the application process at their convenience. "We anticipate implementing a similar online application for marriage licenses shortly," Hulten added.

Civil Union licenses may be issued by the County Clerk's office beginning June 1. Additional questions may be directed to the Clerk's office at 217.384.3720 or by visiting www.champaigncountyclerk.com.

The April 5, 2011 Consolidated General election was conducted by the Champaign County Clerk's office with the assistance of numerous County personnel and hundreds of election judges and workers. Across the County, 20,890 citizens voted on offices such as school board, library trustees and mayor and on several important referenda.

Most notably, the Brookens Administrative Center and the County Courthouse suffered a power outage in the late afternoon of Election Day. As our office prepared to move our Election Night reporting to the new County Highway Building, which has backup power, numerous County personnel and departments sprang into action. Assistance was provided by Administrative Services, Physical Plant, Emergency Management, Highway and many others. Power was restored after about 90 minutes and the move to the Highway Building was canceled, but the efforts by everyone in County Government to facilitate our operations during the outage were amazing, impressive and very much appreciated. Great work everyone!

Matt Gladney, Former County Board Member and Rita Orcutt, Former County Clerk Employee Tabulating Early & Absentee Votes.

Paint Disposals continued...

(Continued from page 4)

- **Paint Something Else!** It doesn't even have to need the paint. Use an old piece of cardboard, some scrap lumber, or the inside of your garage. Just about anywhere would probably work to use up that last bit of paint. Again, let the can dry and recycle or dispose of it.
- **Use an Absorbent like Kitty Litter!** Kitty litter, sawdust, shredded paper or just about anything else that will absorb moisture and let the paint dry out should work here. Depending on how full the can is, you can just add the absorbent to the can and mix it up. When the liquids are absorbed, dry the mixture out or dispose of it directly. You may be able to empty the can, dry it out, and recycle it.
- **Give it to Someone!** Look around and you may find somebody who needs to paint a small area. Some schools or local theatres will take some small amounts of paint for scenery.
- **Store it for Later!** Everyone has good intentions to use half-filled paint cans for "touch-ups" that never come. Also, many people have saved paint that becomes unusable over time before it's called into action. If you do save your paint for later, follow some easy tips to make the paint last longer. Just cover the opening with plastic wrap, and make sure the lid fits securely so the paint doesn't leak. Then turn the paint can upside down! This creates a tight seal, and keeps the paint fresh to use again.

2011 Fairs & Festivals

Brocton Spring Festival and Draft Horse Show
June 3, 4 & 5
Between U.S. 36 and Illinois 133 on Illinois 49, Brocton
www.broctonil.org

Urbana Park District
Neighborhood Nights Concert Series
Jun 8-August 17
Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8pm.
urbanaparks.org/events/index.html

2011 Taste of Champaign Urbana
Friday June 17, 5:00 – 10:00 pm
Saturday, June 18, 11:00 am – 10:00 pm
Sunday, June 19, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
www.champaignparkdistrict.com/events/taste/

Tolono Fun Days
June 24 & 25
www.villageoftolono.info/

2011 Urbana Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival
June 24th, 2011- 5pm - 2am
June 25th, 2011– Noon - 2am
fluidevents.org/urbanablues/

2011 Champaign County
Master Gardener's Walk
June 25, 9:00am - 4:00pm
THE MASTER GARDENER COMMUNITY GARDENS OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY NURSING HOME & THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE WALK.
CHAMPAIGN/URBANA, IL
CONTACT INFO : U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE, Champaign 217.333.7672

2011 Champaign County Freedom Celebration
July 4
www.july4th.net

Fisher Community Fair & Horse Show
July 12—July 16
www.fisherfair.com

159th Champaign County Fair
July 22 - 30
For tickets and further information:
Champaign County Fair
P.O. Box 544
Urbana, IL 61803-0544.
Phone 217-367-8461
Fax 217-367-6286
www.champaigncountyfair.cc/jos/

Champaign StreetFest
June 4 - 7:00pm - 12:00am
Downtown Champaign.
For information, 398-2550
www.champaignparkdistrict.com/pressreleases/2011_05_31a.htm

Farmer City/Dewitt County Fair
July 19-23
309-928-9110, 309-275-5249

Villa Grove Ag Days
August 5-7
Call 832-4721 for further information

Champaign-Urbana Days
August 13, 11am-7pm
August 14, 4pm-8pm
www.champaignparkdistrict.com/events/cudays/index.html

Downtown Festival of the Arts
August 20
10am - 7pm
www.champaignparkdistrict.com/events/dtfoa/ex.html

Urbana Sweet Corn Festival
August 26 & 27
www.urbanabusiness.com/events/sweetcorn

Follow this link for complete list of Illinois County & State Fairs
www.agr.state.il.us/fair/countyfairssched.php

Courthouse Corner

Jacque Chase, Supervisor-Administrative Services, Probation & Court Services

Just a COURTHOUSE FYI: While many assume that all that happens at the Courthouse is legal cases – we have our share of great experiences that occur here. You see weddings with groups of folks celebrating the happy event; families rejoicing over adoptions, and groups of school children and civic groups participating in either a tour of the Courthouse or a visit to the wonderful Lincoln exhibit!!

CCNH Landscaping

Amber Stivers-Anders, CCNH Activity Director

Just over four years ago, we moved into the new Champaign County Nursing Home. Due to budget constraints, very little had been done in the way of landscaping. What a difference two and a half years can make! At that time, Jim Hronek (aka "Mr. Nice Guy") became the Volunteer Coordinator at CCNH and took it as his personal mission to make our grounds a pleasing place for our residents to call home and for family and friends to visit. He began by soliciting donations of both plants and funds, and combined with many hours of his labor and that of volunteers, he has completely changed the look of our grounds. We have trees galore (oaks, maples, spruce, birch, and flowering trees such as crab apple, cherry, dogwood, and redbud) shrubs, tulips, daffodils, alliums, peonies, irises, roses, lilies, and grasses. Jim also worked with a local Boy Scout, who earned his Eagle Scout by building and planting attractively landscaped seating areas at the front of our building.

Jim's latest project is beautifying our central courtyard. He is encouraging plants to grow in our rocky border areas, and has filled our big planter with a mix of perennials and annuals that will surely delight the eye as they grow. The time and effort he has committed to these projects cannot be understated.

Our Garden View Court (Alzheimer's) Courtyard continues to be beautified by the Master Gardeners—a tradition carried over from the former facility. That group is currently working with Jim to include that courtyard in their annual garden walk. It will take place June 25 from 9 am to 4 pm.

If you would like to contribute (through donation of time, funds, or plants) to the continuing beautification of our grounds, please contact Jim Hronek at (217)384-3784 x5240.

GARLIC LIME CHICKEN

Perfect for summer grilling!

4 Boneless, skinless chicken breasts, thawed.

¼ - ½ t. Grey Poupon

½ c. soy sauce

1 T. Worcestershire sauce

2-4 cloves minced garlic (I love garlic so I use a lot.)

½ t. fresh ground black pepper

¼ c. lime juice

- Place chicken in large freezer bag. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in bowl. Whisk well then immediately reserve 1/4 c. of marinade. Pour the remainder into the freezer bag with the chicken. Marinate in fridge for 30 minutes to 4 hours.

- Spray large nonstick skillet with cooking spray (I use Pam olive oil spray) and heat over medium. Add chicken (include marinade) and cook, covered, for about 6 minutes on each side (or until done).

Serve with reserved marinade or marinade left in the skillet. Delicious!

Alternative – you can grill the chicken breasts and use the reserved marinade, just reserve a little more than the ¼ cup.

Submitted by Ashlee Vercler – Court Security Officer

Pregnancy Awareness Month: Don't overlook importance of dentist visits, oral health

Most pregnant women recognize how important their health is for their baby's health, but may ignore a critical component – their oral health. In fact, over a quarter of mothers neglected to visit a dentist during pregnancy,[1] which is key to helping prevent harmful oral and overall health problems for themselves and their babies.

"Women who are pregnant should schedule a dental checkup and cleaning within the first trimester of their pregnancy," said Dr. Katina Morelli, DDS, dental director for Delta Dental of Illinois. "Dentists can identify and treat teeth and gum problems, lowering the risk for more serious, ongoing health problems for both a mother and her baby."

While having a healthy mouth is always important, pregnancy can intensify dental disease. Minor dental problems that exist before pregnancy could worsen. Oral infections can also present risks to an expectant mother's overall health, leading to other medical problems during pregnancy.

"Expecting mothers and even women who are planning to become pregnant need to pay special attention to their oral health," said Morelli. "It's never too late to start good oral health habits to ensure your mouth is healthy."

While oral health habits are controllable, some pregnancy side effects may wreak havoc on a woman's oral health. For instance, nausea and vomiting affect 80 percent of all pregnant women. The stomach acid from vomiting can erode tooth enamel – making teeth sensitive and more vulnerable to decay.

Most moms-to-be also experience cravings. The additional snacking can lead to increased tooth decay. Giving into cravings for sugary foods can be worse for expecting mothers' teeth, since sugar has been identified by oral health experts as major cause of tooth decay.

A mother's oral health can also affect her baby. Hormonal changes during pregnancy can exaggerate the way gum tissue reacts to plaque, increasing the risk for gingivitis, the first stage of periodontal (gum) disease. In some studies, pregnant women with gum disease have given birth to low-weight or pre-term babies, who are at risk for many serious diseases.

Along with visiting the dentist, Delta Dental of Illinois offers the following tips to help prevent oral health complications during pregnancy:

Brush your teeth twice daily with a fluoride toothpaste and floss daily.

Limit foods containing sugar to mealtime only. If you do give into one of those cravings, drink a glass of water while snacking and brush your teeth once you're done.

Choose water or low-fat milk as a beverage and avoid carbonated beverages.

Choose fruit rather than fruit juice to meet the recommended daily fruit intake.

If you suffer from "morning sickness," make sure to rinse your mouth out with water and baking soda solution afterward. The combination will neutralize the acid. Also brush your teeth gently and chew Xylitol gum.

For more information, visit www.mouthmattersil.com.

Morpace Inc. conducted the 2009 Delta Dental Children's Oral Health Survey. Random 15-minute telephone interviews were conducted nationally with 914 primary caregivers of children from birth to age 11. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of error is ±3.2 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.