

# County Lines

An in-house publication for the employees of Elkhart County Government

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April/May 2008

## Deb DeVreese Receives Annual Commitment to Service Award

Debra L. DeVreese, Legal Assistant IV with the Public Defender's Office, is the recipient of the 2007 Commitment to Service Award. The announcement was made during the annual Service Awards Program on February 13. Deb began her service to the County on June 2, 1977. She was recognized for her unwavering devotion to duty and service to the Public Defender's Office and the public.

Cliff Williams, Chief Public Defender, nominated Deb and appreciates the foresight and wisdom of former Chief Public Defender Joseph Grolimund for hiring her when the office was established. Cliff recognizes

that Deb has instinctive organizational abilities and an exceptional work ethic. He added, "I have often described Deb as the 'mother' of the office, as well as the hub of all activity in the Adult Division in Elkhart. For 30 years, Deb's hard work and daily commitment to service enables those of us who work with and around her to succeed."

Cliff said he can not select one specific act for recognition. "Almost every working day for Deb is a triumph of tenacity and is accomplished by her refusal to be overcome by any obstacles," he said. Cliff explained that for those who do not work on the 'dark side' it is difficult to understand the atmosphere and aura of negativity which greets Deb daily. Cliff said, "No one comes through our doors who is not in need, in trouble, in stress or in some way disadvantaged. Deb has a demeanor and ability to place these persons at ease. But more important is the respect which she shows to these people in their time of need."



*Cliff Williams, Chief Public Defender, presents the 2007 Commitment to Service Award to Deb DeVreese.*

Upon being interviewed for her thirty years of service, Deb reminisced about a young man who had gotten into trouble. He rode his bike to court since he lived with his grandmother. She said, "I noticed he wore the same clothes and shoes most of the time. My husband had some clothes and shoes he didn't need anymore and I brought it in for Dale. He was so grateful for this bag of used clothing. He brought produce from his grandma's garden because he thought he should give me something. This simple act of touching someone's life by one simple act of kindness is, to me, an

incredibly memorable experience."

The Commitment to Service Award was established in January 1994. It recognizes an employee who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to his/her job and whose activities illustrate the spirit and intent of service for and to the public in the past year.

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# HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE OFFERED AT THE NOVIA CARECLINICS

Health Risk Assessments (HRA) are offered to all employees eligible to visit the Novia CareClinics. (Employees and spouses covered by the County Medical Plan are eligible for the HRA.) As part of this benefit, you are able to annually receive a health risk assessment and the related report. The HRA blood draw is a simple procedure that measures a wide array of health risks. Once completed, the HRA will generate a 28 page report in a plain language format that provides you with a good measure of your current medical condition. The report will be available in an on-line format through the Novia CareClinics website ([www.noviacareclinics.com](http://www.noviacareclinics.com)) Employees will also receive a printed copy of the report via U.S. mail.

The actual blood draw does require a 12 hour fast. You may want to schedule an early morning appointment to enable you to fast more easily (overnight) and be able to make it back to work quickly. The procedure can easily be done within a 20-minute appointment time slot. If you do not fast, your results will not be accurate. You may drink some water during your fasting time and should still take any maintenance medication you may be on.

## **CAN I STILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HRA IF I DON'T USE THE NOVIA CARECLINIC ON A REGULAR BASIS?**

Absolutely! If you are eligible to use the clinic, simply register online or call 888-417-1001 and they will assist you in registering and/or scheduling an appointment. You will go to either the Goshen or Elkhart site of the Novia CareClinics for the blood draw. Results are normally available online within 2 work days and your printed report should be received within a week to 10 days. You may also schedule a follow-up appointment with a Novia CareClinic practitioner who will go over the results with you. You may even wish to schedule an appointment for a complete physical.

## **WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?**

Even if you never intend to use the clinic, the HRA is a valuable resource and provides you with a good baseline of your current health. It often provides insight into conditions you may not even suspect

exist. If you wish, you may share a copy of your printed report with your personal physician or the Novia CareClinic can fax a copy of the results for you.

## **WHAT TESTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE HRA?**

- ◇ Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
- ◇ Liver Function Panel
- ◇ Nutritional Panel
- ◇ Cholesterol (Lipid Panel)
- ◇ Measures Behavior Factors (Smoking, Seat Belt Use, Family History, Weight, Height, Body Mass Index)
- ◇ Men over the age of 50 are also encouraged to include an annual PSA test.

## **Is Winter Finally Over?**



*Jim Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, was caught blowing snow in late January at the Administration Building in Goshen. Let's hope we don't see any more snow until December.*

# Safety

## Safety is Everyone's Job

by Jim Bennett, Risk Management Specialist, Personnel Office

**Workplace Safety** – Do you know what to do if a fire occurs in your workplace? Or, where do you go? What about in case of a tornado? These are questions that you should have had answered since your first day on the job with the County.

Every department/office should have an evacuation plan. This plan should include where to meet and assemble (outside of the building for fires or bomb scares, and within the building for windstorms). A person should be appointed to account for all employees. A back-up location should be known in case the situation requires a change from the original location.

Remember! Don't wait until an emergency strikes to learn these important facts. It is too late then!

**Startling Statistics** – A disabling injury takes place about every 8 seconds in American workplaces!

Every year in America approximately 4 million people suffer some form of job-related injury, impairment or disability! Fatal injuries take place about every 1 ½ minutes!

Don't become one of these statistics.



**Back Safety** – Statistically, 4 out of 5 adults experience low back pain at some point in life. A considerable

amount is from lifting the wrong way. Always remember:

- \* Bend your knees, not your waist.

- \* Hold the item close to your body.
- \* Lift with your legs.
- \* Never lift more than you can comfortably carry.
- \* Never twist or turn your back/torso while lifting.



**Slips, Trips and Falls** – Are you a member of the county Safety Team? All employees are expected to actively look for

safety hazards. Correct what you can and report to your supervisor what you can't remedy.

- \* Look for items sitting on stairs. Remove these obstacles.
- \* Look for spills or debris on floors. Clean this up. Don't wait for someone else to act.
- \* Look for area carpets or mats with upturned corners. These trip hazards can be corrected by you within mere seconds.
- \* Avoid carrying so much that you can not see stairs. And, always remember to use the handrails.

Simple actions like the above will reduce workplace hazards, and potential injuries, also. Be a Safety Team Member.



**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – What PPE does OSHA require an employee wear if working near

exposed electric circuits operating at 50 volts or more?

ANSWER: Safety glasses, hard hat, insulated gloves specific for electrical work and flame-resistant clothing.

LOOK, THINK, and avoid JOB COMPLACENCY - Your pathway to workplace safety.

### Did you Know the Elkhart County Historical Museum has a New Blog on the Internet?

The Elkhart County Historical Museum, located on SR 120 in Bristol, has a new blog. Check out all the happenings at the Museum at: <http://elkhartcountymuseum.blogspot.com>

### What if I want General Information about Elkhart County Parks?

Check out Park events and information about the Bonneyville Millers Vintage Baseball Club at the Parks & Recreation Department website at: [www.elkhartcountyparks.org](http://www.elkhartcountyparks.org)

### County Lines

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# Good News

## Congratulate These County Employees

**Michael Bennett** was promoted to Patrol Officer I from Corrections Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on January 7.

**Jeremy Bigler** was promoted to Corrections Sergeant from Corrections Officer II with the Sheriff's Department on March 16.

**Monica Brooks** was promoted to regular part-time Health Promotion Specialist from a part-time position with the Health Department's Health Education Division on February 11.

**Shelley Chafee** was promoted to Environmentalist II from Environmentalist I with the Health Department's Environmental Services division on January 6.

**April Collins** was promoted to Legal Assistant II from Legal Assistant I with the Prosecuting Attorney's IV-D Program on January 6.

**Marla Cutter** was promoted to Legal Assistant III from Legal Assistant II with the Prosecuting Attorney's IV-D Program on February 17.

**Mark Cuzzocrea** was promoted to Corrections Officer II from Corrections Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on January 20.

**Michael Daly** was promoted to Patrol Sergeant from Patrol Corporal with the Sheriff's Department on March 16.

**Gary Davey** was promoted to Maintainer II from Maintainer I with the Highway Department on December 17.

**Chad Edwards** was promoted to Corrections Officer II from Corrections Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on March 2.

**Cora Eisenhour** was promoted to Secretary II from Bookkeeper I with the Highway Department on February 17.

**Ashley Fair** was promoted to full-time Legal Assistant III from a part-time Legal Assistant I with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on February 4.

**Eric Fisette** was promoted to Corrections Corporal with the Sheriff's Department on March 16. He'd been acting Corporal since July 8.

**Jenny Hopper** was promoted to Assessor II with the Osolo Township Assessor's office from an Assessor I on January 20.

**James Houghton** was promoted to Corrections Officer II from Corrections Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on February 17.

**Phyllis Johnson** was promoted to Clerk III from Clerk II with the Treasurer's Office on February 18.

**Crystal Juhasz** was promoted to Clerical Supervisor II with the Treasurer's Office from Bookkeeper I on February 4.

**David Lanzen** was promoted to Patrol Corporal from Patrol Officer II with the Sheriff's Department on March 16.

**Jean Lloyd** was promoted to Information Management Specialist from Secretary II with the Highway Department on February 17.

**Matthew Maskell** was promoted to Mechanic from Maintainer I with the Highway Department on January 20.

**Jackie Meyers** was promoted to First Deputy with the Treasurer's Office from Clerical Supervisor II on February 4.

**Lori Phebus** was promoted to Corrections Officer III from Corrections Officer II with the Sheriff's Department on January 20.

**John Rosson** was promoted to Corrections Sergeant from Corrections Corporal with the Sheriff's Department on March 16.

**James Snyder** was promoted to Patrol Corporal from Patrol Officer II with the Sheriff's Department on March 16.

**Jo Stephen** was promoted to Fiscal Manager with the Highway Department from Information Management Specialist on February 17.

**Stephanie Thomas** was promoted to Corrections Officer II from Corrections Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on January 20.

**Evan Witt** was promoted to Patrol Officer II from Patrol Officer I with the Sheriff's Department on March 2.

**Steve Yoder** was promoted to Corrections Corporal from Corrections Officer II with the Sheriff's Department on March 16

*One lucky person's name is drawn from each Good News column to receive an Elkhart County Mug. Congratulations to **Daryl Burdette** from the Sheriff's Department. He is the winner from the February/March Good News column.*

**A Note of Thanks** - *I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the kindness shown by co-workers and the many good people within the County employ, who honored the passing of my wife, Andy. I wish everyone could have known her. Your comfort and compassion will make the coming days easier.*

*Clifford R. Williams, Chief Public Defender*

# Upcoming Events

## April

- 7 **Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 9:00 a.m.
- 12 **County Council Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 8:00 a.m.
- 15 **Science of Sewage**, One hour tour of the Goshen Wastewater Treatment Plant, 9:45 a.m., 1000 West Wilden Avenue, Goshen. Limited to 15 people. Preregistration required by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14. Call the Parks & Recreation Department at (574) 535-6458 to register.
- 16 & 23 **Effective Teambuilding Workshop** 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Room 104, Goshen Admin. Building. Minimum of 20 people.
- 17 **Lunch & Learn - Fuerza** - documentary about immigration in Goshen. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Room 104, Goshen Admin. Building.
- 19 **Earth Day Celebration: Hike-N-Bike**, Registration at 9:00 a.m. in both Goshen and Elkhart. Start time: 9:30 a.m. Route will be along C.R. 45, ending at Ox Bow County Park. Earth Day Festivities: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Ox Bow Park, Dunlap. Music, live theatrical performance of the Lorax, hands-on activities, and live animal presentations. A variety of local vendors will display green products and services available in the area. For more information or a Hike-N-Bike pledge form, call the Parks & Recreation Department at (574) 535-6458 or the Elkhart Environmental Center at (574) 293-5070.
- 19 **Super Shot Saturday** - Free Immunizations for school age children only - ages 4 through 18. Elkhart County Health Department, 608 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart; Tolson Park Center, 1300 Benham Avenue, Elkhart; and Goshen Middle School, Corner of Indiana & Plymouth Avenues, Goshen. Please bring all records with you. Child must be accompanied by parent/guardian or an adult with written permission from the parent. Call the Health Department at (574) 523-2127 or 1-800-523-2283 for more information. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at all locations.
- 20 **Vintage Baseball All-Star Match**, 4:00 p.m., Coveleski Stadium, South Bend.
- 21 **Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 **Science Sleuths, The Water Cycle**, for kids ages 6-9, 1:30 p.m., OxBow Haus Shelter, OxBow Park, Dunlap. Registration and payment of \$3.00 per participant are required by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 16. Call the Parks & Recreation Department at (574) 535-6458 to register.

- 22 **Legal Issues for Supervisors** - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Rooms A & B, Public Services Bldg., Dunlap.
- 22 **Lunch & Learn - Fuerza** - documentary about immigration in Goshen. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Rooms A & B, Public Services Bldg., Dunlap.
- 26 **Spring Birds & Bloom Hike**, 9:00 a.m., OxBow Haus Shelter, OxBow Park, Dunlap.

## May

- 5 **Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 9:00 a.m.
- 6 **Holiday** - Election Day.
- 7 **Lunch & Learn - Fuerza** - documentary about immigration in Goshen. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Third Floor Conference Room, Lincoln Center, Elkhart.
- 10 **County Council Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 8:00 a.m.
- 10 **His & Her Health Fair** -Elkhart County Health Department. Health screenings\*, information, give-aways, door prizes, snacks and more! Red Cross Bloodmobile taking blood donations. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Church Community Services. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 608 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart. \*Some screenings and other items may be subject to a fee.
- 10 **Vintage Baseball Game**, Bonneyville Millers vs. Deep River Grinders, 2:00 p.m., Chapel Field, OxBow Park, Dunlap.
- 11 **Wild Edibles**, 2:00 p.m., Black Maple Shelter, OxBow Park, Dunlap.
- 17 **Hoosier Riverwatch Training**, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Baldwin Schoolhouse, basement, Bonneyville Mill Park, Middlebury. No Fee. To preregister by May 9, contact Krista at the Park Department at (574) 875-7422 or via e-mail at [krista@elkhartcountyparks.org](mailto:krista@elkhartcountyparks.org).
- 17 **DeFries Gardens - Plant Exchange**, 1:00 p.m., River Preserve Park, C.R. 46, 1.25 miles east of New Paris.
- 18 **Vintage Baseball Game**, Bonneyville Millers at Portage Iron Diamonds, 2:00 p.m. EDT, Portage, IN
- 19 **Board of County Commissioners' Regular Meeting**, Goshen Admin. Bldg., Room 104, 9:00 a.m.
- 19 **Science Sleuths, Tornadoes**, for kids ages 6-9, 1:30 p.m., OxBow Haus Shelter, OxBow Park, Dunlap. Registration and payment of \$3.00 per participant are required by 4:00 p.m. May 14. Call the Parks & Recreation Dept. at (574) 535-6458 to register.
- 20 **Vintage Baseball Game**, Bonneyville Millers at Huntington Champion Hill Toppers, 7:00 p.m., Huntington, IN.
- 26 **Holiday** - Memorial Day

## Help Needed at 4-H Fair Booth!



*Beth Yoder (l) and Gwen Jaeger (r), Community Health Nursing, at the County Government booth during the 2007 4-H Fair.*

Plans are in the works for this year's County Government booth at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair. As in years past, the Board of Commissioners will sponsor the booth. The initial planning meeting for this year's booth will be on Friday, April 25, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in Rooms A & B of the Public Services Building.

All County Departments and employees are invited to help staff the booth during fair week. This year's fair is scheduled from Friday, July 18 - Saturday, July 26. This year's overall fair theme is **'4-H Paving the Future.'** Normal booth hours are from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily. Shifts are broken down into 5- or 6-hour time slots.

To learn more, join us on April 25 or contact Cindy Antonelli at 535-6475 or via e-mail at [cantonelli@elkhartcounty.com](mailto:cantonelli@elkhartcounty.com).

# NEW FACES

## Welcome These New County Employees

**Janice Bryson** began March 11 as a Regular Part-time Legal Assistant II with Superior Court III. She earned an Associate's Degree from I.U.S.B. and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Phoenix.

**Cory Cook** began January 7 as a Maintainer I with Highway Maintenance.

**Justin Glick** began February 3 as a Youth Specialist I with Court Services at the Juvenile Detention Center where he's worked part-time since September 17. Justin earned an Associate's Degree from Ancilla College and a Bachelor's Degree from I.U.S.B.

**Scott Gould** returned February 4 as a Patrol Officer II with the Sheriff's Department where he worked from October 2005 – August 2007. Scott earned an Associate's Degree from Jackson Community College.

**Richard E. Groning** began March 3 as a Maintainer I with Highway Maintenance. Richard is married and has four children. He enjoys golfing and camping.

**Brittany Grusy** returned March 17 as a Legal Assistant I with the Prosecuting Attorney's IV-D Program. She previously worked at the Clerk's Office from July 2005 – August 2007.

**Jeffrey Heathman** began February 4 as the Network Administrator with Data Processing. He earned an Associate's Degree from ITT Tech. Jeff has four daughters.

**Weyburn Hostetler** began March 3 as a Maintainer I with Highway Maintenance. He attended IVY Tech State College. Weyburn is married and has two daughters and three grandchildren.

**Cheryl Knisley** began March 3 as a Clerk II with the Auditor's Office. She is married and has a son.

**Anthony Lane** began March 17 in a Multi-purpose position with the Landfill. Anthony raises horses and enjoys fishing and training German Shepherds.

**Melissa Lawson** began March 3 as a Legal Assistant I with Superior Court V. Melissa worked in the legal field in New York and New Mexico. She is married and has a daughter.

**Katie Martin** began March as a Juvenile Probation Officer with Court Services, where she's worked part-time since October 30. Katie earned her Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University.

**Ashley McClure** began February 4 as a Legal Assistant I with the Prosecuting Attorney's IV-D

Program. Ashley attended Brown Mackie College and I.U.S.B. She is engaged and has two children.

**Daniel Nowaczyk** returned February 19 as a Corrections Officer II with the Sheriff's Department, where he worked from December 2006 - July 2007.

**Jessica Delilah Ortiz** began March 17 as a Clerk II with the Health Department's Healthy Beginnings Division. She is married and has two children.

**Paul Osowski** began March 17 as a Maintainer I with Highway Maintenance. He completed three years of college. Paul is married and has six children. He is a firefighter with the Elkhart Township Fire Department.

**Roger Raskosky** began March 3 as a Home Detention Field Officer with Community Corrections. He is retired from the Hammond Police Department. Roger is married and has four grown children.

**Ron Robinson** returned February 4 as the Captain of Administrative Services with the Sheriff's Department, where he'd worked from 1982 – 2006. Ron earned a Bachelor's Degree from Goshen College.

**Roger Shreiner** began February 4 in a Maintenance I position with Buildings and Grounds at the Correctional Complex. He is married and has two daughters.

**Danielle Stevens** began February 4 as a Clerk II with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office where she's worked part time since October 16. She attended IVY Tech State College. Danielle has a son and a daughter.

**Traci Stickler** began March 3 as a Legal Assistant I with the Clerk's Office Superior Court I & II Division. She previously worked at Bashor Children's Home.

### Welcome to Part-time Employees!

Welcome to the following part-time and seasonal employees!

#### Election Board

Chad Clingerman

#### Extension Office

Rachel Webb

#### Health Education

Leticia Rhodes

#### Park & Recreation

Keith Detwiler

#### Sheriff's Department

Walter 'Skip' Miller

#### Superior Court I

Teresa Maurer

#### Voter Registration

Margaret Ingold