

HOWARD COUNTY TODAY

August 2007

Volume 9 Issue 3

PUBLISHED BY PERSONNEL FOR HOWARD COUNTY EMPLOYEES

How a Long Road Becomes Short



Linda Koontz

For those of you just starting out in government, don't blink! The next thing you know you'll be one of the old timers. This knowledge will come to you when you get a phone call telling you that you've been with the county for thirty years! How did this happen you think to yourself. Well, I can tell you it happened one day and one decision at a time. It had always been my dream to be a chemist and work on the cure for cancer. My Dad, a pilot and Air Force officer pushed me to go to Colorado State or Indiana University where I had been accepted on a scholarship, but I chose marriage at that crucial point in my life and that ultimately put me on a different path altogether. I grew up in Indianapolis. This was the Vietnam era and many of us married just after our boyfriends went into the military, and I was no different. This is where reality set in. My husband was stationed at Grissom, and I moved to Kokomo. Having no degree, I needed a job and went to work as a legal secretary happily. Law was something I really loved also, and so I worked for several Kokomo lawyers and then started my family, one boy and one girl. After a several year stint as a stay-at-home Mom, I started my own court reporting business which I maintained for seven years. This is where Howard County government came into my life. Judge Carl E. Van Dorn gave me a call and asked if I would like to become his court reporter. The date? July, 1977. Being a single parent at that time, I decided to opt for the security of a paycheck, insurance and being in town all day rather than on the road in other cities taking depositions. It turns out that the eighteen years I spent in the courtroom with Judge Van Dorn was an education in itself. I loved my job and I loved working with all of the legal community. In 1985, I took a big breath and signed up to go to IUK at night. Five years later I had obtained my degree, but it wasn't in chemistry and it wasn't in law—it was in English Literature. Why? Well, by that time I was 45 and I had given up my dream of being a chemist—something I hope those reading this will not do. I got my degree in English Literature because I found that I loved those classes the most. Well, there was also my realization that I hated math! I remember being congratulated by Courtney Kerwin, one of our more flamboyant lawyers and cautioned that a degree comes with a demand. "Oh" I said, "and what would that be?" "Service" he replied. That set me to thinking, but I had no answers at the time. A few years after that Judge Van Dorn announced he was retiring. I was approached about running for office. The whole idea was so foreign to me that I initially couldn't even imagine doing it. But that word "service" kept laying on my thinking as if it were a lead blanket.



Linda Koontz
1963

(Continued on page 3)

Staff Personnel: Wanda McKillip, Anne Williams, Marie Miller, Linda Stevens, Alvin Stevens, and Photographer: Craig Trott.

Words to Live By

It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt.

"Dear Personnel"

Wanda McKillip, Personnel Administrator, and Anne Williams, Personnel Administrative Assistant, respond to questions about Howard County Benefits and Personnel issues.

Dear Personnel:

Why is it important to schedule an exit interview with the Personnel office if I were to terminate employment?

Serious at the Sheriff's Department

Dear Serious:

When you come in to your exit interview we are able to tell you when your Anthem and life insurance terminates. We also are able to tell you if you have any unused vacation days that you will get paid for, and when you will receive your last check. This valuable information is worth your time so be sure to schedule an exit interview if you plan to terminate employment.

Howard County Today now available on the County's Web site

You are now able to access not only claim forms and get other important information regarding your insurance from the Howard County web site (www.co.howard.in.us), but the newsletter and job postings are also available. If you have a chance to check out the web site follow these steps: First click on departments link, then click on the administration link, third click on the personnel link and county newsletter, employment opportunities and your benefits are listed on the left hand side. We have made all of the links very easy to find and easy to understand, if your computer does not have adobe acrobat (you may have to download adobe acrobat). A special thanks to Jason Andreas and the other guys in the Information Systems department for being very prompt and thorough about adding these helpful updates for the county employees.

INSIDE -

Page 2 - Howard County Golf Outing
"City of 1st Federal Credit Union" - Lucky Winner!

Page 3 - New Health Officer

Page 4 - Anne's Quarterly Column

Enclosed - CJ's Car Wash Coupon

Julie Wohlford A Winner !!



WE HAVE A WINNER!!!

Julie Wohlford an employee from The Sheriff's Department, won the drawing for "A \$25.00 Gift Certificate to a local Restaurant", donated by "City of Firsts Federal Credit Union", located at 1135 South Main Street. Pictured far left is Anne Williams, Personnel Administrative Assistant and Julie Wohlford.



Denny Condon



Howard County would like to thank "City of Firsts Federal Credit Union" for their generosity!

RIPEA

Membership in the Retired Indiana Public Employees Association (RIPEA) is encouraged for not only retirees but also for employees nearing retirement. Membership is on a calendar year basis and is open to active or retired employees covered by PERF or Sheriff Merit Deputies. The cost is \$12 per year. RIPEA provides legislative benefits as well as group benefits such as Medicare group insurance. There are currently over 30,000 RIPEA members and about 1,000 of them are still active on the job. Howard County has a local RIPEA chapter that meets twice a year to provide additional information. Contact the Personnel Office at 456-7010 if you have any questions.

Submitted by RIPEA member Commissioner Paul Raver



Pictured above is Tony Stewart climbing the fence after his second win of the Brick Yard 400

Congratulations #20 Tony Stewart on winning the Brick Yard 400 in Indianapolis on Sunday July 29, 2007. Way to go Tony!!!



Howard County Golf Outing

The Howard County Board of Commissioners and other elected officials would like to invite you to participate in a golf outing taking place September 19, 2007 at 1pm at Chippendale Golf Course which is located at 4777 S. 110 W. Kokomo. This golf outing is also open to the public. Come and enjoy the food, fun, and prizes. For more information contact the Personnel office at 456-7010. Proceeds are to be used for Howard County Employees holiday party.

Boston Mutual

The Howard County Government and Insurance Committee are pleased to announce a new permanent life insurance program. This program is an individual plan, which you can keep even after retiring or leaving employment. There are no increases in premiums and no decrease in benefits. This is a one time offering that all full time Howard County employees are eligible to take advantage of. Look for your flyer in your pay checks.



A Reminder To All Howard County Employees:



Kool Breeze Café is still offering 20% off on Wednesdays to all Howard County employees and their families. Employee identification required. Take advantage of this great discount and great menu items at the Kool Breeze Café!



(Continued from pg.1)

Bill Menges, our Republican chairman, seemed to have so much confidence in the idea and of course, he used that word, and so I stepped out on faith really and ran for Clerk of the Circuit Court. I campaigned hard knowing that there were a lot of things that needed to be fixed in our clerk's office. I remember election night when the numbers came in and it was clear that I had won, I was immediately overwhelmed. What in the world had I done??? Every day for the next seven years I asked God for his help. I had set goals for the Clerk's office, and now I hurriedly set about trying to achieve them because I was sure the "Secretary Police" were going to come and take me away admonishing me that I was not a manager, I was a secretary. But they didn't arrive, and I was left to stay in my office and work on my goals! Nearing the end of my second term as clerk, I realized I was just about out of a job since you can't run for that office more than twice in a row! Out of a job??? This had never been a part of my life! So, I looked around and noticed that a lot of clerks ran for recorder when they finished their terms as clerks because it still involved legal documents and was a natural progression. So, I once again put my name on the dotted line. Now, after getting re-elected to that position, our personnel director called me and said "We'd like to celebrate your thirty years of service." What? Thirty years! Where did it go? I don't really know, but I have two great kids, two fabulous grandchildren, and I have my precious college degree. I still enjoy hiking, camping, horseback riding & fly-fishing in Colorado. To those loves, I added quilting about ten years ago. The only problem is cancer is still in the world and I haven't done anything to help solve that issue. Surprisingly enough, it still bothers me that I didn't work on that issue. Happy with my life anyway? Yes.



Linda Koontz
1980

Valuable Information from the Howard County Health Department

Want to know how your favorite restaurant performed on their last food safety inspection?

The Howard County Health Department regulates restaurants, grocery and convenience stores, schools, assisted living, seasonal and temporary vendors. Over 400 inspections of permanent establishments and over 200 inspections of temporary establishments are completed each year, in addition to approximately 50 Plan Reviews for new establishments. Food establishment inspections are performed regularly and in order of their hazard/risk potential. The inspection reports become public information ten (10) days after an inspection is completed.

If you would like to review the inspection record of a particular restaurant, stop by the Howard County Health Department located on the second floor of the Howard County Government Center Room 210. Very few people take advantage of this free and readily available information. Stop in and find out what the food inspection program is about.



Submitted by Environmental Health Specialist James Vest; BS, REHS

Healthy Living: Doctors Declare War on Salt

The American Medical Association wants the food industry to use less salt in processed foods and restraint fare. "When we take a look at treatable causes of hypertension, sodium intake is the number one cause in the United States of an elevation in blood pressure, because of increased consumption," says AMA board member and cardiologist James Rohack, M.D. The AMA is seeking to halve the nation's



sodium intake in the next decade. Americans get more than 75 percent of their sodium from processed food, not the salt shaker on the table. Companies use salt to preserve foods, enhance flavor and control texture. The AMA has also asked the federal government to add warning labels to foods high in salt. AMA research suggests a food with more than 480 milligrams of sodium per serving deserves the high-salt label.



**You Say Goodbye and I Say Hello
Goodbye Dr. Adler and Welcome Dr. Zent**



Dr. Donald Zent

Since 1976 Dr. Adler has been the name we've come to know as Howard County's Health Officer. Now after 30 years of service, Dr. Adler says good-bye as we welcome Howard County's newest Health Officer, Dr. Zent.

Dr. Zent has been in family practice for thirty years and is currently a physician at the American Health Network of Kokomo, formerly Kokomo Family Care. He graduated from Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis. He was originally born in Roanoke, Indiana and is married to nurse practitioner, Deborah Zent.

"I am honored to accept the position as Howard County Health Officer."

Howard County would like to thank Dr. Adler for his many years of dedicated service and hard work. He has had the opportunity to be a part of a lot of change and growth and has been able to pave a successful path for Dr. Zent. Though Dr. Adler will be missed, we are excited and look forward to welcoming Dr. Zent as Howard County's new Health Officer.



**Thank You
Dr. Adler for 30
Years of Dedicated
Service!**

ANNE'S QUARTERLY COLUMN

The German Expressionist movement took place in the early twentieth-century. Artists of this era experimented to find new ways to capture the essence of humanity. Much of the inspiration and movement came about during World War I. Many artists in the Expressionist era depicted the world in an unrealistic way and their work was labeled degenerate by the Nazi regime and their works were destroyed or removed. There were several groups depicted through the German Expressionist movement.



Die Brucke:
*Collection on exhibit at IMA

One of the first groups was known as Die Brucke, which was founded in 1905 by 4 architectural students whose aspiration for their work was to be a bridge to the art of the future. Their art is heavily influenced by primitive art and depicts German Gothic wood cuts and suffering. Another group, Der Blaue Reiter, was established in 1911 and was influenced by cubism. It helped to portray the struggle of the inner impulses. The Indianapolis Museum of Art is featuring an exhibit labeled 'German Expressionist Era Prints' from July 14, 2007 to December 2, 2007. The exhibit includes 30 prints from different collections including some from famous independent artists. There is no additional fee to view this exhibit. For further information go to www.ima-art.org and click on current exhibits.



Der Blaue Reiter:
*Collection on exhibit at IMA



Title: Die Witwe I
(The Widow I)
By: German Expressionist
Kathe Kollwitz, 1922
Method: Wood cut on paper

*Artist on exhibit at IMA



Marie's Recipe: Cherry Gelatin Supreme



- 2 cups water, divided
- 1 pkg. (3 oz.) cherry gelatin
- 1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling
- 1 pkg. (3 oz.) lemon gelatin
- 1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese softened
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 8 oz. whipped cream, thawed
- 2 tbs. chopped pecans



1. In a large saucepan, bring 1 cup water to a boil. Stir in cherry gelatin until dissolved. Add pie filling; mix well. Pour into an 11-in.x7-in.x2-in. dish. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.
2. In saucepan, bring remaining water to a boil. Stir in lemon gelatin until dissolved. In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and mayonnaise until smooth. Beat in lemon gelatin and pineapple. Cover and refrigerate for 45 minutes, pour over the cherry layer.
3. Fold in marshmallows and whipped cream. Spoon over lemon layer; sprinkle with pecans. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

Yield: 12 Servings



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



(3rd Quarter 07/01/07 to 09/30/07)

30 Years

James Daily-Highway Department
Linda Koontz-Recorder

25 Years

Martha Lake-Treasurer

15 Years

James Jackson-Community Corrections
Karol Kohls-Community Corrections

10 Years

Donna Crowell-Prosecutor's Office
Stephanie Smith-Sheriff's Department
Jesslyn Hughes-Community Corrections
Connie Howard-Clerk's Office

5 Years

Karen Johnson-Health Department
Alicia Glenn-Sheriff's Department
Kathy Tragesser-Kinsey Youth Center

The History of August

The month of August was originally named 'Sextillus', meaning the sixth month in the Roman calendar. It became the eighth month when January and February were added to the beginning of the year. It was renamed August in honor of Augustus Caesar in 8 BC because several of the most significant events in his rise to power fell in this month.

FREE DRAWING!!!

All Howard County Employees will automatically have the chance to win in an upcoming drawing!



located at 1135 South Main Street

will be giving away,
"A \$25.00 Gift Certificate to
a local Restaurant".

In the next newsletter we will have a picture of the winner!

A special thanks to
Denny Condon, President of
"City of Firsts Federal Credit Union"
Good Luck to all Employees!!!

Corporate/Loan Office - 1135 S. Main Street

LOCATIONS:

Teller Branch - 1120 S. Main Street
South Branch - 314 Southway Blvd. E.

TELEPHONE:

Corporate/Loan Office - 765-454-5590
Teller Branch - 765-459-0758
(Toll Free 800-310-0905)
South Branch - 765-865-2444

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday Drive-Up: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.