



Employee Newsletter

November 2018

Thank You, Veterans!!!



VETERANS DAY

Thinking Ahead to Year End

Thinking ahead to year end and use of vacation time, the last date to use vacation before we process the roll-over of excess vacation time into sick will be January 5, 2019 this year. That gives you almost two more weeks to plan to use any hours you don't wish to convert to sick time. So get your calendars out and schedule those days off if you're lucky enough to have an excess of vacation time.

However, if you aren't one of those folks with tons of vacation hours, you probably want to try to have at least a week saved up in case we have weather in January and February that prevents your coming to work. I know folks hate to use their vacation hours for this, but if you are unable to get to work and want to get paid, that's what you'll have to do. Departments may require employees to use accrued time rather than take leave without pay, so know your department's policy on this.

Last Pay Day of 2018

The last pay date in 2018 is December 28th. The period ends on December 22nd. The Monday when time sheets are normally due (24th) is a holiday and Tues. and Wed. the 25th and 26th are also holidays

Time sheets will be due in Finance by 10 am on **Thursday, December 20th** so we can complete the payroll and have the payroll file ready to send to the bank on Friday, December 21st to ensure you get paid on the 28th. This will mean estimating time worked for some of you, but that is the best we can do when we have pay days that fall like this.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Donohue	1
Tammy Cooper	3
Erica Tague	4
Brian Dillon	7
David Badger	9
Michele Chastain	9
Cindy Palmer	9
Colten Weaver	9
Allen Williams	10
Dan Eichenbaum	12
Libby Thigpen	12
Terrisa Carringer	15
Bobby Neal	15
Greg Moore	16
Linda Forman	17
Cindy Raxter	17
Chris Swanson	21
Ashley Millsaps	22
Coyle Olsen	22
Lindsey Simmons	22
Andy Cordin	23
Tony Miller	23
Roger Williams	23
Nicky Stalcup	24
Della Johnson	27
Joshua Ott	27
Daniel Swanson	27
Ages 21 to 81	

AirMedCare benefit—new enrollment period



Medical emergencies can happen anywhere, anytime. That's why Erlanger Lifeforce is here! We can provide fast, safe air ambulance transport to emergency trauma care with our team of expertly trained, highly-skilled nurses, medics and pilots. That emergency air transport can cost you thousands of dollars, BUT with an AirMedCare Network (AMCN) membership, for \$50 a year, a discounted rate provided through our partnership with the Cherokee County Government, you and your entire household can have financial peace of mind knowing you'll have no out-of-pocket expense related to your AMCN emergent provider flight. As a member of the AirMedCare Network, you will be covered by all AMCN providers – that's over 320 locations across 38 states! Join America's largest air medical membership network!

We will be doing enrollments again for this benefit for those who wish to participate. The rates are the same as last year \$50 for one year, \$150 for three years, \$250 for five years and \$500 for ten years. You will only need to re-enroll if you chose a one year membership last year or if you didn't enroll last year, but now wish to participate. The way to tell what you did is to look at your check stub and see the amount for AIRMED—if it's \$50 and you want to keep the benefit, you will need to re-enroll. The benefit will be effective January 1. Shane Headrick, the AirMedCare representative, will be here to enroll anyone interested during the week of December 3 - 7. Deductions will begin in January. I will include the schedule in December's newsletter.



Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour Saturday night, November 3rd. Daylight savings time ends at 2 am on November 4th. Have a safe weekend.

Commissioner Board Meetings

Nov 8 @ 6:30 pm
Nov 19 @ 6:30 pm



IMCOM Safety Gram



22 November 2013

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

Food safety starts from the purchase to the preparation, cooking and serving of the turkey and other traditional dishes. Here are some helpful tips to keep your Thanksgiving Day dinner safe, so you can enjoy the company of your family and guests. Foodborne illnesses are caused when we consume food contaminated with certain bacteria or parasites. The risk of food poisoning, though, can be reduced through proper cleaning, separating, cooking, and chilling of foods.



Don't Invite Bacteria to Dinner

- ♦ Using soap and warm water, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food, using the bathroom or touching pets.
- ♦ Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.
- ♦ Wash cutting boards, counters, and utensils often. Use two cutting boards, one for washed produce and one for raw meat and seafood.
- ♦ Wash fresh vegetables and fruits in drinkable running water.
- ♦ Separate raw foods from cooked foods, to avoid cross-contamination.
- ♦ Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- ♦ Cook foods to at least the internal temperature that kills harmful bacteria. For example, whole poultry should be at least 85° C (185° F).
- ♦ Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- ♦ Cook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- ♦ Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.

To avoid kitchen fires

Holiday fires can turn a joyous occasion into tragedy. Each year more than 4,000 fires occur on Thanksgiving Day. Many if not most are home cooking fires. Follow the guidelines below to avoid a fire this holiday season.

- ♦ Keep potholders and food wrappers at least three feet away from heat sources while cooking
- ♦ When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- ♦ Make sure all stoves, ovens, and ranges have been turned off when you leave the kitchen
- ♦ Set timers to keep track of turkeys and other food items that require extended cooking times
 - ♦ Turn handles of pots and pans on the stove inward to avoid accidents
 - ♦ After guests leave, designate a responsible adult to walk around the home making sure that all candles and smoking materials are extinguished
- ♦ Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.
- ♦ Move away from the stove anything that could catch on fire, such as paper towels, potholders and curtains
- ♦ Establish a safe zone around the stove while cooking - no children or pets within three feet

Just because we get to take a break from dieting on Thanksgiving, doesn't mean we can throw caution to the autumn winds. Remember these suggestions and have a happy and safe holiday.



I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU

Wouldn't this old world be better
If the folks we meet would say-
"I know something good about you!"
And treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
If each handclasp, fond and true,
Carried with it this assurance-
"I know something good about you!"

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me!

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me;
I know something good about you.

Louis Shimon

One of our employees was given this poem when she came to work for the County and shared it with me. Some good words to consider. Thank you for sharing!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

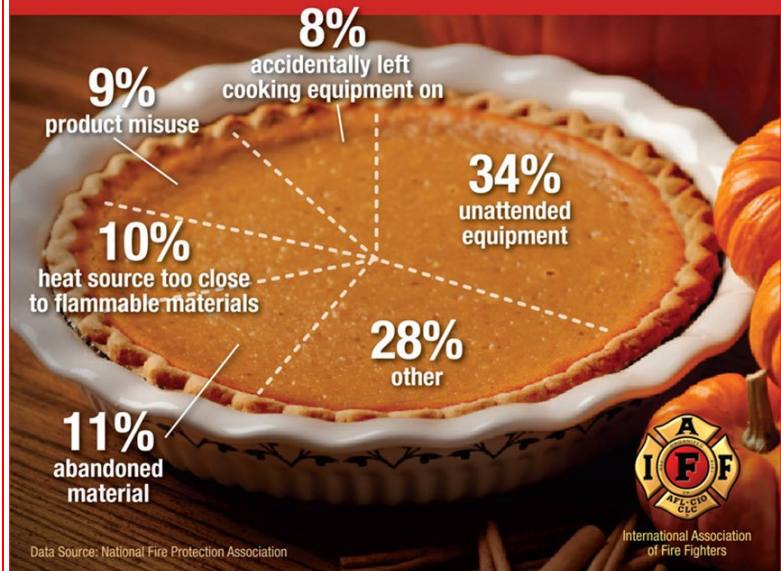
To Ruth Limon, one of our Veterans Service Officers, for obtaining certification as an accredited representative of North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans' benefits.

This required many hours of classwork and study and enables Ruth to process all the steps in applying for veteran's benefits for the County's veterans. Our agency also helps a lot of veterans from North Georgia and Eastern Tennessee because, according to the veterans, we do a better job of taking care of their needs. Congratulations, Ruth!!!

An honest seven year old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young girl, "but three girls helped me catch him."

THANKSGIVING SAFETY

Fire fighters say the greatest number of home cooking fires occur on **Thanksgiving Day**. Top causes are:



OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HEALTH INSURANCE:

November 1, 2018—December 15, 2018

Do you need assistance enrolling in health insurance?

Now is the time to enroll, review or change plans!

Call your local Certified Application Counselor

For free, unbiased, accurate and impartial assistance

Appointments are available

Marian Sparks

Cherokee County Certified Application Counselor

(828) 400-3149

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT EVENTS

- * **Thursday, November 8th 10 am—5 pm**
Moss Memorial Library
26 Anderson Street, Hayesville NC 28904
- * **Saturday, November 17th 10 am—6 pm**
Erlanger Murphy Medical Center
Travis E Green Conference Center (adjacent to the Hospital lobby)
3990 E US Hwy 64 Alt, Murphy NC 28906
- * **Tuesday, December 5th 1 pm—6 pm**
Andrews Senior Center
54 Park Street, Andrews NC 28901
- * **Wednesday, December 5th 10 am—6pm**
Erlanger Murphy Medical Center
Travis E Green Conference Center (adjacent to the Hospital lobby)



Our EMS was invited to the Learning Center to talk to the students about safety preparedness and to share with them when you should and shouldn't call 911. Greg Moore, David Reid and Erica Tague did those presentations. Pictures of their event are shown to the left and below.



Cherokee County United Methodist Men presented devotional booklets to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians at the Murphy Volunteer Fire Department on Aug. 31. Title ***Strength for Service to God and Community***, the pocket-size book offers support for those who serve Cherokee County in hazardous situations. Shown are Andy Williams, Grape Creek Volunteer Fire Department; Kevin Carter, fire marshal, Hanging Dog; Danny Clayton, paramedic; David Reid, Murphy Volunteer Fire Department; Jonathan King, Murphy; Joe Liguori, Brasstown; Becky Turner, paramedic; Jessica Orton, paramedic; Jim Worsham, Culberson; Tom Payne, Methodist Men president; David Mashburn, Hanging dog; and Dave Hotchkiss, Methodist Men secretary (from left).



Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas.

As a 7th grade biology teacher, I was teaching my class about the flow of blood in the body. After my lecture, I asked my class the following: "Why is it that if I would turn upside down, my face would turn red because the blood would flow to my head, but when I stand upright my feet don't turn red?" I was taken aback when a boy blurted out, "that's cuz your feet ain't empty!"