

County Corridors

April 2011

Volume 23, Number 1

A Newsletter for Tompkins County Employees and Retirees

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/countycorridors>

Welcome to Sheriff Ken Lansing

Ken Lansing began service as Tompkins County Sheriff as of January 1st. We welcome Sheriff Lansing to county government. Sheriff Lansing offers the following message to County employees and retirees, through *County Corridors*:

"I am honored and proud to be the Sheriff of Tompkins County. My first months have been very busy, and the employees of the department have made this transition period a smooth one. I knew when I decided to run that the Department had great people employed within, and that they only needed to be allowed to do their jobs. After the election I had the privilege to meet with many county employees both within the Sheriff's office and from other county departments. We were able to discuss various ideas and concerns they had, and how we can better serve them. With my ability to conduct these talks before taking office. I could hit the ground running on January 1st.

"This may sound very strange to those who are looking forward to retirement and even those that are retired. But I truly feel revitalized now that I am back doing what I truly love, serving the community. I look forward to working with all the departments and agencies of Tompkins County to help provide our community with the best services possible. I want everyone to know that my door is always open and I welcome you anytime to stop by. We all know we face difficult times ahead, and we must work together to help accomplish our goals."



Sheriff Lansing appointed Derek Osborne as Undersheriff. Osborne most recently served as Captain at the Sheriff's Office. Undersheriff Osborne also provided his thoughts to *County Corridors*:

A Change at the Top on the Corridors Team

Welcome to our expert and hard-working team member Geri Lockwood as the new editor of County Corridors!

Geri succeeds former editor Maureen Reynolds in this position.

Mo is continuing as a member of the Corridors Team, and Geri will continue to also serve as Classifieds editor.

Please let Geri know if you have ideas for future issues: 274-0314 or glockwood@tompkins-co.org.

"I have been a law enforcement officer for over 16 years. I started with the Police Department of the City of Cortland, where I was born and raised. I transferred to the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff in 2001. Since that time, I have been promoted through the ranks of Investigator, Senior Investigator, and Captain. After his election, Ken asked me to be his Undersheriff.

"I obtained an Associate's degree in Business Administration from TC3, and my Bachelor's in Community and Human Services from SUNY Empire State College. In 2007, I was selected by our regional FBI affiliates to attend the prestigious FBI National Academy for law enforcement executives in Quantico, VA. The three-month program is obtainable by only 1% of law enforcement nationwide. I was recently published in the national December 2010 edition of *Law & Order; The Magazine for Law Enforcement Management* for my editorial "It's Not Just a Job," regarding my feelings for and responsibility to the profession. I was selected by the regional Rotary Club to participate in their career exchange program. As part of this program, I had the opportunity to stay with host families in Taiwan from 03/15-4/14/11 and had opportunities to visit local police departments and learn about their criminal justice system."



Welcome to Youth Services Director Amie Hendrix

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department welcomes our new Director, Amie Hendrix!

Ms. Hendrix holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Niagara University and a Master's degree in Strategic Leadership from Roberts Wesleyan College. Since 2007, she has led community-based programming as Community Partnership Director for the American Lung Association, based in Rochester, and from 2004-2007 was Youth Action Coordinator at Rochester's Huther-Doyle Memorial Institute. In both of these roles, Amie worked to help the community identify support systems that were currently in place, as well as new systems/services that were available to enable a healthier community for all residents. A life-long Finger Lakes resident and new Tompkins County homeowner, Amie is invested in supporting her community.

Youth Services Department staff have found her to be energetic, engaging and very committed to the lives of young people. Welcome Amie!



Sustainability Spotlight

Residential Single Stream Recycling Collection

By Stephanie Egan-Engels, Solid Waste Management Division

In 2010, Tompkins County Solid Waste received proposals from four recycling companies for operation of the county-owned Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC). A contract has been awarded to FCR, LLC on the basis of overall costs and facility design, experience in facility operation, and its commitment to waste diversion and maximizing recycling at the RSWC.

In addition to operating the facility, the proposal included a plan to upgrade the RSWC. These upgrades will increase options available to residents and businesses, including the expansion of the current public drop off area. Facility operations will continue without disruption.

With Tompkins County's new single stream recycling collection, County residents can now mix paper, glass, metal, and plastic containers all in one bin, making curbside recycling easier and more convenient.

"Single stream recycling makes it easier for residents to recycle more material and get recycling to the curb," says Leo Riley, Recycling Manager at the Solid Waste Management Division. "Single stream also creates the potential for the collection of additional types of recyclable material in the future."

Look for more information in the future. County buildings will continue to collect paper separate from containers. Tompkins County Solid Waste looks forward to enhancing recycling programs with additional acceptable materials, as it provides options tailored to suit businesses, organizations, and residents.

Highway Highlights...

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant

Adopt-A-Highway:

With spring now upon us, trash along the roadsides may become more visible than usual. If you live on a County Road that is currently not "adopted" through the County's Adopt-A-Highway Program and would like information regarding "adoptions", please contact me directly, at 274-0314, or e-mail me, at glockwood@tompkins-co.org. A full listing of "adopted" County Roads, a partial listing of available County Roads, and program information is also available on our website, at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/highway/adopt.html>.

In 2010, 200 bags of litter, as well as tires and miscellaneous items, were collected along the roadsides by the groups currently participating in the program. Many of the groups dispose of their collections themselves, and we encourage participants to recycle whenever possible.

Participants are provided with safety vests, hard hats, flags (to display on the signage during collections), and the orange bags.



Fire Safety and Prevention begins with you! The National Fire Protection Association reports that, although 96 percent of homes in the United States have at least one smoke alarm, only three-quarters of all homes have at least one working smoke alarm. Of the home fire deaths reported from 2003-2006, almost two-thirds of them resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms.

Please Be Responsible and Do Your Part to Prevent Fires By:



- *Installing and maintaining smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside sleeping areas, and in the basement.*
- *Smoke alarms should be both ionization and photoelectric, OR dual-sensor alarms, which contain both of these.*
- *Batteries should be tested every month, and changed at least once a year (note: a good practice may be to change them at DST and EST time changes).*
- *Smoke alarms over 10-years old should be replaced. The 10-year lithium battery-powered ones are sealed so they cannot be opened or tampered with.*
- *Keep fire extinguishers in locations where they will be easily accessible. Be sure they are in proper working order, and be sure to know how to use them properly*
- *Practice home fire escape plans with your family, especially children, and once out, stay out.*



The U.S. Fire Administration is working to reduce the number of people, including children, killed in home fires. Children experience a higher percentage of fatalities, as they are not able to sense danger the same way adults do, and they have a limited ability to react quickly and properly in emergency situations, which increases their risk of death and injury in a fire. Escaping from a fire can be difficult for younger children, as they may lack the motor skills and mental capabilities needed to quickly escape.



Life-Saving Tips for Children and Fire:



- *Matches, lighters, and other ignitable items should be kept in a secured place out of the reach of children. Teach children to tell you when they find these items unsecured.*
- *Dress children in night-time clothing that meets the Federal flammability standards, avoiding dressing them in loose-fitting, 100% cotton garments, or over-sized t-shirts.*
- *Teach them to get out quickly and call for help from another location, and to not hide from firefighters.*
- *Show them how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, and to stay out once they've gotten out.*
- *Demonstrate the stop, drop, and roll technique if their clothing is on fire.*
- *Be sure they know what the fire alarm sounds like.*
- *Mattresses made prior to the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard should be replaced.*
- *Routinely check children's rooms, under the bed, in closets, in dressers, etc., for burnt matches or other evidence they may be playing with fire.*



For more information about focus on fire safety, go to:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/children.shtm>

For more tips and fire safety information to distribute to your community, go to:

<http://www.usfaparents.gov/>

For more information about USFA's Quick Response Media Corps, or to enroll online, go to:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/fireprev/qr/index.shtm>

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, PIO Team

Transportation Options Serving Rural Residents

By Cynthia Kloppel, DSS



Climbing gasoline prices is one good reason to examine alternatives to driving alone to Ithaca. Four options that readily come to mind are: riding a TCAT bus, ridesharing, CityVan, and vanpooling. We even have friendly people to help you sort out your travel choices.

CityVan: CityVan is an affordable rural van pilot project connecting Enfield and Newfield to downtown Ithaca. CityVan also goes to Cayuga Medical Center and medical offices surrounding CMC. Newfield resident Gloria is one of many satisfied CityVan riders. "CityVan has helped me out tremendously, and I was able to keep my job in Ithaca when my car broke down." The adult fare is \$3, with discounts for children. To schedule a ride, you need to call Ithaca Dispatch the night you want to travel. Remember to mention you want to use CityVan. For more information, call Ithaca Dispatch, at 277-7777, or go to www.cityvan.weebly.com.

For more information on the new rideshare program *Zimride* (see next article), vanpool, riding TCAT, and to consult about your transportation situation, call (or Google) Way2Go: 272-2292, 211 Tompkins, or Cynthia Kloppel, Mobility Program Specialist, 274-5022.

Tompkins County Launches Social Network For Ridesharing

By Fernando de Aragon, Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Commission

The Tompkins County Rideshare Coalition is partnering with *Zimride* to provide a customized social network for local and regional ridesharing. The *Zimride* site, located at www.zimride.com/tompkins, is a convenient way to find friends, coworkers or neighbors with whom to share commutes or one-time rides. *Zimride*, which can be used with Facebook, empowers people to join together and reduce traffic, parking difficulties and provide substantial cost-savings for our community. The Tompkins County Rideshare Coalition brings together Way2Go of Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, TCAT and Tompkins County government with Cornell University, Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College. .



"We are very pleased to offer a program that allows community members to easily find and share rides," says Fernando de Aragón, Staff Director of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council. "This ridesharing program is available to anyone who lives, works or studies in Tompkins County. Residents from neighboring counties can use the system to find ridesharing opportunities to jobs and schools in Tompkins County."

Chrisophia Somerfeldt, Program Manager of Way2Go, is equally excited. "With gas prices on the rise, sharing rides (and costs) is a great way to save money, get more people where they need to go, and have more fun getting there. *Zimride* is easy to use and leaves people in charge of their privacy level, preferences and when and with whom to share rides."

Through *Zimride*'s web-based interface, residents can find others with similar commuting patterns or one-time ride needs. As a social network with optional *Facebook* integration, *Zimride* is fun to use and helps establish trust among users. As with *Facebook*, *Zimriders* can view profiles for common networks, interests and friends before deciding to share a ride. Participants can create profiles that show their favorite in-car music, radio stations and even smoking preferences to ensure an enjoyable ride. This new transportation alternative is a convenient, affordable and sustainable way to collectively make a difference.

Anyone who lives or travels within Tompkins County can access the free Tompkins County *Zimride* system at www.zimride.com/tompkins. This ridesharing partnership marks a significant step in improving county sustainability practices. Furthermore, ridesharing on daily commutes or on longer, one-time trips will substantially reduce the costs of travel for our community.

Zimride is the largest online social rideshare community in North America with over 350,000 users. *Zimride* has implemented private rideshare communities for over 75 of the nation's leading universities and companies. *Zimride* embraces ridesharing as a social activity and integrates with *Facebook* and *Twitter* to make it fun and easy for users to share the seats in their car or find a ride. *Zimride* empowers individuals to create social, sustainable and convenient transportation.

Please contact Chrisophia Somerfeldt at Way2Go with any questions or suggestions about *Zimride* Tompkins. Way2Go can be reached at 607-272-2292 or staff@way2goinfo.org.

TCAT Bus Passes

A reminder that the County provides TCAT bus passes to County employees for use within Tompkins County, and the pass is free to you. The pass may be used for commuting to and from work, or for work-related travel, and it may be used only by the employee to whom it is issued.

The application form is on the employee intranet (see the Forms section, Personnel Department) or via interdepartmental mail from me.

Also, if you live outside of Tompkins County and ride on an out-of-county bus system such as Tioga Transit, the County will reimburse \$45 of your monthly bus pass. Please call Personnel for details.

Call me at 274-5525 if you have questions.

Submitted by Anna Smith, Personnel

Tobacco Free Tompkins

Has anyone else noticed those "T-Free Zone" stickers all over town? They're on the transit shelter windows; at the entrances of several businesses throughout town.....the logo has even been seen on TCAT buses!

Tobacco Free Tompkins is a Community Partner of the New York State Tobacco Control Program, and is housed within the Health Promotion Program at the Health Department. The program works to help fight tobacco addiction by keeping the air smoke free, supporting those who want to quit, and helping teens beat the tobacco trap.



One of the main ways to help teens beat the tobacco trap is by reducing youth exposure to tobacco products. T-Free Tompkins is working with the community to raise awareness around the issue of tobacco advertising at the point of sale.

Every day, our kids are exposed to a lot of tobacco marketing in our convenience stores, pharmacies and grocery stores. Kids often shop at convenience stores, and the cigarettes are usually displayed in plain view, right behind the cash register. To protect our kids, we must reduce youth exposure to instore tobacco marketing.

For more information on Tobacco Free Tompkins, visit our website at www.tompkins-co.org/tobaccofree

Submitted by Erin James, Public Health Educator

Don't forget - 25 Year Club Dinner May 19!

The Tompkins County Legislature cordially invites you to join them in honoring this year's inductees into the Tompkins County 25 Year Club. This year's dinner will be held at the Lake Watch Inn on East Shore Drive, Ithaca on May 19, 2011. Below is a listing of new inductees.

Gerald Surine, Sheriff's Office/Corrections
Debra Niemi, Sheriff's Office/Corrections
Roger Griswold, Sheriff's Office/Corrections
Doreen Schrader, Public Works/Facilities Division
David Straight, Public Works/Highway Division
Barbara Eckstrom, Public Works/Solid Waste Division
Roxanne Iacovelli, Dept. of Motor Vehicles/County Clerk

Pat Nowakowski, Information Technology Services
Frank Porter, Mental Health
Suzanne Gaglie, Mental Health
Gerard Veninsky, Department of Social Services
Nicholas Dalleva, Department of Social Services
Catherine Covert, Legislature Office

Invitations have been mailed to all 25 Year Club members and the new inductees. An invitation was also sent to all County employees through the internal County email system. If you would like more information, please contact Personnel at 274-5526.

Submitted by Brooke Jobin, Personnel

THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER HOMEFINDING UNIT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Would you be willing to post the flyer below to spread the word about the need for foster, adoptive and respite homes in our community?

Our hope is that by posting this flyer in many locations throughout Tompkins County we can spread the word and/or possibly plant a seed that will grow in time. We especially need homes in the Ithaca School District and homes that welcome adolescent youth!

Please contact us for more information, to schedule information session, or to obtain additional flyers. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of children in need!

*Debbie McKane, Sr. Caseworker -274-5259
Judy Voorheis, Homefinder -274-5266
DSS, Children's Services*

**Do you have
room in your
heart and your
home?**

Can you help?

We need *foster families* for the children in your community who cannot be home for one reason or another.



Please call for more information:

**Judy Voorheis, Homefinding
Tompkins County DSS
(607) 274-5266**



**Become a
Foster/Adoptive/Respite Parent**

You can apply to be a foster, respite or adoptive parent if you...

- are at least 21 years old,
- are married, single or living with a partner,
- have sufficient income to meet your own family's needs,
- are in good health,
- can make room in your home and heart for children in need.

**SHORT-TERM RESPITE CARE
NEEDED FOR TEENS!**



Department News

Highway Division

Best wishes to **Roger Ganoung**, Heavy Equipment Operator, on his retirement on February 28th, after almost 24 years with the Highway Division.



Board of Elections

Did you know that the Tompkins County Board of Elections is on the social networking site *Facebook*? You can access the page through the Board of Elections web site, <http://www.votetompkins.com/>.

Find upcoming election dates, contacts, and other elections information on the *Facebook* page.

Youth Services

Community Coalition for Healthy Youth Graduates from National Academy

The Tompkins County Community Coalition for Healthy Youth (CCHY) graduated on February 8 from the National CADCA Coalition Academy at a ceremony held during CADCA's 21st Annual National Leadership Forum in National Harbor, Md. CCHY was one of 134 coalitions from across the U.S. to graduate.

Representing CCHY at the graduation were Amanda Verba, Youth Development Director at TST BOCES and a CCHY board member, and Kris Bennett, Tompkins County Youth Services Department and staff to CCHY.

The Community Coalition for Healthy Youth brings together Tompkins County parents, youth, schools, and community partners to reduce youth alcohol and substance use and promote healthy lifestyles. Recent initiatives include a youth-led *Above the Influence* media campaign, organizing local unwanted medication disposal events, pharmaceutical abuse awareness campaign in medical, dental, veterinary offices and pharmacies and surveying Tompkins County middle and high school students to gauge both trends and the impact of our work. The Coalition and its members provide community presentations for schools, parents and interested groups what adults can do to help youth make healthy decisions.

The National Coalition Academy combines three weeks of classroom training over the course of a year with distance learning, web support and ongoing technical assistance from CADCA Institute staff. Combining collaborative group activities and instruction from top notch trainers, Academy participants learn about the core competencies and essential processes necessary to establish or maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition. CCHY completed all three residential training sessions and five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of its comprehensive plan for community change.

"The Academy graduation ceremony is a way for us to celebrate the commitment, investments and accomplishments of the coalitions that worked diligently to become more effective community problem solvers through our program," Kareemah Abdullah, CADCA's Vice President of Training and Youth Programs and Deputy Director of Training and Technical Assistance for CADCA's National Coalition Institute, said.

We learned at the ceremony that we were one of only eight of the graduating coalitions that were considered for the 2011 Chairman's Award for outstanding coalition graduating from Academy. We did not win but to be one of eight out of 132 was pretty cool!



Kris Bennett, Janice Johnson, and Amanda Verba (TST BOCES)

Submitted by Kris Bennett

VENDING COMMITTEE "VENDS"

SUGGESTED 2011 TRIPS/EVENTS:

REMEMBER - Trips and/or events are available to all Tompkins County Employees & Retirees, and their families.

SCHEDULED - Please contact Patty Stamm, at 274-6674, or pstamm@tompkins-co.org, if you are interested in the following trips/events:

New York City Spring Day Trip – Saturday, May 14th

Turning Stone Casino / Bingo – Saturday, June 18th

Hangar Theatre Musical “Ragtime” – Saturday, July 10th

Saturday, July 30th

Cooperstown NY / Howe’s Caverns

OR

Darien Lake

Hangar Theatre Musical “The Rocky Horror Show” – Saturday, August 27th

New York City Winter Day Trip – Saturday, December 3rd

POSSIBLE – Please note that there are no dates or other information available at this time, and if there is not enough response/interest, these will not be pursued:

The Windmill / Lunch at a Winery / Hammondsport Shopping

Genesee Village Yuletide

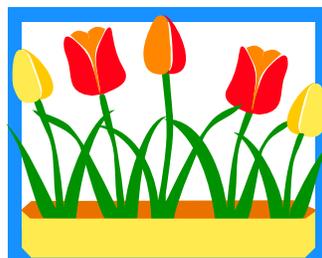
WE NEED YOU!

- Are you interested in assisting with the planning and/or organizing of the trips and events?
- Do you have approximately one (1) hour to devote every couple of months (on average) to meeting with a great group of people?
- The Vending Committee is in need of additional team members. If you are interested, please contact Patty Stamm, at pstamm@tompkins-co.org, or Pete Coats, at pcoats@tompkins-co.org.

Website:

Remember to visit our website, on the employee Intranet (click on the link under “Events/News”), or www.tompkins-co.org/employee_only/VendingCommitteeNews.pdf regularly for updated information on all trips, news, etc.

Please see your Department Representative (names listed on the website) to share other ideas.



Classified Ads

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Sandy Strehle, 315-497-3467
dogdayzinn@yahoo.com
<http://www.dogdayzinn.com>



FOR SALE – Mark Master 5/24 snowblower, \$150.00.
Please call (607) 838-3748, evenings.

FOR SALE – 1985 24' Tioga motor home on Chevrolet chassis. Sleeps 6, A/C, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, generator, 70,000 miles, all new tires. Very good condition. Asking \$7,500.00. Must sell due to health reasons. Please call (607) 898-5196.



FOR SALE – 1997 Jeep Cherokee Laredo 4X4, 240K miles, 2,000 or best offer. Needs a new muffler. Selling as is. For additional details, please call (607) 591-0730, or (607) 765-5131.

FOR SALE – 2004 Chevrolet Venture van – LT Entertainer Model, V6, extended cab, 4-door, all-wheel drive, 7-8 passenger capacity, silver metallic color, trailer package, roof racks, third row seating, built-in air compressor. Mechanically sound, clean and well-kept, comfortable ride, one owner. In great condition all around. XM Satellite radio and On-Star, built-in cell phone available. 18/22 mpg, current mileage 97K. Great vehicle in snow and rain. Asking \$7,500.00. Please call (607) 539-6756.



COTTAGE RENTAL – It's not too early to think of vacation time. This rustic family cottage is just ½ mile north of Taughannock Park. There are two bedrooms, a beach, boathouse, porches, and kayaks. We rent May, June, September, and October. Right now, June 5-June 12 is available, and several weeks in the fall. If interested, please call Alison Rice, at (607) 387-5446.

Kripalu Yoga with Nicole

Sundays, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Sunrise Yoga Center, 119 South Cayuga Street, Studio 301; (Corner of Cayuga and Green).

Provides an opportunity to develop strength, increase flexibility, improve balance, and center the mind. All levels of yoga experience welcome. For more information, email kripaluyogawithnicole@gmail.com, or call (973) 769-2739.

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Please call TJ, at (845) 866-3199, or E-mail to Massaro31@yahoo.com.

THE CORRIDORS TEAM

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Interested in joining the Corridors team?

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274-0314 or glockwood@tomkins-co.org