

County Corridors

A Newsletter for
Tompkins County
Employees and Retirees

December 2006
Volume 18, Number 4

A Note From the County Administrator:

Highs and Lows

Two events dominated our section of the world since our last publication. One brought out the best in us and the other broke our hearts. The first was a lightning strike that cut all power to the entire Health Department. The second was the very sudden and tragic death of our former District Attorney, George Dentes.

About 4:00 on Wednesday October 4th, I was in a meeting in the conference room on the first floor when a very dark cloud passed over and a loud thunderclap shook the building. Little did I know that the next 48 hours would test our organization. Within minutes my cell phone rang and I was informed that the Health Department Building was without electricity and that it looked very bad. Later that night Brenda Crosby (Alice Cole was out of town on business) called to let me know the status and to go over some remaining strategies for closing the building and moving their entire operation to new locations.

The next day our organization, including nearly all departments, got a taste of what our emergency responders deal with almost every day. The logistics were daunting. Think about moving an entire department, including phone and computer systems overnight. Thanks to the good work of ITS and many department heads, all was complete and operational by noon. Not bad. To add the nice touch Personnel brought in pizza.

Then, just to make things interesting, Facilities did an outstanding job and had the Health Department building fully operational that evening and everything had to be returned the next day. By 5 o'clock the building was back to a reasonable level of operation, thanks to a generator that was brought in overnight. Within a 48-hour period, the building had transformed from an abandoned hulk to an operational facility!

Thanks to all of you who pitched in to make everything happen; your efforts were impressive.

It is often said that life is not fair, and certainly that is the case in the death of George Dentes. In most people's eyes, George epitomized the embodiment of all that is good and just. George was both physically fit and mentally fit. George conducted his entire life as if his life was being recorded for posterity. To say that George was a wonderful family man, a scholar, a great coach, a District Attorney with absolute integrity, and a leader in his church and community, simply does not capture the essence of the man or his life.

I grew up in Ithaca, and I was in the same class as his sister Becky. The Dentes family, one and all, earned the respect of the entire community. George took it one more step. George excelled in everything he did and never lost sight of what it meant to be a friend. I will remember George's sparkling eyes, broad smile and commanding voice, and his great wit. May your journey bring you peace. Thank you for giving so much.

- Steve Whicher



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Diversity Policy Guidelines

By Heather Stewart

In an effort to keep the momentum behind the diversity and inclusion initiatives, the Legislature approved diversity policy guidelines at its July 18th meeting. The Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee (WDIC) aids departments in carrying out the County's diversity efforts formulated these guidelines outlining the purpose and goals of the future diversity policy as well as strategies, expectations, and responsibilities.

The establishment of a diversity and inclusion policy allows the County to be a forerunner in New York State municipal government by moving from a culture of Affirmative Action (reactive) to a more pro-active approach. It allows us to acknowledge that we need to change the way we do business and interact with each other and the community, and move beyond that which Federal, State and local laws mandate. Such a policy allows us to recognize, acknowledge and accept the advantages that a diverse and inclusive workforce will provide.

This policy of diversity and inclusion must allow for assessment of the current culture of our organization and identify policies and practices that both help and hinder the inclusion of a wide range of employees and the culturally sensitive provision of services to the community. It will emphasize diversity and inclusion as a core organizational value practiced at all levels of county government, thereby requiring efforts to "increase the consciousness and appreciation of differences associated with the heritage, characteristics, and values of many different groups, as well as increasing the respect for the uniqueness of each individual".

As a result of these efforts we will be expected to develop and utilize opportunities to engage the diverse skills, knowledge, and perspectives of all employees to create a climate in which people can achieve their full potential, thus becoming a more efficient and productive organization. Annual diversity training will be required of all employees; tensions, conflicts and culture clashes will be worked through toward respectful and productive resolutions; and a checks and balances system for recruitment, hiring, transfers and promotions will be developed to review and improve the process when necessary.

The strides we make as individuals and departments will not go unnoticed. In fact, those who achieve their diversity and inclusion goals will be recognized, and those who do not achieve their goals will be worked with to develop a corrective action plan that will be presented, discussed and acted upon with all the employees within that department.

If you are interested in the diversity and inclusion efforts or have any ideas, do not hesitate to contact me at Tompkins County Personnel at 274-5557.

County Diversity Reading Circle

Interested in participating in a monthly reading circle? As part of the Tompkins County Diversity Initiatives, the Personnel office is establishing a reading circle. This circle will read about any number of topics from diverse perspectives.

If you are interested in participating please contact Heather Stewart at 274-5557 or hstewart@tompkins-co.org.

Diversity Calendar

The information listed here is a compilation of several Diversity and Interfaith Calendars on the web. If something is incorrect, excluded, or if you have something you wish to include please let us know. Thank you.

December

1st - World AIDS Day (UN), Day Without Art
2nd - Independence Day (Laos)
3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent (Christian)
6th - St. Nicholas Day (International)
8th - Bodhi Day - Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist),
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent (Christian), Constitution Day (Thailand)
12th - Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
13th - National Day (St. Lucia), Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)
16-25th - Las Posadas (Mexico)
16th-24th - Hanukkah (Jewish)
16th - National Day (Bahrain), Victory Day (Bangladesh)
17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent (Christian), National Day (Bhutan)
21st - Yule (Christian), St. Thomas Day (Christian)
22nd - Litha (Wicca)
24th - Christmas Eve (Christian), 4th Sunday of Advent
25th - Christmas (Christian), Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox)
26th - Jan 1st - Kwanzaa (African American)
28th - Holy Innocents (Christian)
29th - Hajj begins (Islam)
30th - Holy Family (Catholic), Rizal Day (Philippines)
31st - New Years Eve, Watch Night (Christian), Feast of the Holy Family (Catholic); Eid-ul-Adha (Islam)

January

1st - Gantan-sai (Shinto); Feast of St. Basil (Christian, Orthodox); Anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation 1863; Mary mother of God (Catholic)
2nd - Ancestor's Day (Haiti)
3rd - Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
4th - National Negro Baseball League Founded in 1920.
5th - Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh); 12th Night (Christian)
6th - Epiphany (Christian); Feast of the Theophany (Orthodox Christian); Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings)
7th - Baptism of the Lord Jesus (Christian)
10th - League of Nations founded in Geneva 1920.
11th - Yennayer: Amazigh (Berber)
13th - Maghi (Sikh)
14th - Pongal: Hindu Harvest Festival
15th - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Born 1929 (observed on Third Monday of the month)
16th - World Religion Day (Baha'i)
Third Week - Healthy Weight Week
20th - Hijra New Year (Islam)
22nd - 26th - Religious Awareness Week
23rd - Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
29th - Ashura (Islam)

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Tompkins Employees Say "Thanks!" For Bus Pass Benefit

Under a pilot program initiated in June, Tompkins County has offered free TCAT bus passes to all county employees. County officials are currently considering whether to continue the program, and in what form, after the pilot program expires at year's end. Here are some of the messages received from employees who are grateful for the TCAT passes.

To the Tompkins Co Legislature:

Thank you for issuing the county bus pass. I have used it throughout the summer and will continue through September.

I had used the county issued bus pass when I worked in the downtown area. Now to continue the same benefit while working at the TC DOH is wonderful.

Thanks, Linda Shutts

I wanted to say thank you to the "powers that be" that elected to give "all" county employees the ability to have a bus pass. I work at the Health Dept and I got a pass and have enjoyed riding the bus very much.

I have discovered a whole new world that I never knew existed through riding the bus. The people who ride regularly have a comradery for each other and really seem to care for the well being of others around them.

The first day I rode the people on the bus were passing around a card for a lady that had been ill. When you are new and don't know what bus to get on, others help you find the bus and watch out for you.

Although it takes an extra hour of our day to go into town on the bus and another extra hour to get home, it still feels like you are making contribution to the world as a whole by riding the bus and reducing the pollution that goes into the air.

As gasoline has gotten so expensive it truly has given me a greater appreciation for the bus ticket. It has made the benefit as a county employee even more worthwhile and it is with gratitude that I would say thank you and hope that it continues in the future.

Sincerely, Jamaica Breedlove, Sr. Clerk, WIC

I would like to thank the county for providing staff with free bus passes for our work commutes. I have been using mine for about 2 months and I love it! Not only are my gasoline bills lower but my stress level is way down since I don't have to deal with road construction, weather and the other drivers on the road. I have also been able to catch up on my reading, chat with fellow riders and see the sights. It all contributes to a more productive employee.

I hope that the decision is made to make the pilot program permanent for staff in time to plan for the winter weather.

Steven Kern, Senior PH Sanitarian
Division of Environmental Health
Health Department

Thank you, Tompkins County, for issuing the bus passes to County employees. I use it regularly for going to and from work and really appreciate having it.

Lirita Meir
Tompkins County Health Dept.

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the county subsidized bus pass I have been using. I feel that using the bus helps with traffic, and the environ-ment. Hope this program can continue, as I had been purchasing a pass (\$45) each month. I had questioned the old policy before. Thanks for taking a positive action for all of us!

Janice Wood
Environmental Health

Important Notice on Wellness Committee Health Club Reimbursements

Dave Squires, Director of Finance informed the Wellness Committee that the IRS views health club reimbursements as a taxable fringe benefit. This will mean that separate checks for health club reimbursements will no longer be issued. Instead, the reimbursement will be run through payroll in order to report the income. The only exception to taxable status would be if the membership was prescribed by a physician to address a medical condition. This will take effect in January 2007. Questions should be forwarded to the Finance Department.

-Theresa Lyczko

A Note From the Managing Editor:

Starting with December *County Corridors* issue, we will be sending one copy of the newsletter with paychecks to the person who picks up the paychecks and that person will be responsible for making copies for their staff or department. *County Corridors* remains available online.

Each department can make each person a copy or make a routing slip and just pass it through the department; if your department is a large one you may want to route 3-5 copies at the same time.

This new procedure arises from an increase of printing costs and a desire to reduce waste. Thank you all for your cooperation with this new distribution.

- Linnett Short

Legislature Endorses Sustainability Program

The County Legislature on November 21st, endorsed development of a county government sustainability program, as proposed by a group of county employees. The Legislature, without dissent, directed the County Administrator to formally appoint the Tompkins County Sustainability Team and to charge the team with developing an action plan to promote sustainable practices by Tompkins County government.

Two months ago, employees from several county departments, assisted by Cooperative Extension's Energy Smart Program, informally began to investigate how to promote sustainable practices in government operations, benefiting future generations through social, environmental and economic stewardship.

Sustainable practices to be developed will include

- Energy reduction and conservation in county facilities and fleets, with utilization of alternative and renewable energy sources;
- Solid waste reduction through increased reuse and recycling;
- Environmentally preferable purchasing programs;
- Efficient infrastructure design and service delivery;
- Employee involvement and endorsement; and
- Natural resources protection and community development in accordance with the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.

The team will report on its progress each year by Earth Day.

- Marcia Lynch

A Note From Payroll: Withholding Allowances

Information from Fran Armstrong

The IRS modified its Withholding Compliance Program last year. Under the current procedures, if the IRS identifies serious underreporting of withholding by an employee, it will notify the employer via a "lock-in letter" specifying the maximum number of withholding allowances permitted for the employee. Upon receiving such a notification, Payroll will give the employee a copy of the proposed "lock-in letter" and must impose the new withholding rate within 60 days.

The notice an employee receives from the IRS explains the process if a change in withholding status and allowances from single/zero is desired. An employee will need the following information when calling or writing the IRS:

- Copy of Form W-4 and worksheets
- Most current pay stub(s)
- Children's Social Security numbers and birthdates
- Proof of any deductions to claim additional withholding allowances

Becoming Energy Smart

By Carole Fisher, Community Educator
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

Do you know where your energy dollars are going? In New York State, the average household spends about 60% of its energy dollars on heating and cooling costs. Water heating, refrigerators and other appliances, and lighting make up the next largest pieces of our energy pie.

It makes sense then, to put your time and energy into the energy-saving ideas that will have the most impact on your bills. When you use less energy, the dollars that are saved become available for other household essentials and are more likely to stay in your community. The environment also benefits by a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Get energy smart now, with these tips:

- Have your heating system checked and serviced to maintain its highest efficiency.
- Install a programmable thermostat, which will automatically lower the temperature while you are asleep or away during the day, and raise it before you return home. By lowering the setting 10°F for 8 hours each day, you can save 10% on your heating bill.
- Check to see if your attic is adequately insulated. Heated air will escape through the roof if there is inadequate insulation.
- Seal cracks around windows and doors. Caulk around any gaps or cracks. Use weather-stripping on windows, doors, and access hatches.
- Make sure windows are latched so they remain tightly closed.
- If you don't have storm windows, use clear plastic sheeting taped to the window frame to reduce air leaks.
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120°F.
- Use less hot water by installing energy-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which use only a quarter of the energy and last up to 10 times longer. Replacing bulbs that are used frequently can save you \$10-12 per year *per bulb*. (An average home contains about 50 light bulbs!)
- When replacing appliances, purchase ENERGY STAR® products whenever possible. The ENERGY STAR® means that the product exceeds federal standards for increased energy efficiency over standard new models.

Looking for more energy-saving ideas? Come to a *free* workshop on home energy conservation offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, (607)272-2292. Workshops are offered on an ongoing basis, and pre-registration is necessary. You can also fill out a worksheet to assess your potential savings at <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/energy/>.

Employees will find IRS Pub. 919 (*How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?*) and the online W-4 calculator helpful. Both are available at www.irs.gov.

When submitting Form W-4, Fran advises employees to keep the top part (containing the worksheet) for their personal files, sending Payroll only the bottom part. Fran also asks employees to take only the number of allowances to which they are entitled.

Tompkins County Probation Youth Early Intervention Program (Pre-PINS)

In an effort to identify and reach out to youth, families, and schools more rapidly, the Tompkins County Probation Department has initiated the development of a Pre-PINS * program. The majority of the calls Probation receives from the community are from parents and school personnel. Problem behaviors identified in these referrals include: habitual disobedience, running away, violent behavior in school, or truancy. In the legal field these are called "status offenses." Pre-PINS is an attempt to assist parents and school administration through a short term, usually 3 to 6 week, intervention targeting those areas of concern. It is an attempt to avoid a more formal PINS Diversion referral and possible court intervention.

School administrators who are beginning to identify concerns about a youth's behavior initiate most Pre-PINS referrals. A meeting is then set up with school staff, parents, Probation and in some cases a member of the Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) staff. CDRC staff serves as a mediator and assists in developing a contract for all the involved parties. This meeting is designed to ensure that all parties are aware that a problem is being identified. It is a time to brainstorm what services may be needed to help get the youth back on a positive path. There is discussion about what specific behaviors need to be addressed, what strengths the student has that can be built upon, how to measure change, what rewards may exist to motivate change in the youth, as well as what repercussions exist for continued negative behaviors or attendance problems. This meeting is also a means to link the presenting issues with relevant resources.

If a child continues to display negative behaviors in the home or school setting, a referral may be made to the PINS Diversion program, a more formalized service that has no arbitrary end date. Efforts will continue to focus on assessing the needs of the youth, identify services available, provide supervision, and work towards resolution. This program's goal is to avoid any contact with the court system, instead utilizing services that can help curb the negative behavior. Obviously, court intervention is the last option we try to exercise. If it is determined that a youth requires court intervention, a PINS petition will be prepared for the court's review. A youth referred to court may be given a warning, may be returned to Probation for further Diversion Services, may be placed under court ordered Probation Supervision for one year, or placed out of the family home.

The ultimate goal of the Pre-Pins program is to provide early intervention services that may prevent youth as young as the primary level from ever needing formalized Probation Supervision. This partnership with schools, families, and community agencies increases communication and service provision while promoting the individual strengths of the youth who may be at-risk without these preventive services.

-Chris Porcheddu-Ion
-Karen Burns

* PINS stands for "persons in need of supervision"

National Adoption Day

November 18, 2006 was National Adoption Day. For the first time since its beginning in 2000, all 50 states participated. Thousands of children all over the country were adopted on that day. In Tompkins County we celebrated the day at the Museum of the Earth. We invited all the families that had adopted during the year to join us in the festivities. We had a wonderful celebration with several families, lots of cake, teddy bears, books, and a tour of the Museum.

Many thanks to all who participated.

- Shella Chace



National Adoption Day participants

Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meetings

Submitted by Ellie Arnold

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold an informational meeting at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St., on December 14, 2006. (These meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month.) Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District and for those who will foster teenagers.

Please call 274-5266 for more information. Thank you.

Employee Spotlight



Bob Miner has served as an Electrician in the Facilities Division for the past four-and-a-half years.

As electrician, Bob handles anything to do with electrical maintenance in the county, including HVAC systems. His responsibilities sometimes extend to general maintenance and whatever is needed to complete a task.

Bob says he most enjoys working with people as part of his job, the diverse responsibilities of his job title, and the sense of accomplishment he feels after completing a job. He says he is satisfied with all aspects of his job, at least the portions he can control

Outside of work, Bob enjoys family time, reading, and "working out" to stay healthy.

If he could control the world, Bob would "end all wars and suffering."



Skip Parr is Recycling Specialist in the Solid Waste Management Division, a position he has held since April 2005. Before joining Tompkins County, Skip was employed by Onondaga County as a sanitary engineer.

As Recycling Specialist, Skip oversees curbside collection and household hazardous waste collection and promotes waste reduction and recycling throughout Tompkins County.

In his job, Skip most enjoys working with a group of people who are committed to maintaining a healthy environment for future generations. He least likes the awareness his job creates of how wasteful our society can be.

Outside of work, Skip most enjoys spending time with friends and family, outdoor activities, and following sports.

If he ran the world, Skip notes that he "couldn't do it alone", so would be sure to "surround (him)self with a lot of good people."

Skip urges his County colleagues to take advantage of the next Household Hazardous Waste collection event April 21, 2007 and reminds them to call the Solid Waste Management Division office at 273-6632 to obtain a registration form prior to the next event.



On October 25th, **Aurora R. Valenti** (County Clerk) and **John Andersson** (Environmental Health) were both awarded the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award at the Downtown Holiday Inn. They were both commended for the outstanding service that they provide to the community.

(See John and Aurora at left.)

Congratulations!!!!

... to *Michael Xayarath* on his marriage to Sara Hernandez

and

... to *Jay Franklin* on his engagement to Dixie Chaffee.

Highway Highlights...

submitted by Geri Lockwood

(source: www.tompkins-co.org/highway/snow.html)

County crews remove snow and ice from designated State, County, and Town highways through plowing, salting, and sanding. The objective of Snow and Ice Maintenance is to provide the traveling public with the ability to travel on highways at reasonable and prudent speeds within the limitations imposed by weather, and within the resources of the Highway Department.

Salt and/or abrasives will be applied on roadways during inclement weather, which will cause, or has caused, slippery conditions. Salt will be applied in accordance with the County Policy, "Salt Use for Snow and Ice Control". Abrasives may also be applied to improve vehicular control.

The Towns of Lansing, Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby, Ithaca, and Ulysses assist in Snow and Ice Maintenance on County Roads. If you have questions or concerns

about the snow and ice maintenance on a County Road, please call 274-0300 for information, or the Town Highway Department where you reside.

Winter Tips:

- Snowplow equipment and sanders operate at approximately 25 mph.
- Approach snowplow equipment with extreme caution.
- Do not leave snow on the roadway or shoulders of roadway after clearing snow from driveway.
- Do not tailgate plow trucks or sanders, and stay back at least 200 feet.
- Park vehicles off roadway and shoulder so plowing can be conducted safely and effectively. If you park on a shoulder, park where plowing has cleared the shoulder.

Weights & Measures

Submitted by Don Ellis, Director

(Information provided by the National Bureau of Standards, in cooperation with the National Conference on Weights and Measures, and published and distributed by the Bureau of Weights and Measures, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.)

In the Kitchen...

Common equivalents:

Units	Tea-spoon	Table-spoon	Fluid Ounce	Cup	Liquid Pint	Liquid Quart	Milli-liter	Liter
1 teaspoon =	1	1/3	1/6	*	*	*	5	*
1 tablespoon =	3	1	1/2	1/16	1/32	*	15	*
1 fluid ounce =	6	2	1	1/8	1/16	1/32	30	*
1 cup =	48	16	8	1	1/2	1/4	240**	.24**
1 liquid pint =	*	*	16	2	1	1/2	470**	.47**
1 liquid quart =	*	*	32	4	2	1	950**	.95**
1 milliliter =	1/5	*	*	*	*	*	1	1/1000
1 liter =	*	*	34	4.2	2.1	1.06	1,000	1

* Equivalent not commonly used.

** Approximate.

Approximate weights (ounces per cup):

Beans (dry).....	6.5	Flour (cake, sifted)....	3.5	Raisins (seedless).....	5.0
Butter, margarine, cooking oil.....	8.0	Milk (whole, fluid) ..	8.5	Rice.....	7.0
Citrus fruit juice (fresh).....	8.5	Milk (dry).....	4.5	Shortening (vegetable).....	7.0
Cornflakes	1.0	Nutmeats (pecan)	4.0	Sugar (brown, firmly packed).....	7.5
Corn meal.....	5.0	Oatmeal.....	3.0	Sugar (granulated)	7.0
Eggs (whole).....	8.5	Pancake mix.....	5.0	Water.....	8.33
Flour (wheat, all-purpose, sifted)....	4.0	Prunes (dried)	5.5		

Department News

Probation

Welcome to *Denise Hayden*, a new Probation Officer with the Department. Denise was an intern for us a couple of years ago and is the daughter of Sr. Probation Officer William Bell. Her current assignment is in the Family Court unit.

Congratulations to *Harold Gregoire* who was recently promoted to Sr. Probation Officer. His assignment is currently in the Family Court unit, working with more difficult cases. Harold has worked in Probation since before dirt was invented (sorry Harold), first in Cortland County, and since 2001 in Tompkins County.

Congratulations also to *Eleanor Spink*, Probation Officer with the Criminal Courts. Ellie has announced her retirement planned for the end of October. However, Ellie will return to a half-time Probation Officer position after January 1. Must be she just loves her job and can't stay away from us.

Office For The Aging



Tompkins County Office for the Aging welcomes Aging Services Specialist, *Marilyn Roberts Chase*. Marilyn joins our staff with a rich and diverse background that enhances COFA's ability to provide assistance to older adults.

Marilyn spent her childhood in New Jersey. As a young adult, she attended and graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree in botany. She then went on to work in her family's photography business for eighteen years where she successfully worked with the public. When her family decided to close the business, Marilyn continued her education by completing a degree in nursing. Her nursing experience includes extensive critical care, surgical nursing and clinical research in both cancer & respiratory illnesses. Her experience in retail, healthcare, and as a HospiceCare volunteer, along with her serving as a caregiver for various members of her own family make Marilyn an ideal member of the staff at the Office for the Aging.

DSS – Children's Services

John Talbot, Senior Caseworker retired 10/30/06 after 15 years of service.

Tom Partigianoni was promoted to a Senior Caseworker position working with adolescents and their families. Tom had been a caseworker in Family Treatment Court.

Michael Burgos accepted the Life Skills Coordinator position. Michael has a broad range of experience working with young people.

Due to a special allocation of funds from New York State to reduce caseloads in CPS, *Diana Koon* joined the Children's Services division and is working in CPS as a temporary Senior Caseworker.

Peggy Thomas-Carr moved from a Caseworker position in Children's Services to Adult Services.

Jessica Schifilliti accepted a permanent Senior Caseworker position in CPS. Jessica had been working as a Caseworker in Youth and Family Services.

Facilities Division

A warm welcome to
Rachel Kissinger,
Assistant Director of Facilities!

Assigned Counsel Office

ATTENTION, ALL....

The Tompkins County Assigned Counsel Office has moved.....just down the hall.

Our new address is now Center Ithaca, 171 E. State Street, Suite 223, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Health Department

Rabies Clinic: Wednesday, January 24, 2007
(7-9 pm)

All cats, dogs and ferrets are required to be vaccinated by 4 months of age. Bring your certificate of vaccination for all pets receiving booster shots. Questions? Call 274-6688.

Department News, continued...

Solid Waste Management Division

America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day took place at the Pyramid Mall on November 4th and was a complete success. TC Solid Waste Management Division had over 500 visitors to this event with games, music, live shows and much much more. Wait to see what next year brings.



Linnett Short at America Recycles Day



Compost Theatre at America Recycles Day

Finger Lakes Buy Green

Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division and Sustainable Tompkins announces the launch of Finger Lakes Buy Green, a guide for individual consumers and businesses that educates about green purchasing. Visit the website at www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org for information about environmentally preferable purchasing, a guide to finding green items in office supply catalogs, examples of green office products and much more!

Kudos Korner

The Health Department thanks the following County departments for their collaboration and assistance during the Biggs Building outage October 4. With your help, all essential public health services were maintained during the outage.

FACILITIES: Located a portable generator that was delivered within 4 hours. The department identified a permanent power source to replace the transformer that was destroyed. The Health Department is now operating from that source.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS): Provided technical support allowing the Health Department to maintain the necessary computer capabilities and phone service. And they provided meeting and operating space for Health Department administration.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE: Provided the space for Health Department staff to answer phones and to connect to the County network.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Alerted the public and the media of the situation.

ADMINISTRATION and PERSONNEL: Provided the "behind the scenes" support that made the collaboration possible.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF: Continued to put the health of Tompkins County residents first, and provided the necessary public health services.

Support from community partners was also greatly appreciated: Cayuga Medical Center provided space and communication capabilities for community health nurses; St. Catherine of Sienna Church provided the location for the WIC clinic and NYSEG for restoring the Department's power.

Diversity Calendar

(Continued from Page 2)

February (Black History Month)

2nd – Candlemas (Christian); Imbolc (Wicca);

3rd – 15th Amendment ratified by Congress 1870; Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)

First Sunday & Monday – African American Read-In (www.ncte.org/prog/readin/10791.htm)

4th – Liberia "founded" 1822

8th – Dawes Act 1855: Native Americans were promised 160 acres in reparation for land lost.

10th – "Repatriation" of Mexicans back to Mexico started in Los Angeles 1930

12th - Lincoln's Birthday

14th - Valentine's Day

15th – Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

16th - Maha Shivratri (Hindu)

18th – Transfiguration Sunday (Christian); Chinese New Year (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist)

19th – Lent begins (Christian)

20th – Shrove Tuesday (Christian)

21st – Ash Wednesday; Birth of Malcolm X 1925

22nd - Washington's Birthday

26th - March 1st Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

Halloween Costume Competition!

Voice your choice for the best costume! Submit your vote to Maureen Reynolds – 274-5431 or mreynolds@tompkins-co.org. We'll announce the winner in the next issue of *County Corridors*.



Ceil Grier



David Weiner (Waldo), Deb Patterson (witch). Rest are David's family – Wife Crystal (nurse), daughters Kayla (vampire) & Selena (bunny), son Noah (devil)



Linnett Short



"Peanut" (Ida) Besemer



Heather Stewart



Kat McCarthy

Classified Ads

To Buy: I am looking for a used moped or scooter and a gas clothes dryer. Sonya Hicks e-mail: shane14850@yahoo.com, phone (607) 339-1041.



Dog Dayz Inn
A place where your
dog feels "at home"
Located in North Lansing
Sandy Strehle
315-497-3467

dogdayzinn@yahoo.com
www.dogdayzinn.com

Birding in Costa Rica. Winter Trip – January 5-16, 2007 and Fall Hawk Migration Trip – September 26-October 7, 2007. Many local birders have participated in previous trips. For details, contact Sandra Pollack at 277-1416, journeyweavers@aol.com or www.journeyweavers.com.

For Sale: 1995 Ford F150 XLT 4X4, 62,000 original one-owner miles, automatic, loaded w/options, push button automatic 4 wheel drive, running boards, bedliner. Minor rust. Like new interior. Excellent condition. Driven daily. Very sharp truck! \$2995 Call Roger @ 657-2654.

For Sale: Sailboat, Sunfish style, 12 1/2 ft, always stored inside, excellent condition. \$300 Call Roger @ 657-2654.

For Sale: 1998 SKI-DOO MXZ 440, \$1,000. 2000 SKI-DOO Formula S 380, \$1,000. Call (607) 227-0863.

For Sale: Four shiny Mille Miglia alloy wheels, elegant 5-spoke, open-lug design, 16" diameter. \$200 obo. Call 272-2204.

For Sale: PetSafe invisible fence with radio collar and 500' Extra wire. Still in the box (pup trained easier than expected). \$230 new, asking \$150. Call 272-2204.

For Sale: 1/2 Size Kaces Cello bag. Padded shoulder straps, lots of pockets and handles. High-density foam padding with water resistant luggage-grade nylon surface. Heavy-duty zippers. Excellent condition, good for 1/4 and 1/2 sized cellos. Asking \$25. Call Fernando at 272-0446.

For Sale: Conn Upright Piano - Oak w/bench, very good condition. Asking \$1750 - Melanie 838-3439.

Free: Desperately seeking good homes for kittens. Immediately available - all litter trained. Call Barb at 535-8121 or 275-1609.

2000 MERCURY VILLAGER ESTATE

Nice family van. Fully loaded: Remote programmable starter, leather – power seats with 2 position memory, sun roof, front and rear (separate controls) AC, AM/FM/CASSETTE/MULTI CD, Cruise, Tilt, Digital display: (outside temp, MPG – Average and instant readout, Miles left on tank, MPH in both English and metric, two trip odometers), Removable folding seats, heated mirrors, Auto climate control, aluminum rims, 2 extra snow tires for front included, towing package with trailer hitch, Power windows, 24 MPG Highway, Mobil 1 oil used, 105,000 miles. Kelly Blue Book Value between \$6845 and \$7700. All reasonable offers considered. Call 564-1088.



For Sale: Clarke weld arc welder/stick 110V 30-80 amps - never used \$100; MIG 100 wire feed welder 63-90 amps 110V - never used \$100.; Mossburg 12 ga. bolt action clip shotgun excellent condition. \$100; Noble 22 cal. single shot excellent condition - \$100; 2 mounted studded snow tires 175/13 \$50. Call Jim anytime, 607-532-4092.

For Sale: Two cedar chests. One is lacking a foot -\$50. The other is OK. - \$70. Roll-top desk. It has damage from the cats - \$100 OBO. Also brd. woman's vanity - \$100. Call Ron at 272-1037.

NIC'S KIDS FUNCARE - Licensed Home Daycare. Trained First Aid/CPR/MAT (medicine administering). Groton schools. Call Nicole at (607) 898-5976.

For Sale: Garage Heaters – Janitrol 125,000 BTU natural gas heaters. 2 units available, good condition, \$85 each. E-mail trudyl@twcny.rr.com or call Tony, evenings at 539- 7265



Did you know that the Vending Committee:

- ◆ is financially supported solely on the commissions from the vending machines?
- ◆ sponsors the employee trips, events, etc., subsidizing a portion of the costs to help make them more affordable to the employees and their families? This includes the hours of "legwork" to investigate and schedule the trips, as well as coordinating the events with the appropriate businesses, etc.
- ◆ sends memorial donations or flowers when an employee loses a family member (limited to the passing of family members listed in the contracted bereavement clause)?
- ◆ sends flowers to celebrate the birth of an employee's child?
- ◆ annually contributes \$5.00 per employee toward a party or event of the department's choice?

To ensure the continuation of these benefits:

- ◆ Support the Vending Committee with your purchases from the vending machines!

Commissions have decreased considerably over the past several months. If you have suggestions, please forward them to a Vending Committee Member from your department (or building). Don't have one? Why not join? It's a great group of employees! Meetings are held once every two or three months, for approximately one hour. For meeting information, please contact Patty Stamm, at 274-6674. (The Committee is seeking one Representative per building, minimum, to assist with vending machine questions and/or concerns. If your building does not have a Representative, please designate one and contact Patty at the above number for meeting information. THANK YOU!)




FUNNY BONES

There was once a czar in Russia whose name was Rudolph the Great. He was standing in his house one day with his wife. He looked out the window and saw something happening. He said to his wife, "Look, honey. It's raining." She, being the obstinate type, responded, "I don't think so, dear. I think it's snowing." But Rudolph knew better. So he said to his wife, "Let's step outside and we'll find out." Lo and behold, they step outside and discover it was, in fact, rain. And Rudolph turns to his wife and replies, "I knew it was raining. Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

**Happy Holidays to All
From the Corridors Team!**

Classified Ads, continued

Warm up your holiday party with elegant live jazz!

Now accepting bookings for the holiday season
American jazz classics (seasonal or secular)
Ensembles to fit any space from living room to large hall

Cookie Coogan
jazz vocalist
(607)273-7957
cookiecoogan@yahoo.com
www.cookiecoogan.com

Professional, courteous; swingin'!
References available upon request

Two BR apt available 1/1/07. Will have new light cherry flooring throughout. First floor unit in a duplex, owners live upstairs. Washer/dryer available in the laundry room. 900 sq ft. No smokers please. Includes heat, hot water, water/sewer, and trash. No dogs. Cats OK. On TCAT bus #50 route. Parking or storage available in garage for additional \$75/month. Call 607-272-1203.

Free: Cot on wheels w/folding aluminum frame (old but OK); fiberglass basketball backstop w/hoop needs cleaning); double bowl aluminum sink with single lever faucet (good shape - just remodeled kitchen!). Call 539-7096 or email jandersson@twcny.rr.com.

Forward classified ads to Maureen Reynolds at the Office of County Clerk, mreynolds@tompkins-co.org

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Interested in joining the Corridors team?
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