

County Corridors

A Newsletter for
Tompkins County
Employees and Retirees
December 2009
Volume 21, Number 4

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

Ways to Reduce Waste During the Holidays

By Stephanie Egan-Engels, Solid Waste

For the past two decades, Tompkins County Solid Waste Division has been helping our community to reduce waste and manage valuable resources. One of our most recent initiatives has been "Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP)." The recent EPP Vendor Fair was very successful in helping Tompkins County employees become more educated in buying recycled and safer products and services.

As Tompkins County employees, it is important that we take this valuable information beyond where we work, sharing it with our friends and families at home and where we live, to have waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and green purchasing in mind throughout the year and this is especially significant around the holidays. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on average Americans generate 25% MORE waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than during the rest of the year, from 4 million tons to 5 million tons. Here are a few suggestions on how to reduce your holiday shopping waste:

Non-material gifts

Donate your time, volunteer, to community service organizations

- Food pantries
- Youth programs, etc.

Give your time to others in the form of redeemable coupons

- Shovel a sidewalk
- Mow the lawn
- Help do other chores around the house
- Do dishes for a week, month, 6 months, a year!

Spend time with friends and family by giving redeemable coupons to

- Go out to dinner
- Go to a movie
- Play a board game
- Go visit their favorite park, museum, etc.

Donate money to an organization in someone's name that helps an organization's cause, community, county, or country

- Cancer organization
- Animal shelters
- Food Pantries
- Homeless shelters

Donate clothes, food, and other items to those in need

Plant a tree with your friends and family

Coupons for discounts on everyday or splurge items

Gift Certificates to the movies, grocery store, concert, or for gas

Make your own...

Gifts

- Scarves, blankets, socks, etc.
- Bubbles – soap and water!
- Dolls from scrap fabric and yarn
- Treasure map from scrap piece of paper or an old map and include a bandana and eye patch
- Make a bird house together from scrap pieces of construction material you have from another project
- Save seeds from your garden and give them to someone else to start their garden next year



Shadow box of a special experience you shared with a friend or family member

- Family vacation
- Concert or play you saw together
- Wrapping paper from old maps, calendars, magazines, brown paper bags, the comic strips, puzzle, or game section from the newspaper
- Envelopes from old calendar and magazine pages
- Gift tags from out dated business cards or other paper

If you are going to buy, buy...

Items that are durable and reusable

Items that have multiple purposes

Items that are gently used from second hand shops, the Finger Lakes ReUse Center, or online resources

Continued on Page 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes From the County Administrator:	2
Farewell to Departing Legislators	2
Tompkins Care Connection	3
The County Seal.....	3
Summer in Tutova	4
The Puzzle.....	5
Highway Highlights	5
United Way	5
Halloween ...	6
Employee Spotlight.....	8
Department News.....	10
Kudos Korner.....	10
Classified Ads.....	12

Notes From the County Administrator:

Accomplishments in a Challenging Year



The past year has been extraordinary. We've lived through the worst economy since the Hoover Administration, a pandemic, and a tough budget of our own.

report on how cities handle their waste. Our Social Services staff is in one pilot program to change the way child protective services are handled in New York State and another to reduce barriers to receiving food stamps.

While the economy was in a deep freeze, the H1N1 virus arrived. Our Health Department staff rose to that enormous challenge, combating hysteria with facts and clear information and mobilizing every resource to get vaccines to where they were most needed.

Still, the County workforce has accomplished some amazing things.

Our Mental Health staff has been recognized by Human Rights Watch for the way they care for inmates suffering opiate addictions.

All the while, we maintained our high bond ratings, kept the roads plowed, redeveloped a new Health Department Building, moved closer to a fully digital records system, implemented a whole new type of voting machine, received accreditation for our jail, and a host of other things that, by themselves, would be worthy of a lot of pride.

Some of our work has impacts that extend well beyond our boundaries.

We did a lot of things very well this year, especially in responding to the human consequences of the global economic meltdown.

Our planners and environmental health staff, for example, have provided valuable insights to a national debate about the environmental consequences of natural gas drilling.

We put hundreds of young people to work; processed food stamp, temporary assistance, and Medicaid applications for a tidal wave of people who never thought they'd need our help; counseled those suffering personal or family stresses; secured a \$2 million "rapid re-housing" grant to help those at risk of homelessness; and expedited stimulus-supported infrastructure projects to get people working.

As I said, we've done some amazing things this year.

Our airport developed the first green master plan ever to be approved by the Federal Aviation Agency.

For that, on behalf of an entire County, thank you.

The United Nations selected our Solid Waste Division to be featured in a best practices

- Joe Mareane

A Fond Farewell to Our Departing Legislators

The end of a legislative term is a time of change.

Mike, Tyke, and Mike have served since January 2006; Greg since December 2005.

We say good-bye to five representatives who will leave the Tompkins County Legislature at year's end, with our thanks to them for their commitment and devoted service to the citizens of Tompkins County during their terms.

Joining the Legislature January 1 will be Pat Pryor, representing District 6; David McKenna, representing District 8; Brian Robison, representing District 9; Peter Stein, representing District 11; and Mike Lane, returning to the Legislature to represent District 14. We'll profile each of our new legislators in the next edition of *County Corridors*.

Our thanks to

To all who are leaving us, thank you again for your service.

We will miss you!

Chair Mike Koplinka-Loehr (District 11 – Town of Ithaca)
(First elected in 1997, Mike is ending his second year as Chair of the Legislature.)

Legislator Mike Sigler (District 6 - Part of the Town of Lansing)

Legislator Greg Stevenson (District 8 - Newfield and part of Enfield)

Legislator Duane "Tyke" Randall (District 9 - Groton and parts of the Towns of Lansing and Dryden)

Legislator Mike Hattery (District 14- Eastern Dryden)



Farewell

Tompkins Care Connection

By Caryn Wiestling, Department of Social Services

Do you or a loved one need long term care assistance?

We can help.

Navigating the field of Long Term Care services can be frustrating, overwhelming, and sometimes downright scary. There are so many services available to the residents of Tompkins County that it is often hard for one to figure out where to start. Also, it is common for people to not think about long term care until they find themselves in the thick of it. That's where Tompkins Care Connection comes in.

Tompkins Care Connection is part of a statewide program called *NY Connects*. The program is heading into its fourth year and is a partnership between the Tompkins County Office for the Aging (COFA) and Long Term Care services through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The purpose of Tompkins Care Connection is to provide accurate and unbiased information regarding long term care needs to assist senior citizens, adults, and children with disabilities. These services are available to Tompkins County residents at no cost. Tompkins Care Connection also provides services such as the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), Medicaid Home Care services, in-home assessments, and case management. Additionally, Tompkins Care Connection can perform a Patient Review Instrument (PRI), which is the assessment required by New York State for placement in a nursing home.

Tompkins Care Connection can make remaining at home with Long Term Care needs less complicated by connecting you with other agencies in the county that can assist you with getting home-delivered meals, medical equipment, respite services, transportation, counseling and support, plus many other services.

You can contact Tompkins Care Connection at 607-274-5222, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Did You Know?

The County Seal



We see and use the Tompkins County Seal all the time. Ever wonder what it means?

Karen Fuller of the Legislature Office thought you would like to see the description of the Seal, contained in the County Charter. (Thanks, Karen!)

§ C-1.05. County Seal.

The Tompkins County Seal shall consist of an American bald eagle, whose body faces forward with head turned to the eagle's left, with wings widespread and claws outstretched. In the eagle's right talon is a bunch of arrows and in its left an olive branch. Rising above the eagle's head and between its wing tips are three arcs of stars numbering five, seven and eight respectively, for a total of 20 stars representing the number of states in 1817, the year of the founding of Tompkins County. Framing the above eagle, arrows, olive branch and stars is one narrowly spaced smaller concentric circle, and one widely spaced larger concentric circle. In the arc portion between the small circle and the larger circle are 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies. In the arc portion above the eagle, between these same circles are the words, in upper case lettering, TOMPKINS COUNTY. These words extend from right of the eagle's right wing tip to the left of the eagle's left wing tip.

A Message from The Corridors Team:

The Future of County Corridors

The face of *County Corridors* is about to change.

Beginning with the next issue, *County Corridors* will become primarily an e-mail newsletter, similar to other e-mail newsletters you probably already receive from other organizations.

Each quarterly issue will be distributed through an "all county employees" e-mail, and departments will be asked (as is often done now) to make hard copies to circulate to those employ-

ees without e-mail access. The issue also will continue to be posted on the *County Corridors* website (<http://www.tompkins-co.org/countycorridors>).

We will continue to mail paper copies of each issue to retirees; however, if you are a retiree and would prefer to receive *Corridors* by e-mail, please contact editor Maureen Reynolds at mreynolds@tompkins-co.org, and we will add you to the electronic distribution list.

This format change, prompted by a suggestion made through the Employee Suggestion Box, will enable us to maintain our information link with employees and retirees, at a lower cost and with a shorter production schedule.

We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. Look for the roll-out of the new electronic format in March 2010.

SUMMER IN TUTOVA, ROMANIA!

By Carol Booth, Tompkins County Mental Health Board and MR/DD Chair

*Lei...Wooden Horse-drawn Wagons...Milk from the Cow Next Door...Stray Dogs...Gypsies...
and a Failure to Thrive Clinic that helps some of Romania's most Vulnerable...*

These are my most vivid memories from my summer work/vacation. I certainly can say that I know much more about Romania now than I ever thought I would.

My husband, Dick, and I went to Southern Poland last year to teach Conversational English through a program called **Global Volunteers**. We had such a wonderful time, and learned so much about that part of Eastern Europe, that we chose to take on another adventure this July 2009. This year we chose to travel to Tutova and Barlod, in a very poor, rural part or northeast Romania – me to work in a Clinic for “failure to thrive” babies, and Dick again to teach Conversational English.

We arrived in Bucharest on July 2, 2009, and explored this city of almost 2 million on our own. We saw an odd convergence of very beautiful old world architecture with the terrible decay of the Communist era. There were the most unique Orthodox Churches tucked into corners of the city, and at the same time -- lots of stray dogs roaming the alleys. In the early 1990's, at the time of the Revolution, times were very difficult, and many families could not afford to keep their pet dogs and often their children. The dogs were set free and many children were abandoned and later sent to state-run orphanages. Nowadays there are still stray dogs, but there are not “orphanages” – only child placement centers for typical and special needs children. There is also the beginning of a foster care system.

On Saturday, July 4 we met our team at the Bucharest Airport and began our five-hour van ride to Tutova – with one stop mid-way at a McDonald's Restaurant! We finally arrived at the Raluca Motel – similar to a small tourist home or pension – and were assigned our rooms. We met briefly that night for a short “Welcome” meeting and then were off to bed. Don, our Global Volunteer Team Leader, and his wife, Michaela, our Country Manager, were so helpful right from the beginning of our work.

The next day we spent many hours learning about each other – there were 19 of us – and about the children and the country of Romania.

The bonding had begun!! We tasted Romanian food and included, over the two-week period, such specialties as stuffed cabbage, Romanian pie, Bulgarian salad, and absolutely delicious soups. Bogdan, our waiter, practiced his “customer service” and we all tried to help. Later in the day we were assigned a child to focus on over in the Clinic and learned something about each of the children – we also visited the Clinic for the first time.



I was assigned to Alexandra, a six-year-old with brittle bone disease, mental retardation, and autism – also spent a good deal of time with Maria, a child with severe, presently inoperable hydrocephaly, and shorter periods of time with Gabriella and Emma, both one-year-olds with cerebral palsy. We quickly began our routine of Clinic work – a full morning stint, another from 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., and then either another shift from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., or after dinner from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. During our times at the Clinic, we helped to feed the children, played with them inside, and walked with them outside. We volunteers chatted with each other and used body language combined with a few Romanian words to communicate with the staff.

Everyone at the Clinic was so friendly and helpful, although their ways were different. Health standards were unlike ours in some cases – children were fed from common bottles and dishes, children were diapered without gloves or disposable mats, and the fear of drafts was rampant! We all had to wear masks for the first week, due to the possibility of swine flu. However, the

doctor, and the nurses/assistants were so loving to the children. They simply did not have enough time to perform any extra therapies or stimulation – Global Volunteers provided that.

As the days passed, we became more familiar with the children and they with us. Alexandra, despite her serious challenges, I do believe, recognized me when I arrived each day and showed me, in her own way, that she wanted to go outside. She would often hold out her arms. She had no verbal language and she needed assistance in walking but we did begin to understand each other. Maria simply needed to be held, talked with and fed...even Maria was able to show some increased focusing with her eyes after stimulation. I took Gabriella and Emma and played on the therapy ball in order to break up their spasticity.

The Volunteers on our Team worked for five days, and then were off for the weekend. My husband and I went with six others and traveled four hours north to the region of the famous Painted Monasteries and small mountain villages. The Carpathian Mountains cut across Transylvania and come down in Bucovina where we traveled. These monasteries are on the World Heritage List and are very unique and beautiful. Once back in Tutova, we returned to our regular routine at the Clinic and at the English classes. We were all learning so much about the country and culture of Romania.

Being and working in another culture is an indescribable experience – so very different and endlessly interesting, yet at the same time, so very much the same. We all love our children, and we certainly want our young people to be part of the Global Society. We sometimes go about this more slowly and in different ways. In volunteering with Global Volunteers, I have been able to offer a small part to the “change I want to see in the world.” My husband and I love to travel and are so very grateful for the opportunities we have had in parts of the world where we have learned so much, shared so much, and hopefully added some to cross-cultural understanding.

Note: Carol is married to former County Legislator Dick Booth.

THE PUZZLE

By Jackie Kippola

B	S	H	S	K	I	E	D	E	D	I	U	G	P	M	A	C	N	C
W	K	T	V	O	M	E	I	K	O	E	X	A	P	M	O	I	O	O
O	O	Z	M	I	Z	A	H	I	L	E	M	M	E	O	O	K	U	J
E	H	S	D	H	T	A	A	D	S	E	P	A	G	L	H	O	W	I
I	S	E	A	B	A	A	N	L	S	K	L	N	A	Z	K	N	S	E
L	S	E	C	K	A	N	L	S	C	O	O	T	L	I	S	K	E	R
T	U	W	O	R	R	E	B	C	O	O	T	L	I	S	K	E	R	H
N	J	N	L	Z	O	V	S	S	O	Y	E	H	O	T	U	O	Y	A
E	A	O	E	Y	S	F	F	G	G	M	C	N	D	N	A	I	H	B
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P	E	R	B	R	K	C	N	E	N	N	G	T	Z	O	T	P	H	O
M	P	C	G	E	Z	O	S	G	B	Z	B	U	E	N	N	I	L	H
E	L	E	G	B	K	S	G	S	I	X	T	E	R	T	I	B	E	C
K	E	R	D	L	O	M	R	T	K	I	S	M	I	A	D	D	U	R
I	S	M	Y	A	A	M	T	T	E	N	N	E	B	S	S	A	N	S
S	M	O	O	B	M	U	P	I	H	S	R	E	N	T	R	A	P	H

ANSWERS TO "THE PUZZLE" are on Page 12

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|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| CAMP GUIDE | VITAL COMMUNITIES | EMPLOYMENT |
| BENNETT | SCHOOLS | COLEMAN |
| TEENS | ZAHLER | DRUG TASK FORCE |
| EMPLOYMENT | JOHNSON | KIDS |
| RECREATION | ALBERT | ZOOK |
| HESS | PARTNERSHIP | |

BONUS: NAME OF BUILDING YOUTH BUREAU LOCATED (ABBREV.)

Highway Highlights...

Submitted by John Dolan, Associate Civil Engineer & Bill Sczesny, Highway Manager

During the 2009 construction season, there has been much activity on the Warren Road reconstruction project. Water mains were relocated, and new water services were installed. New storm water utilities were installed, and natural gas mains and electric utilities were relocated. We anticipate that by December 2009 the project will be shut down for the season.

In the spring of 2010, the project will resume, with a new traffic signal to be installed at the post office. Paving two miles of top coat asphalt and new roadway striping will be done. In addition to the new pavement, there will be improved pedestrian, bike, and transit accommodations. The anticipated completion will be in mid-2010.

The \$5 million dollar project is a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which reached Tompkins County through New York State stimulus funding.



Campaign Update

Campaign coordinator Shanovah Moodie reports that, as of December 9, more than 70 county employees have contributed a total of \$13,811 toward meeting community needs through the 2009 Tompkins County United Way campaign.

Shanovah expresses appreciation to Administrator Joe Mareane and his staff for support of this year's campaign...and, to all who gave, voices a special "thank you" for their generosity.

As of December 10, the local United Way campaign has achieved more than 68% of its goal of just over \$2 million.

If you'd still like to participate, it's not too late! For more information, contact Shanovah at 274-7532 or smoodie@tompkins-co.org.

Halloween Contest Competition Group



1st Place Goes To:
Richard Simmons & Fans
ITS Department



Ceiling Fans
Solid Waste



The Doctors are in
Sheriff's Department Civil Office



County Clerks Bowling Team
County Clerks Office



Masquerade Ball
Health Department CHS Unit

Halloween Contest Competition

Individual



1st Place Goes To:
Peanut the Personal Trainer
"Peanut" (Ida Besemer)
Facilities



Ghoul
Ceil Grier
Solid Waste



Britney Spears
Stephanie Egan-Engels
Solid Waste

Another great year for the Halloween Costume Competition!

Congratulations to our winners...and to all who competed.

Thanks to the Vending Committee for sponsoring this competition again this year.

Employee Spotlight

Rick Baker

Rick is a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Highway Division. He has worked for the County for more than 25 years, starting out as summer help and advancing to Motor Equipment Operator before assuming his present position.

Rick responded to the following questions from *County Corridors*:



What do you do here (your job duties)?

Operate/run equipment, run paver, operator for the sweeper truck vacuum truck, and shoulder machine, drive 10-wheeler dump trucks, patrol and plow roads overnight in the winter, and a wide variety of jobs.

What do you like best about your job?

The variety of different jobs.

What do you like least about your job?

Working in the rain in the summer and salting on ice in the winter.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

Riding 4-wheeler and motorcycle, and helping with the hot-air balloon.

If you ran the world, what is the first thing you would do?

Try to get the U.S. out of debt.

VENDING COMMITTEE "VENDS"

Post-Trip Information:

NYC Spring Trip, May 16th – cancelled due to lack of reservations.

Darien Lake, July 25th – 29 scheduled, 24 attended.

“Rent” at Hangar Theatre, August 15th – 80 tickets were sold.

Buffalo Bills Game, November 29th – 26 attended.

NYC Winter Trip, December 5th – 44 attended.

Website:

Don't miss out on a chance to enjoy one of the trips or events being scheduled in 2010. Please 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. Be sure to visit regularly for updated information on all trips, news, etc.

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

Reducing Waste for the Holidays

Continued from Page 1

Items that have no packaging like books, clothes

Items that are green by visiting FingerLakes-BuyGreen.org

- Find places that you can purchase recycled and non-toxic office and school supplies (computer paper, envelopes, notebooks, folders, markers, pens and pencils, etc.) – Create your own gift bag!
- Find places that you can purchase non-toxic laundry and other cleaning supplies (soaps, softeners, tools, etc.) – Create your own gift basket!
- Find places that you can purchase recycled, durable, or non-toxic yard and garden supplies (tools, soil conditioners, seeds and plants, etc.) – Place items in a flower pot!
- Find places that you can purchase non-tox-

ic, durable, and reusable building maintenance supplies (paint and painting accessories, lighting, building materials, etc.)

Reusable items such as mugs, water bottles, and bags

- Buy multiples and leave a set at your office and the other in your car

Items that have recycled content packaging

Items that have packaging that can be recycled

- Styrofoam vs. Cardboard

Traditions are what is passed on from generation to generation. Let us pass on the tradition of less waste, reuse, recycle, and if we do buy, buy green!



Comprehensive Plan Receives Award

By Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department

The New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded its *2009 Planning Excellence Award for Innovation in Sustainability* to the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan 2008 Amendment – Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element.

The award specifically acknowledged the work of *Katie Borgella*, Principal Planner; *Leslie Schill*, Senior Planner; and *Ed Marx*, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; however, upon acceptance of the award, staff noted the leadership role of the County Legislature in moving this project forward and the keen interest the topic received from the community at large.

The project that received the award was adopted on December 16, 2008, when the Tompkins County Legislature approved an amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan to address the issue of energy and greenhouse gas emissions. The amendment sets in motion a multi-faceted plan for the Tompkins County community to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency, make the transition to renewable sources of energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The overarching goal of the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Tompkins County by at least two percent annually for the next 40 years, achieving at least an 80 percent reduction from 2008 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. This goal is tied to the greenhouse gas emissions reductions target proposed by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which asserts that this stated decrease in greenhouse gas emissions is necessary in order to mitigate human impact on climate and to avoid the worst effects of global climate change.

For information on what consumers can do to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, visit the website of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County:

<http://www.ccetompkins.org/consumer/Energy/SaveEnergy.htm>

Action Strategy Highlights:

Comprehensive Plan Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element

- Work with local municipalities, school districts, businesses and others in the community to develop a 5-year strategy to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10% of 2008 emissions levels;
- Develop a plan to address the specific energy needs of low-income people, including recommendations for improvements to existing energy-related programs and identification of potential pilot projects to address energy needs;
- Promote green business development and create green job training opportunities for workers, high-school students, and college students.

To see the element and all 17 action items, please visit <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/compplan/index.htm>



WDIC Welcomes Sarah Reistetter

For those of you have yet to meet her, the WDIC is pleased to introduce to you Sarah Reistetter.

As WDIC project assistant, Sarah is responsible for the development, implementation, planning, and coordination of initiatives that promote and sustain diversity, equity, and respect throughout our workplace community and those we serve.

Prior to this role, she was a human resource strategic consultant in the New York City Tri-State area who provided guidance to organizations, much like ours. Sarah is an '01 graduate from Cornell University's School of Industrial Labor and Relations and contributes nearly ten

years of human resource professional experience to our organizational knowledge.

Starting at the end of August, Sarah immediately began to work; on developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan to support our inclusive and diverse community; on a series of surveys in order to get impactful data from our stakeholders; and has also created and implemented a civil service education workshop that she and Steve Estes and Diane Bradac facilitated in October.

The workshops were well received by our community, and we are looking forward to offering similar workshops in 2010. A special thanks to

Rosie Rice and Becky Norris for their contributions of event space, materials, and for volunteering their professional time to the success of these programs.

Over the course of the next few months, as these projects and many others mature, look for the new and improved WDIC website.

Please feel free to send Sarah an e-mail (sreistetter@tompkins-co.org) or give her a call, at 277-4083, I know that she would enjoy hearing from you.

Happy December.

Department News

Kudos Korner...

Sheriff's Office

Deputy Koskinen Receives Award

Deputy *Kyle Koskinen* of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office recently completed two weeks of training sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Fort Dix, NJ.

This very intensive training focused on Basic and Intermediate Police Sniper skills which involved classroom and live-fire activities. Participants were ranked according to their scores from various courses of fire throughout the two weeks.

School officials awarded Deputy Koskinen with a plaque, for his first place ranking. A total of 16 participants from along the east coast attended, many from much larger metropolitan areas.

Deputy Koskinen joined the Sheriff's Office in 2003 and is a member of the joint Special Weapons and Tactical Team with the City of Ithaca Police Department.

Women's Opportunity Center Honors Shanovah Moodie

The Women's Opportunity Center honored Records Officer Shanovah Moodie at the organization's 30th Anniversary Celebration September 24. Shanovah received an award for her accomplishments throughout the years.

"I was once an apprentice at WOC through the Youth Outreach apprentice program and then a participant," Shanovah says. "The WOC is such great place and I am blessed that they were able to see fit to give me this honor."



Shanovah (center) with Senator James Seward and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton

County Clerk's Office

Clerk's Office Recognized as Challenge Partner of the Year

Challenge Industries recognized *Alanna Congdon* and *Maureen Reynolds*, as representatives of the Tompkins County Clerk's Office, as the Challenge Business Partner of the Year.

This award is given in recognition of their longstanding partnership with Challenge in providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers.



Alanna and Maureen

Solid Waste Division

Waste Reduction and Recycling Team 2009 Recycler of the Year

The Tompkins County Waste Reduction and Recycling Team, made up of *Kat McCarthy*, *Leo Riley* and *Linnett Short*, has been recognized by the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling, Inc. (NYSAR3) as the association's 2009 Team Recycler of the Year.

The award, the group's first-ever Team recognition, was presented at the association's meeting in Albany last month. The Tompkins County team was recognized for its collaboration to significantly reduce waste in Tompkins County schools, as part of the countywide goal to achieve reduce waste by 75% by 2015.

NYSAR3 notes that "by promoting the international Go Green Initiative and Re-Business Partners, the team has impacted 25 county public schools to date. As a result, on average, schools in Tompkins County have increased their 21% waste diversion rate to 34%. Further, a culture of environmental sustainability has been created in schools at all levels."



Leo Riley and Kat McCarthy with association president Dianne Woske (center)

Facilities Division

Welcome to...

Bob O'Laughlin, Assistant Director of Facilities.

FUNNY BONES



HOLIDAY DOWNSIZING

Today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.

The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated.

The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.

The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks appear to be in order.

The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good one.

The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. Their function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes and therefore enhance their outplacement.

As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids

consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.

Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year.

Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cut back on new music and no uniforms will produce savings which will drop right down to the bottom line.



We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), action is pending.

Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to stay competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

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FOR SALE – Marantz Stereo System, includes: turntable, cassette, 2 large speakers, and remote, \$250. Please call (607) 273-5609, leave message.

FOR SALE – 1995 31’ Challenger 5th-wheel camper. Features include two slide-outs, basement, full-size bathroom, and a queen-sized bed. Excellent condition. Asking \$10,000.00, complete with hitch. Also, 2000 Chevy Silverado ¾-ton, extended cab, 3-door pick-up. Loaded, with 81,000 miles, 6.0 Vortec engine, new tires, solid tonneau cover, excellent condition. Asking \$12,000, complete with 5th-wheel package. Both for \$21,000. Will consider selling separately, only if the camper sells first. Must sell due to health reasons. Please call (607) 898-5196.

FOR SALE – 1985 24’ Tioga motor home on Chevrolet chassis. Sleeps 6, A/C, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, 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 – JUST IN TIME FOR THAT NEW CHRISTMAS PET! Small animal cage (guinea pig, hamster, gerbil), 24”x16”x15”, two hanging water bottles, and small food dish. PLUS smaller carry cage with exercise wheel. \$25 takes all. Please call (607) 277-6878.

FOR SALE – Portable DVD Player – Axion LMD-6708Y. Brand new, gift, never used. Perfect for those long holiday drives. \$50.00. Please call Suzanne, at (607) 351-6943.

WANTED – 1 or 2 bedroom apartment in private home – downtown Ithaca or Triphammer area. Please call (607) 273-5609, leave message.



ANSWERS TO “THE PUZZLE”

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 Z O N H O
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 T N E M Y O L P M E
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