

## Sustainability Effort Moves Forward

By Marcia Lynch

In the last issue of *County Corridors*, we told you that the County Legislature has endorsed development of a county government sustainability effort, proposed by a group of employees from across county departments. The Sustainability Team wants to tell you more about this initiative.

**So, what is this thing called "Sustainability"?** Our team defines sustainability as "*meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs*". In common sense terms, following this principle means thinking about the impact of our collective actions now and how they will affect the future, making small changes now which, taken together, will produce meaningful long-term impact.

Much of the recent drive to become a more sustainable society arises from the twin threats of climate change and dwindling fossil fuel reserves, as well as concern about chemical pollution in our food, water and built environment. Therefore, much of the work on sustainability is focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, "green" building and "green" purchasing. The sustainable practices to be developed as part of this effort (*see below*) focus, in part, on these areas. As well as saving our resources, sustainability initiatives – for example energy efficiency – often save money, as well.

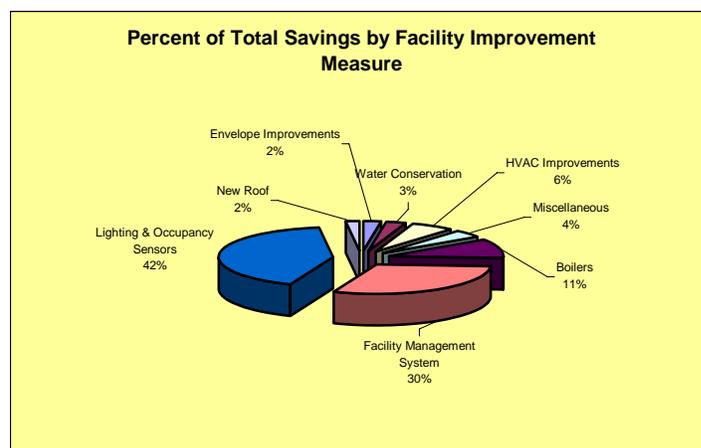
**What role do we have in this effort?** Gay Nicholson, program coordinator for Sustainable Tompkins and the Southern Tier Energy Smart Communities Coordinator for Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, is an adviser for the Sustainability Team. Gay observes, "Local government is an ideal setting for learning how to do this work together. If we can agree on a set of shared goals for county operations, we can all get involved in thinking through the best ways to eliminate waste, improve energy efficiency and create a healthy working environment. Working together, we can accept the challenge of designing our local government functions to serve as a model for all of us in creating more sustainable homes and workplaces."

You may not realize what the County is already doing to support sustainable practices:

### Sustainable practices the action plan addresses:

- 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.

**Energy Performance Contract** Tompkins County recently completed a \$4.3 million energy savings performance contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. The facility and infrastructure improvements, funded by their guaranteed energy and operational savings, will generate more than \$217,000 in annual savings. The first phase of this project implemented energy-saving initiatives at eleven of the County's 17 facilities – including expansion of the existing energy management system, lighting improvements, water conservation measures, high-efficiency boilers, building envelope improvements (to facades, etc.), electrical plug load controllers, and vending machine "energy misers". The second phase involved a large-scale heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrade to the county courthouse, control and lighting improvements and a new roof.



The project produced environmental benefits including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 1,000 tons annually, 70 percent of the county's greenhouse gas reduction goal. A \$130,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) supported a detailed energy audit and electricity conservation measures.

*(continued on Page 2)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bus Pass Program Extended .....	3
Verizon Wireless Benefit .....	3
Diversity News .....	3
Diversity Calendar .....	4
Day Reporting Program .....	5
Note From the County Administrator .....	5
Employee Spotlight .....	6
Highway Highlights .....	7
Department News .....	8
Supervisory Training .....	9
25 Year Club .....	10
Classified Ads .....	11

## Library Recognized for Effective Waste Management

Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (TCSWMD) would like to applaud the Public Library and Millie Hernandez for their outstanding waste reduction efforts and commitment to the ReBusiness Partners Program. The ReBusiness Partners Program was developed by TCSWMD to assist Tompkins County businesses and organizations in reducing waste, increasing recycling and increasing green purchasing practices. Through this

program, businesses and organizations such as the Library, receive a free waste assessment by TCSWMD, including a report of recommendations based on findings from the assessment. This report provides action steps that can be taken by the organization to improve waste reduction, recycling and green purchasing activities.

TCSWMD recognizes the Library for its long-standing waste reduction initiatives. Paper conservation is constantly encouraged through double sided copying, scrap paper reuse, and the sale of old periodicals to the public for a quarter. Other innovative programs the Library has undertaken include manila folder and envelope reuse, as well as a program to collect and reuse three-ring binders from local businesses.

The waste assessment that was performed last year prompted the Library to take additional steps to reduce waste. As a result, the Library has reduced unwanted mail by removing 250 names from mailing lists. This has helped decrease paper waste and saves employee time with mail processing and disposal. In addition, an e-newsletter was created to keep Library employees up-to-date with new waste reduction and recycling activities. The Library's program encourages all employees to be involved with waste reduction and recycling activities as evident in the newsletter that concludes with, "Have any suggestions? Please share them."

For more information about the Library's waste reduction program, please contact Millie directly at [mhernandez@tcpl.org](mailto:mhernandez@tcpl.org). To learn more about the ReBusiness Partner Program, please visit the new TCSWMD website at [www.recycletompkins.com](http://www.recycletompkins.com)  
*-Linnett Short*



### Sustainability (cont. from Page 1)

**Biodiesel** Tompkins County Public Works, along with six other local large-scale fleet operators, made a two-year commitment to bulk purchase of biodiesel fuel. The county committed to buying 75,000 gallons of "B-5" in 2007. The fuel is 95% petroleum diesel and 5% soybean fuel, which does not require engine conversion, separate storage tanks, etc.

**"Green" Purchasing** The Solid Waste Management Division has partnered with Sustainable Tompkins to create the *Finger Lakes Buy Green* website ([www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org](http://www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org)) to provide consumers with information about why and how to "buy green". Currently, many county offices already practice some form of green purchasing. The Facilities Department has made great strides towards buying cleaning products that are Green Seal Certified, meaning they contain fewer harsh chemicals. The Solid Waste Management Division also seeks to buy pens and other office supplies with recycled content and 100% post consumer recycled office paper, in addition to environmentally preferable office chairs.

**ReBusiness Partners Program** Through this program, Solid Waste Management has conducted waste assessments in the following county departments: Solid Waste Management Division, Tompkins County Public Library, Public Works, Planning, and the Ithaca-Tompkins Regional Airport. Each was provided with a ReBusiness Partners waste assessment and follow-up recommendations. Since then, the Library, in part, has significantly reduced the receipt of unwanted mail (see above). Public Works has incorporated education about the 4R's into employee training, created a waste reduction team, strengthened its recycling program, and created signage to promote paper conservation. The newly formed waste reduction team at Solid Waste has helped promote paper towel conservation through an electric hand dryer and strengthened waste reduction through increased composting and recycling awareness.

A plan has been drafted to develop a county office product conservation policy, a materials exchange program, a comprehensive waste reduction program, a food waste collection and composting program, and a policy for proper disposal of used electronic equipment and hazardous waste. TCSWMD will provide all county offices with a waste assessment and follow-up report, beginning in June of 2007 through April 2008.

**Bus Pass Program** Since June of last year, the county has offered free TCAT bus passes to county employees, for work-related travel. The program has just been renewed for a fourth quarter. (See related article on Page 3.)

The Team has split into nine subcommittees addressing various aspects of the plan. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Team reports to the Legislature on progress since program endorsement in November.

An important element of this program is informing and involving county employees in this effort, and we will keep in touch concerning how you can help. If you have questions before you hear from us, don't hesitate to contact any member of the Sustainability Team.

#### Sustainability Team Members for 2007:

Cheryl Nelson, Public Works (Facilitator)	Ed Marx, Planning and Public Works
Arel LeMaro, Facilities	Rachel Kissinger, Facilities
Barbara O'Brien, Facilities	William Sczesny, Highway
Dale Gregrow, Highway	Kat McCarthy, Solid Waste
Linnett Short, Solid Waste	Lisa Jehu, Purchasing
Sharon Reagin, Finance	Marcia Lynch, Public Information
Anita Fitzpatrick, Personnel	Greg Potter, ITS
Barbara Eckstrom, Solid Waste	Tom Richardson, Solid Waste

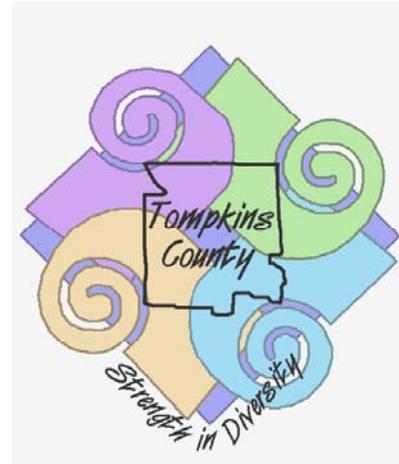
## Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee News

By Heather Stewart

On December 19, 2006 the Legislature took another step towards making Tompkins County a more diverse and inclusive organization by voting to adopt bylaws for the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee (WDIC), therefore making the group an official advisory board to the Legislature. Prior to this step the WDIC was a special committee of the Legislature charged by the Chair of the Legislature (Tim Joseph) with guiding Tompkins County with the development and implementation of a plan to increase and maintain diversity and inclusion among the workforce and in all aspects of County Government including service to the community. By becoming a formal advisory board to the Legislature, the WDIC no longer has to be concerned with the possibility of being disbanded with a change in focus of the Legislature, and can continue along the path to changing the "cultural" climate of Tompkins County to that of a more welcoming, diversified and inclusive organization.

Members of the WDIC will be representative of a cross section of the geographical areas, various social, political, religious, educational, cultural and government groups. The Committee will have between 15 and 25 members in undesignated seats. However, it is the intent of the committee that staff and legislature are adequately represented on it. Each member will file an application with the Standing Committee of the Legislature responsible for workforce diversity and inclusion issues and be appointed by the Tompkins County Legislature for a three (3) year term with a two (2)-term limit. Tompkins County employees who wish to be members do not have to be residents of Tompkins County.

The roles and responsibilities of WDIC members include advocating for policy changes related to the Tompkins County Diversity and Inclusion Plan; offering leadership, expertise and advocacy that promotes positive change as it relates to employment opportunities and service for underrepresented individuals within Tompkins County; advocating for funding to promote the work and mission of the Tompkins County Diversity and Inclusion Plan; and to encouraging and stimulating agencies, departments, or units under the jurisdiction of the Tompkins County Legislature to take action that will fulfill the purposes of the county's Diversity and Inclusion Plan and Diversity Policy Guidelines.



Additionally, the Legislature approved a logo design for the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion program. With its diamond shape representing the four (4) directions (North, South, East and West), stylistic elements of water representing the waterfalls of the area and the map of Tompkins County in the foreground, the "Strength in Diversity" logo is eye-catching. This logo will grace documents, promotional items, and other materials associated with the Tompkins County Diversity and Inclusion program.

For more information regarding advisory boards please visit: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/legislature/advisory> or call the Legislature at 274-5434. For further information regarding the WDIC please contact Heather Stewart in the Personnel Department at 274-5557.

### Recommended Reading

*"And don't call me a racist!"* Selected and Arranged by Ella Mazel

Ella Mazel brings us 1,000 quotes that reflect the manifestations of prejudice and racism as they relate to the relationship between African-Americans and Whites. They address the racial divide, our history, the present and the future. This text also includes brief explanations of the individuals quoted.

Copies are available at Tompkins County Personnel free of charge and courtesy of Tompkins County Personnel and the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee. To obtain a copy, please contact Heather Stewart at 274-5557 or [hstewart@tompkins-co.org](mailto:hstewart@tompkins-co.org).

### Diversity Reading Circle

Interested in participating in a bi-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](mailto:hstewart@tompkins-co.org).

### Free Bus Pass Program Extended

Tompkins County's Free Bus Pass pilot program, offered since June of last year, has been extended for another three months – from April through June 2007. A recent count showed 68 county employees taking advantage of the benefit.

You must fill out a new application form to obtain a new bus pass. The form can be downloaded from the employee intranet – see the "Forms" section, under "Personnel Forms": *TCAT Bus Pass Application* (available in Microsoft Word and PDF formats). You also can fill out the application at the Personnel Office, or it can be mailed to you.

The free bus pass is available to any county employee, full-time or part-time, and may be used only for work or work-related activities. Employees are encouraged to consider a bus pass – even if they don't expect to use it every day. Personnel Commissioner Anita Fitzpatrick points out that any time an employee uses the pass and opts to ride the bus, it helps. "It's a small 'green' initiative," she notes, "but it works!"

## 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.

### March (Deaf History Month, Women's History Month, Irish-American Heritage Month, Greek-American Heritage Month, Spiritual Wellness Month)

- 1<sup>st</sup> – St. David's Day (Welsh), Independence Day (Bosnia)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – World Day of Prayer, The Fast of Nineteen Days (Baha'i), National Day (Morocco)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Doll Festival (Japan), Holi (Hindu, Sikh), Liberation Day (Bulgaria), Medin (Sri Lanka)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Purim (Jewish), Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Ghana)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – International Women's Day (United Nations)
- 12<sup>th</sup> – National Day (Mauritius)
- 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day (Ireland, United States)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Naw Ruz (Baha'i), Iranian New Year, Benito Juarez's Birthday (Mexico), Human Rights Day (South Africa), Ostara (Wicca), Norouz (Zoroastrian)
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Greece), Feast of Annunciation (Christian), Passion Sunday (some Christian)
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Bangladesh), Prince Kuhio Day (Hawaii), Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Ram Navami (Hindu)
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Mawlid al-Nabi-Mohammad's Birthday (Islamic)

### April (Alcohol Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Parkinson's Awareness Month)

- 1<sup>st</sup> – April Fool's Day (United States), Palm Sunday (Christian), Day of the Innocents (Latin America), Islamic Republic Day (Iran)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Passover begins at Sundown (Jewish), Bak (Sri Lanka)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday (Christian), Ching Ming (China)

- 6<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday (Christian), Chakri Day (Thailand), National Tartan Day (Scottish-American)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Black Saturday (Christian), World Health Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Easter (Christian)
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Bataan Day (Philippines)
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Liberation Day (Uganda)
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Sri Lanka), Songkram (Thailand)
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Memorial Day (Jewish)
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Syria)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Zimbabwe)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Venezuela)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Feast of Ridvan begins (Baha'i)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. George's Day (English), Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel), Independence Day (Turkey)
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day (United States)
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Arbor Day

### May (Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish-American Heritage Month, National Mental Health Month, National Older Americans Month)

- 1<sup>st</sup> – May Day, Labor Day, Santa Cruzan Day (Philippines)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Buddha Purnima (Hindu), Wesak (Buddhist)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Day of Prayer (United States)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Constitution Day (Japan), Constitution Day (Poland)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Victory Day (Russia)
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day (United States)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Malcolm X's birthday (United States), Armed Forces Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Shavout (Jewish)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Feast of Harvest (Israel), African Liberation Day, Declaration of the Bab (Baha'I)
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Jordan), Dia de la Patria (Argentina)
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost (Christian)
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day (United States)



## Did You Know?

Did you know that current County employees are eligible to receive a discount with **Verizon Wireless**?

Verizon Wireless has offered the following discounts to all County employees, both current and new customers:

- 19% discount on monthly access charges\*
- 25% discount on phones and accessories\*\*

For more information please contact Mark Dietrich, Verizon Wireless Sales Representative, at 607-227-4071 or [mark.dietrich@verizonwireless.com](mailto:mark.dietrich@verizonwireless.com). You may also register to receive your employee discount at [verizonwireless.com/getdiscounts](http://verizonwireless.com/getdiscounts).

\* Discount applies only to the first line. Additional lines will be charged at the current rate of \$9.99/ea. Account must be in the current employee's name.

\*\* Discounts will only be given on-line or through the sales representative. Local retail stores are not authorized to provide discounts.

- Lisa Jehu

## Tompkins County Day Reporting Program

Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located in the Community Justice Center (CJC), is one component of the Department's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI). The program is a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals who would otherwise be facing a period of incarceration, and for individuals who are attempting to reintegrate back into the community following a period of incarceration. As an innovative option for those involved in the courts, Day Reporting offers daily community based supervision, a wide array of class instruction, counseling, and links with other service providers while enhancing family functioning and reserving jail resources for those more appropriate for incarceration. Participants also perform several hours of community service each week with a portion of that work cleaning the very building in which the program is housed. Participants are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their actions, repair the harm caused to their victims and the community and to develop skills to enable them to become more productive members of society.

Participation in the program is generally mandated by the criminal and family courts as a condition of Pre-Trial Release/Release Under Supervision, as a condition of Probation or Conditional Discharge, as a drug court sanction, as a sanction for Violation of Probation, or as a Condition of Parole (the condition is set by the New York State Division of Parole, rather than by the local courts). However, the Day Reporting Center also receives clients who are referred for individualized services such as employment, GED preparation or assistance in applying for needed services. These referrals can come from a particular Probation Officer, a concerned judge, or through various connections at the jail and within the community.

During 2006, 246 new referrals were made to Day Reporting. Of these, 135 successfully completed. All told, Day Reporting provided services to 447 clients. Unsuccessful completions related to non-attendance, new charges and other rule violations. Total program days completed in 2006 were 3,132.

The program has experienced steady numbers throughout the year and this trend is expected to remain constant. Additionally, there is a local movement to address issues regarding formalizing a jail and prison re-entry program. The Day Reporting Center has offered to assist with this venture by providing staff and space. Housed in the basement of the Old Library sharing space with the Felony Drug Treatment Court, the Ithaca Community Treatment Court and the Family Treatment Court, quarters are sometimes tight and less than adequate. Nonetheless, the staff at Day Reporting continues to be committed to offering services to all clients.

### Program Accomplishments During 2006

- Installation of a more secure front door system.
- Probation Department purchase of five new computers for the participant computer lab.
- Implementation of new participant database.
- Addition of Mental Health and Healthy Families classes.
- New stove for cooking and nutrition class.
- Thursday Food Pantry donations.
- Improved garbage and recycling management.

### A Note From the County Administrator:

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Mother Nature treated Tompkins County and the entire Northeast with the season's first major snowstorm. The storm shut down most local governments and for the first time in recent memory, all educational institutions.

While Tompkins County departments remained open, most staff elected to sit the storm out at home. Those few who made it in were left wondering if we had made the right choice. As the day progressed and the storm refused to break, we were witness to conditions endured routinely by the brave souls who come at any time of the day or night or extend their shifts to ensure public safety, clear roads, maintain parking lots and sidewalks, or attend to the public's health needs. To all of you, many thanks, you have my enduring admiration and appreciation.

One other item of note, congratulations to David Squires, the new President of the New York State Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers. I am sure that David will continue Tompkins County's long line of outstanding leadership in New York State associations.

*-Steve Whicher*

### Sheriff Meskill and County Clerk Valenti Begin New Terms

County Clerk Aurora R. Valenti conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Sheriff Peter J. Meskill, whose third term of office commenced January 1, 2007. The four-year term will expire December 31, 2010.



To begin her fifth term, County Clerk Valenti takes the oath of office from State Supreme Court Judge Robert Mulvey. Valenti's term also commenced January 1, 2007 and will expire December 31, 2010.



## Employee Spotlight



**Vicky Ahola** is a senior motor vehicle examiner for DMV and has worked there for almost 27 years as a clerk, motor vehicle examiner and now senior motor vehicle examiner. Her main duties are to register vehicles of all sizes, trailers, boats, ATVs, and snowmobiles. In addition, she helps customers acquire their drivers' license, identification card and/or permits and also troubleshoots problems and collects fees.

Vicky says the best-liked part of her job is helping people who truly appreciate your going beyond your job and helping them get what they need done; the least-liked part is people who come in very defensive.

Outside of work she enjoys watching movies.

Asked what she would do first if she ran the world, Vicky responds, "Who wouldn't want world peace? To help achieve this I'd like to get rid of some of the politics. I think that if you have the means and ability to help your fellow person then you should do it. It doesn't matter if it's your neighbor, another state, or country, if you can help by giving food, medical help, money or maybe just a sympathetic ear, you should because it's the right thing to do. You shouldn't ask, what can I get out of this or how will it help advance my career? You never know what you think is a small act of kindness might be a life changing act for another."

## Kudos Korner

### Kudos to Airport Operations Staff

We all recognize the wonderful job done by the Highway Department during the winter months. Their efforts during the mid-February storm were particularly appreciated. It is also worth remembering the small group of dedicated employees up on the hill who plow and clear the 2.5 million square feet of asphalt that makes up the runway, taxiways, aircraft ramps, parking lots and roadways of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport.

On a day-to-day basis there are far fewer people using the airport than the roads of Tompkins County, of course, but the airport serves as a vital link to our community and is an important economic engine that is an asset to us all. On the day of the storm some of the airport's Operations Technicians were pulling work shifts in excess of thirteen hours. Our Operations Supervisor completed a shift of twenty-one hours. By the time the airlines had reorganized themselves to resume normal operations the airport was open and ready for business.

So next time when Bill's guys are out there clearing your road or covering your mailbox with snow, spare a thought for Bob's guys who are working their tails off at the airport and have no mailboxes to relieve their stress.

- Bob Nicholas, Airport Manager

### Gladys Brangman Wins Award

Better Housing of Tompkins County, Inc. recently presented Gladys Brangman, an outreach worker with the Tompkins County Office for the Aging, with a *Community Builder Award*. Gladys has worked closely with Better Housing for Tompkins County in her work assisting older adults with home repairs.

Congratulations Gladys on a job well done!

Gladys, with COFA Director Lisa Holmes



**Birth Announcement:**  
 Trina Schickel from the Office for the Aging  
 is the proud grandmother to  
 Gabriella Grace Bogart, born November 10, 2006!




**FUNNY BONES**

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

**Good-bye and Good Luck**

... to Joe Davis, formerly of Information Technology Services. We wish Joe a safe and profitable future in his new endeavors. He will surely be missed.

## Highway Highlights..

Submitted by John Lampman, Associate Civil Engineer

The McLean-Cortland Road from Peruville Road to near the Cortland County line was totally reconstructed in the hamlet of McLean, Town of Groton, in 2006, and is a beautiful example of the County and community working together to complete reconstruction of a highway. This project was 13 years in the making, and is still not finished until the bridge over Fall Creek is completed (hopefully this year), but the indications from what can be seen now are that the work was worth waiting for.

In 2006, the road was reconstructed by contractor, Suit-Kote Corporation, of Cortland. It was a struggle given the extremely rainy summer. Suit-Kote even had to leave the work for two weeks in July because of the flooding emergency in the Binghamton area in late June.

The project built 11-foot wide travel lanes and 6-foot wide shoulders in the more rural eastern portion of this major collector road. In the hamlet itself, shoulders narrowed to 5 feet wide with curbs and sidewalks and on-street parking provided in several areas. The 5-foot wide shoulders were needed to safely accommodate bicycles out of the way of the over 10,000 vehicles, including a large volume of heavy trucks, that use the road daily.

With this large traffic volume entering McLean, the need for traffic calming was recognized. Its location also makes the community a gateway to the County. These reasons, along with day-to-day needs of residents, triggered inclusion of the walks and curbs. They also justified several beautification measures,

such as colored and patterned concrete ringing the primary intersection in the heart of McLean, and that at Peruville Road and the local elementary school. Colored, imprinted asphalt created the look and feel of brick crosswalks, without sacrificing durability. An area of excess right-of-way in the main square was also dedicated to the McLean Beautification Committee for future planting of perennials.

Landowners that routinely experienced flooding were also heard during the public information process, and drainage improvements were incorporated to prevent such events. These changes were completed in environmentally sound ways, utilizing runoff detention structures that improve water quality, while limiting increases of flow.

The total cost of the project to date is \$3,912,000. \$3,077,000 of this is attributable to 2006 construction and other work completed in 2003. Construction inspection, and design and right-of-way costs for both the road and the bridge accounted for the remaining \$835,000. Fortunately the County taxpayers were not alone in paying these bills. The Federal government picked up 80% and the State 15% of the total.

Once the bridge is replaced, the community will not have to endure the inconveniences of construction for what should be many, many years. They, and those that travel along the road, though, will be finally able to enjoy comfortable travel conditions on a road that enhances the attractiveness of the neighborhood.

### How Do I Find A Suitable Long Term Care Insurance Policy?

This question, and many others, may be answered with the help of **The Tompkins County Office for the Aging and Lifelong**. These offices are participating in a state initiative to educate consumers about Long Term Care Insurance. The program offers free monthly workshops which provide the basics of information on Long Term Care and Long Term Care Insurance policies.

This program is completely impartial and does not recommend policies, particular features of policies or agents. The group presentations are designed to ensure you develop an understanding of; long term care, long term care options, differences in policy features, projected costs of care and the probability of needing long term care.

If you are interested in pursuing it further and would like more detailed assistance, you may call to schedule private counseling. These confidential sessions can be very effective in helping you determine if LTC Insurance is right for you, what level of coverage you may need, how to protect your assets and what features of a policy best suits your goals and needs.

#### Upcoming Presentations:

April 21, Saturday, 10:00 AM – Noon                      May 3, Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

***Advance Registration is Required!!***

For more information or to register to attend a presentation, call **Tompkins County Office for the Aging** at 274-5482 or **Lifelong** at 273-1511. You can also pick up consumer guides for those researching Long Term Care Insurance at either office.

- Trina Schickel

### Foster Care/Adoption Information Meetings

Submitted by Ellie Arnold

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent and wants more information, the Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St., on the second Thursday of each month. The upcoming meetings will be held April 12 and May 10, 2007.

Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District and for those who will foster teenagers.

Also, our Foster/Adoption Certification/Approval Classes are beginning on March 8, 2007. This is a 33-hour, 11-week program to prepare you to foster or adopt.

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

## Department News

### Probation

The Department of Probation and Community Justice welcomes new employees *Michael Herrling* and *Paul Neugebauer*, our newest probation officers. Michael comes to us from Cortland County Probation, and Paul formerly worked with Cortland County Social Services.

Congratulations are in order for the following recently promoted employees: *Stacie Burgos* promoted to Senior Probation Officer, *Diane Burke* promoted to Senior Probation Officer, *Robin Chernow* promoted to Probation Supervisor, and *Eileen Sommers* promoted to Probation Supervisor.

Retirements include *Margaret (Peggy) Arcangeli*, Probation Supervisor, and *Harold Herman*, Probation Officer. However, Margaret will be returning as a part time probation officer in the spring. Seems folks love their jobs here so much, they can't stay away!

*Liz Shults*, retired Probation keyboard specialist, recently sent pictures of her new twin grandsons. Our favorite shot, below, shows the boys together in a big salad bowl. Congratulations to Liz and her family!



### Mental Health Department

Mental Health is bidding a fond farewell to fourth-floor clinic receptionist *Carole Colaw*, who retired at the end of February.

Carole's colleague Sue Funicelli calls Carole "a really fantastic lady who has been wonderful to work with – caring and compassionate and patient with everyone, clients and staff." Congratulations, Carole. You will be missed!

### Solid Waste Management Division

Welcome to *Kat McCarthy*, Assistant Recycling Specialist!

Good luck to *Skip Paar*, who left the SWMD to accept a position in the Division of Environmental Health at the Health Department.

### County Clerk's Office

Aurora R. Valenti reports that three new employees have been added to her staff.

*Julie Seely* and *Sharon Evans* are the new Motor Vehicle Examiners at DMV; *Rachel Graham* is the new Senior Recording Clerk in the Tompkins County Clerk's Office. Congratulations!

### Dept. of Social Services

At the Department of Social Services we have a number of new employees.

Please welcome: *Micaela Nembhard*, Clerical Assistant in Services; *Diana Koon*, Senior Caseworker in Family Services; *Margaret McCarthy*, Attorney in Legal Unit; *Adele Ayres*, Examiner in Special Services; *Patty Sweeney*, Therapist in Library Resources; *Susan Carpenter*, Clerical in Medicaid Unit; *Joanne Wilcox*, EISEP Registered Nurse, Long Term Care Unit; *Kelly Cain*, Program Assistant, Adult Protective/Long Term Care Unit; *Myea Boda*, Clerk, Administrative/Closed Files; *Eileen Berlow*, Caseworker, Youth & Family Unit; *Diane Gallagher*, Caseworker, Homefinding/Adoption Unit; *Ben Folsom*, Project Assistant, PC Support Unit; *Heather Pforter, Sr.* Caseworker, Child Intake Unit; *Judith Fernandez*, Account Clerk Typist, Child Support Unit; *Deborah McKane*, Caseworker, Youth & Family Services; and *Beth Hornick*, Social Welfare Examiner, TA/FS Unit.

*Cheryl Thomas* has moved to Clerical in TA/FS Unit.

### Highway Division

Congratulations and Best Wishes to *Richard Jackson*, on his retirement from the Highway Department.

Although his effective date was December 31, he is staying on for a few months, giving him nearly 30 years of dedicated service.

Welcome, *Jeff Lucas*, Heavy Equipment Mechanic and *Heath Mack*, Motor Equipment Operator!

### To All County Employees,

Thank you to everyone for your generous donation to Hospicare in memory of my mother-in-law Myrtle Woodard.

Sincerely,  
Sue Woodard and family (TCHD)

### Congratulations, Halloween Contest Winners!

We had an embarrassment of riches – "Peanut" Besemer, David Weiner, Linnett Short and Kat McCarthy were all tied.

Thanks to all who participated, for your creativity and good humor again this year!

## Supervisory Training with Bob Blenn

By Heather Stewart

Are you interested in becoming a supervisor? Maybe you are a supervisor and you want to brush up your skills or learn a new technique. If that is the case, then the Supervisory Series with Bob Blenn is the training just for you.

The series will help you identify your role and where you fit in the organization. It provides tips and techniques to assist you in supervising your former peers and to hold you and your staff accountable. You will also learn about communication skills, leadership styles, workplace morale and how to conduct effective performance appraisals. This program also addresses issues concerning a culturally diverse workplace, a workplace that is diverse in customers as well as employees.

As of February 20, 2007, twenty-three individuals have completed the entire series while many others attended just topics of particular interest to them. Sheriff Peter Meskill had this to say about the program, "I would recommend it for anyone including non supervisors. It makes you think out of the box about yourself and how you conduct business." The Sheriff goes on to say, "Bob Blenn covers the topics in a way that is tailored to help you; it's not cut and dry and boring; it's invigorating and stimulating to recharge your batteries. I can't think of a more productive way to look at yourself, the organization and how you and those around you conduct business".

Other participants had this to say about the program:

*"The classes are extremely motivating and helpful"* – Melody Scheffler, DSS

*"The entire series was very informative and provided the participants with practical tools to use in their day to day activities."* – Doug Perine, DSS

Bob Blenn, our instructor, has an extensive background of successful leadership positions and in his programs, he utilizes humor, the latest tools and techniques, case studies and role-plays to enhance learning retention.

*"I really enjoyed the supervisory series. Bob is a great presenter. There is a lot of class participation and working with real work situations. Never once in the series did I ever feel bored or uninterested. In fact, I am disappointed that the series is ending. If he ever does a continuation of this series with other supervisory topics, I will definitely sign up to go"* – Carol Bradley, DSS

"Bob Blenn is entertaining, thoughtful and thought provoking. I would recommend anyone contemplating participation in this kind of supervisory workshops to take advantage of Bob's courses. In this case the teacher makes the difference."

- Fernando de Aragon, Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council.

The 2007 Supervisory Series with Bob Blenn begins with **"Straight Talk: Building Authenticity While Accomplishing Goals"** - a two-part program scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> at TC3 Tioga Place. For more information on the Supervisory Series with Bob Blenn, please contact Heather Stewart in the Personnel Office at 274-5557 or via email at [hstewart@tompkins-co.org](mailto:hstewart@tompkins-co.org).

---

---

## Tetanus and Gardening

By Karen Bishop, RN, BS.

Community Health Nurse Supervisor, Tompkins County Health Department

Springtime finds people of all ages heading outside to garden, picnic, and have fun in the warm weather. Outdoor recreation can create problems, however, and one of them is potential tetanus exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 31% of reported tetanus-related injuries occur in yards, gardens, and farms, and another 23% occur in other outdoor locations.

### How does one get tetanus?

Tetanus is not contagious. People get it only from the environment. Tetanus bacteria entering the body through a cut or wound cause tetanus disease. Rusty nails are often blamed for causing tetanus, but it is the tetanus bacteria and not the rust, that causes the disease. Tetanus bacteria can live anywhere, but are usually found in soil, dust and manure. Tetanus causes serious, painful spasms of muscles in the neck, arms, legs and stomach and can lead to "lockjaw", the inability to open the mouth or swallow.

### Vaccination is the best way to protect against tetanus.

#### What type of tetanus vaccine should children get?

Children less than 7 years of age should get at least 3 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis vaccine (DTaP) prior to entering school. Adolescents age 10 years and older who have completed three initial doses of any tetanus and diphtheria vaccine should get **one dose of Tdap** vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

#### What tetanus vaccine should adults get?

Adults are known to be carriers of pertussis, which can infect all age groups and is particularly dangerous for infants. All adults should receive a **single dose of Tdap** vaccine when due for a tetanus diphtheria booster. *Ask your doctor about Tdap.*

Plan on getting a tetanus diphtheria booster every 10 years thereafter.



### When should I get a tetanus vaccination?

If you think it's been more than 10 years since your last booster, you need it!

### Where do I go to get a tetanus vaccination?

*Ask your doctor* or call the **Tompkins County Health Department** at 274-6616.

# You're Invited

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL TOMPKINS COUNTY 25-YEAR CLUB DINNER

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 1636 E. Shore Drive (Rt. 34N), Ithaca, New York on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There will be a social hour from 5:30 until 6:30 and a banquet dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please return the **RSVP** with your entrée selection including payment of \$15.00 per person, by **April 20, 2007**. There is no charge for 25-Year Club members and their guest.

This year's new inductees

Paula Austic~~Mental Health Dept.

Beverly Knapp~~Sheriff's Dept.

Helen Beach~~Budget and Finance Dept.

Ronald Lampman~~Sheriff's Dept.

Lee Carter~~Dept. of Social Services

Steven Mente~~Highway Dept.

Patricia Jebbett~~Health Dept.

Matthew Whittemore~~Highway Dept.

---

I will attend the 25-Year Club Dinner on Thursday May 10, 2007

### Entrée Selections

Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_

Old Fashioned Pot Roast \_\_\_\_\_

Stuffed Shells (vegetarian) \_\_\_\_\_

Salad Entrée available upon request \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **TOMPKINS COUNTY** and send to:  
Tompkins County Personnel Department  
125 East Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Recumbent exercise bike in good shape. Call 607-533-9133 (evenings).



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

[dogdayzinn@yahoo.com](mailto:dogdayzinn@yahoo.com)  
[www.dogdayzinn.com](http://www.dogdayzinn.com)

**For Sale:** X-Box in good condition with 1 controller and 9 games. Great Deal at \$100!! Call Travis (607) 273-9253.

**Birding in Costa Rica.** Winter Trip – January 5-16, 2007 & Fall Hawk Migration Trip – September 26-October 7, 2007. Many local birders have participated in previous trips. Contact Sandra Pollack, 277-1416, [journeyweavers@aol.com](mailto:journeyweavers@aol.com) or [www.journeyweavers.com](http://www.journeyweavers.com) for details.

**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:** Weathered Barn Wood. In Good Condition! Rustic Looking. Various size beams and face boards. Asking \$1.50 per board foot, \$2.00 per board foot if delivered. If interested call 607-341-0123 for more details.

**For Sale:** 15" Behringer Speaker w/ 48" Support Stand - Self Powered, 300 Watts - 2 Way Speaker - 1/4" Receiver Line-In. Good for Medium Sized Venues! \$250 or best offer. Call 607 341-0123.

**For Sale:** Queen Anne Sitting Chair. Excellent Condition! Hunter Green in Color. \$150 or best offer. 607 341-0123.

**For Sale:** Wooden Wine Rack. Holds 65 Bottles of Wine! Good for Basement storage/aging. \$70 or best offer. Call (607) 341-0123.

**For Sale:** 12 X 65 2-bedroom trailer. All major appliances included (stove, refrig, washer/dryer, microwave). Triple wall chimney for coal/wood stove. 3 sets of steps and skirting included. New front door. Must be moved. \$3000. Call 532-4092.

**For Sale:** Jacuzzi 5 person spa with two loungers with full jets and lights.. It is 2 yrs old. Bought new and would like \$3000 for it. It can be seen by appointment. Please call 607-659-7685.

**For Sale:** GE Washer & Dryer (White) Set:  
8 Cycle Washer: Regular, Permanent Press & Knits, Extra Cleaning & more. Heavy Duty Extra Large Capacity 4 load sizes, 4 water temps, 2 wash speeds; 3 Cycle Automatic Gas Dryer: Automatic, Permanent Press & Timed. Heavy Duty Large Capacity - 3 Temp Selections. Price: \$300 for set / \$150 each or best offer.

Also, have 50 glass blocks 8" w x 8" l x 4" d for shower. Price: \$200 or best offer  
3 cribs (no mattress) - \$60 each; Crib mattress- \$10  
If interested, call Crystal or David at 564-3224.

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

**For Free:** Upright freezer, old but working. Needs new gasket. Call 387-6890 between 6 PM and 9 PM or on weekends. Email [reds@zoom-dsl.com](mailto:reds@zoom-dsl.com).

**For Sale:** 1995 Chevy truck parts: 6 foot rear bed with lights and tailgate, \$850. Extended cab with air conditioning, all glass, with manual windows, \$650. Rear chrome bumper, \$100. Aluminum rims, 15", \$125 for the set. Other body parts available – all parts RUST-FREE! If any questions, call 607-642-8602 and ask for Cooter.

*Taste of Home*  
**ENTERTAINING**

**Wanted:**

**A FEW GOOD PARTY CONSULTANTS.**

*Must love to entertain.* The ability to show off beautiful tools and accessories for home entertaining with style and ease is a plus. Income potential, benefits and opportunities for personal growth are unlimited. Only applicants who know how to work and play at the same time need apply. Contact us today to learn more about this great opportunity!!

Jackie Maloney P: (607) 564-9346

Email: [jackiemal@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiemal@hotmail.com)

Linnett Short P: (607) 844-8075

Email: [geehill@frontiernet.net](mailto:geehill@frontiernet.net)

## Vending Committee 2007 Event Schedule

### Reservations and/or questions – contact:

Patty Stamm, at 274-6674 ~ or ~ Pete Coats, at 274-6688

### **New York City Spring Day Trip**

When: Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Cost: \$30.00/pp

Leave: 7:00 a.m. SHARP! (from the Tompkins County Public Works Facility on Bostwick Road)

Arrive: Around noon, at Radio City Music Hall (50th St. and Ave. of the Americas) or Macy's (34th St. and 7th Ave.). You're on your own to explore the vast and exciting city, and enjoy your own interests.

Departure: From Radio City Music Hall at 8:00 p.m.

Arrive: Back in Ithaca around midnight.

Minimum of 40 people needed to make this trip possible. Call now for reservations or for additional information.

Reservations and Payment: *Must be received by May 18<sup>th</sup>.*

### **New York City Winter Day Trip**

When: Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Cost: \$30.00/pp

Leave: 7:00 a.m. SHARP! (from the Tompkins County Public Works Facility on Bostwick Road)

Arrive: Around noon, at Radio City Music Hall (50th St. and Ave. of the Americas) or Macy's (34th St. and 7th Ave.). You're on your own to explore the vast and exciting city, and enjoy your own interests.

Departure: From Radio City Music Hall at 8:00 p.m.

Arrive: Back in Ithaca around midnight.

Minimum of 40 people needed to make this trip possible. Call now for reservations or for additional information.

Reservations and Payment: *Must be received by November 16<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Upcoming Events** (Watch for details in the June issue of the County Corridors.)

- Bus to Darien Lake
- Hangar Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast \*
- Hangar Theatre production of Hair \*

*\* Only 40 tickets being purchased for each event.*

### **Something to think about...**

Please remember to use your vending machines. The commissions from these machines help to subsidize our trips and activities. In addition, the Vending Committee provides funding for memorials and appliance purchases, as well as providing \$5.00 per employee per year to be used for parties, picnics, etc. Commissions have decreased over the past several months. If you have suggestions, please forward them to a Vending Committee Member from your Department. Don't have one? Why not join? It's a great group of employees! Meetings are held once every two or three months, for about an hour. For more information, please contact Patty or Pete at the numbers listed above.



## Classified Ads. continued



*At last, a party where you get to pick your own gifts!*

Taste of Home Entertaining wants you – to host a gathering at your house to show off all of the fabulous products we have in store. We'll take care of all the planning and details. You'll simply sit back, relax with your guests, and earn free products, free monthly host specials and discounts on all your favorites from our catalog – all for doing something you love...having a party! Contact us today for all the details.

Jackie Maloney P: (607) 564-9346

Email: [jackiemal@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiemal@hotmail.com)

Linnett Short P: (607) 844-8075

Email: [geehill@frontiernet.net](mailto:geehill@frontiernet.net)

**For Sale:** Weider home gym system. Model Victory 70293. Includes Latbar, Arm Press /Butterfly station, Leg extension, Ab flex station, and Stepper. Approximate set up dimensions: 59" L by 47"W by 76"H. Excellent condition. \$150.00. Call 387-6890, 6-9 PM or on weekends. Email [reds@zoom-dsl.com](mailto:reds@zoom-dsl.com).

*Forward classified ads to Maureen Reynolds at the Office of County Clerk, [mreynolds@tompkins-co.org](mailto:mreynolds@tompkins-co.org)*

**Corridors is printed on 30% recycled paper.**

### **THE CORRIDORS TEAM**

#### **Managing Editor**

Linnett Short, SW Management Division

#### **Editorial Staff**

Geri Lockwood, Highway

Sara Stark, DSS

Maureen Reynolds, County Clerk

Edie Spaulding, DSS

Katrina Schickel, COFA

**Classifieds Editor** - Maureen Reynolds

**Multicultural Editor** – Heather Stewart, Personnel

**Advising Editor, Page Layout**

Marcia Lynch, Public Information

#### **Contributors**

All County Employees and Retirees

**Interested in joining the Corridors team?**

Contact Linnett at

273-6632 or [lshort@tompkins-co.org](mailto:lshort@tompkins-co.org)