

Sustainability Spotlight:

And the 2011 Recycler of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Award goes to...

Lynn Leopold!

Lynn was honored at the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3) annual conference in November.

Lynn retired over ten years ago after serving as the Tompkins County Recycling Specialist for over two decades, but has continued in recycling and waste reduction efforts throughout her retirement.

She was an early leader of the recycling movement in New York State and successfully encouraged the City of Ithaca to implement one of the first residential curbside recycling programs in the 1980s. Lynn was extremely knowledgeable about the future possibilities for recycling. Her contributions include developing County recycling initiatives, creating education materials for recycling, establishing recycling guidelines for businesses, and establishing municipal recycling drop-off areas during the implementation of the countywide trash tag policy. While working with Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (TCSWMD), her greatest strength was educating residents and businesses about how to recycle. Lynn was responsible for one of the first waste assessment projects with business and institutions and developed a business recycling manual.

Lynn's efforts have contributed to Tompkins County's achievement of a waste diversion rate of almost 60% and a successful countywide curbside recycling program since 1991.



Kerri Scales, Rockland County SWMA and NYSAR3 Board President, Lynn Leopold, Marjorie Torelli, Western Finger Lakes Solid Waste Management Authority and NYSAR3 Member

Help Us Honor the “Unsung Heroes” of County Government

Beginning in 2012, the Corridors Team would like to honor, and feature in each edition, the “unsung heroes” of County government—those whom their colleagues and associates would like to recognize for their dedication, commitment, and contributions to county government and the citizens we serve.

To nominate someone for this recognition, please contact *County Corridors* Editor Geri Lockwood (by the submission deadline for the upcoming issue), telling us in writing what is special about this person and why he or she is truly an “unsung hero.” (Please also give a heads-up to your supervisor or department head about your nomination.)

Thanks for helping Corridors voice special thanks to the people who make county government special!

If you have questions, please get in touch with Geri at 274-0314 or glockwood@tompkins-co.org.

Even though Lynn retired over a decade ago, county residents and community members still remember her contribution to the recycling field. She is known by many as the “grandmother of recycling” in Tompkins County and is recognized for her dedication to waste reduction and recycling.

Also present at the conference, to see Lynn accept her award, were Barb Eckstrom, Solid Waste Manager, and Kat McCarthy, Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist of TCSWMD.

Congratulations Lynn!

*Submitted by Stephanie Egan-Engels,
Solid Waste Management Division*





Christmas Tree Safety

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, PIO Team Member

Whether your Christmas tree is live or artificial, precautions must be followed to ensure safety for you and your family.

Below are some safety tips to follow:

- Check for frayed or broken wires and loose connections, on the light sets, and replace non-working bulbs.
- Candles should never be used to decorate a tree.
- Live trees should be fresh, and can be sprayed with a Fire Marshal-approved flame-retardant chemical. They should also be watered regularly, without letting the tree holder become dry.
- Trees should never be placed near open flames, room exits, or heating sources.
- Electrical decorations and lights should not be within children's reach.
- Christmas lights should always be unplugged prior to leaving home or going to bed.
- Trees (and gift wrapping) should not be burned in a wood stove or fire place.

*Enjoy a safe and
happy holiday season
with your loved ones.*

County Property Now Smoke-Free

All Tompkins County facilities and property, whether owned or leased, became smoke-free, as of November 1.

Administrative Policy No. 1-23, revised and approved by the Legislature in September, recognizes the County's commitment to the health and safety of all employees and consumers, and to providing full access to all facilities for everyone who uses or provides our public services.

The policy contains the following definitions:

Smoking – the smoking, burning, heating or use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other items that mimic these tobacco products or their likeness, including but not limited to hookahs, vapor cigarettes, and electronic cigarettes (“e-cigarettes”), will be prohibited in facilities, vehicles, equipment, or the property of Tompkins County, leased or owned. In addition, the use of nicotine delivery devices or products not approved for cessation by the FDA is also prohibited.

Facilities and Property – Tompkins County buildings, parking lots, entrance lanes and sidewalks, structures, county-owned vehicles or privately-owned vehicles parked on county property, and landscaped areas.

Persons – Tompkins County employees, clients, visitors, contractors, and the general public.

Read the full Administrative Policy 01-23 at

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/ctyadmin/policy/documents/01-23AdoptedRevision092011.pdf>.

Why is *all* county property smoke-free?

Even outdoors, tobacco smoke is dangerous! Someone with asthma, heart disease, or other conditions must *stay away* from tobacco smoke. Entrances or walkways are not accessible if people may be smoking nearby.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

- The whole property is smoke-free so there are no distances to measure and it's easy to know where smoking is not allowed.
- Even brief exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke can cause asthma attacks, and small amounts of secondhand tobacco smoke can cause a heart attack.
- Air near an outdoor smoker can be 50X more toxic than surrounding air.
- Tobacco smoke is more harmful than exhaust from a modern diesel engine.
- When kids learn that secondhand smoke is a danger to others, they are less likely to try smoking.



Smoke-free outdoor areas are becoming more and more common in Tompkins County and across New York State. Over time, smoke-free public areas will be part of enjoying everyday life both outdoors and in. Thank You for supporting this important step for a healthier community! Please encourage others to support it, too.

Make a plan to Quit today!

Smoking is an addiction. If you want to quit, it's best to make a plan. Here are some tips:

- **Set** a “Quit Date”, the day you plan to stop smoking forever. Pick a date in the next 1–2 weeks.
- **Get** information about nicotine replacements such as patches or gum to help with nicotine cravings.
- **Know** when, where and why you smoke. If you know the places and activities that trigger your urge to smoke, you can plan for ways to avoid them.
- **Learn** how to live as a non-smoker. As an ex-smoker you'll face a lot of changes. That takes preparation and practice.

READY TO QUIT?

NYS Smokers' Quitline - 1-866-NY-QUITS. Also visit www.nysmokefree.com

Material provided by Ted Shiele, Health Department

Airport Sustainable Master Plan Receives National “Airports Going Green” Award

Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport has been recognized with a prestigious national award for its Sustainable Master Plan—a recipient of the 2011 “Airports Going Green” (ASG) award, presented October 31, at the fourth annual Airports Going Green Conference in Chicago, IL.

Announcing the award, Chicago’s Deputy Commissioner of Aviation for Sustainability, Amy Malick, noted that the award recognizes the value of the Ithaca Airport Sustainable Master Plan as an important and ground-breaking project, as well as the Airport’s “outstanding leadership in pursuit of sustainability within the aviation industry.”

“I am delighted to receive this award and happy to play a part in the Sustainable Master Plan initiative,” says Airport Manager Bob Nicholas. “As the first of its kind, I believe it deserves this kind of recognition, particularly since it has led to a pilot program involving many other airports, and is likely to be the way airport master plans are done from this point on. Charlie McDermott of C&S Companies, the airport’s Syracuse-based consultants, should be singled out for his inspired insight in seeing the possibilities.”



Charlie McDermott, Director of Airport Planning for C&S Companies, Carol Lurie, Vice President of VHB (a sub-consultant to C&S for the Sustainable Master Plan), and Airport Manager Bob Nicholas

Happy Holidays, From the ReBusiness Team!

Our team at the Solid Waste Management Division wanted to take the time to thank you for doing your part to help us reach our waste diversion goal of 75% by 2015. All of the festivities around the holidays provide an excellent opportunity for waste reduction as well.

- ❖ Are you planning on having a large holiday event? Consider contacting Mark Wittig at Cayuga Compost (607-387-6826) for compost collection options.
- ❖ Does your office hold a gift swap? Encourage staff to give reused and/or durable gifts, and to use alternative forms of wrapping like newspaper, or pages from the recipient’s favorite magazine.
- ❖ Does your office have a holiday tree? We accept trees as part of our yard waste collection here at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center.
- ❖ In addition, we now accept alkaline batteries as part of our additional drop off materials at the RSWC.

So, make sure to have a great holiday season, and take advantage of all of the waste reduction opportunities that arrive!



**The ReBusiness Team:
Leo Riley, Levi Velez-Reed, Kat McCarthy,
Stephanie Egan-Engels, Nate Bates**



Department News

County Clerk's Office

Young and old alike, 45 applicants were admitted as the newest citizens of the United States of America by the Honorable Robert C. Mulvey, Justice of Supreme Court, in the main courtroom of the County Courthouse November 3. These individuals represented 26 countries of the world, joining in the pledge to support and defend their newly-adopted country.

County Clerk Aurora R. Valenti, first generation American whose parents were sworn as citizens in this very courthouse many years ago, coordinated the events surrounding the ceremony, attended by approximately 125 individuals.



Highway Division

Best wishes to **Bill Sczesny**, Highway Manager, on his retirement December 8th, after more than six years with the Highway Division.

Office for the Aging

Welcome to Eileen Savino

Eileen Savino has joined the staff at the Office for the Aging as the new Outreach Worker. Eileen will be working on the WRAP (Weatherization and Home Repair Program) and the PERS (Personal Emergency Response). These are two very challenging programs and Eileen has approached her new duties with great enthusiasm!

Prior to joining the Office for the Aging, Eileen worked in the Day Habilitation Program at Unity House. We are pleased to have her work with us in serving older adults in Tompkins County.



Kudos Korner

Our **Department of Motor Vehicles** was the subject of a very nice article in the December 10th edition of *The New York Times*, entitled "To Rethink Government, Start Close to Home."

The story pointed out how even the most dreaded governmental operations can be made customer-friendly and efficient, citing Aurora and the improvements she and her team have made at our DMV.

County Administrator Joe Mareane calls the story "a well-deserved recognition of the DMV team," which reflected well on the entire County.

Congratulations to Aurora and her entire staff for this good news national story!

The **County Clerk's Office** was also highlighted for the success of its digitization of county records, both in a news release issued by the software vendor, Laserfiche, and a recent article in the *Ithaca Journal*.

Congratulations, once again, to all at the Clerk's Office for benefiting the County through this initiative.



The attractive new sign at the DMV

Highway Highlights...

submitted by Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant



Snow and Ice Maintenance

We all appreciate the highway crews' efforts to make our commutes as safe as possible. Please do your share and remember to stay back 200' from the working plow trucks (the plow drivers sometimes can't see you behind them at closer distances, and they sometimes have to back up or turn around).

For more information and winter tips, visit www.tompkins-co.org/highway/snow.html.

Please drive safely, don't tailgate, and use extra caution when driving in winter weather – leave early and slow down. Thank you!

2011 Halloween Costume Contest



The winners are.....

Group



Kiss - County Clerk's Office

Individual



Woopie Cushion -Iretta Ellis, ITS

See all the great entries at:

<http://www.tompkins-o.org/countycorridors/HalloweenCostumeContest2011.pdf>

Thank you to all the participants who “dressed” for the contest, to all who voted, and to the Vending Committee for providing the awards (\$20.00 Group and \$10.00 Individual).

VENDING COMMITTEE "VENDS"

Post-Trip Information:

NYC Spring Trip, May 14th – 39 passengers enjoyed a day in the City.

"Ragtime" at Hangar Theatre, July 10th – was attended by 29 people.

Cooperstown NY / Howe's Caverns, July 30th – cancelled, due to lack of interest.

"The Rocky Horror Show" at Hangar Theatre, August 27th – was attended by 49 people.

NYC Winter Trip, December 3rd – 53 people had a great time in the City.

The Vending Committee also contributed the following money:

- \$750.00 toward the Annual Golf Tournament
- \$30.00 prize money for the Halloween Costume Contest
- \$5.00 per person for holiday parties
- Bereavement donations

THANK YOU:

to **Patty Stamm** for all the years and endless hours she has dedicated to planning and organizing (a LOT of behind the scenes work!) the various trips and events that have been enjoyed by all over the past several years. Although she is retiring from Tompkins County, effective December 31, 2011, she has volunteered to continue her services as a member of the Vending Committee. Instead of saying how much we will miss her *on the team*, we now *thank her for volunteering to continue her role.*

THANK YOU, PATTY – you are a valued team member, and we greatly appreciate all you do to make the trips and events so successful!

Website:

Don't miss out on a chance to enjoy one of the trips or events being scheduled in 2012. 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.

Is Your Ride a Variety Package?

Do you have more than one ride or way to get to where you need to go? For those unpredictable times when your main way of getting around is not working, that is the time when you will want to be able to use another transportation choice that you already know will work for you.

For example, the public bus system is not operating that day due to the holiday schedule or bad roads and you need to get out despite this lack of bus service. Or it could be that your reliable car, or that of your friend who is giving you a ride, will not be working starting today. Or another frequent transportation problem in this area is a damaged car from a deer collision.



So if these concerns seem familiar to you and you would like to figure out one or several other means of getting to your destination(s), there are options to consider. And if one means of travel can only cover part of your ride needs, could you use several transportation choices to completely meet your ride needs?

Here are some possible ideas for your transportation variety package:

Zimride.com/Tompkins is a ridesharing website which helps a rider to share driving costs of trips whether you are looking to find a ride or to give a ride. Everyone within Tompkins County and people coming into Tompkins County for work can use it to expand their ridesharing search beyond their neighbors, friends, and coworkers. See www.zimride.com/Tomp

You set the price of the ride in your Zimride registration if you are the driver. The registration process will take five minutes to complete and will quickly provide you with a look at others interested in ridesharing within your target area and scheduled time. The site specifically helps find rides which either begin in Tompkins County with a destination out of the county, or start outside of Tompkins County and come into Tompkins County, or is a ride which is completely within the boundaries of Tompkins County. Zimride has been active in Tompkins County since March 2011 with over 320 registered Zim users on the County portal and there are three additional portals within the site for Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College staff, faculty, and students.

VPSI Vanpooling is a way to share the cost of going to work in a van with a minimum group size of five people. Costs range depending upon the number of persons in the Vanpool group and the mileage traveled. The service is purchased with a one month contract which assures that you will get excellent service and only use this option if it works for you and the others in the group. Examples of VPSI Vanpool in use are the two Vanpools operating that start in Watkins Glen, with work destination in Tompkins County. These two vanpools came out of the end of the bus service to Watkins Glen, and riders were looking for other options to get to work. Learn more about Vanpool by contacting Jesse Kafka, VPSI at 1-800-826-7433 or www.way2go.info.org

Way2Go Recognized by the EMC

The annual Tompkins County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Transportation Initiative of the Year (TIY) Award was recently presented for 2011 to Way2Go, a Cornell Cooperative Extension county-wide transportation education program.

The EMC's TIY Award recognizes programs and organizations that make a difference for the environment, and serve as a needed, progressive component of Tompkins County's transportation portfolio.

If you see that ridesharing or vanpooling may be a means of most of your transportation needs, would putting another ride option in your transportation package complete the total ride for you? Example, could you use ridesharing to get to the bus stop and then add a Just in Case **Ithacacarshare** membership at the low membership cost of \$50.00 per year for occasional use of a car in Ithaca? Check out more on Ithacacarshare at www.ithacacarshare.org or call 277-3210. The membership would allow you to reserve a car, pay mileage and hourly rate per time used, and give you a means to get to the doctor's appointment that is off the bus route or won't work for your schedule to go by bus. Would your options be more flexible with several bus passes or taxi credit in your wallet? (Check out different possibilities with Collegetown Cab at 607-588-8888 or www.collegetowncab.com and Ithaca Dispatch at 277-2842, or www.ithacataxi.biz/cabcash/cabcash_info_1.html.)

For information on these transportation choices and more, see www.way2go.info.org or call Way2go at 272-2292, call 211 or the County Mobility Program Specialist at 274-5022 for further information on your local ride choices.

Submitted by Cynthia Kloppel, County Mobility Program Specialist

Classified Ads

Dog Dayz Inn

A place where your dog feels "at home".

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



FOR SALE – 2008 Dodge Avenger, power windows, power locks, cruise control, A/C, 70,000+ miles. Asking \$12,000. Please call (607) 898-5976 evenings only.

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



GRADUATION RENTAL – Wonderful family cottage for rent for college graduations. Just ½ mile north of Taughannock Park – fabulous views and location. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Sorry, no pets or smoking. See our website: Rice Heritage Cottage. Please call Alison, at (607) 387-5446 evenings.



Custom Embroidery for everyone's needs. We work with other businesses, organization/groups, and the general public. We can use your design or work together to come up with a design. It's a great way to advertise your business or organization, or if you just need a gift for someone. We embroider on clothing, hats, bags, and much more.

Do you want to make a difference in the life of a child?

And you are:

- Over the age of 21
- Able to develop a meaningful relationship with children
- Have extra room in your home and heart

If you answered yes to the questions above, please consider attending an informational meeting to learn what the next step is to becoming a certified foster, adoptive or respite parent.

We have a special need for respite parents to provide a temporary residence for youth, usually for less than 10 days. Becoming a foster or adoptive parent requires 11 weeks of training. Depending on your experience, the same training is available, but not required, to become a respite parent.

Come to an information session on **Thursday, January 12th, 12:00 p.m.** at the Human Services Building or call Judy Voorheis at 274-5266.

Submitted by David Weiner, DSS



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