

# County Corridors

A Newsletter for  
Tompkins County  
Employees and Retirees

June 2007  
Volume 19, Number 2

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

## Tompkins County Celebrates Diversity *Celebration Launches Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Program*

On Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Tompkins County legislators, administrators and staff gathered for a noontime celebration on the Ithaca Commons to celebrate the County's commitment to workforce diversity and inclusion.

At the event, sponsored by the county's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee (WDIC), the county's diversity statement, unanimously adopted by the Legislature last year, was formally announced to the public, and Legislature Chair Tim Joseph presented department heads with framed copies of the diversity statement to post at county worksites. County officials served ice cream, with Legislator Mike Koplinka-Loehr the "primary scooper."

Committing the county to action, the diversity statement, adopted by the Legislature, begins: "Tompkins County government is committed to creating a diverse and fully inclusive workplace that strengthens our organization and enhances our ability to adapt to change." It pledges that county government will develop and maintain:

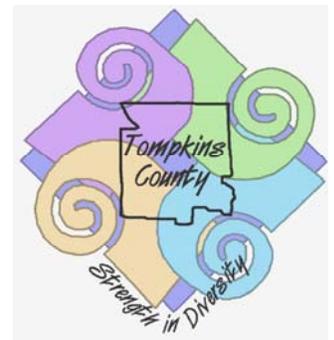
- an organization-wide understanding and acceptance of the purpose and reasons for diversity;
- recruitment and retention policies that assure a diverse workforce;
- a workplace environment that is welcoming and supportive of all;
- awareness, understanding, and education regarding diversity issues;
- zero tolerance for expressions of discrimination, bias, harassment, or negative stereotyping toward any person or group; and
- a workforce ethic that embraces diversity and makes it the norm for all interactions, including delivery of services to the public.

County Administrator Steve Whicher told the gathering that the County has moved beyond the legally required world of affirmative action to the more positive and proactive environment of diversity and inclusion. "Our goal is to build a workforce that reflects the community in both body and voice," he said. "Our workforce will change very dramatically and we must be prepared for that."

*(Continued on Page 10)*



**County Administrator Steve Whicher presents the diversity statement**



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## Calling All Dragons

WOW! It hardly seems like a year has gone by since the County challenged the City of Ithaca to a dragonboat race and won the infamous dragon trophy! This year's race will be on **Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**. Having been on the team last year I can personally assure you that it is a fun event, especially when we see how everyone manages to pull together as a team and come out on top, whether in first or last place. Remember that if we win a race we continue to compete until we are eliminated. This event is fun for your entire family, with plenty to see and do throughout the day.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the 2007 Tompkins County Dragonboat Race team please be sure to let us know by e-mailing me at [kfuller@tompkins-co.org](mailto:kfuller@tompkins-co.org). Although there is a fee of \$20/person, we were able to have fellow County employees offer scholarships to get the teams up and running. If you would like to be a part, but cannot participate, please feel free to sponsor a member of the team. If you are interested in a scholarship, please e-mail me for details.

- Karen Fuller



### A Note From the County Administrator

There comes a time in everyone's life when one must make difficult decisions regarding what the rest of life will hold. After much reflection, I have concluded that it is best for me to move on to the rest of my life. Accordingly, at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legislature I announced my intent to retire between March 31<sup>st</sup> and June 30, 2008. My hope is that the considerable advance notice and flexibility in dates will provide the opportunity for the Legislature to ensure a smooth and well-planned transition. Once a successor is selected, the exact date will be finalized.

I began my career with Tompkins County in 1975 as an Assistant Assessor. Back in those "good old days" we did not have central air, in fact we did not have air conditioning at all until 1978. Pay was also not as good; I think I started out at approximately \$7,500. After seven years or so of hard work, few market salary increases and fewer prospects for advancement, I joined the private sector. Two years later I accepted a position with the State of New York, where I spent thirteen years in various management positions before returning to Tompkins County as the County Assessor. From there I moved on to County Administrator. Each step of my career has had its share of challenging and rewarding experiences, but my time with Tompkins County has been the most gratifying.

I look forward to working with you during this last year, I will continue to do everything within my ability to keep the organization moving forward in a positive direction. Thank you for your hard work, dedication to the taxpayers of Tompkins County and for your support. I wish the best in life to all of you.

- Steve Whicher

### Changes to the Corridors Team

Welcome to **Maureen Reynolds**, Deputy County Clerk, as the new Managing Editor of *County Corridors*!

Maureen succeeds Linnett Short, Solid Waste Management Division, as Managing Editor. Thanks to Linnett for her excellent guidance. Linnett remains on the Team, we're happy to say!

Succeeding Maureen as Classifieds Editor is **Geri Lockwood**, Highway.

Remember to send your news items and story ideas to Maureen at [mreynolds@tompkins-co.org](mailto:mreynolds@tompkins-co.org) and your classifieds to Geri at [glockwood@tompkins-co.org](mailto:glockwood@tompkins-co.org).

- Marcia Lynch

## Sustainability Spotlight:

### Barb O'Brien Cleans "Green"

By Rachel Kissinger

Barbara O'Brien has been a Tompkins County Employee for eighteen years. Currently, she holds the position of Cleaning Supervisor, with the Facilities Division, supervising a staff of 16 Cleaners and two Senior Cleaners, servicing 14 Buildings. Her staff is responsible for cleaning approximately 500,000 square feet, occupied by about 750 county employees, state and Library, as well, with a high volume of public usage. This is no simple task, considering proper sanitation and cleaning are important for a healthy building environment.

The most important factor for county employees is indoor air quality. Unfortunately, some traditional cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that contaminate the environment and negatively affect indoor air quality. In addition, there are other problems with "traditional" cleaning products, such as skin irritation and unnecessary fragrance additives. Implementing "green cleaning" practices can reduce these health and environmental risks. Green cleaning involves selecting alternative products, using those products properly to reduce risks while maintaining a satisfactory level of cleanliness and disinfection.

Barb's goal has been to create a healthier environment for both the cleaning staff and the building employees throughout the county through the use of "green cleaning" products. Barb first became aware of green cleaning when one of the vendors mentioned the mandate for local schools that by September 2006, the schools would be required to begin using Environmentally Preferred products. Barb saw the trend, considered the positive affects for both her staff and the County employees and started implementing changes.

Throughout the fall of 2006 and the beginning months of 2007, the cleaning staff was trained in the use of the new cleaning products in most of the buildings (all buildings use the cleaning products, but not every building has been converted to the micro fiber mop system). They have gotten used to the micro fiber mops and dusting cloths, which results in better cleaning and less airborne dust particulate. The cleansers are easily dispensed and accurately measured using containers supplied by the vendor. This limits the contact by the staff with the products and virtually eliminates the risk that the cleaner will be exposed to concentrates. Waste is reduced as well, as there is little-to-no spillage from the dispensers.

Speaking of waste, the product containers are completely recyclable, as the agents contain no chemicals, VOCs (volatile organic compounds) or phosphates.

The use of the new products has been a huge success. Not only has Barb eliminated the use of chemicals for cleaning in the County buildings, but the new products and equipment allow better, more thorough cleaning by the staff. The transition has resulted in safer work practices for the cleaners and better cleaning for a healthier environment for all. So what's next? Barb continues to explore ways to expand the use of the green cleaning system and roll out this program in each and every County building.



#### Sustainability Tips:

- Recycling a one-foot high stack of newspapers saves 71.3 kilowatt hours of electricity... enough to heat a home for 17 hours.
- A six-pack of recycled aluminum cans saves enough energy to drive a car five miles.
- In terms of electricity, a typical computer uses about 300 watts of power excluding the printer. At five cents a kilowatt hour, if you leave your computer on all the time, it will cost about \$131 per year. That's quite a bit of money! On the other hand, if you turn your computer off at night and on weekends, the electrical cost drops to about \$31. The cost drops even more if you turn it off whenever you're not using it: as little as \$12 per year!
- Recycling a one-gallon plastic milk jug will save enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for 11 hours.
- One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television or computer for three hours or a 100-watt light bulb for 20 hours.

#### Have a "Green Cleaning" Tip or Question?

Contact Linnett Short at *County Corridors* (lshort@tompkins-co.org). We'll publish your tip or the answer to your question!

- Linnett Short

## Quitting Smoking Takes Planning And Practice

By Ted Schiele, Health Department

According to a recent survey, there are around 16,000 adult smokers living in Tompkins County, and half of them want to quit. So why, with cigarettes costing upwards of \$5.50 a pack, and the widely recognized impact that smoking has on health, are there 8,000 adults in our county for whom quitting cigarettes may be as desirable as winning the lottery, yet seem about as unlikely?

First is the nicotine, the addictive power of which is often compared to that of heroin. Next, there is habit. A cup of coffee, talking on the phone, driving, leaving work for a break or at the end of the day. All of these actions can trigger an automatic reach for a cigarette.

Then there's the emotional tie. The old song says, "when this old world is getting you down," go "up on the roof!" And the dog is said to be our "best friend." But for the smoker — and I was one for 20 years — none of that beats a cigarette for setting everything that's wrong, right again!

Finally, there is the social environment. Ads for cigarettes still seem to be everywhere; at gas stations and convenience stores, in magazines, even at some community events. In movies and on TV the coolest, most alluring characters are still smokers.

So, what's the answer? Of course, there is not one, sure-fire fix. Here are some things to work with:

- Plan and practice for how to avoid the triggers linked with lighting up. Stand while talking on the phone instead of sitting with a cigarette. Leave by a different door at work in order to break the behavioral connection. Clean your car's interior top-to-bottom as

part of a pledge to make your vehicle a smoke free zone. Do the same at home.

- Confront the emotional ties. Talk to friends or family, and to your doctor. The emotional letting go can be the most complicated part of the quitting process, and seeking support from others can be the make-or-break difference. Try a telephone counseling service or internet support site.
- Tackle the nicotine with nicotine replacement treatments (NRT) such as the patch. NRTs do not cause cancer, are not addictive, and are available over-the-counter. A free start-up supply of NRT is available for most smokers from the NYS Smokers' Quitline. Ask your doctor about other stop-smoking medications.
- Reach out to the community! Ask others to not smoke around you in building entryways, parks or pedestrian areas. Find the gas stations and convenience stores that display little or no tobacco advertising and shop there. Set a quit date, tell friends, family and co-workers, and ask for their support.

Contrary to common belief, smoking is not always a personal choice and is rarely only an individual's problem. Tobacco is highly addictive, and everyone pays the price in higher health insurance premiums, taxes for Medicaid, and lost productivity. Smokers who want to quit need — and should be given — the support of all members of the community.

### Resources:

**New York State Smokers' Quitline.** 1-866-NY-QUITS (toll free 1-866-697-8487). Free 2-week supply of nicotine patches available for all eligible smokers. Call and speak to a cessation specialist for details. Free telephone counseling service available 9am-9pm weekdays, 9am-1pm weekends. Recorded "quit tips" available 24/7. Also online, [www.nysmokefree.com](http://www.nysmokefree.com).

**United Health Services Nurse Direct cessation counseling.** 607-763-5555. Free telephone counseling service provided by UHS Healthy Living Center, Johnson City.

**Primary care physicians.** Many area doctors are partnering with regional NYS Department of Health Cessation Centers to provide improved cessation counseling services.

### New passport requirements enacted for 2008

As early as **January 1, 2008**, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by **land** or **sea** (including ferries), may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible.

Please contact the **County Clerk's Office** at **274-5432** or [www.tompkins-co.org/cclerk/](http://www.tompkins-co.org/cclerk/) to obtain a passport before your departure date. Applications and information can be obtained at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and processing, at this time, could take up to 12 weeks.

- Maureen Reynolds

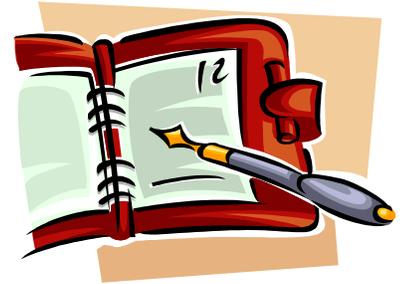
## Get Ready to Mark Your Calendar and Roll Up Your Sleeve... Annual Employee Drive Date Is Set for August 9th

By Cheryl Nelson and Jackie Kippola

The date of the annual employee blood drive has been set for August 9<sup>th</sup>. The location of the drive will once again be the Tompkins County Library, Borg Warner Room.

There is always a need for blood in our region, but the need is especially high in the summer months. Employees are asked to donate one pint of blood, which takes about one hour and can benefit up to three people in need of blood or blood products. If for whatever reason you are unable to donate blood, your assistance would be appreciated either as a canteen worker (serving donors cookies and juice), or registration worker (checking names off the list of donors and providing them reading material while they wait for the nurse to call them to donate). The canteen and registration duties are broken into one-hour shifts.

Please mark your calendar for this very important day. Be sure to get permission from your supervisor. And, be sure to get a good night's sleep the night before donating, eat breakfast (if you are donating in the morning), and lunch (if you are donating in the afternoon). Drinking several glasses of fluid prior to donating is also recommended.



### *From Benefits/Personnel:*

#### 4 WAYS TO CUT YOUR MEDICAL BILL

1. **Try small lifestyle steps first.** Ask your doctor about non-drug ways to manage your condition to get the same results you hope to get from medication. Some people can control high cholesterol, blood pressure, sleep apnea and pre-diabetes with diet, lowering salt intake, weight loss and exercise.
2. **Review all your medications** with your doctor once a year. Know why you take what you take. Assess which drugs are still needed. Ask: Can one new drug do the work of two or three that I currently take? Maybe your doctor can prescribe a less expensive medication, if given a choice.
3. **Choose generic drugs**, not name brand, if available. And order through your company's mail order program for a 90-day supply. \*
4. **Take medication as prescribed.** Half of people don't and risk complicating their conditions.

\* For additional information regarding Tompkins County prescription mail order program, please contact County Personnel at 274-5526 for written material.

### *To County Employees,*

Thank you for the generous donation to the National Wildlife Federation, Endangered Species Program in my father's memory (Howard Bingham). Thank you to all for your kind words, acts and support at this most difficult time.

**Priscilla A. Bingham**  
Solid Waste Assistant  
Tompkins County  
Solid Waste Division

## 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.

- Heather Stewart

### June (Children's Awareness Month, Gay & Lesbian Pride Month)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Republic Day (Italy)  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Trinity Sunday (Christian)  
5<sup>th</sup> – World Environment Day  
6<sup>th</sup> – D-Day (United States); Memorial Day (South Korea); Flag Day (Sweden)  
7<sup>th</sup> – Corpus Christi (Catholic)  
8<sup>th</sup> – Peasant's Festival (Belgium)  
9<sup>th</sup> – St. Columba of Iona (Celtic); Independence Day (Argentina)  
10<sup>th</sup> – National Day (Portugal)  
11<sup>th</sup> – Queen's Birthday (Australia)  
12<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Philippines); Declaration of Independence Day (Russia)  
14<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day (United States)  
16<sup>th</sup> – Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom (Sikh)  
17<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day (Canada, United States)  
18<sup>th</sup> – Liberation Day (Egypt)  
19<sup>th</sup> – Juneteenth (United States)  
21<sup>st</sup> – Summer Solstice – Litha (Pagan/Wicca); First Nations Day (Canadian Native People)  
25<sup>th</sup> – Ganga Dashami (Hindu)  
27<sup>th</sup> – Martyrdom of Joseph & Hyrum Smith (Mormon)  
28<sup>th</sup> – Stonewall Rebellion Day (United States)  
29<sup>th</sup> – Feast of Saints Paul and Peter (Christian)  
30<sup>th</sup> – Asala Puja Day (Buddhist)

### July

1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Independence Day (Belarus)  
4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (United States); Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, United States)  
5<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Algeria, Venezuela, Cape Verde); Birthday of Guru Hargobind (Sikh)  
6<sup>th</sup> – Dali Lama's Birthday (Tibet); President George W. Bush Birthday (United States)  
9<sup>th</sup> – Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'I); Independence Day (Argentina)  
10<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Bahamas)  
11<sup>th</sup> – World Population Day  
14<sup>th</sup> – Bastille Day (France)  
17<sup>th</sup> – Constitution Day (South Korea)  
20<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Columbia)  
21<sup>st</sup> – National Day (Belgium)  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Parents Day (United States)  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Revolution Day (Egypt); Birthday of Haile Selassie I (Rastafari); Birthday of Guru Har Krishan (Sikh)  
24<sup>th</sup> – Simon Bolivar Day (South American), Tisha V'av (Jewish); Pioneer Day (Mormon)  
25<sup>th</sup> – St. James the Great Day (Christian); National Day (Cuba); Phoolan Devi Day (India)

26<sup>th</sup> – National Day (Costa Rica); Independence Day (Liberia); Khordad Sal – Qadimi (Zoroastrian); Anniversary of signing of Americans with Disabilities Act (United States)

### August

1<sup>st</sup> – Lammas and Lughnassad (Britain, Pagan, United States)  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Independence Day (Vietnam)  
4<sup>th</sup> – 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nelson Mandela's Arrest  
6<sup>th</sup> – National Day (Bolivia); Independence Day (Jamaica); Transfiguration (Christian)  
7<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Cote d'Ivoire)  
8<sup>th</sup> – Fox Hill Day (Bahamas)  
11<sup>th</sup> – Bon Festival (Japan); Lailat al Miraj (Islam)  
14<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Pakistan)  
15<sup>th</sup> – Assumption of Virgin Mary (Catholic); Independence Day (India); Liberation Day (Korea, South Korea)  
17<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Indonesia); Marcus Garvey's Birthday (Rastafari)  
19<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Afghanistan)  
20<sup>th</sup> – Jamshedi Noruz (Zoroastrian)  
24<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day (Ukraine)  
25<sup>th</sup> – Liberation Day (France); Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)  
26<sup>th</sup> – Women's Equality Day (United States)  
27<sup>th</sup> – Onam (India); Independence Day (Moldova)  
28<sup>th</sup> – Obon (Japan); Raksha-Bandhan (Hindu); Amarnath Yatra (India); Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam); Paryushana begins (Jain)  
30<sup>th</sup> – Constitution Day (Kazakhstan)  
31<sup>st</sup> – Independence Day (Kyrgyzstan/Trinidad and Tobago)

### State Aging Office Director Addresses COFA Annual Luncheon

The Office for the Aging held its Annual Luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ithaca's Clarion Hotel. Michael Burgess, Director of the State Office for the Aging was the keynote speaker for the luncheon. Mr. Burgess's comments focused on the current restructuring of the long-term care system in New York State.

"We need a culture change in long term care," he said. "Individuals and families caring for older adults need to find appropriate help in one place. They need help navigating a system that can provide needed resources for them."

Mr. Burgess suggested that a senior population is no longer only frail seniors, but also includes young retirees who can be a good resource for civic engagement with issues related to aging.

Two outstanding seniors were also honored at the luncheon. John Anderson, was awarded a certificate of appreciation acknowledging his tireless volunteer work as a Gadabout driver for 25 years and Harriet London received a certificate of appreciation as Senior Citizen of the Year, acknowledging her work with multiple human services organizations that serve elders.

- Trina Schickel

# Congratulations To All New 25-Year Club Members!



**Paula Austic**  
Mental Health  
Department



**Helen Beach**  
Finance Department



**Lee Carter**  
Department of Social  
Services



**Matthew Whittmore**  
Highway Division



**Beverly Knapp**  
Sheriff's Office



**Ronald Lampman**  
Sheriff's Office

**Steven Mente, Highway Division – Photograph unavailable.**



**Patricia Jebbett**  
Health Department

Tompkins County would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in the 25-Year Club Dinner. We would like to specifically congratulate the eight new inductees acknowledged above. In total, the Twenty-five Year Club boasts 140 members who have dedicated 25 or more years of service to the taxpayers of Tompkins County. Congratulations and thanks to all of you. The County would also like to thank all of the guest speakers and department heads that were on hand to share stories, recognize and thank these dedicated individuals.

*From Steve Estes  
On Behalf of Personnel*

## **VENDING COMMITTEE**

*Each Department or Building should have a Vending Committee Representative. If yours does not have one, please consider joining. Meetings to resolve and discuss issues and trips are approximately 1 hour long and are held 4-6 times per year, at Mental Health's 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.*

*The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. Contact Patty or Pete with any questions regarding the meetings. Please join us – we're a great group of employees!*

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### **Hangar Theatre Productions**

(NOTE: Vending Committee Tickets **SOLD OUT**.)

- Disney's Beauty & The Beast – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m.
- Hair – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 pm.

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### **COMING SOON \*\***

#### **WEB SITE \*\*!**

For full updates on trips, events, vending information, etc., be sure to watch for our new web site, coming soon, accessible through the County Intranet.

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### **Upcoming Trip Info**

(For Tickets, contact Patty Stamm, at 274-6674, or PeteCoats at 274-6688.):

- Darien Lake – Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, \$20.00 per person, includes bus transportation and admission.
- New York City Winter Day Trip – Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, \$30.00 per person.

## Employee Spotlights



**Rachel Graham**

*Rachel Graham* is Senior Recording Clerk in the County Clerk's Office. Rachel has worked for the County for about a year.

In the County Clerk's Office, Rachel takes in recordings, fine payments, pistol permits and passports. As part of her job, Rachel most likes helping the public and laughing with her co-workers. Her least liked aspect of her job is dealing with the National Passport Office.

Outside of work, Rachel's favorite thing to do is playing with her kids.

If Rachel ran the world, Rachel says that the first thing she would do is to mandate that "everywhere, everyone recycles and composts, and to fine those who don't. Every county in the country would have composting available and a recycling system."

*Kim Moore* is a Systems Analyst Technician in Information Technology Services. She has worked for the County for eight-and-a-half years. Prior to her current position, Kim was an administrative/computer assistant and as a programmer trainee.

Asked about her job duties, Kim responds, "I fix things – like your computer or your phone." (smile)

About her job, Kim says she most likes "interacting and working with all county departments." She least likes, "GroupWise Training – just kidding!"

Outside of work, Kim most likes "to relax and hang out with my family."

If Kim ran the world, the first thing she would do is to institute a four-day work week!



**Kim Moore  
(with son Keegan)**

## Kudos Korner

### Linnett Short Wins TC3 Alumni Award



**Linnett (with husband Bill)**

Linnett Short, Solid Waste Division, is one of two recipients of Tompkins Cortland Community College's Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Nominated by Solid Waste Division Manager Barbara Eckstrom, Linnett was recognized at a ceremony on May 11<sup>th</sup> for her many accomplishments, including her service as an education resource for community organizations and for delivering educational programs to 9,000 individuals of all ages during 2006.

Among her community leadership activities cited were presidency of the Crown City Toastmasters, vice president of the Center for Environmental Sustainability and an active member of the *Sister 2 Sister* program.

When you visit TC3, look for Linnett on the *TC3 Wall of Fame!*

Congratulations, Linnett!

# Highway Highlights

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant

## 2007 Major Construction Projects:

Please be sure to visit the website, <http://www.tompkins-co.org/highway>, for monthly updates on road and bridge projects.

## Adopt-A-Highway:

Tompkins County Highway sponsors an Adopt-A-Highway Program, with approximately 41 Groups or Organizations currently “adopting” more than 70 miles of the 307 miles of County Roads. As a member of the program, it is requested that a minimum of two litter collections be performed each year. If you, or someone you know, are interested in “adopting” any section of a County Road, please contact Geri Lockwood, at 274-0314. The guidelines and application information, as well as a listing of County Roads, are available at [www.tompkins-co.org/highway](http://www.tompkins-co.org/highway).

## Careers in Construction Day:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Central New York Careers in Construction Day, hosted by The Skilled Trades Diversity Council, was held on May 1, 2007, at The Field in Lansing. As in the past, the Facilities, Highway, and Solid Waste Divisions of the Tompkins County Public Works Department participated in this event.

*Facilities Division:* Dana Dexter, Carpenter, displayed several tools used in his trade, as well as some photos of his finished work. Mike Merchant, HVAC Technician, also participated with HVAC-related displays.

*Highway Division:* Displaying equipment outside were: Wayne Lauper, Heavy Equipment Technician, with a 10-wheel Dump Truck, harnessed up with snowplow and wing; Scott Metcalf, Motor Equipment Operator, with a loader; and Willie VanDeMark, Heavy Equipment Operator, with the tractor and flow-boy trailer. Set up inside, were: John Dolan, Associate Civil Engineer, with a display of survey equipment, along with specifications of some major road projects; Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant, with job applications and job descriptions; and Jerry Stern, Highway Technician (Permit Agent), with a popular hands-on demonstration of applying thermo-plastic material to the pavement (i.e. stop bars, arrows, etc.), as well as the division’s new radar traffic counter. Jerry is also a member of the Skilled Trades Diversity Council, and recently instructed a Flagger Training Course sponsored by the Council.

*Solid Waste Division:* Ken Thompson, Assistant Solid Waste Manager and Linnett Short, Communication and Administrative Coordinator, displayed what construction engineers produce and provide. They also had a power point presentation about the Solid Waste Division, along with a recycling game based on the old monopoly game. They both spent a lot of time talking to the students and giving out handouts of bumper stickers, pencils, bracelets, magnets, bookmarks, etc.

## National Public Works Week:

May 20-26, 2007 was National Public Works Week. Public Works (Airport, Facilities, Highway, and Solid Waste) employees were recognized with a catered breakfast.

**CSEA Local 855  
Blue Collar Unit  
8900-01**

## *Officers & Representatives*

**President/Grievance:**  
“Buddy” Barry Rollins  
Tompkins County Highway Division  
work: 274-0300  
message: 274-0304  
cell: 227-8572  
home: 273-5679  
e-mail: bjrsr@hotmail.com

**Vice President/Grievance:**  
Todd VanOrman  
Tompkins County Highway Division  
work: 274-0300  
message: 274-0304

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Wright  
Tompkins County Highway Division  
work: 274-0300  
message: 274-0304  
home: 564-9699

**Secretary:**  
Tom Smith  
Tompkins County Airport  
work: 257-6666  
message: 274-0304

## ➤ **NOTICE:**

The Negotiation Team has been established, with the first meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact any of the team members listed at the right with input and/or suggestions:

- Tom Smith-Airport
- David Jayne-Facilities
- Buddy Rollins-Highway
- Matt Whittemore-Highway
- Steve Wright-Highway

## Department News

### Health Department

The Tompkins County Health Department is pleased to announce the appointment of *Liz Cameron* to the position of Director of Environmental Health effective April 23, 2007. Cameron replaces John Andersson who retired in May 2007.

Liz received her Bachelor's Degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Virginia and her Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. She worked at Cornell on remediation of Cornell's former Radioactive Disposal Site and on environmental compliance initiatives.

Liz worked for Tompkins County in the early 1990's as an Associate Engineer for the Dept. of Public Works. Most recently she was a consultant for O'Brien and Gere in Vestal, NY. Welcome back, Liz!

### Planning Department

The Planning Department welcomes two new staff members: *Jeanne Leccese*, Planner and *Scott Doyle*, Senior Planner.

### Solid Waste Division

Welcome *Leo Riley*, Recycling Specialist at the Solid Waste Division.

### Diversity Celebration

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The Administrator thanked Legislature Vice Chair Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, who chairs the WDIC, for her vision, leadership and personal impact, in moving county government toward needed cultural change in a measured, thoughtful and positive manner.

Calling the celebration "an exciting day for me, and for all of us," McBean-Clairborne said the workforce diversity and inclusion effort is the product of efforts of an entire team, the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee, made up people from throughout county government and the community. "Strength in diversity", as portrayed in county's diversity logo, she noted, "extends beyond race and ethnicity to encompass so much more. It's about the way we deal with each other and the uniqueness that each of us brings to the organization. We view our unique attributes as valuable assets!"

- Marcia Lynch & Betsy Doling



**WDIC Chair Leslyn McBean-Clairborne**

### Probation

The Probation Department welcomes *Jim Perkins*. Jim is our new Security Officer at the Day Reporting center. Bill Cornell has left the Center to return to DSS, where he is a Security Officer for the Human Services Building

The NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives recently recognized the following employees with longevity awards for 2006: *Kathryn Leinthal*, Probation Director – 35 years; *Bernadette Stranger*, Probation Assistant – 20 years.

### Highway Division

Welcome to *John Dolan*, Associate Civil Engineer who joined us on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and to *Chad Kelly*, Motor Equipment Operator who joined the Division on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to *Kyle Henderson* (Highway) and Erin Flannery on the birth of their daughter, Alissa Lynn Henderson, on April 6, 2007.

Good bye and good luck to *Kurt Kvasny*, Civil Engineer, who left us on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to *John "Butch" Sincebaugh* on his retirement on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, after more than 23 years with the Highway Division. We wish him well in his future endeavors!



**Mental Health Commissioner Bob DeLuca and other department representatives receive their framed statements.**

## 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](mailto:dogdayzinn@yahoo.com)

<http://www.dogdayzinn.com>

**FREE:** Two (old) computers. Both work. Include monitors and keyboard. Previously used as stand-alone computers for children in a 3rd grade classroom. [1. Gateway: Windows 95/standard windows games/MS Office (1993).] [2. Leading Edge: Windows 3.1/game suite including: pong, some card games and several others/MS Office? (unsure of year, but old – sometime in the 90s).] Contact Teresa at (607) 533-7647 or [tllinde@hotmail.com](mailto:tllinde@hotmail.com).

**FREE ANTIQUE APPRAISALS:** If you are looking to sell an item, or are simply curious about the origin, age, medium and value of your item, please prepare the following for a free appraisal:

- Photographs that show the item in all its detail.
- Dimensions.
- Any known history of the item.
- Contact information (name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail).

OR, for an in-person visit, contact Bud or Gina Shattuck, of *Anticipation Antiques* at: (607) 227-6318, or e-mail [anticipationantiques@yahoo.com](mailto:anticipationantiques@yahoo.com).

**FOR RENT:** Barn bays downtown – 9'x15' – \$75 a bay, a month on South Albany Street, across from Beechtree Nursing Facility. Good for storage and will fit a car. Call (607) 339-7978.

**FOR SALE:** Black, low-slung, genuine leather chair in great condition; no holes, stains, or worn areas. Dimensions 42"W X 32"H X 32" D, asking \$250. Email: [mjrzingua@yahoo.com](mailto:mjrzingua@yahoo.com).



### FUNNY BONES

#### How To Succeed At Work:

**Remember...You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard!**

**FOR SALE:** Men's 25" 10-speed yellow Fuji bicycle, circa 1980 in good condition. Recently tuned up at Swan's cycles [I have the receipt] tires good, asking \$110. Email: [mjrzingua@yahoo.com](mailto:mjrzingua@yahoo.com)

**NICS KIDS FUNCARE:** Licensed Home Daycare, trained in First Aid, CPR, and MAT (medicine administering), located in the Groton School District. Call Nicole, at (607) 898-5976.

**A CULTURAL EXCHANGE AMONG ARTISTS—COSTA RICA TRIP...** An opportunity to paint, draw, and photograph the beauty of Costa Rica as well as meet with artists and visit museums. Trip led by local Ithaca artist of the Ink Shop Printmaking Center/State of the Art Gallery. For details, please contact Sandra Pollack at: (607) 277-1416, [journeyweavers@aol.com](mailto:journeyweavers@aol.com), or [www.journeyweavers.com](http://www.journeyweavers.com).

**FOR SALE:** Superior quality, circa 1950, sheet-metal free-standing storage cabinet, with latching doors (have a lock built in, but key is lost) with 5 adjustable shelves. Dimensions: 72H X 36W X 18D, asking \$150. Email: [mjrzingua@yahoo.com](mailto:mjrzingua@yahoo.com).



*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!!

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:** Plastic lily pond for your garden. Black, approximately 45 long, kidney-shaped, bi-level. \$25. Call Kathy Wilsea at (607) 387-5819, evenings.

# Golf, Golf, Golf, Golf....



Circle your Calendar for the  
**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee  
Golf Tournament  
Friday, September 7, 2007**

## Be A Part of the Cayuga Lake Triathlon

The fifth annual *Cayuga Lake Triathlon* is set for **Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>** at Taughannock Falls State Park.

The race starts with a swim in Cayuga Lake, followed by bike ride through wine country and ends with triathletes running up to the base of Taughannock Falls. Registration is open for athletes, but is expected to fill quickly as the race will serve as the sprint distance national championship in 2008.

The race, which supports the *Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance*, depends on the help of numerous volunteers to make race day a success.

Anyone interested in participating, volunteering or just learning more about the race should check out the website, at: <http://www.ithacatriathlonclub.org>, or contact **Dan Johnson** at the District Attorney's office.



~ \*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\* ~

## CSEA Local 855 – 2007 Employee Recognition Day

**Date: Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Time: TBD  
Location: Stewart Park

*(Informational registration forms to be  
mailed at a later date.)*

Forward classified ads to Geri Lockwood at the Highway  
Division, [glockwood@tompkins-co.org](mailto:glockwood@tompkins-co.org)

*Corridors is printed on 30% recycled paper.*

### **THE CORRIDORS TEAM**

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Maureen Reynolds, County Clerk's Office

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Linnett Short, SW Management Division

Sara Stark, DSS

Edie Spaulding, DSS

Katrina Schickel, COFA

**Classifieds Editor** - Geri Lockwood

**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 Maureen at

274-5431 or [mreynolds@tompkins-co.org](mailto:mreynolds@tompkins-co.org)