

County Corridors

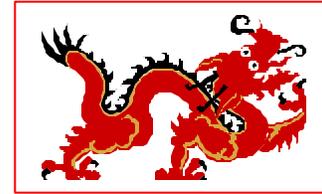
A Newsletter for
Tompkins County
Employees and Retirees

September 2006
Volume 18, Number 3

Teamwork Leads to Victory!

Two Perspectives on the Great County-City Dragon Boat Challenge

On the drizzly afternoon of July 15th, Tompkins County employees banded together for their first-ever Dragon Boat Race, emerging victorious over the City of Ithaca. Here are stories from two of the hardy souls who took part!



The Great "Committee of the Whole" Team

By Karen Fuller

A bolt of lightning, clap of thunder, pouring rain – oh no, the weather is not good for a day on the water. Fortunately, the dragon gods looked favorably upon us and opened the clouds for a perfect day for dragon-boat racing!

The County's Chair of the Legislature, Tim Joseph, had challenged the City of Ithaca to a race; they accepted the challenge. Now what??? Fellow Legislator, Kathy Luz Herrera, aided by Anita Fitzpatrick, Personnel Commissioner, began scouting the vast employee pool to find a crew, and what a diverse crew we had! The employees who volunteered represented many departments – Administration, Airport, County Attorney, Youth Services, Highway, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Planning, ITCTC, Sheriff's Department, Office for the Aging, Information Technology Services, and the Legislature. Our crew ranged in age from 22 to 69, and had never practiced a stroke together, yet was victorious when the County/City race was over.

"Oh no, we have to race again??? What did you say???" Seems whoever won that heat was called upon to race the winner of the other community team heat. Another mad dash to scramble the team occurred; especially since we lost members due to previous commitments and their work ethic (scheduled to work and had to leave). At that point we grabbed other County employees to complete our crew. Although we improved our time by two seconds, and the youngsters from Alternatives Federal Credit Union were victorious that time around, we didn't care – we were all just having fun.

One thing is for certain, when you get bit by the dragon-boat bug it is infectious – I cannot wait for next year when we have fun, meet our fellow County employees, and continue having a good-hearted competition with the City employees.



What a day!

- By Jovan Grogan

We had a blast- and beat out the City of Ithaca Team, City Soul, by half a boat length! Yea!

Ithaca Beer provided the winner-take-all case of a variety of tasty Ithaca Beer (and Ithaca sodas), with which we happily drowned our thirst. And Shane Seger of Common Council, on behalf of the City of Ithaca, presented Tim Joseph, our team captain, with the legendary "Ithaca Dragons are Gorgeous" Dragon, which will reside at the County until ?? next year, or our next match up.

We were gracious in defeat to the AFCU team (they actually practiced!!), CU @ the finish line, finishing about half a boat length behind, while improving our overall time with each race.

Several County paddlers were drafted on the spot, and we all took on the mission of team building on a deadline. It worked! Our sponsors, whether financial, motivational, or logistical, made our participation possible.

It wouldn't surprise me if there was interest in forming a County team for next year, because I know that many of us were "bitten by the dragon boat racing bug" this weekend!

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A Note from the County Administrator: Hard Work By Many Pays Off

Thanks to the efforts of many throughout County government, the horizon in Tompkins County is about to change. Over the next several months you may notice several communications towers sprout up over the landscape. Over ten years ago Jack Miller, then Fire Coordinator for Tompkins County, brought forward a project to replace our emergency communications system to better serve the Tompkins County community. Now, through the tenacity of former legislator Barbara Blanchard and the expertise of Lee Shurtleff and Greg Potter, the system is about to become reality.

At first, the system will provide a highly reliable emergency response communications system, which will provide a backbone for voice and mobile data. Once the emergency responders are established on the system, many other users will be brought on board. When fully developed, all municipalities and educational institutions will be able to rely on a communications system that will not fail under even the worst circumstances.

The first signs of this system will be quite visible on South Hill. With the cooperation of Ithaca College, which provided the site in exchange for an improved transmission site, a new tower will rise near the current Ithaca College tower site. Cornell University also has provided a site for the system and is considering additional support. The Statewide Wireless System (SWN) is in the final stages of a partnership agreement that will offset a substantial portion of the cost of the project. Additional revenues will be realized through private sector use of the structures. When complete, future development and maintenance of the system should be financially self-supporting.

The Legislature should be praised for supporting the development of this system and the Emergency Response Center, despite extremely difficult budget years. I would also like to thank the rest of the project team, and the numerous others who all contributed greatly over the years, for their perseverance and expertise. The project team included: Legislator Dick Booth, Lee Shurtleff, David Squires, Greg Potter, Jonathan Wood, Mikel Sakarjian (now with SWN), Jackie Kippola, Joan Jurkowitz, Katie Borgella and Jack Crance. Well done!

We hope we will never be faced with a situation that will push the system to its limits, but you should feel very secure that this system will be ready to protect us, no matter the circumstances

I cannot close without a very heartfelt congratulation to **Lisa Holmes** who is our new Director of the County Office for the Aging. Lisa has already demonstrated her leadership qualities as the interim director, and I am very confident that she will do an outstanding job, following the path set by former Director Irene Stein.

I wish you the very best, Lisa.

-Steve Whicher



Legislator Leslyn McBean-Clairborne helps break ground for the Public Safety Communications System.

Tompkins County Employees Making a Difference

By Cheryl Nelson and Jackie Kippola

On August 10th, the annual Tompkins County employee blood drive was held in the Borg Warner Room in the Tompkins County Library. The goal for the day was to collect at least 45 pints. At the end of the day, 52 pints of blood had been collected from County employees, City of Ithaca employees, and individuals that walked in to donate. These 52 pints will be used to help up to 156 individuals in need of blood or blood products. Since the target amount was exceeded, the Red Cross considered it a bonus day!

The annual employee blood drive is always scheduled in August since in the summer the need for blood is the highest but the donations are lowest. Schools and colleges that are sites of regular drives are closed. Also, many people are on vacation, so they may not be available to donate in the summer. People being more mobile and active in the summer also drives up accidents which taxes the blood supply as well.

A huge thank you goes to the donors, canteen volunteers, and registration volunteers. A special thank you to the County employees that serve as contacts in their respective buildings and work to enlist the donors and volunteers. Several of the building contacts have served in this role for many years and it is great to know that we can count on them each year. It is very rewarding to see the end result of all of the hard work and to know that we have done something together that will help so many.

If you donated or volunteered for this event, we hope that you will do it again next year. If you have never donated, we hope that you consider doing so at this annual event or at another blood drive location.

Thanks again for all of your help in making this a success.

County Adopts NIMS Standard

By Lee Shurtleff, Director of Emergency Response

On August 15, the County Legislature formally established the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS) as the County standard for incident management in times of emergency. "NIMS" standardizes procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources to improve the County's response to incidences involving multiple agencies and disciplines.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) had recommended that such national standard be adopted in the wake of the response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon incidences, and President Bush, in Homeland Security Directive-5, directed the development of such a system. It is anticipated that use of a common system by all agencies from the federal level, downward, will improve our abilities to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of size, cause, or complexity.

The National Incident Management System is very similar to the traditional Incident Command System (ICS) long used by Tompkins County and New York State responders. A key difference, or addition, includes its expansion to a wider defined response community, that not only includes the "traditional" fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and law enforcement personnel, but also such disciplines as public works, public health, hospitals, local government employees and officials involved in multi-agency coordination, as well as skilled support personnel from business, utilities, and human needs organizations.

A standardized, progressive training program was established at the federal and state levels and is now required for all governments. Eligibility for scores of federally based grants (virtually anything that local government could apply for) is tied now to compliance with the provisions of NIMS, including adoption and practice of the standard, and just as critically, the incorporation of NIMS into training programs and exercises.

The current flurry of training activity might lead one to believe that NIMS compliance is yet another "one-shot" project intended to meet some federal mandate. In truth, NIMS is a long-term integration activity that will permanently reflect in our basic training programs and daily operations.

What is this writer's personal opinion, now that I've given you the overview? As with any program that is shipped to us from up yonder, there is a certain amount of over-kill, over-reach, and over-training that we'll forever be forced to do with little or no financial support from the mandating entities. That said, providing all our departments and responders with a basic understanding of how incident command works, establishing a common language, and just plain training and working together across departmental and municipal boundaries will ultimately ensure an improved and more efficient response to the emergencies that require use of many people and many resources. See the article at the right for some real, recent and local examples!

All Emergencies Are Local: Case In Point

On the 26th and 27th of June, the region was impacted by a series of storms and heavy rainfall. Over an extended period, Tompkins County and surrounding areas received several inches of rain, resulting in extensive flooding and runoff. Within four hours time, predictions by the National Weather Service changed from a threat of swollen streams and tributaries, to a strong probability of record flooding, even to exceed the effects of Hurricane Agnes in 1972! Emergency personnel and public works staff, previously looking forward to the July 4th weekend, were thrust into the rapid implementation of a variety of emergency plans, responses, and operations. Warnings were disseminated to a number of agencies, and County Dispatch monitored the changing conditions.

With a little good fortune (for us), the heaviest rains shifted eastward by just a few miles, enough so that serious damages were limited to the Caroline, Danby, Dryden, and Groton areas. Most of our highway and fire departments in the County responded to a series of service calls, and preventive measures (opening blocked culverts, pumping basements, diverting run-off, closing roadways) were performed throughout the evening of Tuesday, June 26. As the evening wore on, conditions worsened in the Town of Caroline, and numerous roads were closed. Highway and emergency crews were dispatched to numerous locations to re-route traffic, open up clogged ditches and pipes, and check on the welfare of residents in the vulnerable areas. Anticipating the need for additional resources, County staff from Emergency Response and the Highway Division moved to the Slaterville Fire Station, where a town command post had been established. In short order, the situation was assessed with Town officials, and equipment and personnel were deployed to assist in the troubled areas.

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Flooding in Broome County

All Emergencies Are Local

(continued from Page 3)

Over the next six days, equipment and manpower from nearly every County fire department was rotated through a variety of assignments in Broome County, while others assembled crews and stood by, ready to respond with minimal notice. Additionally, local ambulances provided backup to Cortland and Tioga Counties, and Ithaca Fire Department responded with City-owned boats to assist in rescue operations in Owego. Sheriff Meskill and several deputies assisted with law enforcement efforts in Delaware County, where over 80% of the roads had been washed away. Numerous volunteers also responded with agencies including the local Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Back at home, the extent of damage became more apparent, and the County requested that the Governor's Declaration be extended to Tompkins in hopes that a subsequent, pending Presidential Declaration would make local municipalities eligible for federal and state disaster assistance. By Sunday, the DOER was assigned a FEMA assessment team who worked with Director Shurtleff over the next two days. A joint federal/state team reviewed damages and concluded that Tompkins County's recovery costs, just for roads, bridges, and public improvements, would exceed \$ 2 million. The County was added to the list of declared areas at the end of the week, and FEMA Public Assistance Teams were assigned to work with local officials in developing and processing numerous project-funding requests. Although the processes will no doubt take many months to complete, local municipalities will recover badly needed funds, as will our neighbors whose damage is into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Although we were fortunate to, by and large, escape the brunt of the waters, those few stressful days confirmed a lot of the assumptions that we have built into our emergency preparedness plans and operations. Among them: that when the storm hits, we're on our own, just like the people in Broome, Delaware, Tioga, and other counties were for the first few hours, if not days. We rely heavily on our public safety and public works crews to expand upon their normal duties and capabilities to effectuate the rescues, open emergency routes, and ensure the safety of our residents and visitors until the waters (or any other threat) subsides. We know now that state and federal assistance will eventually arrive and will help us recover, despite the bad reviews we all read and heard about in last year's hurricane disasters. We can also rely on a network of mutual aid partners who will come here with people, equipment, and apparatus at a moment's request, and there's no doubt in my mind, that had that storm shifted this way, they'd have been here, rather than the other way around.

Lots of lessons have been learned. Storms happen, floods happen, fires happen. No matter how much training we have, and no matter how well we can comply with federal procedures, we're still going to be limited by the people, facilities, and equipment we hold locally when the dangers are at their worst. It is in our best interest, if not imperative, that we recognize this and, as a community, continue to identify our vulnerabilities and further develop the resources we need to protect them, not just in the day-to-day "expected" events, but also for the quick and catastrophic. County Government is key to this effort, and as an entire entity must be fully engaged and available when the "unthinkable" occurs- our citizens (the taxpayers) are depending on that!

- Lee Shurtleff

Highway Highlights...

By Geri Lockwood

2006 Summer Floods :

The floods that have occurred in the County over the summer have interrupted the summer road project schedule, causing delays to much of the schedule. The crews have spent many hours working to repair the flood damages. Old 76 Road, in the Town of Caroline, was closed from June 27th until August 10th, to replace road crossing pipes that were washed out. Banks Road Bridge, also in the Town of Caroline, was closed indefinitely on July 11th.

FEMA and SEMO have an office set up in the Public Works Facility, working closely with municipalities in Tompkins County to assist with the reimbursement requests for the flood damage repairs.

As always, please use extreme caution when traveling through work zones, and adhere to work zone speed limits. Thank you for helping to keep our workers safe!

Department of Social Services

Foster Care/Adoption

Information Meetings

Submitted by Ellie Arnold

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent and wants more information, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St., Ithaca, NY on **September 14**, and **October 12, 2006**. (These informational meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month.) Tompkins County has a special need for foster families in the Ithaca City School District and for families who will foster teenagers.

Also, our Fall Foster/Adoption Certification/ Approval Class is beginning on September 12, 2006. This is a 33-hour, 11-week program to prepare you to foster or adopt.

Please call 274-5266 for more information.



A Good Time (albeit wet)

By David Chase, President CSEA Local 855

CSEA Tompkins County Local 855 held its fourth annual Employee Appreciation Day at Stewart Park on Saturday, August 19th.

Nearly 500 CSEA represented employees and their families from various townships, school districts, and municipalities registered to participate in this year's festivities. A majority of them showed up even though it rained – sometimes heavily – most of the day.

For the second straight year, Hope's Way catering service put on a bountiful spread of BBQ chicken, steamed clams, hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, deserts, and cold beverages. Needless to say, no one left hungry.

The children were treated to Fire Truck and Carousel rides and despite the inclement weather, a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to Pam, Chantalise, Scott, Chris, Judith, Fran, and all those who had a hand in making this a successful day.



Picnic Prize Winners:

- Millie Viscotha – Groton Elementary School (CD Player)
- Cami Fellows – CSEA White Collar Unit (\$25 Gift Card)
- Heather Clark – Groton Central School (MP-3 Player)
- Paulette Fisher – CSEA White Collar Unit (Hollywood Video Gift Cert.)
- Geri Lockwood – CSEA White Collar Unit (Applebees Gift Cert.)
- Susan Bowman – CSEA White Collar Unit (Taughannock Farms Inn Gift Certificate)
- Gary Heffron, Sr. – Newfield Central School (Hillendale Golf Cert.)
- Teresa Davis – TC-3 (DVD Player)
- Bea Valent – CSEA White Collar Unit (Barnes & Noble Gift Cert.)
- Erma Peterson – CSEA White Collar Unit (Gas Card)
- Jo Heliseva – CSEA White Collar Unit (Hollywood Video Gift Cert.)
- Danielle Conte – CSEA White Collar Unit (Boatyard Grill Gift Cert.)
- Robert Smith – Groton Central School (Lucatelli's Gift Cert.)
- Mishelle Hyer – CSEA White Collar Unit (Trumansburg Golf Cert.)
- Shirley Kane – CSEA White Collar Unit (Bed Bath & Beyond Gift Cert.)
- Sandy Abbey – CSEA White Collar Unit (Chili's Gift Cert.)
- Hollis Oltz, Jr. - City of Ithaca (BBQ Grill)
- Sue Wrolstad – CSEA White Collar Unit (Pier 1 Imports Gift Cert.)
- Eleanor Spink – CSEA White Collar Unit (15" LCD Flat Screen TV)

Poetry Slam a Success!

By Maryanne Banks, DSS

Ever been to a poetry slam? Some staff at DSS had never been to one until they decided to host the "Poetry Slam to Beat All Slams" Friday night, April 28th. This was a fundraiser for Independent Living Services for young people in foster care, or formerly in foster care. The event was at Beverly J. Martin School, and it was a huge success! There were two competitions for poetry by adults and poetry by young people.

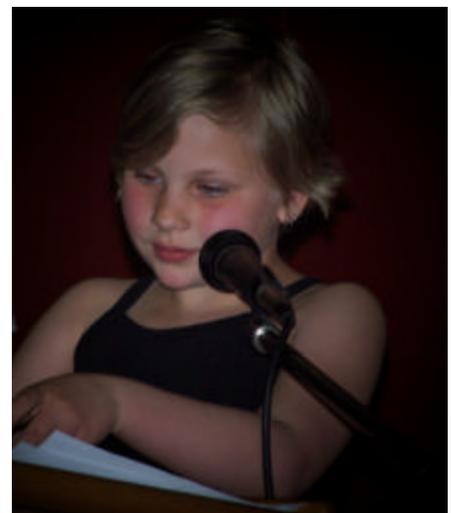
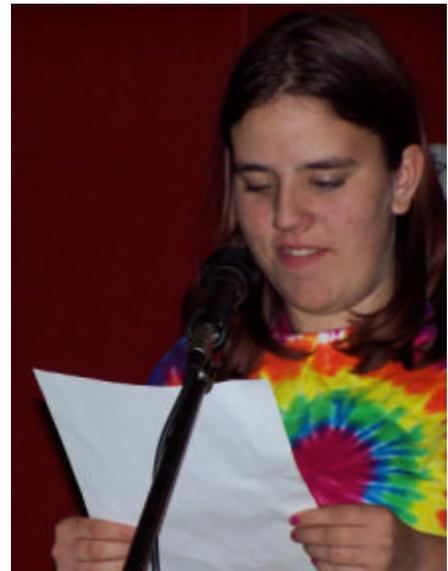
Congratulations to poets Sakivah Dees, Brittany Clark, Marihug Cedeno, Andy Doyle, Melissa Oliver, Callie Griffen and DSS's own Nick D'Alleva. Nick performed his original poem, "Bongo Man", complete with sunglasses to set the tone! Thanks to judges Don Pharaoh, Priscilla Walker, George Eisman and Deana Bodner (DSS Planner), who had the difficult task of judging among the excellent poems and poets.

Funds raised will allow DSS to provide young people with more exposure to life opportunities and skills, more involvement with adults in our community, and more recognition for youth's achievements.

Over 18 local businesses and agencies contributed, including Guilt Free Touring, Eastern Mountain Spots, McNeil Music, Wegmans, Gimme Coffee, Greenstar, Barnes and Noble, Ithaca Bakery, Autumn Leaves, Fall Creek and Cinemopolis Theatres, Ithaca Books, BJM, Rotaract, King David's, and Fontana's. Entertainment was by Mbusi and the GIAC Steppers. Michelle Berry, Tompkins County's Poet Laureate, was advisor to the Slam.

Special thanks to DSS staff Bernice Yarosh, Marion Boratynski, Jennifer Browne, Jessica Schifilliti, Donna Scott, John Talbot, Krissy Hendley, and Carol Purcell. Along with young people in the Life Skills Program, they hosted three fundraisers this year – a silent auction; a book sale; and (in collaboration with the William George Agency, Therapeutic After School Program and Youth Advocates Program) our first poetry slam!

Everyone had a great time listening to the poetry and the music, and there were lots of good snacks, raffles, and prizes. Never been to a poetry slam? Try it!



Employee Spotlight



Sharon Cooper is a secretary in the Records Unit of the Sheriff's Office and has worked there for almost nine years. Prior to that, she worked in the Assessment Department for ten years.

About her duties, she says, "There are only two of us who work in records unit who handle approximately 14,000 reports a year. We process all arrests (both adult and juvenile) for all agencies involved, including photos and fingerprints. We do background checks for employment, adoptions, military, etc., and process all traffic tickets. I handle paper work tickets, bills and paperwork for the boat patrol for end-of-year state reporting purposes.

"Monthly, I run five reports for the administration staff on number of complaints, tickets, arrests, individual deputies, and number of accidents. Yearly, I handle sending out the applications to the school districts for the free, week-long NYS Sheriff's Association Summer Camp and process those applications, making all arrangements. Quarterly, I do the juvenile transport report, which is submitted to DSS for reimbursement from NYS. I handle the processing of solicitation/peddler's permit applications when we get them. Weekly, I pay the bills for the Sheriff's Office. In addition to all of this, we have phones to answer and a window to cover. So, as you can see this really stretches two people."

The best part of her job? "I like that I'm busy and that most of the time administration has enough confidence in me that they aren't standing over me, breathing down my neck. It allows me to perform my job at a much higher level. Also, everyone pretty much gets along, so we can joke, which relieves tension. Law enforcement is a very stressful job, both out on the road and inside four walls. I always wanted to be a lawyer, so I guess this is the closest I will ever get to it."

Her least-liked part of her job: "To see the number of child abuse, sex abuse, and domestic violence cases - that is a very difficult thing to deal with. It is also hard to deal with accidents that involve people I know when they are fatalities, which has happened. It is also hard when people on the outside hear things and expect that I can tell them things. My answer is always 'sorry not allowed to divulge that information'."

James Niemi is a Deputy Sheriff with the Sheriff's Office and has worked there for 30 plus years. He has held various positions there - K-9, civil, road patrol, and now courthouse security. The best-liked part of his job is helping people. His least-liked part of his job is dealing with small children who have been hurt. Outside interests are hunting, riding motorcycle, four-wheelers, and spending time with family. If he ran the world, the first thing he would do is to "stop all inhumane fighting in the world."



Sharon Cooper (continued)

Outside interests: "I love to go gambling - they call me the slot queen, and NASCAR - go Jeff Gordon! I have been to two NASCAR races already this year - Las Vegas and Bristol, and have plans to go to two more. Watching it on TV just isn't the same, you have to smell the fumes, rubber, and hear the noise. I am also into dirt tracking - my son has a dirt racecar - so racing is in our family. In fact I used to drive a dirt racecar back in my younger years. I also like to read and to spend time with my family.

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The Votes Are In....

Here are the results of the second vote on what you'd like to name this newsletter!

County Corridors	3
County Chit Chat	2
Tompkins Tattler	1
Keeping in touch	1
County Community	1

Employee Spotlight, continued...

Sharon Cooper

(continued from Page 7)

If she ran the world, the first thing Sharon would do is pull all service men out of Iraq and other foreign countries. She says, "The US needs to start taking care of their own - we have so many homeless people and people with no health insurance, elderly who barely have enough food to eat. It's about time someone woke up and said enough is enough. I could probably get on a soapbox here - oil prices - stop selling our oil to other countries and start thinking about the US."



Marcia Lynch joined the County July 10th as Public Information Officer.

Marcia has collaborated with County officials and staff on many projects over the years, during her past service as Volunteer Coordinator and Director of Development at the Ithaca Fire Department; as coordinator of the year-long Ithaca Centennial celebration; and when she began her professional career as a reporter, newscaster, and news director at radio station WTKO in Ithaca.

Marcia says, "I am greatly enjoying my return to local government service and serving the people of Tompkins County in this position. It is rewarding to work with the great people in county government from the inside, after working with them from the outside for so many years."

As Public Information Officer, Marcia is responsible for developing programs to both convey information to the public about what's going on in county government and to incorporate input from the public into those operations. Some of the most visible aspects of her job are the "Legislature Highlights" that come out after each meeting of the County Legislature and the other news releases that are distributed to the media and posted on the front page of the county's web site.

"One of the first things I've done – and will continue to do – is to consult with those throughout the county's departments to determine how we can best work together to publicize all the good things that are happening here," Marcia says. "I want this office to be a worthwhile resource for all of county government,

From the Vending Committee...

New York City Winter Day Trip

When: **Saturday, December 9th**

Cost: \$30.00/pp

We will leave from the Tompkins County Highway Department Facility on Bostwick Road at 7:00 A.M. sharp, with an expected arrival in New York City around noon.

You will be let off 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 will be from Radio City Music Hall at 8:00 P.M., arriving back in Ithaca around midnight.

Minimum of *40 people* needed to make this trip possible.

Call now for reservations (Patty Stamm at 274-6674, or Pete Coates at 274-6688) or for additional information.

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, appliance purchases, as well as \$5.00 per employee per year 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 Stamm at 274-6674.

and I look forward to working with each of you. I am also enjoying the beginning of my service as a member of the 'Corridors' team."

Much of Marcia's life outside of work revolves around her family and family of animals – a ten-year-old Labrador-setter-golden retriever dog named Chester (whom she calls "my special needs little boy") and seven kitties. None of these animals were planned. She and her animals live in a more than 150-year-old plank house in the Town of Lansing, which she obtained for nothing about 15 years ago, moved, and renovated. "There's still much to do on the house," she notes. "The challenge is finding the time to do it!"

Department News

Probation

Susan Jones, Senior Probation Officer, retired August 31, with 26 years of county employment.

Susan was originally hired by DSS, worked for many years at Mental Health, and became a probation officer in 1990. She has been assigned to regular probation service, DWI specialized cases, Drug Court cases, and most recently served as the Coordinator at the Day Reporting Center.

Our best wishes to Susan, while she enjoys her retirement and her darling baby grandson.

Laurel Rockhill was recently promoted to Administrative Assistant.

Laurel manages a large caseload of court-ordered restitution cases and assists probation officers with collection issues. In addition, she is busy chasing after her active four-year-old and attending her teenage daughter's many after-school activities.

Congratulations to Laurel.

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections is looking for civic-minded citizens who also might be interested in making a little extra money.

The Board needs people to work as Election Inspectors and Machine Technicians. Training is provided for both positions.

Call the Board of Elections (274-5522) for more information, or visit their website:

www.votetompkins.com.

Facilities Division

Welcome to **Steve Christoffersen**, the new Assistant Director of Facilities!

Personnel

VEBA claim forms and Flexible Benefit Claim forms are now on the web under Personnel Forms. If you have questions, please call Personnel at 274-5526.

Save the Date!!!!



Employee Benefits Day and Open Enrollment
Thursday, November 16th
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Beverly Livesay Conference Room
Human Services Building

Vendors include Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, NMHC Rx (National Medical Health Card), Tompkins County Federal Credit Union, Employee Assistance Program, SIEBA and more!!

Sneaker Recycling

ALL METAL

including eyelets

must be removed!

(Shoelaces OK)



It is best to find a way to reuse sneakers in good condition, for example...

- ❖ Give them to a sister or brother;
- ❖ Put them in a yard sale; or
- ❖ Take them to the Salvation Army.

Bring sneakers to the Tompkins County Recycling and Solid Waste Drop-Off Center, 122 Commercial Avenue, Monday through Saturday, from 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Ideas for Farm Markets and Gas Pumps

Submitted by Don Ellis, Weights and Measures



(Thanks to Brad Parker of Franklin County for these tips!)

We all enjoy roadside and farmer's markets this time of year. We offer these reminders about the correct labeling and selling methods for these products.

All commodity items in packages, unless they are to be consumed on premises, must be marked with the identity, origin, and quantity. This translates to stating what it is, who made it, where it's from, and the weight or volume. Packaged cakes, pies, fudge, etc. would require this labeling.

Whether packaged or not, all meat, poultry, fish, and bread must be sold by weight. The exceptions are shell fish & rolls, which can be sold by count.

Most fruits and vegetables can be sold by volume or count, instead of weight. Examples would be a pint of berries, a peck of apples, a dozen ears of corn, a head of cabbage, a bunch of asparagus, or five pounds of tomatoes.

If you are a vendor, the Office of Weights and Measures will be happy to assist you with regulatory requirements. It is the vendor's responsibility to apply all weights and measures regulations.

As the cost of gas continues to increase, Weights and Measures will continue to monitor the pump accuracy, octane quality, and proper price posting.

Remember that your vehicle's gas tank is not an accurate measuring device. The capacity listed in your manual is just an estimate. Fuel tanks also expand and contract with temperature changes. If you have questions about a particular pump, contact our department. Paying attention to octane ratings is one way to save money. Use the octane closest to the one recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. The engine does not get a "treat" by processing a higher octane than is needed. The automatic shut-off hose nozzle is designed to prevent spills and over filling. Speeds closer to 50 m.p.h. save significant amounts of fuel. Additional savings can be achieved by proper tire inflation, removing excess weight, avoiding excessive idling, closing the windows while driving, and using air conditioning sparingly. If you have a vehicle purchase coming up, take a tip from auto racing. A lighter vehicle with a lower, smaller profile will be more fuel-efficient.

Brainteasers...

The dates and topics for the fall Brainteasers series are as follows:

- **Friday September 22nd** (note: different date than on flyer) Emergency Preparedness 1-4pm TC3 Tioga Place (Corner of Seneca & Tioga St. -Old M&T Building)

- **Thursday, October 5th** Re-Cycle and Re-Use 1-4pm Tompkins County Recycling Center

- **Fridays October 27th & Nov. 3rd** Customer Service (2 parts with National Credentialing preparation) 9am-Noon TC3 Tioga Place

- **Thursday December 7th** Mail Merge 9am-Noon TC3 Tioga Place.

To register, contact Heather Stewart at 274-5557 or hstewart@tompkins-co.org



FUNNY BONES

Her husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she stayed by his bedside every single day. When he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer.

As she sat by him, he said, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business fell, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you gave me support. When my health started failing, you were still by my side.

"When I think about it now, I think you bring me bad luck."

Classified Ads

For Sale: Handmade oak 12-gun cabinet with locking glass front double doors, 2 storage drawers. Price \$ 750.00. Phone Ron at 564-9482 after 7:30 pm.



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

dogdayzinn@yahoo.com
www.dogdayzinn.com

For Sale: 1950's style vanity with mirror -\$100; Maple Desk - in good condition - \$80; and Cedar Chest - needs a new foot - \$50 or best offer. Call Ron at 272-1037.

Available now: In print since 1992, the updated 2006 edition of the Mapless Map of Tompkins County (a narrative guide to county roads and locations) is now available. Contact Jim Rolfe at james.rolfe@us.army.mil for prices if interested in buying a copy of the book; copies are also available at Mayers in Ithaca.

Wanted: Old Sunfish sailboat or similar small boat for a project (sails not needed) - 607-532-8975 (nights).

For Sale: 2000 Kawasaki Bayou 300 - all time 4X4 - like new - less than 50 hours ridden - (no place to ride in our area) - \$2,499.00. 2002 Kawasaki Bayou 225 \$1,499.00. Two full-face helmets. Call 753-6674 after 5:00 PM, and ask for Donna or Jim.

For Sale: 2004 Toro "42" riding mower. Used for 2 mowing seasons. Asking \$700 or best offer. Contact Ron Schoneman (607) 272-1037.

For Sale: We have 2 full-face helmets to sell. One is a size XL and the other is a L. Call Jim or Donna at 753-6674.

For Sale: Three young male short-hair Guinea Pigs, \$5.00 each. Make great first-time pets. Call Jane Daum at 607-535-4139 after 5:30 p.m., or email at jdaum@chek.com for more information.

For Sale: Boy's Bike: \$30; 15" tires off Pontiac Sunfire (like new): \$30 for the pair; two wood case antique radios: \$25 each.

Wanted to buy: Antique Bar and Bar Stools. Call 607-532-4138 after 6:00pm or email lillyswords@yahoo.com

For Sale: 1985 Honda Shadow 700 Tricycle, \$3,900 Contact Mitchell Gray, Sr. at 387-6988.

For Sale: One djimbe (African hand drum), excellent condition, carrying case included: \$350.00. Call Lucia at 351-0221

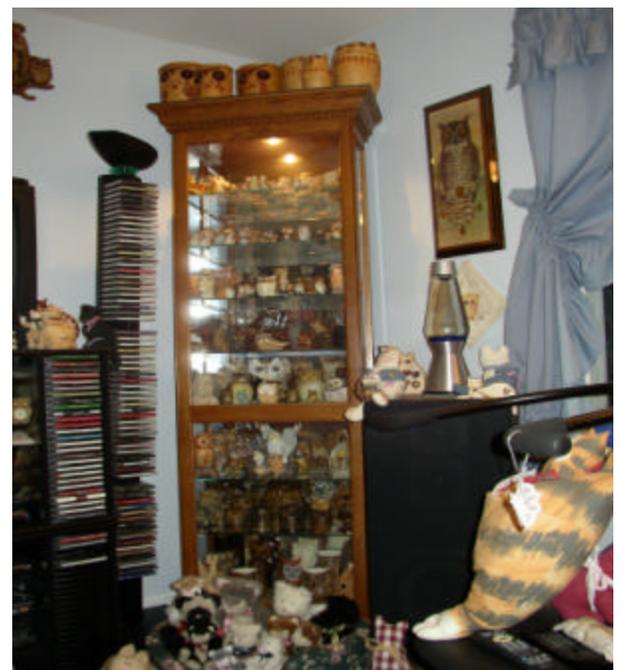
For Sale: 1988 Jayco Class C motor home - 44,000 miles; sleeps 6; runs great; excellent condition; asking \$8500 or best offer; call 838-3021 evenings.

For Sale: 1996 Ford Windstar Mini-Van. 7 passenger, air, cruise, CD, cassette, AM-FM, power locks and windows, 85,000 miles. Excellent condition, very well-maintained. \$5,000 or best offer. Call 564-0565.

Wanted to Buy: Outdoor wicker furniture. Preferably honey-color, but will consider other colors. Love seat, cushioned chairs, coffee table, side table, and/or planter. Call Terri at 607-272-8687.

Short Term Rental: Fully furnished, 2 bedroom apartment or 3 bedroom house available in Watkins Glen, Nov 1 - April 30. Call for details: Marsha 607-368-9066, evenings only, please.

For Sale: Solid Oak Curio Cabinet - 25w x 14d x 76h - Recessed Dome light, 8 adjustable glass Shelves, plate glass mirror back. \$400 or best offer. 607-589-6041 (night).



Classified Ads, continued...

For Sale: Twin bed (trundle). Pulls out into full, wood head-foot boards. Clean comforter, bedspread, sheet sets - \$300 or best offer. Call 607-589-6041 (night).



For Sale: 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera. 121,000 miles. In good shape. Hardly any rust. Just passed inspection. Recent battery, gas line, brakes. Asking \$1000. Call 277-3107 after 6 PM.

Shared Living Quarters: Looking for a quiet and clean individual to share living quarters with. 2 Bedroom Apartment near Cornell University, \$500/month includes all utilities and parking. Call (607) 341-0123.

K.M.K. Custom Construction - Building & Remodeling Specialists New construction, additions, renovations, landscaping, roofing, and much more. Call (607) 341-0123.

For Sale: Mahogany Futon w/ Black Cushion. Good Condition! \$75 or best offer. Call (607) 341-0123.

For Sale: Wooden wine rack. Holds 60 Bottles! New! \$75 or best offer. Call (607) 341-0123.

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

For Sale: Ab (Abdominal) Scissor by Jake. It is already assembled and has only been used one time. For details call (607) 272-8243.

For Sale: 1972 Porsche 914, \$7,500. Call: 607-387-9731(any time).





BOB'S CUSTOM CLUBS
404 Caswell Road
Freeville, NY 13068
607- 844-3760

- Custom Built Clubs
- Custom Fitting
- Regripping
- Reshafting

For Sale: 92 Dodge Spirit, 150K, \$1200. Currently driven every day. New gas tank, fuel lines and brake lines. CD/AM/FM, good tires, regular maintenance. Clean inside. Some rust & dents outside. Good, dependable first car for student. Contact tlinde@hotmail.com or 533-7647.



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

Corridors is printed on 30% recycled paper.

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