

County Corridors

A Newsletter for
Tompkins County
Employees and Retirees

September 2007
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<http://www.tompkins-co.org/countycorridors>

Sustainability Spotlight:

“Buying Green” with Lisa Jehu

By Kat McCarthy

Lisa Jehu has worked for Tompkins County for the past twenty years. Lisa is currently the County Buyer, but she began her tenure as a Supply Clerk for the Department of Social Services, and has since worked as a Purchasing Clerk and Purchasing Assistant. As the County Buyer, she focuses on helping departments find the best pricing for products while procuring the materials and goods that they need.

Most recently, Lisa has taken a new approach to her job; she has shifted her focus to the innovative practice of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) while meeting departments' needs. EPP focuses on a product's lifecycle, resulting in minimal resource use during manufacture, less packaging upon arrival, an extended lifespan in which components can be replaced, and less waste during disposal. This diminishes stress on our environment and improves human health by reducing air pollution and the types of chemicals to which we are exposed. When all of these factors are taken into account, the best value of a product on the market becomes clear, justifying any initial cost difference. The fact that many products can be easily replaced by practical alternatives provides hope that we can shift to a greener future through procuring environmentally preferable products.

Lisa aims to continually educate herself about green purchasing and has attended numerous conferences where she was surprised to learn the full implications associated with buying green. In 2005, she began working with the Cleaning Supervisor, Barb O'Brien, to procure green cleaning products that are healthier for both employees and the environment. After attending workshops, reading trade magazines, and additional sample testing conducted by the cleaning staff, the two arrived at a list of products that Barb was satisfied with purchasing. Some of her favorite products now include Mr. Clean Eraser Sponges and microfiber cleaning cloths, which reduce the amount of chemicals required to clean a surface.

Lisa has noticed the prevalence of environmentally friendly products growing as requests from county departments for items with recycled content, minimal packaging, or other green attributes rise. This year an increasing number of departments are beginning to procure office paper with recycled content. Popular items replacing the “old standby” include pens made from old headlights, remanufactured toner cartridges, and reusable and recyclable corrugated cardboard binders that replace binders made from polyvinylchloride (PVC). While buying green has many benefits, Lisa also understands that a product must be functional in order for it to be practical. This often involves a process of trial and error through which Lisa follows state guidelines that compare products based on form,

function, and utility. For example, a “green” all-purpose cleaner would be compared to a conventional cleaner in the same form (i.e. liquid), which fulfills the same function (i.e. surface cleaner), while providing utility by cleaning the surface just as effectively.

Lisa currently sits on the EPP sub-committee as established by the Tompkins County Sustainability Initiative. Through her work with the sub-committee, she has helped research programs across the nation and has provided valuable input in drafting an EPP policy for the county. As an important next step in this process, Lisa would like to increase communication with other employees about the initiative. When people feel as if they have been a part of the decision making process, and have been given all the information necessary to form their own opinion, they are much more likely to be interested and find what works for them. According to Lisa, these efforts provide great opportunities for improvement, which means that everyone can have a positive impact on the future. *(See related stories on Page 4.)*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dragon Spirit!.....	2
Note From the County Administrator.....	3
Blood Drive Results.....	3
County Waste Assessments Begin.....	4
EPP Consortium.....	4
CSEA Picnic.....	5
Golf!.....	6
County Staff Volunteer.....	7
Employee Spotlights.....	8
Diversity Communications Program.....	8
Highway Highlights.....	9
Department News.....	10
Classified Ads.....	12



Dragon Spirit Abounds

By Karen Fuller



Saturday, July 14, 2007, was a day full of emotions! Earlier in the day I said goodbye to a very special Tompkins County resident, my grandmother Margaret “Peg” Wilkinson. She had lived in Tompkins County for all but the first two years of her ninety-seven plus years and shared a great deal of its history in that time. She spoke of limited finances her family faced as a child that meant only one pair of shoes per child and a single dress to wear to school that was washed by hand every evening! Also, I remember hearing stories of what life was like during war times and the rationing that residents lived with. She and other Tompkins County citizens pooled their ration stamps to help fellow residents with children have adequate blankets and food. That is the type of person I have had to look up to all my life – one who did not complain, though there were plenty of reasons, and one who thought of what was good for all, not just herself. For over half a century, she shared experiences with me that clearly indicated that although things are tough, people can get through by not giving up, and it is a good thing to help others by giving of yourself. As she said on more than one occasion, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Oops, back to the race...

I would like to thank the members of the 2007 Dragon Boat team for agreeing to dedicate the team’s efforts to my grandmother. Although we did not win the race I believe we were winners due to the tremendous effort and team spirit of all those who paddled, supported, and cheered us on. Again this year, we were afforded the opportunity to meet other staff members, their families, and just have some plain-old fun, not to mention keeping the dragon since the City did not have a municipal team. I hope that over the course of years every employee will participate in the race that brings a tremendous sense of accomplishment to all present.

2007 Dragon Boat Team and Sponsors

Kathy Beissner Bob Bohdan, Board of Elections Chantalise DeMarco, Mental Health Kristie DeMarco, Mental Health Bob DeLuca, Mental Health Jim Dennis, Legislature Scott Doyle, Planning Anita Fitzpatrick, Personnel Jill Friedmutter Karen Fuller, Legislature	Kate Hackett, Planning Kathy Herrera, Legislature Jocelyn Jones, Personnel Tim Joseph, Legislature Dooley Kiefer, Legislature Carrie Koplinka-Loehr Michael Koplinka-Loehr, Legislature Marcia Lynch, Public Information Pam Mackesey, Legislature Shinovah Moodie, Personnel Shawn Martel-Moore, Administration	Tyke Randall, Legislature Martha Robertson, Legislature Joe Stacy, Highway Greg Stevenson, Legislature Paula Younger, Administration Victor Younger Vicki Wagner, Assessment Stephen Whicher, Administration Kevin/Kathy Wilsea, Planning Patti Zalewski, DSS
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A Note from the County Administrator:

Update on Health Insurance Review

Recently, an article outlining the County's desire to change the Health Insurance plan for retirees appeared in the *Ithaca Journal*. I thought you might be interested in a more comprehensive overview of what is going on.

A few years ago it became clear that we had to address the alarming rate of growth in the County's fringe (benefits) rate. The two largest cost drivers in the fringe rate are Health Insurance and Retirement. Since State law regulates retirement payments, we concentrated our efforts on Health Insurance. It quickly became apparent that the drug benefit was the fastest growing component. To offset this growth we negotiated a change in the drug plan design with the unions and changed to a less expensive drug plan administrator. These moves have helped to control costs but should be considered intermediary steps.

To develop a more comprehensive solution we began to address the problem on three levels:

- Plan benefit design for active employees;
- Retiree benefit plan and cost; and
- A County-wide consortium to establish a single health insurance plan for all municipalities.

Last year active employees were asked to consider a core plan which would increase costs at point of service but would be entirely paid for by the County. In addition this plan provides debit card convenience as well as a \$250 incentive for individuals and \$500 incentive for families. For the vast majority of staff this plan would result in a net savings.

This year we will initiate a Canadian drug plan called *CanRx*, which should result in a reduction in drug costs. In addition we continue to negotiate plan design changes with the unions.

The review of the retiree plan began approximately two years ago with a request from the Medicare eligible retirees for a reduction in their premium since Medicare paid a very large portion of any medical bills and drug costs were offset by a Federal contribution to the County. A

team of staff, retirees, community health care experts and our Health Insurance consultant reviewed this request.

The team concluded that Medicare eligible retirees were indeed paying a very high premium for the benefit received. An internal staff team continued the review to determine what coverage could be offered at a reduced premium without negatively impacting the pool.

At this time, the Personnel Committee is considering four options:

1. Existing plan – unchanged;
2. Allow the Medicare Eligible retirees to be a separate group;
3. Move all retirees to the core plan;
4. Grandfather all existing retirees but offer only the core plan to new retirees.

The County-wide consortium initiative is being supported by a \$260,000 State grant and is about to begin its first phase. This program has three distinct phases:

1. Establish Consortium;
2. Design the overall Healthcare plan and;
3. Plan implementation.

Once the consortium is established, all stakeholders will be involved in building the plan design and the implementation of the plan.

The goals of this project are to reduce overall health insurance premiums in the county through plan design and by establishing a pool that is large enough to command the best pricing. It is anticipated that this project should take approximately two years to complete.

It is important to understand that these moves are being made to preserve the highest level of benefit possible for all current and retired staff. Taking no action and allowing the fringe cost to exceed 37% of payroll is simply not affordable and would require direct offsets from future pay increases.

Steve Whicher

Blood Drive a Success

The blood drive held on August 9th rendered 51 units collected from Tompkins County employees and other non-employee individuals that walked in to donate – exceeding our target of 45 units! This means that up to 153 individuals benefited from the units collected during the drive.

On behalf of Jackie Kippola and myself, the co-coordinators of this annual event, I would like say a very heartfelt “thank you” to all of the employees that donated blood, served refreshments at the canteen, or worked at the registration table.

I would also like to especially thank all of the employees that serve as the contact person for their building and work so diligently in the weeks before the drive to sign up the donors and volunteers. Without their continued commitment to this role, it would be very difficult to get donors and volunteers scheduled throughout the day.

Thank you, too, to the department heads for allowing the employees to participate in this very worthwhile, annual event.

Cheryl Nelson

County Begins Department Waste Assessments

Since the adoption of the County Sustainability Initiative, a noticeable change can be seen throughout the county. With employees from various buildings and departments joining the County Sustainability Committee, a heightened awareness about being green is visible throughout county departments. In response to this initiative, Tompkins County Solid Waste will begin conducting waste assessments in county departments beginning this August and continuing until February 2008.

With assistance from Cleaning Supervisor Barb O'Brien of the Facilities Division, Recycling Specialist Leo Riley and Assistant Recycling Specialist Kat McCarthy will visit departments in order to target potential opportunities to reduce waste, practice reuse, increase recycling rates, and adopt green purchasing practices. Leo, a new addition to the Solid Waste team, has over twenty-five years of experience in the private sector managing recycling and solid waste, and is enthusiastic about this program. "Waste assessments provide an excellent opportunity to help county employees become involved with the County Sustainability Initiative and increase recycling rates," says Leo. After having conducted waste assessments in businesses within the county, Leo has found that "most places are currently recycling, but even the places that are doing the best can stand to benefit from a waste assessment in one way or another."

As a recent graduate of Ithaca College, with a degree in Environmental Studies, Kat McCarthy has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the county thus far, beginning as a Project Assistant in 2006, and becoming the Assistant Recycling Specialist this past December. Kat comments, "I share Leo's enthusiasm for this program and look forward to finding innovative ways to solve waste management headaches in the departments". As the chair of the new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing sub-committee of the Sustainability Committee, she is also looking forward to working with the departments to find products that fulfill their purpose while reducing their impact on the environment.

Each department head has been asked to appoint a Waste Reduction Representative who will act as a contact to provide the waste assessors with information about current practices and needs during implementation. From the information gathered through the waste assessment, the assessors will compile a comprehensive report of recommendations that are designed to help the department practice the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy). Throughout the process, assessors will work closely with the Waste Reduction Representative in each office and will be available to provide assistance with implementation of these suggestions.

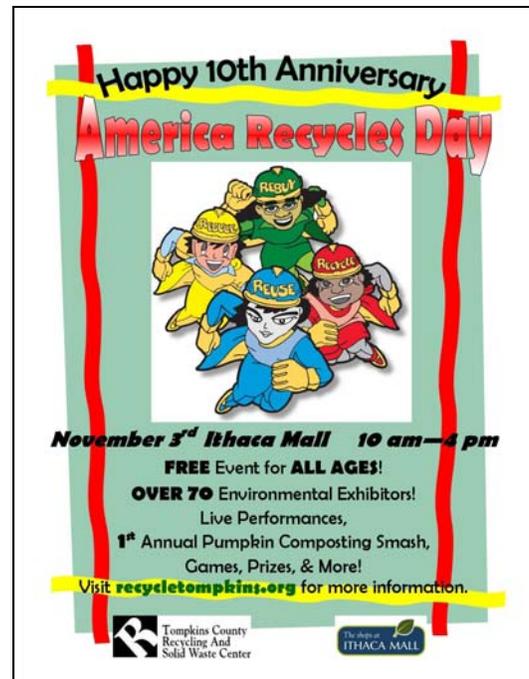
Any questions regarding this process should be forwarded to Leo Riley at ldriley@tompkins-co.org.

Have a Tip or Question About "Going Green?"

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

An EPP Consortium for Tompkins County

The Tompkins County Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) sub-committee has recently formed an EPP Consortium to promote the procurement of "green" products and services. Through the consortium, member institutions work together to share resources, such as purchasing language and product research. Current members of the consortium include Tompkins County, TST BOCES, the city of Ithaca, Cornell University, Ithaca College, TC3, and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. At this time, the consortium is in the process of benchmarking current purchasing practices. With this information, the group will work together to pursue options for improvement.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Last year the amount of energy saved from recycling aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to:

- The amount of electricity consumed by 17.8 million Americans in one year.
- 29% of nuclear electricity generation in the America in one year.
- 7.9% of electricity generation from fossil fuels in the America in one year.
- 11% of the energy produced by coal fired power plants in the U.S.
- The energy supplied from 2.7% of imported barrels of crude oil into the U.S.
- The amount of gasoline used in almost 11 million passenger automobiles in one year.

By recycling just one glass bottle, the amount of energy that is being saved is enough to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

“The Picnic”

By David Chase, President
CSEA Local 855



On August 18th CSEA Local 855 held their annual picnic at Stewart Park. The weather cooperated this year with exception of a consistent gale force wind coming directly off the lake. It was a struggle at times to hold onto your plates, napkins and cutlery, but the food provided by Hope’s Way was once again worth the extra effort. I can’t imagine anyone walking away from this spread hungry.

This year we made a serious attempt at “going green”. This included recycling, and even the use of bio-degradable cutlery. It’s all part of CSEA’s commitment to the sustainability effort being put forth throughout Tompkins County.

Once again we had a host of prize winners who were extra glad they decided to join in the festivities. They are:



- James Van Ostrand
- Janet Haines
- Carol Reeves
- Marlena Terouw
- Paulette Fisher
- Rita Leubner
- Bea Valent
- Shirley Kane
- Melissa Summers
- Jesse Williams
- Pat Rueb
- James Decker
- Beth Hornic
- Cindy Hart
- Gary Heffron Sr.
- Betty Streeter
- Judith Johnson
- Millicent Viscotha
- Lee Carter

- Barnes & Noble Gift Card
- Citgo Gas Card
- Hillendale Golf Package
- Taughannock Farms Inn Gift Cert.
- The Boatyard Grill Gift Card
- Hess Gas Card
- Chili’s Rest. Gift Cert.
- DVD Player
- Bed Bath & Beyond Gift Card
- Newman Golf Course Package
- Hollywood Video Gift Card
- Pier 1 Imports Gift Card
- Trumansburg Golf Package
- Chili’s Rest. Gift Card
- Hollywood Video Gift Card
- Barnes & Noble Gift Card
- MP-3 Player
- Pier 1 Imports Gift Card
- Flat Screen TV



Congratulations to all!



Golf, Golf, Golf, Golf, Golf, Golf....

Fun and Competition at the Employee Golf Tournament

By Jackie Kippola

Each year, on the Friday after Labor Day, representatives from over 15 departments, plus former employees and close friends, take the day off and head to golf course at Trumansburg. For some folks, it is the only time of the year that they play golf; it is also the only time of the year that they see colleagues from other departments. One person even flies to Ithaca from Houston, Texas, just to play in this tournament. Why would you only play golf once a year?

The Tompkins County Employee Golf Tournament is a fun event, we love it, and that is the way it is! Thirteen years ago, we thought it would be great to create an event where County employees could talk to people who work in other departments. This tournament provides that opportunity, and more.

Here is a snapshot of the day: Tee off at 8:45 am, play golf for 5 hours, enjoy plenty of sunshine and breeze, eat a fabulous lunch, receive a nifty prize -courtesy of the Vending Committee, and if you are really good, take home the 1st place trophy. In addition, if you do win 1st place, you get ownership for a year of "The Plaque", which displays the past winners' names, which comes with certain departmental bragging rights.

Thank you so much to the Vending Committee for sponsoring this event and adding to the fun of The Tompkins County Employee Golf Tournament.

1st Place

Gerry Surine (SHER)
Jack Russell

Robin Korherr (RET)
Suzanne Alexander

2nd Place

Denny Fairchild (DSS)
David Chase (DSS)

Mark Fairchild
Frank Justice (RET)

3rd Place

Jay Franklin (ASMT)
Chuck Wah Oong

Michael Xayarath (ASMT)
Vann Oung

4th Place

David Squires (FIN)
Jim Dennis (LEG)

Jonathan Wood (ATTY)
Bill Marquardt

5th Place

Alan Scheer (DSS)
Marty Fulton

Doug Perine (DSS)
BJ Robison

6th Place

Autumn Bieberich (FIN)
Neil Bieberich

Steve Chaffee
Bob Pietila (RET)

7th Place

Jack Crance (DOER)
Carl Smith

Greg Stevenson (LEG)
Dan Garrison

8th Place

Nancy Curtis (DSS)
Mike Hughes

Harold Baylor (WKDV)
Mark Smarr

9th Place (tied)

Craig Hopkins (RET)
David Hopkins

Jackie Kippola (ADM)
Paul Darby

9th Place

Matt Whittemore (HWY)
Troy Whittemore

Marty Adams (RET)
Billy Foxx

10th Place

Bob Nicholas (AIR)
Bob Mastropaolo

Ralph Napolitano

11th Place (tied)

Tim Kessler (RET)
Tom Walpole (RET)

Jeff Potter (RET)
Daryl Avery (RET)

11th Place

Tom Richardson (SWAS)
Tom Powers

Lynn Leopold (RET)
John Gale

12th Place (tied)

Missy Cooper (MHLTH)
Scott Brind

John Cooper (FAC)
Debbie Preston

12th Place

Frank Croteau (PHLTH)
Sue Bowman (PHLTH)

Joe Crosby
Ronny Bowman

13th Place

Bill Shaff (SHER)
Linda Griswald

Roger Griswald (SHER)
Mark Miller

14th Place

Amy Miller (MHLTH)
Kristie Demarco (MHLTH)

Sue Munson
Shawn Flynn

15th Place

Bob Slocum (COFA)
Gladys Brangman (COFA)

Anne
Matthew Dowdle

16th Place

Ron Schoneman (MHLTH)
Shane Jaynes (MHLTH)

Allen Terry
George McCheyne

17th Place

Shirley Kane (DSS)
Darlene Robison (DSS)

Karen Cornell (DSS)
Sharon Drader

County Folks “Give Back”...

Note: Beginning with issue, County Corridors will spotlight employees and retirees who volunteer in this community. If you would like to recognize someone for their volunteer service, contact the Corridors Team, care of Maureen Reynolds, editor at mreynolds@tompkins-co.org.

Airport Employees Volunteer

Airport Manager Bob Nicholas provided the names of the following employees in his division who provide volunteer service to the community:

Dave Crawford (Airport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor)

- Assistant Chief - Interlaken FD

Tom Cooper (Airport Operations Technician)
- Firefighter/EMT Lansing FD

Mike Drake (Airport Operations Technician)
- Firefighter/EMT Lansing FD

Fritz Hess (Airport Operations Technician Trainee)
- EMS Captain Moravia FD

Josh Nalley (Airport Operations Technician)
- Deputy Chief Genoa FD

Jeremy Puterbaugh (Airport Operations Technician)
- Firefighter Trumansburg FD

Tom Smith (Airport Operations Technician)
- Lieutenant Trumansburg FD

Noel Terwilliger (Airport Operations Technician)
- Firefighter Spencer FD

Kerry VanEtten (Airport Operations Technician Trainee)
- Assistant Chief Hector FD

Tom Warner (Airport Operations Technician)
- Deputy Chief Dryden FD

Bob Nicholas (Airport Manager)
- County Office of the Aging - visits County seniors to talk, read books, help with shopping, etc.

Bob Slocum, Office for the Aging

Submitted by Lisa Holmes



Bob Slocum in the dunking booth at June's Dryden Dairy Days.

For some people, volunteering in their off hours is a way of life. This is definitely the case for Bob Slocum, Principal Account Clerk of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

Bob has been active in Dryden Kiwanis for over 16 years, serving as Chair of its Youth Baseball and Softball Program for the past eight years. Through this program, 300 Dryden school district children from pre-k through 7th grade play baseball and softball in six organized leagues every spring. Bob is also active throughout the holiday season with the Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale as well as the annual Christmas parties for residents of Willowbrook Manor and Lehigh Crossing senior apartments. At various times in the summer months, Bob can be found at the roadside cleanup sponsored by the Dryden Kiwanis Club. Over the years, Bob has donated thousands of hours to his Dryden community. He has become so known for community volunteering, many at COFA have nicknamed him: “Mr. Dryden.”

About volunteering, Bob muses, “If anyone approaches you about joining a service club, I would consider it seriously. It is a good way to serve your community.” When he is not volunteering, Bob can be found enjoying Cornell sports, the Buffalo Bills or the Boston Red Sox.

Employee Spotlights

Pete Reilly



Pete Reilly is a Caseworker for Long Term Care in the Department of Social Services. He has worked for the County for seven years.

Pete says that having the opportunity to work with fine co-workers is the favorite part of his job. Asked what he likes least about his job, Pete responded, "Not a darn thing."

Pete's favorite thing to do outside of work? "Anything with my boys."

If Pete ran the word, the first thing he would do would be to establish "mandatory fishing" and "free pizza and brews for one and all!"

Leo Riley was hired as the Recycling Specialist at the Solid Waste Management Division this April, after having worked 25 years in the waste management industry. Leo currently lives in Homer with his wife, two daughters and a son, who keep him busy attending high school sporting events. His oldest daughter currently lives in Cortland where she attends college.

Kat McCarthy began her work with the Solid Waste Management Division as a Project Assistant in February 2006 and has since been promoted to the position of Assistant Recycling Specialist. After graduating from Ithaca College in 2005, Kat remained in Tompkins County where she could spend time with friends while enjoying all the area had to offer, including its many parks and gorges, the Farmer's Market, and its never ending supply of local events.

As a part of the county sustainability initiative, Leo and Kat will be conducting waste assessments in county offices through next spring. Be sure to say hi when you see their smiling faces visit your office.

Leo Riley and Kat McCarthy



WDIC Begins Diversity Communications Program

Following up on the successful kickoff on the Ithaca Commons in June celebrating the County's commitment to diversity and inclusion, the County's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee (WDIC) has initiated a diversity communications program, whereby representatives of the WDIC are conducting brief meetings with departments to gather information about their diversity communication needs and advice concerning how the WDIC can most effectively begin the conversation about diversity and inclusion throughout county government.

Through the assistance of Charlie Marchant, a graduate student in Cornell's Department of Public Administration, the effort began this summer, and discussions already have been

conducted with senior staff in several departments. Additional departmental needs assessment meetings will follow this fall. The information gathered in this part of the process will form the basis of diversity communication initiatives scheduled to begin next year.

If you have questions or suggestions concerning the diversity communications program, please contact me at 274-5555 or mlynch@tomkins-co.org.

Marcia Lynch
Chair, Diversity Communications Subcommittee

Highway Highlights

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant

Road Swaps

Effective August 1, 2007, Tompkins County completed road swaps with the Towns of Ithaca and Ulysses, swapping lower volume traffic roads for higher ones, as follows:

Town of Ithaca:

- Tompkins County acquired Burns Road, CR116 (entire length).
- Tompkins County acquired Town section of Game Farm Road, CR173 (Municipal boundary to Ellis Hollow Road).
- Town of Ithaca acquired Bundy Road (formerly CR138, entire length).

Town of Ulysses:

- Tompkins County acquired Iradell Road Extension, CR177A (entire length).
- Tompkins County acquired Town section of Krums Corners Road, CR141 (Rt. 96 to Iradell Road).
- Town of Ulysses acquired Falls Road (formerly CR143F, entire length).
- Town of Ulysses acquired Agard Road (formerly CR144, entire length).

Vending Committee "Vends"

It's here!!!!:

Our new website is now available on the employee Intranet (under "Events / News"). Please be sure to visit for updated information on all trips, news, etc.

Scheduled Trip:

New York City Winter Day Trip

When: Saturday, December 1st

Cost: \$30.00/pp

The bus will leave from the Tompkins County Public Works 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.

A minimum of 40 people are needed to make this trip possible. Reservations and payment must be received by Friday, November 16th.

Call Patty Stamm, at 274-6674, or e-mail at pstamm@tompkins-co.org for reservations or additional information.

Save Energy, Save Money, Save Hassle -

Use the County's Free Bus Pass Program!

Just a reminder that if you are a county employee (full-time or part-time) you can ride a TCAT bus for free for work or work-related activities.

Employees are encouraged to consider a bus pass, even if they don't expect to use it every day.

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

Make it easy on yourself and save resources and dollars at the same time. Every little bit helps!



Department News

Department of Social Services

Noteworthy Employee of the Month

When you talk about a great person to work with, Mary Rounds from the Department of Social Services stands out. She is always easy to talk with, a pleasure to get information from, she has a wonderful wealth of knowledge, is great at lessening the stress level with her infectious laughter, goes the extra mile to help her co-workers, is a spectacular baker, and pitches in whenever needed without being asked. She's been known to pick strawberries for co-workers who couldn't, bake pies or breads just to lift everybody's spirits, invite her co-workers for walks around town or to go on the arthritis fund raiser walk-a-thons. So, if you see Mary tell her thanks for all she does!



Dust Settling From the Great Moves at DSS

Many people at DSS have recently received promotions or accepted lateral moves. Below are their names:

Jodi Lucas, Rhonda Grier, Gerry Veninsky, Holly Stevenson, Nancy Curtis, Cindy Hart, David Chase, Autumn Edwards, Pam Gibson, Frankie Glass, Maxine Lelik, Rita Leubner, Amy Mills, Linda Minges, and Shawnae Milton.

If I've missed anyone, please accept my deepest apologies.

Edie Spaulding

Highway Division

Congratulations to Scott Metcalf, for his promotion to Highway Crew Supervisor.

Welcome to Tim Lupo, Equipment Service Technician at the Highway Division.

Geri Lockwood

**DON'T FORGET!!
Halloween is coming!**



Send your pictures to be part of the annual Halloween Costume Competition! Email your entry to Maureen Reynolds, editor at mreynolds@tompkins-co.org.

Office for the Aging

Danielle Conte New Planner at COFA



The Tompkins County Office for the Aging is pleased to welcome Danielle Conte as its new Planner.

Danielle brings a wealth of experience with older adults to her position. As Director of RSVP at Lifelong for four years, Danielle interacted with both older adult volunteers as well as the various agencies and organizations in Tompkins County. Prior to her position at Lifelong, she was an Aging Services Specialist and Coordinator at the Office for the Aging in Tioga County. Danielle's degree from SUNY Cortland in sociology and gerontology reinforce her ability to successfully meet the demands of her new position as Planner.

I asked Danielle what she enjoys most about her job and she was quick to reply, "I really like the coordination of events. I enjoy dealing not only with the crunching of numbers, but also interacting with folks from other agencies and organizations to provide useful information for older adults."

When Danielle is not busy on her computer or dashing off to meetings, she most enjoys spending time with her husband, Sean and her beautiful daughter, Megan who will soon be four years old. We are thrilled to have Danielle as part of our team here at COFA. Please feel free to stop by and welcome her!

Trina Schickel

Bicycle Maps Available

The Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC) has produced a color map of Tompkins County that highlights the suitability of the roads for bicycling.

The maps are meant to be used for the beginner to advanced cyclist and are available from the ITCTC, 121 E. Court Street, 274-5570 **for free** to everyone: individuals, businesses, schools, clubs, or organizations.

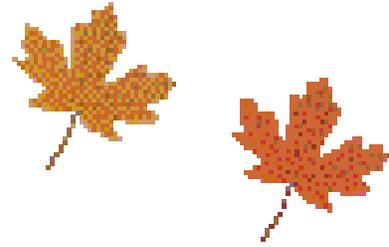
We have recently distributed them around the county to town and village halls, bike shops, fitness centers, coffee shops, the Farmer's Market, Cornell University (3,000), The Visitor's Center (1,300), etc.

More information can be found on our website:
www.tompkins-co.org/itctc

- Teresa Linde



FUNNY BONES



An older lady gets pulled over for speeding...

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasping his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers. The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too.

MORAL: Don't Mess With Little Old Ladies!

Classified Ads



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FOR SALE: Liberty blue and white dinnerware, Historic Colonial scenes, circa 1960's, service for eight, \$100.00. Call (607) 533-9133 evenings.

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WANTED: 3-point hitch backhoe attachment, or an older backhoe. Call Jim, at (607) 532-4092.

FOR SALE: 1988 Bayliner Capri, 16' bowrider, 2.3L, 140HP, IO, new full canvas stereo. Excellent condition, runs great, \$4,500.00. Call Sharon or Gary, at (607) 387-6250.

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FOR SALE: Las Vegas Grandview Timeshare ~ 1 bedroom condo, Red week. Paid \$20,000 – will sell for \$9,500. Serious inquires only, please! Call Carol Griep, at (607) 753-0402, or e-mail hillcarol1970@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Harley Davidson helmet, like new, worn cross-country once, \$50. Call Carol Griep, at (607) 753-0402, or e-mail hillcarol1970@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Canon mini camcorder with extended life battery and carry case. Bought new at Christmas for \$500 – will take \$250 for all. Call Carol Griep, at (607) 753-0402, or e-mail hillcarol1970@yahoo.com

Forward classified ads to Geri Lockwood at the Highway Division, glockwood@tompkins-co.org

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THE CORRIDORS TEAM

Managing Editor

Maureen Reynolds, County Clerk's Office

Editorial Staff

Geri Lockwood, Highway

Linnett Short, SW Management Division

Sara Stark, DSS

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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