

County Corridors

A Newsletter for
Tompkins County
Employees and Retirees

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Joe Mareane is New County Administrator

Tompkins County welcomes Joe Mareane, currently Chief Fiscal Officer for Onondaga County, as Tompkins County's next County Administrator. Recommended by the County Administrator Search Committee and confirmed by the Legislature last month, Joe will begin work on October 21st, to permit a week's overlap with the retiring Steve Whicher, then will become the Administrator as of October 28th.

Mr. Mareane (*pronounced "mar-ee-ANN-na"*) comes to Tompkins County after 12 years as Onondaga's Chief Fiscal Officer.

Joe holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is married with three sons (20-year-old twins and another son, age 16) and is moving to Tompkins County from Skaneateles, New York.

"The entire organization, and particularly the Search Committees, department heads and County Personnel Department staff, should be commended in attracting the level of talent and experience that Joe Mareane will be bringing to our community," says Legislature Chair Mike Koplinka-Loehr, who also led the County's most recent Administrator search process. "Joe's 30 years of commitment to public service in central New York is perfectly matched by the depth of dedication and effectiveness of our county workforce in meeting the needs of residents in the highest quality manner possible, given shrinking fiscal realities. We all look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead to meet the challenges we all face, as a cohesive team."



Notes from Joe on Page 2

Notes From the County Administrators:



Goodbye From Steve

Well, it is time to say goodbye, this time for real. The last time I was of very mixed emotions primarily because I was concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the choice of my successor. Although I believe strongly that

no one should have a voice in the choice of one's replacement, after dedicating nearly 20 years of my working life to Tompkins County, I care deeply about the culture of the organization and the quality of the services we deliver. With the choice of Joe Mareane as the next County Administrator I am confident I am passing the Administrator's duties to responsible and competent hands.

For the most part, I have enjoyed my tenure in Tompkins County and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with all of you. I would like to thank the Legislature for their support, guidance, and encouragement during the challenging times, your wisdom and insight were incredibly important to me. I would also like to thank the Department Heads for the advocacy and leadership they bring to their program areas. Every year you have faced the difficulties and heartbreaks that come with the job and have gone on to celebrate the successes that are the result of your hard work. To every member of the staff in Tompkins County, thank you for your selfless dedication that makes Tompkins County such a wonderful place to live and work.

Finally, I would like to thank the Administration staff for their constant dedication to the direction and culture of Tompkins County government.

Even though I will miss the pace and the challenges of the Administrator's position as well as the company of all of you, I am ready to move on to a new phase of life. At times it seems like I started working in Tompkins County just a few years ago, but I have to face the reality that I did not and that it is time to pass reins on to someone else.

I wish you all the very best in life. Joe, good luck. You have the best job in the State of New York. In time the Birkenstocks will feel natural.

- Steve Whicher

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Notes From the County Administrators:

Hello From Joe

Steve Whicher has invited me to use this column to introduce myself. Toward the end of October, I will be doing my best to fill the very large shoes Steve will leave behind.

Over the next several weeks, I will be wrapping up my work in Onondaga County, where I have served as Chief Fiscal Officer since late 1996. Although much of my work in Syracuse has been involved in the management of the County's budget and finances, I have also had the chance to be involved in some of our area's largest economic development projects, consolidation initiatives, and policy issues.

Before the CFO job, I worked with the Pyramid Companies on a major shopping mall project in downstate, served as the vice president of the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, and spent thirteen years with the City of Syracuse in several positions including director of development, budget director, and assessment commissioner.

Although only time will tell if I'm right, I think all of these experiences will be relevant and helpful as we navigate through the host of challenges that always confront county governments. Today, I know Tompkins County government mainly by its reputation—and its reputation is excellent. You are known to be a smart, progressive, efficient, well-managed organization. I am truly looking forward to joining you in Tompkins County government and getting to know each of you.

As my wife Amy and 16-year old son Jonathan begin the process of relocation (our twin sons Mark and Matt are away at college), we are also looking forward to becoming a part of a beautiful community that so many have described as one of America's best places to live.

For those of you who I have already met, thank you for your kind thoughts and hospitality. For those I've yet to meet, I look forward to talking with you soon.

-Joe Mareane

Another Successful Picnic!!!!

By David Chase, Social Services – President CSEA Local 855



Saturday, August 16th saw the weather usher in another beautiful day for the annual CSEA Local 855 Employee Appreciation Day Picnic. Once again a large portion of CSEA Local 855 employees showed up at Stewart Park to enjoy great food from Hope's Way.

The following Picnic goers were also lucky enough to have their names drawn for prizes:

- Ernestine Wright - CSEA Beach Towel
- Andrew English - Gift Certificate from The Boat Yard Grill
- Robert Mitchell - Golf Passes to Trumansburg Golf Course
- Tina Robinson - HD Radio
- Michael Peck - LCD TV
- Rick Reed - CITGO Gas Card
- Susan Recor - Sunoco Gas Card
- Carrie Baylor - Bed Bath & Beyond Gift Card
- Robert Hollenbeck - Barnes & Noble Gift card
- Joan Hubbell - Hollywood Video Gift Card
- Erma Peterson - Hollywood Video Gift Card
- Karen Royce - CITGO Gas Card
- Rhonda Grier - CITGO Gas Card
- Michael English - Digital Camera
- Doreen Schrader - Pier 1 Imports Gift Card
- Edward Barhite - I POD
- Sandra Aloï - Hillendale Golf Passes
- Lisa Loré - Taughannok Farms Inn Gift Card
- Bea Valent - GPS Navigation Device
- Michelle Doe - Gas Card
- Lee Carter - Gas Card
- Autumn Edwards - Applebees Gift Card
- Jimmy Everts - Lowe's Gift Card
- Jackie Lent - Newman Golf Package
- Pat Rveb - I POD Shuttle



Pat Buechel Promoted to Probation Director

Patricia Buechel is the new Director of the Department of Probation and Community Justice. Pat's appointment by Administrator Steve Whicher was confirmed by the Legislature in August.

Pat enters the director's position with 20 years of service to the Probation Department. First hired as a probation officer in August 1988, she advanced to Senior Probation Officer in 1999, and was then promoted to Probation Supervisor in 2005. Ms. Buechel holds a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Cortland.

"During her twenty-year career Ms. Buechel has prepared herself well for this opportunity," notes Administrator Whicher. "The selection committee was very impressed with Ms. Buechel's supervisory and communication skills, as well as her extensive Probation experience. I am very confident that she will do an outstanding job leading Probation in the years to come."

"I am proud to have had my hand in every specific ATI program the County offers," states Buechel. "I will continue to be committed to those programs as Director. She also praises her predecessor, the retired Kathy Leinthall, adding, "I will work to continue Kathy's open approach to department leadership and to maintain the positive relationships she established with other County departments."



Annual Employee Blood Drive Successful

By Cheryl Nelson, Public Works

On August 26th, county employees and other community members that walked in donated 43 units of blood at the annual employee blood drive held at the Borg Warner Room in the Library. Up to 129 individuals will benefit from the units collected at this annual event.

Thank you to the department heads for granting time to the employees to donate blood or work at the registration table or canteen as regular time worked without requiring the use of fringes. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

The goal for the drive was 51 units. With a work force of 700, it would seem reasonable that we could get at least 10% of the employees to donate. It only takes about one hour and you get paid for doing it –

what a deal!!! I hope that more of my fellow employees will consider making a donation at next year's drive.

A special thank you to the employees that serve as building contacts and get individuals signed up to donate or volunteer at the registration table or canteen. Many of these employees have volunteered their time, help, and commitment to this event for several years. These building contacts make my job of developing and maintaining the master schedule much easier. A special thank you to Geri Lockwood for her extra efforts in helping with logistical tasks for the drive.

Be watching for information on the 2009 blood drive in upcoming editions of *County Corridors*. If you have questions about blood donations, check out the Red Cross website. Remember, you can donate blood every 56 days and there is always a need for it. I hope that you decide to make a commitment to this worthwhile effort.

County Employees Step Up to a Healthy Challenge

*Theresa Lyczko, Health Department
Wellness Committee*

The Wellness Committee is encouraging fellow employees to be more physically active and to enjoy the fruit and vegetable harvest. And employees will have fun at the same time if they joined *Step Up*, a friendly competition.

Step Up is an online program through Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield that takes a team approach to building healthier lifestyles. Team members strive for 10,000 steps and 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. They record their daily progress and measure their individual and team progress along with other county teams. The eight-week competition begins September 3 and ends October 29. The team that comes closest to meeting the goal of 10,000 steps and 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day will win a lunch delivered to

their worksite. And every participant who completes the eight-week competition will be entered into a raffle drawing for prizes.

The Wellness Committee also provided a pedometer with a list of walking tips to every employee whether or not they joined the competition. Challenge yourself. Think about how you can be more physically active and walk 10,000 steps a day.

Wellness Committee members:

Barbara Davieds – Mental Health
Stephanie Egan – Solid Waste
Jim Strehle – Airport

Brooke Kominos – Personnel
Theresa Lyczko – Health

"Green" Solution at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport

By Bob Nicholas, Airport

In March 2008, C&S Companies of Syracuse announced the receipt of a Silver Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies, New York Chapter, for their work in connection with an Environmental Assessment project they had just completed at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport. C&S Companies (C&S) have been the airport's engineering consultants for over 20 years.

The Environmental Assessment at the airport involved the evaluation and mitigation, where possible, of any environmental affects that might come about as a result of planned obstruction removal (mostly trees and shrubs) from critical areas of the airport. Removal of airport obstructions is necessary from time to time to ensure the safe operation of aircraft when taking off or landing.

According to C&S' Planning Department Manager, Charlie McDermott: "the most environmentally sensitive area of trees is located in Sapsucker Woods, which is adjacent to the runway protection zone at the south end of the airport." It was clear from the beginning of this contract that C&S and the airport would need to meet with community stakeholders and work towards a solution that satisfied not only the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety concerns but addressed the needs of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and various other environmental groups. The goal was to ensure flight safety while trying to craft a solution that preserved and protected an area of valuable old-growth trees.

Trees are the largest and longest living organisms on earth. To grow tall the tree has become a miracle of engineering and a complex chemical factory. It is able to take water and salts out of the earth and lift them up to its leaves, sometimes 400 feet above the ground. Trees also remove carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, from the air. (<http://www.turningtools.co.uk/trees/trees2.html>).

In conjunction with Airport Administration, the County's Planning Department, the Environmental Management Council, and Cornell

University's Lab of Ornithology, C&S worked to preserve the Sapsucker Woods trees for the public to enjoy.

"C&S kept an open mind and was able to devise a solution that benefited all stakeholders," said McDermott.

With the FAA's grant assistance in place, staff at C&S and the airport began analyzing methods, other than tree removal, that would ensure a safe operating environment for the people who fly in and out of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, even in inclement weather - an essential goal if the FAA were going to sign off on the solution.

Because the area in question was just outside the critical runway protection zone, instead of removing trees within the Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, C&S made a case to the FAA that a safe alternative would be to mark the obstruction with hazard warning lights on top of two or three poles. The poles would be erected at strategic points on the outer perimeter of Sapsucker Woods. The solution, which included the use of solar powered lights, was put forward to the FAA for their consideration and they were satisfied the operational integrity of the airport would not be compromised by marking the obstructions instead of removing them. The good news of this win-win solution was passed on to the stakeholders to the general satisfaction of all.

C&S Companies have completed more than 250 airport planning, environmental, design and construction management/inspection projects in the past 5 years for more than 50 airports, ranging from commercial service to privately owned airports.

(<http://www.cscos.com/markets/airports>)

For more information about this project or any other capital projects planned for the airport over the next few years, please e-mail me at bnicholas@tompkins-co.org.

Sustainability Update

By Kat McCarthy, Solid Waste

Did you know?

...that if you are a Tompkins County resident, you can place all your recyclable containers into a receptacle that is up to 40-gallons in size for curbside collection? Please note that this receptacle cannot weigh more than 40lbs when full. Most local department stores sell these containers.

Remember, all recyclable paper products can be put in paper bags, a reusable cardboard box, or a recycling bin for curbside collection. The box or bin cannot exceed 40 pounds, and will be left behind, next to your 40-gallon container, at the time of collection. Cardboard recycling boxes and unmarked receptacles should be clearly labeled with an "R", which can be done with marker or leftover paint. Tompkins County Solid Waste now provides stickers for this purpose, upon request. Additionally, recycling bins may be purchased at the Solid Waste Management Division office.



Have you noticed?

...new recycling bins in your department? As a part of the County's sustainability initiative, Tompkins County Solid Waste is providing all County departments with green deskside recycling bins. In addition,

Solid Waste has also been communicating with representatives in each department to clarify waste handling practices, answer questions, and provide technical assistance for recycling. As a part of this initiative, Solid Waste also offers free presentations to departments upon request. For more information, please contact Linnett Short or Kat McCarthy at 273-6632.



Make a Difference...Through the United Way

Greetings everyone,

I am proud to be this year's United Way campaign county representative. The United Way is a wonderful organization that has worked very hard to help those in the community who are in need. By now, you should have received your pledge cards to participate in this wonderful circle of giving. As you prepare to give to the United Way I would like you to be aware of some vital information.

- ❖ Your contribution is given to the organization of your choice.
- ❖ You are allowed to specify where you want your contribution to go.
- ❖ You can also specify where you do not want your contribution to go.
- ❖ 100% of your donation goes to your charity or charities of choice.

All donations can be returned with your pledge card to 125 East Court Street. Remember that when you give you help someone or family that is in need. It is important to remember that every donation counts whether it is monumental or pocket-sized. Please give to a cause that will help bring a brighter tomorrow for someone or family in our Tompkins County community. If you have any further questions please contact me at 607-274-5557. Thank you for your time.

Shanovah Moodie – Personnel Department

Thank you all for your contributions to the United Way's food and personal care items drive. The United Way would not have been able to meet their goal without your participation. It was really wonderful to see that so much of you cared. Way to go Tompkins County employees, you rock!

Thanks!

*From Ann Colt
United Way of Tompkins County*

Thanks for all of your help with our very successful UWTC Stephen E. Garner Day of Caring. We are so thankful for all of the donations from the our Tompkins County employees that you organized and delivered to the park!

With many thanks,
Ann



Shanovah and "Day of Caring" Chair Laurie Linn

National Preparedness Month - Plan and Prepare to Protect

By Cheryl Nelson

As the seasons start to change and we head into fall and winter, it is the time of year when we think about getting ready for all kinds of changes like getting out the jackets and boots, checking out the heating system, winterizing the vehicle, cutting wood for the fireplace or woodstove, sealing up drafts, and harvesting the bounty of local produce for use during the winter.

With all of the annual fall rituals, why not include one more. Plan for emergency situations. It is an excellent time to think about and prepare for how you, your family, your neighborhood, and your community would function in the event of a natural or man-made emergency. Do you have an emergency kit? Do you know where the local shelter is in case you had to evacuate your home? Do you or any family members have special medical needs? Do you have required medications or special medical supplies on hand? What about your pets? How would you communicate with or notify your family if all forms of conventional communication were unavailable? Does your employer have an emergency plan?

With everything we have to do in our busy lives, it is sometimes daunting to even think about such things and instead we make up excuses like "maybe if I ignore it, it will go away" or "things like this always happen somewhere else and not to me." Sound familiar?

Spread the word and have some fun. Get all of your family members involved in planning and preparing an emergency kit. Spread the word to your family, friends, and civic groups and get them motivated to start their own planning. Hold neighborhood events and share information. Talk to your local government officials to see what plans are in place for your municipality. Find out where the closest emergency shelter would be. Have a friendly competition to see who can get their plan and emergency kit together first.

September is National Preparedness Month and it is an excellent opportunity to spend time to plan and prepare to protect yourself and your family. Best of all, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. There are numerous resources and websites that have this all mapped out. All you need to do is spend a few minutes checking them out and you will be on your way to developing your own customized plan that meets the needs of you and your family. For more information go online to www.nyprepare.gov, www.ready.gov, www.tompkinsready.org.

Make your plans now and it will be one thing to cross off your list. Each fall you can revisit your plan and make changes as needed. That will give you peace of mind and more time to spend on those other tasks.

Diversity and Inclusion in Tompkins County

By Shanovah Moodie, Personnel

I am pleased to announce that Tompkins County Personnel has been nominated by Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) to receive an award on behalf of the entire organization's efforts to provide employment opportunities and workplace accommodations for individuals with disabilities. This award is being presented in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Tompkins County has a strong commitment to diversity and continues to create a diverse and inclusive work environment. Initiatives that have been taken to incorporate diversity include the development of the Workforce Diversity Inclusion Committee (WDIC) and the development of the Tompkins County Diversity Consortium.



The Personnel Department has been pleased to participate in community events, such as the GIAC Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival in an effort to reach out to the diverse community that we are fortunate to be a part of in Tompkins County. The Diversity Consortium (DC), is a group of representatives from various organizations in the community that gather together once a month to share job opportunities and ideas that will support a dynamic and diversity inclusive work environment and community.

The Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee is a county advisory board, made up of county legislators, employees and community members who gather monthly to discuss inclusion in the Tompkins County workforce and community.

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The Friday After Labor Day

By Jackie Kippola, County Administration



What happens every year, on the Friday after Labor Day?

Well, for quite a few County employees, we grab three golf partners, our golf clubs, and head to Trumansburg Golf Course for fun all day at the Tompkins County Employee Golf Tournament. This year we celebrated our 14th outing with sunny, breezy blue skies above us. It is a wonderful way to meet and greet colleagues from other departments in a relaxing setting, especially during the barbeque that follows the competition. All players walk away with a prize supported by our Vending Committee funds and sponsors. Thank you Vending Committee and sponsors for your continued generous support.

Congratulations to this year's winners, *Denny Fairchild* and *David Chase* from DSS, *Frank Justice*, former Probation employee, and *Mark Fairchild*. The rest of the field is listed below in a random order. While this year's number of teams was a bit lower than previous years, we completely expect our usual 20+ teams to return for the 2009 shootout.

Team 1

Craig Hopkins (RET) Jackie Kippola (ADM)
Jim Serio Paul Darby

Team 2

Tim Kessler (RET) Jeff Potter (RET)
Tom Walpole (RET) Daryl Avery (RET)

Team 3

Alan Scheer (DSS) Doug Perine (DSS)
Marty Fulton BJ Robison

Team 4

Jack Crance (DOER) John Shaffer (DOER)
Carl Smith Dan Garrison

Team 5

Nancy Curtis (DSS) Harold Baylor (WKDV)
Mike Hughes Lynn Leopold

Team 6

Gerry Surine (SHER) Timmie Miller (SHER)
Jack Russell Suzanne Alexander

Team 7

Denny Fairchild (DSS) Mark Fairchild
David Chase (DSS) Frank Justice (PROB)

Team 8

Bob Nicholas (AIR) Bill Rocco
Bob Mastropaolo Ralph Napolitano

Team 9

Frank Croteau (PHLTH) Joe Crosby
Sue Bowman (PHLTH) Ronny Bowman

Team 10

David Squires (FIN) Jonathan Wood (ATTY)
Jim Dennis (LEG) Bill Marquardt

Team 11

Greg Stevenson (LEG) Sherry Stevenson (DOER)
Lois Barden (DOER) Bob Barden

Team 12

Bill Shaff (SHER) Roger Griswald (SHER)
Linda Griswald Karen Potter

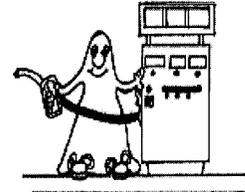
Team 13

Bob Slocum (COFA) Kevin Streeter

Get What You Pay For!

Submitted by Don Ellis, Weights and Measures

Materials Provided by: New York State Weights & Measures Association and The National Conference On Weights And Measures



When Buying Gasoline

Good measurement is important when you buy gasoline and motor fuel. These fuels are sold by volume in gallons or liters. The price you pay for gasoline will depend upon:

1. The *octane level*, which may affect your car performance;
2. The *amount you buy*, and
3. Any *discounts offered*.

A computer in the gasoline pump calculates what you owe based on the amount and the unit price of the gasoline. When comparing prices, be sure to compare gasoline with the same octane. Usually, the higher the octane rating, the higher the price. Also check to be sure you are comparing the same unit of measurement. Is the price per gallon or per liter? Compare the price of a gallon of gasoline at one station to the price of a gallon of the *same octane* at another station.

Weights and measures officials routinely check gasoline pumps for accuracy. Pumps found to be *out of tolerance* are sealed from use and ordered repaired and must be re-tested before they can be put back in use. New pump installations must be inspected and tested prior to being put into service. In many areas, they also check gasoline storage tanks to be sure that stations are selling the octane level advertised. If

violations are found, the seller can be fined and the product can be removed.

Gasoline stations offering their mid-grade or high-grade product at the low-grade price on a certain day of the week, *must* change the unit price of the product *in the computer in the gasoline pump* so that the total price is calculated mechanically – they *cannot* compute the total price manually.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ❑ Be sure the attendant or you are using the correct pump. The octane rating and the price per gallon or liter must be clearly marked on each pump.
- ❑ Be sure the pump is set to zero before any gasoline is pumped.
- ❑ Check the price by multiplying the number of gallons or liters by the unit price. Be sure this shows as the total due.
- ❑ Figure the cash discount, if any. Check that you are charged the right amount.
- ❑ If using a credit card, check your receipt to be sure the amount billed is the amount on the pump.
- ❑ Take your card and any carbon paper from the credit slip.
- ❑ If you have a problem or question that you cannot resolve with the gas station, contact your local Department of Weights and Measures for assistance.

Diversity and Inclusion

(Continued from Page 6)

To guide the County's efforts, this group developed a diversity statement (at right), which was adopted by the County Legislature in July 2005.

We are fortunate in our county to have initiatives that emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion.

However, each of us has a responsibility to support diversity and the principles of inclusion in our organization. You may think that you must commit to a huge task to incorporate diversity in your own work environment; however it only takes some simple steps to help materialize change.

You can simply have a conversation with a co-worker to enable you to learn something about that person you did not know before.

Stay away from stereotypes and make an effort to understand and respect your co-workers at large.

Understand that diversity applies to every individual, even yourself. We all have differences and need to be celebrated for who we are.

Tompkins County Diversity Statement

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 by developing and maintaining:

- ❖ 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;
- ❖ a workforce ethic that embraces diversity and makes it the norm for all interactions, including delivery of services to the public.

Employee Spotlights

In this election season, we turn the *Corridors* spotlight on two dedicated (and no doubt very busy!) employees at the Board of Elections.

Laura Owens and Jennifer Terpening both serve the County in the position of Senior Elections Clerk. Laura has worked for the County for four years, Jennifer for two-and-a-half years. Laura and Jennifer responded to the following questions from *County Corridors*:

Laura Owens

What do you do here (your job duties)?

Voter registration, working with the public, running daily reports, helping set up election inspector trainings, election night reporting entries in Microsoft Access.

What do you like best about your job?

I enjoy working with both my coworkers and the public addressing new situations and issues every day.

What do you like least about your job?

It can be difficult to remove deceased voters from the rolls.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I enjoy networking with my cyberspace friends

If you ran the world, what is the first thing you would do?

I would establish free elections for all.



Jennifer Terpening

Laura Owens

Jennifer Terpening

What do you do here (your job duties)?

We make provisions so that every eligible citizen in Tompkins County who desires to vote is given the opportunity to vote. We register new voters, send ballots to absentee voters, and keep current records of every registered voter in Tompkins County by changing addresses, names, parties., purges, or making them inactive. We recruit and train inspectors concerning the intricacies of the voting day and the use of the machines. We keep 43 polling sites informed of voting days, training sessions and machine transportation for each Election Day. Recently, we've been surveying the sites to determine space and electrical requirements so that we can accommodate our new voting machines and arrange for the best possible voter flow.

What do you like best about your job?

I take pleasure in working with and talking to the voters and the inspectors in our county. As I've gained knowledge of the workings of the New York State voting structure, I've come to appreciate the complexity and integrity of the system. I've also taken advantage of many of the employee training opportunities that Tompkins County is so generous to offer.

What do you like least about your job?

Every job has a few annoyances; however, I haven't come across any that really stand out as being particular to this job.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I never tire of the natural settings in the area, especially the gorges and the lake. My exercise is walking and I enjoy photography at the same time. Thank goodness for the digital camera! I can download one good picture that's worth saving out of the 100 I've taken. I use many of my photos to make cards for friends and family; I think it adds a personal touch.

If you ran the world, what is the first thing you would do?

I think that running the world would be a daunting, if not impossible, task –and clearly beyond my pay grade. Although I think there would be remarkable results if the leaders of all countries had a vision of what could be accomplished if they would engage in a sincere respect for the human rights and the talents of all of their countrymen.

Bocce, Anyone?

By Scott Doyle and Dariele Drake, Planning

Bocce, as defined by Wikipedia, is a precision sport belonging to the boules sport family, closely related to bowls and pétanque with a common ancestry from ancient games played in the Roman Empire.

Developed into its present form in Italy (where it is called *Bocce*, the plural of the Italian word *boccia* which means "bowl"), it is played around Europe and also in Dewitt Park. The game, often referred to as lawn bowling, features 8 ceramic balls (typically 4 red, 4 green to allow for two teams) about the size of grapefruits. The goal is to place these balls closest to one smaller ball about the size of a racquetball. The closest ones score points.



The bocce balls in a close call.

Downtown Ithaca is home to a weekly bocce matchup. During Summer Friday lunch hours, friendly staff gatherings gradually evolved into a weekly challenge between the County Planning Department and the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC). This time honored tradition, established in 2007 by Senior Planner Scott Doyle, is the envy of many lunchtime passersby.

As with any true competition, a trophy was required. Teresa Linde of the ITCTC found a suitable old tree branch on the pitch. "The Stick," as it is affectionately referred to, mirrors the trophies of great rivalries, like the Cortaca Jug (Ithaca College-Cortland State) or the Platypus Trophy (Oregon-Oregon State.) A notch is made in the winning team's column, and the honor is displayed on the department victor's front desk for the week.

Should you find yourself near the park around midday on a nice summer day, keep your eye out for the game. And if you are feeling game - join in for a round!



Measuring things out



The playing group

Foster Care/Adoption Informational 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 holds informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St. on the second Thursdays of each month.

The upcoming meetings will be held October 9, November 13 and December 11, 2008 from Noon to 1PM.

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

Please call 274-5266 for more information.

Thank you.



Department News

Office For the Aging

Welcome, Suzanne Motheral



Suzanne Motheral has joined the ranks of the dedicated staff at COFA as an outreach worker.

Suzanne brings an extensive background in a variety of fields to her work at COFA. In addition to being a current student at the Gerontology Institute at Ithaca College, Suzanne has a broad range of experience in working collaboratively with a variety of organizations. She has developed

workshops and facilitated meetings at the Community Dispute Resolution Center and also directed a fellowship in ethical leadership development in Pittsburgh and was adjunct faculty at Carnegie Mellon University.

We are delighted to have her expertise and input into the services we can provide older adults and their caregivers here in Tompkins County!



Gladys Brangman, reigning "COFA Princess" took on a new job in Albany this August. Upon her departure she bequeathed her title and crown to *Danielle Conte* (right), COFA Planner. She also conferred the title of "Queen" to *Lisa Holmes* (left), Director of the Office for the Aging.

Highway Division

Congratulations to *Tom* (Highway Crew Supervisor) and *Sue Jacobs*, on the birth of their first grandchild, Madalyn Susan Thane, on June 8, 2008.

Facilities Division

Congratulations to *Dana Dexter* on the birth of his grandson, Mason Alexander Lavigne, born on August 23, 2008.

County Clerk

Maureen Reynolds, Deputy County Clerk, is the proud grandmother to Chloe Reynolds, born June 27th, 2008

Kudos Korner...

County Clerk Aurora Valenti Earns State Association Award

Aurora R. Valenti, Tompkins County Clerk, has been awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by members of the New York State Association of County Clerks (NYSACC).

The award was presented at the association's annual dinner, held at Lake Placid, New York on June 10. Previously, Clerk Valenti received the association's "Annual Achievement Award" and was recognized as "County Clerk of the Year" in 2000.

She has been an officer and active member of NYSACC for 18 years. The Association consists of the 62 County Clerks of New York State and the New York City Register.

Solid Waste Division: Tompkins Go Green County of the Year

Tompkins County is being honored as the nation's *Go Green County of the Year*, in recognition of the Solid Waste Division's innovation and success with its *Go Green Initiative* program, which unites parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators to create a culture of environmental responsibility in schools throughout Tompkins County.

Tompkins County receives the nation's first- ever *Go Green County* award on October 18 in Syracuse. In a radio interview on September 19th, *Stephanie Egan*, *Kat McCarthy* and *Linnett Short* talked to a nationwide audience (estimated at 5 million people!) on the web site www.voiceamerica.com.

National *Go Green Initiative* founder Jill Buck says she is "very, very proud" of the Division's commitment to make *Go Green* an integral part of its program, and she hopes it will serve as an example to other county environmental and solid waste coordinators across the nation.

Need Space?

The airport has vacant space for rent. Two offices in the CFR building - one 15 ft. by 29 ft. and the other 15 ft. by 14 ft.

A large conference room is available for use at no charge, subject to availability. Parking is right outside. Rental terms are negotiable.

Call Bob Nicholas 257-0456 Ext.543



FUNNY BONES

What do witches eat at Halloween ?

Spooketti, halloweenies, devils food cake and booberry pie !

Why is the air so clean and healthy on Halloween?

Because so many witches are sweeping the sky.

A Poem...

Here's a little ditty for all to see,
Not from someone famous, just little ole me.

The times are so tough for us all,
Used to be we could sit back and just have a ball.

Now we have a need to count out all our change,
It's enough to make anyone deranged!

But, not to worry one little bit,
Working for the County is just the right fit!

At least we have a job where many do not,
Look on the bright side where X marks the spot!

- Mary Mills

Can you believe it? Halloween is coming!

The Halloween contest this year being highlighted in *County Corridors* will have two category winners – individual and group.



The prizes, being sponsored by the Vending Committee, will be: \$20 for the group winner and \$10 for the individual category winner.

E-mail your pictures to Maureen Reynolds at mreynolds@tompkins-co.org by November 15th.

Vending Committee "Vends"

Website:

Please remember to visit our website, on the employee Intranet (click on the link under "Events/News"), or [www.tompkins-co.org/employee_only/VendingCommittee News.pdf](http://www.tompkins-co.org/employee_only/VendingCommittee%20News.pdf). Be sure to visit regularly for updated information on all trips, news, etc.

Sign up today for these great excursions!

Visit the website for full details on the following:

- ❑ Captain Bill's Lunch Cruise, October 5th.
- ❑ New York City, December 6th.

Please see your Department Representative (names listed on the website) to share other ideas.

VENDING COMMITTEE "VENDS"

UPCOMING TRIPS:

BE SURE TO WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND/OR UPDATES!

Captain Bill's Brunch Buffet Cruise

Spent a lazy Sunday afternoon aboard the Seneca Legacy for a fun and relaxing cruise.



"Seneca"



Seneca Legacy



Older ship

When: Sunday, October 5th

Cost: \$25.00/person-ages 13 and over, \$10.00/person-ages 3-12; free-under 3

Depart: From the Harbor at 12:30 p.m.

Menu: Strawberry Bellini's, Fresh Fruit, Rolls & Muffins, Pastries & Bread, Scrambled Eggs, Baked Quiche, Chicken Marsala, Strata with Bacon, Eggs and Gorgonzola, French Toast, Bacon & Peck Sausage Links, Home Fried Potatoes.

Return: To the Harbor at 2:30 p.m.

Minimum of 60 people needed to make this cruise possible. Call now for reservations or for additional information.

Reservations & Payment: Accepted through September 15th.

New York City Winter Day Trip



Times Square



Central Park



Times Square



Shopping

When: Saturday, December 6th

Cost: \$30.00/pp

Depart: 7:00 a.m. SHARP! (From the Tompkins County Public Works Facility on Boerwick Road.)

Arrive: Around noon, at Bryant Park (41st Street and 6th Ave.) or Macy's (34th St. and 7th Ave.). You're on your own to explore the vast and exciting city, and to enjoy your own interests.

Classified Ads

Dog Dayz Inn

A place where your dog feels
"at home".

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



FOR SALE – Brand New John Deere Gator CX (11 months old), only 26 hours on it. Will sell for \$4,500.00, or best offer. I love the machine, just want a bigger one. Please call (607) 351-1070, or e-mail julia94bil@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE – 10-gallon fish tank. Includes everything you'll need to get started, except for the water and fish, \$30.00. Please call (607) 277-6462, or e-mail rakoon88@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE – Dining room table, 4 chairs, dry sink, and 2-piece hutch, dark wood, and in good condition, \$300.00. Please call (607) 257-5483.

FOR SALE – Sheep:
1 Corriedale black ram, 17 months old, \$130.00.
1 Corriedale white ewe, 17 months old, \$100.00.
Please call (607) 227-2771.

FOR SALE – Serta twin mattress in good condition, \$50.00. AB Lounge 2, only used a few times, \$75.00. Please call (607) 227-2771.

FOR SALE – 27" Phillips TV w/stand, \$300.00. Hook up to cable or satellite w/o need for converter box in 02/09! Please call (607) 342-1035.



** NOW OPEN ** – EAST SHORE CAFÉ

1638 EAST SHORE DRIVE, ITHACA, NY 14850
(607)277-3433
FULL RESTAURANT & BAR, EXTENSIVE WINE LIST
KITCHEN HOURS 5PM – 10PM, OPEN 7 NIGHTS A
WEEK
AMERICAN CUISINE
APPETIZERS, SALADS, SANDWICHES, STEAK,
SEAFOOD, PASTA, & CHICKEN DISHES –
HOMEMADE DESSERTS
WWW.EASTSHORECAFE.COM

FOR SALE – 1987 29' Nomad tag-along camper. Features include front kitchen, rear twin beds, bunks (can sleep eight), with a newer water heater and lots of storage space. Good condition. Must sell due to health reasons. \$3,500.00. Please call (607) 898-5196.

FOR SALE – 1995 31' Challenger 5th-wheel camper. Features include two slide-outs, basement, full-size bathroom, and a queen-sized bed. Excellent condition. Must sell due to health reasons. \$11,000.00, complete with hitch. Please call (607) 898-5196.

FOR SALE - 1995 Mercury Mystique GS 166K \$1,200. 6 cyl, 5 speed, traction control, 4 wheel disc anti-lock brakes air, cruise, sun roof. MPG 21 city, 29 highway. Please call (607) 423-2684.

WANTED – 5 cubic foot chest freezer, in good condition. Please call (607) 898-2031.

WANTED – To buy – a ping pong table to a good home. Please call Jami, at (607) 347-4427.

WANTED – VCR with remote, in good working condition. Please call (607) 838-3748, evenings.

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

Corridors is printed on 30% recycled paper.

THE CORRIDORS TEAM

Managing Editor

Maureen Reynolds, County Clerk's Office

Editorial Staff

Gerri Lockwood, Highway
Linnett Short, SW Management Division
Katrina Schickel, COFA

Classifieds Editor - Gerri Lockwood

Multicultural Editor – Shanovah Moodie, 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