



## Message From the Chairman



On June 5, 2004, the Nation mourned the death of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan. President Reagan was a man of humble and modest background, who brought dignity to the Nation's Highest Office while working in a bipartisan spirit.

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Ulster County proudly welcomes Arthur J. Smith, III to the helm of the Ulster County Administrator's Office. Along with Art, Ulster County is proud to have Sheldon Quimby and Karen Spinozzi as our Deputy Administrators. We would also like to welcome Brenda Bartholomew into the Department as a Management Analyst.

There have been many

changes in our County departments over the past few months, including the retirements of many of Ulster County's finest. For our retirees, may your future years be full of good health and happiness. Thank you for your years of service to the residents of Ulster County.

For our new employees, I would like to say, "**Welcome.**"

I would like to announce that Ulster County is the recipient of three NACO Achievement Awards. The award program is a non-competitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government.

Ulster County's winning programs are: "Grandparents

Raising Grandchildren" and "Keeping Seniors in the Driver's Seat," both submitted by the Office For the Aging. Ulster County Area Transit received an award for their program called "Transit Information Program for Students."

I would like to congratulate Kathryn Puglisi, Director of the Office For the Aging and her staff and Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Public Transit and her staff for their continued efforts and dedication in creating programs which benefit the residents of Ulster County.

On behalf of the Ulster County Legislature, I would like to announce that all Ulster County employees will be granted FREE entry to the Ulster Landing Park this summer

upon presenting their photo ID badge. This offer applies to County employees only and is **not** valid without the ID card.

For those employees of UCCC, please present your UCCC ID badge for FREE admission to Ulster Landing Park.

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer.



## Message from the Clerk of the Legislature

During an emotional and very moving May 13th Session of the Ulster County Legislature, Ellen DiFalco was appointed as the first woman in Ulster County's history to serve as Clerk of the Legislature.

Randall V. Roth, who was appointed as Personnel Officer at the April 8th Leg-

islative Session, addressed the Legislative body on Ellen's "old-fashioned" style of the American work ethic and reflected on her rise through the ranks during her 33 years of employment with Ulster County to achieve this appointment.

"This is an exciting career challenge, and I am honored

to be appointed to this position. I look forward to serving the residents of Ulster County in this new capacity," stated Ms. DiFalco.

"Working for Ulster County has always been rewarding and each day always proves to be exciting. My philosophy is to do what needs to be done and to do

it with passion. That's how I view coming to work everyday," added Ms. DiFalco.

Chairman Gerentine stated that "Ellen is a very hard working and dedicated individual, who is deserving of this promotion. Ellen will perform well in her new role and will be an asset to Ulster County."



## Language Service Renders Ulster County More User-Friendly

Randall V. Roth, Personnel Officer, in conjunction with Robert T. Aiello, Chairman of the Personnel/Human Services Committee, has announced the availability of language translating and interpreting services to all Ulster County departments through a NYS Office of General Services contract with Language Services Associates (LSA).

LSA offers a wide variety of language support services including telephone and on-site interpretation, as well as translation of written documents.

“Use of LSA is intended to help address the needs of a growing population of Ulster County residents who do not speak English or

have limited English skills and are attempting to access County programs and services,” noted Aiello.

In addition, County departments receiving federal funding are required by law to provide language assistance to limited English proficient clients and customers who need it in order for them to obtain meaningful access to public programs and services.

According to Roth, “Our aim is to facilitate communication with and enhance service delivery to all the people of Ulster County whether they are seeking to renew a driver’s license, pay a tax bill, or register to

vote. This translating and interpreting service will provide County departments with one more resource with which to accomplish this.”

“The Personnel Department has taken a step forward in meeting the growing number of language translation problems,” said Aiello.

Submitted By: Karen MacIntosh-Frering  
Labor/Management Specialist

## Ulster County Area Transit News

Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) has been awarded several individual and one agency award from the NYS Department of Transportation. The awards were presented by John Fabian, Chief of the Department of Transportation’s Passenger & Freight Safety Division at the July 8, 2004 Legislative Session.

Joseph Aversano, Public Transit Maintenance & Safety Manager and Diane Berquist, Dispatcher/Trainer

were presented “Leadership in Transit Safety” awards for their participation in the creation and implementation of the Bus Accident Investigation Training for Identifying Safety Hazards (BAITFISH) Program sponsored by NYS Department of Transportation.

Ulster County Area Transit was presented an “Excellence in Transit Safety” award for their Pre-trip Monitoring and Training Program and for their Wheelchair Training Program.

Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Public Transit, was presented an “Excellence in Transit Safety” award for her strong influence on safety programs and policies for Ulster County Area Transit and for the Transportation Information Program for Students “TIPS” initiative UCAT has been offering Ulster County grade school students for the past three years.

Keep up the great work, UCAT!

Submitted By: Cynthia Ruiz  
Director of Public Transit

## Ulster County Is Ready for Summer!

Summer time is here, and the Ulster Landing Park and the Ulster County Pool are open for the season!

The Ulster Landing Park, located on Route 32 in Saugerties, offers swimming with lifeguard services, as well as hiking trails, a pavilion, barbecue grills with picnic facilities and a boat launch.

The fee schedule for the park is \$2.50-Adults 13+, \$1.25-Children under 12 and \$32.00 Season’s Pass.

Ulster County employees can enter the Ulster Landing Park for **FREE**. You must have your Ulster County photo ID badge upon entering. This is available to County employees only. For

those employees from UCCC, you must present your UCCC staff photo ID card for free entrance.

The Ulster County Pool, located on Libertyville Road in New Paltz, has a playground and snack bar on the premises.

The fee schedule for the pool is:

\$3.50-Adults 13+, \$1.75-Children under 12 and \$100.00-Season’s Pass.

For those guests who are not Ulster County residents the fee schedule is double at both facilities.

Both the Ulster Landing Park and the Ulster County Pool are open daily from 10AM-8PM.

## Golden Hill Health Care Center News

Golden Hill Health Care Center received a grant from the New York State Department of Health to conduct a Peer Mentoring Program for the facility's CNAs. The Peer Mentoring Program is a program that improves retention and quality resident care through teaching mentors (experienced CNAs) to help orient and train newly hired CNAs.

Mentors were taught to:

- \*Support New Staff
- \*Teach a Culture of Caring
- \*Reinforce Critical Skills and Behavior

Key words that were spoken included *Compassion, Team* and *Attitude*. CNAs on staff were asked to participate. Those who decided to participate were sent to off-site training for a day. At the training they all had the opportunity to work with each other on team building and the other skills

necessary for success. Success is defined as keeping to our mission at the facility: To provide the best quality of life and care for all residents we serve.

Submitted By: Sheree Cross, Director  
Golden Hill Health Care Center



Ulster County had a team of employees participating in this year's American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life*, on June 12th.

The team consisted of the following County employees:

**Barbara Keating, Co-Captain (DSS)**

**Pat Jones, Co-Captain (Sheriff's)**

**Casey Musto (Information Services)**

**Carol Trowbridge (DSS)**

**Chrissy Schrader (Central Services)**

**Judy Horvers (Board of Elections)**

**Kara Aiello (Legislature)**

**Maureen Swingle (DSS)**

**Pat Draut (Personnel)**

**Tim Keating (DSS)**

**Laura Romano (Sheriff's)**

**Lyn Jordan (DSS)**

If you are interested in participating next year on Ulster County's *Relay For Life* team, please contact Barbara Keating at ext. 5225 or Pat Jones at ext. 8338.

## ~Senior Games~

The Senior Games marked their 18th Anniversary this past May. The games are held in the month of May to coincide with the celebration of *Senior Citizen Month*. All Ulster County Senior Citizens, 60 and older, are invited to participate. Each year, participants have the opportunity to participate in anywhere between 15 to 20 different sporting events that are held throughout the County. Applicants choose the games that they wish to play.

To bring the games to a close, an awards luncheon was held in June with approximately 250 participants attending the luncheon. Awards were distributed to all participants and door prizes were raffled off. This year the theme was Country-Western. A "Best Dressed" contest was held, which was truly a lot of fun.

The Senior games provide fun, socialization and exercise, while allowing the Seniors to

participate in "friendly-competition." This annual event allows us to reach out to the Seniors in the community and bring them together for a day of enjoyment and fun activities.

For those who are interested in receiving more information on the Senior Games, please call Ellen Greczynski at ext. 3582.

## News from the Clerk's Office

In 2003, the County Clerk's Office had a record year in the Recording Department and saw a 48% increase in document transactions over the past two years.

In conjunction with Information Services, a new computer system has been implemented that allows access to scanned documents on line. Scanned land records and indexes

are available from 1950-present. Other scanned documents, including Judgments, Liens and Business Certificates are available from 2003-present.

The Ulster County Records Management Program has as its ultimate goal the maximum service to the departments of Ulster County Government and local gov-

ernments within New York State. Services offered by the Program spans the life cycle of public records; from records creation, through their active life, to their secure storage and retrieval, responsible destruction or permanent retention.

Submitted By: Nina Postupack  
Chief Deputy County Clerk



## Ulster County Mental Health Honored for Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program

On May 19, 2004, the Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc. (MHA), recognized the Ulster County Mental Health Department's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program as the recipient of its "Mental Health Program Award for 2004." The award was presented at MHA's annual dinner.

The AOT Program can require that persons who have a mental illness and a history of harm to themselves or others be compelled to participate in outpatient treatment programs to manage their illness and behavior. Prior to AOT law (1999), New York did not have a legal mechanism for forcing treatment upon persons other than inpatient hospitalization.

Ulster's AOT Program has been recognized throughout New York State as a model program for being highly effective in its mission. A recent evaluation

of the program found that it has saved more than \$2 million over the last four years by preventing hospitalizations and incarcerations.

This award by the MHA is especially significant because MHA does not believe in "coercive" programs. However, despite the fact these services are forced upon individuals, UCMHD has been able to operate the program in a "caring, sensitive, and professional manner," stated Marshall Beckman, Director of the Mental Health Department.

The credit for the quality of this program belongs to the two staff members who supervise the program for UCMHD: Mary Barber, MD, our AOT Psychiatrist and Sharon Kuriger, CSWR, our AOT Coordinator.

These individuals are committed to the concept that persons with serious

mental illness, who have historically resisted participating in treatment programs, can benefit from treatment even if it is forced upon them. They have combined the power of this law with a compassionate approach to helping people, and the results have been highly beneficial to many individuals, families and Ulster County.

Submitted By: Marshall Beckman,  
Director—Mental Health Department



## Election Update

The Ulster County Board of Elections would like to remind all registered voters that Election Day is November 2nd.

The following offices will be voted on: President/Vice President, U.S. Senator, Supreme Court Justice (two spots), U.S. Congress—22nd District, N.Y.S. Senator—39th and 42nd District, N.Y.S. Assembly—100th, 101st, 107th and 127th District, U.C. Surrogate Court Judge, Town of Denning, Councilperson and Town of Gardiner, Assessor.

There could be additional local races if vacancies occur; however, most local terms

expire next year.

General Election polling hours are 6:00AM-9:00PM. The last day to register to vote in person or postmark a registration is Friday, October 8, 2004. Presidential Election years require local Board of Elections to open for two special registration days: with one scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2004 from 2:00PM-9:00PM. The second day will be scheduled at a later date.

For those who are registered in a specific party, please note that the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2004. Polls will be

open from 12:00 Noon-9:00PM. The last day to register in person or postmark a registration for the Primary is Friday, August 20th, 2004.

Absentee voting is available for both the Primary and General Elections. The last day to postmark an application or apply in person is:

- Primary Election: Postmark by Sept. 7th or apply in person by Sept. 13th

- General Election: Postmark by Oct. 26th or apply in person by Nov. 1st.

The last day to postmark or deliver an absentee ballot is as follows:

- Primary Election: Postmark by Sept. 13th or deliver to Board of Elections by Sept. 14th.

- General Election: Postmark by Nov. 1st or deliver to Board of Elections by Nov. 2nd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Board of Elections at 334-5470.

Voter registration information can also be found on the Ulster County web site.

Submitted By: Thomas Turco and  
Harry Castiglione

Commissioner of Elections

## Ulster County Sheriff's Navigation Unit

The Ulster County Sheriff's Navigation Unit patrols 55-miles of the Hudson River from Catskill south to Newburgh. The Navigation Unit is in full service from Memorial Day to Labor Day with trained Deputy Sheriffs monitoring the boating traffic and marinas along the Hudson River.

The team is also available for water emergencies 24-hours a day. Events such as BWI (Boating While Intoxicated) enforcement, performing vessel safety inspections, addressing navigation and environmental law violations, assisting boaters in distress and handling vessel accidents are routine duties.

The members of the Sheriff's Navigation Unit shares with other units its mission to enhance police and emergency response services to the public on the Hudson River through

improved communication, coordinator, training, planning, deployment and resource utilization for the protection of natural and human resources.

For those who intend to use recreational motor vehicles this summer, here are a few pointers on boating safety:

1. Take a boater safety course. A number of organizations, including the Sheriff's Office, offer them.
2. Learn to swim, or at a minimum, learn how to float or tread water.
3. Use approved equipment, which includes life jackets, fire extinguishers, bilge pump, whistle or horn and charts. It is important to have your New York State registration number.
4. Check the weather prior to departure. Be especially alert for small craft advisories.

5. Never use alcohol or drugs while boating. They impair judgment and reduce your ability to react quickly.

6. Never leave children unattended on the boat.

7. Use safety devices to save lives, but never risk a life to save the devices.

8. When swimming in unfamiliar waters, use caution and ease into the water feet first. Do not dive in.

9. Distribute loads evenly and do not exceed capacity.

10. Never jump into a boat and never ride on the bow.

11. Observe all boating rules.

In addition, there are some important regulations for youthful operation of a motor vehicle.

•If you wish to operate a motorboat and are under the age

of 10, you must have a person 18 or older on board.

•If you are between the ages of 10-18, you must have a person 18 or older on board or hold a safety certificate.

•If you are 18 years or older, you may operate a motorboat alone.

As of January 1, 2004, anyone operating a Personal Watercraft (ie—"Jet Ski") in New York State, will need to complete a boating safety course.

For more information on boating safety, please visit the Sheriff's link on the Ulster County Web Site.

Submitted By: Captain Harry VanVliet  
Sheriff's Office

## Youth Bureau's Outcome Orientation

Ulster County youth programs and their hosting agencies now work in an era of performance measurement, results and outcome-oriented places of work. They are all expected to use a logic model of some sort for government foundation, as well as United Way funding.

These requirements are seen from the top funders to the local funders. For instance, the federal Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires that federal agen-

cies prove, not just how their funds were spent, but what difference was made.

The Ulster County Youth Bureau, with guidance from a County citizen's advisory board, has been actively assisting programs for the last four years with the necessary retooling of their programs to meet these outcome-based standards.

Through a partnership with the member agencies of CAB (Community Asset Builders), these agencies have received

technical assistance and consultation from a locally—headquartered, national research organization, Philliber Research Associates. The insight provided by this organization has greatly impacted the ability of our programs to prove results.

The Youth Bureau holds our youth programming to high standards—we look for what difference was made in the youth we serve.

We are not just looking for numbers, we want to know

what impact the programs have on the youth who participate.

With a comprehensive monitoring and compliance review of all funded programs, we ensure not only that the State's \$4.72 for each Ulster County youth is spent for quality programming, we ensure that youth participating in these programs are receiving programs worthy of their funds.

Submitted By: Krista J. Barringer, CSW  
Director—Ulster County Youth Bureau

## Have You Done Your Tick Check Today?

The summer months are a time of year when many of us spend longer periods of time outdoors. This is a good time to think about protecting yourself, your family, and your pets from ticks, while enjoying outdoor activities.

The most noticeable early sign of Lyme Disease is a rash resembling a bull's-eye, or solid patch, which usually, but not always, develops between 3 and 21 days after the tick bite.

The rash often expands over time and can last for several weeks. In some cases, no rash appears, while in other cases, there are multiple rashes. The rash does not normally itch or feel painful.

Other symptoms of early Lyme Disease include fever, fatigue, headache, stiff neck, muscle aches and joint pain. If you notice these signs or symptoms, consult a health care provider.

Patients treated with antibiotics in the early stage of Lyme Disease usually recover rapidly and completely. Early treatment of the infection can help prevent later complications, which may include nerve, joint and heart problems.

The Ulster County Health Department makes the following recommendations to prevent Lyme Disease:

- The best defense against Lyme Disease is to prevent tick bites. Ticks thrive in wooded areas, tall grass, brush and leaf litter.

- If you go into areas where ticks live, take special precautions to prevent tick bites. Wear light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily. Tuck your shirt into your pants, and tuck your pants into your socks. Check for ticks on clothing or skin after every two or three hours of outdoor activity. Brush off any ticks before they attach themselves to you.

- When you walk in the woods, stay in the center of the path to avoid vegetation.

- Check yourself, children and pets for ticks after leaving areas where ticks live. Perform a full-body inspection for ticks at the end of the day. Ticks like to feed in warm moist places.

- If you find an attached tick, remove the tick close to the head where it inserts into the skin. This should be

done promptly with pointed tweezers. If ticks are removed within 36-hours, the risk of acquiring Lyme Disease is minimal. Not all deer ticks are infected with the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease.

- Consider the use of insect repellents. Follow label directions carefully. Do not allow children to apply insect repellents themselves.

Tick identification services are available through the Ulster County Health Department. Tick identification can provide information regarding the species of the tick, whether it is engorged with blood and, if so, how long it may have been feeding.

In addition, tick identification will also provide information whether the mouthparts are present. There is no charge for this service.

For further information on Lyme Disease and Lyme Disease prevention, please call the Ulster County Health Dept. at 340-3023.

Submitted By: Stacy Kraft,  
Public Health Education Assistant

## Welcome, H.I.T.S.

Ulster County is proud to welcome H.I.T.S. to their new Saugerties location. H.I.T.S. (Horse Shows In The Sun) is a special events management company primarily focused on producing hunter/jumper horse shows. H.I.T.S. produced its first horse show circuit in 1982, and since then has grown into a nationwide

company, producing hunter/jumper horse shows in California, Florida, Arizona, Virginia and New York.

The H.I.T.S. on the Hudson circuit has six competitions scheduled for the 2004 season.

The remaining event dates for 2004 are:

- July 21-25 ("Taste of" Event on July 24)

- July 28-August 1 (Chili Cook-Off on July 31)

- August 4-8 NY Horse and Pony Show (Kid's Day on August 7)

- September 1-5 (Seniors Day on September 4)

H.I.T.S. on the Hudson

is located off Krout Road in Saugerties. Admission during the week is free and on weekends the fee is \$5.00 for adults, children 12 and under FREE. For further information, please call 246-8833 or on the web at [www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com).

## A Message from Highways and Bridges

School is out and so are the highway crews—State, County and Local. This is the time of year when road construction is the heaviest.

Please be aware of all people working and road construction signs. These signs usually mean there will be some type of delay. Plan ahead and remember the men and women are only doing their job and working to make the roads better for traveling.

As of now, the Highway and Bridges Department is planning to do approximately 38-miles of road construction, 30-miles of road seal and 4 bridges, of which 25-miles of the construction will be heavy construction. This includes reclaiming the old surface and installation of new tops. The

remaining 13-miles will be a lighter construction, which will include T&L (true and leveling) of old surfaces and installation of new tops.

At this time, we have two bridges under construction. Both are in the Accord area and both include detours.

One is on Towpath Road in Alligerville and the other is on Upper Granite Road in Accord. The detours are well posted.

Our heavy construction crews are presently working in the Turnwood area.

The County is broken into five areas with work currently being done in all sections. Crews are out installing drainage pipes, ditching, shoulder work, tree work, mowing and

doing the normal maintenance that is required.

We ask that you PLEASE obey signs and flag people. They are there for your safety.

Have a safe summer.

Submitted By: John Lukaszewski,  
Acting Commissioner—Highways and Bridges



## Office of Employment and Training

The Ulster County Office of Employment and Training (OET) was proud to unveil their latest tools for making the Ulster County OneStop more accessible to individuals with disabilities—a TTY telephone and two electric scooters.

“Through a generous Work Incentive Grant from the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc., designed to increase physical and programmatic access to the OneStop System for individuals with disabilities, we were able to fund this wonderful equipment,” stated Fawn Tantillo, Director of OET.

“We serve over 1,000 job seekers each month with a variety of needs, strengths and skills. This will ensure that all of the OneStop services are easily accessible,” stated Tantillo.

The OneStop staff feels that the scooters are the most exciting addition because so many people need them. “We are seeing more older workers and clients of Experience Works who have trouble walking or standing,” said Marcia Lima an employee of OET.

Tantillo praised Walter Witkowski, a Senior Employment and Training Coordinator, for

writing the grant proposal and coordinating the purchase of the equipment.

For more information about the OneStop call 1-866-411-EMPLOY or on the web [www.workforcenewyork.org/ulster](http://www.workforcenewyork.org/ulster).



Submitted By: Fawn Tantillo  
Director—OET

## Swimming Pool Safety

Swimming pool owners bear a great responsibility to keep their pools well-fenced in, not only for the safety of their own friends and families, but for that of unsuspecting children who may wander into the area of the pool.

Even though your children may be teenagers, your neighbor's kids may be young and may not know how to swim.

Residential swimming pools should be securely fenced and gated, and any objects that can be used to go over the gate, such as a ladder, should be removed from the proximity of the fence. There are alarms available that float on the surface of a swimming pool, and give out an ear-piercing shriek if the water is disturbed.

Submitted By:  
Captain Harry VanVliet  
Sheriff's Office

## *From the Desk of the Ulster County Historian*

In 2001, I was appointed to the position of Ulster County Historian. I succeeded Bruce Burgher, who had served in that capacity for five years. He was a passionate historian and loved Ulster County.

The work of the County Historian falls into four categories as follows:

◆The first and primary responsibility is interpretation of the past, which involves research and writing on aspects of the history of Ulster County.

◆The second category of responsibilities involves interpretation of the history through teaching and public presentations. The historian serves as a resource person to teachers in the fourth and seventh grade in the local history curriculum.

◆The third category of activity for the historian is that of historic preservation. This embraces not only preservation of significant buildings but also of the manuscripts and records that

document a community's past, and the objects and artifacts that constitute the community's material culture. The historian may be asked to prepare cultural resource surveys of areas scheduled for development, to identify history structures and districts and to prepare nominations to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

◆The fourth area of activity for the historian is that of organizer and advocate. The historian is asked to organize and direct the commemoration of historical anniversaries, such as the 320th Anniversary of the County of Ulster in 2003, or to participate in other civic or patriotic observations. To this, the historian must bring energy and knowledge of the past, as well as a sense of dignity and taste. The County Historian also provides guidance and support to the historians in the various townships in Ulster County and has sponsored in-

service training sessions.

The office of the Ulster County Historian receives hundreds of inquiries every year, and we do our best to answer all queries in a timely fashion. Many of these involve citizens who wish to know more about their ancestors or about the history of their properties. Although this is a New York State mandated position, it is an unfunded position in Ulster County.

All inquiries may be sent to: [ulsterhistorian@aol.com](mailto:ulsterhistorian@aol.com).

Submitted By: Karlyn Knaust Elia, BA, MA  
(American History)



*The next issue of the Ulster County Newsletter is scheduled for **September 1st**. The deadline for article submission is scheduled for **August 15th**.*

*All articles can be e-mailed to Kara Aiello at [kaie@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:kaie@co.ulster.ny.us).*

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***“Ulster County Makes It Happen”***

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