



Ulster County Legislature



Hon. Richard A. Gerentine, Chairman

March, 2004

Message from the Chairman

The County continues to pursue outside grant funding for a variety of projects.

In total, over \$9 million has been approved in recent years for various initiatives such as: affordable housing, farmland preservation, tourism, historic preservation, upgrades to our GIS capability, employment and training, and probation.

Projects that we are currently working on include: energy conservation in County-owned buildings, assistance to first time homeowners and shoreline preservation at Ulster Landing Park.

Most recently, we have been fortunate to obtain funds for the following projects:

- \$625,745 to secure the future of the Paul Farm in Hurley.
- \$315,075 to offset costs associated with repairing the roof of our courthouse.
- \$25,000 to be used to develop a "Housing Strategies Report," which will be used to assist communities to encourage affordable housing.
- \$830,854 to be utilized by service providers to move homeless families into permanent housing.

(Cont'd.)

We wish all of our recent managerial retirees the best of luck and good fortune for a long, healthy and happy retirement. Those include Highways and Bridges Commissioner Jim Donahue, Personnel Officer Tom Costello, Social Services Deputy Commissioner Linda Sharpe, Planning Director Herb Hekler, and County Administrator Wiliam Darwak.

Please Note:

Ulster County Resolutions are now online.

Visit: www.co.ulster.ny.us

Insurance

Common Questions about the Workers' Compensation Law:

Q. Must an injured worker submit to a medical examination when requested to do so by the employer or insurance carrier?

A. Yes. The employer or insurance carrier is entitled to have the worker examined by a qualified physician. Refusal to submit to an exam may affect the worker's claim.

Q. What is the penalty for making a false claim?

A. A person who willfully misrepresents the circumstances surrounding his or her case in order to obtain benefits is guilty of a felony.

Submitted by: **Bonnie Szpulecki**
Insurance Officer

Personnel Department

The Personnel Department offers several options for obtaining Civil Service Examination Information.

Examination information may be obtained through our office at (845) 340-3550.

To obtain examination information via internet visit: www.co.ulster.ny.us/personnel/index.html or by e-mail at ucpers@co.ulster.ny.us

There is also a 24 hour examination hotline at (845) 334-5454.

All applications for examination may be mailed or delivered in person to:

Ulster County Personnel Dept.
244 Fair Street
PO Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402-1800

Submitted by:
Deborah DeCicco
845-340-3535

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Real Property

Our office is preparing for the 2004 Public Auction which will be held April 22, 2004 at the Ulster County Community College. There are 200 parcels in the brochure issued by the Treasurer's Office. Some of these may be redeemed by the time of the actual auction. We will be compiling our map books again this year. These books have small portions of tax maps for identification of each parcel in the auction. We will also be taking photographs of any parcels that have a structure on them. They will be on view in our office up to the time of the sale. We are also busy sending letters notifying owners of parcels contiguous to the auction parcels.

Submitted by:
Susan Tillson

STOP D.W.I.

Ulster County STOP DWI will hold its 7th annual Candle Light Vigil to remember. The Vigil will be held **April 27th at 7:00 PM** at SUNY Ulster in the Student Lounge at the Stone Ridge Campus.

The annual event brings together people from throughout Ulster County to remember those friends and family members whom we have lost because of someone's choice to drink and drive. By coming together at the Vigil we seek to remind our community of the cost drinking and driving has had on all of us.

Please join us on April 27th to reaffirm our community's commitment to reduce and finally eliminating drunk driving from the roadways of Ulster County.

Submitted by:
John Miller

**Ulster County
Comprehensive Emergency
Management Plan**

The Ulster County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been updated and approved by the Legislature. Copies are being distributed by the Administrator's Office to each department head at mini cabinet meetings. This plan details how the county plans for, responds to, and recovers from a major emergency.

Ulster County has been notified we are eligible for \$250,000 in State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funds. Unlike prior years, the year's program allows for a great deal of flexibility in how the funds may be used. The Anti-Terrorism Task Force has prioritized our needs and developed a strategy that will not only address our preparedness for a terrorist incident, but which will also be useful to the county for more "routine" emergency situations. We are also coordinating this grant with one the Sheriff's Office is working on which will benefit the entire law enforcement community of Ulster County.

Submitted by:
Art Snyder

Sheriff's Department

Armed Forces Day

(Cont'd.)

Ulster County Sheriff's Office received a check in the amount of \$39,482.00 from the United States Treasury originating from an agreement between the Federal Government Equitable Sharing Program and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office.

Over \$69,000.00 was seized from a local drug dealer by members of the Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Detective Units in July of 2003.

The programs primary purpose is Law Enforcement: to deter crime by depriving criminals of the profits and proceeds of their illegal activities and to weaken criminal enterprise by removing the instrumentalities of crime. Also to enhance cooperation among Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies through the equitable sharing of Federal forfeiture proceeds.

The Sheriff's Drug Tip Hot Line# is:

845 340-3599

I just wanted to give you all the heads-up on the annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day 2004 which is scheduled for May 15th, from 1:00 to 4:00 on the Strand in Kingston. We hope that as representatives of employees of the County, as employees of the County and/or as officials of the County, you'll help us get the word out and to help us garner support and maybe some participation in some way, shape or form.

This **IS NOT** a political event. This **IS NOT** the stage for political opinions. This **IS** a day where we as citizens, as Americans, as tax payers and as civil servants, can thank past, present and future armed forces members and their families for their service, their contributions and their sacrifices.

We plan to contact all civic organizations in the Hudson Valley including American Legion Posts, VFW posts, fire departments, police departments, Town Boards, elementary schools, etc. Regardless of anyone's political affiliation or personal feelings about what's going on in the world today, we feel it's fitting to show our respect to the men and women who give of themselves for our country.

Bikers will be organized for a morning ride, ending in a huge motorcade down to the strand. We will be contacting hot rod owners, corvette clubs, etc for their participation in the ride and in the motorcade.

Anyone having any ideas, anyone wishing to participate and help out in any way possible should contact me at any time. We need to get organized NOW and we DO need help. Please help us get the word out and please make suggestions - this should be a community effort. If anyone has suggestions for groups to be contacted and if you have contact information, please pass that along.

Thank you for your time. I'm looking forward to hearing from you very soon!

Barbara A. O'Brien -
Administrative Assistant
Critical Incident Stress Management Team - Civilian Peer

334-8138

Public Information**ULSTER COUNTY TOURISM
"SPRING IS IN THE AIR"**

The Ulster County Tourism 2004 season is in full bloom. The office has just reprinted the Ulster County Self-Guided Apple Blossom Tour guide. This brochure has three suggested scenic driving tours. Why not pick up a copy and take a drive and enjoy these breathtaking views, too?

We are also in the process of designing a stone house brochure. This will include our stone houses dating back to the seventeenth century. Did you know that Ulster County has the only block with the original stone houses on each corner still in place in the U.S.?

The Ulster County staff has also attended several sportsmen shows over the past few weeks, after updating and revising our Ulster County fishing guide. These shows have been very successful. There seems to be an overwhelming interest from all attendees to visit our area. Ulster County has a wealth of outdoor activities. Did you know that Ulster County has four campgrounds listed in the top 100 in the nation? Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Birchwood Acres, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Lazy River, Newburgh/New York City North KOA Kampground in Plattekill and Rondout Valley Resort.

You can find all these new brochures plus many more in the Ulster County Tourism display area in the lobby of the County Office Building. Our display area has a different theme each month. Please stop by and pick up some information.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO
ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL
COUNTY
HAPPY SPRING
FROM OF ALL US AT
ULSTER COUNTY
TOURISM**

Ready for April 15th**1. What are the new lower tax rates?**

The top tax rate, previously 38.6 percent, fell to 35 percent last year; the 35 percent rate was cut to 33 percent; the 30 percent rate dropped to 28 percent; and the 27 percent rate fell to 25 percent.

2. Why will some couples benefit from larger deductions this year?

The standard deduction for married couples who do not itemize deductions was increased to \$9,500, twice that for single filers and up from \$7,850.

3. Why is it good to go back to school?

The Lifetime Learning Credit was doubled for 2003, to a maximum of \$2,000.

4. How can an out-of-state shopping trip affect your return?

Many states require residents to pay a "compensating use tax" on out-of-state purchases that would have been subject to sales tax at home.

5. Do you need help filling out your 1040?

Looking for tax breaks in 2004? Visit [Your Taxes](#) and walk through a sample return on the 1040.

Make business.nytimes.com your source for breaking news, analysis and research to meet your personal finance and business needs.

Information Services

Recently the number of attempts to disrupt our computing experience has increased. Fortunately we have been wise about the way we treat suspicious emails. I want to remind you that if an email looks suspicious to you then you should delete it. You know those who typically communicate with you, and if an email is from an unknown source, especially if there is an attachment it should simply be deleted.

One of the recent attempts to infect machines had a subject line that indicated that a virus had been found in an email you had sent. This is an attempt to get you to open the email and then the attachment, which will open your device to the virus. Most of the time this will arrive well after you had sent your last email. The County's anti-virus process does not send these sorts of messages. This one coupled with the email with MICROSOFT SECURITY UPDATE PATCH in the subject line are clever pieces of social engineering being used to try to influence you to open an email that you should not open. Microsoft does not deliver security patches via email.

We will continue to post to the Bulletin Board summaries of some of the advisories we receive about virus and worm problems on the Internet. While we spend a good deal of time in attempting to secure our Network you remain our best recourse. Please continue to be diligent about the email you open and aware of what is happening to your device especially while you are connected to the Internet.

Office for the Aging



The “**GOLDEN HILLS**” are alive with the *sounds of music*, laughter and comradely as the Residents come together each day to celebrate life at the Golden Hill Health Care Center. The Residents themselves meet once a month with the Activity Staff to help plan their daily activities, outings and special events... and from there it's lights, camera, action!

Daily activities include coffee socials, reminiscing, serious bingo, exercise, music, board games, word games, team games, card games, cooking, baking, arts, crafts, movies and religious services of all faiths.

Special Events include theme parties, Holiday celebrations, entertainment, dances, casino, horse races just to name a few. During this past quarter Residents enjoyed country music and karaoke with Bill Parole; Resident Council officers were inaugurated at a special luncheon, Chinese New Year was celebrated by ordering out favorite meals, Valentine's Day was celebrated by crowning of King and Queen of Residents from each unit followed by Grand Ballroom dancing.

Girl Scouts from Town of Esopus sponsored a Pizza Bingo, Bill Sheehan brought in African memorabilia for Black History month, a wild Mardi Gras Celebration was held with the Happy Trail's Band,

Kingston Community Singers provided an Irish Concert. The Flying Fiddlers (an area children's orchestra) performed Irish medleys, and of course St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in grand fashion with an Irish Sweepstakes luncheon with entertainment Irish Folk songs from Jim Donnelly/ Bob Lusk and Irish humor of Bob Cohen.

Recent resident highlights include a celebration of two Residents becoming honored members of the Century Club at 102 and 104 years of age. Four couples at the facility renewed their wedding vows here celebrating 50+ years of wedded bliss each. Many Residents offer their own creative talents by singing, playing the piano, cooking, dancing, sewing and reading to those who can no longer see to do so. A few kind words and touch go a long way too!

Many pursue their own hobbies including TV soap-operas, game shows, talk shows and Judge Judy. Others like to read, do word-game books, needlework, take walks, sit outside and some Surf the Web. Volunteers provide a number of services including coffee shop, gift shop, hairdresser, shopping, library services and individual visits.

Residents maintain contact and involvement with the community through outings to restaurants, band concerts, bowling, movies, and to the Mall shopping. Plays at UPAC, school functions, to the various parks for picnics, rides, fishing and softball games, regular visits and programs are provided to the Residents from the Rotary Club, Kingston Catholic School, Good Shepherd School, Coleman High School, Key Club, St. Clara's, Wesleyan, Grace Community Church, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and many other community groups. We are Grateful to all for their contributions enhancing facility life.

Everyone is a part of facility life here at Golden Hill and life doesn't have to end just because we're aging. Activities keep us going one Resident says -- so come and join us sometime. We'll make you feel right at home!

Our Advisory Council and staff are busily working on PROJECT 2015. We are forming a committee to look into how to plan for the time (the year 2015) when Baby Boomers will begin retiring. The committee consists of County agencies and community members who need to be involved in this initiative. Each AAA throughout the State has been asked to take this problem to our respective County Legislators. We plan to have a report to present in June.

Senior games are being planned for the month of May in Ulster County. Games will be held throughout the area for seniors. Last year, we had more than 200 participants. In June, there will be an Awards Luncheon at Ulster County Community College.

We have received a Legislative Initiative through Senator Larkin to purchase another van to transport seniors to medical appointments. Medical van service is heavily scheduled for use by seniors who have no other way to get to their medical appointments.

Over the next few months, the OFA will be involved with speaking to senior groups, explaining the ramifications.

Fleet Bank

NEED A JOB?

WE'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!!!!

START IMMEDIATELY!

YOU DECIDE HOW LONG YOU WANT TO WORK:

SHORT TERM 3-4 WEEKS @ \$8.00/HOUR

Or

LONGER TERM 3-4 WEEKS @ \$7.25/HOUR

COME TO ONE OF OUR OPEN HOUSES AND DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES!

OUR OPEN HOUSES ARE EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
AND SATURDAYS FROM 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

WE ARE LOCATED AT:

101 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
KINGSTON, NEW YORK

OR CALL

845 336-3038