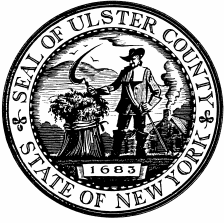
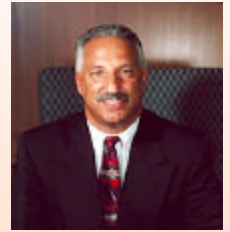


Fall/Winter—2004



Message From the Chairman



For the first time ever, the Hudson Valley will play host to the Empire State Games, July 27th through July 31st, 2005. These Summer Games will be held in Ulster and Dutchess counties, with most events and activities taking place at Vassar and Marist Colleges in Poughkeepsie and SUNY New Paltz.

The Empire State Games, established in 1978 by Governor Hugh Carey, is the largest competition of its kind in the nation. Patterned after the Olympic program, it is a multi-sport event for amateur athletes providing the opportunity to compete, develop and get experience in Olympic style competition.

More than 100,000 athletes have participated in the Games since its inception. Alumni have moved on to national, international and Olympic competition. They include world champions, Olympic Gold medalists, college and high school All-Americans, professional athletes in the NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL as well as figure skaters, skiers, soccer players and more.

Events to take place will include: Men's and Women's Basketball, Rugby, Tennis, Boxing, Volleyball, Softball, Baseball, Ice Hockey, Diving, Swimming, Synchronized Swimming, Weightlifting, Gymnastics, Track & Field, Soccer, Sailing, Cycling, Canoe/Kayak, Lacrosse, Judo, Archery, Wrestling, Bowling, Field Hockey and Rowing.

With more than 6,000 competing athletes, plus 15,000 to 20,000 spectators, friends, family and media, the impact on our area will be tremendous.

Please support this very exciting event in any way you can. Volunteers are needed. For more information or to offer your assistance, please call **845-505-GAME** (4263).

Message from the Clerk of the Legislature

Introduction of Staff Members in Legislature Office

Perhaps you called our office recently and were greeted by a friendly voice but could not put a face to it. Allow me to introduce our new employees who have joined our staff recently:



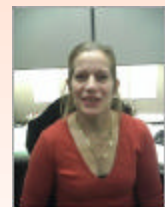
Chairman Gerentine's Secretary:
Teresa Greco
340-3699



Deputy Clerk:
Matthew Pascale
340-3693



Sr. Legislative Employee:
Kathy Sylvester
340-3695



Legislative Employee:
Karen Binder
340-3696

During a visit to the Sixth Floor, please stop in and introduce yourself. Please make a note that my phone number is now 340-3666.

Ulster County Tourism



Fall has arrived and brought the most spectacular array of colors this year. Ulster County's fairs and festivals for 2004 reached record numbers this year. The Garlic Festival had a record-breaking year with the weather being almost perfect for this event.

The Ulster County staff has been busy over the past few weeks promoting Ulster County to many venues. We hosted seventeen Scandinavian travel agents and tour operators for a day in Ulster County. They spent the day dining on the Rondout, taking a cruise along the Hudson River and stayed overnight at the Mohonk Mountain House. They have already promised to bring visitors to Ulster County.

We also had the privilege of hosting the film crew from Fox News for a tourism segment on the Catskill Region. They shot footage of Huguenot Street in New Paltz, Rivendell Winery and the DePuy Canal House in High Falls. This was an exciting opportunity for Ulster County to boost our wonderful county on national TV.

We were also given the opportunity to have a promotional piece filmed with the Splenda Corporation and Weed Orchard in Marlboro. The Splenda Corporation was looking to film at a location to promote "Candied Apples" made with Splenda. Weed Orchard fit the criteria perfectly and the filming began. What great opportunities these were for free advertisement in promoting tourism in Ulster County.

Last, but certainly not least, our very own Ulster County Tourism Director, Peter Carofano, was awarded the Art Advocate of the Year for 2004 by the Ulster County Arts Council at a luncheon held on October 14th, at the Holiday Inn in Kingston. Congratulations to Peter.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTY THIS FALL

Submitted by Patty Jacobsen
Tourism/Public Information

Ulster County Area Transit News

Ulster County Area Transit is building a new home! The Ulster County Transit Center is located at 1 Danny Circle, off of Golden Hill Drive in the City of Kingston. The Transit Center will house administrative offices, indoor bus storage, bus maintenance, indoor bus wash, a fueling facility and a New York State Department of Transportation Regional Training Center. The Training Center will offer Rural Transportation Assistance Program Training for all New York State Transit Providers.

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/ucats/newcenter/index.html>

Submitted by: Cynthia Ruiz
Director of Public Transit

Information about the Ulster County Transit Center currently under construction can be found on the web! If you are interested in seeing the latest photos, budget, funding and schedule information, just go to the website at:



From the Personnel Officer

Personnel Officer, Randall V. Roth, is pleased to announce that work is in progress for the establishment of on-line employee benefits services for all Ulster County government employees.

The purpose of the on-line services will be to provide one point of reference for all employees to obtain answers to questions about the various health insurance options available and related information.

The service is expected to be up and running some time after the first of the year.



Ulster County's Master Gardener Program is Tops in New York State

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Master Gardener Program has received statewide distinction garnering **First** and **Third Place** in the **2004 Master Gardener Search for Excellence Awards**. The recognition is bestowed on a statewide basis to Master Gardener projects and activities that have been judged to have a significant impact on the community and the environment. Master Gardener, Cheryl Alloway, was presented with the award at the 2004 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference which took place in Maryland, October 5th through 9th. Winning statewide entries from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia and West Virginia were also recognized.

Ulster County Master Gardeners received first place in New York State for their multi-year project, **A Waterwise Garden: Xeriscape Garden at SUNY Ulster**. This teaching and demonstration garden was initiated in 2000 to promote stewardship of the Hudson River by familiarizing backyard gardeners with practices that allow for an attractive garden and landscape without inflicting harm from polluted runoff. The garden is used as an interactive teaching tool in the selection of waterwise plants, integrated pest management, conscientious watering practices and alternative landscaping techniques. The judges called it a "terrific project; well-executed" and praised it as a "wonderful tool for education..."

New York's Master Gardener Program awarded third place to **Garden Day 2003**, where hands-on and how-to classes for gardeners - from the newest beginners to the most advanced veterans - are offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Master Gardeners and other area experts at a day-long Saturday event that stretches from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

variety of educational training methods. Training is held every two years with the latest class beginning October 7, 2004. To receive more information about becoming a Master Gardener, please contact, Dona MacWilliams, Master Gardener Coordinator, 845-340-3478.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs and activities that draw on the horticulture research and experience of Cornell University. Each master gardener receives an initial 100 hours of research-based instruction from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, and continues to be exposed to the latest developments in horticulture through a

Submitted by Lisa Berger
Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Ulster County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County was founded almost ninety years ago as a not-for-profit community based organization providing educational programming to meet the needs of our citizens. Our partnership with Cornell University, one of the premier universities in the nation, makes us unique allowing us to deliver the latest research based information to the citizens of Ulster County. This ability to connect university resources with community needs helps us to play a vital role in the lives of families, businesses and young people throughout Ulster County. Our Extension educators work to get people the information they need in areas such as nutrition and health; children and families; commercial agriculture and home gardening; youth development; and land resource management. With the help of more than 670 volunteers we've been building strong, vital communities for nearly a century.

Below is a list of some of our upcoming workshops, seminars, trainings and learning opportunities. To register for any of these classes please call 340-3990. Registration forms for Master Gardener classes can be found on our website <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster>

Master Gardener Programs:

Nov. 10 **Holiday Basket Garden**, Master Gardener Workshop, Ext. Ed Center, Kingston, 5:30-7:30 pm, \$35/person. Pre-registration required.

Dec. 8 **Holiday Kissing Ball**, Master Gardener Workshop, Ext. Ed Center, Kingston, 2:00 pm-4 pm or 5:30 pm-7:30 pm., \$35/person. Pre-registration required.

Human & Community Development

Nov. 9-11 **The Strength of Diversity: Building Inclusive Organizations and Outreach**, three tracks focusing on leading diverse organizations; developing programs for diverse audiences; and home & landownership issues. Syracuse, NY.

Nov. 13 **Reading is Magic**, Magician Terry Morgan enchants with a hat full of tricks and other amazing feats for young children. Little Ones' Library, Accord, 10-12 noon. Free.

Nov. 30 & Dec. 10 **What's a Parent to Do: Helping Families Deal with Bullying and Kids Who Are Out of Control**, National satellite series. 6:30-9:15 p.m. Fee \$30. Pre-registration required. Ext. Ed Center, Kingston

Dec. 17 **Bedtime With Books: Happily Ever After**, Bring your little ones in their pajamas for a quiet winter's evening of happily ever after stories. Little Ones' Library, Accord, 6:30 pm-8 pm. Free.

4-H Youth Development

Oct. 16 **Ryan's Buddies Doll Making Workshop**, Hand sew dolls to give to gravely ill children in Albany Medical Center's Children's Hospital, 9:15 am-11:30 am or 12 noon-2:30 pm, Ext. Ed Center, Kingston. Free

Nov. 20 **Make It-Take It Workshop**, Make pie crust, scrap booking, corn husk dolls at the Old Dutch Church, Kingston. Workshops are held at different times between 10:00 am and noon. Fee \$5 per family. Registration is required prior to Nov. 12. Contact Debbie or Jenny at 340-3990.

Nutrition & Family Resource Management

Ongoing **Financial Education**, confidential financial education is available for individuals, & families. For more information please contact Program Secretary, Barbara Grumberg. Free.

Eat Smart New York & Expanded Food and Nutrition Programs

Safe food preparation, handling & storage practices, food resource management taught in group and individual settings. Income limits apply. For more information please contact June M.M. Strand, Program Coordinator. Free.

Submitted by: Lisa Berger
Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Ulster County

County of Ulster Employee Service Award Recipients for 2004

Department	Number of Years	Employee Name
Aging, Office for the	20	Elizabeth L. Lane
Auditing	20	Steven L. Ross
	30	Kathleen Heitzman
	35	William Wolter
Buildings and Grounds	10	Brian Cunningham, William Wolter
	25	Wilmon Kithcart, Roseanne Middaugh
	30	Fred Allen Cole, Corinne Planthaber, Charles Stevens, III
County Clerk's Office	10	Jeff Berryann, Brian Donnelly
	20	Susan Mattice
	25	Nina Postupack
	30	Jacqueline Schwartz
District Attorney's Office	20	Joan Lamb
	25	Donald Williams, Jr.
	30	Vincent Pretsch, Jr.
Emergency Communications/Mgt.	10	James Adsit, Thomas Planz
	20	Joseph Doyle
	30	Robert Kershaw
Employment & Training, Office of	10	Fawn Tantillo
Golden Hill Health Care Center	10	Betty Arroyo, Lisa Cornell, Patricia Grant, Mary Kelly, James Lane, Keith Shultis, Ann Smoller
	20	Linda Culver, Hilda Gray, Jerry Hamburg, Judith Hasbrouck, Toni Knox, Maria Otis, Minnie Simmrons
	25	Jeanne Austin, Mary Hotaling, Margaret Lloyd, Teresa McGurn, Sandra McMahan, Shirley McNabb, Marlene Shaver
	30	Elizabeth Long, Shirley Simpson
	35	Patricia Vaselewski
Health Department	10	Donna Demeter, Rose Rahilly, Eleanor Troy
	20	Cheryl McTague
	25	Kevin DuMond, Yvonne Elliott, Carol Sackie
	30	Eileen Katatsky, Deborah Palen

**County of Ulster Employee Service Award Recipients for 2004
(continued)**

Department	Number of Years	Employee Name
Highways and Bridges	10	Vito Mallardi
	20	Alan Brown, Thomas Gilbert, Joseph Nalepa Ronald Newkirk, Jr., Jay Sheeley
	25	Michael Cafaldo, Joseph McGrane, Robert Pagan, Bryan Petruski, Joel Raskoskie
	30	Robert Christiana, Robert Dugan, Jr., Michael Malak, William Norton, Jr., Ronald Stone, Clarence Stoutenburg
	45	William E. Miller
Information Services	10	David Bruner, Robert Crane, Peter Yaple
	30	Bruce Demeter
Mental Health	10	Oren Kalus, Sharon Kuriger, Loretta Silas
	20	Toni Casella, Elizabeth Lewis, Bayle Schumacher, Frank Spiro (retired)
	25	Susan Rosenberg
Personnel Department	10	Barry Greco
	25	Thomas J. Costello (Retired)
Planning Department	30	Dennis Doyle
Probation Department	10	Cynthia King
	25	John Rinaldi
Public Defender's Office	10	William Myers
	25	William Collier, III
	30	Paul Gruner
Public Works Administration	10	Kathleen Jansen
Purchasing Department	10	Donald Babcock
	30	Christine Schrader
Real Property Tax Service Agency	30	John VanNess, Jr.

**County of Ulster Employee Service Award Recipients for 2004
(continued)**

Department	Number of Years	Employee Name
Sheriff's Office	10	Rosemary Bloom, Edward DeCicco, Thomas Laffin, Paul Mezzacappa, Michael Rell, Steven F. Ross, Kent Singer
	20	L. David Elliott, John Lawrence, Jr., Dennis Young
	25	Saverio Fisco
Legislature	10	Frank Dart, David Donaldson, William McAfee, Glenn Noonan

Congratulations to all of you for achieving these important milestones.

Thank you for the dedicated service you have provided to the people of Ulster County.

Best wishes for continued success.

Submitted by: Karen Frering
Personnel Department

News from the Environmental Management Council

Ulster County's Newest Agency.

The Ulster County Environmental Management Council (UCEMC) was formed in 1972 as an advisory body to the Ulster County Legislature "on all matters affecting the preservation, conservation and ecologically suitable use of the natural resources of the county" (Resolution 222, November 9, 1972). In the past five years, at the request of the county Legislature the duties of the EMC have grown tremendously. As of April 8, 2004, by resolution of the Ulster County Legislature, UC EMC achieved agency status as the county's Water Quality Management Agency. In order to meet the demands of our new status, two new positions were added to the EMC for a total of 4 full time staff. The four full time staff is as follows:

Jennie Church

Jennie Church is the new Environmental Program Assistant. She received a B.S. from Penn State University in Forest Science – Watershed Management Option, and an M.S. in Forest Hydrology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, with a thesis topic of *Nitrogen dynamics under riparian autumn-olive in southern Illinois*.

Her practical experience includes an Americorps term at Greene County Soil and Water in stream management and working with invasive species at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA. She will be working to coordinate water quality management in Ulster County and assisting with EMC's stormwater and MS4 programs.

Myra Fedyniak

Myra is the new Environmental Planner. She started as a contractor for EMC's non-profit partner, Lower Esopus River Watch, where she worked for two years as a field biologist before moving into the Environmental Program Assistant position with EMC for a year. She received a B.S. in Environmental Science from SUNY Oneonta with a concentration in Biology and a minor in chemistry and is currently a graduate student in Environmental Planning at the University at Albany.

Myra is also the co-director of the Mid-Hudson Service Learning Institute, one of 4 public/ private partnerships in NYS created to facilitate Service Learning in NYS schools. She will be working on the Open Space plan, and stormwater and MS4 programs.

David Scherf

David Scherf recently joined the staff of the Ulster County EMC as the Environmental GIS Specialist after a 9-year stint as Environmental Science Coordinator and Director of the Luke Roehm Technology Learning Center at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, New York. He holds a BA in Geography from San Diego State University, a MS in Geography from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is currently a graduate student in Geographic Information Technology at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

David is also an adjunct instructor in the SUNY New Paltz, Department of Geography. He is married to Susan, and they have two wonderful children, Claire (5) and Leo (3). He will be working on GIS components of the open space plan, and stormwater and MS4

Miriam Strouse

Miriam is the Program Director for the Ulster County Environmental Management Council. She has 10 years of teaching experience - both in public schools and as an environmental educator.

Miriam had attended one of EMC's "Watershed Bootcamp" training sessions and is now putting her GIS, water quality, and education experience to work by organizing all of EMC's education programs and Service Learning projects.



“SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS”

FUND DRIVE FOR OUR SERVICEMEN/WOMEN DEPLOYED OVERSEAS



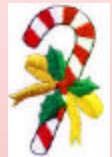
An “Operation Shoebox” fund drive is being coordinated again this year to send needed items to our servicemen/women who are deployed overseas defending our Country. Donations are being accepted continuously by my Legislative Staff, at the County Office Building. Please designate a representative from each of your offices to start a collection box and arrange to have it delivered to the Legislature Office.

In keeping with the “Spirit of Giving”, even a small purchased item will show your support for our military. Accepted items that are needed for our troops include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Baby wipes | Dental Floss | Playing Cards |
| Batteries (AA/D) | Disposable Cameras/Razors | Q-Tips |
| Black Sunglasses | Duct Tape | Shampoo |
| Board Games (travel size) | Eye Drops | Soap |
| Books (novels, short stories) | Fly Swatters | Stationery Sets/Writing Paper |
| CD's | Foot Powder | Sunscreen |
| Cassette Tapes | Hairbrushes | Tissues (heavy duty) |
| Combs | Hand Lotion | Toilet Paper (travel size) |
| Chapstick | Hand Sanitizers (waterless) | Toothbrushes/Toothpaste |
| Cotton Balls | Magazines/Local Newspapers | Tylenol (individual packets) |
| Crossword Puzzles | Mouthwash | Wash Rags |
| Cushioned Socks | Nail Clippers | Woolite |
| Deodorant | Pens/Pencils | Ziploc Storage Bags |



Acceptable Food Items: Breakfast/Granola Bars, Beef Jerky, Candy (individually wrapped-heat resistant), Canned Fruit (pop-top cans), Cereal (individual servings), Coffee Creamers, Condiments (Mrs. Dash), Instant coffee, instant Oatmeal, Powdered Drink Mixes, Ravioli (pop-top cans), Sweet Tea Mixes, Throat Drops (Fruit Breezes, Halls, etc.) and Twizzlers.



Any questions, please call Ellen DiFalco at ext. 3666. Thank you for your kindness.

Adopt a Star Program

Each year the Children and Adult Services units of the Department of Social Services appeals to various community groups and local businesses for donations of toys, warm clothing, gift certificates, etc. to provide holiday gifts for needy children and seniors.

This year we are inviting all employees and departments to participate in our “Adopt a Star” program. You can do so by choosing a name or names from the trees in DSS. The tree will be up in the Services hallway beginning Tuesday, November 23, for all you early shoppers. If this is inconvenient for you, you may call Laura Boodakian at 334-5116 or Rachel Hunter at 334-5140 for a name or names from the tree. Also, if you would prefer to donate items (toys, clothing, things that would be appreciated by teenagers or senior citizens), members of our Christmas Committee would be willing to pick them up. In addition, some departments will have designated boxes for donated items. We would very much appreciate having all donations by December 13th so that the caseworkers will have time to wrap and deliver the gifts prior to the holidays.

We hope that you all have a happy holiday season.

Submitted by: Laura Boodakian, Chairperson
 Rachel Hunter, Co-Chairperson
 Holiday Committee Members



Ulster County Mitten Drive

It is time again to start thinking about the Ulster County Mitten Drive. Over the past three years, the employees of Ulster County have handed out almost 2,500 items to those members of our community who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Ulster County Mitten Drive is a group effort among County employees to provide mittens/gloves, hats, and scarves to those individuals who receive services at the Department of Social Services. The items are collected within each department and delivered directly to DSS for distribution among the various units.

If you or your department would like to participate in this year’s drive, please contact Kara Aiello at ext. 3538 or by e-mail. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Submitted by: Kara Aiello
 Personnel Department

Merry
Christmas



*Best Wishes for
a Joyous
Holiday Season
and a
Happy New Year*

Happy
Hanukkah



Happy
Kwanza



**Happy
Holidays**

REMINDER

Deadline for the March 2005 Issue is February 23, 2005

Please e-mail articles to Kathy Sylvester

ksyl@co.ulster.ny.us