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Steve Devan, Commissioner, Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control

Oneida County Sewer District Asks Residents to Reroute, Reclaim, Recharge at Earth Day Celebration

Oneida County Sewer District representatives inspired homeowners and businesses to help reduce sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River at the Operation Ripple Effect™ Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18, at Jay-K Lumber in New Hartford.

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But heavy rains or snowmelts can cause stormwater to overwhelm the system and result

in overflows into the Mohawk River. National studies have shown that as much as 50 percent of the excess stormwater in sanitary sewer systems comes from private property. One big culprit is rainwater that is captured in roof gutters that then flows through a downspout that is connected into a drain leading to a sanitary sewer. Another significant source is the discharge from sump pumps. Operation Ripple Effect is an Oneida County initiative that acts as a guide to provide

simple steps to help keep the Mohawk River clean.

The Operation Ripple Effect Earth Day Celebration included real demos of simple project ideas, like rerouting rain gutter downspouts and installing a rain barrel. Resources for planting a rain garden were also available to the public.

For more information, visit RippleEffectOCSD.org.

PRIDE IN OC GOVERNMENT Programs and Baseball Classic Mark 2015 Teen Safety Education Week

Oneida County Youth Bureau, Oneida County Stop DWI, participating school districts, partners and sponsors celebrated Teen Safety Education Week from April 27 to May 2. Events included the Teen Traffic Safety Education Program and the fourth annual STOP DWI High School Baseball Classic.

The Teen Traffic Safety Education Program features the State Police, Insight House, STOP DWI displays and many other invaluable educational lessons, and is presented to Oneida County high school students annually prior to ball, prom and graduation season.

The Stop DWI High School Baseball Classic, held May 1 and 2 at Delutis Field in Rome, doubles as an educational event that provides educational opportunities for youth and families about the terrible consequences that result when people make destructive decisions.

Educational topics covered throughout the week's events include the effects of tobacco and marijuana use; bullying; work zone driving safety; teen dating/sexual violence assaults; the dangers of texting and driving, as well as drinking and driving. The Oneida County Sheriff's Department also offered child ID kits, fingerprinting, and photos.



OC United celebrates all aspects of Oneida County government to unite and instill pride in the great work we achieve together.



It is with great pride that we share with you this first edition of OC United.

This publication is a product of your creative thinking and is just one of many initiatives aimed at making our Oneida County government the best that it can be. We especially want to celebrate the inspired work that allows us to provide quality programs and services, and create the best possible future for Oneida County residents.

I appreciate your dedication and commitment, and look forward to moving forward with pride in the accomplishments of Oneida County government.

Thank you for all that you do.

Anthony J. Picente Jr.
County Executive
Oneida County



OFA/CC Shares Expertise at Annual Senior Citizens Advocacy Day

The Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care (OFA/CC) Advisory Council presented at the annual Senior Citizens Advocacy Day on March 31 at the Whitestown Community Center.

A panel of speakers discussed matters of interest to seniors, including policy issues impacting seniors, opportunities for empowerment for Oneida County senior citizens, and resources available in New York State. The panel included Maria Alvarez, executive director of New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.; Laura Cameron, executive director of the Association on Aging in New York; and Laura Palmer of AARP New York.

Senior Citizens Advocacy Day is an annual event

sponsored by OFA/CC Advocacy Subcommittee to provide important information that can make a dramatic impact in local senior citizens' lives.

New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc. is a grassroots membership organization made up of individual senior citizens and organizations representing seniors in New York State. The goal of this group is to encourage seniors to advocate for themselves, in particular, to reduce poverty and increase quality of life for older citizens in the state. The Association on Aging in New York focuses on promoting advocacy, education, and services for New York's senior citizens.

For more information, call the Oneida County OFA/CC at 315-798-5456.



GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

2-1-1 Mid-York Alleviates 911 System, Gives Residents and Service Providers Simple, Direct Access to Resources

On January 1, 2015, 2-1-1 Mid-York became available for non-emergency needs in Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties via landline and cell phone by simply dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-342-5211.

In addition to relieving the burden of non-emergency calls by rerouting them from the 911 system, 2-1-1 Mid-York provides information about:

- Basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter
- Consumer education and protection; how to manage finances
- Crime prevention, witness and victim support, legal services connections
- Disaster management, including storm and shelter information, emergency resources, and evacuations
- Skills, behavior and character building
- Environmental preservation and protection, accident prevention, public health and safety
- Healthcare services, such as prevention, screening, evaluation, treatment, health and substance abuse
- Job skills building, and finding and sustaining a job

- Income support, including public assistance and support
- Social and spiritual development, and volunteer opportunities
- Mental/emotional health, including preventative, diagnostic, and treatment; community- and hospital-based
- New resident settlement, and travel and tourism
- Business support, such as meeting space coordination, access to equipment, services management

2-1-1 Mid-York can also provide critical information during and after a local or national crisis, disaster, or tragedy. 2-1-1 Mid-York is confidential and free, and multilingual service is available. A searchable website database listing 2-1-1 Mid-York's resources will be available in Spring 2015.

Burning building? Call 911. Burning question? Call 2-1-1. For more information, visit 211midyork.org or contact Betty-Joan Beaudry, 2-1-1 Mid-York Liaison, at 211MidYork@unitedwayvgu.org.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT



In his day job, Dean Millington uses his experience and leadership skills as the superintendent of airport maintenance at the Oneida County Airport. There, he manages the most efficient utilization of equipment and budget resources. But outside of work, he has another passion.

Dean has volunteered for more than 10 years as a coach, committee member and commissioner for area youth sports. His commitment to the community displays the character of someone who believes in supporting and advancing every aspect of the region in which he lives and works.

Dean exemplifies the community spirit that we should all be proud of.

Did You Know?

Six of the 23 full-time employees at the Oneida County Airport have served in the armed forces:

- Ed Arcuri – U.S. Marine Corps
- Bill Dalgety – U.S. Navy
- Charles Derider – U.S. Army & Navy
- David Klemm – U.S. Navy
- Russell Stark – U.S. Army
- Brian Visser – U.S. Army



Oneida County Recognizes Child Abuse Awareness Month

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., along with Oneida County Department of Social Services and community partners, marked Child Abuse Awareness Month for the month of April at an event on April 16.

In 2014, Oneida County received 4,170 calls to the Child Abuse Hotline.

“We remain diligent all year long, but in April, we take the time to highlight the hotline

number (1-800-342-3720) and the myriad of programs and events that take place continuously,” County Executive Picente said.

“Our community partners, such as the Thea Bowman House and the Neighborhood Center, as well as our Department of Social Services, do an amazing job working to prevent child abuse here in Oneida County. Preventing child abuse is a community effort. And the more

people remain diligent, the more we can do to keep children safe.”

Children from the Thea Bowman House and the Neighborhood Center also planted pinwheels in front of the county office building, and displayed artwork in both the county office building in Utica and the county office building in Rome.



PRIDE IN OC GOVERNMENT

Vision 2020 Makes Progress, Sets Goals

As a community that is rich in human capital, institutions, environment and character, Oneida County is poised on the edge of a renaissance. The Oneida County initiative Vision 2020 is building a blueprint for a first-class workforce, enhanced housing, and accessible job opportunities to keep pace with ever-advancing economic development and growth – and significant progress has been made.

In 2014, some Vision 2020 accomplishments included:

- Identifying housing needs and adopting tax incentives to encourage development

of the diverse types of housing to meet new workforce demands

- Increasing high school internships by more than 50%
- Formalizing the APPLE model – an alternative high school program with ESL/high school equivalency or ESL vocational/certificate program
- Convening ESL providers to develop a comprehensive ESL provider database
- Convening translation service provided to develop a comprehensive database
- Establishing new dual credit programs and

articulation agreements

- Establishing SUNYPI Outreach Center to identify and provide resources for resumé gaps to potential applicants for new job opportunities

As this community-wide collaborative initiative continues, 2015 will also focus on transportation – specifically how our transportation infrastructure can foster Oneida County's future economic, urban and cultural growth.

For more information about Vision 2020, visit vision2020oc.net.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

Oneida County 911: “Call When You Can, Text When You Can’t”

Oneida County Emergency Services implemented its Text to 911 program this past November.

A few things to note about this feature:

- Text to 911 is only available through Verizon and AT&T.
- Text to 911 is to be used when the victim is unable to communicate verbally – for those hearing impaired, hiding from danger, etc.
- Dispatchers still need the address of where the victim is, including an apartment number.

Photographs, videos and emoticons will not work and may block the message.

- Cell phone carriers don't follow county lines. The victim may be in Oneida County and hitting a cell tower outside the county that may not have Text to 911. In this case, a message is sent to the phone informing the victim that Text to 911 isn't available where they are calling from.
- There is no cost for texting to 911.

Although voice dialing is best, since questions can be asked and answered faster, and the



caller's location can be identified easier, this new service provides another layer of communication that can be critical in circumstances when the victim can't talk.