

Fall Issue | 2015

Celebrating 100 Years

Safe Harbour: Building the Oneida County Response to Child Trafficking

Affordable Program Provides Dental Care to Residents

7th Annual Intergenerational Fall Clean-Up Brings Generations Together

Smokehouse Teaches Fire Safety



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



*From the
County
Executive*

From fire safety to fundraising to bridging the intergenerational gap – you've all done a tremendous amount of positive work for our community these recent months.

I continue to be honored and humbled by your commitment to advancing Oneida County and the services that we offer to our residents.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony J. Picente Jr.".

Anthony J. Picente Jr.
County Executive
Oneida County



PRIDE IN OC GOVERNMENT

5th Annual Celebrating Life Event Raises Critical Funds

The Oneida County Office for the Aging/ Continuing Care and the Community Elder Wellness Council, Inc. hosted the 5th Annual Celebrating Life Event on Thursday, November 5.

Proceeds from this event will be used to support in-home services for persons served by the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care. This year, Carol Grove, founding member of Your Neighbors, Inc., was honored at the event.

Grove founded Your Neighbors, Inc. several years ago and continues to be an instrumental part of the organization, whose mission is dedicated to providing quality service and support to people who are frail, elderly or have a disability, in the

home setting. Your Neighbors, Inc. has worked closely with the Office for the Aging and the Community Elder Wellness Council on a regular basis.

The Community Elder Wellness Council is a non-profit entity established in 2005 and serves as a foundation to increase resources for community-based aging services and programs for the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care. Event sponsors for the Celebrating Life Event included WKTV-News Channel 2, US Care Systems, Inc., Fidelis Care, UnitedHealthcare, Brookdale Senior Living, ElderNet LLC, Carol Steele, CDPHP, Inertia Occupational & Physical Therapy Services PLLC, Oxford Home Care Services, and the Thomas Lindsey Foundation.



GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Animal Science Center Earns Funding Through Partners in Prosperity

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., joined by Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (VVS) Superintendent Martha Group and the VVS Agriculture Department, recently announced the advancement of the VVS Animal Science Center, an instructional facility used to teach STEM through Applied Animal Science by the school's agriculture department.

The proposed VVS Animal Science Center is a multi-species animal facility to be located at the VVS high school campus, adjacent to the school's agriculture department maple production facility. The surrounding area includes land suitable for free range and open grazing development.

"The central mission of this initiative is to provide in-depth studies in animal agriculture to students in the VVS and surrounding schools that will lead to careers related to applied animal science," said Group. "The configuration of student-based decision-making cooperatives emulates typical animal production

operations. In addition to technical skills in animal production, students will gain experiences in agriculture business and working in group settings."

The project is being funded with nearly \$500,000 through Partners in Prosperity, a program that funds projects in infrastructure, public safety, arts and culture, sharing agreements and economic development, as well as tax stabilization. The funding comes directly from gaming revenue, as agreed on in the historic settlement agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation.

County Executive Picente said, "When we settled long-standing disputes with the Oneida Indian Nation and began receiving revenue through gaming, I wanted to use some of those dollars for a variety of initiatives that assisted us in moving this county forward. This is a shining example of a project that will enhance the unique STEM educational offerings at VVS, and have a positive impact for the students and teachers in the western part of our county."

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Oneida County 911 Employees Raise Money to Fight Breast Cancer



In the month of October, more than 50 Oneida County 911 employees raised \$355 to benefit breast cancer awareness. The employees created themed-clothing days – ranging from wearing pink to representing fire, police and EMS agencies – to bring awareness and raise money for the American Cancer Society. Each Wednesday of the month, a different theme was chosen and employees contributed \$5 to participate.



Oneida County 911 employees support Breast Cancer Awareness Month by showing pride for their local fire, EMS, and police agencies. Clockwise: Dispatcher Kristi Ecker, Training Coordinator Sandy Yates, Dispatcher Jackie Rose, and Deputy Director Gerald Pedersen.

Affordable Program Provides Dental Care to Residents for 10 Cents Per Day, Families for a Dollar Per Week

Oneida County recently partnered with the New York State Association of Counties to provide residents with a new voluntary Dental Network Card Program.

At a cost of 10 cents per day for an individual, or a dollar per week for a family, the program will make going to the dentist more affordable and easier for seniors and families throughout the county. By purchasing a Dental Network Card, cardholders will have access to locate dentists who have agreed to charge reduced fees for dental service.

"This partnership with NYSAC helps families and seniors find more affordable dental care," said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. "These are the types of innovative programs we are looking at to improve overall community health in our county. This is another step that will make our community healthier."

The Dental Network is another program born out of the work of the Oneida County Total Health Initiative that was announced in 2014. The initiative also includes the employee

wellness and walking program, smoking cessation program, and hands-only CPR classes, as well as implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan that specifically looks at infant nutrition.

Program brochures are available on the first floor of the Oneida County Office Building, as well as through the Department of Social Services, Personnel Department, Health Department, and Office for the Aging and Continuing Care. Brochures may also be obtained from County legislators.

PRIDE IN OC GOVERNMENT

7th Annual Intergenerational Fall Clean-Up Brings Generations Together

Area youth and elderly were united again this year through the 7th Annual Intergenerational Fall Clean-Up on October 24 and 25.

The initiative is a collaboration with the Oneida County Youth Bureau, the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care, and Oneida County colleges, school districts and youth organizations.

“The Annual Intergenerational Fall and Spring Clean-Up delivers these much-needed services to our Oneida County senior citizens who physically can no longer do the work themselves or, being on a fixed income, can’t financially afford to have the work done for them,” said Kevin Green, Youth Bureau Director.

This year, more than 950 youth volunteers – from 27 different organizations – provided community service within Oneida County to more than 140 senior citizens.

In addition, more than 200 volunteers from the Thomas R. Proctor High School NJROTC program provided community service by cleaning up Proctor Park.



Did You Know?



Griffiss International Airport Serves Range of Advanced Aircraft, Distinguished Travelers

Griffiss International Airport is a designated Part 139 International Airport that serves the local general aviation community and international traffic through its new customs facility, and military traffic from across the United States.

Griffiss, although not a commercial service airport, has also been host to some of the most advanced corporate aircraft, like the Gulfstream GVI, as well as distinguished travelers, such as Toby Keith.

Additionally, Griffiss is and continues to be host to the U.S. military’s most advanced aircraft. These types of aircraft can be seen in the Griffiss traffic pattern or on the ramp.



GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

Youth Firesetter Intervention and Prevention Program for At-Risk Youth

The Oneida County Department of Emergency Services has launched a prevention and safety program aimed at identifying and preventing youth firesetting.

The Youth Firesetter Intervention and Prevention Program targets at-risk youth who exhibit firesetting behavior or have been involved with firesetting and fire play. Modeled from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Youth Firesetter Intervention Program, the program provides educational intervention in an attempt to stop the firesetting before tragedy occurs.

For questions or further information on this program, call (315) 765-2500 or fax (315) 765-2529. Additional resources are available at ocgov.net/e911/JuvenileFire.

Smokehouse Teaches Fire Safety

Fire safety is a critical topic for students of all ages. Keeping this topic informative and interesting is the key to making a difference. The Oneida County Department of Emergency Services has partnered with local fire departments to do just that by using a smokehouse to demonstrate fire safety, evacuation routes, fire hazards and the proper use of 911.

The smokehouse travels to local schools during fire prevention weeks to provide a hands-on tool to demonstrate fire safety. It is also brought to community events, such as VVS' Community Day and Day Out With Thomas at Union Station, among many others.

"The smokehouse is an invaluable tool for showing children how to safely navigate and evacuate an area filled with smoke," said

Kevin W. Revere, Director of the Department of Emergency Services.

The smokehouse also contains a kitchen area where children are engaged to identify fire safety hazards, like plastic kitchenware on the stove or metal in the microwave.

"Hopefully, by providing this hands-on demonstration, they'll know exactly what to do if they ever have an emergency," Revere said.



GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

Safe Harbour: Building the Oneida County Response to Child Trafficking

Human trafficking can happen anywhere. In fact, 36% of traffickers are immediate family members and 27% of traffickers are boyfriends. These are not strangers to the victim – they are trusted people.

New York State Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act (2008) defines a sexually exploited child as: Any person under 18 years of age who has been subject to sexual exploitation as a result of their loitering for the purpose of prostitution or their engagement in an offer to exchange sexual conduct in return for food, clothing, a place to stay, for drugs or a fee.

The Oneida County Department of Social Services will strengthen their response to this serious issue with Human Trafficking training that will be held at the Child Advocacy Center for caseworkers, case planners and community service providers. The training will focus on how to identify and talk to these victims of human trafficking.

In January 2012, the New York State Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS) received funding to support the Safe Harbour Legislation. Through this funding, the OCFS launched and implemented ChildRight: New York, a state-wide child welfare-based response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and trafficking. OCFS has contracted with the International Organization for Adolescents (OFA) to adapt their ChildRight model to New York and craft a statewide response. Oneida County has recently been added to the pilot project by OCFS.

Through this coordinated, statewide response, ChildRight: New York aims to increase identification of CSEC and trafficking victims and provide services through New York's child welfare and allied youth service systems.

For help and additional information, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (888) 373-7888 or text BeFree (233133).

Did You Know?

How to Avoid Stress Eating During the Holidays

Tips from Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy

As the holidays near, our minds turn to thoughts of family, friends, fun and food. However, each year, millions of Americans struggle to maintain their waistlines during the holidays while surrounded by tempting holiday treats.

By following the simple tips below, you can be on your way to enjoying all of your holiday parties – while also staying in control of your health.

- Do not leave the house on an empty stomach—it promotes overeating.
- Avoid standing near the food table, which is a sure-fire way to overindulge.
- Make socializing your top priority; conversation will keep you occupied and away from the food.
- Limit your drinking; alcohol increases hunger and lowers willpower.
- Offer a low-calorie alternative; for example, if you have volunteered to bring a dessert, bring fruit rather than a cheesecake.
- Listen to your stomach; reduce your portion sizes and stop eating when you feel satisfied rather than stuffed.

