

Summer Issue 2016



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*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 public safety to charitable works to honoring our veterans - you've all done a tremendous amount of positive work for our community in these recent months.

I continue to be honored and humbled by your commitment to advancing Oneida County and showcasing the best our region has to offer.

Anthony J. Picente Jr.  
County Executive  
Oneida County



## COMMUNITY PRIDE Oneida County Youth Bureau Participates in "Capital Days"

A delegation representing thousands of 4-H members in New York State expanded their knowledge of state government when they traveled to Albany May 15 -17, 2016 for the 81st annual 4-H Capital Days event. Nearly 130 teens delegates and their chaperones attended, representing 4-H members from counties across the state, as well as the boroughs of New York City.

The Oneida County Youth Bureau, along with Sarah Hardy of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, collaborated on a grant writing process for these young aspiring government students to attend "Capital Days." For their hard work and efforts they were awarded a \$2704.00 educational grant from The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties Inc.

Representing Oneida County was Jordyn Keech-Beach of Yorkville, Bradley Schieble

Jr. of Stittville, Emily Cranwell of Eaton, Cassandra Martin of Waterville, Kira McClusky of Sauquoit, and Zach Hadasz of Marcy. Sarah Hardy accompanied the delegates.

During this year's event, 4-H members, volunteer leaders, and staff met with leaders in state government, members of the court system and officials from a variety of state agencies. In addition, they observed a working session of the state legislature and talked with their representatives.

The participants learned about speaking to their legislators and career opportunities in government as they toured state agencies, participated in discussion sessions, and visited with their legislators. They also had opportunities to tour the Capitol and visit the Corning Tower, New York State Museum and other significant features of the area.



## PRIDE IN GOVERNMENT

# New Digs! The Central Services Print Shop and Mailroom Get A Facelift

The Central Services Print Shop and Mailroom have both received a much needed facelift, compliments of the County Office Building Renovation Project! Mailroom and Print Shop facilities are now clean, modern, professional and secure working environments. The Mailroom and Print Shop are locked during business hours to ensure the integrity of the materials processed in each location. The Mailroom also operates on a separate air handling system to help guard the safety and well-being of County staff members and building visitors in the unlikely event of a chemical or biological mail attack. Coincident with the facility upgrade, the Print Shop obtained a new large format laminator, upgraded Black & White and Color printing equipment, and added

a new paper cutter that has important safety features to protect staff from serious injury when using the equipment.

The County Print Shop creates over 2 million products annually and offers printing and bindery services to all County Departments and many outside agencies including City of Utica. Our Print Shop can produce materials for about a quarter of the cost charged by commercial printing vendors.

The mailroom handles more than 3,000 pieces of first class mail every day and up to 14,000 pieces of mail per day during peak periods such as tax time. The City of Utica estimates savings of approximately \$14,000 every year by having Central Services handle their mailroom operations.



## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

# Oneida County Government Provides over 32,000 Flags to Honor Veterans

Memorial Day is the time each year we gather with friends and family to remember, reflect, and be thankful for the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect their country. We are forever grateful to the veterans of Oneida County and all around the country who dedicated their lives to defend their families, their loved ones, and the freedom of the United States of America.

This past Memorial Day, Oneida County Government helped remember and pay respect to our Veterans by providing 32,724 American flags to 41 different locations around the county. We were proud to make it possible for communities in our county

to honor its veterans and the sacrifices they made. We will never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice and dedicated their lives to the defense of freedom.



# Oneida County Employees Making A Difference

On Friday, May 20th, Oneida County Employees helped make a difference in the lives of our local veterans. In honor of Armed Forces Day, as well as Memorial Day, the employees of Oneida County brought in canned food and non-perishable items in exchange for the opportunity to dress down for a day.

The support and camaraderie was amazing. The request was to bring in two canned goods, but the response was overwhelming. Employees brought in grocery bags of food,

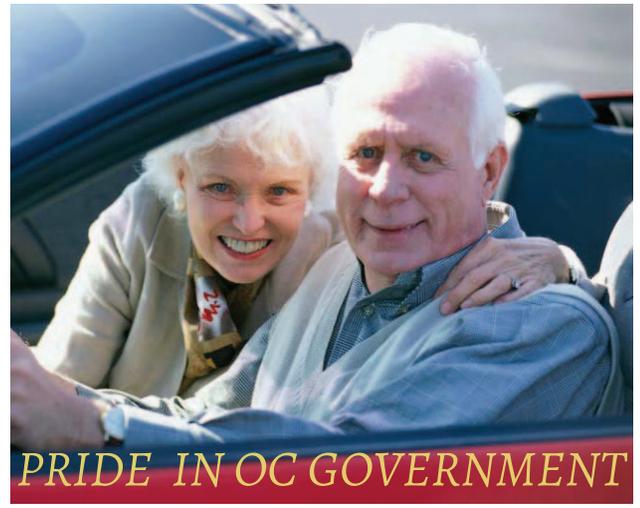
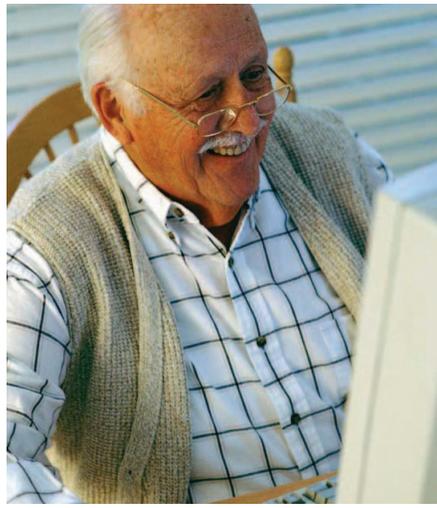
as well as items such as paper towels, laundry soap, hand soaps, & cleaning supplies.

According to the Veteran's Outreach Center, before we dropped off the items to them, their cupboards were pretty scarce. This center is open 6 days a week and at any time during the day a veteran can walk in and receive food items as needed.

A phone call from Kurtis VanNostrin at the Veteran's Outreach Center praised the Oneida County employees for their generosity. The praise and generosity should go to the

veterans, as well as those in active service, for all that they do to protect our country.





## Oneida County Office for the Aging Staff Honor Older Community Members on May 19th

In addition to providing services and programs to seniors and caregivers, one of the many roles of the Oneida County Office for the Aging & Continuing Care is to advocate on behalf of older members of Oneida County. This is accomplished through the diligent work performed by the staff of Office for the Aging through performing their daily tasks such as case management, providing information and assistance, and connecting seniors and caregivers to much needed community supports. Recognizing the accomplishments

and contributions of many older members of our community is another important form of advocacy headed up by the Office for the Aging each May through the Older Americans Awards celebration, which shines the spotlight on many older Oneida County residents who contribute by volunteering and help enrich the lives of others.

On Thursday, May 19, 2016 the Older Americans Awards Luncheon was held at Hart's Hill Inn, recognizing the contributions of the

older citizens in Oneida County and those organizations who help improve the quality of life for our older citizens. This year's winners, are Wilfredo Rosario, Sr., receiving "2016 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award" and the Helping Hands, receiving "Outstanding Contribution by an Organization Award." This year's OAA luncheon was another great success with over 200 people in attendance. Congratulations to all winners and honorees!

### GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES

## Emergency Services personnel recently underwent Mercy Flight Training

As of June 1st, a Mercy Flight helicopter will be stationed full-time at the Griffiss International Airport for use in Oneida County and surrounding counties. Mercy Flight's full time status means they will be available in serious emergency situation including personal injury, severe illness and other emergency situations where airlift services are required.

This is a commitment our Department of

Emergency Services takes seriously. All 911 dispatchers are now trained on general operations of Mercy Flight and the circumstances in which 911 would request them to respond to an emergency in our county.

Today, residents are safer because of the commitment from the county and Emergency Services and Mercy Flight.





## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

# Oneida County Emergency Services; National Model for 911 Consolidation

Emergency Services employees have represented Oneida County at several state, national and international conferences recently.

Dispatchers Joseph Baker and Robert Burdick attended the youth fire setters training at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. Deputy Director Fred Lampman and Dispatcher Ted Achen attended

the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch NAVIGATOR Conference in Washington D.C.

Oneida County Emergency Services continues to be emulated as a national model for 911 consolidation.

## Did You Know?

**T**he Oneida County Probation Department places almost 1200 Offenders a year at 50 different sites in Oneida County for Community Service? Nancy Brown – Community Service Coordinator (pictured) - takes referrals from all Oneida County Courts and places them at various not-for-profit sites as a way for the offender to give back to the community and hold them accountable for their actions. Nancy is always looking for new sites to place individuals, so if you're involved with a not-for-profit and would like individuals to be considered to volunteer, please call her at 798-5914.

The Oneida County Probation Department was one of three Counties in New York State to receive

a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to enforce the Ignition Interlock Device directive. The Probation Department will team up with other local law enforcement agencies to strictly enforce that all individuals required having this device installed in their vehicle actually do. In addition, the Officers will investigate to ensure they are not driving another vehicle that is not registered in their name. The purpose of have the Ignition Interlock Device installed to ensure that the Offender who may still have their driving privileges intact are doing so while remaining 100% sober. This is just another way this department takes public safety very seriously.

