



COUNTY OF ONEIDA
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
County Executive
ce@ocgov.net

ONEIDA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
800 PARK AVENUE
UTICA, NEW YORK 13501
(315) 798-5800
FAX (315) 798-2390
www.ocgov.net

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Cathe Bullwinkle, Quality Improvement Coordinator
798-5275

Free Window Replacement Instruction Offered to Property Owners *Multi-lingual Series of Classes Target Utica Houses 'At Risk' for Lead Poisoning*

Home owners in Cornhill and West Utica are again being offered free instruction on the proper replacement of windows using lead-safe work practices through the County's *Lead Primary Prevention Program*, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente announced today.

"The response to this initiative I first announced last year demands that we again offer a series of instructional sessions that provide training on how to remove old windows, measure, order, and install replacement windows and conduct proper clean-up using a HEPA vacuum in compliance with lead safe work practices," Picente said. Picente continued, *"The skills acquired by homeowners that complete this training allows them to increase the value of their properties while reducing their energy costs and decreasing their liability for lead poisoning."*

The 3-hour classes will be held on January 12th, February 9th, March 9th and March 30th at the Health Department's offices 185 Genesee Street in Downtown Utica. Each session will begin at 6:00 PM. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required by calling the Oneida County Health Department at 266-6147. The class scheduled for March 30th will be offered in Karen and Burmese, the native languages of Myanmar (Burma). Additional classes are planned for April including one which will be offered in Spanish.

Dr. Gayle Jones, Director of Health said along with the repair of chipping and peeling paint, the replacement of old single-paned windows in our aged housing stock using safe work practices is a critical component of protecting our children from lead hazards.

"As much as 60-70% of lead dust in pre-1978 built houses can be attributed to the friction from opening and closing old single-paned windows painted with lead paint, so it is imperative that we eliminate this problem if we are to end the threat of childhood lead poisoning in our community," Jones said.

Cold weather is an ideal time for window replacement since the contraction of wooden frames allows for the tightest fit of the replacement windows.

For more information on lead hazards and safe work practices contact the Oneida County *Lead Primary Prevention Program* or visit our web site at ocgov.net.

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