



Winter-Spring Issue 2018

Union Station in Utica

- 2018 State of the County
- Lawrence and Ambrose Named as Department Heads
- Child Advocacy Center Earns National Reaccreditation
- Civil Service Examiners Sought
- NYS Aging Innovation Challenge
- Oneida County Goes Tobacco and e-Device Free
- Dress Down Days and Employee Donations Raise Money for Multiple Charities
- Wilson Wins American Heart Association Award



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

The epidemic of school shootings has become a national crisis that no community is immune from. That's why I chose to make gun violence, school safety and mental health delivery a major focus of this year's State of the County Address.

In conjunction with our Departments of Mental Health, Social Services and Emergency Services, we will work with local law enforcement, school district and higher education officials and non-profit service providers to harden soft targets throughout the county, develop threat assessment models, strengthen mental health assessment and delivery, obtain valuable data through a gun violence study and take a new approach to information sharing that will assure all involved parties are operating as one.

While the agenda for 2018 also includes other important initiatives such as economic development in the City of Rome and establishing Oneida County as the state leader in cybersecurity through my CyberOneida plan, the safety of our children and other vulnerable populations must remain of the utmost importance.

Anthony J. Picente Jr.
County Executive
Oneida County

2018 STATE OF THE COUNTY

School Safety, Mental Health & Economic Development Key Components of 2018 State of the County

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. delivered his 2018 State of the County Address on March 8 at Daniele's Banquet Specialists in New Hartford.

More than 300 people attended the event in which Picente recapped some of the accomplishments of 2017 and laid out an aggressive agenda for this year.

Some of the highlights:

- Address school safety and violence by:
 - Working with local school districts to place armed Special Patrol Officers in every school that doesn't currently have them
 - Providing safety and security assessments and



Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. delivers his 2018 County Address on March 8, 2018. (Photo courtesy of the Rome Sentinel)

Continued on page 2

Key Components of 2018 State of the County

Continued from page 1



emergency plans for schools and other soft targets including day care and senior centers, churches and other community agencies.

- ◆ Developing a threat assessment model through the county Departments of Mental Health and Social Services that aims to prevent violence in our community, particularly in our schools.

- ◆ Upgrading the Department of Mental Health's Mobile Crisis Assessment Team for 24/7 onsite emergency interventions.

- ◆ Working with Madison-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES and other educational partners to formulate and implement guidelines for schools to use in response to threats of violence made by students.

- ◆ Instituting a new system for sharing information among all involved agencies and delivering mental health to those who need it.

- ◆ Commissioning a gun violence study in partnership with our local colleges and utilizing the data to come up with innovative solutions.

- Together with the City of Rome, Mohawk Valley Community College and Griffiss International Airport, Oneida County will create a new livable-workable neighborhood in the city by:

- ◆ Adding to the MVCC Rome campus's recent \$30 million expansion by building on its first-rate culinary program with an Agriculture Business Incubator.

- ◆ Creating the Rome Vertical Garden, a 13,500 square foot three-story facility.

- ◆ Entering the next phase of the UAS Tech Business Incubator at Griffiss.

- ◆ Creating a state-of-the-art recreation space through a public-private partnership that will focus on health, wellness and educational services.

- Expand Oneida County's successful Vision 2020 program to include all of the counties included in the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Council Region.

- Launch the Ag in the Classroom initiative to increase outreach to school-aged children and engage them in all aspects of agriculture.

- Convene a Dairy Farmers Forum with Cornell Cooperative Extension to formulate an Oneida County Dairy Farmers Sustainability Plan.

- Launch a five-point plan called CyberOneida in conjunction with Utica College, MVCC and the CyberAlliance that will establish Oneida County as New York's leader in cyber training, skills development and safety.

To read the 2018 State of the County Address in its entirety, visit www.ocgov.net.

Did You Know?

Oneida County Civil Service is always recruiting more exam monitors. If you are available on Saturday mornings and afternoons, this could be a great way for you to earn some extra money. Monitoring is on an as-needed basis, so availability for every weekend is not required. If interested, please contact Deputy Commissioner of Personnel Sandra Dare at extension 5730 or email her at sdare@ocgov.net.

The New York State Department of Health has launched an Aging Innovation Challenge for state college and university students with a \$50,000 prize pool. The challenge is seeking breakthrough solutions in independent living for older adults and their caregivers. Written proposals are due by April 30. For more information, visit www.herox.com/aginginnovationNY

As of January 1, tobacco product and e-device use is prohibited by local law on all property owned or leased by Oneida County. This includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, powdered tobacco or any other matter which contains tobacco. It also bans the use of electronic cigarettes, cigars and pipes, or any other such device. Those not adhering to the local law will be issued a violation punishable by a civil penalty that includes a fine up to \$200 for the first offense and a fine up to a \$1,000 for a second and each subsequent offense. The law and maps of county properties can be viewed at www.ocgov.net.

Wilson Wins American Heart Association Award



Rod Wilson, a Network Administrator in the Oneida County Central Services Information Technology Department, recently won the American Heart Association's 2018 Mohawk Valley Lifestyle Change Award.

The Lifestyle Change Award is presented annually at the America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk to someone who has made a significant and positive change to improve his or her overall health and quality of life. The recipient is chosen to inspire others to improve their health and educate them on how to make similar changes.



After topping out at 275 pounds in 2015, Rod has lost more than 100 pounds through a change in diet and an increase in exercise.

Dress Down Days

♥ **American Heart Association:** Oneida County employees raised \$1,670 for the American Heart Association through a Dress Down Day on March 9. The fundraiser was originally scheduled to take place on March 2, which was the day before the America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk, but had to be rescheduled because a winter storm forced the closing of county offices. The Oneida County Office Building was lit red the weekend the Heart Run & Walk took place.

❖ **American Cancer Society:** County employees raised \$1,455 on March 23 through a Dress Down Day to raise awareness for colorectal cancer. The Oneida County Office Building was also lit blue for the majority of the month in honor of this cause.



Many Oneida County Employees wore blue on March 23 to raise awareness for colorectal cancer. Pictured here are: Front row (L-R): Ed Bell, Kathy Paciello, Diane Tinelli Miller, Bobbi Kahl. Standing (L-R): Michelle Jones, Lynda Kiefer, Michelle Ward, Danny DiMaggio, Sarah Eggan, Robin Potenski, Rachel Evans

❖ **Feed Our Vets:** A Dress Down Day on Dec. 8 raised \$1,105 for the Feed Our Vets organization in Utica this holiday season. Last year, Feed Our Vets distributed more than 257,000 pounds of food to just over 3,000 veterans and their spouses and children.



Area veterans stock up on donated food at the Feed Our Vets outreach center on Genesee Street in Utica.

United Way

Thanks to the generosity of the Oneida County workforce, more than \$21,000 was raised for the United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area's 2018 campaign. Our county employees made these donations through methods such as paycheck deductions, bake sales, 50/50 raffles and the big Holiday Basket Raffle. Representatives from the United Way came by the County Office Building last month to thank us for our donations.



County Executive Picente joins employees in the United Way Holiday Basket Raffle.



(L-R) County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., Oneida County United Way Committee Member June Hanrahan, Oneida County United Way Committee Member Valerie Laymon, Oneida County United Way Committee Member Sherri LaSalle, Oneida County United Way Committee Member Jackie St. Thomas, United Way Previous Interim Director Tim Reed, United Way Campaign Coordinator Carli Sterling, Oneida County United Way Committee Member Judy Ingalls and United Way Resource Development Coordinator Sandy Allbright.

Thea Bowman House

The children who receive services at Thea Bowman House in Utica had their holidays brightened a bit because of our county workforce which donated several items including clothing, baby supplies, books and school supplies that were dropped off just before Christmas by County Executive Picente.



(L-R) Thea Bowman House Family Advocate Diana Greene, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., Thea Bowman House Executive Director Jane Domingue, Thea Bowman House Program Director Sandra Wright and participants from the child care program.

Two New Department Heads Named

The Departments of Aviation and Central Services have new leaders at their helms.

Michael "Chad" Lawrence was appointed as Aviation Commissioner at the Oneida County Griffiss International Airport in early January and AnneMarie Ambrose was named as the new Director of Central Services in early March.

Lawrence had been Deputy Commissioner under former Commissioner Russell Stark since 2013. He began his career with Oneida County in 1995 as the airport maintenance supervisor at the old county airport located in Oriskany. He became the superintendent of the airport, now located at Griffiss International Airport, in 2006.

"I have seen first-hand what Griffiss has become and I believe in County Executive Picente's vision of where Griffiss can go from here," Lawrence said. "This community, which has been my home for my entire life, has one of the most unique economic assets in the entire county at Griffiss and I'm honored to have this opportunity. I thank County Executive Picente for the chance to grow this test site and airport."

Lawrence now oversees all functions of the airport which include providing a safe and well-maintained facility to serve the current and future commercial, corporate, business, governmental and general aviation needs of the county and state. The goal of the Griffiss International Airport is to expand its economic impact and continue to grow as the premiere UAS testing facility in the United States.

Ambrose has spent 26 years supporting technology and the past 13 in higher education. Just prior to being hired by Oneida County, she served as Executive Director of Information Services at Herkimer County Community College, and during her 12 years at that institution, also worked as Director of Information Services and a Senior Programmer/Analyst.

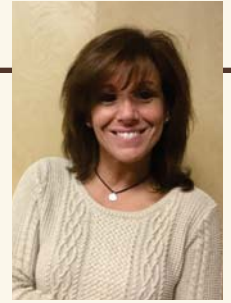
She was also a Programmer/Analyst for six years at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and a Computer Support Specialist and Programmer at the Bank of New York Mellon for 13 years.

As Director of Central Services, Ambrose oversees the county's information technology, mail room and print shop.

"I am looking forward to working with the dedicated group of individuals that currently comprise the Central Services Department as we research technologies that will continue to enrich the computing of our county community," Ambrose said. "I am also eager to get to know all of our stakeholders, and to learn how the current complex IT environment has positively impacted their daily work."



Aviation Commissioner
Chad Lawrence



Central Services Director
AnneMarie Ambrose

Oneida County Child Advocacy Center Earns National Reaccreditation

The Oneida County Child Advocacy Center has been awarded reaccreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process.

As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers across the country, the National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

Accredited CACs must undergo a reaccreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually being applied. With accreditation standards being updated in 2010, reaccreditation this year reflects Oneida County's commitment to providing evidence-based methods practice.

"As an organization/team of individuals dedicated to responding to child abuse, we recognize the importance of maintaining an accredited status from the National Children's Alliance," said CAC Director Joseph Lisi, who also serves as Chief Deputy of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. "Reaccreditation not only validates our organization's dedication to proven effective approaches of child abuse intervention and prevention, but also contributes to consistency across the child advocacy center movement as a whole."



(L-R) Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., Oneida County Child Advocacy Center Director Joseph Lisi, Oneida County Commissioner of Social Services Colleen Box-Fahy and Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol.

Founded in January 1990 as the Oneida County Child Sexual Abuse Task Force, it was renamed the Oneida County Child Advocacy Center in 1998. The Oneida County Department of Social Services developed the CAC in conjunction with the Oneida County District Attorney and Sheriff. Investigators for the center are assigned by the county Sheriff's Office, New York State Police and Utica, Rome and Whitesboro Police Departments.