



Message From the Chairman



Ulster County is proud to finally welcome the Empire State Games to the Hudson Valley on July 27, 2005 in what should prove to be a busy summer. There has been a tremendous amount of work put into organizing this wonderful occasion. This event should be particularly special to area residents since this the first time in the history of the Empire State Games that the Hudson Valley region will be hosting the Olympic style competitions. Facilities in New Paltz will host tennis, boxing, swimming, archery, and weightlifting; Saugerties will have canoe races along the Esopus Creek and Hudson River; Milton will accommodate wrestling competitions; and Gardiner will be a location for bicycle races. Athletic matches, races, contests and other performances will also take place in Orange and Dutchess Counties during the week long festivities. It is estimated between 25,000 and 30,000 people will visit the area during the games and help provide a much needed boost to tourism and spending for 2005. I encourage all Legislators and Ulster County residents to attend or participate. Anyone interested in volunteering can call (845) 505-GAME.

In addition to the Empire State Games, Ulster County is facing a complicated budget season. The process for assessing the 2006 budget has already begun and there will be many tough decisions this Legislature will have to face. Currently there is a freeze on all new positions and position upgrades. I have every confidence County Administrator Art Smith and his staff will continue to provide suggestions for additional sources of revenue. However, it is the duty of all County Legislators to create policies that will reduce expenditures. I ask that all department heads continue to work with Administration and the Legislature this year to help keep spending at a minimum. Ulster County has experienced difficult financial hardships in the past and has overcome those circumstances. I assure all taxpayers that we will again find ways to create a suitable spending plan while providing necessary services to our residents.

Message from the Clerk of the Legislature

The aftermath of the flooding of April still continues to plague the many who lost their homes and possessions. Many of the affected victims have not resolved the problems that they are dealing with. Many continue to be homeless and have to start over with little or limited resources. During these times of struggle we should reflect on the less fortunate and more needy than us and look for ways to help our fellow neighbors. The Red Cross is continually accepting donations to replenish their accounts as they have been called upon to help the recent flood victims (without depleting their Disaster Accounts). In addition, the Salvation Army and People's Place have been assisting the flood victims to meet their immediate needs. These agencies could use an extra boost to replenish their food banks, clothing items and furniture. A community yard sale could be organized to donate the collected items (or proceeds from the sale) for the victims. Other suggestions are bake sales and/or car washes. However, with your generosity, a small donation of any amount would help these people regain their self-respect and dignity.



Alternative Sentencing Ulster County Celebrates 20 Years of ATI Advisory Board Activities

The Ulster County Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board was established in 1985.

In 1983, Criminal Justice practitioners and Ulster County policy-makers formed a task force to confront the problem of rising jail overcrowding and the resulting aftermath in both human and fiscal tolls. This task force proposed the programming direction for the County, and guided it toward establishing a wide array of solutions. After conducting an analysis of the County's jail population, their first recommendation was to implement a program of community service. This was to become Ulster County Alternative Sentencing. In 1985, concurrent with supporting State legislation, the Task Force became the Alternatives To Incarceration Program Board.

An inclusive body, the board synthesized the input of prosecution, defense, enforcement, judiciary, service providers and elected officials to provide the County with innovative and effective programming. Its membership includes the District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Probation Director, Mental Health Director, Legislators, Judges, and local service providers.

In accordance with its mission, the ATI Board has been responsible for the creation of UC Alternative Sentencing, UC Community Corrections, the Defender Based Advocate in the Public Defenders Office, and enhanced Pre-Trial services in the Probation Department. Each of these programs was the result of collaborative problem-solving, addressing a specific issue manifested within the jail population. These programs were begun under the Legislative leadership of Richard Mathews, who made criminal justice issues a priority during his chairmanship at the Legislature. He served twice as Chair of the ATI Board.

UC Alternative Sentencing began operation in January 1986. It diverts selected jail-bound offenders into programs of community service as an alternative to incarceration. Starting with a program of individual community service, it was later enhanced to include work crews, as a direct response to the increase in weekend jail sentences. These work crews directly reduced the weekend jail population. To provide judges with greater sentencing options, the crews were later expanded to include weekdays. The crews now operate seven days per week.

An average of 421 offenders enter the program each year and perform 24,028 hours of community service annually. In addition to saving costs of incarceration, in excess of one third million dollars worth of labor is completed annually for local not-for-profit, charitable and municipal organizations.

The **Ulster County Community Corrections Program (CCP)**, the first of its type in New York and a prototype for the rest of the State when it opened its doors over 14 years ago, is geared toward non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems. Its mission is to reduce jail overcrowding and to prevent offenders from repeating their actions by facilitating treatment for substance abusers, thus resulting in saving taxpayer dollars. To this end CCP facilitates treatment for between 125 and 150 former inmates annually with a total of 10,720 County jail bed-days saved in 2004 and a commensurate savings in the cost of incarceration. It operates 24 hours a day.

Ulster County Pre-Trial Release, a unit of the County Probation Department, provides critical background information to Criminal Courts throughout Ulster County regarding inmates detained at the Ulster County Jail in lieu of bail. Operating 365 days per year, the Pre-Trial staff interviews all incarcerated offenders detained and provides decision making information to judges using a risk assessment instrument regarding criminal history, community roots, housing options, employment opportunities, mental health issues, and substance needs to note a few key areas of importance. This information aids the Judiciary in determining if the offender is likely to return on his or her scheduled court date if released on bail, on their own recognizance (ROR), or under the supervision of the Pre-Trial staff (RUS). Those released under supervision have conditions imposed to insure their compliance and return to court as scheduled. Conditions of release may include reporting in person, drug and alcohol testing, mental health treatment, obtaining employment, enrolling in an education program or even electronic monitoring or house arrest. In 2004, 531 eligible inmates were interviewed at the jail, and 243 were released, thus saving 8,773 possible bed days.

The **Defender Based Advocate** provides assistance to the Defense for the Public Defender's Office and Assigned Counsel. Individuals are interviewed to determine eligibility for bail expediting or referral to services. Connections are made with programs for housing, substance abuse, or mental health treatment. Individualized sentencing recommendations are provided to defense attorneys and the Courts. Over 150 defendants are processed each year, reducing pre-trial detention time and providing input to courts that results in more informed sentencing.

In addition, The ATI Board has provided resource material to assist all courts and professionals in finding appropriate services for offenders by creating the County's Judicial Resource Manual. Intended to be used from the bench, its purpose is to provide information to judges which may divert selected offenders from unnecessary incarceration, or enlist community organizations to enhance case supervision, treatment and/or monitoring.

For the last 20 years the ATI Board has responded to numerous and challenging problems.

Each year brings greater challenges for Criminal Justice practitioners and the population in general. The past four years have created special concerns in the areas of security and information-sharing. The Board will continue to provide guidance and expertise to Ulster County and will meet those challenges with the vigor and successes it has had in the past.

Past Chairmen:

Richard B. Mathews
Hon. Joseph J. Traficanti, Jr.

Current Chairman: John Naccarato

Current Membership:

Hon. J. Michael Bruhn	County Court Judge
Donald Williams	District Attorney
J. Richard Bockelmann	Ulster County Sheriff
Hon. Edward T. Feeney	Kingston City Court Judge
Marshall Beckman	Mental Health Director
Robert Sudlow	Probation Director
Richard Mathews	Commissioner of Jurors
Glenn Decker	Commissioner of Social Services
Will Myers	Assistant Public Defender
Jo Galante	Ulster – Greene ARC
Hon. Richard Husted	Town Justice, Woodstock
Hon. Paula Leonard	Town Justice, Ulster
Gerald Kellar	Chief of Police, City of Kingston
Karen Spinozzi	Deputy County Administrator
Jeanette Provenzano	Ulster County Legislator
Al Meyer	U. C. Legislator, Chair Criminal Justice Committee

Submitted by: Charlene Cappillino, Coordinator



Office of Employment & Training



The Ulster County Workforce Development Board (WDB) welcomed Congressman Maurice Hinchey to their May 6, 2005, board meeting in which they unveiled their latest workforce report. About 60 people joined the Board to discuss the WDB 2005 Workforce Report and hear the Congressman speak about workforce issues. This was followed by a tour of the Ulster County OneStop Job Center.

"Things are changing so fast. We are living in revolutionary times. It is important for us to try our best... to keep up with the trends and developments as best we can. Looking at trends globally and nationally is important to give us sense of where we fit into that picture." Hinchey said.

Congressman Hinchey cited Ulster County's proximity to New York City with the dramatic growth in the region. "We benefit in some ways, but in other ways we have to accommodate ourselves to it." he said.

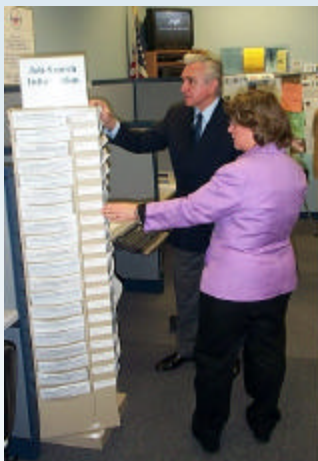
Congressman Hinchey presented the Ulster County OneStop with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Ulster County Chairman Richard A. Gerentine also delivered a proclamation declaring May as OneStop month in Ulster County. He cited the accomplishments of the WDB and thanked them for their services. "This cannot happen unless everyone works together." he added.

Chairman Gerentine thanked Congressman Hinchey for his support of workforce issues and other Ulster County programs. "This is a diverse group of people, and that's what it takes to make something successful. People come together, put in valuable time, personal time, make sacrifices to make the workforce more productive and make Ulster County overall more productive." Chairman Gerentine said.

The entire 2005 Workforce Report is available under Workforce Development Board Meetings at <http://www.workforcenewyork.com/ulster/events.htm> or by contacting the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training at 845-340-3170

Submitted by: Fawn Tantillo, Director, OET



WDB Director Fawn Tantillo shows Congressman Maurice Hinchey some of the computers and information worksheets available to job seekers at the Ulster County OneStop.



Congressman Hinchey speaks with Katharine Langling, a student at Onteora High School about her future plans.

Right: Two Ulster Workforce Development Board members David Dittmann II, Customer Service Manager with Central Hudson, and his father David Dittmann, Owner of Wardwell Woodstocks discuss workforce issues with Congressman Maurice Hinchey at the OneStop Center



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

SERVING ULSTER COUNTY SINCE 1683 - ACCREDITED SINCE 1992

SHERIFF J. RICHARD BOCKELMANN ★ ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES RECEIVE PORTABLE DEFIBRILLATORS



The Ulster County Sheriff's Department and the Village of Ellenville Police Department received automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) as a result of a New York State Office of Rural Health grant. Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute, operator of the Family Practice Centers of Ellenville, Kingston, New Paltz, Port Ewen, New Windsor & Hyde Park, was awarded this \$4,000.00 grant for the purpose of placing AED units in locations accessible to first responders in rural areas. The Institute worked with First Sergeant Vincent Altieri of the Ulster County Sheriff's Department and Chief of Police Philip Mattracion of the Village of Ellenville Police Department, to place three units in Department vehicles.

Traditionally, the ability to defibrillate was solely in the hands of emergency medical personnel. AEDs are a new generation of defibrillators that make it possible for trained lay rescuers to deliver an electronic shock in the event of a cardiac arrest. The new AEDs are safe, effective, lightweight, low maintenance and easy to use, and have improved survival rates for cardiac arrest victims in remote locations when quick EMS response isn't always possible.

According to Sheriff's Captain, Harry VanVliet IV "The addition of two AED units will enhance the possibility of saving a victim's life, where police are often first to arrive on the scene of a traumatic incident."

Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute is a not for profit, medical services and medical education organization with its corporate offices located in New Paltz. The Institute manages and operates six family practice centers, two dental care centers and two OB/GYN care centers in Ulster, Dutchess and Orange counties. The Institute has been the recipient of Rural Health Network Development Program grants for the past four years. This First Responder AED grant was in collaboration with the New York State Healthy Heart Program, Health Research, Inc. and the American Heart Association.

Submitted by: Captain Harry VanVliet, IV

Officer of the Year Named

Michael Coughlin, a Correction Officer with the Correction Division of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, has been named as the **2004 Officer of the Year**.

His selection was made by the Department Awards Committee of the Sheriff's Office. Nominees for this award come from the entire department. This year he had the distinct honor of being the unanimous choice by the divisions' tour commanders.

Correction Officer Coughlin is a 15-year veteran of the Corrections Division. He is the divisions' classification officer and is responsible for maintaining compliance with standards set forth by the New York State Commission of Corrections. Prior to becoming the classification officer, Officer Coughlin worked as the lead intake officer for the 8-4 shift.

Officer Coughlin plays an important role in managing the overcrowded inmate population. He has the added responsibility of overseeing the boarding out of prisoners. This is a monumental task considering there are usually 25 or more inmates boarded out per day.



In addition to their outstanding service to the department, candidates for the **Officer of the Year** are judged on the basis of their work ethic, motivation, policy compliance, communications skills and professionalism. Each must provide a positive role model and sound judgment in stressful or emergency situations.

He has worked to fine tune the intake process to accommodate the greater influx of prisoners over the past year. Lauded as a team player, Officer Coughlin goes the extra mile, often taking on additional responsibilities and volunteering to make sure the job is done. Officer Coughlin's professionalism and positive image reflects well on the facility as well as the department as a whole.

Submitted by: Harry VanVliet IV, Captain

Protecting Farmland In Ulster County



Breathtaking views of orchards in bloom and the freshly tilled fields found along the Rondout Valley corridor let you know that spring has arrived in Ulster County. Our farming heritage goes back hundreds of years with the country's first commercial apple orchard having been established in Esopus in 1820. Blessed with good soils and a long growing season, our farms currently produce a bounty of products sold throughout the Northeast. However, relentless development pressure continues to contribute to a steady decline in agriculture.

The problems associated with increasing urbanization in Ulster County are well documented. Presently, orchards and former dairy farms are being converted to residential developments at an accelerated rate causing housing developments to encroach on agricultural areas bringing ever increasing pressure to bear on those engaged in agricultural endeavors. Despite this, local growers and many communities throughout the County remain united in their desire to preserve farming.

New York State's Farmland Preservation Program is one tool available to those interested in preserving farmland and agriculture. The program provides grant funds through the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets to purchase development rights from willing farmers and placing agricultural land in conservation easements that continue to allow farm activities while restricting non-agricultural related development.

The program aims to keep farms in agriculture by compensating farmers for the difference between the value of their property as an agricultural business and the value if it was sold for development. The value of the land depends on numerous factors including the size of the parcel, road frontage and existing zoning regulations. The State covers 75 percent of the cost of the purchase while County or town municipalities and organizations such as Scenic Hudson or The Open Space Institute have provided the remaining 25 percent. Long time growers benefit by receiving the development value

for their property without the development, and it can reduce costs of entry and value for new farmers by creating agricultural and farming availability.

In the most recent round of funding, two Marbletown farms received a \$279,000 supplemental grant to compensate increased property values on an earlier award. This is the fourth grant the County has received from the State for the program. A total of over \$3.3 million has been allocated to preserve 1,400 acres. For additional information about the next round of funding, please contact Lydia M.C. Reidy, Chair, Ulster County Farmland Protection Board and Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, at (845) 340-3990.

Submitted by: Lisa Berger



A Learning Experience in Magnificent Gardens

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Master Gardener Program hosts its annual Mohonk Garden Walk and Luncheon at Mohonk Mountain House, in New Paltz on Thursday, June 30, 2005. The guided two-hour walk, led by Mohonk garden and landscape professionals and Ulster County Master Gardeners, is a not-to-be-missed event for garden enthusiasts. It includes a complete tour of the annual and perennial beds, the formal flower gardens and the greenhouse. In addition to enjoying the beauty of the splendorous gardens, tour participants receive information about a variety of growing, cultural and pest management practices. Tours begin 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. with lunch at 12:00 noon in the West Dining Room. Dave Chinery, Cornell Cooperative Extension Horticulture and Turf Specialist, will give a slide presentation: *Landscaping in the Hudson Valley*. The fee is \$45. The maximum number of people that can be accommodated is 150, so please register early. **No refunds** will be issued. To register, please call Jenny Burkins, Agriculture Program Secretary, at 340-3990 or go to www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster to download a registration form. Deadline for registration is June 24, 2005. For more information please call the Horticulture Hotline 340-3478 (DIRT).

Submitted by: Lisa Berger

Your Garden Can Help Feed the Hungry

This growing season, our Master Gardener program is looking for gardeners like you to help them feed the hungry by joining their **Plant a Row For the Hungry (PAR)** campaign. This people-helping-people program encourages home gardeners to grow a little extra and donate the produce to local nutrition programs, soup kitchens and food banks serving the homeless and hungry.

Did you know that there are over 70 million gardeners in the U.S. alone, many who plant vegetables and harvest more than they can consume? If every gardener plants one extra row of vegetables and donates their surplus, a significant impact can be made on reducing hunger. Food agencies will have access to fresh produce. Funds earmarked for produce can be redirected to other needed items. Our hungry friends and neighbors will have more and better food than is presently available. Launched in 1995, this national program developed by the Garden Writer's Association of America, has been successful in communities throughout the country.

To join Cornell Cooperative Extension's **Plant A Row** campaign, all you have to do is plant a little extra or share the extra you have from your home vegetable garden. When harvesting, bag up the extra and drop it off at our office. Our nutrition education programs, which provide education to low-income individuals, families and youth, will use and distribute the food as they go out to teach. Donated produce will also be given to food pantries in Kingston, Ellenville and New Paltz. Home gardeners participating in the program will even be able to receive special advice from Master Gardeners about what to grow and how to plant.

If you're ready to help the hungry in Ulster County, call our Master Gardener Program to receive an information packet, registration form and a free "Plant a Row" veggie marker at 340-3478 (DIRT), or visit our website: www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster.

Submitted by: Lisa Berger





Office for the Aging



May was Older Americans Month and we celebrated with Senior Games. This year, we had more than 200 participants enjoying games such as golf, miniature golf, trivia, bridge, bocci, horseshoes, billiards, pinochle and more. The weather cooperated with the outdoor games! The awards luncheon was held at Ulster County Community College on June 10th, and there was a great turnout. The theme this year was patriotic and the wearing of the Red, White and Blue.

The State Budget has been passed, and the aging programs will benefit seniors. Our programs will be expanded to assist more home-bound clients and provide educational programs for Medicare Part D. Senior clubs requesting a program to explain the changes may call our office to arrange for a speaker to explain the upcoming changes at 340-3456.

We are preparing for our *Live, Laugh and Learn Day* on August 24th. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call our office at 340-3456. We will have some very interesting courses this year, including WWII History, Opera, Doll Collecting, four Internet classes, our version of the Antique Road Show, and much more. This one-day program will be at the Business Resource Center in Kingston.

Senior Citizen Day at the Ulster County Fair will be Thursday, August 4th. We will celebrate the day with a "Fashion Show." Health education and screening will be provided on the Care-A-Van throughout the day. Please join us for a great time!

There are several changes coming in Medicare. Throughout 2005, Medicare will provide you with more information about Medicare prescription drug plans, including how to choose and join a drug plan that best meets your needs. In the fall of 2005, the Medicare & You 2006 handbook will list the Medicare prescription drug plans available in your area, and you will be able to get personalized information of the official Medicare Web Site www.medicare.gov. In mid-2005, the Social Security Administration will send information to people with certain incomes about how to apply for extra help to pay for their prescription drug costs.

If you have prescription drug coverage through your employer or a union, you will get a notice from your employer or union that tells you if your plan covers as

much as (or more than) a Medicare prescription drug plan. You can keep your current plan. If you choose to join a Medicare plan later, your monthly premium will not be higher. You can also drop your current drug plan and join a Medicare prescription drug plan, but you may not be able to get your employer or union drug plan back if you change your mind.

The Medicare approved drug discount cards that became effective in May 2004 are a way for you to get a discount on your prescriptions at a pharmacy. They work like other grocery or pharmacy discount cards you may have. You can sign up for one of these cards only until December 31, 2005. They are offered as a transition step to help people with Medicare save money on prescription drug costs until Medicare prescription drug plans become available. Remember, you can use your Medicare approved drug discount card until May 15, 2006, or until you join a Medicare prescription drug plan, whichever is first. Once you have a Medicare prescription drug plan, you cannot use your Medicare approved drug discount card. You will then get coverage for prescription drugs through the Medicare prescription drug plan instead of saving with the discount card. If you still have questions about Medicare prescription drug plans, call 1-800 MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov for more information. There will be an evening program at the Business Resource Center sponsored by the Office for the Aging and UCCC on October 18, 2005 which will provide additional information on Medicare D.

DID YOU KNOW THAT EPIC WILL PAY FOR A 30-DAY SUPPLY OR 100 PILLS, WHICHEVER IS GREATER? If the dosage of your prescription is one pill a day, ask your doctor to rewrite it for 100 pills and save on your co-pay.

If you would like to learn more about Medicare, or wish to be a counselor in our HIICAP program, call the Office for the Aging at 340-3456 for a discussion about training and volunteering.

Submitted by: MaryJo DeForest



Ulster County Sheriff's "TIPS FOR A SAFE BOATING SEASON"

- Take a boating safety class;
- Know your boat's load limit, and don't exceed it;
- Always carry the necessary safety gear;
- Knowing how to swim just makes good sense if you spend time on the water;
- Keep lifejackets visible and accessible;
- Learn "the rules of the road"...and obey them!;
- Be courteous to your fellow boater and watch your wake;
- Remember that alcohol beverages can slow your reaction time, reduce your coordination, and increase your susceptibility to hypothermia.



Remember: "Boats & Booze Don't Mix"

It is important to realize that on the water, even small amounts of alcohol may greatly impair one's ability to function in three critical areas: balance, coordination, and judgment. Compound this with such environmental stressors such as glare, heat, vibration and engine noise, you can become quickly fatigued, greatly slowing your reaction time.

Please visit the U.C. Sheriff's Navigation website @ www.co.ulster.ny.us/sheriff

For further media information, contact Captain Harry VanVliet IV @ 845-334-8333

Ulster County Pool

The Ulster County Pool, located in New Paltz, will be open from Saturday, June 18, 2005 through Monday, September 5, 2005 for your swimming pleasure. The park hours are 10:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.*

The 2005 fee schedule is as follows:

Daily Admission	Adult (13 & over)	\$ 3.50
Children	(12 & under)	1.75
Senior Citizen	(60 & over)	.75
Season's Pass	Family - any size	100.00
Adult	(13 & over)	40.00
Child	(12 & under)	22.50

Out of County Double Fee

*The park will be CLOSED on the following dates:
 July 9th and 10th - Hawks Invitation Swim Meet
 July 27 - 30 - Empire State Games

Ulster Landing Park

The lower picnic and beach area of Ulster Landing Park, located in the Town of Ulster, is open for picnicing from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on weekends until June 17, 2005. From Saturday, June 18, 2005 through Monday, September 5, 2005, the Park will be open every day from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with swimming and lifeguard services.

*The 2005 fee schedule is as follows:

Daily Admission	Adult (13 & over)	\$ 2.50
Children	(12 & under)	1.25
Senior Citizen	(60 & over)	.50
Season's Pass	Family (any size)	32.00
Adult	(13 & over)	15.00
Child	(12 & under)	9.00

Out of County Double Fee

*Ulster County Employees have free admission upon showing Ulster County I.D. Card.

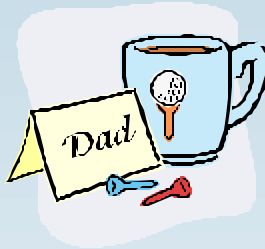
The park will be CLOSED on Saturday, July 16, 2005 and Sunday, July 17, 2005 as the park will be the starting point and finish of the 9th Annual Hudson Valley Tri-/Biathlon



Flag Day (June 14)



Summer Begins (June 21)



Father's Day (June 19)



Independence Day (July 4)



Lazy Days of Summer



REMINDER

Deadline for September 2005 Issue is August 23, 2005

Please e-mail articles to Kathy Sylvester

ksyl@co.ulster.ny.us