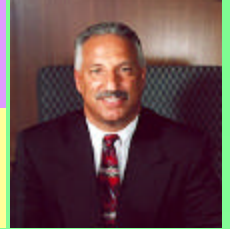




# ULSTER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005



## Message From the Chairman

As spring returns to the Hudson Valley, I am sure that I can speak for all of Ulster County when I say it is a welcomed transition from winter. With welcoming change into a new season, I would like to take this opportunity to also embrace the "Patriot Plan" as the most recent effort by the Legislature to give our citizens the very best in public service. This plan will allow for an extension on the payment of real property taxes for those men and women who are currently serving in the military. In Ulster County we are proud to have a number of individuals that have served in the military, and Spencer Wilson with the Department of Highways and Bridges, is currently serving with the 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 256 BCT (Brigade Combat Team) in Iraq. Spencer, and his family, will be direct beneficiaries of this new law. Kathy Jansen, from the Department of Public Works, has kept in touch with Spencer and it is my hope that a copy of this newsletter makes it overseas to him so that he may read with his own eyes that all of Ulster County sends our most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to him.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to all soldiers currently deployed and, I'd be remiss not to mention other employees of Ulster County who have served in the military. The service of these men have spanned over three decades from 1972 to 2005. On behalf of the County of Ulster let me take

this opportunity to thank those who have served and those who continue to serve in the defense of Liberty and Freedom. It is a great honor for me to thank and recognize: J. Richard Bockelmann, Sheriff's Department; Frederick Burkhardt, Ulster County Area Transit; Wayne Kiersted, Probation Department who has been active with the reserves for over 20 years and is a Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the Military Police; Timothy Mc Guire, Sheriff's Department; Thomas Moore Jr., Corrections Department; Warren Whitaker, Corrections Department; and Spencer Wilson, Highways and Bridges. It has also come to my attention that there may be other employees of Ulster County that have taken personal leaves of absence to serve in the armed forces, and we look forward to seeing these individuals, and all of the troops, return home safely as well.

## Message from the Clerk of the Legislature

This office has taken over the duties of Public Information from the newly created Office of Tourism. Since our department has assumed this role, the entire office staff has been eager to draft documents for official release to the media. As Chairman Gerentine pointed out to all department heads during their quarterly meeting, we would like to encourage all departments to utilize our office to promote the good things that are being done by Ulster County.

If any department has upcoming events that require press coverage, please send the information to [publicity@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:publicity@co.ulster.ny.us) or fax the information to (845) 340-3651. We will assist in all aspects of drafting a release, including photographs. All released material may also be found on the County's web-site. ([www.co.ulster.ny.us](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us))

CORNELL

Cooperative Extension

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

## Conference Focuses on Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity is an epidemic with wide implications for the future health of today's children. *"Our Overweight Children: What Educators, Schools and Communities Can Do,"* a conference sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties with help from the Hudson Valley Student Support Services Center and the Maternal-Infant Services Network, is something that educators, health professionals, dietitians, fitness instructors and others will want to attend.

This conference will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2005 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, Route 9, Fishkill, New York. Early bird registration is \$55.00 until March 10<sup>th</sup>, and \$65.00 per person after that date.

Featured speaker, Sharron Dalton, PhD, RD, will provide the most recent research information about childhood obesity, help participants explore what schools can do, how par-

ents and educators can help, and how communities can respond. The social, cultural and emotional dimensions of overweight children's lives will also be examined. Participants will be able to develop strategies for working with schools, families, caregivers, and children to promote healthy body weight and size in our children and adolescents. Parental and caregiver perspectives of health risks and weight control behaviors of children will be compared.

Sharron Dalton's teaching and research interests are in food choice behavior, childhood obesity and the dynamics of body weight management, and international nutrition. Dr. Dalton is on the School Food Plus Coalition, advisory group to the New York City Department of Education, Office of Support and Food Services. She has experience as a clinical dietitian, private practitioner and education specialist for a non-profit nutrition organization. She was a lead author of the 2001 Weight Management Certificate Program and is a member of the North American

Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO), American Obesity Association (AOA), and Society for Nutrition Education (SNE). Her book, *Our Overweight Children: What Parents, Schools, and Communities Can Do to Control the Fatness Epidemic* takes a look at what is behind the statistics and what can be done about this major health crisis.

To get more registration information please contact Susan Matson, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County at 845-340-3990 or via email: sbm9@cornell.edu.

Submitted by: Lisa Berger  
Marketing & Public Relations



## Local Students Attend 2005 4-H Capital Days

Local high school students, Jaime Churchill, from Saugerties, and Kacie Giuliano, of Olivebridge were part of a delegation representing thousands of 4-H members in New York State when they arrived in Albany on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for the 70<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Capital Days event. The teens traveled to Albany, along with 140 teen 4-H members from every county in the state and borough in New York City, to expand their knowledge of State Government.

As participants, they met with leaders in state government, members of the court system and officials from a variety of state agencies. Member of the Assembly, Paul Tonko, discussed the legislative process with the 4-H'ers, and if possible, they observed a working session of the State Legislature. They also learned about speaking to their legislators and participated in a quiz bowl that tested their knowledge about State Government.

Jaime and Kacie learned about career opportunities in government as they toured state agencies, participated in discussion sessions and visited with their legislators Senator John Bonacic and Assemblymen Kevin Cahill and Dan Hooker. They also toured the Capitol and visited the Corning Tower and State Museum.

Jaime Churchill, age 16, is a junior at Saugerties High School and has actively participated in 4-H for 11 years. She is the New York State 4-H Poultry Science Champion and represented New York at the national competition held in Louisville, Kentucky. She is the daughter of Roxanne and Victor Churchill.

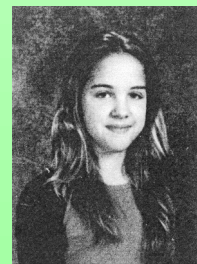
Kacie Giuliano, age 14, attends John A. Coleman Catholic

High School where she is a freshman. She started in 4-H as a Cloverbud at the age of 6. Kacie is the daughter of Marylou and Michael Giuliano. Debra Cascio, 4H Community Educator, accompany the delegates. The 4-H Capital Days program is sponsored by the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators.

For more information regarding 4-H call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County at 340-3990.



Jaime Churchill



Kacie Giuliano

Submitted by: Lisa Berger  
Marketing & Public Relations



## Office for the Aging



### THE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING IS GEARING UP FOR THE BUSY SPRING CALENDAR

The Tax Counselors are busy at eight sites. They include Kingston, two sites in New Paltz, Port Ewen, Saugerties, Stone Ridge, Woodstock and Marlboro. The counselors will do tax returns for seniors and low income residents. For more information, call Holly at Ext. 3456.

We have just begun a YOGA Program at the Highland Dining Site at the First United Methodist Church, 57 Vineyard Avenue, Highland on Thursdays for seniors. We also have a craft class as well on Mondays at the same location. Our clients are enjoying these services. It's all part of our Senior Wellness program.

The Live, Laugh and Learn Committee is planning for our day in August at the Business Resource Center (BRC). Anyone who would like to teach a one time class during this program, should call and let us know. We have several County employees teaching such subjects as photography and doll collecting. Last year, we had more than 225 seniors enjoy this one

day program. The fee of \$5.00 covers the cost of printing, mailing and other small expenses connected with the program.

Ellen Greczynski Sheerer and her pals are now planning the Annual Senior Games which will begin in May and continue until June at Ulster County Community College. The event will end with a GREAT AMERICAN LUNCHEON for all the participants. Some of the games include Golf, Miniature Golf, Bowling, Trivia, Bridge, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, etc., and the games are played at venues throughout the County. If you would like to participate or have friends and/or family who would like to be part of the fun, call the office at ext. 3456 at the end of February for an application. There is a cost for the individual games, but the luncheon is being sponsored by Wellcare.

The Care-A-Van will be out on the road beginning April 1st. For more information about the activities, call our Office at Ext. 3456.

Submitted by: Kathryn Puglisi, Director  
Office for the Aging

## Highways and Bridges Department

John Perkins, Section Supervisor in the Southeastern Tier (New Paltz, Plattekill, Lloyd, Marlborough, Esopus, and part of Rosendale), has completed the requirements for Level I of the Road Master recognition program through Cornell Cooperative Extension.

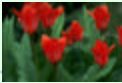
Cornell Cooperative Extension established the Road Master Program to recognize the completion by local highway officials of a prescribed series of core and optional training sessions offered by the Cornell Local Roads Program. The training provided knowledge of the fundamentals of road maintenance and management techniques, and the opportunity to receive public recognition for the achievement.

In order to be recognized as a Road Master, John has completed at least two core workshops and four optional workshops, and the necessary quizzes. Cornell Cooperative has presented John with a certificate and a memento of his accomplishment.

Local highway officials are dedicated to maintaining a safe and modern local road network that serves the traveling public and encourages economic vitality in New York State. It is an important job because the majority of the almost 100,000 miles of roads in our State are local roads.

***Congratulations, John!***

*Submitted by: Pat Strahl*



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

SERVING ULSTER COUNTY SINCE 1683 - ACCREDITED SINCE 1992

SHERIFF J. RICHARD BOCKELMANN ★ ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

Ulster County Sheriff J. Richard Bockelmann announces a grant award in the amount of \$22,931 from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the Sheriff's participation in the NYS Electronic Ticket and Accident Report Project. The project goal is to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths on Ulster County roads. The Sheriff's participation in this project will continue under the direction of Captain Harry VanVliet IV, in partnership with Ulster County Information Services Department, and the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board.

Known as "TraCS" (Traffic and Criminal Software), the program is a computer application which was developed in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the State of Iowa, NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, NYS Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Court Administration, Department of Transportation, Division of Criminal Justice Services, NYS Chiefs and Sheriff's Association, and others.

The TraCS program produces a traffic ticket and accident report, including associated documents such as supporting depositions, in the police vehicle using a laptop computer, hand-held scanner and printer. This "electronic ticket" or "electronic accident report" can then be electronically transmitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles and to those courts capable of receiving this data.

According to Capt. VanVliet, the TraCS program contains a host of other benefits beyond improving highway safety statistical data. The TraCS computer program contains databases of suspended and revoked drivers, stolen vehicles and other public safety information readily available to the deputy. Legible tickets will be produced by the computer and printer, thereby reducing motorist confusion associated with handwritten documents and data entry errors. Officer safety and efficiency will also be improved by reducing the time spent at the traffic stop.

The data generated by TraCS will improve the efficiency of traffic records systems of police agencies, DMV and the courts. They will reduce the costly redundant paper ticket and data entry costs, and more accurate and timely data will be available to police and other traffic safety professionals. Errors in ticket and accident reports will also be reduced. Reductions in errors will mean more accurate driver's license and registration files and fewer court dismissals.

**Contact Information: Captain Harry VanVliet IV @ 334-8333.**



Sheriff J. Richard Bockelmann has announced the renovation of the Ulster County Sheriff's office website, which is now published for public viewing. The revised site includes various changes to enhance user experience and information. The Sheriff's website address remains as:

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/sheriff>

The Sheriff's *Crime Tips Hotline* is available to the public to anonymously report information concerning crimes or wanted/missing persons. The *Crime Tips Hotline* number is (845) 340-3599. ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THIS LINE WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

## Police Departments Respond to Hudson Valley Mall Shootings

On Sunday February 13, 2005 at approximately 3:11 p.m., a chilling broadcast was reported over the Ulster County radio channel of "shots being fired" at the Best Buy in the Hudson Valley Mall. Within minutes, several deputies, along with the Town of Ulster Police Department and the New York State Police, arrived to confront a 24-year-old armed with a Hesse Model 47, 7.62mm x 39mm assault rifle. The perpetrator fired copious rounds upon several civilians, injuring two victims and causing extensive property damage.

Within a short period of time, over 30 members of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene including

K9, emergency services, detectives, supervisors, and Command-level staff to support Town and State police in safely ending this tragic event.

Sheriff Bockelmann, who also immediately responded to the scene, recently commended the members of his agency for their selfless and relentless courage displayed while responding to protect citizens' lives.

Submitted by:  
Captain Harry VanVliet



**News from the  
Department of Social Services**

**ULSTER COUNTY  
RECEIVES FOSTER CARE  
INCENTIVE GRANT**

New York State Office of Family and Children Services recognized the Department of Social Services recent success in reducing the number of children in foster care with an award of \$128,734 to improve our foster care system. In August 2004, a Foster Home Recruiter position was established and funded by utilizing a portion of the Foster Care Incentive Grant award. Corrine Lesko, MA, was hired for this Home Finding Unit posi-

tion. Corrine initiated many recruitment strategies; and some general recruitment techniques targeting mass audiences are posting billboards, public service announcements, and a recruitment dinner.

Corinne made numerous contacts within Ulster County targeting various Councils of Churches, human services agencies, PTA's, restaurants, and businesses. In addition, Corinne worked along with a foster parent to create a media presentation to use for recruitment group presentations. The first DSS/Foster Parent collaborative meet-

ing met in February, which brought home-finding staffs and foster parents together to discuss recruitment strategies. Our foster parents are the best recruiters of foster homes. It is to be noted that Corinne has participated in many networking activities over the last six months and contributed to the success of the current Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting training being offered for foster parents.

Submitted by:  
Elizabeth Hillegas

**FEDERAL ADOPTION INCENTIVE  
FUNDS**

Ulster County Department of Social Services has been awarded \$46,703 in Federal adoption incentive funds. Funds were based on the success of local districts in achieving permanency for foster children through adoption. The Federal adoption incentive payments were allocated to districts that increased adoptions in 2003 over the 2002 statistics for foster children--children ages 9 or older and special needs children younger than age 9.

This award will be used to provide services to prevent first or subsequent out-of-home placements of children from birth homes or adoptive parents or guardians. Up to 30% of the incentive funds may be used for post-adoption services.

The acquisition of these incentive funds can be attributed to the hard work and diligent efforts of

the Department of Social Services foster care staffs.

Submitted by:  
Elizabeth Hillegas





**News from the  
Department of Social Services**

**HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a Federally funded program designed to help low-income households meet rising energy costs. Anyone can apply. HEAP is divided into two components—regular HEAP assistance and emergency HEAP. Emergency HEAP benefits include fuel, heat related utility, and repair/replacement of essential heating equipment. An applicant’s age, disability status, household size, income, and resources are a few of the considerations when determining eligibility for benefits.

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, local social services districts, and alternate certifying agencies such as Ulster County Office for Aging and Ulster County Community Action, all contribute to authorizing or certifying HEAP benefits. Payments are paid directly to a vendor or, in the case of some wood stove users, paid directly to the applying households. If rents are not Federally funded and include heat, benefits are paid directly to applicants.

Ulster County offers several sites for filing applications—Department of Social Services 334-5436; Office for Aging 340-3006; Community Action offices in Ellenville 647-6061 or Highland 691-8722 or Kingston 338-7650 x114. All applications are forwarded to the Social Services Office for processing. Appointments are necessary at all locations except the Social Services Office. Applicants may visit DSS between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. weekdays. Households with “after-hours” emergencies are advised to call their local town police, town supervisor, or Ulster County Sheriff’s Department.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Hillegas

Want a free tax preparation?

Want to get your cash back fast?

Want a bigger refund?

Want free financial advice?

Of course—U earned it!

Many individuals have become successfully engaged in the workforce as a result of our Welfare to Work program which provides many benefits. One successful benefit offered to individuals who earn \$36,000 or less is free income tax preparation assistance.

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance hosts sites within local departments of Social Services. Ulster County is currently hosting a site for the second year. This year, the Department of Social Services partnered with RUPCO and various local agencies and sponsored a Tax Bonus Day this past January 29th. Volunteers completed and filed 49 return with returns amounting to over \$180,000!

The Ulster County Department of Social Services is proud to offer this service to our residents, insuring residents receive maximum refunds and credits.

Marijane Knudsen is the DSS contact person to answer any questions and to schedule appointments. She can be reached at 334-5358.

Submitted by:  
Elizabeth Hillegas



## ***Ulster County Youth Bureau***

### **Collaboration is the Name of the Game**

What started as just good networking skills among like minded agencies has developed into an industry standard for service oriented programs. Collaboration has tangible and intangible benefits for organizations. At a 2003 statewide forum, some of these benefits were identified as improving the allocation of resources and getting new grants, increasing customer satisfaction, creating a common language, reducing duplication of services, building relationships that create shortcuts to barriers between agencies, and getting members out of silos. This has been a huge success here in Ulster County.

From a \$365,000 annual grant to the Ellenville community for after-school activities to a \$250,000 annual federal grant for a countywide drug abuse prevention coalition, collaboration means business for youth service organizations. In a funding climate of decreasing state dollars to our municipalities and existing youth programs, agencies are now reinventing what services they offer to better fit in collaborative activities. This change has been slow for some but for those who have developed the collaborative table from the ground up, the sharing of the pool of dollars means continuation of programs in our community.

Collaboration does not end with the dollar signs. In the true spirit of collaboration, Ulster County agencies have consistently come together to share ideas, resources and plans for individual youth and families. The ability to dialogue has meant quick action and response for all areas of need in our community. For instance, when a crisis situation occurs, such

as the occurrence at a local shopping outlet, the Ulster County Mental Health Department, the Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Crime Victims, Family of Woodstock, YMCA of Ulster County and the Youth Bureau mobilized to offer support and resources to youth and families throughout Ulster County. Information and support opportunities was offered to all youth serving organizations quickly through multiple communication sources. A special thank you must be given to Lt. Matthew Taggard of the Town of Ulster Police Department for answering our youth's questions with factual information and empowering our youth to dispel the myths associated with this occurrence. This collaboration, coupled with all area school districts offering support immediately to its students meant a full spectrum of services were available to youth and families affected by this incident.

The key to the successful collaboration that has happened here in Ulster County is the common knowledge of the variety of resources that not only is available but is actively working together in response to youth and family needs. The inside joke of not being able to attend yet one more meeting is testament to the commitment our service providers have to ensure not only the quality of their own program but the collaboration and communication with other programs.

Submitted by: Krista Barringer, Director  
Youth Bureau

## **Civil Service Exams Scheduled**

Several Civil Service Examinations have been scheduled for both Open-Competitive and Promotional Titles. Some of these titles include:

Mental Health Specialists

Senior Clerical Series

Environmental GIS Specialist

Entry Level Clerical Series

Licensed Health Care Professionals

Dispatcher

Compensation/Disability Claims Examiner

Account Clerical Series/Custodial Series

For further information, please refer to the Ulster County web site:

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/personnel/index.html>

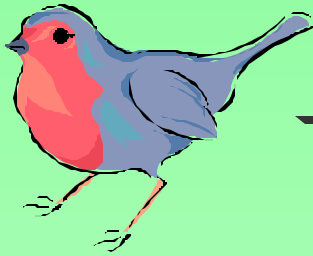
or call the Personnel Department at: (845) 340-3550



Memorial Day



Spring Flowers



Spring Bird

# Think Spring!



Passover



St. Patrick's Day



Easter



REMINDER

Deadline for June 2005 Issue is May 25, 2005

Please e-mail articles to Kathy Sylvester

[ksyl@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:ksyl@co.ulster.ny.us)