

## KEY EVENTS

Office of the County Administrator

[County.Administrator@co.ontario.ny.us](mailto:County.Administrator@co.ontario.ny.us)

[www.co.ontario.ny.us](http://www.co.ontario.ny.us)

**Mary A. Krause**  
County Administrator

**Brian H. Young**  
Deputy County Administrator

**Cynthia R. Abraszek**  
Confidential Secretary to the  
County Administrator

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### Employee Safety & Wellness

Recordable Injury / Illness

Municipality	1/1/19 – 12/31/19	1/1/18 – 12/31/18	2018 Year End
Ontario County	8	7	7
Sheriff's Office	13	7	7
Cities	13	15	15
Towns & Villages	21	19	19
FLCC	3	5	5
Fishers Fire District	3	5	5
Soil & Water District	0	0	0
Volunteers	7	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>



The Good Life 10-Day Plant Based Food Challenge began January 13 and ends January 22.

### County Administrator

County Administrator Mary Krause and Deputy County Administrator Brian Young will be attending the NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany at the end of January.

### Economic Development

The Ontario County Economic Development Corp. (OCEDC) made a deferred payment loan to Port 100 in the City of Geneva. Port 100 is a co-working space for entrepreneurs located at 100 Castle St. in downtown Geneva. The co-work includes dedicated desks for up to 12 full-time permanent members and multiple flexible month-to-month membership options. Members enjoy high-speed Wi-Fi, onsite business advisors, a mailing address, printer, copier, scanner, and meeting/event space. OCEDC approved \$30,000 in funding over the next three years for Port 100. With these funds, Maureen Ballatori, Manager of Port 100, will oversee the build-out of semi-



private spaces within the co-work's existing footprint, execute programming for entrepreneurs in the Finger Lakes region, and increase the number of businesses/individuals utilizing the co-working space. As these goals are met, the loan's principal and interest will be forgiven. Supporting entrepreneurial development throughout the County helps the OCEDC implement strategies identified in the Ontario County Economic Development Strategic Plan. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the relaunch of Port 100 was held on Jan. 9, 2020 (pictured above).

## Human Resources

Ontario County is now accepting online applications for exams and open positions!!! We are also accepting electronic payments. Please visit the Civil Service Employment Portal at: <https://ontario-portal.mycivilservice.com/exams>.

Please mark your calendars for the 2020 Service Pin Ceremonies:

- March 19, 2020
- June 11, 2020
- September 24, 2020
- December 10, 2020

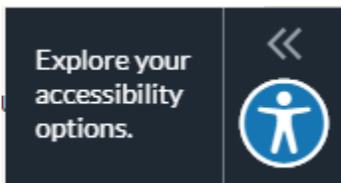
Here's a couple photos from the Quarter 4 Pin Ceremony celebration this past December:



## Information Technology

Information Services has been renamed to Information Technology. You'll see both names for some period of time as the change trickles down through various systems. With hackers constantly trying to impersonate, it's important for everyone to be aware that our department name has changed. Of course if you are unsure if an email message you received is in fact from Ontario County IT, you can always verify the "from" address or simply call the Help Desk @ 396-8856.

2020 will be a big year for the Ontario County website. There are lots of improvements to look forward to including a complete site design refresh, an all-new mobile app, improved social media integration, and a transition to our new ontariocountyny.gov domain name. Yes – that's correct – the long standing and long to recite co.ontario.ny.us address will fade to a supporting role soon. Our website and employee email addresses will move to ontariocountyny.gov as our primary domain in 2020. And to kick off 2020, we're excited to announce one improvement already in place. Our website now features AudioEye integration to help ensure website accessibility for site visitors with disabilities. Look for the "blue man" icon located in the lower right corner of any page on our website to see how AudioEye eradicates barriers to digital accessibility.



## Office for the Aging



Once again the Office for the Aging organized a Gift Giving Tree for our community's elderly residents and it was a huge success. Most of the gifts are donated by County employees and delivered by local student volunteers.

The "elves" who delivered the gifts came from Marcus Whitman Middle School, Canandaigua Academy, Midlakes and EPIC Zone in Geneva, the Rosek family and a Veterans group. The older adults enjoyed Christmas Carols, meeting younger children and their families.

To illustrate how much this means to the seniors who receive the gifts, here are some comments we received:

*An EISEP client shared what a surprise it was to have the kids come to bring his gift. He said they sang for him and visited with him. He said he will remember it for the rest of his life and that it brought tears to his eyes.*

*One of our case workers delivered a package and the recipient was so happy to receive the gift she told her it was her best Christmas ever. She could not believe someone could be so generous.*

*A senior housing manager emailed OFA to say – "I had a bunch of kids from Canandaigua Middle and High School with 2 teachers come by and deliver presents today and asked me to join them to deliver and sing. What a great honor and surprise to me and the 7 residents that received them, they were over the moon with joy*

*and happiness. This made their day and holiday season as this is the only gift a few of them will get. OFA couldn't have timed it any better for those receiving the gifts... Huge THANK YOU to your agency.*

*Another client called to say he really enjoyed the delivery of his gift by the group. It made his holiday with a group of 15 people who showed up in his driveway and sang a carol. He said at one point he was even in tears. His delivery occurred at 6:30pm on Sunday, and he was awed by the willingness of people to take their personal time to wish him a happy holiday.*

## **Office of Sheriff**

During the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, members of the Communications Division along with forty-seven other Emergency Services Dispatchers from five of the six surrounding counties participated in Dispatcher In-Service Training at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility in Hopewell. Topics included: Legal Updates (Bail Reform and Discovery), Stress Recognition and Management, TTD/TTY training, CIT overview, Seven Critical Tasks for LE, EMD Updates, and a presentation called "Protecting and Serving Those who Protect and Serve" which focused on Responder Safety Issues. The first three topics are mandated topics by the State's 911 Board and by NYSSA Accreditation standards.

Correction Officers Barnard, Champlin and DeWaters attended and graduated from an Instructor Development Course at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility. Officer Champlin was also recently selected to work as a Range Instructor for the Ontario County Sheriff's Office.

Five Correction Officers graduated from Corrections Basic School held at the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Congratulations go out to Officers Velez-Ramos, Miller, Rearick, Roney, and Storie.

## **Public Health**

Flu is very active in Ontario County and across the US. The CDC estimates there have already been at least 9.7 million cases with 87,000 hospitalization and 4,800 deaths.

There are two main types of influenza (flu); A and B. Both can cause serious illness and complications, particularly among children (especially those under 2), people over 65, pregnant women and those with asthma, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, HIV/AIDS or cancer.

Generally, flu A viruses are active early in the season and flu B, later (closer to spring). This season is a bit unusual as cases of flu B are outnumbering cases of flu A. The reason has yet to be determined, but it doesn't change what you need to do to avoid getting sick.

**If you haven't had a flu shot, get one!** It may not be 100% effective, but it remains the best protection against flu and its complications. This year's vaccine protects against two types of flu A and one or two types of flu B, depending on the vaccine. Unvaccinated individuals should seek out flu vaccine from their healthcare provider or local pharmacy. It's late, but not TOO late. Also, do the following:

- Stay home if you're sick. Your co-workers don't want what you have.
- Be a frequent hand-washer or use alcohol-based gels particularly after being in public (including work) and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- If co-workers are ill, keep a distance of 3 feet and don't share phones, utensils or other items.

- Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm (inner elbow) to avoid contaminating your hands and other people.
- If you have flu symptoms – sudden onset of fever, chills, body aches, headache, fatigue and cough - call your healthcare provider. Antiviral medication may shorten the length and severity of your illness.

For more information in English: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

For more information in Spanish: <http://espanol.cdc.gov/enes/flu/index.htm>

For assistance finding flu vaccine: <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

## Records and Archives

Meet Rhonda, a dedicated volunteer at RAIMS



Rhonda Bailey joined the RAIMS volunteer program one year ago this month. She came with her work aid, Terry Keller and they have tackled different jobs. They have prepped documents for scanning, organized files and shredded many records that have completed their retention period. Rhonda has held many positions and comes to us very well qualified. She has been a file clerk, recreation assistant, cashier and worked on a production line. She also is proficient in Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and Outlook. She works at RAIMS four days a week for four hours each day and is never late. Her mother drives her here and she meets Terry at the door. Rhonda is never without a smile and greets us with “Ola” and is ready to take on any project. She thoroughly loves coming here and the staff at RAIMS is very grateful for that. Rhonda has shredded approximately 250 boxes of records and takes pride in how many she can shred a day. She happily reports it was a “10 bag day.” We hope Rhonda will continue on at RAIMS; somehow it

just wouldn't be the same without her.

## Social Services

This year's Point In Time (PIT) Count will take place January 29. The annual PIT count identifies individuals in each county who are experiencing homelessness. Volunteers spread out across the county to areas where homeless individuals are thought to be sheltering, both indoors and outdoors. Those who are unsheltered are offered contact with DSS to obtain housing. The data obtained through the Count is required by HUD and is used locally in grant applications for housing services. Ontario County's coordinator is Jeremy Macaluso. Those interested in volunteering can reach Jeremy at [Jeremy.Macaluso@va.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Macaluso@va.gov).

We have received approval of our shelter subsidy plan from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. This will allow us to supplement the shelter allowance for single adults and childless couples for up to 24 months to enable them to secure permanent housing. The housing allowance for individuals on assistance in Ontario County is \$207 per month. By comparison, the fair market rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in Ontario County is \$760. This supplement will make it more likely an individual we are currently housing in a local motel will find permanent housing.

## **Veterans Service Agency**

Thank you to everyone who donated toys this past December for the Toys for Tots Program. The Department of Social Services was proud to have served 327 children in our area. The Veterans Service Agency would like to thank Tricia Mahoney for her assistance and all the hard work that was provided to make this season successful.

## **Workforce Development**

Workforce Development Counselors Amanda Bollinger and Mike Sykes attended a three day Train the Trainer class this past fall offered by NYS OTDA (Office of Temporary Disability Assistance) and were certified as presenters. They will both be facilitating the two day Bridges Out of Poverty class. The first offering of this valuable learning experience begins on Thursday, January 23.

## **Youth Bureau**

Marsha Foote and the Youth Advisory Board would like to welcome three new members to our board: Madison Martinez, a resident of Geneva and a sophomore at Geneva City School District; Wendy Provan, a resident of Manchester and Coordinator of Ontario County's Workforce Youth Programs; and Dianna Paige, a resident of Geneva and a Community Advocate for Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes.

### **Youth Bureau's Advisory Board Seeking Youth Members**

Apply today and share in this rewarding opportunity to make a difference for all youth in Ontario County. We are looking for youth representatives for the following school districts: Victor, Marcus Whitman, Honeoye, Red Jacket, Naples and Bloomfield.

Come and share your ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams. Help us strengthen the safety nets of our youth as we seek preventive measures around suicide, addictions, exploitation, trafficking and sexting. Help us find inventive ways to increase school attendance, higher graduation rates, and lower dropout rates. Help us promote the various activities and services available for youth so that we build a stronger connection with the vast diversity of youth within our county. Join us and invest in the leaders of tomorrow and the visionaries of today. Application can be found on the Ontario County Webpage under Youth Bureau. Any questions feel free to call Marsha Foote at 585 396 4035. She would be happy to provide answers.

### **Important & Challenging News**

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) announced their continued partnership with Ontario County in 2020 on Safe Harbour: NY Programming by approving our 2020 Safe Harbour Program Plan and Budget. Safe Harbour is a coordinated and statewide response to victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking.

Our County's 2019 progress was rated as '**On Their Way**' (3 on a scale of 1-4). OCFS highlighted our wonderful public awareness materials in both English and Spanish. OCFS was also pleased that our Foster Care Unit was providing "Closing the Gap/Not a Number" training to foster parents and foster youth.

Youth Bureau would like to thank the SEY (Sexually Exploited Youth) Core Team: Melanie Ulrich, Cassie Webster, Tara Peacock and Penny Cronk from DSS; Jennifer Brownell, Ashley Davoli and Sara Flack from the Child Advocacy Center; Jannine Phillips, Rebecca Godwin and Mollie Kenerson from Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Shelly Dinan from TransPro Consulting for all their dedication and hard work in making **2019 Public Awareness Campaign** such a great success. More than 300 individuals have completed the training and the number continues to grow. Efforts are expanding to amplify awareness of exploitation of youth

through public outreach such as conducting school presentations for students and parents about exploitation and internet safety. Popular internet-based gaming apps and social chat apps are a common gateway where abusers snare their victims. The presentations give parents insights on what they can do to protect their children from online predators. A smartphone app loaded with resource information including hotline numbers for immediate help was developed. The **#StampItOut** app is available where all smartphone apps are sold.

### **Geneva School District's Attendance Works Initiative**

Little steps have big results! This is the approach that the Attendance Work's Team is using to raise the attendance rates at Geneva School District. The Youth Bureau works in collaboration with Head Start, West Street, North Street, Middle and High School to increase awareness of how important attending school is. Here is an example of what support, awareness and the Attendance Works Initiative has accomplished:

#### **Success Story**

I recently received an email from a mother that struggled all last year with getting her daughter to school on-time and daily. We worked together on different approaches and strategies to help get her daughter up and to school on time every day. Mom was very happy to share with me her daughter's first report card, which had perfect attendance and no late arrivals.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Fitzgerald, Family Service Facilitator at West Street School

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

One of our Core Behaviors is "Advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable in our community". Many County employees volunteer in support of this Core Behavior.

Do you have a volunteer experience that you are willing to share in Key Events?  
Please email Cindy Abraszek at [Cindy.Abraszek@co.ontario.ny.us](mailto:Cindy.Abraszek@co.ontario.ny.us)

## **SEE WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR TEAM AGENCIES**

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

#### **Harvest Food Fest**

On Saturday, November 23, 2019, forty 4-H youth ages 5-18 participated in 4-H Harvest Food Fest. This event was comprised of silent food demonstrations followed by a tasting test where youth answered questions about what they had prepared. After their dish had been evaluated, they took it to the tasting table to be plated for everyone in attendance to try. Four volunteer evaluators provided encouragement and constructive feedback as a team of twelve 4-H teen leaders assisted with registration, organization, and plating food for tasting. Harvest Food Fest is an important event because it gives youth a space to practice and learn safe and effective food preparation practices as well as become more comfortable presenting in front of a crowd. Another noteworthy aspect of this event is that youth are required to use at least one cup of local Finger Lakes grown product in their recipes, promoting awareness of local agriculture. Each youth left the event with a special cookbook containing a collection of the recipes that were prepared on that day, in addition to essential skills and fun memories.

## Public Presentation Training

On January 4, 2020, Ontario County 4-H held a public presentations workshop to instruct young 4-H'ers about how to successfully prepare and deliver a public presentation. This workshop is in preparation for the upcoming public presentation events which will take place on February 3, 8, 14, 2020 at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Care of African Violets** | February 4, 2020, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua. The weather outside might be frightful but you can still enjoy “playing in the dirt” if you grow African Violets. Master Gardener, Susie Nettleton will lead this workshop. Learn the basics of African Violet care, repot an African Violet that has outgrown a pot, learn to start an African Violet from a leaf, and learn the different types of African Violets. Bring one or two of your African Violets that need repotting or dividing. All supplies will be provided for repotting. Fee: \$5.00/person. To register, contact Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) with your name, address, and phone number.

**Upcycling Make-n-Take** | February 10, 2020, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Join Master Gardeners, Victoria Barnsbee and Vicki Jennejohn in decorating recycled glass jars. Make a seed starter for your sunny window or a vase filled with dried natural plants. Decorate your counter tops or grace your table. Save your glass pickle jars, vinegar or kombucha bottles. Fee: \$10.00. All supplies included (soil, seeds, paint, dried flowers, etc.) to make any two. Pre-registration required. Contact Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) with your name, address, and phone number.

**Pesticide Training and Recertification Series** | Wednesday, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua with the DEC exam on March 4, 2020. For more information, contact Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or Russ at x 436 or email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) to receive a flyer. The registration flyer is available at [cceontario.org](http://cceontario.org)

**25th Annual Spring Garden Symposium** | Saturday, February 15, 2020, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at Club 86, Geneva. This is presented by the Ontario County Master Gardeners. Topics are *Gardening with What You Have*, by Christine Froehlich; *Planning and Planting with Native Plants to Improve Our World* by Ellen Folts; *We Reap What We Sow: Being the Change We Wish to See(d) in the World* by Petra Page-Mann. Fee: \$40.00/person, includes lunch. Registration deadline: February 5, 2020. To register, contact Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or email [nea8@cornell.edu](mailto:nea8@cornell.edu) to receive a flyer. The registration flyer is available at [cceontario.org](http://cceontario.org)

Check our website [www.cceontario.org](http://www.cceontario.org) for programs.

## Finger Lakes Community College

Finger Lakes Community College invites the community to the following events:

**Sunday: Jan. 26:** The George Ewing Canandaigua Forum lecture series hosts Forrest Pritchard, bestselling author on organic and sustainable farming, at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium at the FLCC main campus. His talk is titled “Sustainable Agriculture: Gaining Ground and Growing Tomorrow.” Tickets are \$25. Tickets can be ordered by phone at (585) 398-0239 or online at [gmeforum.org](http://gmeforum.org).

**Thursday, Jan. 30:** An opening reception for the Biennial Alumni Exhibition in Williams-Insalaco Gallery 34 on the FLCC main campus will showcase the work of alumni artists Melissa Newcomb '02 and Dee

Westfall '14, both members of the Keuka College art faculty. The exhibit will open with a 2 p.m. talk by the artists followed by a reception sponsored by the FLCC Foundation from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Entry is free.

**Friday, Feb. 7:** The annual Vintners & Valentines fundraiser features a gourmet dinner with wine served by a local winemaker with each course, a live auction and a new type of tasting. The deadline for reservations is Jan. 25. The event now includes an optional curated tasting, which takes participants deeper into the winemaking process. For example, Heron Hill Winery will offer samples of red and white wines that have yet to be bottled, referred to as tank and barrel wines. Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards will offer a vertical tasting of red wines, which features samples of the same wines over successive years. The curated tasting begins at 5:30 p.m., with a general reception at 6 p.m. This year's menu is online at [give.flcc.edu/VandV2020](http://give.flcc.edu/VandV2020). Tickets are \$150 per person with the option to add the curated tasting for \$30. Reservations are required online, (585) 785-1205, or [Margaret.Lorenzetti@flcc.edu](mailto:Margaret.Lorenzetti@flcc.edu)

**Thursday, Feb. 13:** The college's downtown gallery, ArtSpace36, at 36 S. Main St., Canandaigua, will host an opening reception for alumni artists Jessica Marianacci Valone '08 and Erica Bapst '98 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Entry is free.

## **Finger Lakes Visitors Connection**

At Finger Lakes Visitors Connection we know the importance of a great vacation. Last year, Americans left 768 *million* days of vacation time unused. So, in honor of U.S. Travel's Project Time-off initiative and January 28, 2020 which is National Plan for Vacation Day, we created an infographic to help motivate visitors and locals to do just that. Take a look [here](#) and get ready to plan your vacation!

Our office has been busy to start the new year. Tracey Burkey traveled to Omaha to attend the American Bus Association Marketplace. ABA allowed Tracey networking opportunities with Tour Operators and Group Tour Leaders at the opening reception and on the networking floor at the show. On behalf of FLVC she also participated in NYS cooperative sales efforts to include a NYS Breakfast with 200 potential clients and the "dine-around" with 50 customers. Tracey also got the chance to tour the show floor with ABA management to learn about potentially participating in appointments next year in Baltimore.

## **Humane Society / Happy Tails**

The time has arrived for the terrier pups to find their furever homes now. The pups have all been neutered, had their first vaccines and have been microchipped. Our hope is to find loving homes that will be a great match for their energy, love and companionship-they have that and so much more to share with a new owner(s)! Please remember that this is a long term commitment that will hopefully last upwards of 15-18 years!

Our fund raising committee has been hard at work as well! Please stay tuned as events get announced but one definite event is our Party for Paws which is moving to a new location and month so keep the first weekend in June open and look for an opportunity to purchase tickets in the not so distant future!! Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our many events!

## **Soil & Water Conservation District**

### **Upcoming Soil Health Workshop: February 12, 2020**

Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, and Yates County SWCD are holding a Soil Health Workshop on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 8:30am to 2:30pm at the Ontario Produce Auction, 4860 Yautzy Road,

Stanley, NY. This will be a great workshop that you will not want to miss! To register for this workshop online, please go to <http://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/get-involved/soil-health-workshop/>



**Realtor Workshop: February 25, 2020**

Ontario County SWCD is holding a realtor workshop on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua. "A Water Workshop for Real Estate Professionals" offers 5.5 continuing education unit credits. For more information, please go to <https://www.ontswcd.com/realtor-workshop>.



**2020 Tree & Shrub Sale**

The Ontario County SWCD is having their annual tree and shrub sale. Order forms are due by March 6, 2020. For more information, go to <https://www.ontswcd.com/tree-shrub-sale>.



If you would like additional information on any of the key events, please feel free to contact my office or the appropriate department head.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Krause  
County Administrator  
/ca