

KEY EVENTS

Office of the County Administrator

County.Administrator@co.ontario.ny.us

www.co.ontario.ny.us

Brian H. Young

Interim County Administrator

Cynthia R. Abraszek

Confidential Secretary to the
County Administrator

Published May 6, 2020

Employee Safety & Wellness

Recordable Injury / Illness

Municipality	1/1/2020 – 4/21/2020	1/1/2019– 4/21/2019	2019 Year End
Ontario County	2	4	8
Sheriff's Office	4	3	13
Cities	2	5	12
Towns & Villages	2	2	22
FLCC	1	1	3
Fishers Fire District	1	0	3
Soil & Water District	0	0	0
Volunteers	8	3	8
TOTAL	20	18	69



Scrubbing your hands dry? Soaps, moisturizers, and tips to help keep skin healthy

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/scrubbing-your-hands-dry-soaps-moisturizers-and-tips-to-help-keep-skin-healthy>

Employee Safety is offering the following classes funded by our 2019-2020 FLCC/SUNY grant award. All classes will be delivered by a live instructor using a commercial Zoom account. Students will receive an email invitation that will allow them to join the class the day of the training.

- Monday, May 11, 2020 – “Ergonomics”; this training will be held from 9AM to 11AM and will have a maximum class size of 20 students.
- Thursday, May 14, 2020 – “Fall Protection Refresher”; this training will be held from 8AM to Noon and will have a maximum class size of 20 students.
- Thursday, May 21, 2020 – “Fall Protection Refresher”; this training will be held from 8AM to Noon and will have a maximum class size of 20 students.
- Thursday, June 4, 2020 – “Accident Investigation”; this training will be held from 8AM to Noon and will have a maximum class size of 20 students.

To register to attend any class please send an email to HRTraining@co.ontario.ny.us and provide us with: (1) the name of the class you'd like to attend; (2) your name; (3) your municipality; (4) the email account you'll be using for the training (so that we can send you a meeting invitation) and (4) a telephone number (to be able to contact you if necessary).

County Administrator

Wednesday, May 6 is National Nurse Day. Our County Nurses have faced an unbelievable challenge in the past two months with compassion, strength and fearless dedication to bring us hope and wellness in the County. We applaud you! We thank you! You are our HEROES!

On May 5, 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first full week of May as National Correction Officers Week. We would like to recognize and thank our Correction Officers for doing this difficult job and doing it well.

Interim County Administrator Brian Young continues to keep residents updated with COVID 19 information as it relates to Ontario County via Finger Lakes TV twice a month along with Public Health Director Mary Beer.

Brian is working with the County's senior staff members to develop a plan to reopen the County for business but must also follow Governor Cuomo's guidelines as do all other businesses.

Economic Development

The Ontario County Economic Development Corp, Ontario County Industrial Development Agency, and Ontario County Local Development Corp. are meeting virtually via video-conferencing and conference calls. All Committees associated with these organizations are also meeting virtually. OCIDA public hearings will also be virtual hearings. Transcripts of all meetings will be available on the County website. In addition, OCIDA and OCLDC meetings will be live-streamed and may be viewed on Spectrum Cable channel 1304 or online at [//FingerLakesTV.org/live](http://FingerLakesTV.org/live).

Emergency Management

When the virus shutdown began, RACES member Tom Sanders of Victor organized a nightly gathering (net) of amateur radio operators through the repeater at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. This "Health and Welfare Net" brings together not only Ontario County RACES and other operators, but also hams from Rochester, Greece, Fairport, Sea Breeze, Williamson, Newark, Palmyra, Rushville, Middlesex and Romulus, who check on each other by radio, and share information on conditions in their areas. Social distance measured in miles.... Meanwhile, the weekly Ontario RACES on-the-air training sessions have continued throughout. Future in-person meetings, examination sessions, and other group activities may be cancelled/delayed/reconfigured.

Office for the Aging

OFA has been very busy since the COVID 19 crisis hit. As you know older adults are at a higher risk of complications from the coronavirus and have been advised not to go out at all. OFA staff rose to the occasion and quickly transited to meeting basic needs. About half of our Meals on Wheels volunteers decided they could not continue during the COVID -19 emergency because they were high risk. We had to quickly replace them with other volunteers. The community stepped up big time! We put out the urgent call for volunteers and over 100 people responded. The OFA staff quickly devised a way to screen the volunteers remotely and got them to work delivering meals, toilet paper and groceries. We also quickly increased the number of hot and frozen meals we are delivering daily. We went from averaging 260 per day in February to 380 in April. This is a testament to the dedication of the OFA staff and the Jail Kitchen staff.

OFA also helped organize County-wide food distribution events with Food Link, the City of Geneva and Canandaigua Churches in Action. There were four distributions so far this month. Several County employees volunteered to help-out including Heide Barend-Guerrie and Skip Guerrie. Heidi also made face masks for our OFA drivers and volunteers. See pictures below.



Office of Sheriff

The Office of Sheriff is continuing to work within the guidelines of the Governor's New York Pause Order and Executive Directives. As with all departments, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we provide the vital services to our community. Members of the Sheriff's office are still working each and every day answering 911 calls, responding to calls for service and doing our best to protect the inmates that are entrusted to our care.

Investigator Joseph Murphy has been promoted to road patrol Lieutenant and is overseeing the Special Investigative Unit, which focuses on drug enforcement.

Volunteer Chaplin Rev. David G. Seeley recently passed away. Rev. Seeley had been volunteering as a Chaplin with the Office of Sheriff since 1993 and was active until recent health complications. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Planning

The Planning Department is hosting Webex meetings for all Code Enforcement Officers around the County every Tuesday morning for the duration of COVID-19 restrictions. Participants have found it useful as a forum for exchange of information on interpretation of Executive Orders, state guidance, and best practices. They also benefit from direct communication with Sheriff Henderson and District Attorney Jim Ritts.

The Ontario County Code Officers training on large scale electric battery storage originally scheduled for April 29 was cancelled. As the for credit, training is only available in-person. It will be rescheduled once the training is allowed to be handled on-line or when in-person assembly is again permitted.

Monitoring of household response rates for the 2020 Census continues. As of 4/27/2020 the household response rate was 46.8% for Ontario County, 47.9% for NYS, and 53.7% for the US. Trends we continue to see include:

- Low response rates in areas with significant poverty.
- Low response rates along lakeshores.
- Low response rates in minority and Mennonite neighborhoods.
- The Village of Victor having the highest municipal response rate in the County at 56.3%.
- Census Tract 516 in the north west corner of the City Geneva having the highest response rate of any tract at 65.7%, followed closely by tract 501.06 in Victor at 64.3% and tract 502.04 in Farmington at 61.4%.

In response, we've:

- Stepped up our outreach efforts by promoting the toll-free Census phone numbers at (844) 330-2020 in English or (844) 468-2020 for Spanish.
- Printed bilingual flyers for DSS to distribute with assistance claims and through the Office for the Aging for distribution at food distribution sites.
- Through the Emergency Management Office asked our local Fire Departments to promote Census response through their electronic sign boards.
- Posted alerts on our County Census 2020 website about the need for the owners of seasonal residences/cottages/second homes to complete the Census along with step by step instructions on how to report 0 residents for a residential address.

Our next steps will be producing posters for use at supermarkets and other businesses and requesting local school districts and religious organizations use their digital displays, websites, and email lists to promote Census participation.

The Planning Department helped organize and moderated a statewide Webex meeting for Planning Directors to exchange ideas about recovery and communicate with Empire State Development on recovery plans and business needs.

Public Health

Chronic disease prevention, early detection and management have never been more important than it is right now. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 89.3% of COVID-19 positive hospitalized adults had one or more underlying (chronic) conditions. The most common were hypertension (49.7%), obesity (48.3%), chronic lung disease (34.6%), diabetes mellitus (28.3%) and cardiovascular disease (27.8%). You may remember (not that long ago) being asked to complete a community health survey or attend a focus group discussing the health of our County. The outcome of that survey and your input helped us focus on chronic disease prevention and management, tobacco prevention (which improves lung function) and healthy eating. In fact, hypertension and obesity (prevention and management) have been included in our Community Health Improvement Plan for several cycles. Huge strides have been made to improve the hypertension rate and improve the availability of healthy affordable food in Ontario County as a result of this work. How does this help you? Knowledge is power. Chronic disease prevention, early detection and disease management may help to prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations. Healthcare provider offices will be opening very soon for "routine" check-ups and office visits. As soon as they are open, call and make an appointment. (Many are offering telehealth right now.) Important cleaning and disinfecting procedures as well as masking and social distancing will be implemented to keep you safe during your visit. Now is the time to manage your health condition. For now, keeping a physical distance (of 6 feet) and staying socially connected is vital to our wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us. Good health, we are all in this together.

Public Works

Ontario County Parks Operational Changes due to COVID-19

General Park Information: Use of Play areas and equipment are closed until further notice. Public restrooms are open depending on the operating status of each park (cleaned and sanitized three times per day). Restrooms are generally open 8:30 am to 7:30 pm except at Gannett Hill where they are open continuously. The County's swimming beach is closed at this time. All visitors are advised to abide by CDC guidelines and directives from the NYS Governor's office. In addition, any operational policies and procedures may change as new information is presented to the County.

Ontario County Park at Gannett Hill: Trails and grounds are open. All campsites, cabins and pavilion/shelters are CLOSED through May 22, 2020. We are assessing campground and pavilion status on a daily basis.

Grimes Glen: This popular destination is open at this time. If the County determines that use is at a level where social distancing and other CDC guidelines cannot be met, the gate to the parking area will be closed. Parking along the street is prohibited and subject to fines.

Deep Run Beach: The beach is currently CLOSED. The County will open the beach area when advised it's safe to do so (and weather permits). If and when the beach is opened, there is no scheduled time where lifeguards will be on duty. Unfortunately, swimming is prohibited when lifeguards are not on-site.

Ontario Beach Park: This park is only used for picnicking and passive use. This park is open and will remain so, as long as the County observes visitors are in compliance with CDC guidelines.

Purchasing

On Friday, April 17th Purchasing staff opened 17 bids via Webex. Bid openings have always required a public opening, however Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order allowing bid openings to be done live via platforms such as Webex or to record them and make the recording available to the public. Staff worked into the evening and Saturday the 18th to get the price tab sheets completed and to Public Works for the committee agenda. Although we are all working from home, we work together to source items needed for all County departments and process contracts and purchase orders.

Records and Archives

RAIMS staff has continued their work from home and have been alternating mornings to come in and feed Bailey the cat. Bailey has adjusted to the new schedule; however, she is very lonely without her fellow staff members.

Staff at RAIMS and at Surrogate Courts are working together to get the very old surrogate court records (1789-1926) stored at RAIMS scanned and uploaded on both the Court Systems and then eventually into OnBase.

Preston Pierce, County Historian, is continuing his project with the Finger Lakes Times by sending them images with historical captions for their anniversary issues. He is also sending extensive resources on the Underground Railroad in the area to a teacher in the Red Jacket School District.

Sustainability & Solid Waste Management

UPDATED Special Collection Events Calendar

The spring electronic waste and paper shredding events have been rescheduled. To see the dates for all upcoming events please visit: <http://ontariocountyrecycles.org/150/Events>

Sustainability & Solid Waste Management Survey

Over the next few weeks, our Department is engaging County residents through a community-wide survey. The input being gathered will be used in the development of the Department's Strategic Plan. By completing the survey, you will have the opportunity to win a \$50 gift card. To take the survey, please visit our recycling page at: <http://ontariocountyrecycles.org/>

Workforce Development

In an effort to both increase the skills of the region's workforce and provide residents with tools to train for new job opportunities, Finger Lakes Works has initiated its "SkillUp® Finger Lakes" Program. All eligible Ontario County residents can take classes, explore career pathways and even prepare for various industry-recognized certifications all for free and all from home. Through an online portal, Finger Lakes Works is providing free access to over 5,000 courses from Skillsoft, a nationally recognized training provider of workplace, business, technical and IT courses. Whether they are looking for a first job, a new job or to advance in their chosen field, residents can take advantage of this career enhancing training. SkillUp® Finger Lakes delivers flexible, self-paced learning that can be accessed from anywhere with a high-speed internet connection, 24/7. Users will complete a self-assessment of their skills, identify any skill gaps, and automatically receive recommended courses to remediate those gaps. Job seekers can train in essential workplace skills, study job interview talking points and search for employment opportunities nationwide. Available topics include Microsoft Office, Effective Customer Service, Project Management, Leadership, Critical Thinking, CompTIA, and many more. To enroll online, learners can visit <http://fingerlakes.skillupamerica.org/>.

Youth Bureau

The 2020 Youth Recognition Awards would have been held April 21st at Finger Lakes Community College but due to COVID-19 we had to cancel the celebration. We would like to take this opportunity to honor thirty-six youth recipients nominated for the Ontario County Youth Recognition Award; seven adult recipients from seven school districts nominated for the School Employee of the Year Award and two adult youth advocates nominated for the Honorable Craig Doran Award.

Please congratulate the following recipients for 2020:

Youth Recognition Award:

Ninth Grade

Samantha J. Rothfuss (Bloomfield)
Dakota Murphy (Canandaigua)
Quinton Rabah (Geneva)
Heather Brown (Honeoye)
Blake Dunton (Marcus Whitman)
Cobe Belknap (Midlakes)
Drew Reigelsperger (Naples)
Ava Pickering (Red Jacket)
Olivia Benetti (Victor)

Tenth Grade

Sabastian Plouffe (Bloomfield)
Emma Godfrey (Canandaigua)
Nakayba Moorer (Geneva)
Emily Zweig (Honeoye)
Oliver Cushman (Marcus Whitman)
Kyle Harrington (Midlakes)
Wes McMullen (Naples)
Dakota Hibbs (Red Jacket)
Christopher Arellano (Victor)

Eleventh Grade

James Rinaudo (Bloomfield)
Elizabeth Casciani (Canandaigua)
Najla Camano-Parilla (Geneva)
Clayton Battle (Honeoye)
Sydney McOmber (Marcus Whitman)
Nathan Myhill (Midlakes)
Jessie Norton (Naples)
Zorianna Samodurov (Red Jacket)
Hannah Brady (Victor)

Twelfth Grade

Zachary Parshall (Bloomfield)
Diaja Hughes (Canandaigua)
Abigail Arruda (Geneva)
James Hallett (Honeoye)
Jelissa Conklin (Marcus Whitman)
Coby Reals (Midlakes)
Phoebe Neubauer (Naples)
Madailynn Abbott-Geenty (Red Jacket)
Veronica Dominguez (Victor)

The Honorable Craig Doran Award:

Jane Gerling (Geneva Reads)
Rebecca Godwin (Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes)

School Employee of the Year Award:

Kateri Warren (Bloomfield)	John LaFave (Canandaigua)
Kimberly Kerr (Geneva)	Penny Hensler (Honeoye)
Alinda Gangi (Naples)	Lori Ryan (Red Jacket)
Kenneth Seeling (Marcus Whitman)	

Youth Bureau's Updates

Director Marsha Foote and the Youth Board would like to welcome new members: Luis Dunn from Bloomfield Central Schools; Catie Ginther from Victor Central Schools; Chari Miller from the Canandaigua community; Martinez Madison from the Geneva City Schools; Dianna Paige from Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes; Wendy Provan from Workforce Development; Luis Torruella from Geneva City Schools; and Virginia Torruella from Legal Assistance of Western New York.

SEE WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR TEAM AGENCIES

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Due to COVID-19, the E-Waste Collection Event scheduled for May 30, 2020 has been rescheduled for August 1, 2020 at the Bristol Highway Department. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was rescheduled from April 25, 2020 to June 20, 2020 at Casella's Recycling Center.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County is your resource for gardening information throughout the year. You will find helpful growing and pest management information that will provide you the knowledge to be successful in growing your own fruits and vegetables this year. Just log onto our website www.cceontario.org and click on gardening. You will find cultural practices to build a healthy soil, insect and disease fact sheets, garden and lawn videos and so much more. Our gardening services include soil testing; plant and insect ID; and plant disease and diagnostics. Email our Home and Grounds Educator, Russ Welser at rw43@cornell.edu with any of your gardening questions.

Historical Society

Marci Diehl was named the Historical Society 's next Executive Director. Diehl will succeed long-time Executive Director, Ed Varno. Ontario County looks forward to working with Ms. Diehl who started her new position on May 1.

Soil & Water Conservation District

April Newsletter

Here is Ontario County SWCD's [April Newsletter](#).

The Partnership for Ontario County

EPIC Zone: A Youth Clubhouse has been providing connection from afar for its members! We are doing daily Zoom hang-out sessions where we chat and play games together, hosting physical challenges on Instagram, and every Friday we hold a group cooking or baking class on Zoom! Follow us on Facebook (@EPICZoneYouthClubhouse) and Instagram (@epiczoneych) for daily check-ins, recommendations from staff on how to stay busy at home, and fun riddles and trivia!

Community Support Center (CSC) has a great schedule of weekly wellness events. For more information and the appropriate Zoom links, please visit us on Facebook:

Sundays at 7: Yoga with Judy. (Canandaigua Crossfit Facebook live)

Mondays at 8: Meditation with Vanessa (CSC Facebook live)

Mondays at 5: Functional Fitness with Judy. This class is for every fitness level and incorporates body weight and cardio for an amazing workout. (CSC Facebook live)

Tuesdays at 7: Managing our Anxiety with Renae. Join us for a virtual chat. It is comforting to talk about what is going on and know that we are not alone with our feelings. You don't have to share; you can just listen and be still. (Zoom)

Wednesdays at 7: Navigating the New Normal with Erin. How are you coping daily? What are some techniques that can help make things at home more tolerable? Do you want to share? You can also just come and listen. (Zoom)

Thursdays at 7: Yoga with Judy (Canandaigua CrossFit Facebook live)

We also have some great one-time only creative events this week:

Thursday, April 30 at 6:45pm: Create and Connect Zendas. Drawing Zendas is a simple, relaxing way to check in with your mind and connect with the present moment. This project is grounding, meditative, and so much fun to make! No prior art skills needed, just a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. (Zoom)

Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm: Tiny Dot Painting on Canvas. We are collaborating again with FLCC's Artspace36 to bring you an amazing VIRTUAL event- Tiny Dot Painting on Canvas. We will be exploring the simple, fun technique of Dot Paintings! We will provide you an art kit with everything needed to create these tiny masterpieces: paints, canvas, dowels for your dots, an easel and extra paper to practice and create. ***

***Kit pick-up will be on May 6th from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Artspace36 Gallery at 36 Main Street, Canandaigua.

Once registered, we will e-mail you pick-up instructions. Registration required

via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/create-connect-tiny-dot-painting-on-canvas-tickets-103594327422>

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,

Brian Young
Interim County Administrator
/ca