

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

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Employee Safety & Wellness

Recordable Injury / Illness

Municipality	1/1/2020 – 6/30/2020	1/1/2019– 6/30/2019	2019 Year End
Ontario County	3	5	8
Sheriff's Office	6	6	13
Cities	5	7	12
Towns & Villages	4	7	22
FLCC	1	1	3
Fishers Fire District	1	1	3
Soil & Water District	0	0	0
Volunteers	10	4	8
TOTAL	30	31	69

Board of Elections

At the writing of this, the Board of Elections has officially surpassed 20,000 absentee ballots issued for the multiple Primaries and Special Election held on June 23rd; 20,074 to be exact. We accomplished in three weeks what we would normally do in six years' worth of absentee balloting. Thank you to everyone who helped for your labor, time, and commitment to the success of this huge and unprecedented challenge.

We still have much more work to do before the elections are certified, but we want to extend a huge thank you to all of the departments and staff that helped us with the following: opening the mail, making special arrangements, equipment purchases, PPE & Infection Control items, sanitizing certain Poll Sites, Election Inspector recruitment, and sorting and filing tens of thousands of absentee balloting materials. We know it's dangerous to try and remember everyone who helped, but from what we do remember, here are those departments and folks who either helped directly or provided staff to make it happen: County Administrator's Office, Board of Supervisors' Office, Michelle Smith and HR staff, Holly Adams and County Attorney staff, Town of Victor Town Clerk and her office staff, Probation Department with multiple staff members on almost every day for the past three weeks, Information Services, DMV, Conflict Defenders' Office, Transportation, Public Works and B&G, Mary Gates and Mike Wojcik, Deb Gierman & Purchasing staff, Jeff Harloff and Emergency Management Office staff, Foster Care Prevention, Sustainability, Public Health, and RTS. A special and well-deserved recognition to Kay Luther (Probation) and Director of Real Property, Robin Johnson. These two worked

what seemed like full-time and did so non-stop until the work was caught up each day they were here. Then there's the absolutely amazing Courier Crew. Tom and Cindy worked, and we mean worked hard; sealing and metering all of the out-going mail and the return envelopes, carrying and lifting the never ending trays and bins over-flowing with ballots and ballot packets to get them out timely each and every day, and delivering the returned ballots several times throughout the day, outstanding!

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the commitment, long hours, weekends, know-how, and sacrifice away from their families that our own Board of Elections staff put forth to the success of this effort. This was, without question or precedent, a huge undertaking and we thank all of you for an incredible above and way beyond effort!

This County proved with their actions and deeds that we are a team like no other County. The teamwork afforded to us with this challenge during these difficult times speaks volumes to our team's success in making Ontario County a truly special place to live, work and raise a family!

Thank you, thank you, thank you everyone who helped and to those who continue to help us with this process!

Mike and Charlie

County Administrator

On June 29, Standing Committees began meeting both in person and virtually and will continue to do so until the Governor's Executive Order 202.38 is discontinued. These blended meetings will be the same for Board of Supervisors meetings, so Supervisors – please RSVP. Staff are asked to meet virtually if only an agenda item or two pertains to their department.

Brian Young and Mary Beer provided a COVID-19 update on Finger Lakes TV Thursday morning, July 2. Our County's positive test numbers are spiking with the age group of 40 and under. Please practice social distancing, wear a mask when social distancing is not possible and wash your hands often.

Economic Development



Bob Mincer, KIUA Manager reports that, "business jet traffic picks up at KIUA as avoiding the COVID-19 restrictions on commercial air travel becomes desirable."

The Ontario County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) approved financial assistance to two projects in June. The first is for an addition to Home Power Systems headquarters at 1127 Corporate Drive in Farmington. Home Power Systems will build a 10,000 sq. ft. addition on their 15,000 sq. ft. building. The second project is a PILOT for Jim Swetman to build a 30,500 sq. ft., single-story, flex/industrial building on a 3-acre lot

on Corporate Dr. in Farmington. This building is being built on speculation. The final tenant(s) in the building will have to be approved by the OCIDA.

Emergency Management

RACES operators around the County participated in the annual nationwide exercise known as Field Day on June 27 and 28. Given the pandemic, a centralized operation with multiple transmitters and public visitation wasn't advisable, so each operator established his/her own "emergency communications" station, and attempted to make as many two way contacts around the world as possible. Results are still being tabulated.

Office of Sheriff

The Sheriff's Office has been focused on celebrating 2020 Ontario County High School graduates, assisting in parades and graduation ceremonies. We are proud to be a part of making 2020 graduations memorable for students and their families during these challenging times. We wish all the best to the graduates.

Tracy Santillo of Santillo Daycare in Clifton Springs donated a large number of snacks and drinks to the Officers of the Ontario County Sheriff's Office on June 25th. Undersheriff Frasca and Deputy Chumacero visited with the children and accepted the generous donation. Tracy shared that she is teaching the children that the Police are here to help and protect them. The children each made thank you cards for Sheriff's Office staff. Thank you to Tracy and the children attending Santillo Daycare for their generosity and thoughtfulness.



Thank you to Lowe's of Canandaigua for the generous donation of masks, gloves, and disinfectant. This allows the men and women of the Sheriff's Office to continue to serve and protect, while keeping safe against COVID-19.



Public Health

Look Before You Leap! Be Aware of Blue-Green Algae.

Why are Blue-Green Algae an issue?

- Blue-green algae grow in the shallow water in the hot summer sun.
- Some blue-green algae produce toxins.
- Toxins can cause health risks to people and animals.
- People, pets and livestock should avoid touching, swimming or drinking water that has blue-green, yellow, brown or red scum.

What are the symptoms of Blue-Green toxin exposure?

- Be alert to allergic reactions or eye, skin, nose, and throat irritation.
- Liver and nervous system problems have been reported.
- If symptoms of toxin exposure develop, stop using the water and seek medical attention immediately.

Records and Archives (RAIMS)

Although RAIMS was handling retrievals, research questions and indexing during the COVID-19 shut down; in the last 3 weeks as departments began to reopen, the workload has begun to resume our regular pace, and in some instances, increased. We have received about 75 boxes of records from different departments for storage and had approximately 200 retrievals and about 170 interfiles the last month (increase in our average numbers). We have scanned and indexed six more boxes of Sheriff records and continued scanning the DA files. We have resumed our work concerning the records involved with the LGRMIF grant. The Education Department has given an extension for the completion of the grant. The deadline was June 30; however, it is now December 31.

FOIL requests have taken a jump in numbers this month to approximately 60. Many thanks to the Sheriff Records Department and Matt Turetsky in the County Attorney's Office for their help with them.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of researchers to access the historical records of the County continues. As many parts of the country are currently seeing a rise in virus cases, New York has begun the process of opening back up, including government offices, and institutions like museums. RAIMS has continued to serve the County and the public throughout the pandemic, mainly by mail and electronic communication and we are happy to announce that we are open once again, but by appointment only.

ARMO, Brooke Morse and County Historian, Dr. Preston Pierce corresponded with Wade Morris, a researcher from Georgia over the course of the last few weeks providing him with research guidance and copies of documents such as court and land records, Board of Regents reports for the early 1800s and newspaper articles from Canandaigua papers. The research he is conducting is for an article that is part of the proposal for his dissertation. Morris is a PhD candidate at Georgia State University and teaches there as well in the Education and History Departments. He was looking for information on George Willson, a teacher and principal of Canandaigua Academy in the 1830s, including background information on the Academy, its founder, Oliver Phelps, and early Canandaigua.

Morris is writing an extensive article on George Willson who developed one of the very early versions of a report card for students and parents. He had done extensive research in sources on the history of education and decided to drive up to Canandaigua from Georgia to do some on-site research at the Congregational Church (where the Willson family belonged), the Historical Society Museum and RAIMS. He visited local cemeteries and

gathered extensive primary source materials. Dr. Pierce met with him on June 30th. We are looking forward to a future publication date for his article.

After much conversation, the NYALGRO (NY Association of Local Government Records Management Officer) conference is cancelled this year. The annual conference is usually held in June; however, it was re-scheduled for September, but has now been cancelled. The committee now is talking about holding the workshops either virtually or in a webinar format. More information to follow.

Sustainability & Solid Waste Management

Household Hazardous Waste Collection was Saturday, June 20th at Casella's Recycling Facility. There were 423 registered, 44 no shows, and 7 unregistered. People per township: Bristol- 10; Canadice-10; Canandaigua-87 (City & Town); East Bloomfield-9; Farmington-22; Geneva-71 (City & Town); Gorham-18; Hopewell-16; Manchester-24; Naples-7; Phelps-23; Richmond-8; Seneca-10; South Bristol-12; Victor-52; West Bloomfield- 7.

E-Waste (Electronic Waste) Collection Event is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2020, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Bristol Highway Facility, 6740 County Road 32, Canandaigua, NY. Registration opens July 6, by calling 585-394-3977 x 427. All people will be requested to print their name and registration time on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper, so we can read it through the driver's window to comply with social distancing. List of acceptable items can be found at www.OntarioCountyRecycles.org or www.cceontario.org.

Workforce Development

Ontario County Workforce Development was awarded Top Workforce Training Provider by the Rochester Business Journal for March 2020. This is based on the number of county residents receiving training services, both formal classroom training, such as finishing up a previously started degree program, completing a short term, vocationally specific training, such as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program or a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or completing an employer sponsored On the Job Training program. Congratulations to the recent graduates and to the staff of Workforce Development.

Youth Bureau

Social distancing during COVID-19 has social media on the rise. Stay Alert! 95% of youth ages 12 to 17 are online. As a parent or guardian, you can provide the first line of defense in keeping youth safe on the internet from cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate material, online predators, and revealing too much personal information. The internet is always changing. Stay well-informed about current issues to understand what your children are experiencing on and off the internet. If your children are using social media, instant messaging, using webcams, or blogging, help them use these tools safely by learning how to use them yourself. **Children whose parents and guardians regularly talk to them about personal safety are more likely to exhibit responsible behavior on their own. Because it's mobile** – make sure to monitor cell phones, laptops, and gaming devices. Know who is connecting with your children online. **Online Gaming** – Know what games children are playing and where they're playing. You may be supervising your home console, but where else are children gaming? Do they play on mobile devices? At friends' homes? Rating sites like ESRB.org (Entertainment Software Rating Board) and CommonSenseMedia.org can help you decide if a game is appropriate. Learn safety features. For example, does the game have reporting features or moderators? Can players be blocked? Ask with whom children are gaming. Learn the usernames of anyone your children play with frequently. Discuss what information children are sharing. Tell them not to share personal information like credit card and phone

numbers. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children hosts a useful website on internet safety for parents and guardians. The site has links for teens and tweens as well. www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety

If you know someone you believe may be a victim of exploitation, please reach out to the resources below.

Ontario County Hotline: 1-800-247-7273

National Human Trafficking Resource Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text "HELP" to BeFree (233733)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1-800-843-5678



Download Ontario County's Stamp It Out App! It's free and loaded with helpful information. Now available where smart phone apps are offered.

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.



Undersheriff Frasca continues to offer his time and expertise to the community, free of charge, teaching CPR and AED classes, navigating new procedures for teaching in consideration of COVID-19. We appreciate the time and effort the Undersheriff continues to put into teaching these classes and the positive effect he has on the residents of Ontario County.

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

SEE WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR TEAM AGENCIES

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County is announcing the 2020 Ontario County Buy Local Guide. The local food movement is a trend that is here to stay, especially in this day and age with people wanting to know where their food is produced! Locally raised and locally made products are everywhere in Ontario County such as farm stands, farmers' markets, CSAs, U-pick farms, grocery stores, and some restaurants. The guide is a representation of the diversity of the producers providing you a farm fresh direct to you experience. The guide will allow you to find local farms based on location and product. It can be accessed online at www.cceontario.org.

4-H Camp Bristol Hills is offering a six-week virtual Leadership and Counselor in Training program this summer for youth 15-16 years of age, began July 5th. The program focuses on many of the core job readiness skills that young adults will benefit from, while they are on staff at camp, and in their career paths later in life. Participants will receive training in: Public Speaking; Stress Management and Self Care; Active Listening; Behavior Management; Introduction to leadership; Setting the tone in cabins; Age appropriate programming and interactions to support camper engagement; Professionalism, resume/cover letter writing, and interview Skills. Participants will meet Monday and Thursday Nights from 7:00 pm-8:30pm on Zoom and will have 1-2 hours of additional course work to complete weekly throughout the program. **For more information, visit** <http://cceontario.org/4-h-camp-bristol-hills/virtual-lit-cit-program>.

The NYS Department of Ag & Markets has made sanitizer and face coverings available at no cost to agriculture operations that is being distributed through Cooperative Extension Associations. Ontario County CCE has these available and pick-up can be arranged by contacting Tim Davis at (585) 397-0750.

COVID-19 Forward NY Safety Plans Required and Reduce Risk

Essential agricultural businesses including those who have remained open during the current pandemic need to have a Forward NY Safety Plan in place. A Team of Extension Professionals from across New York have developed resources to help your farm business meet this mandate and reduce the risk to your business for failure to protect your people. The resources can be accessed at the Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development website: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/ny-forward-business-safety-plan/> . They include: an introductory video, fillable templates for using to write plans based upon the NYS Forward NY Safety Plan Template, color coded examples and considerations to follow while completing the template, a step by step guide to accessing and using the template documents and information about webinars and recording of the same for producers with different types of businesses.

Finger Lakes Grape Program Virtual Tailgate Meeting, July 21, 2020, 4:30 pm -6:00 pm, every other Tuesday during the 2020 growing season. Join FLGP viticulturist Hans Walter-Peterson (and the occasional guest speaker) for any or all of this year's Tailgate Meetings during the 2020 growing season. These meetings feature a free-flow discussion of what's been happening in vineyards, timely reminders about important practices, and updates on some of the applied research being done in grapes this year. This year's Tailgate Meetings will be held online until we are able to hold them in-person again, which will hopefully be sooner rather than later. Register for this year's online Tailgate Meetings at https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc-6qpjoiHtS5I2AQssfPXzXe_iKnx4f7 (registration only required once).

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 Homes and Grounds Educator, Russ Welser at rw43@cornell.edu with any of your gardening questions.

Visit cceontario.org for the latest information on COVID-19 and other programs.

The Partnership for Ontario County

EPIC Zone has re-opened at reduced capacity and hours with several protective measures in place. We are open Mon-Fri from 3 pm -7 pm. We are offering site-based options that are both indoors and outdoors and will not be planning any community-based events or field trips for now.

The **Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Ontario County** collaborated with the Office for the Aging to distribute 200 Medication Disposal Kits. Due to COVID-19, the Coalition had to cancel their annual and always well-attended Medication Take-Back Day co-hosted with Canandaigua Wegmans and the Ontario County Sheriff's Department. For over three years we have offered the "Medication Take-Back Day" for folks in our community to bring unwanted or unused medications to Wegmans where we partner with the Sheriff's office to collect and dispose of these medications. Over the years we have collected thousands of pounds of medication. Since that wasn't in the cards this year, 200 Medication Disposal Kits were provided to the Office for the Aging to share with their clients on an as-needed basis. While more locations with medication drop boxes are re-opening, we are hopeful that folks will once again begin to take their unwanted / unused meds to those locations. A big thanks to the Office of the Aging for collaborating with us to get the kits into the hands of those who need them – and unwanted and unused medications out of homes. Please refer to our list of medication drop boxes throughout Ontario County. Please note that it's best to call ahead before stopping in as some places may have reduced hours due to COVID-19.

Medication Drop Box Locations:

Bristol – Town Hall

Canandaigua – DMV, FLCC (near gym), Police Dept., The Medicine Shoppe, Thompson Hospital (lobby)

Clifton Springs – Hospital & Clinic (lobby)

East Bloomfield – Town Hall

Farmington – State Trooper Barracks

Geneva – Police Station, North Street Pharmacy

Hopewell – Mental Health (3019 Co. Complex Dr.)

Naples – Village Hall

Phelps – Community Center

Richmond – Town Hall, CVS Pharmacy

Rushville – Village Hall

Shortsville – Red Jacket Pharmacy

Victor – Mead Square Pharmacy

Soil & Water Conservation District

Ontario County Farm is One of Three Finalists for New York's AEM-Leopold Conservation Award

For the first time, New York's longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award has joined forces with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award program. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, foresters and other

landowners across the U.S. who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. Awarded in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors a farm and its nominating Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to promote and protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while helping to ensure farm viability for future generations.

One of the three finalists in New York includes one of our local farmers: **Hemdale Farms and Greenhouses of Seneca Castle in Ontario County**: This diverse multi-family farm features a 1,300-cow dairy, a 70,000 square foot greenhouse operation and 3,000 acres of cropland that produces feed for the dairy along with cabbage and various specialty vegetable crops. The farm has adopted countless Best Management Practices (BMPs) using the AEM framework to preserve its land and build soil health, including implementing a robust cover crop and reduced tillage program.

The annual award will be presented later this summer. The farm honored with receiving the award will also be featured in a video promoting their award-winning conservation practices. [Click here for the entire press release.](#)

Rotational Grazing Project Completed

The Ontario County SWCD recently completed a 15-acre prescribed grazing management project in the Town of Bristol. This project consisted of setting up multiple pasture paddocks for rotational grazing of beef cattle. The project used high tensile fencing to exclude livestock from adjacent streams, ponds and wetlands and included the implementation of several riparian buffer areas for additional resource protection. This project was completed in the Genesee River Watershed as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The picture below shows cattle grazing in a lush spring paddock, excluded from the adjacent wetland.



Tire Recycling Event: July 25, 2020

All Ontario County Residents can register to bring their tires to the Town of Farmington Highway Garage on July 25, 2020. Registration began July 6th and ends July 22nd. Call (585) 396-1450 today to reserve a time slot. Each household is limited to 10 tires. These are car and light truck sized tires that are clean and without the rim. There will be additional tire recycling events in August and September.

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